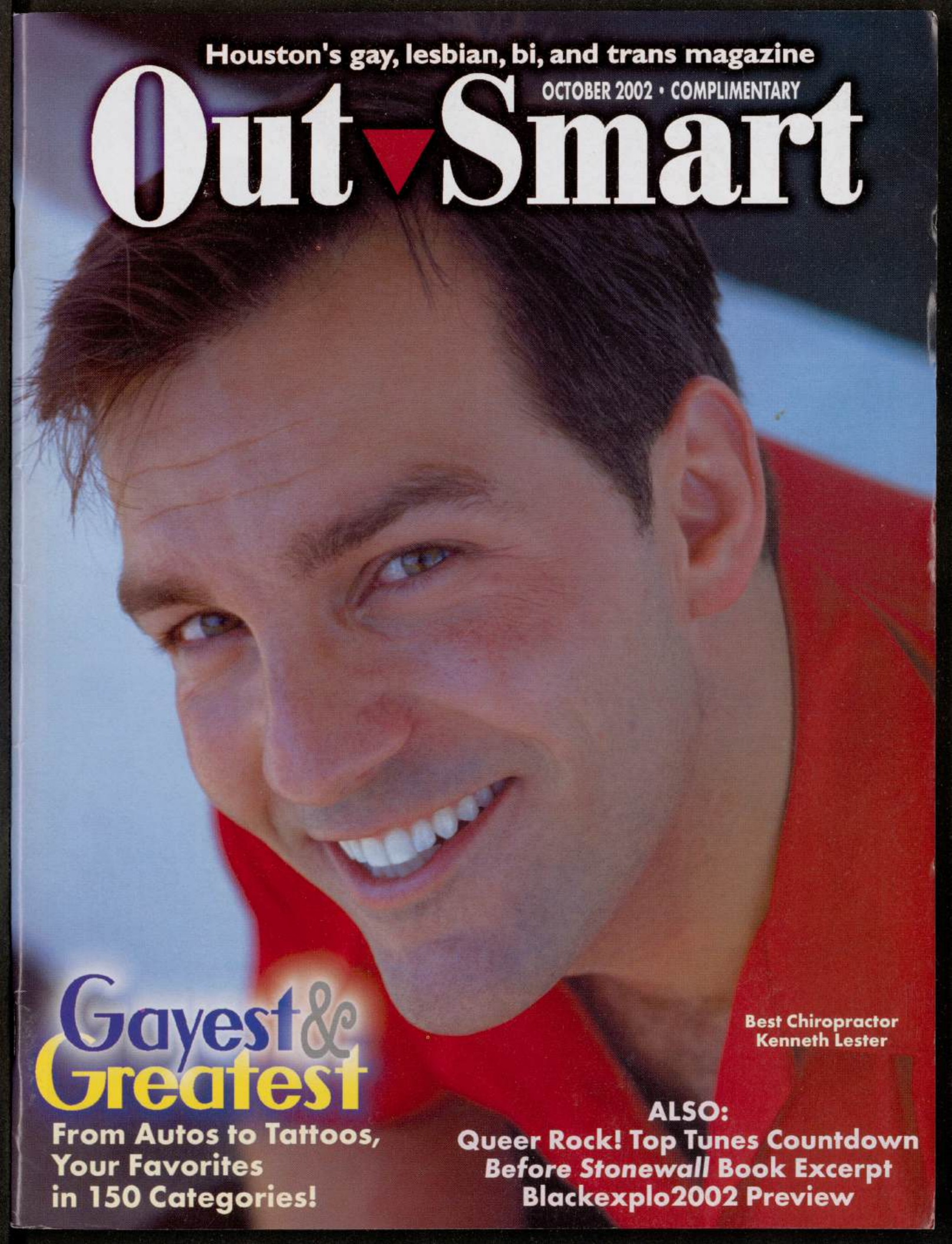

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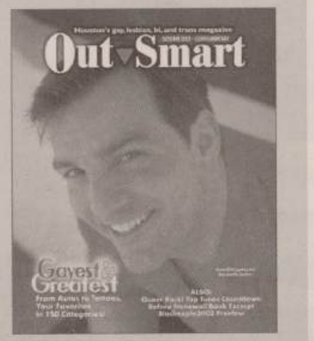
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About the cover:
Kenneth Lester, Best Chiropractor, Gayest & Greatest 2002 Survey.
Photo by:
John Conroy/Varsity Productions

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Letters

WARRIOR OF LOVE

I do not take the time to write letters to the editor; however, in this case I had to.

The article in [the August] issue of *OutSmart*, "Warrior of Love," is, so far, the best example of what "being gay" is about. It is not only informative; it is inspiring. A great big standing ovation to both Mr. Harvey [subject Andrew Harvey] and Mr. Davidson [article author Alan Davidson]. They took the time to put down in black and white what the American Indians, the shamans of Mexico, the Taoists, and countless other civilizations throughout millennia have known: being gay is much more than "...poppers and parties...." It is a special link with the divine, encompassing growth, healing, life, and even death. All that is life.

We, no matter what "modern culture" says, were put here to help the masses make the most wonderful as well as the most horrific transitions of civilization possible. The Egyptians, the Greeks, the Romans all knew this—being homosexual should be respected as well as be honored.

It is my heartfelt desire to see, in my lifetime, more gay people, whether they be Catholic, Pagan, Hindu, Muslim, etc., come forth and live by example the love that the Divine has given us, shedding light onto what is considered evil.

"The worst atrocities of this world are committed by man," and we are "the healers," "the medicine men," "the wise ones." Articles like "Warrior of Love" bring what is hidden out. Thank you.

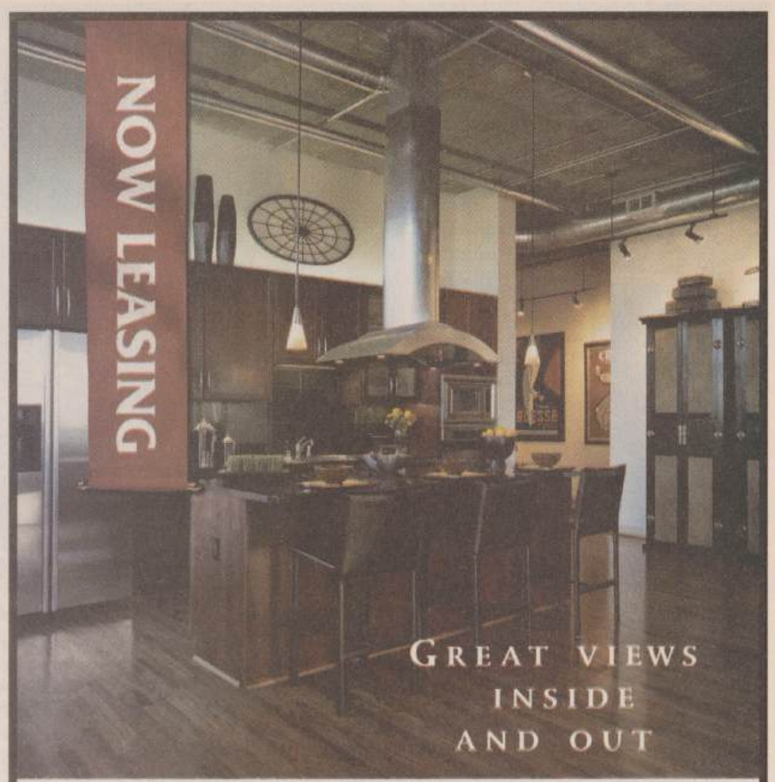
Zachary Welty
Houston

CORRECTIONS

- In the September issue, we mistakenly switched the identifications in the photograph of the Dominic Walsh Dance Theater performers ("8 Who Create"). In the photo, Lucas Priolo is the dancer on top. Walsh is on the bottom.
- Osaka ("DiningOut," September) is located at 515 Westheimer. The telephone number is 713/553-9098.
- Mara Levy took the Camp Hope photograph ("SceneOut," September).

LOVE LETTERS? HATE MAIL?

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



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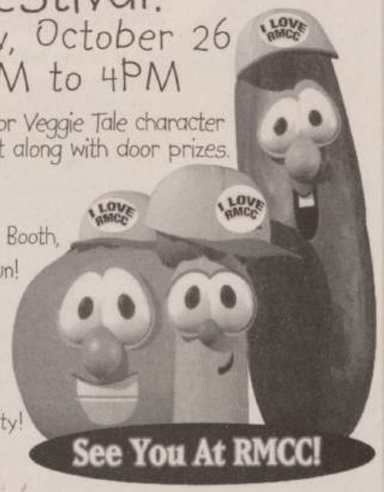
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GOOD WORKS. On October 5, the Krewe of Olympus will host Fa Do Do—a name on the short list of best-event monikers. Krewe activities director **Adam Adamski** is organizing the annual Cajun buffet dinner and dance, held at the Alliance Français. Casa de Esperanza, Houston Buyers Club, the Montrose Clinic endowment fund, and the PFLAG/HATCH Youth Scholarship Foundation benefit.



AARON COHEN

Deborah Boily performs with the Gay Men's Chorus on October 25–26.

Channel 2 anchor **Dominique Sachse** and Decorative Center Houston owner **Charles S. Cohen** will co-chair the October 9 launch party for the Wreath Collection event. This annual fundraiser for DIFFA (Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS), which will take place this year on November 23, features artist-created wreaths just in time for the holidays. Contempo Designs Suite at the Decorative Center will host the launch party. (By the way, Sachse won best TV gal in our Gayest & Greatest reader survey, which begins on page 38.)

The young crowd at H.A.T.C.H. will hold an October 19–20 rummage sale fundraiser at the Houston GLBT Community Center. **Justin Frazier**, **Tara-Marie Martinez**, and **Brian Carlson** are putting together the sale with the help of H.A.T.C.H. staffer **Deb Murphy**.

Stewart Zuckerbrod is producing *Tell Me a Story*, two evenings of songs and tales for grownups benefiting the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. Cabaret artist **Deborah Boily** will direct and perform in the October 25 and 26 shows at Stages, joined by other local talents **Deborah Hope**, **Robert Leeds**, and **Jim Benton**. The *Chronicle* has dubbed Boily—an audience favorite in Paris and London as well as Houston—"a first-rate chanteuse with a heart-catching flair." The evening will also mark the debut of the new Gay Men's Chorus small ensemble.

On October 26, the Transgender Houston Cover Girls and the Unity Committee will present a Halloween party and costume contest at the Wagon Wheel, a tavern out on Hempstead Highway. **Melanie Rudd**, **Wendy Russell**, **Brenda Thomas**, and **Brandi Williams** are four of the glamorous hosts. They will encourage donations for the Community Awareness for Transgender Support shelter in Galveston.

Arguably the most popular month for fundraising in the community, October features a host of benefit events for worthy organizations, featured throughout this issue of *OutSmart*.



UNCREDITED

Renaissance Woman: Angela Lorie

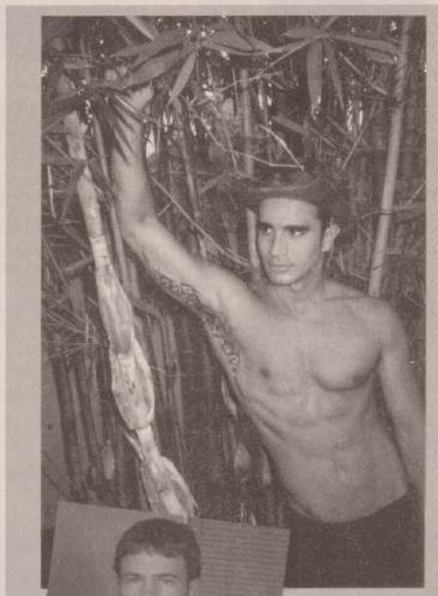
ON THE ROAD. Down Galveston way, the East End Theatre Company, also known as Etc., bows on October 16 with a fundraiser—underwritten by **Danny Hart**, **Johnny Smecca**, and **Joey Smecca** of Saltwater Grill—at its under-construction home on Postoffice, across from the Opera House. **Kim Mytelka** is the founding director and board president of the new venture. Company members include **Kevin Daugherty**, **Lisa Daugherty**, **Deb Lewis**, **Robin Lusby**, **Debra Maceo**, Mytelka, and **Kirk Weston**. The first Etc. production is *The Laramie Project*, the dramatic account of the **Matthew Shepard** murder in 1998, which opens November 1.

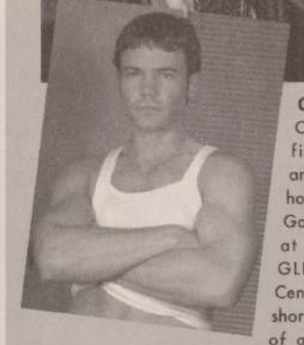
Up north, **Manny Gutierrez** and **Angela Lorio** are just two of the many GLBT folk performing and working the Texas Renaissance Festival near Magnolia, through November 17.

STILL SO PROUD. Reports continue to come in from action-packed Pride week:

John Nechman and the Gulf Coast GLBT Immigration Project hosted a community forum, "Love Knows No Borders," on June 27 at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Joining him were Lesbian & Gay Immigration Rights Task Force chairs **Chris Rigdon** and **Shelby Robinson** and board members **Sergio Sarmiento** and **Norma Villareal**.

Madalyn Sklar and GoGirlsRock!, the Houston-based online community of independent women musicians, took over the Rhythm Room for a June 28 Pride concert. **Chelsea Beauchamp**, **Nancy Ford**, Sklar, and **Carol Wyatt** hosted. Performers included Houston's own **Liviya Compean**.





COSTA - KYLE FU; MARK GOEBEL - CHARLES TATUM

GO, BOYS! On October 19, filmmaker and artist **Kyle Fu** will host "Meet the Go-Go Boys," an event at the Houston GLBT Community Center featuring his short film Confession of a Go Go Boy, starring **Eduardo Costa** (above). Costa will appear at the 7 p.m. party, accompanied by fellow entertainers **Mark Goebel** (inset) and **Jason Edington** (not pictured). The guys will sign their pictures in 7 vs. 7, Fu's new photo book. $5 donation at the door will benefit the center.

IDOL-IZED. Admit it. Tacky cover songs and all, *American Idol* mesmerized. Check out the winner, Texas girl **Kelly Clarkson**, and the other nine finalists—including runner-up **Justin Guarini**, dead ringer for wild-haired Sideshow Bob on *The Simpsons*—at the October 14 Houston stop of their national tour. You know you want to. Wagering is permitted on the first finalist or host to come out of the closet. ■



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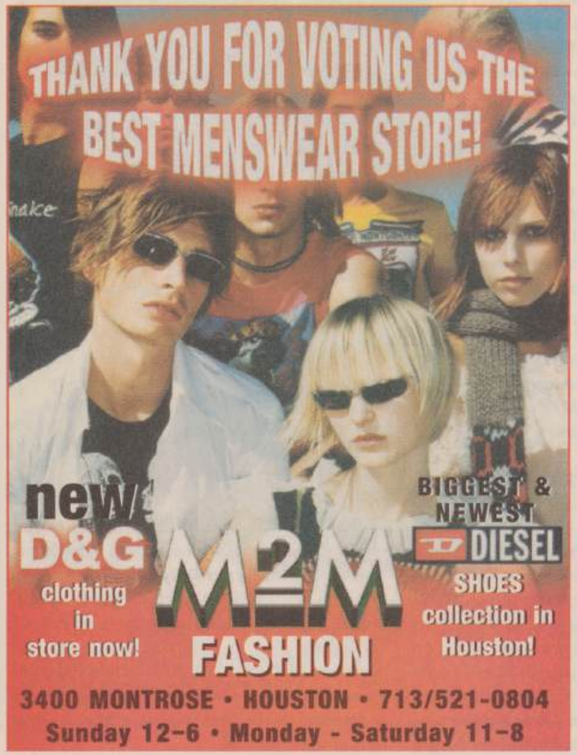
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C. Jay Cox (screenwriter, *Sweet Home Alabama*)

(*The Advocate*, 10/1/02, Mike Goodridge)

"I was raised Mormon and was taught that there was a separate hell for homosexuals," he says, "so I knew for sure that that's where I was going. Then I started to realize that a place where it was all gay men together wasn't so bad after all."

Rev. Mel White

(Universal Press Syndicate, 9/12/02, Laura Montgomery Rutt)

Rev. Mel White and his life partner of more than 20 years, Gary Nixon, co-founders of Soulforce, Inc., have leased a home in Lynchburg, Va., right across the street from Jerry Falwell's Thomas Road Baptist Church. Falwell, a conservative minister, televangelist, and chancellor of Liberty University, is notorious for his condemnation of gays and lesbians.

"When we met with Falwell and his supporters in 1999, he promised us that he would tone down his rhetoric against gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people," said Rev. Mel White, executive director of Soulforce. "We have been carefully monitoring his untruths, and it has only gotten worse. We cannot let this misinformation go unanswered."

Soulforce announced the move [on Sept. 12] after Rev. White delivered a dinner invitation to Falwell's office, informing him that White and his partner were now neighbors "in fact as well as in spirit." White, who wrote Falwell's autobiography, and White's life partner [planned to attend] Falwell's Thomas Road Baptist Church [Sunday, Sept. 15].

In the coming weeks, White and Nixon will be joined by Soulforce supporters from Lynchburg and all across the United States. Supporters intend to help restart a PFLAG chapter in Lynchburg for parents of gay and lesbian children, meet with members of Thomas Road Baptist Church to give them the opportunity to hear real-life stories of tragedy and inspiration from gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender individuals, and go door-to-door in an effort to "take the truth" about GLBT people to Lynchburg. [For more info: www.soulforce.org.]

Lily Tomlin (actress, *The West Wing*)

(From the *Celluloid Closet* DVD)

"Someone had made a bid to me: If I would come out, they would give me the cover of a major magazine—extremely major magazine— . . . and, of course, I was offended that they thought I would trade my personal life for publicity."

Bill O'Reilly (host, Fox News's *The O'Reilly Factor*)

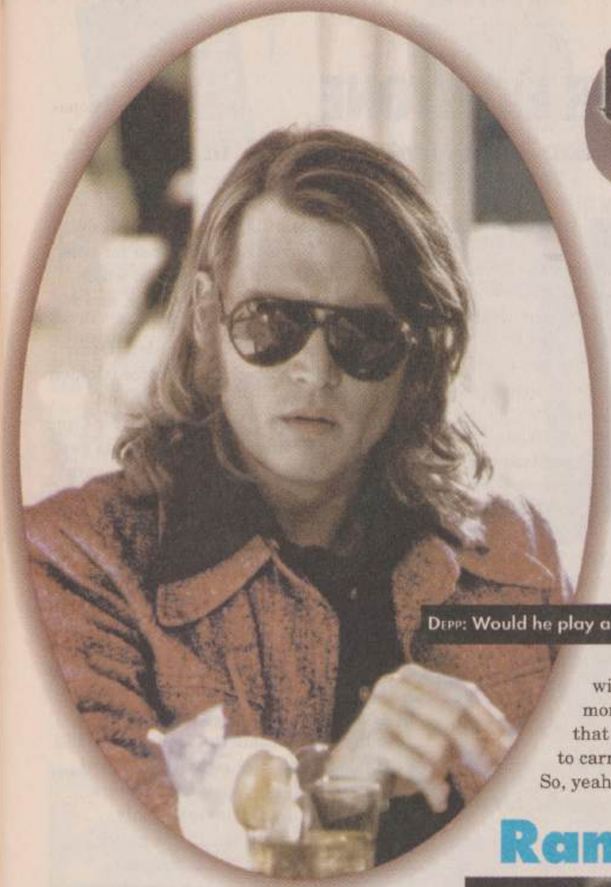
(*The Advocate*, 9/17/02, Michael Giltz)

"If people want to think I'm gay, fine," he says. "In fact, I wish I were gay. I'd get a lot more free meals, OK? Somebody take *me* out to the movies once in a while. I'm sure in my career—because I didn't get married until very late in life—that people said I was gay. . . . I couldn't care less. . . ."

Later, while walking down the hall to his studio, O'Reilly greets another employee by name and then suddenly asks her, "Am I gay?"

"Are you gay? . . . Who's saying that? That is ridiculous. Every single famous person gets that eventually."

O'Reilly quickly says, "But in my case, I am!"—jokingly—before turning away and striding toward the elevators.



DEPP: Would he play a woman?

Queer Quotes

Compiled by Blase DiStefano

Johnny Depp

(*Inside the Actor's Studio*, 9/8/02, Bravo)

Student at the Actor's Studio: Dean Lipton talked about your "burden of beauty," and you talked about being someone else's product—being marketed. And those things struck me as being distinctly female experiences very often. And I wonder if you would ever play a female character.

Johnny Depp: Sure. Why not? I would love to play a woman, certainly, yeah. The most difficult time I had crossdressing [in *Ed Wood*] was really just the stuff that goes on underneath. It's a lot of work. I had a tremendous respect for women before I did *Ed Wood*, but afterwards, boy, it was a monumental respect. All that stuff—the shoes, the bras, the whole thing . . . But yeah, I'd do it again, sure.

You know, when you welcome a child into the world, you witness the birth of your child, and you've been there for that nine-month period, you realize that there's no doubt, there's no question that women are the stronger sex, there's no doubt. Any man who had to carry a child for nine months would cave in about month two. . . . So, yeah, I would certainly like to explore that.

2 YEARS AGO

Christine Baranski

(actress, *Cybill*, *The Birdcage*)

(*Out*, 10/00, Michael Musto)

Michael Musto: Were you proud of your good friend Nathan Lane when he came out?

Christine Baranski: Oh, yeah, but I thought he was out there anyway. Nathan didn't want to have to come out and say it, but we're such a culture where you have to confess. I thought it was pretty obvious but very cool. It was Nathan being Nathan. How can you do *The Lisbon Traviata* without being gay?

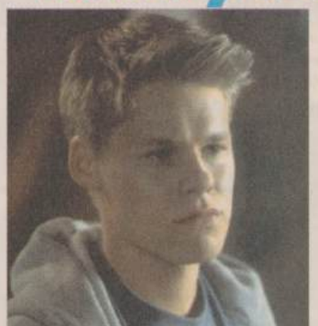
You can't even watch it without being gay.

We're all a little gay. . . .

How important are gay people in your life?

They're just people in my life. I try to make a habit of seeing the essence of people, not their color, religion, or sexual orientation. I have tons of gay people in my life, but they're people.

Randy Harrison (actor, *Queer as Folk*)



HARRISON (seen here in Showtime's *Queer as Folk*): Was he bullied because of his homosexuality?

(*The Advocate*, 9/17/02)

Eric Meers: [B]ullying is such a huge issue for gay youth. Did you experience that when you were in high school?

Randy Harrison: Absolutely, yeah. Mostly when I was younger. The typical kind of thing.

Anything specific you remember?

I can, but I don't like talking about it. By the time I came out, that kind of stopped it. The bullying stopped when I claimed myself and proved that I wasn't afraid. A lot of it was when I was hiding when I was younger. . . .

When did you tell your parents [that you are gay]?

When I had to. I mean, I love my parents. Coming out to them was sort of coming out to myself. . . .

Sarah Jessica Parker

(*Sex and the City*, 8/25/02)

Carrie Bradshaw (Sarah Jessica Parker's character on *Sex and the City*): In the life of a New Yorker, there are several unpleasant things one will inevitably have to face: having your purse stolen, random public urination, and seeing a gay friend's boyfriend in a Broadway revue.

HARRISON—L. PIER WYMAN/SHOWTIME; DEPP—L. SEBASTIAN/NEW LINE CINEMA

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

A Gaudi Afternoon*, *Claire of the Moon*, *Princesa*, *Burnt Money*, & *Singin' in the Rain



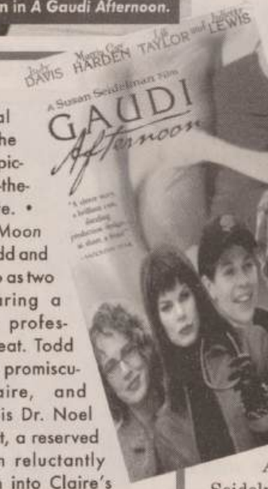
Lili Taylor (l) and Marcia Gay Harden in *A Gaudi Afternoon*.

A *Gaudi Afternoon* stars Judy Davis (Emmy-winner for both *Serving in Silence*, in which she played Glenn Close's lover, and *Me and My Shadow: Life with Judy Garland*); Marcia Gay Harden (Oscar winner for *Pollack*); Lili Taylor (Golden Globe winner for *Short Cuts*); and Juliette Lewis (Oscar nominee for *Cape Fear*). • Frankie's husband Ben is gay. They've been separated for two years and they have one child, Delilah. Ben has skipped town with their little girl *and* a new girlfriend. On her arrival in Barcelona (Ben's choice of getaway), Frankie hires Cassandra to find Ben. If you prefer to enjoy the surprises in films as they are revealed, SKIP TO THE LAST PARAGRAPH. • Marcia Gay Harden plays Frankie (a pre-op transsexual), and her husband Ben (short for Bernadette) is played by Lili Taylor. Ben's new girlfriend is April (Juliette Lewis). Cassandra (Judy Davis) is the only straight one in the bunch . . . or is she? • If *A Gaudi Afternoon* is a sumptuous dinner, the dessert is the casting. Marcia Gay Harden is a treat as the glamorous pre-op transsexual. Lili Taylor as a butch lesbian gives yet another fine performance (did you see her in *Dogfight* and *I Shot Andy Warhol*?), and Judy Davis as Cassandra . . . well, she can do no wrong. • *A Gaudi Afternoon*, directed by Susan Seidelman (*Desperately Seeking Susan*), is now available on VHS and DVD. Wolfe Video is offering special pricing: only $39.95 for the VHS (suggested retail price $89.95) and $19.95 for the DVD (suggested retail price $29.95). To purchase *A Gaudi Afternoon* at this price, call 1-800-GET-WOLFE or visit www.wolfevideo.com. —*Blase DiStefano*

CLAIRE OF THE MOON

In response to the film's enduring popularity, gay and lesbian home video retailer Wolfe Video has re-released the out-of-print lesbian classic *Claire of the Moon* on VHS and a deluxe double-DVD set to celebrate the film's 10th anniversary. • Since the film's home video debut in 1993, Wolfe Video has received an unprecedented outpouring of letters from ardent fans of the film. There has never been a lesbian film that has evoked so much emotion. Not only has the film become one of the best-selling lesbian home videos of all time, but a feature-length documentary about the making of the film, *Moments: The Making of Claire of the Moon*, has also sold a record number of copies. • The new two-disc set of *Claire of the Moon* features a commentary track by director Nicole Conn and producer Pamela S. Kuri, the documentary *Moments: The Making of Claire of the Moon*, trailers, pictorial soundtrack, and more. The VHS re-release features a picture gallery and a behind-the-scenes featurette. • *Claire of the Moon* stars Trisha Todd and Karen Trumbo as two writers sharing a cabin at a professional retreat. Todd plays the promiscuous Claire, and Trumbo is Dr. Noel Benedict, a reserved woman reluctantly drawn into Claire's world. Through encounter sessions with their flamboyant host, the out and outrageous Maggie (Faith McDevitt, *Speedway Junky*), Claire and Noel confront their differences and discover shared passions. • The VHS ($19.95) and the DVD ($24.95) are now available. To purchase from Wolfe Vdeo, call 1-800-GET-WOLFE or visit www.wolfevideo.com. —*Troy Carrington*





ALL PHOTOS - WOLFE VIDEO



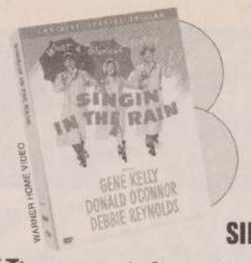
PRINCESA

Princesa (Ingrid de Souza) is an absorbing, poignant story of Fernanda, a 19-year-old Brazilian transsexual whose dream is to become a woman, find a husband, and lead the life of a "normal" housewife. Fernanda goes to Milan and works as a prostitute to raise money for a sex-change operation. On the streets, she is transformed into Princesa, a stylish and alluring figure who makes a lot of money and many friends. One night, she meets the man of her dreams, who happily accepts Fernanda as she is. As she finally begins to feel loved for the first time, she begins to question her true motives for wanting the operation. Love, she learns, can transcend any and all boundaries and barriers. • Available **October 15** on DVD ($29.99) and VHS ($79.99) from Strand Releasing. For more info: www.strandreleasing.com. —*TC*



BURNT MONEY

A sexy, intense crime thriller from Argentina, *Burnt Money* has been called a gay *Bonnie & Clyde*. *Burnt Money* is based on a true story that is legend in Argentinian crime history. Dark and brooding, yet stylish and sensual, the film is the mesmerizing, unnerving story of a group of violent bank robbers, two of whom are gay lovers (Eduardo Noriega and Leonardo Sbaraglia) known in criminal circles as "the twins." After a big robbery ends particularly bloodily, the trio hide out in Uruguay, where simmering tensions—and lots of time to kill, waiting for the heat to die down—escalate into a lurid psychodrama of desire and despair. • Available **October 1** on DVD ($29.99) and VHS ($79.99) from Strand Releasing. For more info: www.strandreleasing.com. —*TC*



SINGIN' IN THE RAIN

Whenever movie fans put together "best ever" movie lists, you almost always find two musicals, *The Wizard of Oz* and *Singin' in the Rain*, in the top ten. Since *Oz* is best classified as a "fantasy" (or if you're gay, a "documentary"), that leaves *Singin' in the Rain* as possibly the best movie musical of all time. Now, thanks to the two-disc 50th Anniversary DVD (loaded with extras), you can judge for yourself. *Singin' in the Rain*, a product of MGM's legendary "Freed Unit," is set in Hollywood during the movies' difficult transition from silent pictures to talkies. The main stars are Gene Kelly, Donald O'Connor, and Debbie Reynolds, all singin' and dancin' up a storm, but many of the film's nonmusical segments are easily stolen by Jean Hagen, hilarious as a screechy-voiced screen diva. You'll be thrilled with Kelly's performance of the title tune in an authentic soundstage downpour, but as good as he is there, you really don't know how big a fan you are until you've checked out his butt in a tight sailor suit (unfortunately not in this movie). *Singin' in the Rain* features a few other familiar faces, notably Cyd Charisse and Rita Moreno. • From Warner Home Video. DVD $26.99 (VHS still available at $14.95). —*Jack Varsi* ■

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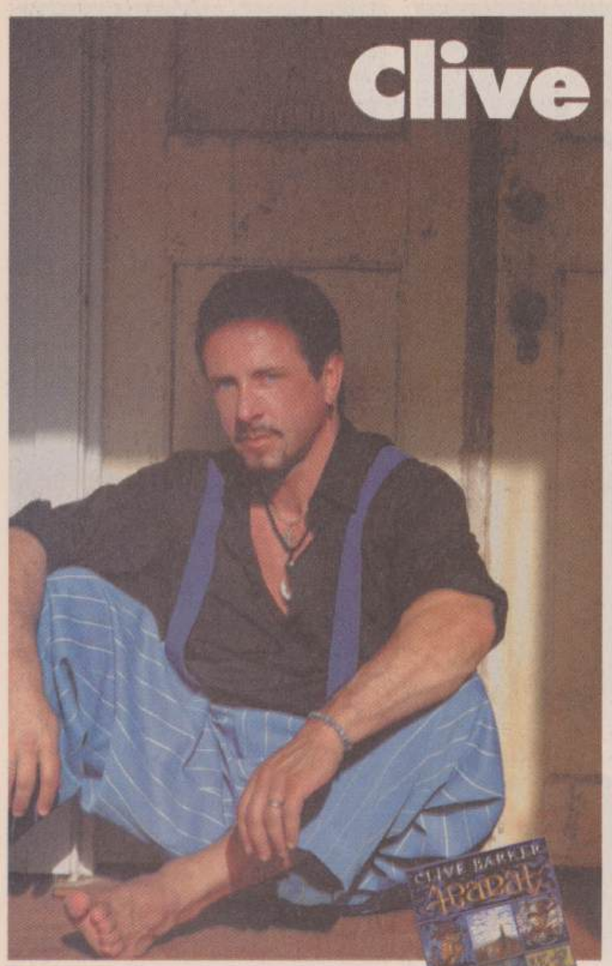


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Clive Barker

HALLOWEEN ALERT

Once upon a world . . . where time is a place . . . a journey beyond imagination is about to unfold. Welcome to Abarat.

Best-selling author Clive Barker (who, by the way, is openly gay*) begins his most ambitious project to date with the remarkably rich novel *Abarat*. The first installment in the Books of Abarat begins in Chickentown, USA, where Candy Quackenbush is about to embark on a journey that will change her life forever. Fate thrusts Candy over the magical threshold of a forgotten world when she dives from a barren field in Minnesota into the enormous Sea of Izabella. From there she is swept into the archipelago of the Abarat, a world made up of 25 islands that is like nothing she has ever seen. As she travels from one amazing place to another, making fast friends and encountering treacherous foes—mechanical bugs and giant moths, miraculous cats and men made of mud, a murderous wizard and a terrified slave—Candy begins to realize something: *she has been here before.*

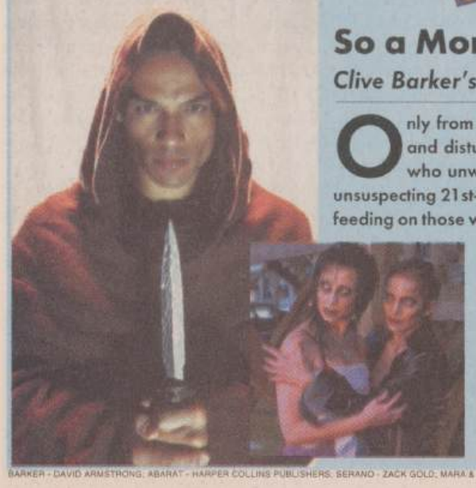
With over 100 full-color paintings by the author illuminating the text, *Abarat* is a story that will capture the imaginations of all readers, offering a limitless landscape to visit and revisit.

The Walt Disney Company has purchased film and ancillary rights for an unprecedented $8 million, and the Books of Abarat have been licensed throughout the world.

* From the October issue of *Out* magazine: "I had gay characters in books from the beginning, and no one seemed to care except my then-agent, who tried to prohibit me from publishing anything gay. He retired with 10% of my earnings. But in '95 I did a magazine cover and people noticed. I enjoy my freedom."

Clive Barker is the best-selling author of 18 books. His first children's book, The Thief of Always, *has sold over 1 million copies. He produced the Oscar-winner* Gods & Monsters, *and he lives in Beverly Hills, CA, with his husband and daughter. From* Out *magazine: "[M]y husband and I have a daughter. She's of mixed blood, and we go out together—a white, a black, and a beautiful 14-year-old."*

Clive Barker's *Abarat*. Joanna Cotler Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers. October 2002. $24.99.



So a Monk and Two Succubi Walk into a Bar . . .

Clive Barker's Saint Sinner *premieres on the Sci Fi Channel*

Only from the twisted imagination of horror scribe Clive Barker could a tale so wild, horrific, and disturbingly sexy be spun. ***Saint Sinner*** centers on a 19th-century monk (Greg Serano) who unwittingly lets loose two female demons (Mary Mara and Rebecca Harrell) upon an unsuspecting 21st-century city. The two, driven by a centuries-old appetite, must sustain themselves by feeding on those who fall prey to their sensual charms. To redeem himself, the monk must track them to the present day and stop them from wreaking deadly havoc. • Leading up to the premiere of ***Saint Sinner*** will be a sweepstakes that will give one lucky viewer a chance to have their home completely transformed, à la Clive Barker, for Halloween 2003. Beginning October 1, viewers will be able to log onto www.scifi.com/SaintSinner, where they can enter to win a one-of-a-kind Clive Barker makeover as well as all the fixings for a Halloween bash for 50 of their closest friends. The winner will be announced live on the SciFi Channel, Saturday, **October 26**, during the ***SaintSinner*** broadcast at 8 p.m.

Greg Serano in *Saint Sinnner*. INSET: Mary Mara (l) and Rebecca Harrell.

BARKER - DAVID ARMSTRONG; ABARAT - HARPER COLLINS PUBLISHERS; SERANO - ZACK GOLD; MARA & HARRELL - PAUL MICHAUD

LATIN SHORTS INCLUDE A QUEER ONE

***Showtime's Latino Filmmaker Showcase includes* De Colores**



Garrett Lenoir (l) and Peter Barbosa

Directors Garrett Lenoir and Peter Barbosa bring us *De Colores*, a revealing documentary about how Latino families and communities deal with their gay sons and daughters. A variety of interviews are shown with comedians, community leaders, social workers, and various gays and lesbians who talk about the impact of being gay in a Latino community. They address homophobia in their culture, due to machismo, as well as discuss parents' reactions when their children come out to them. Also shared are stories of available support systems and the journeys taken to find them. Candidness and sincerity give the viewer insight on these very real issues. • *De Colores* is one of five shorts in the third annual Latino Filmmaker Showcase, which premiered on Showtime in September. An airing of *De Colores* repeats on Saturday, **October 26** at 8:25 p.m. Running time is about 30 minutes.

Garrett Lenoir is a digital video specialist, editor, and cinematographer. After graduating from college in 1989, Lenoir moved to San Francisco to work in visual identity and graphic design before joining Foote, Cone and Belding (FCB). At FCB, he has been involved in commercial production and editing for clients such as Levi Strauss, Dockers, AT&T, and MTV. Additionally, he has studied screenwriting, film, and cinematography.

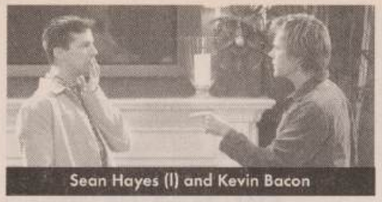
Peter Barbosa was born and raised in Puerto Rico. He moved to Texas at the age of 18, then later to Paris to obtain training in HIV research. While in Paris, he became interested in photography and cinematography. His current project, a black-and-white still photography diary of queer life in Cuba, documents nightlife, underground bars, prostitution, lesbian relationships, and the governmental approach to the HIV crisis.

Lenoir and Barbosa are partners and co-founders of EyeBite Productions, a company dedicated to social justice through visual imagery. They are also co-directors of the forthcoming documentary *I Exist: Voices from the Lesbian & Gay Middle Eastern Community in the U.S.*

OCTOBER MOVIES ON SHOWTIME'S "NIGHT OUT ON SHOTOO"

"Night Out on ShoToo" is Showtime's gay programming every Wednesday. The gay evening begins at 8 p.m. with a gay or gay-related film, followed by the animated *Queer Duck*, and ends with repeats of last season's *Queer as Folk*. This month's movies: Oct. 2 ***Billy Elliott***; Oct. 9 ***The Fluffer***; Oct. 16 ***Chuck & Buck***; Oct. 23 ***Psycho Beach Party***; and Oct. 30 ***Relax, It's Just Sex***.

SHOWTIME



Sean Hayes (l) and Kevin Bacon

STALKIN' BACON

Kevin Bacon stars as himself in the season's second episode of *Will & Grace*. The actor is stalked by an enthralled Jack (Sean Hayes) until Bacon unwittingly hires him as his personal assistant—and then orders him to find his persistent pursuer. • *Will & Grace* airs **Thursdays** at 8 p.m. on NBC (the "Bacon & Eggs" episode airs October 3).



Cedric "The Entertainer"

CEDRIC SERVES

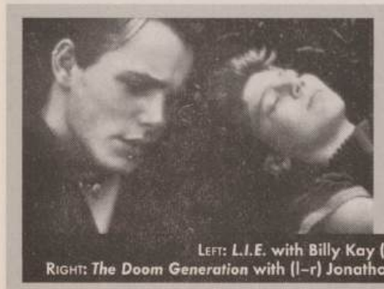
Cedric "The Entertainer" hosts and performs in a new variety series that takes its cue from the big comedy variety shows of the '50s. Each week, Cedric and his troupe will portray a wide variety of characters. One of the recurring characters is Mrs. Cafeteria Lady, the judgmental woman behind the food counter with whom no student or teacher should mess. • *Cedric The Entertainer Presents* airs **Wednesdays** at 7:30 p.m. on Fox.



Shirley MacLaine

MAKEUP MARY

Academy Award-winner Shirley MacLaine (*Terms of Endearment*) stars in *The Battle of Mary Kay*, the story of the nasty corporate war between Queen of Cosmetics Mary Kay Ash and Jinger Heath (Parker Posey, *Best in Show*), a driven newcomer who launches BeautiControl, a rival company. The beauty business gets downright ugly in this tale where money and power are at stake. Shannen Doherty (*Charmed*) stars as Lexy Wilcox, one of Mary Kay's top saleswomen and her biggest fan. The movie is based on a true story. And though there is nothing gay about the film, we felt that with the presence of these gay-friendly stars—and all that makeup—we owed it to our readers to mention it. • *The Battle of Mary Kay* airs at 8 p.m., Sunday, **October 6**, on CBS.





LEFT: ***L.I.E.*** with Billy Kay (l) and Paul Franklin Dano.
RIGHT: ***The Doom Generation*** with (l–r) Jonathon Schaech, Rose McGowan, and James Duval.

SUNDANCE'S OCTOBER LINEUP INCLUDES GAY GOODIES

L.I.E.: Michael Cuesta's debut feature avoids easy assumptions and emotional manipulation as it presents a portrait of a 14-year-old boy as he struggles with his sexuality. • ***The Doom Generation:*** Greg Araki's provocative, fascinating, disturbing film shows the infernal existence of three off-kilter teens. • ***L.I.E.:*** Oct. 6, 10 p.m.; Oct. 18, 10:30 p.m.; Oct. 23, 10 p.m. • ***Doom:*** Oct. 13, 11:15 p.m.; Oct. 25, 10:30 p.m. • More October treats on the Sundance Channel: ***Different for Girls***, Oct. 13, 8 p.m.; ***Better Than Chocolate***, Oct. 26, 8 p.m. • For all of the gay goodies and times in October, visit www.sundancechannel.com. ■

BACON - CHRIS HASTON/NBC. MACLAINE - CBS. CEDRIC - FOX. L.I.E. & DOOM - SUNDANCE CHANNEL

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MY NIGHTS WITH A FRENCH WHORE. I met her on the way to Paris. She was to meet her brother, who was to take her to a convent. She was charming, pretty, and already had attracted the lustful attention of a dotty old man traveling with us. At the last stop before Paris, her brother pimped her to a rich society gentleman. But she fell in love—at first glance, no less—with a poor student who caught her eye in the town square. They ran off together, leaving the brother, the old man, and the rich roué to sort things out—badly, as I would later learn. She would become the rich man's mistress, betraying true love, and in the end would fall as far from grace as possible. For, you see, her name was *Manon*, and I found myself literally on stage with her—at the Wortham in the recent Houston Ballet production of Sir Kenneth MacMillan's full-length classic tale.

I now have a conversation starter to add to my résumé, an extra $250 in my bank account (no one gets rich at the ballet), and enough Max Factor for a lifetime of Halloweens. I mastered eye shadow and spirit gum, though, and never tripped out of the coach while wearing an abnormally heavy wool cloak and unflattering wig circa 1720. Mercifully, being a "character super," I only had to act, not dance, or I never would have been hired in the first place. With my two costume changes, I had plenty of fabric to camouflage the body gravity that no self-respecting dancer ever allows, but fortunately no one in wardrobe had to put in overtime letting out seams or adding panels to the pantaloons.

Being in the production, I have no earthly idea how the shows actually went, since I observed the dancing from skewed angles behind light stanchions or while maneuvering over dancers sprawled in the wings or stagehands standing by for their next cue. Even in the studio, it's hard to tell quality when you're sitting on the floor upstage right, watching three separate casts of principals rehearse simultaneously, all reflected in multiple floor-length mirrors, and surrounded by dancers sewing their pointe shoes, reading magazines, or idling in the corner.


Sara Webb and Zdenek Konvalina paired in Houston Ballet's *Manon*. JIM CALDWELL

There's no question that ballet is a world unlike any other, but even the rap music the young Academy kids played in the dressing room couldn't overpower the Massenet piped in from the orchestra on the floor above. Sure, a few of the professionals are unrepentant divas, but all have a religious dedication to their craft and devote hours of hard physical labor to this rarefied, bizarre art form where movement is emotion and the body is the word. If you ever doubted that the human body is the most beautiful musical instrument of all, I urge you to watch the Houston Ballet in action.

Even this lowly super could tell that, and I never had to dance a step.

MORE ARTS PREVIEW. Space restrictions kept some of our favorites out of the season preview last month ("Rescued by the Arts," September). Add these to your datebook:

Gay Men's Chorus of Houston
713/680-9330
www.gmch.org
The sonorous masculine voices of our favorite singing group raise the roof and our pride for their "Songs of Life" season. *Songs of Heavenly Joy* is their bright-as-a-bubble-light holiday tribute (December 7, 10, 13, 14 at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church). *Songs of the Classics* melds choir masterworks with sprightly satire and the Texas premiere of *Oliver Button Is a Star!* (March 22 and 23, 2003, at Wortham Theater Center). *Songs of Our Voices*, the chorus's Pride celebration concert, will lift spirits to the rafters with the Abba-inspired *ExtrABBAganza* and Robert Seeley's *Exile* (June 7, 8, 10, 2003, at a venue to be announced).


Saint-Exupéry's *Little Prince* illustrations will inform the 2003 HGO premiere.

Houston Ballet
Wortham Center, 500 Texas
713/227-ARTS, 800/828-ARTS
www.houstonballet.org
Winter Repertory
February 27–March 9, 2003
Paul Taylor created his WWII-inspired *Company B* with Houston Ballet in 1991, and ever since it has been a signature piece for both choreographer and company. The work has his patented humor, sadness, and irony as the songs of the Andrews Sisters are dissected and glossed with rueful antiwar sensibility. *The Four Temperaments* is one of Paul Hindemith's greatest musical compositions as well as one of George Balanchine's greatest neo-classical ballets. Its dance movement is refined, elegant, and powerful beyond words. If you're not moved by the arcing lifts of the finale, you are dead.

Houston Grand Opera
Wortham Center, 500 Texas
713/228-OPERA, 800/62-OPERA
www.houstongrandopera.org
The Little Prince
May 31–June 22, 2003
HGO's world premiere is from Academy Award-winning composer Rachel Portman (*Emma*). Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's fairy tale about the little guy from asteroid B612 and his journeys to Earth is probably more beloved by adults than children, as it is filled with misty poetic ruminations on the wonders of life. HGO's newest work has to be better than that poor excuse for a movie musical cobbled together by Stanley Donen and Lerner and Loewe.

Infernal Bridegroom Productions
The Axiom, 2524 McKinney
713/522-8443
www.infernalbridegroom.com
Meat/BAR
May 8, 2003
IBP's artistic director, Jason Nodler, dark and intense, author of intriguing hits like *In the Under Thunderloo* and *King Ubu Is King*, has fashioned a new work about squandered potential, dreams deferred, and the numbing allure of sex, alcohol, and love. We let him describe it: "One out of one people is f--ked up about sex, and one out of one people is lying about it. And what, after all, is the deal with bars?"

Unhinged Productions
Atomic Café, 1320 Nance
713/524-8707, 713/547-0440
Blithe Spirit
March 2-June 8, 2003
OK, who could be more gay than Noel Coward? And what could be gayer than this wispy séance comedy of WASPy manners from 1941? How about a GLBT rewrite? The ghost the befuddled spiritualist summons forth for Charles is not his ex-wife. ■

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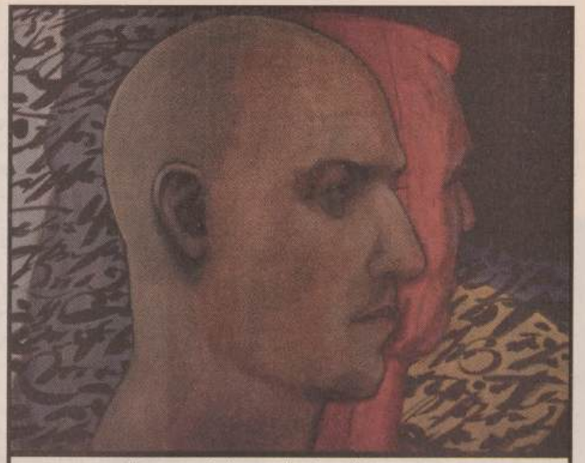
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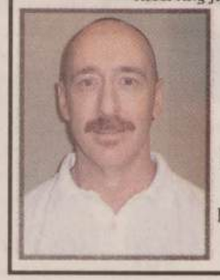


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MANIPULATION BY CAROL HERNANDEZ

by D.L. Groover

It has taken 53 years in show business for Millicent Martin to become a celebrity. Thanks to American television, her recurring roles as Gertrude, Daphne's cantankerous mum, on *Frasier*, and as eccentric European socialite Ms. Faversham on *Days of Our Lives* have catapulted her into household fame.

Fans of the shows may think they have discovered her, but if you are a connoisseur of musicals, or know something of English theater, you are already acquainted with the versatile Miss Martin as a two-time Tony nominee (*Side by Side by Sondheim* and *King of Hearts*) and veteran actress in both musicals and dramas (*Follies*, *42nd Street*, *The Boy Friend*, *Shirley Valentine*, *Noises Off*). Her "mates" include Betty White, Bea Arthur, jazz musicians John Dankworth and Cleo Laine, Joan Plowright, Julie Andrews, Sean Connery (a chorus boy in the London production of *South Pacific*, one of Martin's first stage appearances), Dame Judi Dench, Maggie Smith, and Derek Jacobi. Her neighbor in Brighton was Laurence Olivier, who would chauffeur Martin from the train station. She calls pop singer Sheena Easton her adopted daughter.



Millicent Martin out of Baby Jane drag

DRAG WITH PERMISSION OF TOTO

But come October 9 at the Hobby Center, Martin assays the toughest role of her career and takes on the ghost of iconographic screen legend Bette Davis in the world premiere Theatre Under the Stars musical *What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?*

"I'm very lucky," she said in a recent interview. "It's the best piece of theater for me. I'm not even nervous. It's too wonderful."

Martin has been involved with this project for six years, which could account for her lack of opening-night jitters. Producer Michael Rose, currently represented on London's East End with the hit musical *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, started negotiations nine years ago with Warner Bros., who owned the film rights to the 1962 cult classic. It took nearly three years to secure them, but with a stipulation. No line of film dialogue nor any situation could be used in the new play unless it came from the original novel by Henry Farrell, whom Rose had signed to write the musical's libretto. Farrell could use as much of his own book as he wanted but nothing from the

movie that had not first appeared in the novel.

When asked to compare her new musical with the classic movie, Martin doesn't hesitate.

"We keep everything inside the house. The whole thing about it is in her fractured mind," Martin said. "More and more as the night goes on, it's like a prison. The wonderful thing is that you go back in both Jane and Blanche's memories, back to when they were in Hollywood, so we have these wonderful flashbacks in enormous Technicolor with dancing and singing. They show how these two sisters got at loggerheads and ended up hating each other before the accident, where Blanche ends up in a wheelchair and Jane looks after her for the rest of her life"

The major change, Martin says, was the depiction of Jane's sister, Blanche (played by *City of Angels*' Leslie Denniston), as a movie musical star instead of a dramatic actress. Lavish production numbers, choreographed by Dan Siretta, showcase Blanche's star power while revealing Jane's jealousy.

"Obviously, it's the same story, but you find out a lot more what made these women tick and how they became what they became," Martin said. "I've never worked on something that's as scary, as sad, as moving, and as funny. It's an amazing piece and beautifully constructed. For me, this is the best thing I've ever done."

Martin was Rose's first choice for Baby Jane, as well as the first choice of director David Taylor. All three had previously worked together on the London stage.

"I've been involved with it for six years," Martin said with excitement. "Once they got it going, Michael phoned me and said, 'I hope you won't be insulted, but would you like to play Baby Jane?' I immediately said, 'Oh, boy, yes, I'd love to.'"

Ironically, Martin's husband had been talking to her about doing a musical version of *Baby Jane* for years. He even suggested she call her friend Stephen Sondheim to get him interested. "Oh sure, I said, just what Stephen wants to do—a commission. Not very likely. And then this happens!"

When pop composer Lee Pockriss ("Johnny Angel" and "Catch a Falling Star") and lyricist Hal Hackady (*Minnie's Boys* and *Goodtime Charlie*) had finished the score, everything was ready for a workshop performance. Although everyone involved in the show was convinced of its worthiness, there's nothing like an audience's live reaction to your pet project—"to see if it'll fly," in Martin's words.

Judging by the audience's reaction at London's Victoria Palace, *Baby Jane* soared, even though Pockriss's score was played on a lone piano. Orchestrations were commissioned, and a year later a concert version followed in the seaside resort of Brighton.



KING CHOU WONG/DIGITAL MANIPULATION BY CARLOS HERNANDEZ

"It's a good thing I don't mind looking absolutely *dread—ful,"* Millicent Martin says of her title role in *What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?*

"It's a fantastic gay community," Martin says, "and we wanted to hear the show with a knowledgeable audience. It's been quite a while [since the film was released], and a lot of kids don't know it at all. The first two nights were wonderful. Then we got to the Wednesday matinee. *This is it,* we thought, *this is where the crunch happens. Now we're going to get the moms, dads, and kids.* But it went wonderfully with them, too. So we were really pleased. It's not just a cult thing. It really does work as a piece."

She opens her voluminous loose-leaf notebook of a script to show a costume sketch by Eduardo Sicangco, and there, paper-clipped to the inside cover, is a photograph of Charles Pierce in Bette Davis drag. Pierce, master and mistress of disguise, and the best Bette Davis impersonator in the history of the world, was a close friend of Martin's for 35 years, until his death in 1999.

"Charles Pierce, Bea Arthur, and I were like a terrible little trio," Martin says with a big smile. "He was so excited about this, he kept sending me photos. 'I'm gonna be there, I'm gonna be there,' he kept saying. And he will be. What a darling.

"The film is so great, but this is a musical, yet there's one moment at the beginning where you kind of see Bette Davis, then it's gone. It's really to let people know that we want them to laugh. We want them to know this is a black comedy. The woman is so off-the-wall. I feel it's like being a kid and dressing up, because that's what *Baby Jane* is. Blanche is a faded rose, and Jane is just awful. It's a good thing I don't mind looking absolutely *dread—ful,"* she says laughing in a dead-ringer Bette Davis/Charles Pierce imitation.

"I'm very blessed. At my age, I expect to be playing judges and mums sitting in the corner, knitting. But I said to my husband, 'If it ends up that I'm doing a couple of lines here and a couple of lines there, I'm packing it in.' And then came two of the best parts I've ever been offered.

"You can't label *Baby Jane.* It's very different. It's not camp, it's not heavy, it's got its own kind of essence. I think that's what's going to make it really interesting. I'm not going to say everybody's going to walk in the door and go *Wow,* but they're going to have to admit that they've not seen anything like this."

What Ever Happened to Baby Jane? *plays October 9–27 at the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, 800 Bagby. Tickets (25–$68) are available at 713/558-8887, the TUTS box office, any Ticketmaster outlet, or online at www.tuts.com.*

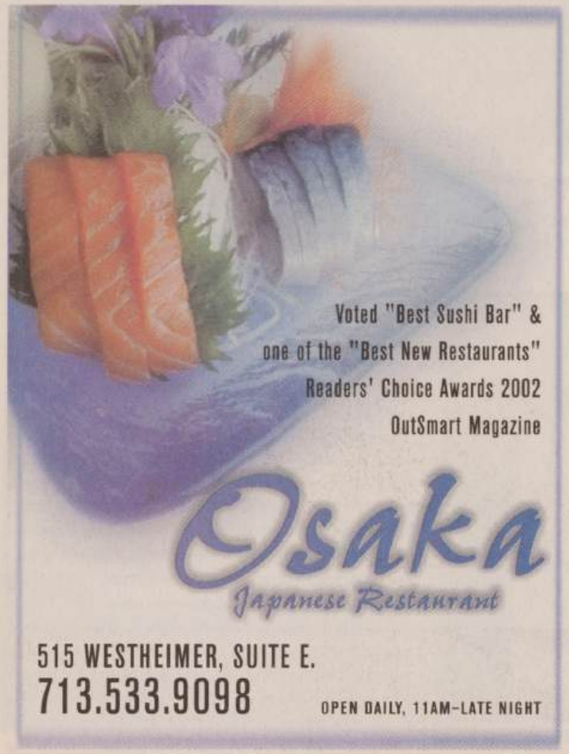
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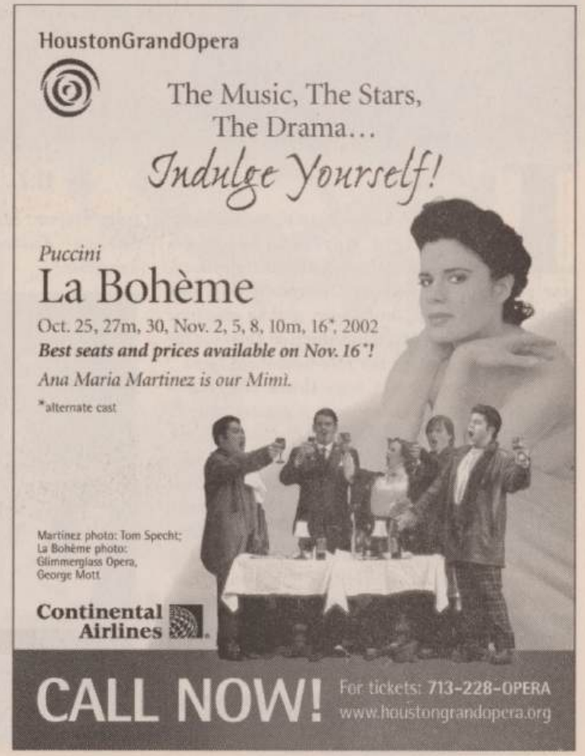
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Recent Releases

Billie Holiday did swing both ways, and her music always swings



Blue Billie
Billie Holiday was and is one of the greatest jazz vocalists. This set of 16 songs is a veritable medley of bittersweet melodies. Her voice is as languorous as her phrasing. Few singers in jazz history had the ability to inject as much emotion into a song as Holiday. Recorded during the Depression era, with John Hammond's support, Holiday was accompanied by a range of great jazz musicians, including Teddy Wilson, Buck Clayton, Artie Shaw, Benny Goodman, and, most importantly, tenor saxophonist Lester Young. From Columbia/Legacy. *—Andrea Rodricks*

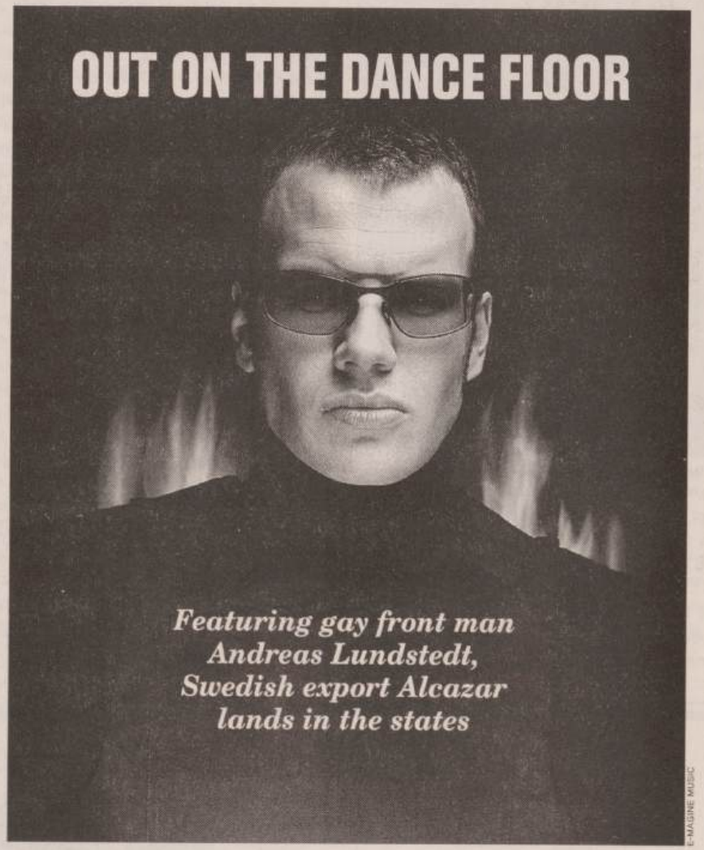


A Musical Romance
Nicknamed "Lady Day" by Lester Young, Billie Holiday is known for her achingly beautiful vocals. She in turn created the name by which Lester Young was identified in jazz circles—"president" of the tenor saxophone. Together, Young and Holiday would create some of the greatest jazz recordings of all time. This CD spotlights her unconventional talents along with Young's original style. No wonder sax players have copied his style and mentioned him as a primary influence—he was the greatest jazz performer of the Swing Era. From Columbia/Legacy. *—AR*



Lady Day Swings
This album of songs from 1935 to 1941 comes from the big band and swing era, which some wouldn't necessarily associate with Billie Holiday. As the title suggests, the infectious swing tempo moves nicely through the 16 tracks. The lyrics are clear and beautiful, representing a playfully alluring side of Holiday's work. Accompanied by some of the foremost soloists of the day, this compilation spotlights Holiday's lively, charming aspects. From Columbia/Legacy. *—AR* →

GrooveOut
by Gregg Shapiro



Ever since Abba, the world has been aware of the Swedish affinity for disco. With "Crying at the Discoteque," from their self-titled domestic debut (E-Magine Music), Alcazar, the latest Swedish disco export, proves that they can also "dance" and "jive" and "watch that scene." Openly gay front man Andreas Lundstedt and fellow group members Annikafiore and Tess are poised to meet the needs of queer club culture via the dance floor ("Tears of a Clone," for example, includes the lyrics "A room with a hundred men/The design of a perfect blend/Identical strains of code/Dressed up in the fashion mode").

Gregg Shapiro: Many of the songs on *Casino*, including "Paris in the Rain," have a vintage disco energy. That is especially true in the case of "Sexual Guarantee" and "Crying at the Discoteque," which feature Chic samples. Do you have a favorite period of dance music?
Andreas Lundstedt: Actually [*laughs*], it's hard to decide, because I love them all. I must say for me, the '70s crossing over to the '80s disco music I kind of like the most, because when it was really hip in the '70s, with disco and everything, I was too young to go out clubbing. I never got to go out dancing to that music. I did it in my living room. Now that I'm older [*laughs*], I can kind of take it back, do it real, full out, and record it and sing it.
So, you're reclaiming it for yourself?
Yeah, definitely, and for people who love the disco.
"Crying at the Discoteque" was included on the original soundtrack to the Showtime production of *Queer as Folk*. What did it mean to you to be included on the CD?
A lot. We've never had one of our songs on any kind of soundtrack. I've never seen the series, though. I've seen the English version.
Dance music is very popular within the queer community, and it's refreshing to hear these songs sung by a gay man, as opposed to a big disco diva.
[*Laughs*]
There are the Pet Shop Boys and Jimmy Somerville, to name two, but there aren't

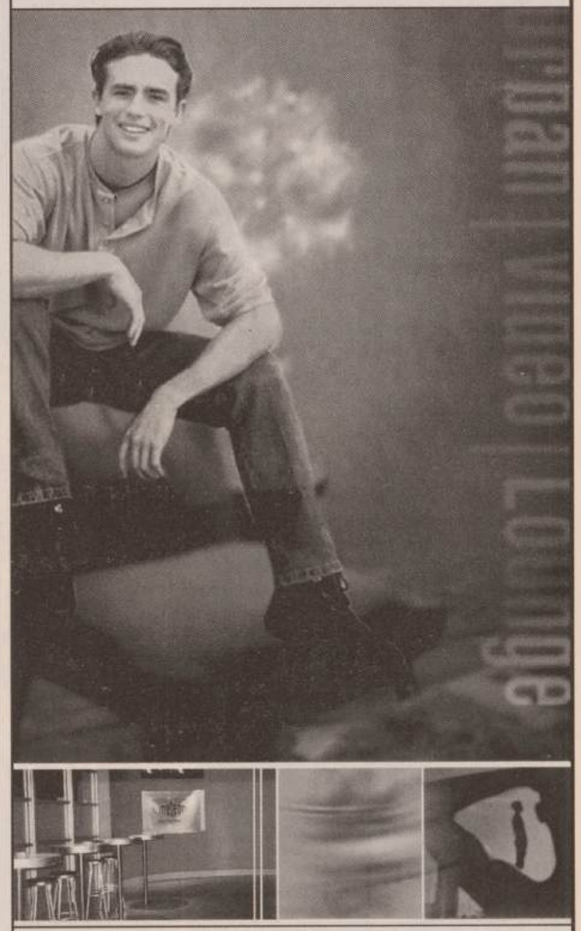
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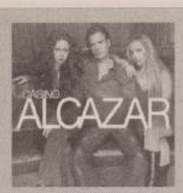
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ALCAZAR
Casino
Casino is the debut album from Alcazar, fronted by openly gay lead singer Andreas Lundstedt (see interview page 24). With the phenomenal success of "Crying at the Discoteque" in Europe and across the world, Alcazar seeks to bring their unique blend of disco and pop to the United States. The club smash was also featured on the soundtrack to *Queer as Folk*. Their album *Casino* is an hour-long journey through contemporary dance music styles. Alcazar proves they can handle every style and make something personal out of each one of them. Presenting a variety of issues in their highly original lyrics, Alcazar explores lifestyles and ideas existing on the outskirts of the modern urban landscape. From E-Magine Music. *–Tray Carrington*



Cocuzzo on drums, Ken Peplowski on tenor sax and clarinet, Jay Berliner on guitar, and Randy Sanke on trumpet–Carroll performs classic jazz standards by Gershwin & Gershwin and Rodgers & Hart, as well as rare numbers by Sammy Cahn, Antonio Carlos Jobim, and more. From Fynsworth Alley and After 9 Seconds. *–TC*



rhythms that draw deeply from her roots in calypso, soka, reggae, and R&B music. Already a Tony Award-winner for the title role in *Aida*, written by Elton John and Tim Rice, Headley now reveals herself as a talented R&B solo artist. From Fly Life Music. *–AR*



Ani DiFranco
So Much Shouting, So Much Laughter
Strong lyrics held together by an astonishing voice, Ani DiFranco has a sound like no other. A feminist and self-proclaimed bisexual, the now-married DiFranco has garnered critical praise as a folksinger with her personal and political lyrics and uncanny sense of melody. (In 1999, she won the OutMusic Award at the Gay/Lesbian American Music Awards.) A gifted songwriter, guitarist, and vocalist, DiFranco is a performer who does not mince words. The new double-disc live album *So Much Shouting, So Much Laughter*, put out on her own Righteous Babe Records label, offers up two hours of music including three previously unrecorded songs. This is definitely not background music. After the terror attacks on September 11, DiFranco began a poem that she ended up calling "Self Evident." Listening to the audience reaction to this song about the day America fell to its knees, it is obvious she is not alone in her sentiments. From Righteous Babe Records. *–AR*



Mario Frangoulis
Sometimes I Dream
Sometimes I Dream introduces the world to the distinctive voice of the Greek tenor Mario Frangoulis, who has been hailed as a promising young opera singer. The intriguing blend of new romantic songs and arrangements on this recording–in Italian, Spanish, Greek, and English–reaches toward a worldwide audience. The songs are bathed in the passionate atmosphere of the Mediteranean world he grew up in. His own emotions are reflected in "Vincerò, perderò," an inspiring new song written for him, about a young man who chooses to embrace life on his terms, win or lose. From Odyssey, an imprint of Sony Classical. *–TC*



Broadway Cast Recording
The Grand Tour
The Grand Tour is a tuneful and charming musical comedy with music and lyrics by the legendary Jerry Herman (see the interview with the openly gay Herman in our May 2002 issue), known for the international smash hit musicals *Hello, Dolly!*, *Mame*, and *La Cage aux Folles*, and featuring Oscar and Tony Award-winning actor Joel Grey, star of *Cabaret* (the film and the Broadway hit). The show follows the romantic adventures and dramatic challenges of S.L. Jacobowsky and his trek across France during World War II. Fynsworth Alley continues its Broadway Redux reissue series with this original Broadway cast recording on CD for the first time. Available exclusively through their website, fynsworthalley.com. *–TC*

Barbara Carroll
One Morning in May
This new CD by piano jazz icon Barbara Carroll is a subtle and sophisticated recording in her trademark progressive, percussive, and lyrical style. Joined by an all-star lineup–Jay Leonhart on bass, Joe

Heather Headley
This Is Who I Am
Heather Headley mixes R&B with soulful harmonies. The smooth grooves of her debut album, *This Is Who I Am*, launch her as an exceptional artist with a remarkable voice. Headley co-wrote several songs on this album and her talent is evident in her ballads to the upbeat



Linda Ronstadt
The Very Best of Linda Ronstadt
Few performers have crossed as many genres as successfully as Linda Ronstadt, and this collection offers 21 chart-toppers that span the singer's many musical incarnations. From earlier hits such as "Different Drum," "Heart Like a Wheel," "You're No Good," "It's So Easy," and "Blue Bayou" to more recent hits such as the James Ingram collaboration "Somewhere Out There" and the Aaron Neville collaboration "Don't Know Much," Ronstadt's vocals still shine brightly. From Rhino. *–TC* ■

that many openly gay men singing in the realm of disco. How does it feel to have that distinction?
That's something that I don't really reflect on. I don't think about that really. It's just my sexuality. I don't think it comes across in the music—my sexuality—maybe because I like disco and that's very queer music. Other than that, I'm just a singer like other singers, straight or bi, or gay. I don't see it as a big thing. I think there's more gay singers, but they just aren't saying they are.

Speaking of Pet Shop Boys, Neil Tennant of that group had words of praise for Alcazar.
Yeah!

Does Alcazar have any plans to ever cover a Pet Shop Boys song?
Well, not to cover a Pet Shop Boys song, but we would love to work with them. That would be a great thing, if they had a song for us or something like that. You never know. Maybe we will do a cover, because their songs are so great. I don't think we would do it as good as they do, actually. It's kind of like doing a cover of a song of Abba. Abba does it so good themselves. You can't really top it. If Neil Tennant or Chris Lowe would call us and say, "Hey, we just wrote a song that would really suit you," we would definitely be there in a second.

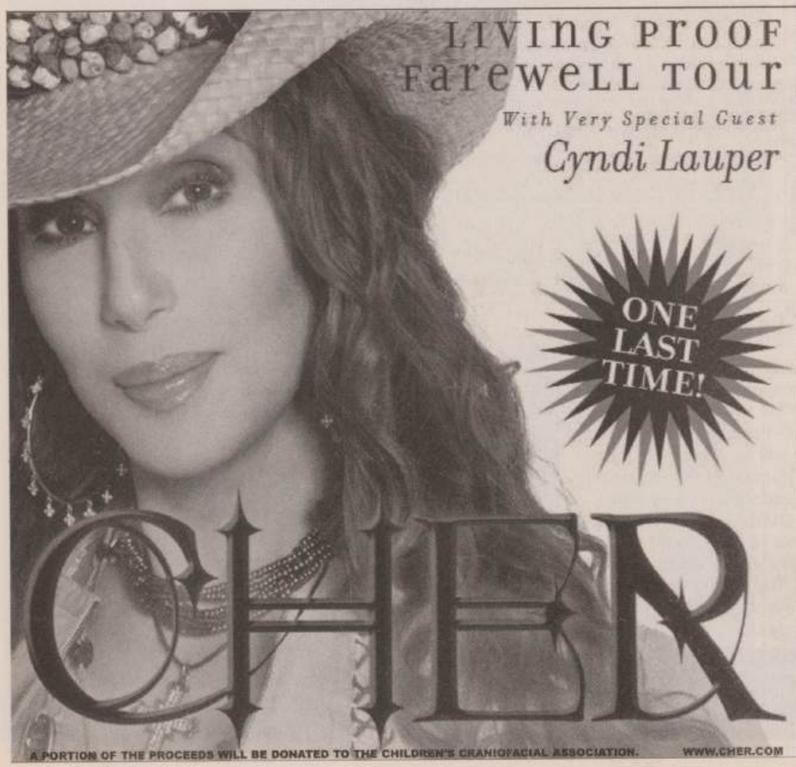
Alcazar does do a cover of the Human League song "Don't You Want Me." Why was that song selected?
It was actually one of our producers, Alexander Bard, who got the idea for us to sing the song and record it. When he asked us, "What do you feel about doing a cover of 'Don't You Want Me'?," we immediately got all of these memories from the '80s. The song is so kind of funny—fun lyrics. They're very desperate—"Don't you want me?"—and we love desperate lyrics. Maybe that goes hand in hand with the gay thing, the queer thing, like "I Will Survive," "Disco Inferno."

Alcazar will be performing live at the Billboard Music Summit in New York City in October. What are you most looking forward to about that event?
Oh, my God! We are so psyched. We can't really believe it yet. I used to live in New York from '93 to '95. When I lived there, I didn't work with music or anything. I was hoping and dreaming that one day it would be so cool to come back to New York and actually be on a stage and perform. It's really hard to believe. Because we're Swedish, typical Swedish people, we don't take anything for granted.

The predominant musical trends currently emerging from Sweden appear to be dance music, such as the songs on *Casino*, or garage rock, performed by bands such as the Hives and Sahara Hotnights. What do you think about those musical extremes?
I think that it has to do with in the winter Swedish people don't have a lot to do because it's so freaking cold. What to do? We go down in the basement and write songs. Or when we were in school, we had a lot of music classes. We were always in different choirs. It's the way that we were brought up, we Swedish people—choir practice, and you always learn some kind of instrument. I just wanted to sing.

Pop culture journalist Gregg Shapiro, a 1999 inductee into Chicago's Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame, is also a published fiction writer and poet.







'AFTER HOURS' TURNS 15

Jim Carper, host and producer of "After Hours," the weekly night-owl program on KPFT-FM, marked the show's 15th anniversary on September 14. "Buddy Johnston, originator of the show, wanted a forum for gay men who came home from the bars alone, thus the name. The original show aired on Sunday mornings, 2–4 a.m. I came along six months later," Carper explained after the milestone broadcast. Every week, the program has a theme segment with its own host on aspects of the community. "'After Hours' and KPFT are the only radio show and station in the United States with permanent bisexual and transgendered show hosts," Carper said. "I'm very proud of that."

"After Hours" is also a source of news and support for individuals who may have little access to information. "Years ago I learned that many teens would listen to the show with headphones—or even in the closet with their radio—so mom and dad didn't know what they were listening to," Carper said. "I have lived long enough to have a host who did just that—Francisco Sanchez. We've come full circle."

KPFT station management recently moved the start time for the three-hour show from midnight to 1 a.m. Carper said the program director has told him that the midnight slot will soon return.



'After Hours' host Jim Carper in the KPFT studio.

ROUGHING IT

The jocks of the new Houston Roughnecks Rugby Football Club are conducting a membership drive in October. A group of mostly novice players, the club began regular practices in September and will hold an orientation session and skills-training rugby boot camp this month. Club president Steve Brady said the Bingham Cup, the June tournament in San Francisco named for Flight 93 hero Mark Bingham, helped inspire the Roughnecks formation. Randy Jones is team captain. Dates and locations for October events will be listed on the relaunched website, www.roughnecksrugby.org.



DATEBOOK

Oct. 5, 19. Rainbow Fishing Club deep-sea fishing trips, departing from Galveston. 6:30 a.m. $90 includes $20 deposit. Info: 713/523-6381.

Oct. 23. Bette v. Joan, an event inspired by *What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?* [see "Who's Afraid of Bette Davis?" page 21]. Prizes awarded for best costumes, including grand prizes to the best Davis and Crawford impersonators. Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne. $5 donation at the door benefits the center. 713/524-3818.

Oct. 26. Bewitched Ball 2002, organized by Hillary Woest to celebrate her third year of cancer remission. 8 p.m.–midnight. Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites Galleria, 7787 Katy Frwy. $20. Proceeds benefit the Houston Lesbian Gay Community Center. Info: 713/569-2023.

Oct. 27. Concert presented by Foundation For Modern Music, helmed by artistic director Robert Avalon ["The Passion of Music," *OutSmart*, February 2002], with benefit silent auction. First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 2119 Avalon Place. 5 p.m. $15, $10 in advance. Info: 713/529-3928.

UH STUDENTS SLATE COMING OUT DAY RALLY, PARTY

GLOBAL, the Gay, Lesbian or Bisexual Alliance at the University of Houston, will present two events to mark National Coming Out Day on Friday, October 11.

The students have organized an 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. rally at Lynn Eusan Park on the UH main campus. The speakers will be announced for this free, public event, co-sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign. Information on a variety of community organizations will be available.

That evening, the students will host the GLOBAL Gayla, a 9 p.m.–3 a.m. dance at Rich's-Houston. Admission to this 18-and-up event is $5 in advance, $7 at the door. A portion of ticket sales will benefit the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, where GLOBAL meets every Sunday.

More information on GLOBAL and these events are available on the organization website, www.uh.edu/~global/index.html.



GLOBAL members include (front row, from l) Danny Spencer, Jackie Dodge, David; (second row) Martin Miller, Richard, Bobby; and (third row) Alisha, Patti, Amanda Gonzales, Leslie Hamilton, Brad, Emily, Kenny Sargent.

Q-PATROL SETS NEW GROUP PARTNER PROGRAM

In August, the Stonewall Law Association of Greater Houston (SLAGH) issued a challenge to other organizations to participate in a new Q-Patrol, Inc. initiative to monitor Montrose. The Co-Op COP (Cooperative Community Organizational Partnership) program involves nonprofit groups with Q-Patrol in a Friday or Saturday night neighborhood surveillance watch.

"SLAGH has a standing date with Q-Patrol to walk or ride on patrol one day out of the month," president Jerry Simoneaux said. "It's a great way to meet members of other organizations, do some networking, have fun, and keep the neighborhood safe."

The Stonewall Law Association and the Lesbian/Gay Immigration Rights Task Force joined a patrol on August 17. In March, Community Awareness for Transgender Support was the first organization to participate in the Co-Op COP program.

Members of the new Houston Roughnecks Rugby Football Club will join Q-Patrol for a Co-Op COP walk on October 4. "If your organization wants to come out as a group, the more the merrier," Q-Patrol chairman Chris Arasin said. "You can wear your organization's colors and represent yourselves while taking the opportunity to show a commitment to prevent hate crimes."

Community activists founded the all-volunteer Q-Patrol over a decade ago in response to the Independence Day murder of Paul Broussard near the corner of Montrose Boulevard and West Drew.

Q-Patrol's voice number is 713/528-SAFE. The e-mail addresses are qpatrolinc@aol.com or qp_callouts@hotmail.com.







3 Comics Headline October 12 Black Tie Dinner

A trio of comedians—Vickie Shaw, Cory Kahaney, and Monique Marvez—will entertain at the Houston Black Tie Dinner on Saturday, October 12. Shaw, who appeared here in July at the Uncommon Legacy brunch, toured last year with her La-la-pa-Lesbo comedy tour and now barnstorms the nation on her Sick & Wrong Tour.

Marvez's latest comedy CD is Built for Speed. One critic dubbed her "a comic Bette Midler." Kahaney, who has hosted NBC's "Later," is fresh off the Hamptons Comedy Festival and GRRL Genius Night at the Toyota Comedy Festival in New York. Reviewing a recent performance, web comic Laurie Kilmartin praised Kahaney for "roaming the stage like a purred out leopard."

This year, the 7 p.m. dinner and silent auction will raise funds for seven organizations: Bering-Omega Community Services, H.A.T.C.H., Lesbian Health Initiative, Montrose Counseling Center, Montrose Clinic, People With AIDS Coalition-Houston, and Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church.

Chairpersons Carlos Reyes Jr. and Chree Boydstun will preside over the evening, which for the first time in years will not take place at the George R. Brown Convention Center in construction-ravaged downtown. The Hotel InterContinental on the West Loop is the new venue. More information is available at www.houstonblacktiedinner.org.

Vickie Shaw (upper l), Cory Kahaney, and Monique Marvez will perform at the Houston Black Tie Dinner on October 12.

MONTROSE RANKS AS VERY, VERY GAY

Based on records from the 2000 census, Montrose ranks among the 15 U.S. zip codes with the highest percentage of same-sex couples. Gaydemographics.org compiled the results from the census, which indicate the rank of the historical center of GLBT life in our area.

1. Provincetown, Massachusetts (02657)
2. Castro/Noe Valley, San Francisco, CA (94114)
3. West Hollywood, California (90069)
4. Downtown Washington, D.C. (20036)
5. Renaissance Park, Atlanta, Georgia (30308)
6. Clear, Alaska (99704)
7. Pine Lake, Georgia (30072)
8. Pennsylvania Corridor/Chinatown, D.C. (20005)
9. Boston/Roxbury, Massachusetts (02118)
10. South Chelsea/North Village, NY (10011)
11. Guerneville, California (95446)
12. Montrose, Houston, Texas (77006)
13. Twin Peaks, San Francisco, CA (94131)
14. Dupont/Logan, Washington, D.C. (20009)
15. Glenhaven, California (95443)



Hike in Syphilis Cases in Men Detected

The number of reported syphilis cases among men who have sex with men in the Houston area increased during the first seven months of 2002, officials with the city department of health and human services reported on September 11.

Gay and bisexual men represent 46 percent of the 135 syphilis infections reported to the department from January through July, an increase over the same time period last year when the group comprised 31 percent of the 134 reported diagnoses.

Sixty-seven percent of gay and bisexual men diagnosed with syphilis, a sexually transmitted disease, also tested positive for HIV. The local increase mirrors trends in other urban areas, including New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Miami.

Eric Roland, Montrose Clinic education director, said the local upsurge in syphilis points to an increase in high-risk sexual behavior among gay and bisexual men.

"We are seeing new syphilis cases among people previously diagnosed with HIV and in those who are newly diagnosed," Roland said. "It could be that some people no longer view HIV as a death threat and some segments of the younger population have never seen a death due to AIDS." ■

GOOD NEWS

The Times *at last commits to a gay precedent*

I rush through the *New York Times* every day when I get up. It and a cup of coffee are prerequisites for me leaving my house. On Sundays, however, I spend hours working my way through every section of the Sunday *Times*. It is my weekly ritual. It completes my Sunday trifecta of overeating and being lazy. If I miss a meal, the *Times*, or sufficient downtime, Monday morning is just not going to be as it should be.

A few Sundays ago, I was reading the "Weddings & Celebrations" section of the *Times*. When I turned the page, though, I did not see a familiar-looking photo of a bride and a groom. Instead, there was a picture of two grooms, Stephen and Daniel.

Underneath the picture, the announcement set forth the grooms' family backgrounds, their academic credentials, and the road to their commitment ceremony. It detailed their three-day commitment event, which included a religious ceremony approved by Reform Judaism and a secular ceremony approved by the state of Vermont.

It was unsettling. I did not expect it. No one told me that the *New York Times* had decided to run announcements for gay and lesbian commitment ceremonies. And this picture of two gay men in love smiling out at me from the pages of the most circulated newspaper in America upset my Sunday sense of familiarity. This would take some getting used to.

Last week, the *Times* gave me another opportunity to get used to it. This time, it announced the commitment ceremony of Macky Alston and Nicholas Gottlieb, a Protestant and a Jew, who met on a blind date in 1992. Macky and Nick had just celebrated their three-day commitment event, which was officiated by a United Church of Christ reverend, a cantor, and one of the groom's fathers, who happens to be a Presbyterian minister.

From straight couples to same-sex interfaith couples in a matter of weeks. I think I am getting used to this. And as I lay on my sofa thinking of how I now look forward to same-sex commitment announcements as part of my Sunday ritual, I wondered how many other people in America looking at the same announcement were not quite so enthusiastic about the changes the Sunday *Times* had begun to report.

I wondered how many welcomed the announcement. How many felt sick that one of the most prominent newspapers in America would agree to publish it? And how many experienced emotions somewhere between joy and repugnance, from indifference to outrage?

continued on page 32



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

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LOOKING AHEAD

Four ways of considering the future can help us prepare

In my last column, I argued the gay movement struggles on two planes—one legal and one social. That column looked at what gays might try to achieve in the legal domain. This column deals with what gays might try to achieve in the domain of social relations dominated by family members, friends, private organizations, education, and the media.

This column presents four possible goals in the social domain. Each seeks to deal in some way with the following question: How do we want to be treated (or be thought of) as gay people by those around us? It is possible to answer this question differently for different parts of one's life (e.g., one answer for coworkers, another for family), but in general we tend to embrace one approach over the others.

Indifference. The first possible response to this question is to be almost offended by it. This approach suggests we should not care how straight society views us because our sense of self-worth and our quality of life should not depend on what others think. If straight people like us, fine. If not, that's fine, too. The indifference model reached its zenith in the heady years after Stonewall when activists imagined that gay power, like black power, would free an oppressed group from having to rely on the good will of people outside the group.

The primary attraction of this vision of gay-straight relations is that it represents a sharp break from the world of overwhelming shame from which it emerged. For much of gay history, shame—our reaction to others' disapproval of homosexuality—has been so powerful as to be disabling emotionally, intellectually, and politically. Indifference offers to free us from shame.

The problem with the indifference approach is the world it would leave us with. Most gay kids still grow up in families where homosexuality is considered shameful, which makes their lives appreciably more difficult. Most major religions still teach homosexuality is an abomination and that gays are going to hell. Walking down the street holding your lover's hand is still guaranteed to get you nasty stares, maybe ugly insults, possibly physical assault. We are indifferent to the attitudes that shape these social facts at our peril.

Tolerance. A second approach is to say we should demand nothing more or less from straight society than tolerance of our homosexuality. Under this approach, nobody is expected to affirm the →



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

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LeftOut *continued from page 30*

I realized then that what people think about the announcement is irrelevant. What they think about a photograph of two men in love is irrelevant. What is relevant is that the *New York Times* finally announced a same-sex commitment ceremony complete with a picture of two grooms, smiling out at America, placed comfortably between Kate and Robert, Suzy and Sam.

By celebrating same-sex ceremonies, the *Times* has finally acknowledged that whether readers like it or not, a same-sex commitment ceremony is newsworthy. It is an event that deserves commemoration by the press. It belongs in the "Weddings & Celebrations" section, just like Stephen and Daniel belong next to Kate and Robert. And same-sex love belongs with "all the news that fit to print." ■

What About the *Chronicle*?

"The *Chronicle*'s policy is that it does not accept same-sex marriage announcements," said the reader representative, James Campbell, in a recent telephone interview. "That's because same-sex marriages are not legal in the state of Texas." • Campbell said the *Chronicle* does accept same-gender announcements in the "Celebrations" section of the Sunday edition. That section typically features announcements of engagements, anniversaries, bar mitzvahs, and other events. "We have in fact accepted same-sex celebration announcements for several years," Campbell said. —*Tim Brookover*

OutRight *continued from previous page*

validity or genuineness of our loves or lives. But neither do they reproach us openly for those things. Under this approach, there is a cease-fire in the culture war between gays and antigays. Neither side cedes any ground, but the shooting stops.

The attraction of this vision is that it has already been achieved to a remarkable degree in American society. Even many religious conservatives are now willing to say gays should be "tolerated," a concession that even 20 years ago would have been unthinkable.

Still, there is something awfully tinny about tolerance. Certainly, mere tolerance from our families and friends seems inadequate.

Acceptance. A third approach is to seek full acceptance of our homosexuality from the people around us. In a world of acceptance, families would celebrate our relationships as they would any straight child's. Major religions would welcome us as God's children and teach that our love is not a sin any more than heterosexual love is. Few would look twice when we walk hand-in-hand down the street.

The attraction of this vision is that its achievement would solve many of the problems we have organized to combat. For example, if we were equally accepted in the lives of the straight people around us, we wouldn't need a law to protect us from discrimination in employment or housing or education because we wouldn't encounter such antigay discrimination. I suspect most gay people want acceptance because they know it would make life easier and richer.

But the acceptance model is firmly rejected by both the religious right and the queer left. The religious right fears the full integration of gays into American life because it would entail the death of their moral worldview. The queer left opposes acceptance as a goal because they see it as "assimilationist," requiring gays to surrender whatever it is that supposedly makes us distinctive.

Erasure. Beyond acceptance of homosexuality lies its complete elimination as a social category. Under this vision, we would cease to think of people as "gay" or "straight" because the distinction itself would carry no significance. We don't have a word for left-handed people and we don't think of them as a distinct kind of person. Identity based on sexual orientation, like identity based on handedness, would not exist. A few years back, a small "post-gay" movement embraced something like erasure.

The erasure model has the advantages of the acceptance model, only more so. The problem is that it seems far-fetched. Not only are we not close to it, we are unlikely ever to be. Few aspects of human behavior have been as subject to obsession, praise, and condemnation as sexuality. And few aspects of human sexuality have received as much attention as homosexuality. To imagine a world unaware of it is like imagining a world of peace and harmony. In other words, fat chance. ■

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Each month, *OutSmart* will donate a full page to help the center meet its operating budget. What can you do? Well, if you're a company, you can list your name or company logo on this page for a small $30 or $40 donation. If you're an *OutSmart* reader, you can donate $20 and memorialize a loved one, send a message or birthday wish, or just get something off your chest. All donations are tax deductible. Advertise your business, express yourself, remember someone close to you. It's your page. It's our page. It doesn't matter what you say or how you say it. Just say it. Show your support by giving a big shout-out to the community center.

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Kiki, I still need that work done on my closet—you'd think you've been busy. Oh, wait, you *have* been busy. Keep up the truly good work. I'm proud to be your friend. Love, Blase

Joey, every day I still miss you but I'm glad you approve of Jim. You always had such good taste.

The advertising proceeds from this page go directly to the community center operating fund. For advertising information call 713/520-7237 ext. 10.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

On turn-up streets, police encounters, and more

When's the city going to sweep my street?"* someone recently asked me in an e-mail. Two terms and 9,000 e-mails/letters later, that's a new question. My office averages about 250 e-mails a week (250 a day if constituents are mad at me). Everywhere I go, people ask me questions. Some questions pop up over and over again, indicating a certain amount of public confusion.

Here are a few of the most frequent questions:

1. If the city budget's so tight, why is the city building so many stadiums? Wouldn't it be better to use that money for police and fire?

The quick answer is: The city has not built one single stadium, and no funds from city property taxes have been used.

Minute Maid Park, Reliant Stadium, and the new downtown multipurpose arena were all approved by voters and built with bonds issued by the Harris County–Houston Sports Authority. The bonds are being repaid through hotel/motel, car rental, and event ticket taxes. State law is fairly specific on the use of such funds.

They fired me because I'm gay. What can I do?

The city contributed $25 million in land and infrastructure (parking garage) to the basketball arena. The money came from the Convention and Entertainment Facilities Department, which is an enterprise fund. Funds from that department can only be used for projects related to conventions or tourism.

The Sports Authority owns both Minute Maid Park and the downtown multipurpose arena. (The city owns the land under the arena and is leasing it to the Sports Authority for 30 years.) Reliant Stadium is owned by Harris County.

2. Doesn't the city really run Metro?

My office receives several e-mails a month complaining about Metro service. We're happy to forward the complaints to Metro, which is a separate governmental entity set up by the state with its own sales-tax revenue stream.

The Metro board governs Metro, which has its own executive director who is responsible for daily operations.→

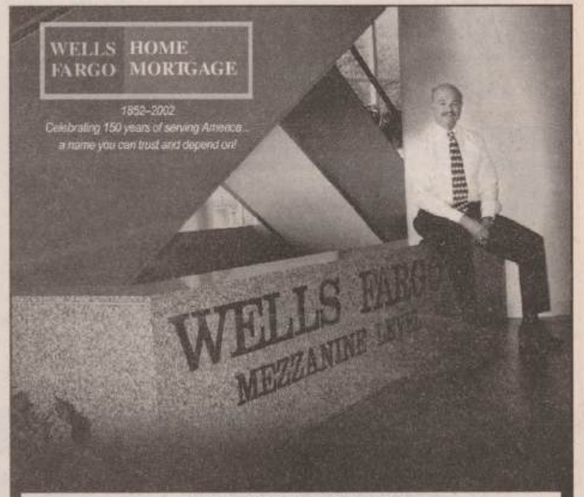
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The lines blur because the city of Houston, Harris County, and the small cities appoint the Metro board. In addition, former mayor Bob Lanier took advantage of a provision in the law to transfer $50 million a year from Metro for city of Houston street projects. The mayor and current council have phased out this transfer. Metro still does street repair, but does it on its own rather than "pay" the city to do it.

3. They fired me because I'm gay. What can I do?

My staff regularly gets this heartbreaking call. Unfortunately, the options are limited in Houston. While the city has a nondiscrimination ordinance to protect its GLBT employees, there is no citywide nondiscrimination ordinance. State labor laws provide no protection. The federal Equal Employment Opportunity Council may be able to help if the termination is also related to some protected category, such as age, race, religion, and so forth. As a last resort, we suggest going to the GLBT press.

4. What do I do if an HPD officer treats me rudely or calls me a fag? What if an officer investigating my case won't call me back and won't interview my witnesses? What if I want to thank an officer for good work?

If an officer conducts him or herself unprofessionally, there is recourse. The Internal Affairs Division (IAD) investigates citizens' complaints against police officers. It may take six months to get a report, but your complaint could be upheld. Even if it is not substantiated, your complaint goes in the officer's file along with any other complaints, commendations, or disciplinary reports. They all add up.

There are several ways to file a complaint against an officer:

- Write down what happened, including when, where, and, most importantly, the name or other identifying information about the officer. Have the statement notarized and submit it to IAD at HPD headquarters, 1200 Travis (713/308-0040). I have been trying for years to move IAD back out of the headquarters building, but have been unsuccessful.
- Or you can send your notarized statement to me, and I will ask HPD to file it for you. IAD does not take anonymous complaints.
- If you are unhappy with the progress of an investigation or the way an officer is handling your investigation, I suggest you contact my office. A staff member can contact the officer or their supervisor to try to resolve your complaint.

Officers who are doing a good job should be commended. Send letters of commendation to HPD chief Bradford.

5. My street was scheduled to be reconstructed next year in the CIP (Capital Improvement Plan). Now they tell me it'll be two more years!

If I could make sense of the CIP process, I would be mayor.

As an at-large council member, I don't have much influence over the process, but I try. I must admit that the "process" has often been illogical and impossible to defend as a rational set of priorities. Much-needed projects are scheduled and promised. Expectations rise. Suddenly, they're delayed and replaced with projects that seem less important often because a new district council member has been elected.

Before the Super Neighborhood program, CIP was based on priorities expressed at CIP hearings with considerable input from district council members. Mayor Brown recently announced that neighborhood projects requested in Super Neighborhood Action Plans (SNAPs) would receive top priority. Unfortunately, the CIP schedule is not online yet. SNAP plans can be viewed at www.ci.houston.tx.us/departme/planning/snap/snap_index.pdf.

If you have any other burning questions or you would like to receive my bi-monthly e-mail newsletter, please e-mail my office at annise.parker@cityofhouston.net The city website is www.cityofhouston.gov. My city council web-site is www.ci.houston.tx.us/citygovt/council/1.



A Houston City Council member who happens to be lesbian, Annise Parker is serving her third term in At-large Position 1.

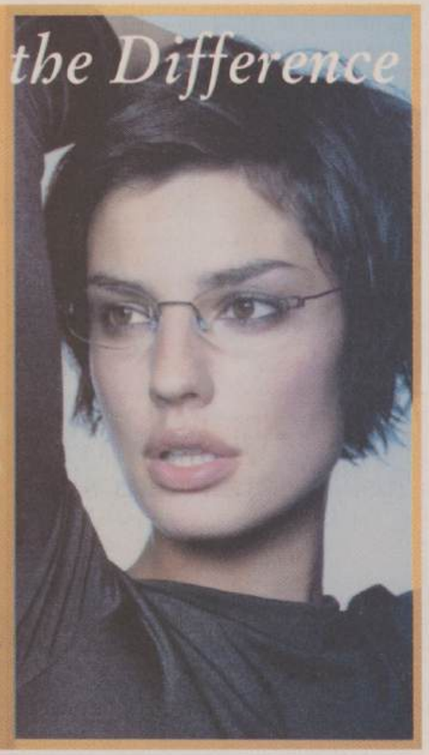
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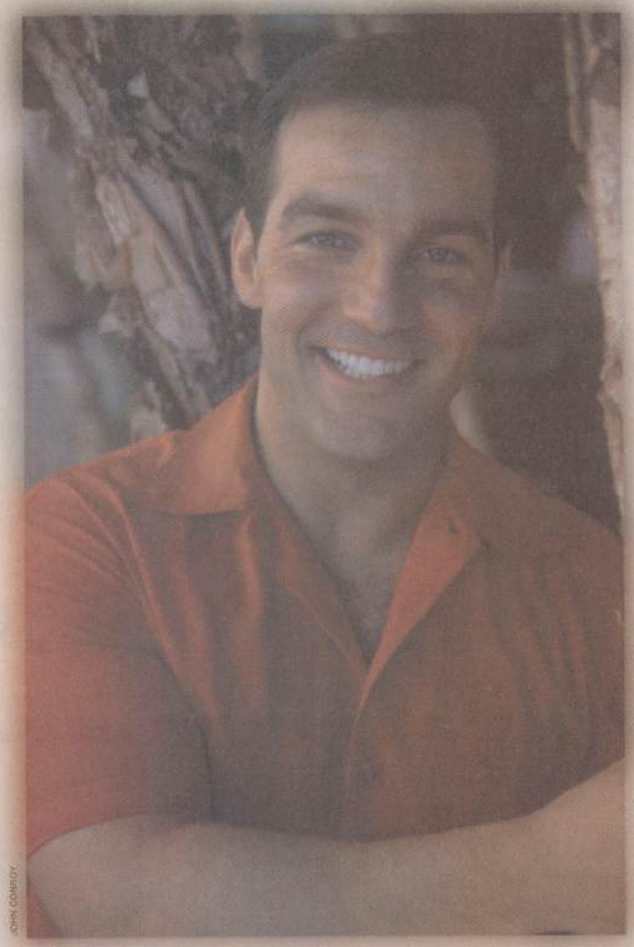
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Gayest & Greatest

2002 Readers' Choice Awards

The readers speak out on the their community favorites, from auto dealership to socialite

Kenneth Lester, the popular choice for Best Chiropractor, kicks off our Gayest & Greatest survey for 2002. Heck, with those eyes and that grin, he is our choice, too. We also hear he is a terrific chiropractor.


JOHN DOBSON

So, once again, the readers have spoken. Frankly, some of the results strike us as rather odd. (Carolyn Farb as the number-two community fund-raiser?) And we think some of you should get out more. (No one had an opinion on the best accommodations outside the Loop?) Still, on the following pages, we present your choices in a range of categories. There is even more information at www.outsmartmagazine.com.

best chiropractor


JOHN CORBOY

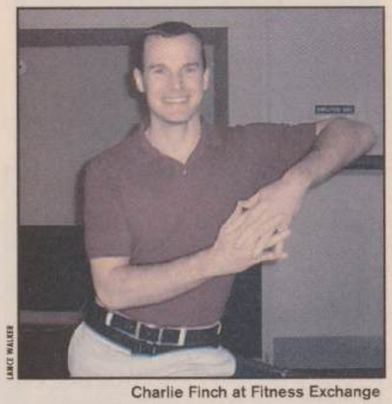
Your favorite chiropractor

Kenneth Lester, D.C.

Kirby Health & Wellness
2727 Kirby Dr., Suite 324
713/526-5252

Runners Up:
Jackie Doval, D.C.
Dan Boudreaux, D.C.

best personal trainer (male)


LANCE WALKER

Charlie Finch at Fitness Exchange

Charlie Finch

Not only is Finch a certified personal trainer at Fitness Exchange, he is also a psychology professor at the University of Houston Downtown. Clients should not even try to convince him with their usual excuses. • http://home.houston.rr.com/cbfinch; 832/755-6385

best personal trainer (female)


LANCE WALKER

Coach Kimmie at Fitness Exchange

Kimberly Marler

Better known as Coach Kimmie, Marler trains clients at Fitness Exchange, which readers named Best Gym/Place to Work Out. • 832/443-FITT

favorite entrepreneur (male)

Charles Armstrong

As the owner of JR's Bar and Grill/Santa Fe Bar and Patio, Montrose Mining Co., and South Beach, Armstrong has changed the face of Houston nightlife. This month, he opens the martini bar at South Beach, a chic new private events venue.

Runners Up:
Larry Lingle, Lobo Bookshop & Cafe
Jim McIngvale, Gallery Furniture

favorite entrepreneur (female)

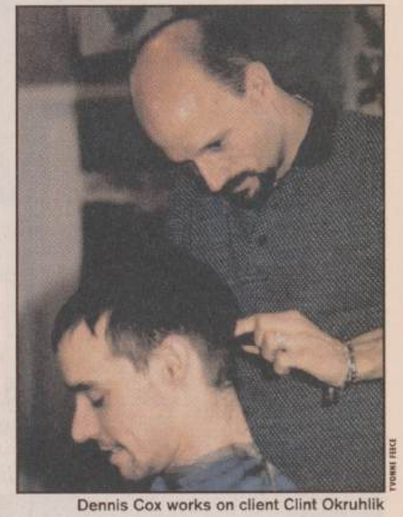
Carol Wyatt

"I'm not a business entrepreneur in the classical sense of the word," Wyatt wrote us from her post at Norstan, the technology service company. "I suspect that I was nominated because I have initiated a couple of programs in the community."

- Monthly happy hour for professional women, held at Meteor (2306 Genesee), on the first and third Wednesday of every month.
- Weekly e-mail newsletter promoting social events of interest to women. To get on the list, e-mail carol.wyatt@norstand.com.
- Annual Christmas party at her house for about 300 people with proceeds benefiting a different community charity every year.

Runners Up:
Mary Ann McBee, Fitness Exchange
Sandra Jean Bubbert, The Acadian Bakers

best hairdresser (male)


TYRONE FIELD

Dennis Cox works on client Clint Okruhlik

Dennis Cox

Emanon
2404 Montrose Blvd.
713/529-0810

Runners Up:
Tony Lopez
Don Gill, Studio 911

best hairdresser (female)


LANCE WALKER

Vicki Fraychinaud styles the hair of client Cynthia Robertson.

Vicky Fraychinaud

Midtown Hair Design/The Roman Salon
2602 Whitney
713/560-7585

Runner Up:
Natasha Phua, 4 Star Hair Productions

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6624 Fannin, Suite 2105 (Medical Center - St. Lukes Tower)
4 Chelsea Place (Museum District/Montrose)
Mary T. Green, M.D., Ph.D., F.A.C.S.

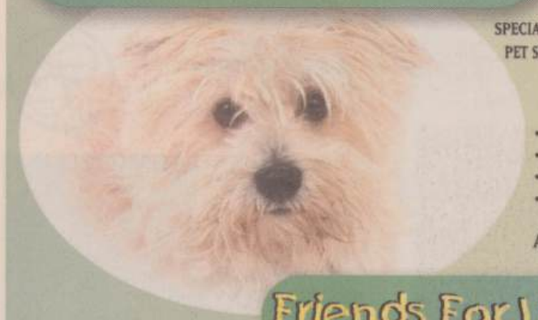
713.521.EYES • www.eyeexcellence.com

DELI & BAR, Katz's SINCE 1979 NEVER KLOSES

Thank you, OutSmart Readers, for voting Katz's Deli the "Tastiest 24 Hour Restaurant," one of the "Best Lunch Spots for a Group," and "Best Breakfast"

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Friends For Life

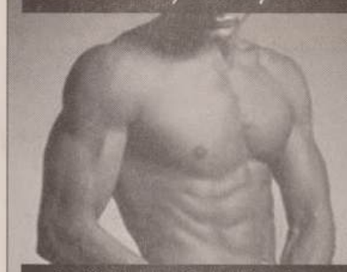
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Laser and Electrolysis
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www.Hairremovalofhouston.com

favorite sports team

Houston Texans

At press time, all signs indicated a less than .500 season in the Texans' first year. Still, the NFL expansion team ran away with this category.

- 832/667-2000; www.houstontexans.com

Runner Up:
Houston Comets

favorite athlete (male)



HOUSTON TEXANS

David Carr

The clean-cut Houston Texans quarterback was also the Gayest & Greatest choice for Celebrity You Wish Were Gay. Sorry, guys. Our scouts tell us that the number-one pick in the 2002 NFL draft is definitely nongay. Carr is married with one child and another on the way.

Runners Up:
Brad Ausmus, Houston Astros
Craig Biggio, Houston Astros

favorite athlete (female)



COPYRIGHT © 2002 WNBA (PHOTO BY BILL BAPTIST/ WNBA/GETTY IMAGES)

Sheryl Swoopes

The Houston Comets' forward was the first woman to have a Nike basketball shoe with her name on it. The 2002 WNBA most valuable player, Swoopes has been named to the All-WNBA First Team three times. And her smile can light up any court —or computer, now that the Comets offer Swoopes desktop wallpaper.

- 713/627-WNBA; www.wnba.com/comets

Runner Up:
Tina Thompson, Houston Comets

top GLBT activist (male)

Ray Hill

In October, readers can check out Hill in his latest career, acclaimed monologist, when Houston Media Source broadcasts two of his one-man shows:

Ray Hill & the Sex Police	10/4, 11 p.m.
Ray Hill: The Prison Years	10/5, 3 p.m.
Ray Hill: The Prison Years	10/16, 7:30 p.m.
Ray Hill & the Sex Police	10/17, 10 p.m.

On TimeWarner Cable, Houston MediaSource is located on Channel 17, 18, 66, 82, or 96, depending on the area.

Runners Up:
Clarence Burton Bagby
Nelson Vergel and **Grant Martin** (tie)

top GLBT activist (female)

Marion Coleman

Long an integral part of the community, Coleman has supported an array of organizations, including the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus. Last March, an event celebrating her legendary bar, Kindred Spirits, raised funds for the Bering United Methodist Church HIV Medical Services.

Runners Up:
Annise Parker
Janine Brunjes

top fundraiser (male)



DALTON DURANT

Don Gill hosted an August 18 benefit for GCAM at Keys West.

Don Gill

Favorite causes:
- PWA Holiday Charities
- Houston Buyers Club
- Colt 45's
- Gulf Coast Archive and Museum of GLBT History
- Steven's House

people

Best Interior Decorator
Mikel Reaper
Environments
713/880-0064
Runners Up:
Tim Hamrock
John Robinson

Best Doctor
Patrick McNamara, M.D.
Southampton Medical Group
4101 Greenbriar
713/520-5537
Runners Up:
Shannon Schrader. M.D.
Carlos Farinas, M.D.

Best Dentist
Bruce Smith, D.D.S.
1006 Missouri
713/529-4364
Runners Up:
Max Greenfield, D.D.S., ImageMax
John Stockman, D.D.S.

Best Therapist
Daniel Garces, MS, LPC, LMFT
3316 Mt. Vernon
713/526-8390
Runner Up:
Tony Carroll, LMSW-ACP

Best Massage Therapist (male)
Ken Claude (tie)
713/240-9598
Alan Davidson (tie)
713/942-0923
Runner Up:
Tom Zeppelin

Best Massage Therapist (female)
Stacey Delgado

Best Veterinarian
Robin Robinett, D.V.M.
713/864-4560
Runners Up:
Montrose Veterinary Clinic
Cat Vet

Best Insurance Agent (male)
Rob Schmerler
Rob Schmerler Insurance Agency
6575 West Loop South, Suite 185
713/661-7700
Runners Up:
Jeffrey Bules, Rob Schmerler Insurance Agency
Dale Englefield, Englefield Insurance Agency

Best Insurance Agent (female)
Pippa Wiley
Pippa Wiley Insurance Agency
10777 Northwest Frwy.
713/957-4297



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Mondays – Round Robin DJs
Karaoke with Cowboy Wes & Charles
Tuesdays – 8PM Pool Tournament
DJ Robin
Wednesdays – Karaoke with Lisa
Thursdays – Manwatch dancers
8PM Pool Tournament
DJ Rob E
Fridays – Manwatch dancers
11PM show with CC Ryder, Naomi Warwick, Trecenia St James, Cowboy Charles and special guests
DJ Danny G
Saturdays – Manwatch dancers
11PM show with CC Ryder, Naomi Warwick, Trecenia St James, Cowboy Charles and special guests
Dj Rob E
Sundays – Manwatch dancers
5PM Pool Tournament
11PM CC Ryder Cabaret Show
DJ Danny G



"We would like to thank the OutSmart readers for voting Garza's Kon Tiki the Favorite Club, Favorite Place to See Male Dancers, Best Female Bartender, Lisa Alexander, and Favorite Show Place for Misty Valdez, CC Ryder and Naomi Warwick in Galveston."

– Jesse Garza, owner

SEXUAL ABUSE IN THE CHURCH

Recent discoveries of sexual abuse by Catholic priests and the years of cover-up involved, have left many parishioners wondering who they can trust. While most of the clergy are honorable and trustworthy, some are not and they continue to violate the trust of the innocent and vulnerable. Churches have failed in their duty to protect some of its children from abuse, and have instead been protecting themselves.

Even if the sexual abuse may have occurred while a child, those who are now adults may still pursue cases even if the abuse happened years ago.



If you or a family member were a victim of clergy abuse, call attorney Rand Mintzer today. We will hold accountable those who violated your trust.

RAND MINTZER
Attorney At Law
(713) 862-8880

Principal Office - Houston, TX Not Certified by Texas Board of Legal Specialization

Gill is also helping to organize the November 10 Mr. Prime Choice benefit, in memory of the late Creath Robinson, who held the title for 2001–2002. The 8 p.m. event at the Ripcord (715 Fairview) will raise funds for the Colt 45's and GCAM.

Runners Up:
Nick Brines
Sean Carter

top fundraiser (female)

Barbara Walker

Favorite causes:
• Montrose Clinic Women's Program
• The Assistance Fund

Runner Up:
Carolyn Farb



DAVID ESTES

Barbara Walker

most divine drag queen



JAY'S PHOTOGRAPHY

Kofi

Kofi

In the June OutSmart, Kofi (a.k.a. Terry Nabors) told our D. L. Groover: "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. It was the art form we had all to ourselves."

Runners Up:
Roxanne Collins and Kelly Lauren (tie)

ultimate gay socialite



DALTON KOHART

Piano man: Clay Howell performing at Keys West.

Clay Howell

Things to do in October:
✓ Perform in October 5–6 *Salute to Disney* at Westbury United Methodist Church.
✓ Work with diva Marsha Carlton on a couple of benefit performances.
✓ Fingers crossed! Finalize plans to join Marsha in an RSVP cruise show.
✓ Get with Keith Caldwell on the score for his musical version of *Babette's Feast*.
✓ Play in a benefit for breast cancer survivors.
✓ Tickle the ivories every Thursday night at Keys West.

Runners Up:
Carolyn Farb
Todd Ramos

best new restaurant



ART SPANGLER

Sopa de Flor de Calabaza at Hugo's

Hugo's

In August, Tracy Vaught and Hugo Ortega opened their instantly popular new destination for Latin food. At the same time, they preserved the handsome 1925 Joseph Finger building in a neighborhood where tear-downs are the rule. • 1602 Westheimer; 713/524-7744

Runners Up:
Los Tonyos Cantina
Osaka

best place to buy clothes (women)



YVONNE FISCH

Buffalo Exchange

1614 Westheimer
713/523-8701

Runners Up:
Leopard Lounge
GAP



YVONNE FISCH

The staff of Buffalo Exchange

best adult video rental



Lobo

3939 Montrose Blvd.
713/522-5156

Runner Up:
Diners News

best place to buy clothes (men)



YVONNE FISCH

M2M owner Michael Malik

M2M

3400 Montrose Blvd.
713/521-0804

Runners Up:
Basic Brothers
Banana Republic

best cleaners

IMAGE CLEANERS

Image Cleaners

3407 Montrose Blvd.
(and 3 other Houston locations)
713/527-0880

Runners Up:
Pilgrim Cleaners
Wolfe Cleaners

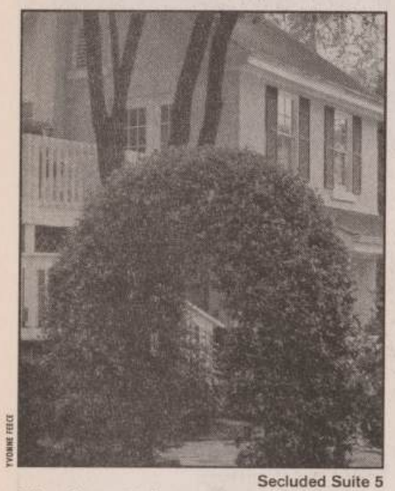
best grocery store

Kroger

Affectionately dubbed Disco Kroger, the supermarket in the heart of Montrose has been a community linchpin since opening in 1978. Through October 12, all local Kroger stores and Yoplait mark National Breast Cancer Awareness Month with a fundraising effort for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Houston Race for the Cure. Based on the number of Yoplait yogurt cups sold in Houston-area Kroger stores, the supermarket chain and the yogurt maker will make a donation—$1 for every 10 yogurt cups and $1.50 for every 15, up to $10,000. For more information on the Race for the Cure, call 713/783-9188 or access www.komen-houston.org. • 3300 Montrose Blvd. (and multiple other Houston locations); 713/526-7865; www.kroger.com

Runners Up:
Central Market
Whole Foods Market

favorite b&b or lodging (inside the loop)



Secluded Suite 5

YVONNE FECE

The Lovett Inn

An oasis in the heart of Montrose, Tom Fricke's gracious hotel is a place where even Aunt Mildred will feel at home. • 501 Lovett Blvd.; 713/522-5224; www.lovettinn.com

Runner Up:
Montrose Inn

business most supportive of GLBT Community (local)

Gallery Furniture

Readers still fondly remember Gallery honcho Jim McIngvale for his gift that provided underwriting for the massive disco ball in the 1999 Pride Parade. A savvy businessman, Mattress Mac maintains a presence in the community by regularly advertising in the community media. • 6006 I-45 North; 713/694-5570; www.galleryfurniture.com

Runner Up:
JPMorgan Chase

most supportive of GLBT Community (national)

JPMorgan Chase



LANCE WALKER

The few, the proud: P.R.I.D.E., the employee group at JPMorgan Chase in Houston, includes (front row, from l) Susan Crivello, Fabian Enriquez, Frank York, Mary Durand; (second row, from l) Michael Herman, Bill Tarabula, Sharon Waganer, Arlen Mitchell; (third row, from l) Ernest Smith, Richard Bielec, Brandon Wolf.

On September 14, JPMorgan Chase received the Significant Achievement Award at the Out & Equal Workplace Summit. The honor recognized the company that made the most significant progress toward GLBT equality over the past year. At the same event SEAShell, the local GLBT organization at Shell Oil, nabbed Employee Resource Group of the Year. The summit was organized by Out & Equal Workplace Advocates, the San Francisco-based group devoted to providing support and advocacy for the GLBT community on the job. For information on all recognized corporations, access www.outandequal.org.

600 Travis (downtown office)
800/935-9935
www.jpmorganchase.com

Runner Up:
Anheuser-Busch, Inc./Bud Lite



Jeff Cooper rings from I. W. Marks

favorite jeweler

I. W. Marks

3841 Bellaire Blvd.
713/668-5000

Runners Up:
Silverlust
Fly High Little Bunny

favorite organization (social)

Bayou City Boys Club

Since 1993, this organization has raised more than $500,000 for HIV/AIDS service providers through annual Easter weekend events, including the Jungle Lust party. • P.O. Box 131284, Houston, Texas 77219-1284; www.bayoucityboysclub.org

Runner Up:
Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center

Healing Houston's Gay & Lesbian Community



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He was a hero
in his community and he will always be remembered for the leadership of his family and his commitment to principle.

At Earthman, we realize that the most important people are the ones who touch your life simply by having lived. They will always be important to you. And for that reason, they're important to us. Here, you don't have to be a hero to be remembered as one.

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"Like an old friend..."
Riva's SINCE 1977

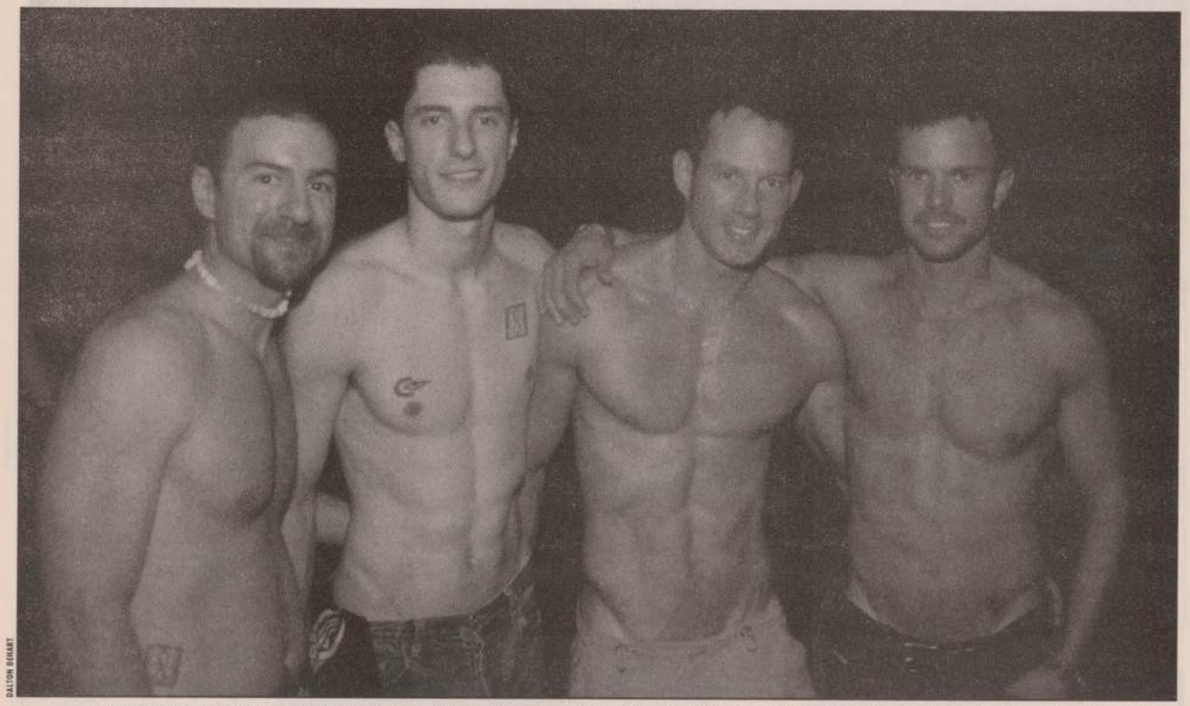


Thank You OutSmart Readers for voting us #1 Italian Restaurant 4 years in a row!

Come in and let the Men in Black take care of you.

Riva's Italian Restaurant
1117 MISSOURI STREET 713.529.3450 One block north of Westheimer off Montrose

favorite fundraiser of the year



DALTON STEWART

No-shirt alert: Spotted in the crowd at Jungle X were (from l) founding BCBC member Danny Pleason, Skip Mercier, Denis Stewart, and Paul Yates.

Jungle X

The 10th annual Bayou City Boys Club bash raised a record $48,000 for seven organizations: Casa de Esperanza, AIDS Foundation Houston's Gay Men's Health Initiative, Center for AIDS, Montrose Clinic Next Step Program, Steven's House, PWA Coalition Houston, and WAM Foundation. The 2003 event will take place on April 19. • P.O. Box 131284, Houston, Texas 77219-1284; www.bayoucityboysclub.org

favorite place to worship

RESURRECTION
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

2025 West 11th
713/861-9149
www.resurrectionmcc.org

Runners Up:
Bering Memorial United Methodist Church
St. Ann's Catholic Church

Resurrection MCC

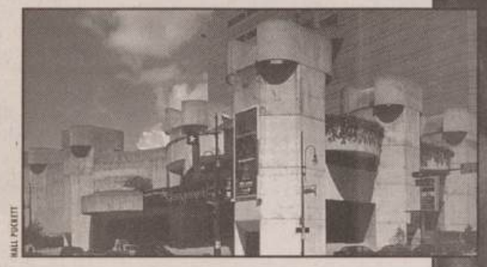
In addition to Sunday services, Houston's first Metropolitan Community Church congregation hosts a range of programs. In October, these include
• Blessing of the Animals, October 5, noon
• The Myths, the Legends, the Truths: Transgenders, Cross Dressers and Drag Queens, October 8, 6:30 p.m.
• Fall Festival, October 26, 2–4 p.m.

favorite place to see live theater

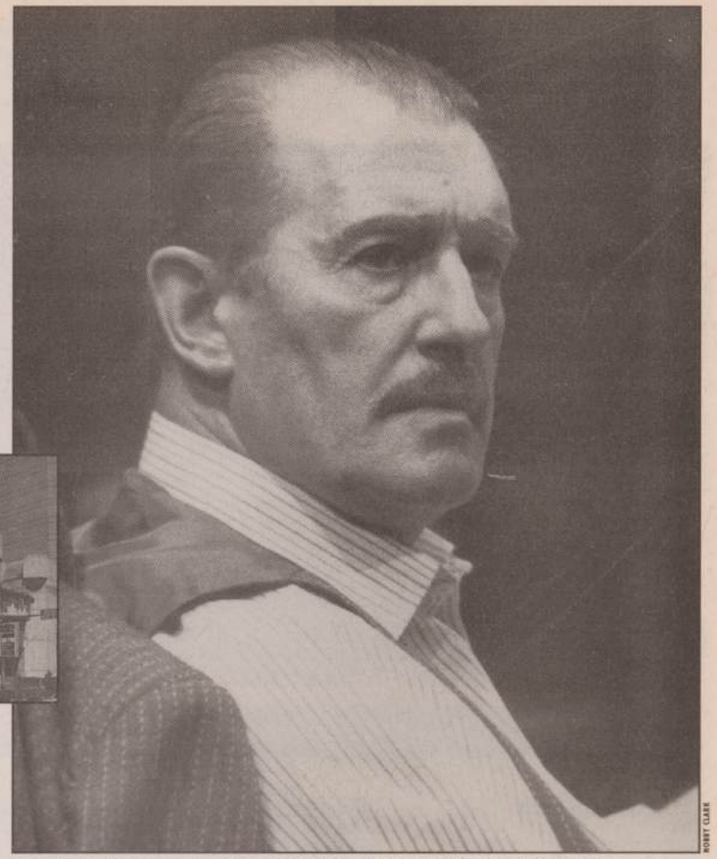
The Alley Theatre

615 Texas Ave.
713/228-9341
www.alleytheatre.org

Runners Up:
Wortham Center
Theatre Under The Stars



HALL PUCKETT



ROBBY CLARK

Corin Redgrave is appearing as Benedict Arnold in the Alley's current production, *The General from America.*

best place to show off your leather

Ripcord

715 Fairview
713/521-2792

Runner Up:
Montrose Mining Co.



JOHN BAUER

Hell bent for leather: Tom Sawyer of the Ripcord flanked by boy Robert (1) and Daddy Wade.

More Gayest and Greatest info: www.outsmartmagazine.com

favorite women's bar



JOHN NEALY

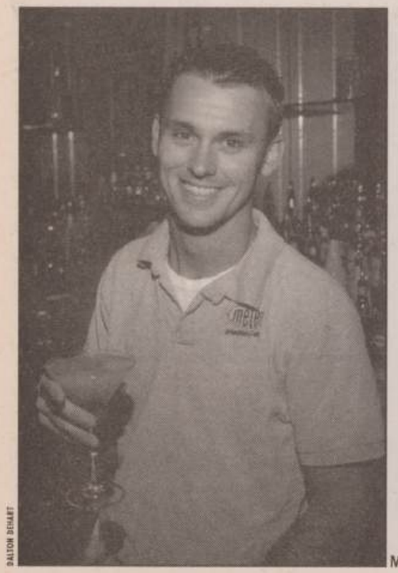
Taking a chance: The afternoon crowd at Chances includes (from l) Quay Williams, Sandra Lee, Kathryn Barr, Romana, Lee Barker, Chris Hennessy, and bartender Raci Farris.

Chances

In a town with few bars for women, Chances is a welcome landmark. On October 30, the bar will host an 11 p.m. contest for drag kings (some of whom might want to first attend the October 18–20 International Drag King Extravaganza in Columbus, Ohio. Check out www.ikde.com). • 1100 Westheimer; 713/523-7217; www.chanceshouston.com

Runners Up:
Bocado's
The New Barn

best martini



DALTON DEHART

Meteor bartender Greg Briscoe

Meteor

2306 Genesee
713/521-0123

Runners Up:
Mo Mong
Keys West

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THANKS HOUSTON!
...And a Special Thank You to OutSmart Readers for voting us -
Happiest Happy Hour
Best Drag Shows
Favorite Place To See Male Dancers
Best Bartenders - George Konar & Carol Gilford
Best DJ - Rick Taconi



best music store



LANCE WALKER

Soundwaves

3509 Montrose Blvd. (and 8 other Houston locations); 713/520-9283; www.soundwaves.com

What's on your turntable?
Khima Rousseve, Soundwaves sales associate

- **The Pattern,** Immediately
- **Bright Eyes,** Lifted
- **Paul Oakenfold,** Bunkka
- **Death Cab for Cutie,** We have the facts and we're voting yes
- **VHS or BETA,** Le Funk

Runners Up:
Cactus Music & Video
Best Buy



coolest club for dancing



KIM COFFMAN

South Beach

810 Pacific
713/529-SOBE
www.SouthBeachTheNightclub.com

Runners Up:
Rich's Houston
Pacific Street



best auto dealership

Momentum BMW

Apparently, the Beemer is the gay car of choice this year. • 10002 Southwest Frwy.; 713/596-3100; www.momentumcars.com/bmw

Runners Up:
Sterling McCall Toyota
Jack Roach Ford

///MOMENTUM BMW

WHAT KALETRA HAS TO OFFER MAY SURPRISE YOU

ASK YOUR DOCTOR ABOUT kaletra® (lopinavir/ritonavir) FOR THE TREATMENT OF HIV

KALETRA is indicated for the treatment of HIV infection in combination with other antiretroviral agents in patients 6 months of age or older. KALETRA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS and does not reduce the risk of passing of HIV to others.

Safety Information

KALETRA should not be taken if you have had an allergic reaction to KALETRA or any of its ingredients.

KALETRA must not be taken with certain drugs due to the potential for serious and/or life-threatening side effects. Discuss all medicines, including those without a prescription and herbal preparations, you are taking or plan to take with your doctor or pharmacist.

Pancreatitis and liver problems, which may cause death, have been reported in patients receiving KALETRA. Tell your doctor if you have or have had liver disease such as hepatitis. Your doctor may want to monitor your liver function. In patients taking protease inhibitors, increased bleeding (in patients with hemophilia) and diabetes/high blood sugar have occurred. Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients receiving antiretroviral therapy. Some patients receiving KALETRA have had large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol.

The most commonly reported side effects of moderate or severe intensity are: abnormal bowel movements, diarrhea, feeling weak or tired, headache, and nausea. Children most often reported diarrhea, rash, taste aversion, and vomiting.

KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol.

Please see adjacent page for Patient Information.

www.kaletra.com
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KALETRA™
(lopinavir/ritonavir) capsules
(lopinavir/ritonavir) oral solution

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

Patient Information

KALETRA™
(kuh-LEE-tra)

Generic Name: lopinavir/ritonavir
(lop-IN-uh-veer/rit-ON-uh-veer)

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

What is KALETRA and how does it work?

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

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

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

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

Does KALETRA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

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

How should I take KALETRA?

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

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

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

What happens if I take too much KALETRA?

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

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

Who should not take KALETRA?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether KALETRA is right for you.

- Do not take KALETRA if you are taking certain medicines. These could cause serious side effects that could cause death. Before you take KALETRA, you must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or are planning to take. These include other prescription and non-prescription medicines and herbal supplements.

For more information about medicines you should not take with KALETRA, please read the section titled "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."

- Do not take KALETRA if you have an allergy to KALETRA or any of its ingredients, including ritonavir or lopinavir.

Can I take KALETRA with other medications?*

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

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA:

- Do not take the following medicines with KALETRA because they can cause serious problems or death if taken with KALETRA.
  - Dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine and methylergonovine such as Cafergot®, Migranal®, D.H.E. 45®, Ergotrate Maleate, Methergine, and others
  - Halcion® (triazolam)
  - Hismanal® (astemizole)
  - Orap® (pimozide)
  - Propulsid® (cisapride)
  - Rythmol® (propafenone)
  - Seldane® (terfenadine)
  - Tambocor™ (flecainide)
  - Versed® (midazolam)
- Do not take KALETRA with rifampin, also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®. Rifampin may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.
- Do not take KALETRA with St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease KALETRA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to KALETRA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV medicines.
- Do not take KALETRA with the cholesterol-lowering medicines Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible serious reactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between KALETRA and Lipitor® (atorvastatin); talk to your doctor before you take any of these cholesterol-reducing medicines with KALETRA.

Medicines that require dosage adjustments:

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

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

- If you are taking oral contraceptives ("the pill") to prevent pregnancy, you should use an additional or different type of contraception since KALETRA may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.
- Efavirenz (Sustiva™) or nevirapine (Viramune®) may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood. Your doctor may increase your dose of KALETRA if you are also taking efavirenz or nevirapine.
- If you are taking Mycobutin® (rifabutin), your doctor will lower the dose of Mycobutin.
- **A change in therapy should be considered if you are taking KALETRA with:**
  Phenobarbital
  Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
  Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)
  These medicines may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.
- **Other Special Considerations:**
  KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take metronidazole or disulfiram. Severe nausea and vomiting can occur.
- **If you are taking both didanosine (Videx®) and KALETRA:**
  Didanosine (Videx®) should be taken one hour before or two hours after KALETRA.

What are the possible side effects of KALETRA?

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

What should I tell my doctor before taking KALETRA?

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

How do I store KALETRA?

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

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

General advice about prescription medicines:

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

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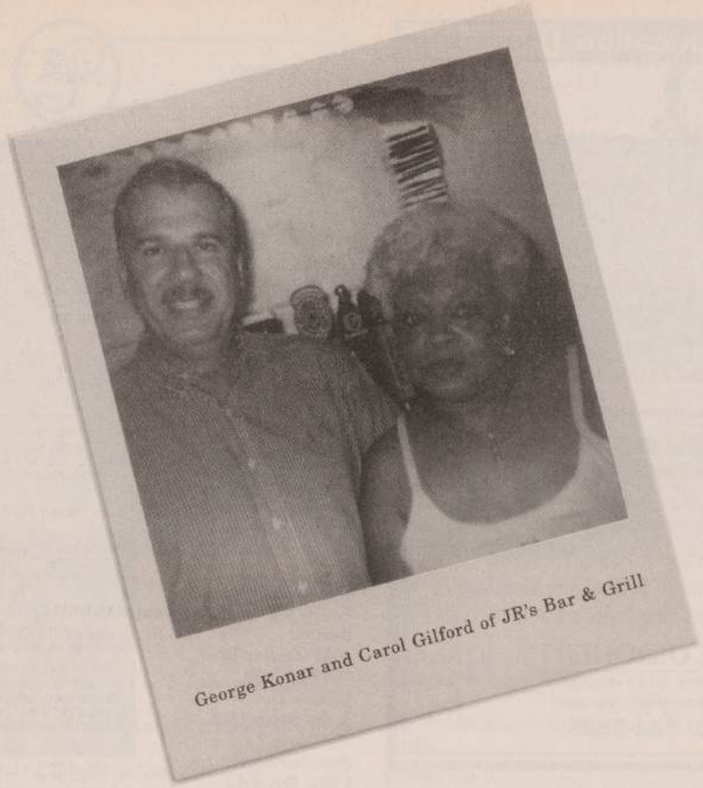
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George Konar and Carol Gilford of JR's Bar & Grill

best bartenders

Best Bartender (male)
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804 Pacific
713/521-2519

Runners Up:
Robert Harwood, Keys West
Donnie Winkleman, Rich's Houston

Best Bartender (female)
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804 Pacific
713/521-2519

Runner Up:
Suzy Riley, EJ's

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In with the in crowd: The gang at Chulo's includes (from l) Shannon Jacobs, Carlos Torres, Chulo's owner Juan Guzman, Tammy Guzman, Justin Resendez, and Reece.

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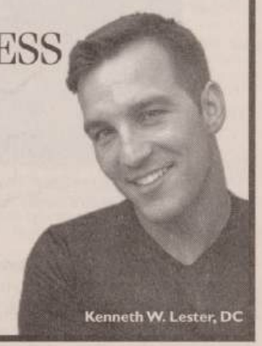
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Kenneth W. Lester, DC

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713/661-2117
Runner Up:
Richard Todd, River Oaks Travel

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Bill Baldwin
10917 Scarsdale
281/481-4555
Runners Up:
Glen Filmore, Karen Derr & Associates Realtor
David Furlong, Real Property Realty

Best Real Estate Agent (female)
Karen Derr
Karen Derr & Associates Realtor
1034 Heights Blvd.
713/862-1600
Runner Up:
Roby Scharlach



Best Astrologer
Lilly Roddy
713/529-5842

Favorite Photographer
Dalton DeHart
713/622-2202
Runners Up:
Robert Martinez, Remember This-Photos By Rob
Evin Thayer, Evin Thayer Studios

Favorite Radio Personality
Maria Todd
KRBE-FM
www.krbe.com
Runner Up:
Atom Smasher, KRBE-FM

Best TV Guy
Chuck George (tie)
KPRC Channel 2
www.click2houston.com
Ernie Manouse (tie)
KUHT Channel 8
www.houstonpbs.org

Best TV Gal
Dominique Sachse
KPRC Channel 2
www.click2houston.com
Runners Up:
Lisa Faronda, KHOU Channel 11
Roseann Rogers, KPRC Channel 2



Favorite Politician
Annise Parker
Houston City Council
713/247-2014
www.ci.houston.tx.us/citygovt/council/1
Runners Up:
Sheila Jackson Lee, U.S. House of Representatives
Debra Danburg, Texas House of Representatives

Favorite Gay Businessperson (male)
Charles Armstrong
Charles Armstrong Investments, Inc.
810 Pacific
713/529-SOBE
Runners Up:
Tom Fricke, The Lovett Inn
Robert Martinez, Remember This-Photos by Rob

Favorite Gay Businessperson (female)
Marion Coleman
House of Coleman
901 West Alabama
713/523-2521
Runners Up:
Suzanne Anderson, Suzanne Anderson Properties
Kathy Griffith, K. Griff Investigations

Most Visible Volunteer
Don Gill
Runners Up:
Nick Brines and **Marion Coleman (tie)**

Local Hero (male)
Don Gill
Runners Up:
Ray Hill
Jim McIngvale

Local Hero (female)
Annise Parker
Runners Up:
Marion Coleman
Marilyn Meeker Williams

Top Fundraising Drag Queen
Kofi
Runner Up:
Shelby St. John

Local Celebrity You Wish Were Gay
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Runners Up:
Chris Wragge, KPRC Channel 2
Bill Bellis, KPRC Channel 2

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713/521-2519
Runners Up:
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Michael Tank, South Beach

Breakfast
Baby Barnaby's
602 Fairview
713/522/4229
Runner Up:
West Gray Café
Katz's Deli

Brunch
Baba Yega
2607 Grant
713/522-0042

Continental Airlines
800/525-8280
www.continental.com

Runner Up:
Southwest

Runner Up:
Farrago
Mesa Grill

Quick Lunch
Barnaby's Café
604 Fairview
713/522-0106
1701 South Shepherd
713/520-5131
414 West Gray
713/522-8898
Runners Up:
Café Express
Baba Yega

Lunch for a Group
Baba Yega
2607 Grant
713/522-0042
Runners Up:
Katz's Deli
Café Adobe



Coffee Place
Starbucks Coffee
3407 Montrose Blvd. (multiple other Houston locations)
713/521-7278
Runners Up:
Lobo Bookshop & Cafe
Diedrich Coffee

Cajun
Ragin' Cajun
4302 Richmond Ave.
713/622-6321
9600 Westheimer
832/251-7171
930 Main Street (in the Tunnel)
713/571-2422
www.ragin-cajun.com
Runners Up:
Floyd's
Treebeards

Chinese
Ming's Café
2703 Montrose Blvd.
713/529-7888
Runners Up:
P. F. Chang's China Bistro
Kam's

Desserts
Dessert Gallery
3200 Kirby Dr.
713/522-9999
Runners Up:
Ruggles Grill
Farrago

Greek
Niko Niko's
2520 Montrose Blvd.
713/528-1308
www.nikonikos.com
Runner Up:
Biba's

Ice Cream
Oscar's Creamery
1201-C Westheimer
713/521-1808
Runners Up:
Marble Slab Creamery
Amy's Ice Cream

Italian
Riva's
1117 Missouri
713/529-3450
Runners Up:
Michelangelo's
Vincent's

Barbecue
Goode Company
5109 Kirby Dr.
713/522-2530
Runners Up:
Hickory Hollow
Pappas Bar-B-Q

Indian
Shiva
2514 Times Blvd.
713/523-4753
Runners Up:
Bombay Palace
Khyber Grill

Cuban
Bossa
610 Main St.
713/223-2622
Runners Up:
El Meson
Latina Café

Vietnamese
Mo Mong
1201 Westheimer
713/524-5664
Runners Up:
Mai's
Kim Son

Mexican
Café Adobe
2111 Westheimer
713/528-1468
Runners Up:
La Mexicana
Hugo's

Patio
Baba Yega
2607 Grant
713/522-0042
Runners Up:
Café Adobe
Backstreet Café

Sushi
Osaka
515 Westheimer
713/533-9098
Runners Up:
The Fish
Miyako

Thai
Nit Noi
2426 Bolsover
713/524-8114
6395 Woodway
713/789-1711
850 West FM 1960
281/444-7650
Runners Up:
Thai Pepper
Thai Spice

Vegetarian
Baba Yega
2607 Grant
713/522-0042
Runner Up:
Hobbit Café

Sandwiches
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2607 Grant
713/522-0042
Runners Up:
Carter & Cooley Co.
Paulie's



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1658 Westheimer
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Runners Up:
Tony's
Ruggles

Cheap Eats
Barnaby's Café
604 Fairview
713/522-0106
1701 South Shepherd
713/520-5131
414 West Gray
713/522-8898
Runners Up:
Kaldi Cafe
La Tapatia Taqueria

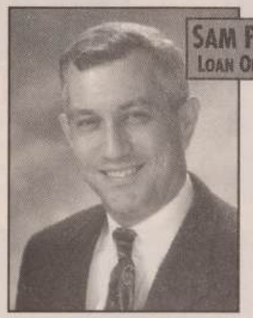
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Café Adobe
2111 Westheimer
713/528-1468
Runners Up:
Meteor
JR's Bar & Grill

Best Mall
The Galleria
5015 Westheimer
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Runners Up:
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(continued on page 58)

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on the island

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Best Bartender (male)
Keith Curry, Blvd Saloon
3102 Seawall Blvd.
409/750-8571

Runners Up:
Marvin Grenier, Blvd Saloon
Bill Lambright, Jimmy's on the Beach

Best Bartender (female)
Lisa Alexander, Garza's Kon Tiki
315 Tremont
409/765-5805
www.thekontiki.com

Runner Up:
Mel Kennedy, Jimmy's on the Beach

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On the island: the crowd at Garza's Kon Tiki includes Jesse Garza (far right), best bartender Lisa Alexander (second from right), and Naomi Warwick, aka Charles.

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Most Divine Drag Queen
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Misty Valdez

Runners Up:
CC Ryder
Naomi Warwick

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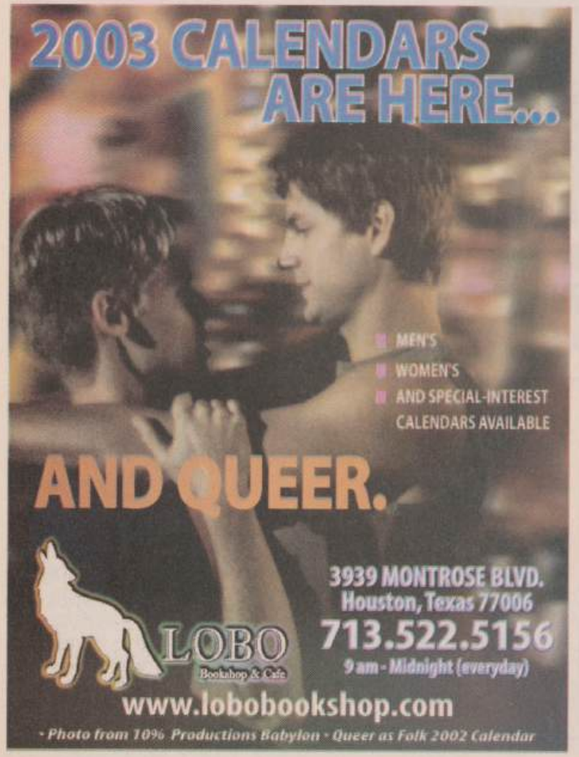

V.J. Tramonte

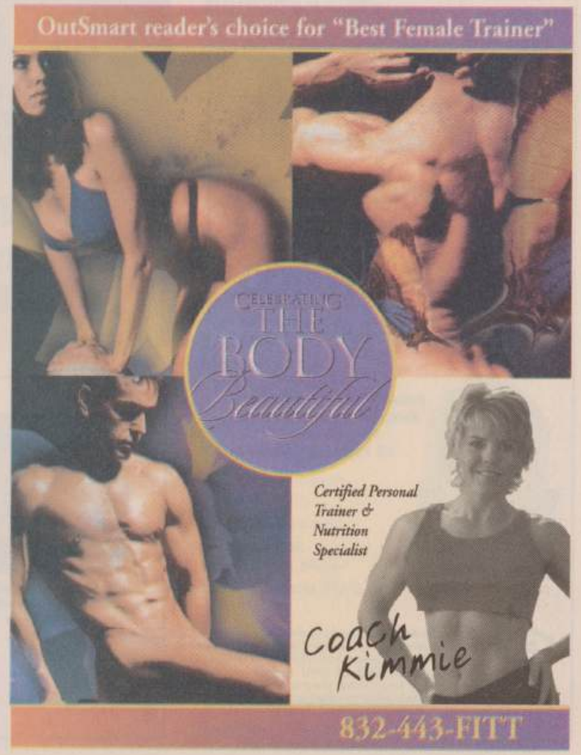
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Runners Up:
Blvd Saloon
Jimmy's on the Beach

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Runner Up:
Leon's BBQ House


Misty Valdez


On the boulevard: Hanging out at Blvd Saloon are (from left) bartender Marvin Grenier, Gale Porter, Annie Alfaro, Jose Montemayor, Diane Stell and bartender Keith Curry.

THOMAS CHELIRA

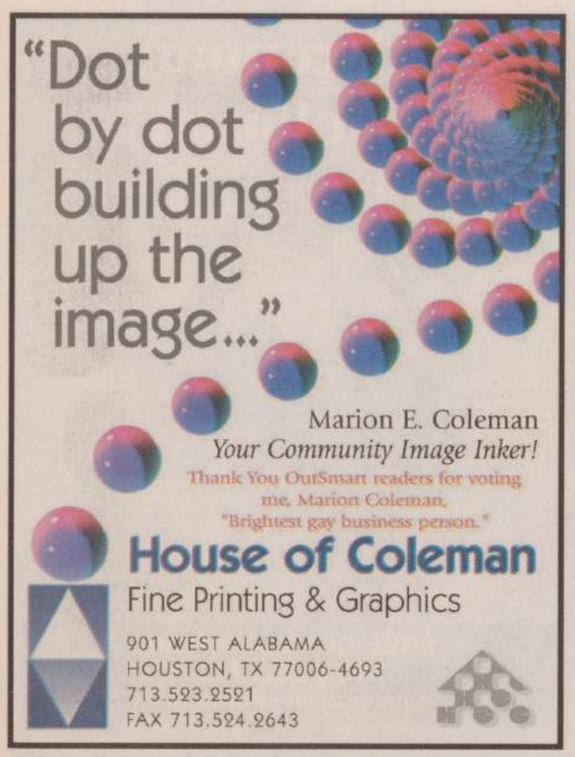
Italian
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Runner Up:
Mario's

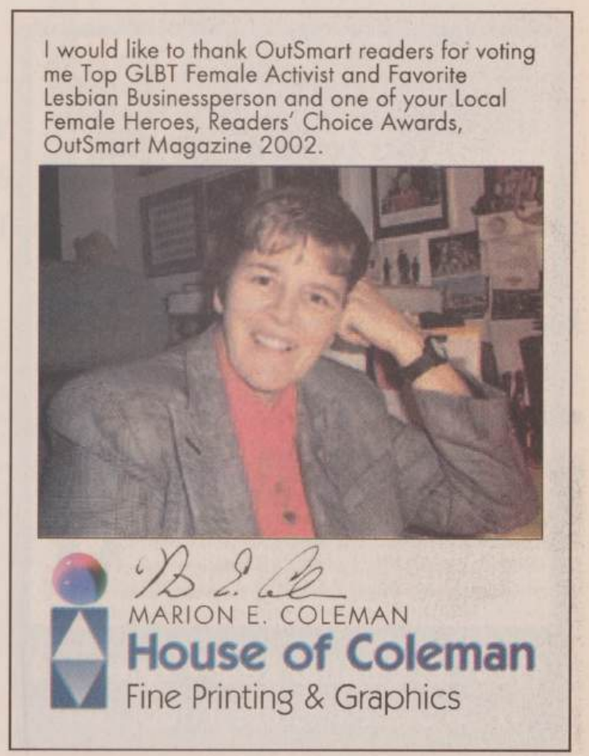

That's Italian: Charles DiBella (l), co-owner of DiBella's, with Kay Boogaerts, Joan DiBella, co-owner Frank DiBella, Tina Cantrell, and chef Robert Rodriguez.

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(continued on page 78)







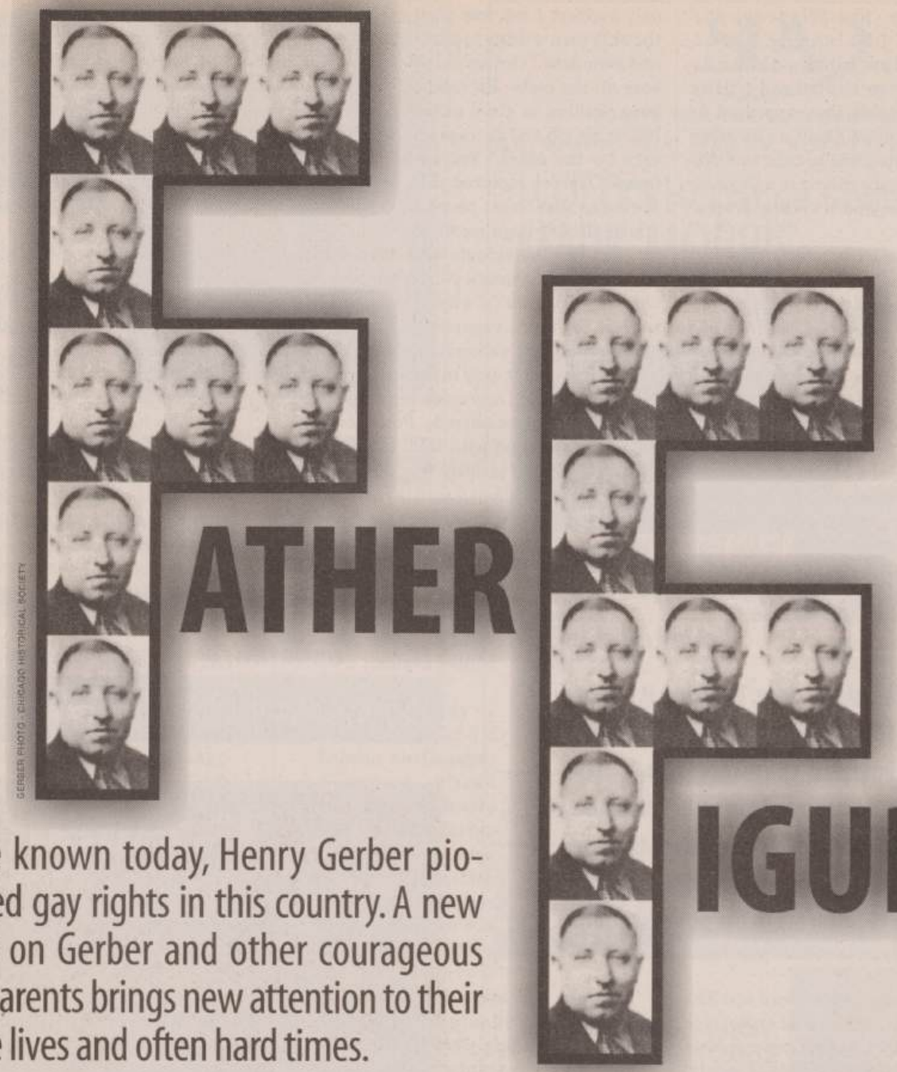
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GERBER FATHER FIGURE

GERBER PHOTO - CHICAGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Little known today, Henry Gerber pioneered gay rights in this country. A new book on Gerber and other courageous foreparents brings new attention to their brave lives and often hard times.

Just in time for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender History Month, the new book Before Stonewall: Activists for Gay and Lesbian Rights in Historical Context introduces 49 men and women whose lives and work span the 20th century and made possible the Will & Grace era. Edited by Vern L. Bullough, the collection of biographical essays features significant individuals including Henry Gerber who are largely forgotten. But, as revealed in the following excerpt by Jim Kepner and Stephen O. Murray, despite our progress as a community, many of their concerns remain relevant today.

Henry Gerber (1895-1972): Grandfather of the American Gay Movement

If everyone keeps aloof, nothing will be done. As Goethe said: "Against human stupidity even the gods fight in vain."

Henry Gerber, October 23, 1945, letter to Manuel Boyfrank

Henry Gerber (1895-1972), the crotchety Bavarian-born forefather of a gay movement in the United States, arrived in the United States in 1913. In 1917 he was briefly institutionalized in a mental institution for being homosexual. After the United States declared war on Germany, Gerber was given a choice between joining the U.S. Army or being interned for the duration of the war as an enemy alien. He chose to join the army, working as a printer and proofreader in Coblenz (in the Rhineland) as part of the American Army of occupation during the early 1920s. Gerber contacted the then-thriving Bund für Menschenrecht (Society for Human Rights, founded in 1919 by Hans Kahnert) and

worked either on *Blätter für Menschenrechten (Journal for human rights,* a gay periodical published in Berlin for which Gerber wrote two bylined articles from the United States that appeared in 1928 and 1929) or, more likely, on an army post newspaper. His 1962 article in *ONE Magazine* recalled subscribing to a German homophile magazine and traveling several times to Berlin.

After the war, his citizenship status still uncertain because of the psychiatric hospitalization, he worked for the U.S. Postal Service in Chicago. With some help from his supervisor there, he founded a Society for Human Rights (SHR) in Chicago. The SHR's December 1924 charter from the state of Illinois as a nonprofit corporation had the stated objective to promote and protect the interests of people who by reasons of mental and physical abnormalities are abused and hindered in the legal pursuit of happiness which is guaranteed them by the Declaration of Independence and to combat the public prejudices against them by dissemination of factors according to modern science among intellectuals of mature age. The Society stands only for law and order; it is in harmony with any and all general laws insofar as they protect the rights of others, and does in no manner recommend any acts in violation of present laws nor advocate any matter inimical to the public welfare.

Someone knocked at the door. Thinking it might be the landlady, I opened up. Two men entered the room. They identified themselves as a city detective and a newspaper reporter from the *Examiner*. The detective asked me where the boy was. What boy? He told me he had orders from his precinct captain to bring me to the police station.

Gerber signed the application as secretary. The Reverend John T. Graves, an African-American preacher, who was the only clergyman Gerber seems to have found congenial, signed it as president, and the document lists seven directors, including Gerber and Graves.

Gerber was deeply disappointed by his inability to gain support for SHR from any physicians or advocates of sex education and sexual freedom: "The most difficult task was to get men of good reputation to back up the Society." He tried to get medical authorities to endorse the new organization, but as he said, "they usually refused to endanger their reputations." He was dismayed that "the only support I got was from poor people"; the only men willing to join were "illiterate and penniless." Gerber did all the work and bore all the costs. He recalled that he had been "willing to slave and suffer and risk losing my job and savings and even my liberty for the ideal." Years after SHR collapsed, Gerber reported that he had come to realize that "most people only join clubs which already have members."

Very few individuals were even willing to receive the Society's publication, *Friendship and Freedom* (of which there were two issues), by mail, regarding it as akin to thieves publicly subscribing to a thieves' journal, making it easy to find criminals (as those engaging in any same-sex sexual contact were then considered). Postal censors eagerly cooperated with local law enforcement agencies to identify "sex deviants." A picture of *Friendship and Freedom* appeared in a German magazine, and a brief review of the first issue appeared in the French journal *L'Amitée* in April of 1925 (originally titled *Inversions*).

In his 1962 retrospect, Gerber wrote that upon his return to the United States,

> I realized that homosexuals themselves needed nearly as much attention as the laws pertaining to their acts. . . . The first difficulty was in rounding up enough members and contributors so the work could go forward. The average homosexual, I found, was ignorant concerning himself. Others were fearful. Still others were frantic or depraved. Some were blasé.
>
> Many homosexuals told me that their search for forbidden fruit was the real spice of life. With this argument they rejected our aims. We wondered how we could accomplish anything with such resistance from our own people.

Gerber never said where he tried to recruit, other than through pen pals. There were speakeasies where homosexual men gathered, but Gerber neither drank nor smoked and did not like to associate with queeny or with older homosexual men. Surreptitious homosexual activity in parks, restrooms, and theaters limited, if not precluded, conversation, at least any discussion about joining a legal reform organization. The few pen pals who admitted they were homosexual were interested in direct sex contacts, in trading erotic photos, or in ethereal romanticism.

Nevertheless, Gerber and his original group had a plan for gradual expansion with two cautious principles, both of which prefigured 1950s' homophile organizations:

> (1) We would engage in a series of lectures pointing out the attitude of society in relation to their own behavior and especially urging against the seduction of adolescents.
>
> (2) Through a publication named *Friendship and Freedom* we would keep the homophile world in touch with the progress of our efforts. The publication was to refrain from advocating sexual acts and would serve merely as a forum of discussion.

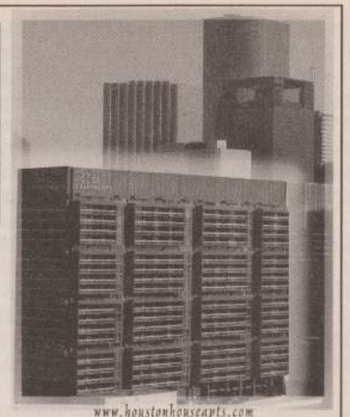
The final part of the plan aimed to convince authorities of the need for change:

> (3) Through self-discipline, homophiles would win the confidence and assistance of legal authorities and legislators in understanding the problem: that these authorities should be educated on the futility and folly of long prison terms for those committing homosexual acts, etc.

Gerber and Graves had decided to exclude bisexuals from SHR. Unbeknownst to them, SHR's vice president, Al Weininger, called by Gerber an "indigent laundry queen," had a wife and two young children. The members of SHR were jailed when Weininger's wife told a social worker about an organization of "degenerates," and the social worker passed on the information to the police. The police brought along a newspaper reporter when they came calling on Gerber. As Gerber recalled:

> One Sunday morning about 2 a.m., I returned from a visit downtown. After I had gone to my room, someone knocked at the door. Thinking it might be the landlady, I opened up. Two men entered the room. They identified themselves as a city detective and a newspaper reporter from [the Hearst newspaper] the *Examiner*. The detective asked me where the boy was. What boy? He told me he had orders from his precinct captain to bring me to the police station. He

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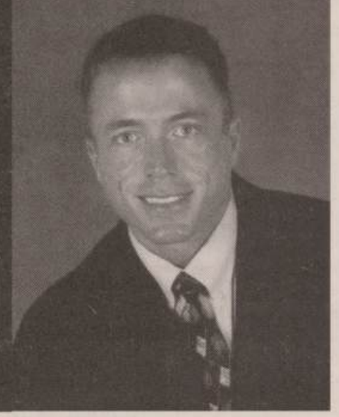
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took my typewriter, my notary public diploma, and all the literature of the Society and also personal diaries as well as my bookkeeping accounts. At no time did he show a warrant for my arrest. At the police station I was locked up in a cell, but no charges were made against me.

The next morning he was taken to the Chicago Avenue Police Court, where he found John, Al, and George, a young man who had been in Al's room at the time of arrest. The *Examiner* reported the story under the headline, "Strange Sex Cult Exposed." The reporter claimed that Al had "brought his male friends home and had, in full view of his wife and children, practiced 'strange sex acts' with them." He also wrote that a pamphlet of this "cult" was found that "urged men to leave their wives and children," a statement totally antithetical to the SHR policy of including only exclusive homosexuals.

On Monday the detective produced a powder puff in court that he claimed to have found in Gerber's room. This was understood by everyone as evidence of effeminacy, although Gerber heartily denied that it was his or that he ever used powder or owned a powder puff. The judge wondered aloud about whether *Friendship and Freedom* violated federal laws about sending obscene materials through the U.S. mail—the obscenity being discussion of homosexuality or the persecution of homosexuals, rather than anything particularly prurient.

The case was dismissed and the prosecution reprimanded (by a different judge), but his legal defense cost Gerber his life savings of $600 and resulted in dismissal from his job for "conduct unbecoming a postal worker." Al pled guilty to disorderly conduct and was fined $10. Most undistributed copies of *Friendship and Freedom* were confiscated by the police, along with Gerber's private papers and typewriter. Despite a judge's order, they were never returned to him. No action on obscenity was taken, although two postal inspectors were present in the court. The case left Gerber very bitter that none of the more affluent Chicago homosexuals helped him in a fight which he regarded as one for the collective good. Gerber was left without a job or savings, and his dream of a Society for Human Rights was ended.

It is not clear what Gerber did to earn a living during the next few years. On a 1927 visit to New York City, a friend from his newspaper days in Coblenz introduced him to a colonel (who had been a brevet major general during World War I) who told Gerber he would be glad to have him in his unit if he reenlisted. Gerber did so; in 1945, he received an honorable discharge and a $100 a month military pension. Making New York City his home, Gerber made some further efforts to organize homosexuals, although he increasingly believed that "most bitches are only interested in sex contacts," not challenging legal and social stigmas of homosexuality. "I have absolutely no confidence in the dorian crowd, mostly a bunch of selfish, uncultured, ignorant egoists who have nothing for the ideal side of life," Gerber wrote Boyfrank. "Since it gets me nothing and prevents me from enjoying my liberty in private, why bother to help others?" was the bitter view of the one-time idealist reformer. "Why waste your time and run risks of jail over a few stupid homos who are bound to get in dutch and spill everything? I have gone through all this and swore to do it no more."

Gerber also ran the pen-pal club *Contacts* from 1930 until 1939. It had about 150 to 200 members when he began. Although most members were heterosexual, it was possible for Gerber and a few other homosexuals to blend in, thereby avoiding attention and interference from the postal authorities. Members were not informed who was running the club. He produced a monthly newsletter, generally a single mimeographed sheet for "Contacters." He also worked on a 1934 freethinking publication, *Chanticleer,* writing many articles in defense of homosexuality, including an early report on the persecution of homosexuals in Germany. He missed the fact that a similar witch-hunt against homosexuals had begun in the Soviet Union months earlier: Russia was still thought to be the only Western country that had been freed from legal oppression. So convinced was Gerber that religion was the source of antihomosexual bias that he hardly saw atheism and what we might now label gay pride as separable. . . .

In a January 27, 1940, letter Gerber wrote [Manuel] Boyfrank [who he met through Contacts], "I was surprised to find you a homosexual, too, but let me tell you from experience [that] it does not pay to do anything for them. I once lost a good job trying to bring them together. Most men of that type are too scared to join any association trying to help them; the other half are only interested in physical contacts and have no interest in helping their cause, as I found to my sorrow.". . .

Generally unsociable, Gerber longed for that "ideal friend," but by his midforties he had settled for quick anonymous sex, primarily masturbating military men in theaters. Intellectual companionship for him was at a geographic distance, maintained cautiously (given his experiences with the U.S. Postal Service) by mail. From 1939 to 1957 he engaged in extensive correspondence with Manuel Boyfrank, Frank McCourt, and several others about how to organize homosexuals, and how to answer the prejudice and misinformation in the press.

Gerber and his friends suffered periodic beatings, theft, and blackmail by the "dirt trade." They were further harassed by postal snoops who opened "suspicious or obscene" mail and reported homosexuals to the police. In February 1942 Gerber's quarters were searched by G-2, the U.S. Army investigative unit. Although they found no damaging evidence, Gerber spent weeks in the guardhouse. Gerber recalled that "they put me before a Section VIII (undesirable) board and tried to get me out of the army on that. When I told the president of the board I only practiced mutual masturbation with men over 21, the psychiatrist told me 'You are not a homosexual.' I nearly fell out of my chair! Imagine me fighting all my life for our cause and then be told I was not a homosexual!"

Although he recurrently discussed the

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Photo of Henderson by Marion Ettinger



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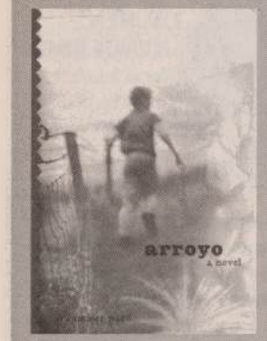
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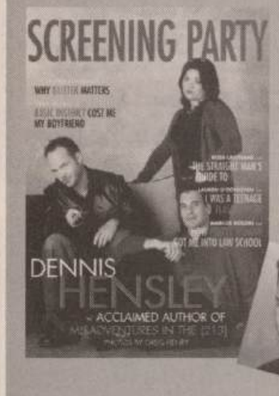
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So begins *Arroyo* (Chronicle Books), the beautifully written debut novel by **Summer Wood**. The author lives in the New Mexico mountains, where she designs and builds houses. Wood's main character, the blues singer Willie Lee, has moved to the New Mexico mining hamlet of Los Fuegos. Trying to escape her own life, she becomes involved in the lives of the Hispanic families who have been there for generations. These townspeople include Chavela, a woman whose friendship with Willie Lee grows into romance.



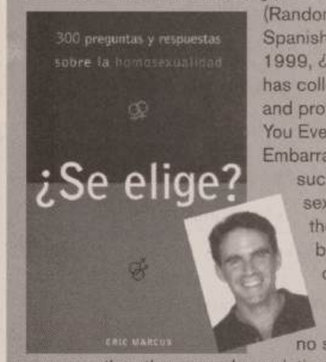
SCREEN QUEENS

For years, entertainment journalist **Dennis Hensley** (inset) convened his wiseacre chums to watch movies and provide a running color commentary. Many of these flick-inspired gabfests ended up as magazine articles. Now Hensley has compiled several into the rollicking, snarky *Screening Party* (Alyson Books). Think *Mystery Science Theater* but more inclusive in its targets. A sample: "Whitney Houston's wig in *The Bodyguard* is like a tricornered hat. I keep waiting for her to cross the Delaware."

Hensley will read from *Screening Party* and sign books at Lobo (3939 Montrose Blvd) on **October 23** at 7 p.m. In the meantime, check out two excerpts at www.dennishensley.com.

ANSWERS, IN ESPAÑOL

Have a Spanish-speaking friend or relative who is clueless about homosexuality? Hand him or her *¿Se elige? 300 preguntas y respuestas sobre la homosexualidad* (Random House Español) by **Eric Marcus** (inset). A Spanish translation of Marcus' *Is It a Choice?* published in 1999, *¿Se elige?* is a Queer Studies 101 primer. Marcus has collected 300 basic questions about homosexuality and provides frank, simple answers. Kind of an "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Queers but Were too Embarrassed to Admit You Had to Ask," *¿Se elige?* tackles such basic questions as "What happens during gay sex?" and "Are people born gay?" Queries vary from the deadly serious ("Are people really killed just because they are gay?") to the whimsical ("Why don't lesbians wear makeup?"). Marcus responds to even frivolous inquires such as "Why do lesbians love cats?" with factual answers. He explains that no scientific studies confirming that lesbians love cats any more than the general population have been done, then cleverly points out that such a common belief is something a savvy cat food company might want to investigate.



If Marcus' name sounds familiar, it should. He was Greg Louganis' coauthor on *Breaking the Surface* and also wrote *Together Forever: The Male Couple's Guide and Making History.* —*Olivia Flores Alvarez* →

need for a homosexual advocacy group, Gerber felt that it was virtually impossible to find enough reliable people to start one. On Governor's Island in 1948, Fred Frisbie, a nineteen-year-old soldier who had gone home with a friend of Gerber's, enthusiastically joined such a discussion over breakfast, but Gerber argued that most homosexuals would never support any organization designed to improve the general social position of homosexuals. Frisbie was later a participant in Mattachine and ONE, Inc.

Some of Gerber's long-winded letters in defense of homosexuality (also attacking corrupt politicians, conservative moralists, and religion) appeared in *The Modern Thinker, The Freethinker, American Mercury,* and District of Columbia newspapers, signed by "Doctor Gerber," since only a doctor was presumed to know anything about such abnormality.

Gerber, Boyfrank, and McCourt were masculine in appearance and demeanor and felt they had little in common with effeminate queens or lesbians. In particular, Gerber regarded women as nest builders, allies of priests, and as natural enemies of homosexuals. . . . Although knowing little of the gay bar scene, they knew the park and movie theater cruising scenes well. Each had been rolled a few times. They argued among themselves about what homosexuality was and what to do about the problems homosexuals faced. Gerber initially viewed homosexuality as innate, then as a preference, and, after a Freudian conversion, as potential in all men ("There are no homosexuals. There is only sex pleasure and various forms of acquiring it."—July 5, 1945, letter to Boyfrank). However, he continued to vacillate about the existence of a homosexual kind of person as indicated by his rhetorical question, "What homosexual in his right mind wants to marry or to be 'cured'?"

"There are no homosexuals. There is only sex pleasure and various forms of acquiring it."

After a few relatively early partnerships with young queens, Gerber rarely had sex with friends or with anyone much over twenty-five years of age. Although publicly opposing racism, he often expressed his own. He viewed psychoanalysis as liberating and angrily cut off any friends, such as Jan Kingma (who was involved in or founded Philadelphia's Foundation for Social Development in 1948) simply because he espoused mysticism or religion or sought to work with sympathetic clergy. Except for the Reverend

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Graves, Gerber regarded any seemingly supportive clergy as a hypocrite, ignoring Christianity's implacable and essential opposition to homosexuality.

He worked some, though at a distance with Mattachine–New York and *ONE Magazine* during the 1950s. He wrote an account of the Society for Human Rights that appeared in the September 1962 issue of *ONE Magazine,* and translated part of Magnus Hirschfeld's (1914) *Die Homosexualitait des Mannes und des Weibes* for the *ONE Institute Quarterly.* Although Gerber pressed Boyfrank to join ONE, he continued to doubt that these organizations could win support from most gays or substantially change public prejudices. In a June 18, 1957, letter to Boyfrank, he commented that "ONE and Mattachine have lots of financial trouble because the average homosexual is mainly interested in contacts with other homosexuals. When neither of these publications help in this matter but beg for contributions all the time . . . people are discouraged. . . . So the average homosexual, unless he is unselfish, can see nothing in it for him and he returns to the solitary hunt for trade."

During the 1950s he began to explore the gay bar scene and was astonished to discover that more men than he had previously supposed did engage in anal intercourse. Except for brief trips to Mexico and Europe during 1951 and 1952, he spent his final years at the U.S. Soldiers' Home in Washington, DC. He worked on an autobiography "admitting my homosexuality but not going into details," a critique of religion, a book on ethics, and a book on sex laws. The last he titled *Moral Delusions* (January 4, 1945). He also worked on rewriting translations he had done years earlier of two German gay novels he collectively titled *Angels in Sodom* (December 7, 1946). He mailed some manuscripts to Boyfrank. Either they all were lost—perhaps seized by postal inspectors—or they disappeared into Boyfrank's never-finished cut-and-paste manuscript. . . .

Although his fledgling organization was crushed by a cabal of social control agents, Gerber sowed the seed of gay pride and the idea of fighting for gay rights in scores of correspondents, directly and indirectly influencing Harry Hay, Jim Kepner, Tony Segura, Donna Smith, Fred Frisbie, Manuel Boyfrank, and others who worked to establish the homophile movement of the 1950s. Gerber is also a clear link between the German movement to remove Paragraph 175 of the German penal code and the 1950s' law reform movement that still remained extremely high-risk activism for people who were not just stigmatized but whose relations—even nonsexual associations—were criminalized. He was keenly aware of the centrality of postal inspectors interfering with association at a distance by those seeking to organize around homosexuality and its repression, an obstacle to nonlocal mobilization that ONE finally succeeded in removing in 1958.

Excerpted from Before Stonewall: Activists for Gay and Lesbian Rights in Historical Context *(Harrington Park Press, Binghamton, New York, 2002). The full text of the chapter on Henry Gerber, including scholarly citations and a bibliography, is available at www.outsmartmagazine.com.*

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Before Stonewall editor Vern L. Bullough is the author, co-author, or editor of 50 books, including *Sexual Variance in Society and History, Women and Prostitution, A Short History of Homosexuality, Science in the Bedroom,* and *Encyclopedia of Birth Control.* He was one of the founders of the Center for Sex Research at California State University, Northridge, and of the gay caucuses in the American Historical Association and the American Sociological Association. Bullough's long history of activism includes serving as a charter member of the original Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

Stephen Murray, one of the co-authors of the Henry Gerber chapter, is the author and co-author of a dozen books including *American Gay* and *Homosexualities.*

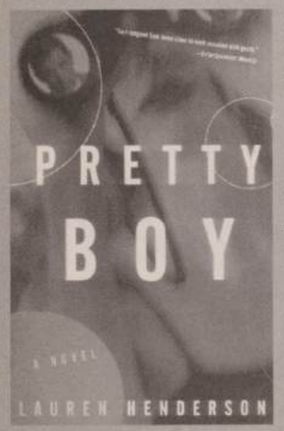
Jim Kempner (1923-1997) drafted an early sketch of the Henry Gerber chapter before his death. Kempner, who is the subject of another *Before Stonewall* chapter, helped create the first gay studies program in America. "He left a legacy to the gay and lesbian cause that stretched from the early 1950s through the entirety of his life," write Kempner's biographers. ■

Books *continued from page 66*

MURDER, THEY WROTE

Two mystery writers signing new books **October 21** at Murder by the Book (2342 Bissonnet) captured our fancy:

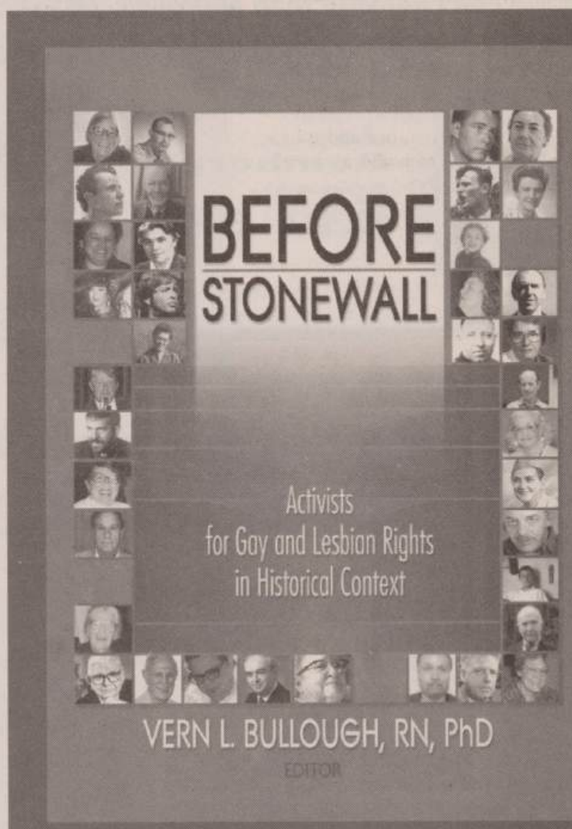
Lauren Henderson (below) is one of leading proponents of tart noir. The gumshoes are gals in this crime-fiction subgenre. Explains the website tartcity.com: "These are neofeminist women, half Philip Marlowe, half femme-fatale, who make their own rules, who think it's entirely possible to save the world while wearing a drop-dead dress and stiletto heels." Henderson's novel, *Pretty Boy* (Three Rivers Press), is another adventure of English sculptress Sam Jones, dubbed by one reviewer "equal parts Nancy Drew, Camille Paglia, and sex columnist Isadora Altman."





Bisexual bookseller/poet private detective **Clay Blackburn** is the hero of Owen Hill's latest novel, *The Chandler Apartments* (Creative Arts), which is set in Berkeley.

For more information, visit www.murderbooks.com. ■

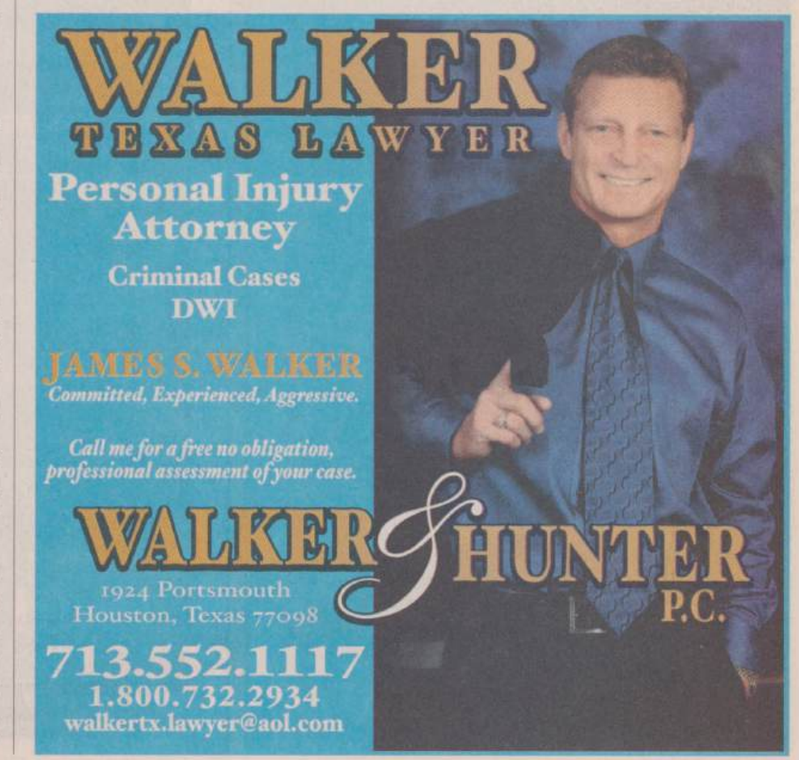


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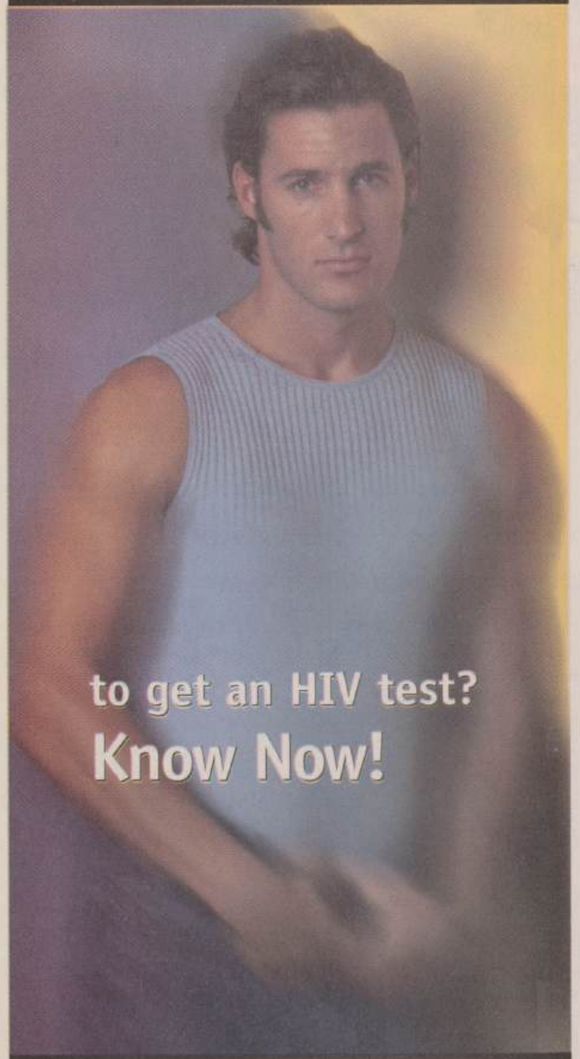
Before Stonewall and all titles published by The Haworth Press, Inc., may be purchased online at www.haworthpress.com, by calling toll-free 1-800-HAWORTH, or via e-mail at getinfo@haworthpressinc.com. For bulk sales, contact Margaret Tatich, sales and publicity manager, by phone at 607/722-5857, extension 321, or e-mail at mtatich@haworthpressinc.com.

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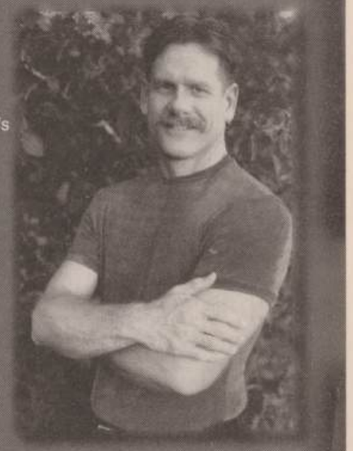
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QUEER ROCK!

To help celebrate National Coming Out Day's theme Being Out Rocks, "Queer Music Heritage" producer **JD Doyle** counts down some tunes you know, and some you should know

What on earth is queer rock music? When asked to write this article, I wondered how I would define the term, and I finally decided to grant that any definition of rock music is subjective. So I'm going to lean toward the harder-edge music and music that is generally lyrically gay. This goes back to the beginnings of rock music. Some have credited Elvis with really getting rock and roll off the ground, and even he had some queer lyrics in his catalogue. Please consider his 1957 smash hit "Jailhouse Rock." Since I doubt that jailhouse was a coed prison, what else can you make of the line "You're the cutest jailbird I ever did see"? Kind of makes you wonder exactly what "do the jailhouse rock with me" entailed.

Jump to 1959 to "Love Potion #9" by the Clovers (or, if you choose, the Searchers' 1964 version). The magic drink of the title had this effect: "When I kissed a cop down at 34th and Vine, he broke my little bottle of Love Potion #9."

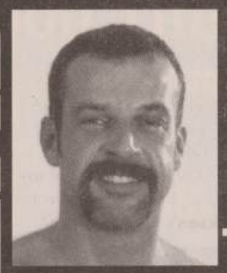
Those are just two examples of quick gay references, but I would rather talk about songs that are totally queer, and there are plenty. This article won't attempt to cover them all. A book could not do that. So I want to highlight, very subjectively, some songs you definitely already know. And then, in my unofficial capacity as a queer music historian, I will mention some that you probably don't know, but should.

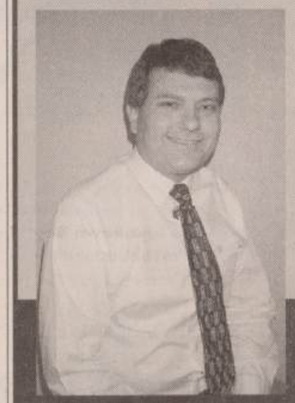


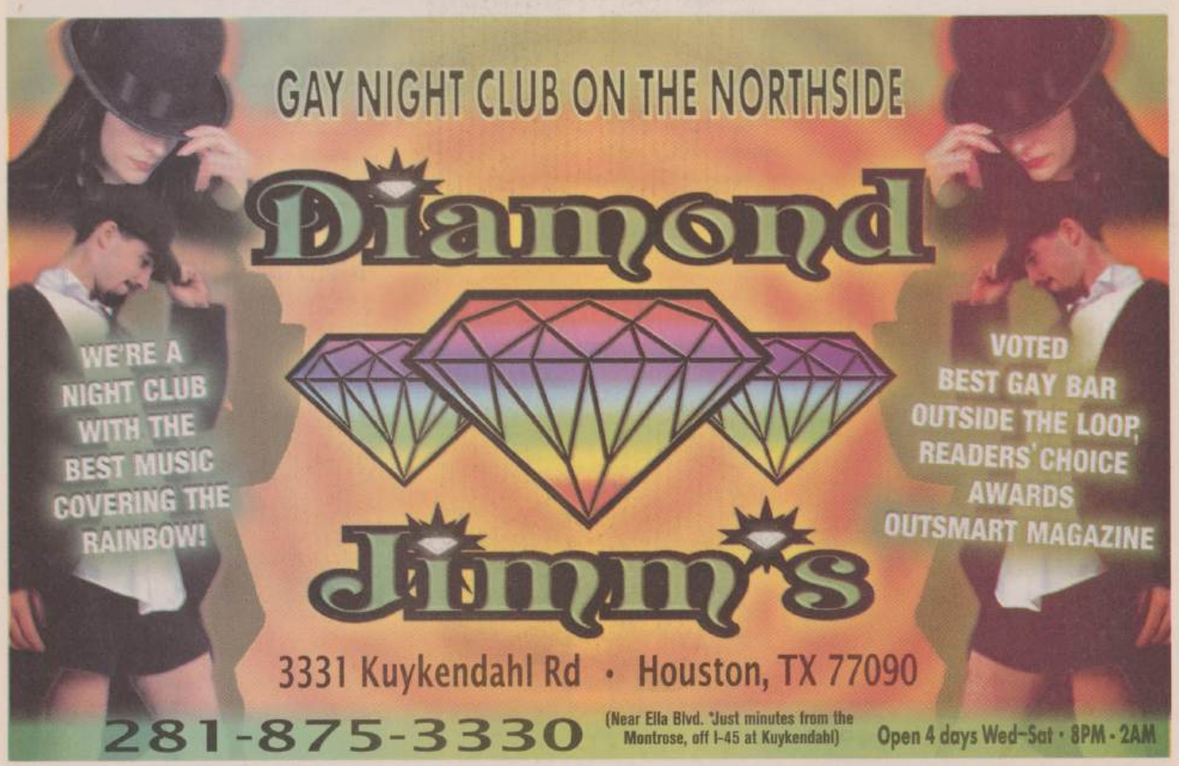
Songs You Know

Of the ones you already know, my first example is an easy one: **Lou Reed**'s **"Walk on the Wild Side."** This classic from 1972 was co-produced by one of the vanguards of the glam rock era, David Bowie, who at that time often blurred the lines with his own lyrics. In this song, Reed seductively describes the seamier lives of characters including a transvestite, a male hustler, a junkie, and Candy, who was quite adept at oral sex. Also teetering on that wild side was **"Lola,"** who "walked like a woman and talked like a man." This remarkable 1970 record by **The Kinks** even made it into the top ten—not bad for a story narrated by a rather naïve



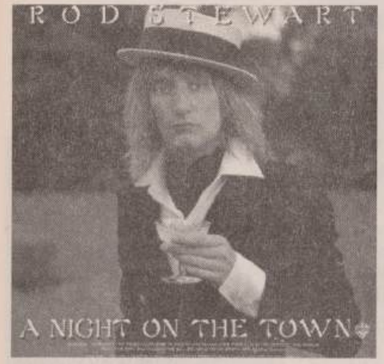
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hero who eventually decided that whatever Lola wanted was just fine with him.

I mention three more from the '70s. In 1972, **Elton John** (years before his coming out as bi, then gay) sang about **"Daniel."** Perhaps the lyrics are subject to interpretation, but I choose to take lines like "Lord, I miss Daniel/ Oh, I miss him so much" as something more than platonic. Then move to **Rod Stewart**'s **"The Killing of Georgie (Parts 1 & 2)."** Now



this is not a great song, but it does deserve credit for being a sympathetic tune about an openly gay character who is killed in a gay bashing. That such a maudlin song made it to number 30, in 1977 no less, is somewhat amazing. Finally, also from 1977 comes an outright gay anthem. I include this one in the songs-you-know section because I simply do not want to believe, even though the song was far from a hit, that any gay or lesbian reader could not know about **Tom Robinson**'s **"Glad to be Gay."** It would be hard to imagine a more political song, as Robinson



uses his sarcastic and angry lyrics to describe the beatings, literal and otherwise, that society inflicts upon us. By the time he is finished, we are all ready to "sing if you're glad to be gay, sing if you're happy that way."

Now you may cringe at this one, but in 1980 **Diana Ross**, intentionally or not, gave us a pseudo-anthem with **"I'm Coming Out."** While her delivery may have lacked sincerity,



the lyrics by writers Edwards and Rodgers were stellar: "I'm coming out./I want the world to know." This was from the disco era, and I must mention two others of this genre. **"Smalltown Boy"** by **Bronski Beat** was a breakthrough. Sung by Jimmy Somerville's haunting falsetto, the 1984 song depicts a gay hero running away from a life of persecution and physical, verbal, and emotional torment,



"for the love that you need will never be found at home." But there's hope, because he is not only running away, he is running toward a new life, one of acceptance.

Next, and also from 1984, is **"Relax,"** by the group **Frankie Goes to Hollywood**. This



song, which was a mega-huge worldwide hit, spawning Frankiemania in the group's native Britain, was unabashedly about sex, and indeed about male-to-male sex. There is nothing subtle about Holly Johnson's lyrics, "Relax, don't do it, when you want to come," which lead near the song's end to his wailing "I'm comin', I'm comin'." And, if you are among the few who saw the very rare MTV airings of the original and quickly banned video, your mouth probably dropped open at its depiction of a Roman-style orgy in an S&M bar. Relax, indeed.

At almost the end of my songs-you-know section, but not least in importance, is **Joe Jackson**'s **"Real Men."** With a winning video



to go with it, this 1982 song takes on many issues, from society's condemnation of those it thinks fit certain stereotypes, to some of the same stereotypes applied within the gay community. With the refrain "now and then we wonder who the real men are," Jackson's remarkable song questions the roles of masculinity that all men, straight included, face. And, finally, perhaps one of the most



"rock" songs on the list is **Melissa Etheridge**'s **"Come to My Window"** from 1993. While not overtly gay, her gravelly voice beckons to us with "I don't care what they think, I don't care what they say./What do they know about this love anyway?" →

Songs You Should Know



Now the fun part, at least for me as a collector of queer music, is having the chance to share classics most people have probably never heard of, but which I think deserve rapt attention. I have agonizingly narrowed my list to seven, and I start with the only one not from the '90s. It is also the only one by a well-known artist, **Pete Townshend** of the Who. In 1980, he recorded on his *Empty Glass* solo album the song **"Rough Boys,"** a rousing plea with the cry "Tough boys, come over here. I wanna bite and kiss you." Townshend has at times been vague about possible ventures into bisexuality, which he at other times has denied, but the lyrics of "Rough Boys" are about as sexual as they come.



One of my favorite lines from a recent rock song comes from **"This Kind of Love,"** by **Meg Hentges**. What a beginning! "At every high school in the midwest all the queers are at the bottom, just above the poor and pregnant, just below the Future Farmers." From her 1999 *Brompton's Cocktail* CD, and the music grabs you and keeps you until Hentges decides to let go. Also riveting is the song **"Not Good Enough"** from **Scott Free**'s album *The Living Dead*. The song begins with a seemingly apologetic tone, one that might apparently approve of society's treatment, but builds angrily to an almost anthem and a totally bold and proud stance. Even if you haven't seen the towering and imposing Scott Free sing live, you are impressed.



One of the more amusing songs, but one that still packs a powerful political message, is **"I Saw Jesus Down at Stonewall"** by **Jallen Rix** (*The Sacred and the Queer,* 1995). The music is infectious, and the perhaps



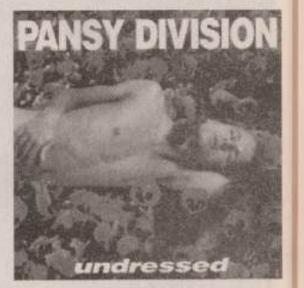
obvious message is that Jesus would be present at our revolution. I guess I tend to like the in-your-face songs, and **Mark Islam**'s **"Get Used to It"** certainly qualifies. From his 1998 album *The Recent Past,* the catchy music is punctuated by the



absolutely clear, no doubt about it, "I'm here, I'm queer, get used to it."



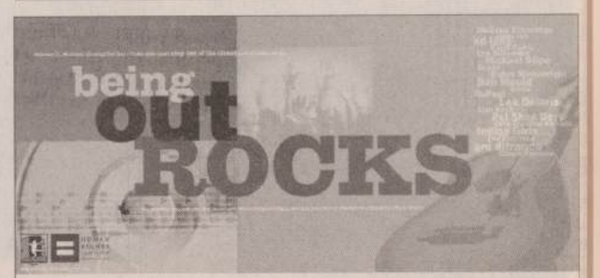
The next song kind of winks at you, as **Barnes** tells you about his **"Boy with a Secret."** From his 1998 CD *Loudboy Radio*, the song tells of a young boy getting caught "playing" with his friend. The delivery is at once seductive and confessional, and has a somewhat haunting quality. Finally, I have to include a song by **Pansy Division**. But, gee, I like all six of the albums this group has released since 1993. Frankly, very few of their songs can be played on the radio, and I can't even include many of the titles here. Still, Pansy Division produces downright fun, pop-punk rock music. Even more, it's aggressively raw material that deals with many elements of gay culture and with lots and lots of sex. They are not afraid to sing at the top of their voices about what they want. There is a real element of, okay, reality about their lyrics, but again, done with charm and humor—less with anger and more with a wink. To pick one of their songs, I choose **"Rock 'N' Roll Queer Bar"** from the 1992 album *Undressed.*



JD Doyle is producer and host of "Queer Music Heritage," which airs on the fourth Monday of every month during "Queer Voices" on KPFT-FM. Doyle is also co-producer of "AudioFile," the monthly radio review that is part of "This Way Out," the internationally broadcast radio magazine program.

On the Radio

To hear most of the songs mentioned in this article, tune in to "Queer Voices" on KPFT-FM 90.1, on Monday, October 7, between 8 and 10 p.m. for a special "Coming Out Week" edition of JD Doyle's "Queer Music Heritage." After the broadcast, you can have the show streamed into your computer from Doyle's website at queermusicheritage.com.

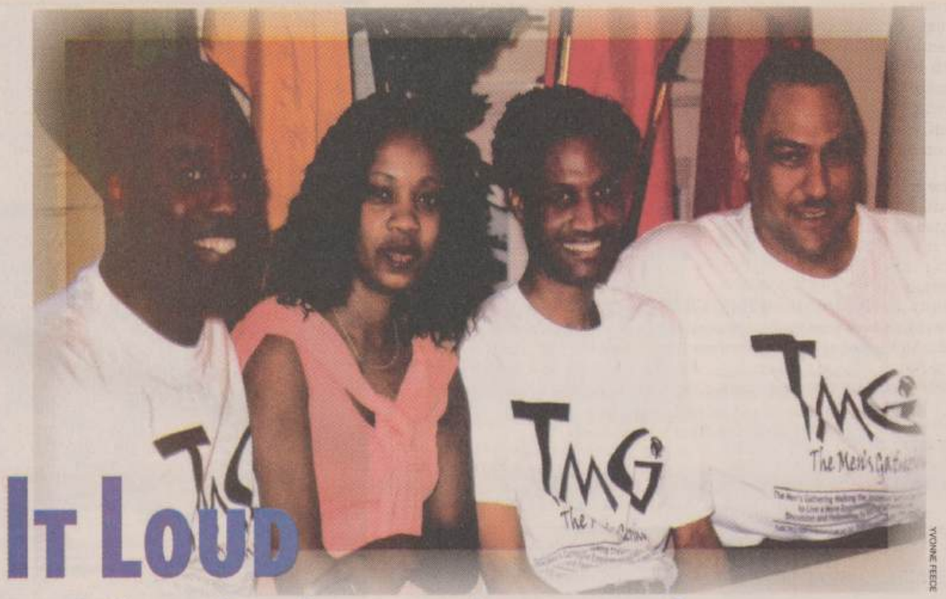


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Say It Loud

Black and proud, the leaders of a community expo speak out

On October 4–6, the Men's Gathering will host Blackexplo2002, a weekend of social occasions and seminars related to the experiences of African-American GLBT people. Prior to the third annual event, we visited with four of the organizers: Christopher Evans, Paul Guillory (who is also founder of the Men's Gathering, the discussion and support group), Dionne Redmond, and Torelen J. Winbush.

What is the purpose of Blackexplo?
Winbush: Blackexplo is simply a much-needed explosion of African-American/black culture. We want to promote awareness, dialogue, and talent. The gay community needs to see it, hear about it, and, most importantly, acknowledge it. We want to promote synergy and acceptance.
Guillory: The purpose of Blackexplo is to create an environment of education and fellowship to create an atmosphere of pride and empowerment.

What are some of the topics that will be presented during workshops?
Redmond: I feel the topics were well chosen and represent issues that need discussion from the black community and the black GLBT community. We will be highlighting issues on relationships, gay parenting, same-sex abusive relationships, HIV/AIDS in the black community, and the transgender community.

What have you been looking forward to most at Blackexplo this year?
Evans: I think that the sheer accomplishment of getting a group of Black SGL [same gender loving] men together outside of the club scene is wonderful. It is a testament to the fact that Black SGL men want more out of the SGL life than a party.
Redmond: I am most excited about the session entitled "The MisEducation on the Transgender (TG) Community." As an advocate for the GLBT community, I have taken the time to educate myself on transsexualism and other issues/stressors that affect the GLBT community. This session, I feel, will be a TG 101 course for many.

Talk about the greater inclusion of women in this year's Blackexplo. How did that come about?
Winbush: We have had the opportunity to meet women who were gay and heterosexual who stressed a desire to be involved with Blackexplo. We want to give them the opportunity to showcase their abilities for the betterment of us as a whole.

What are challenges facing the African-American GLBT community that Blackexplo might help confront or address?
Guillory: The divisions that exist among black gay men and black lesbian women.
Winbush: African-American/black people are not aware of resources that are available to them. We have developed a strategy to address their concerns. We are not saying that we will answer every question or challenge, but we are going to do our best to make sure that they know where they can go to get the concerns addressed.

What is the biggest challenge confronting the African-American GLBT community?
Guillory: The biggest problem is the self-hate that exists because of sexual orientation and the desire to be included and valued—and HIV in the black gay community.
Winbush: Awareness and acceptance. We are trying to maintain our position in the gay community by finding ways to find our identity. We need to know who we are before we go out and ask for our place in the gay community.

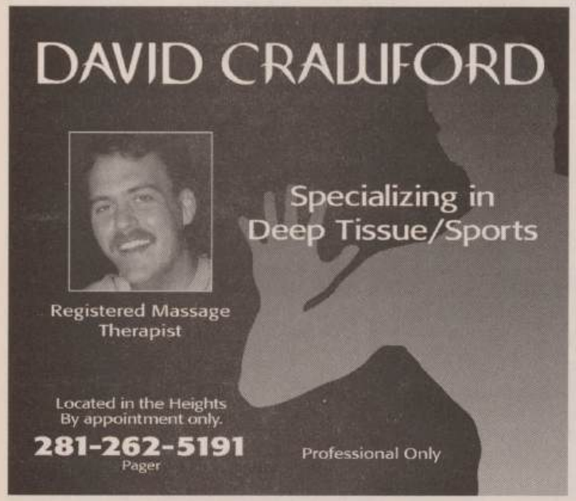
There is a perception that the African-American and non-African-American GLBT communities still remain very segregated in Houston. Do you agree? If so, do you have suggestions for ways we can all overcome barriers?
Guillory: Yes, I do agree. There have to be more town-hall-type meetings that will address this issue in an open way, and not keep it undercover.
Winbush: We are segregated. We want to change it. I think the sooner the gay community of Houston figures out that we are all a part of the gay chorus, the better off the gay community will be. We are all singing the tunes of acceptance and equality to the heterosexual community. We just need to turn to our left and right and see who is standing next to us—looking beyond color and focusing on queerness.
Evans: Unfortunately, the separation of African American and non-African American GLBT communities will remain deeply rooted. Until there are those willing to rally both sides to embrace one another, the line in the sand will remain. However, even before such rallying can take place, you have to have very well established communities that are united within themselves. The African American GLBT community has to have the time to solidify itself, love itself, nurture each other and respect one another prior to becoming a part of the overall GLBT community in Houston.

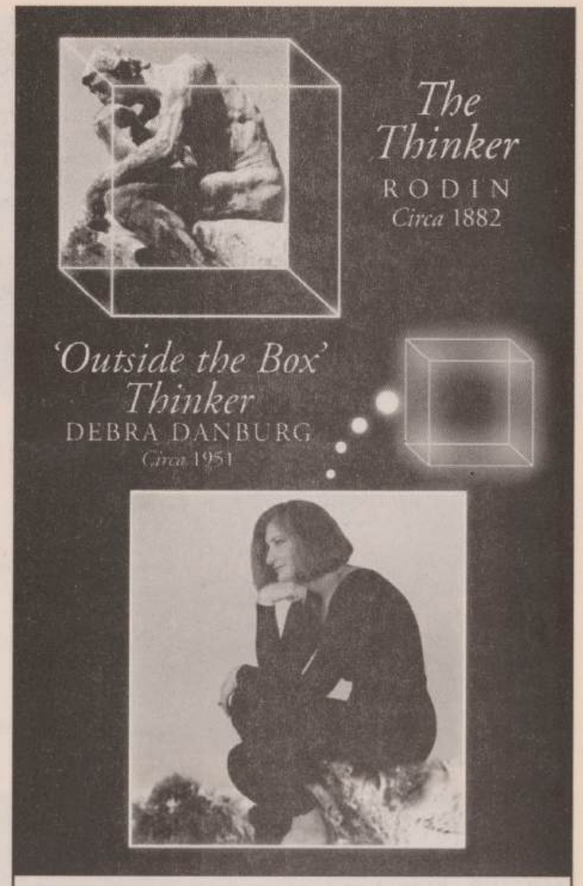
How does Blackexplo relate to your community advocacy?
Redmond: I am an advocate for the GLBT community and have presented at conferences on several topics. Whenever I get questions on my interest in the community, and I always do, I respond with there being a need to educate others in order to combat homoprejudices/homophobic mindsets that exist in society concerning the GLBT community. I also notice the lack of culture-specific research that exists as it pertains to counseling. I think it's imperative to have specific information in order to better serve needs of those we help in the community. As an ally, my intent is to add to the body of knowledge that already exists with more up-to-date specific information.

The theme of Blackexplo2002 is "Black, Proud, and Empowered." For more information and a schedule of activities at Incognito, the Courtyard by Marriott on the West Loop, and Tom Bass Park, log on to http://themensgathering.dream2.org. - *TB* ■

Blackexplo leaders at the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center (l-r) Christopher Evans, Dionne Redmond, Torelen Winbush, and Paul Guillory.









S.O.B. (Save Our Bookstore)

Over the past few months, the media—even the august *New York Times*—have reported on the flagging health of gay-and-lesbian bookstores across the nation. In June, Larry Lingle, owner of Lobo Bookshop & Café in Houston and the historic Oscar Wilde Bookshop in New York, told the *Times*: "Fewer people read now, and that's just as true of gay readers as it is for others. You don't find younger ones reading much, but if they do, they are addicted to buying on the Internet." Kim Brinster, Lingle's manager at Oscar Wilde, added: "When I was coming out, it was drilled into us the importance of supporting gay restaurants, gay bars, gay bookstores. But now gays take this all for granted, a byproduct of assimilation."

A year ago, the New York branch of A Different Light, one of the country's largest gay bookstores, closed. Houston has lost Inklings and, just in July, Crossroads Market. Even though gay-and-lesbian titles have filtered into the mainstream market, community bookstores like Lobo continue to carry titles and other merchandise rarely found at chain outlets. More important, gay-and-lesbian stores remain outposts of camaraderie and support, particularly for people, young and old, who are just venturing out of the closet.

(continued from page 59)

places (continued)

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6006 I-45 North
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www.galleryfurniture.com
Runners Up:
Cantoni
IKEA

Fabulous Furniture Store on a Budget
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www.hollywoodvideo.com
Runner Up:
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713/520-1084
and 7 other Houston locations
www.halfpricebooks.com
Runners Up:
Borders Books
Barnes & Noble Booksellers

Best Place to Buy Electronics
Best Buy
5133 Richmond Ave.
713/552-1512 (and 11 other locations)
www.bestbuy.com
Runners Up:
Fry's Electronics
Circuit City

Lingerie
Erotic Cabaret
1222 Westheimer
713/528-4565
6509 Westheimer
713/783-1897
www.eroticcabaret.com
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Cindie's

Erotic Playthings
Cindie's
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www.richmontsquare.com
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Amli Midtown
Lofts at the Ball Park

Tattoo Parlor
Shaw's Tattoo Studio
1660-C Westheimer
713/522-1035
Runners Up:
Scorpion Studios
Extreme

Garden/Nursery Supply
Tea's Nursery
Runners Up:
Buchanan's Native Plants
Another Place in Time

Florist
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713/529-9969

Runner Up:
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Montrose Clinic
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713/830-3000
www.montroseclinic.org
Runner Up:
Southampton Clinic

Nutritional Supplies
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713/523-9990
and multiple other Houston locations
www.gnc.com
Runners Up:
Whole Foods Market
Houston Buyers Club

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713/521-1005
and multiple other Houston locations
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Runner Up:
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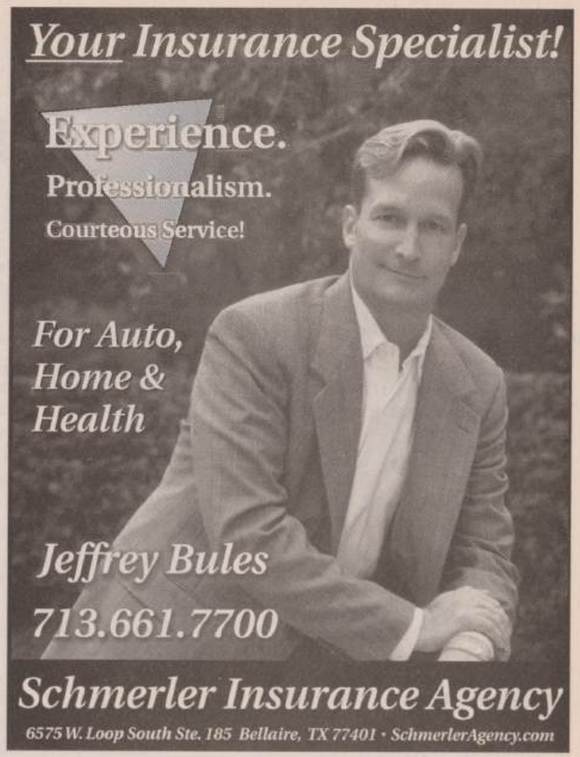
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800/260-4752
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Runners Up:
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Landscaping Company
Tea's Nursery
4400 Bellaire Blvd.
713/664-4400
www.teasnursery.com
Runners Up:
A.J.'s Landscaping & Design Inc.
Always in Season

(continued on page 105)







POE ME

With thanks to Edgar, evermore

Once upon a morning dawning,
while I stumbled, stiff and yawning,
Over many a quaint and curious volume of lesbian lore—
While my love still lay there sleeping,
suddenly there came a beeping,
Something birdlike gently peeping, peeping
from the downstairs floor.
"'Tis the smoke alarm," I muttered,
"beeping from the downstairs floor—
Only this and nothing more."

Ah, distinctly I remember it was hot,
not yet September;
And each sunbeam like an ember
warmed the day while still she snore.
Eagerly I then descended, down the stairs
to have it ended;
Problems much worse I have mended,
mended as a dykely chore.
For a strong and competent woman
can do any household chore,
To prove her worth for evermore.

And the brightly proud and certain rustling
of our rainbow curtain
Thrilled me—filled me with fantastic
pride I've often felt before;
So that now, to still the bleating
smoke alarm I stood repeating,
"'Tis a battery it's needing,
Any dyke could this restore.
Just a battery it's needing.
Any dyke could this restore.
This it is, and nothing more."

Startled by its green light blinking,
I approached the clamor thinking,
"Doubtless I will find a batt'ry
in the cluttered kitchen drawer."
Luckily, I quickly found it
with the shrink wrap still around it,
well aware of how profound it
was to find what I looked for.
Here I fetched the small stepladder,
and I deftly did the chore.
Then it beeped and beeped some more.

Presently my soul grew stronger,
hesitating then no longer,
"Smoke alarm," said I, confronting,
"I must stop your rude uproar;
"For the fact is you are keeping
me from any further sleeping
with your loud incessant beeping, beeping
through the downstairs door."
Up I flipped its plastic tab and
the new batt'ry from it tore.
This I did and nothing more.

Surely, now, without its power,
it won't spoil my quiet hour,
Nor disrupt the peaceful shower
my tense muscles would adore.
But the racket was unbroken,
and the ruckus gave no token.
And the only words there spoken
to the screeching troubadour
Were my muttered, "I will fix you!"
to which the beep replied full score.
Only this and nothing more.

Now my hand upon it twisting.
Its round plastic case resisting,
screeching, beeping beeps no mortal
ears were meant to hear before.
Not the least obeisance made it,
while the havoc unabated
prompted me to deeply hate it,
and its swift repair forswore.
I would be the smoke alarm butch
and repair the thing, therefore.
Still it beeped and beeped some more.

All my soul within me burning,
I resumed my twisting, turning;
Wrenched it from its socket beeping,
somewhat louder than before.
"Surely," said I, "surely this is
not a job for wimps or prisses—
Something very much amiss is,
I'll this mystery explore;
Let my heart be still a moment
and this mystery explore."
This I thought and nothing more.

Tiny print upon the plastic,
forcing visual gymnastic
to decipher why the screech
still pulsed insanely from its core.
But my eyes were getting teary,
and the noise had made me weary,
Hence no answer to my query
and no silence furthermore.
With no answer to my query
and no silence furthermore,
I informed it, "This is war!"

I would have to be the master
to avert this loud disaster,
Beeping fast now beeping faster,
how my nerves were getting sore.
I, my blood now boiling hotter,
with the ire of Sappho's daughter,
Plunged it in the toilet's water,
death by drowning soon in store.
Gleeful my anticipation
at its drowning soon in store—
'Twould be beeping nevermore.

Bubbly beeping pierced my ear, it
galled me keenly then to hear it;
I would have to commandeer it
to some deeper, harsher shore.
To the kitchen I did take it,
tempted then to oven bake it,
Hard it would be to mistake it,
there would have to be some gore.
There was no way to resolve it,
not without a little gore—
I pitched it out the kitchen door.

Yet no surcease was forthcoming,
from outside the beep kept drumming;
To my violent urge succumbing,
I flung wide the kitchen door.
"Wretch!" I cried and grasped a cleaver,
acting like Sigourney Weaver,
Whacked it in a frenzied fever,
then I grabbed a two-by-four.
Smashed its little plastic guts out
with a heavy two-by-four,
Stepped inside and slammed the door.

Despite how violently we scuffled,
still the beeper sits unruffled,
And its horrid noise unmuffled
by the cleaver, board, or door.
No repentance for its evil,
nor my morning's rude upheaval,
Hopeless is my pride's retrieval;
this last wounds me to the core—
That a smoke alarm could beat me,
pierces deep into my core.
Still it beeps outside my door.

Any dyke who's self-respecting
would this problem be correcting,
And continue vivisecting
till she'd quietude restore.
But I, spirit fully daunted,
failed to quash the beep that taunted,
And forever will be haunted
like a wounded matador.
Haunted always, for the tattered
smoke alarm beyond my door
Keeps on beeping—evermore!



Sally Sheklow struggles to take life seriously. Send your poetic fan mail to sally@wymprov.com

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The USA Storm Calendar is available in E-book format at:

www.JenniferLawson.com

Cost is $35.00. Credit cards accepted. A 2003 Weather Calendar for Canada will be available after November 1, 2002.

Jennifer Lawson's Violent Weather Predictions 2000-2001 was featured in Nexus Magazine.





Calendar of Events

Deadline for *OutSmart*'s November issue is 5 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 12.

OCTOBER

Daily (Mon.–Fri.)

HIV Testing. HCHD Thomas Street Clinic is offering HIV testing free to the public, daily 9 am–1 pm. There is no need to establish eligibility ("gold-card"), no donation will be asked of the person seeking testing, and the test is free. Thomas Street Clinic, 2015 Thomas, 713/873-4157 or 713/873-4026.

Daily (Mon.–Sun.)

HIV Testing. The Montrose Clinic 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; EJ'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; EJ's (2517 Ralph), 10 pm–1am; 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 offers classes for those newly diagnosed with HIV or Hepatitis C. Info: 713/830-3000.*

2 (Wed.)

Forrest Church is the author of *The American Creed*, which explores the intersection of religious principles and secular strengths that have defined the United States throughout its history. Church will discuss America's heritage as a "living will" as expressed in the words of leaders from George Washington to Martin Luther King Jr. at 7 pm @ First Unitarian Universalist Church, 5200 Fannin. Info: 713-526-5200 or www.firstuu.org.

5 (Sat.)

An Evening of Art Songs & Arias. Bering Omega Community Services' annual operatic fundraiser benefiting those who are affected by AIDS and HIV, returns to Houston with eight renowned performers from around the U.S.: John McVeigh, tenor; Jennifer Samson & Deborah Domanski, mezzo-sopranos; Luis Ledesma & Brian Mulligan, baritones; Sarah Wolfson & Camille Zamora, sopranos; Michael Slattery, tenor; & Kenneth Merrill, pianist. 7:30 pm @ the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, 800 Bagby. Tickets $100–$200. A limited number of $35 tickets are available for students & young artists. For tickets/more info: 713/315-2525 or 713/524-9304.

5 (Sat.)

Janeane Garofalo's humor is wry & intelligent. Inspired by the hysterical comedy of Bill Murray, Albert Brooks, & David Letterman, Garofalo takes each of these styles & weaves them into her own genre of comedy. This show is part of Breast Cancer Awareness Weekend. 8 pm @ Verizon Wireless Theater. Tickets available at www.cc.com, the Verizon box office, all Ticketmaster outlets, or by phone at 713/629-3700.

6 (Sun.)

Decadent Dessert Extravaganza 2002. AssistHers presents its second annual party of sweet indulgence to raise money for their wonderful organization. Mark your calendar and be prepared to leave your will power at the door. This event will feature tables of decadent desserts for epicurean tastes prepared by The Ruggles Grill, Fabio's, Acadian Bakers, Don Carlos, Jim Benton Catering, Mo Mong's, Decapo's, Baba Yega's, Three Dog Bakery, Sweet Tooth Solutions, and Oscar's Creamery. 4–7 pm Meteor, 2306 Genesee. Tickets can be purchased in advance for $20 or at the door for $25. For advance tickets: 713/521-4628, option #1.

6 (Sun.)

Celebrating Night Prayer. Join the Men of Trinity Choir for this service of chanted evening prayer. 6 pm @ Trinity Episcopal Church, 1015 Holman at Main. More info: 713/528-4100.

6 & 13 (Sun.)

Being There. A feebleminded gardener (Peter Sellers), whose entire knowledge of life comes from watching TV, is set loose in the world when his employer dies. Equipped with his prized possession—his remote control—the gardener unwittingly stumbles into the world of politics and is welcomed as some sort of mysterious sage. Sellers spent seven years fighting to play the lead in this 1979 film, then virtually killed himself to do so (concealing a serious heart ailment during production). He was nominated for a Best Actor Oscar (he lost to Dustin Hoffman in *Kramer vs. Kramer*), and his costar Melvyn Douglas won a Best Supporting Oscar. Shirley MacLaine costarred in the film and is memorable, especially in one scene. Directed by Hal Ashby (now deceased). 7 pm @ the Museum of Fine Arts (Brown Auditorium), 1001 Bissonnet. Admission is $6 ($5 members, seniors, students w/valid ID). For more info : 713/639-7515 or www.mfah.org.

8 (Tue.)

Transgender Talk. Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church presents a program on what it means & doesn't mean to be transgender. There will be a panel presentation featuring Collier Cole, Ph.D., who is a clinical psychologist practicing at Galveston's Rosenberg Clinic. Cole has served the transgender community since the mid-'70s and has lectured extensively and published many articles in the area of human sexuality. Free and open to the public. 7–8:30 pm @ the church, 2025 West 11th at T.C. Jester. For more info: 713/861-9149, ext.103.

10 (Thu.)

William Wegman, the internationally celebrated photographer & video artist, is honored at the 2nd Annual Aurora Award Dinner. For more info: Aurora Picture Show, 800 Aurora St., 713/868-2101, or visit www.aurorapictureshow.org.

10 & 22 (Thu. & Tue.)

Family to Family Adoptions, Inc., 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., Guatemala, Bulgaria, Russia, & other countries. They work with single men, single women, & couples 25 to 65 years of age. Everyone will be given a free informational packet. On the 10th: 6:30–8:30 pm, Methodist Hospital, 16655 Southwest Freeway, Sugar Land. On the 22nd: 1–4 pm @ Family to Family Adoptions, 1000 Austin St., Ste. B, Richmond, TX. For more info: call 713/249-5941; e-mail info@fam2fam.org or Fam2fam@aol.com; or visit www.fam2fam.org.

12 (Sat.)

Race for a Cure. The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Houston affiliate hosts this 12th annual race. The four categories are: Women's Competitive 5K Run (7:30 am.), Coed Noncompetitive 5K Run (7:45 am), Coed 5K Walk (7:55 am), and Coed 1-Mile Family Walk (8:05 am) to raise funds for breast cancer research, education, screening, & treatment. Galleria Uptown Houston area. Registration/info: 713/783-9188 or www.komen-houston.org.

12 (Sat.)

Healthy Bones! Muscle Mechanics teams up with Dr. Kenneth Lester (of Kirby Health & Wellness) to bring you a "hands on" educational seminar! Learn how to correct common causes of back and neck pain through proper exercise and posture techniques! Limited seating! 1–3 pm. To reserve your seat or for details/more info: John Aaron at 713/523-5330.

12 (Sat.)

People's Law School. "The contract reads 'as is' … am I out of luck?" "How can I get my husband to pay child support?" "Do I need a lease?" These are some of the legal questions that will be answered at this free program designed to help make the law "user friendly" to the lay person. Subjects covered: consumer law, wills, family law, finding the law, business law, landlord/tenant law, credit & debt collection, health insurance, and to work with an attorney. Local judges, attorneys, & professors serve as teachers for the event. 9 am–12:30 pm @ the University of Houston Law Center. Register on the web at www.peopleslawyer.net, or registration materials may be obtained by calling 713/743-2168.

12 (Sat.)

Reflections has been selected as the theme for the 2002 Houston Black Tie Dinner. Proceeds from the dinner go toward helping local nonprofit organizations continue the wonderful work that they do in service to the GLBT community. Now in its 11th year, the dinner will be held at the new Intercontinental Hotel at 610 West Loop South. Tickets and tables for this evening of entertainment can be purchased online. For more info: www.houstonblacktiedinner.org or see News Briefs in this issue of *OutSmart*.

12 (Sat.)

Miss Angela's Country Dinner, hosted by The Diana Foundation, features food by Goode Company

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—SAT., OCT. 12.

READ HER LIPS

The first female U.S. president is nothing like Dubya

Chris Jimmerson, Unhinged Productions' managing artistic director, says that "*Lips* presents another kind of 'W' in the White House—a Woman with a brain. A play about the first woman elected president who actually tries to do the right thing for gays and lesbians is of great interest in current times. This character is truly moral and ethical as opposed to those who are screaming morality while trying to create a theocracy in America." • In *Lips*, the new president has been elected on a platform that includes equal rights for lesbians and gays. Facing a recalcitrant Congress, she takes unusual action to try to get her way. Her tactics elicit rumors that she is lesbian, and the repercussions force her to re-evaluate her principles. • "Audiences will delight in these eccentric, often humorous characters while being challenged to re-examine gender and sexuality definitions," Jimmerson says. Asked for more specifics about the play, Jimmerson laughs and says, "Democrats good. Republicans bad. Read our *Lips*. Or, better yet—see it!"



Michelle Britton (center) is the newly elected president; Kelley Ogden (l) plays Rachel, her suspected love interest; and Ronnie Blaine plays Andy, her presidential aide.

FERNANDO DOVALINA

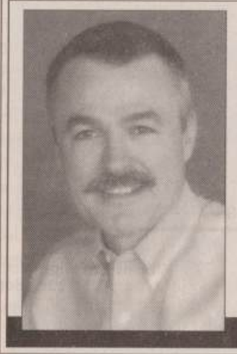
What: *Lips*
When: Through Oct. 27
(Fridays & Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 5 p.m.)
Where: Atomic Café, 1320 Nance (north of downtown)
Cost: $15 (student/senior tickets $12; all Sunday tickets $10)
Reservations/info: 713/547-0440
(or www.u-p.org or e-mail unhinged@u-p.org)



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HALLOWEEN ALERT THE MAGICAL MONTH OF HALLOWEEN

Halloween Magic. *The Women? A Ya-Ya Montrose Sisterhood* is loosely based on *The Women*, the 1936 comedy by Clare Booth Luce. George Cukor's 1939 film version of the play featured Norma Shearer, Joan Crawford, and Rosalind Russell in a hilarious catfight that made "jungle red" nail polish synonymous with sharp-clawed backstabbing. • Halloween Magic's liberal spoof of the original is about golddiggers, schemers, gossips, and social climbers—with Montrose as the backdrop! • Beneficiaries include specific programs from AIDS Foundation Houston, People with AIDS Coalition, MCCR, The Center for AIDS, Houston Buyers Club, Casa de Esperanza de Los Ninos, Montrose Clinic, and The Assistance Fund. • The Saturday night gala on **October 19**, emceed by Maria Todd, includes the musical comedy revue, pre-performance hors d'oeuvres, open bar, silent & live auctions, and a drawing. The Sunday matinee on **October 20** includes the revue and a live, pre-show auction. Saturday: doors open at 7:30 p.m., performance begins at 9 p.m.; Sunday: doors open at 1 p.m., performance begins at 2:30 @ the Edwin Hornberger Conference Center, 2151 W. Holcombe. Single tickets to the Saturday event are $75 (tables are also available); tickets to the Sunday performance are $25 (or a special rate of four tickets for $90). To purchase tickets or tables: 713/226-2342; single tickets are also available at Basic Brothers.



Matthew West as Crystal, the conniving perfume saleswoman, in Halloween Magic's *The Women? A Ya-Ya Montrose Sisterhood*



Anna Gaskell explores the tensions between pleasure and terror, beauty and horror in her photography. Inspired in part by children's fairy tales, her works dwell upon the fantastic and the macabre. Though particularly appropriate for Halloween, the exhibit runs through January 12 @ The Menil Collection, 1515 Sul Ross, 713/525-9400, www.menil.org.

Houston Witches Ball: A Tribal Masquerade. Features Dreamtrybe and Spoonfed Tribe, open ritual, costume contest, cauldron dancers, midnight drum and dance circle, fundraiser and door prizes. **October 26.** Tickets available at Magick Cauldron, Ruby Rabbit, and Robin Hoods. For more information, visit www.witchesball.org.

Halloween open mic & karaoke. Saturday, **October 26**, 7 p.m. @ Creative Life Spiritual Center, 5326 Spring-Stuebner. For more information, call 281/350-5157 or visit www.creativelife.org.



What Ever Happened to Baby Jane? Doesn't belong in the Halloween section, you say? Well, feast your eyes on this wonderfully macabre sketch by Eduardo Sicangco. Though the play will have closed by Halloween, it should be a great prelude to Orange and Black Day. *What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?* plays from **October 9–27** @ Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, 800 Bagby. Tickets ($25–$68) available at 713/558-8887, the TUTS box office, any Ticketmaster outlet, or online at www.tuts.com. (See interview with *Baby Jane*'s star Millicent Martin in this issue of *OutSmart*.)

Experiments in Terror. Just in time for Halloween comes this unique program of recent shorts by various directors inspired by the horror genre. Experimental filmmakers explore the occult, the subconscious, campy endeavors, and 3-D gimmicks. In counterpoint to the new work is a selection of trailers and clips from the best (and worst!) of cinematic horror. *In person: guest curator Noel Lawrence.* Sunday, **October 27**, 7 p.m. @ the Museum of Fine Arts' Brown Auditorium, 1001 Bissonnet. Admission $6 (members/seniors/students $5). For more information, call 713/639-7515 or visit www.mfah.org. • *San Francisco-based curator Noel Lawrence recently toured Europe with* Experiments in Terror. *On* **October 26**, *he presents a program of short horror films at the Aurora Picture Show. For more info: www.aurorapictureshow.org.* ■



Virgin Sacrifice, one of many Experiments in Terror.

MATTHEW WEST - JANN WHALEY; GASKELL - ANNA GASKELL; BABY JANE - EDUARDO SICANGCO; VIRGIN SACRIFICE - MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Barbecue, dancing to the music of Liz Talley and TNT Country Band, silent auction, & cash bar. Dinner co-chairmen: Toby Salazar & Jerry Smith. The event benefits the Colt 45's AIDS Trouble Fund. 7–11 pm @ Houston Polo Club, 8552 Memorial Dr. Tickets are $40 and space is limited. Reservations recommended: 713/639-2000.

12 (Sat.)

***A Streetcar Named Desire*—the Ballet.** Although choreographer Mark Diamond has added, enhanced, & dropped familiar storylines, this is still very much the tragic story of Blanche DuBois, suffused with the grace of Chopin & Cole Porter, roughened by the jazzy blues of Benny Golson & W.C. Handy. Tickets $18–$57, 8 pm @ Galveston's Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Postoffice, 800/821-1894.

12 & 13 (Sat. & Sun.)

Bayou City Art Festival Downtown. 300 artists from across the country have been accepted to this juried festival, which guarantees original artwork and meeting the artists in person. There are 17 categories of artwork. Eclectic music, exceptional restaurants, wine cafes, beer taverns, & a kids' zone complement this outdoor art gallery. 10 am–6 pm @ Tranquility Park & Hermann Square. Adults $7; children 12 & under free. More info: www.bayoucityartfestival.com.

13 & 19 (Sun. & Sat.)

Rainbow Fishing Club. *On the 13th:* It's a fishing trip aboard the New Buccaneer or the Cavalier out of Galveston. The boat supplies all the equipment you need. The boat also has a cook, a grill, and a large sundeck. Boarding begins at 6:30 am and sails at 7:30 am. The cost is $70, with a $20-deposit required to reserve your spot. Details: John at 713/523-6381. • *On the 19th:* It's a fishing trip that leaves South Padre Island at 7 am for a 10-hour deep sea adventure. Cost is $90. Poles & bait provided. Also included: breakfast, lunch, dinner, & a party at the New Upper Deck Bar. Accommodations may be arranged at the New Upper Deck Hotel at 956/761-5953 or e-mail spiup@aol.com to make your reservations.

17 (Thu.)

Radical Forgiveness Workshop by Rev. Ed and Marcia Jones. 7–10 pm @ Creative Life Spiritual Center, 5326 Spring Stuebner, 281/350-5157 or www.creativelife.org.

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.

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. 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.

18 (Fri.)

Patrice Vecchione: Booksigning and Inspirational Talk. According to Patrice Vecchione, it's only when we tap into our inner spirituality that we are able to find our true voice—the voice that allows the soul to speak. In *Writing and the Spiritual Life*, she presents clear processes and writing exercises to help you discover the strength and resonance of your inner voice. She shows where to find sources of spirit and creativity; how spiritual practice can be a form of introspective prayer and crafting of language all at once; how to capture that which is sacred and pull it into your writing; and how to gain a deeper understanding of your spiritual self. 7 pm @ Body, Mind and Soul, 4344 Westheimer at Mid Lane in the Westheimer Oaks Shopping Village. For more info: 713/993-0550 or www.bmsbooks.booksense.com.

19 (Sat.)

Whole Health & Psychic Expo. Free health demos. Free mini-lectures and samples. The biggest annual gathering of alternative healthcare physicians and providers offering aromatherapy, bodywork, Chinese herbs, chiropractics, feng shui, healing touch, iridology, magnets, massage, microdermabrasion, nutrition, reflexol-

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19 (Sat.)

Free Family Day in the Houston Museum District. Would you like to spend an entire day exploring the worlds of art, science, nature, & history—for free? Then don't miss this annual event. Enjoy the fascinating exhibitions, live music, & welcoming family atmosphere at 15 museums. Participating museums will waive their general admission fee from 10 am–5 pm, giving the community the opportunity to enjoy the district's diverse offerings and special activities. This year five exciting new member museums will join in the celebration: Buffalo Soldiers National Museum; Byzantine Fresco Chapel Museum; The Rothko Chapel; Houston Center for Contemporary Craft; and the Houston Center for Photography. Free METRO buses will transport visitors throughout the district. Plan to spend the day in the district to explore favorite museums and discover new destinations. To refresh yourself, plan a stop at the multitude of dining options throughout the district. For more details about Museum District Day: 713/790-1020 or www.houstonmuseumdistrict.org. Due to its recent privatization, The Houston Zoo will not offer free general admission to the public this year during Museum District Day. Admission to the zoo: adults (13–64) $5; children (3–12) $2; senior citizens (65+) $3; kids under 3 free.

19 (Sat.)

Grupo Vocal Desandann, based in central Cuba, performs popular and spiritual Haitian songs arranged and interpreted by the group's 10 multi-faceted singers and musicians. Together, they tell the story of the Haitian emigres who are longing for Haiti and are determined to keep their culture close to their heart. The songs are sacred and secular, songs of love and songs that invite the listener to join in the celebration. Presented by DiverseWorks at 8 pm @ Wilhelmina Cullen Robertson Auditorium at U of H Downtown, One Main St. Tickets $25 (members $20). Reservations: 713/335-3445.

19 & 20 (Sat. & Sun.)

The 7th Annual Eastwood Historic Home Tour, sponsored by the Eastwood Historical Commission, features five homes dating from 1915 to 1932 and Lantrip Elementary School. 4447 Rusk St.: a large one-story craftsman bungalow built in 1919; 4413 Rusk St.: this year's work-in-progress; 4344 Clay St.: built in 1925 as a duplex, this two-story brick & wood-siding building was converted into a 2,500+ sq.-ft. single-family residence in 2000; 1102 Wyatt St.: a 1932 renovated Mediterranean-style bricksmith-glazed red tile roof ; 4932 Stimson St.: vintage 1930 brick & limestone cottage with pitched roof & French-paned windows; Dora Lantrip Elementary School, 100 Telephone Rd.: built in 1916, it is the oldest in-use school in the HISD system. Eastwood, one of Houston's first master-planned subdivisions, was designed & developed in 1911 by William A. Wilson. Eastwood's tree-lined streets are now home to people who appreciate the vintage craftsman, four-square, mission, and arts & crafts-style homes and the proximity to downtown, Montrose, U of H, & the Medical Center. Noon–5 pm. Tickets ($10) can be purchased at Dora B. Lantrip Elementary on tour days. Info: 713/926-6722 or e-mail Easthc@aol.com.

20 (Sun.)

MAD PAC Fun Fundraiser. Two-hour show featuring internationally-renowned cabaret singer Deborah Boily and award-winning Houston poet Mark Doty, plus a few words from local elected officials and candidates. Benefits state & local candidates for judicial & legislative office through Montrose Area Democrats Political Action Committee. Sonoma's, 1415 California. Advance reservations ($49) recommended. Info: www.madtimes.org/pac or 713/942-0494.

20 (Sun.)

Victorian Houston Home Tour. Houston's oldest intact neighborhood, the Old Sixth Ward, invites you to see modern-day living in homes over a century old. While Houston's preservation ordinance minimally covers the exterior of homes, residents are free to decorate the interior as they wish. This contrast of old & new, rough & silky, is often beautifully stunning. Tour attendees will see a mix of interior décor styles, while exteriors are historically accurate. 1–5 pm @ Old Sixth Ward, bound by Washington Ave, Houston Ave., Memorial Dr., & Glenwood Cemetery; just west of downtown & the Municipal Courts. Tickets $10 at 1900 Kane the day of the event. For more info: 713/869-8309 or www.old6ward.org.

21 (Mon.)

Listen Up. Leading Chicana writer, author of the bestseller *The House on Mango Street* and *Woman Hollering Creek*, Sandra Cisneros will be reading from her long-awaited new novel *Caramelo*. She is part of Inprint's 2002–2003 Margarett Root Brown Houston Reading Series. 7:30 pm (doors open at 6:45) @ the Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave. Suggested donation is $5 (students/senior citizens free). For more info: 713/521-2026 or www.inprint-inc.org.

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.

25–27 (Fri.–Sun.)

Texas Tap Ensemble presents "An Evening of Ellington," which is part of the Free Concert Series. The evening will reveal the evolution of two of America's art forms: tap dancing & jazz music, showcasing the musical talents of Duke Ellington. Act 1 will feature such numbers as "Satin Doll" & "Mood Indigo." Act 2 will feature Duke Ellington's version of the "Nutcracker" set in the early 1940s. 8 pm @ Miller Outdoor Theatre in Hermann Park. Info: 713/686-9184.

25–27 (Fri.–Sun.)

The 7th Annual Fall Texas Home & Garden Show features under one roof: home improvement; new home building; energy-efficiency experts, products, & services; lasagna gardening; fully functional mobile kitchen & laundry room; live auctions; cool pools; soothing spas; garden accessories; gourmet cooking shows; vacation, leisure, & outdoor pavilion; and more. Friday 2–8 pm; Saturday 10 am–8 pm; Sunday 11 am–6 pm, @ Reliant Center, Hall A. Tickets $8 (children under 14 free). Info: www.TexasHomeandGarden.com or 713/529-1616.

25–27 (Fri.–Sun.)

GLBT People and Jerry Falwell. Hundreds of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender (GLBT), and allied Soulforce volunteers from across the nation will gather in Lynchburg, Virginia, on these dates. This will mark the three-year anniversary of the initial Soulforce event in Lynchburg when 200 Soulforce volunteers met with 200 members of Jerry Falwell's Thomas Road Baptist Church. Plans include a march for equality around Lynchburg; a display of untruths uttered by Falwell answered by truths from mental health professionals, scientists, and Bible scholars; and trainings in nonviolent civil disobedience. Soulforce, Inc., is an interfaith movement committed to ending spiritual violence perpetuated by religious policies and teachings against GLBT people. For more info: www.soulforce.org.

26 (Sat.)

Menopause. Making Wise Decisions on Hormone Therapy in Menopause is a seminar by Nellie Grose, M.D. Want to be heard, informed, & empowered to make choices in your health? Concerned about risks with Premarin & Prempro? Want to know more about natural hormone therapy? This seminar is for you, menopause or not. Learn that hot flashes are not a sympton of estrogen deficiency; that PMS is not a symptom of Prozac deficiency; that your own unique biochemistry holds the key to estrogen metabolism; what you can do naturally; and more. Includes special presentations of therapeutic stretching, herbology, acupuncture & traditional Chinese medicine, and compounding hormones. Register 9 am, seminar 9:30 am–1 pm @ Fitness and Therapy Center at the Women's Hospital of Texas, 7400 Fannin, Ste. 100. Cost $45 ($40 if prepaid by Oct. 11). For more info: Judith at 713/660-6620.

26 & 27 (Sat. & Sun.)

Willie Nelson. Country fans familiar with the classic renditions of Nelson's standards know that his world is permeated by music that touches the heart. His songs blend African-American, Mexican, & gospel music with jazz & country-western swing into a rendition uniquely his own. Tickets $39–$87. Saturday at 8 pm, Sunday at 7 pm, @ Galveston's Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Postoffice, 800/821-1894.

27 (Sun.)

The Human Race is a noncompetitive 5K run/walk for adults and 1K for children promoting the concept of mutual respect & dignity for all people. This 3rd annual race is expected to draw more than 8,000 participants who will be educated about Houston's diverse population along the race course by viewing "diversity fact boards" and "trivia markers" while also enjoying multi-cultural entertainment. The race will be held on the University of Houston Main Campus (Holman at Cullen), starting at 2 pm. For more info: 713/942-8000, ext. 106, or www.hmh.org.

30 (Wed.)

Workshop by Alan Cohen, author of *The Dragon Doesn't Live Here Anymore* and 16 other books including *Why Your Life Sucks* and the soon-to-be-released *Looking In for Number One*. 7–10 pm @ Creative Life Spiritual Center, 5326 Spring-Stuebner, 281/350-5157 or www.creativelife.org.

PLANNING AHEAD

NOVEMBER

November 1 (Fri.)

From Russia with Love: No More Cold War Classics is presented by OrchestraX in collaboration with the Asia Society of Texas. John Axelrod conducts Serge Prokofiev's "War and Peace Overture," Sergei Rachmaninoff's "Piano Concerto #2," & Dmitri Shostakovich's "Symphony #5." 7:30 pm @ Zilkha Hall, Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, 800 Bagby. For tickets/info: www.orchestrax.org or 713/225-6729.

November 1 & 2 (Fri. & Sat.)

The Presidents. Rich Little portrays the last 8 American presidents (Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush, & Clinton) in this two-act historical jour-

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October 25, 26, & 27 2002, at 8:00 p.m.

Miller Outdoor Theatre in Hermann Park
"Free Concert Series"
Photo by Jann Whaley

As of January 1st, 2002, The Texas Tap Ensemble is supported in part by a grant from the City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department, Miller Advisory Board through the Cultural Arts Council of Houston/Harris County, The Texas Commission on the Arts, The Cultural Arts Council of Houston/Harris County, The Cullen Trust For the Performing Arts, Houston Endowment, The Albert and Ethel Herzstein Charitable Foundation, The Baker-Hughes Foundation, The Powell Foundation, The Harry S. and Isabel Cameron Foundation, Target Stores, American General Corporation, Houston Chronicle, OutSmart Magazine, Houston Tribune, The Kids Directory and KHUF Radio.

Reunions

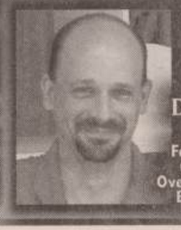


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ney which revisits the greatest challenges & greatest triumphs of the last 40 years. The play addresses how actions by the most powerful man on the planet have affected the average American, and vice versa, and how the events altered this nation, some leaving scars. Tickets $18.50–$67. Friday at 8 pm, Saturday at 3 & 8 pm @ Galveston's Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Postoffice, 800/821-1894.

November 2 & 3 (Sat. & Sun.)

The Woodlands ArtFest is a juried fine arts show & competition promoting original artwork from more than 100 regional & national professional artists. It will also showcase student artists & student performers. All artwork shown will be available for purchase, & all events will take place under cover. Admission is $5 ($2 for children ages six & under). Sat. 10 am–6 pm, Sun. noon–5 pm. On the grounds of The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, 2002 Lake Robbins Dr., The Woodlands. For more info: www.TheWoodlandsArtFest.org or 281/364-3010.

November 2–9 (Sat.–Sat.)

Gay Games VI "Under New Skies." INTA-Aussie South Pacific, one of Australia's leading tour operators, has selected Concierge Travel as a preferred supplier to the games. Currently, Concierge Travel has participants registered to compete in ballroom dancing, marathon, & body building. For more info: Kim Gustavsson, Concierge Travel, 713/661-2117.

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 and flight rates. Visit the 2002 Sydney Gay Games website at www.sydney2002.org.au for more information about the events and registration. For reservations, call Mark at 713/365-6266 (reservation cost $210).

November 8 (Fri.)

GoGirlsMusicFest "Get Hip to Hep C" Concert Tour raises awareness of Hepatitis C and benefits the American Liver Foundation. Features Cowboy's Nightmare (TX), Carol Plunk (TN), Elizabeth White (TX), Mandy G. Smith (TX), & Kelly's Lot (CA). It will be a night of great music & fun and benefiting a great cause. The first 75 people in the door will receive a free GoGirlsMusicFest CD featuring Carol Plunk and Kelly's Lot. Tickets $10. Doors open at 8 pm @ The Rhythm Room, 1815 Washington Ave. More info: www.GoGirlsMusicFest.com.

November 9 (Sat.)

Stargazer 2002. This movie & autograph show, which is the largest in Texas, will include tables of modern & vintage autographs, posters, stills, books, magazines, cartoon & comic art, old TV/movies on video, and drawings for door prizes throughout the day. 10 am–8 pm @ the recently remodeled Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, 7787 Katy Frwy near I-10 & Antoine. Admission $5 (children under 12 free). Room reservations: 713/681-5000. Info: Robert Cullen at 713/365-0266 (after 6 pm).

PERFORMING ARTS

♦ ***Bedroom Farce.*** Three bedrooms on stage display all the chaotic hilarity during one night in which a couple's attempts to deal with their marriage ruffle not only beds, but tempers, marriages, & the domestic harmony of three other couples. Tickets $12. Fridays & Saturdays, 8 pm, Oct. 11–Nov. 16 @ The Company Onstage, 536 Westbury Square, 713/726-1219.

♦ ***Blood Wedding/Bodas de Sangre.*** On the barren landscape of rural Spain, two lovers—driven by their insatiable desire for each other—abandon their families and surrender to their all-consuming passion. The hope of two households is drowned in their wake, as they fulfill a tragic prophecy of revenge. The first of Federico Garcia Lorca's three "rural tragedies," *Blood Wedding* is based on the true story of a bride who ran away with her lover on her wedding night, and is credited with restoring tragic poetry to the Spanish stage. Tickets $32–$42. Through Oct. 13 @ Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway, 713/527-0123, www.stagestheatre.com. *Performed in English & Spanish—call Stages for details.*

♦ ***Checkmates.*** Two generations: 35-year "veterans" of marriage and a young professional couple making all the right moves in career and all the wrong moves in marriage. Checkmates! Tickets $20–$35. Through Oct. 13 @ The Ensemble Theatre, 3535 Main Street. More info: 713/520-0055.

♦ ***The Crime of the Assistant Master Butler*** is the premiere of Bobbindoctrin Puppet Theatre's new work. The story unfolds a murder mystery involving one master, the master butler, the assistant master butler, and the assistant to the assistant master butler. But don't be fooled by the title—there are three butlers & three crimes, one of which is such a betrayal of humanity & justice that no word befits the evil. Oct. 10–26 @ DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway. Tickets $15 ($10 members). For more info: 713/335-3445 or www.diverseworks.org.

♦ ***Floyd Collins.*** The story of the first genuine media circus, *Floyd Collins* is a musical that tells the true story of a Kentucky man who gets trapped in a cave while chasing a dream of fame & fortune. Reporters & gawkers from across the country descend on the property, manipulating the nation into holding its collective breath. This tale portrays how a tragedy can affect a family and how the media can abuse their power to exploit such a tragedy. Thursdays–Sundays, through Oct. 19 @ The Masquerade Theatre, 1537 Shepherd Dr. Tickets $15–$25. Reservations/more info: 713/861-7045 or www.masqueradetheatre.com.

♦ ***Frame 312.*** Keith Reddin's latest work, takes its name from a crucial frame of the Zapruder film that captured John F. Kennedy's assassination in Dallas. In 1963, a *Life* magazine secretary is one of only three people to view the historic 22-second film in its entirety. Forty years later, as the only surviving witness, she grapples with a haunting secret and whether to reveal it to her family. Oct. 25–Nov. 24 @ the Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave. For ticket info: 713/228-8421 or www.alleytheatre.org.

♦ ***The General from America.*** Corin Redgrave (who received a Tony nomination for his performance in the Alley's *Not About Nightingales*) plays Benedict Arnold in this historical drama about the circumstances surrounding the general's decision to defect to the British during the American Revolution. Richard Nelson (a Tony Award-winning playwright) directs the play. Oct. 11–Nov. 9 @ the Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave. Tickets to preview performances: $20–$40; tickets after the Oct. 16 opening: $35–$50. Tickets can purchased at www.alleytheatre.org, at the Alley box office, or by calling 713/228-8421.

♦ **Houston Grand Opera** opens its 48th season with Puccini's *La Bohème*, a timeless story of friends' camaraderie & of lost love. This new production moves the tale of struggling Parisian artists to the start of World War I. With bodies returning from the front, our young Bohemian heroes lose both their innocence & idealism. Oct. 25–Nov. 16 @ Wortham Center's Brown Theater, Texas Ave. at Smith St. Tickets ($15–$250) available at www.houstongrandopera.org, 713/228-OPERA, or in the Wortham Center's lobby.

♦ **Houston Grand Opera**'s national radio broadcasts over National Public Radio's "World of Opera" begin this month and continue through Nov. (all on Saturdays). Oct 12: Giuseppe Verdi's *Rigoletto*. Oct. 19: Richard Wagner's *Tannhäuser*. Oct. 26: Peter Ilytch Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*. Nov. 2: Carlisle Floyd's *Of Mice and Men*. For a free radio guide, call 1-888-463-6103, e-mail radio@houstongrandopera.org, or mail your name & address to Opera Cues 2002 Radio Guide, Houston Grand Opera, 510 Preston, Houston, TX 77002.

♦ ***Killer Karaoke*** and ***Come Up and Slay Me Sometime*** are presented by Mystery Café, home of Comedy Murder Mystery Dinner Theater. • *Killer Karaoke*: The Gulf Coast Regional Semi-Final Three Steps Before National Silver Microphone Karaoke Competition will continue, despite an "accidental" fire and a crazed karaoke serial killer stalking the contestants. Anybody who's actually listened to karaoke will probably side with the killer, if they can figure out his or her identity. • *Come Up and Slay Me Sometime*: Bathtub gin isn't the only illegal thing going on in this 1920s floating speakeasy—there's a dead body lying around, and nobody can call the cops. Featuring special appearances by Mae West, Charles Lindbergh, and Abraham Lincoln. • *Killer Karaoke* plays Fridays; *Come Up and Slay Me Sometime* plays Saturdays. Both shows are presented at 8 pm @ Marriott West Loop, 1750 West Loop South at San Felipe. Reservations required: 713/944-2583 or www.mysterycafehouston.com.

♦ ***Kingdom of Earth.*** Houston's dAdA (diverse Artists dedicated Action) Productions brings this Tennessee Williams' work to the stage for the first production of their inaugural season. Set in the Mississippi Delta amidst the dangers of rising flood waters, *Kingdom* centers on a fiery dispute about a family farm between Lot, a tubercular recluse, and his half brother Chicken, a handsome, caramel-toned brute of a man. Tempers flare & tension mounts as Lot's wife Myrtle, a desperate ex-burlesque queen, finds herself sandwiched between the two brothers in a struggle to the death. Fridays & Saturdays at 8 pm, Oct. 9–Nov. 2 @ Theatre LaB Houston, 1706 Alamo. Tickets $20 in advance, $22 at the door. To reserve tickets: 713/868-7516.

♦ ***The Last Night of Ballyhoo.*** From the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Driving Miss Daisy* comes a love story full of Southern humor. It's Christmas, 1939. *Gone with the Wind* storms the silver screen, and the cream of Atlanta's Jewish crop are preparing for Ballyhoo, the Jewish social event of the year, and Lala needs a date. Fri.–Sun., through Oct. 13 @ Galveston's Strand Theatre, 2317 Ship's Mechanic Row. Reser-vations/more info: toll free 1-877-787-2639.

♦ ***The Laws of Storms.*** Two months following the Galveston hurricane of 1900, the life of every Galvestonian was changed forever. Those who died left nothing but their memories scattered into a thousand pieces among the island's debris. Those who lived attempted to take those memories and move on, leaving behind those laws that cannot be answered. Now someone in Galveston believes he understands the laws of storms, and he is ready to confront its wrath. In *The Laws of Storms*, Thomas Meloncon explores the physical & emotional damage of the hurricane on the city's African-American community. Through Oct. 13 @ Main Street Theater in Rice Village, 2540 Times Blvd. Tickets are $20–$30. For more info: 713/524-6706 or www.mainstreet theater.com.

♦ ***The Man Who Came to Dinner***, written by Moss Hart & George S. Kaufman, tells the story of Sheridan Whiteside, critic, lecturer, wit, radio orator, & intimate friend of the great & near great. Having dined at the home of the prominent Stanley family in a small Ohio town, Whiteside slips on their doorstep and injures his hip. A tumultuous six weeks of confinement follow, during which the Stanley living room is monopolized by the famous & irascible invalid. Before it's over, the outrageous has become commonplace. Tickets $15 (students/seniors $13). Through Oct. 12 (weekends only) at 8 pm (one Sunday matinee on Oct. 6 at 2 pm) @ The Country Playhouse, 12802 Queensbury, 713/467-4497 (between 9:30 am & 1 pm).

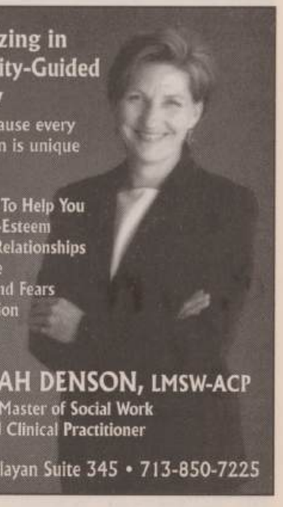
♦ ***Phaedra's Love.*** The Infernal Bridegroom season begins with this regional premiere by Sarah Kane. Widely considered to be one of the most controversial, important playwrights of her generation, her work has never been produced in Texas. *Phaedra's Love* is loosely based on Seneca's version of the classic, incestuous story, in which Phaedra, a queen, falls in obsessive love with her stepson, the prince Hippolytus. In Kane's version, Hippolytus is a promiscuous, bisexual, binge-eating, atheist brute. The play is as uncompromising as its (anti)heroes. Explicit violence which occurred offstage in previous versions is presented here in gory detail. An unrelenting stream of sexual, emotional, & psychic abuse dominates the action. This production comes with the strongest of warning labels; it is not intended for the faint of heart or weak of stomach. 8 pm, Thursdays–Saturdays, through Oct. 12 @

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♦ ***Talley's Folley*** is a masterful duet written by Lanford Wilson, one of America's leading playwrights. The second play written in the trilogy that chronicles the life of the Talley family, *Talley's Folly* earned Wilson the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, as well as a New York Drama Critics Circle Award. For an hour and a half we are transported to early evening on a summer night in 1944 in an old Victorian boathouse on the Talley farm in Lebanon, Missouri. Matt Friedman & Sally Talley, two people grieving for want of love, begin a courtship that triumphs over political upheaval & religious persecution in the world surrounding their boathouse refuge. In what has been called the most human of his works, Matt & Sally find romance through Wilson's heartbreakingly tender & astute dialogue. Leave the theater smiling with this equally romantic, dramatic, & comedic "feel good" masterpiece that really is a "love poem for an apple and an orange" (*New York Post*). Fridays & Saturdays at 8 pm, Sundays at 2 pm, through Oct. 26 @ the Ensemble Theatre, 3535 Main St. in the Midtown area. Tickets: $15 adults ($10 students/senior citizens). Info/reservations: Chris Wilson's Actors Theatre of Houston's box office at 713/529-6606.

♦ ***What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?*** Based on the 1960 novel, which also served as the basis for the Bette Davis/Joan Crawford film, *What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?* chronicles the story of one-time child vaudeville star & her wheelchair-bound sister, now a former MGM musical star. Original author Henry Farrell, together with noted pop, film, & Broadway lyricist Hal Hackaday, have created a show that combines thrilling suspense, dark comedy, & the glamour of a bygone era of vaudeville & Hollywood. Stage, screen, & TV star Millicent Martin portrays Jane. (See interview with Martin in this issue of *OutSmart*.) Oct. 9–27 @ Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, 800 Bagby. Tickets ($25–$68) available at 713/558-8887, TUTS box office, any Ticketmaster outlet, or online at www.tuts.com.

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♦ ***Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse.*** Lilly wants to be a surgeon or an ambulance driver or a diva—until she meets her new teacher Mr. Slinger. Now she wants to be just like him—until she brings her new purple plastic purse with the three shiny quarters and the movie star sunglasses to show the class. Join Lilly, Chester, & Wilson as they become friends, learn to speak in a secret language, and tackle school. ***School bookings:*** through Oct. 25, M–F, 9:30 am, 11 am, & 12:30 pm. School booking reservations: 713/524-7998. ***Family performances:*** Oct. 5, 12, & 19, 1, 3, & 5 pm. Box office/reservations: 713/524-6706. Adults: $10; students/seniors $8. For more info: www.mainstreettheater.com.

♦ ***The Sorcerer's Other Apprentice.*** Chip wants to be a real wizard, not just an apprentice. Merwyn, a wise sorcerer, sends Chip on a quest where he meets an independent princess & a fiercely funny dragon, and discovers that he is a real wizard after all. Tickets $6. Sat., 11 am & 1:30 pm, through Nov. 9 @ the Company Onstage, 536 Westbury, 713/726-1219.

RADIO

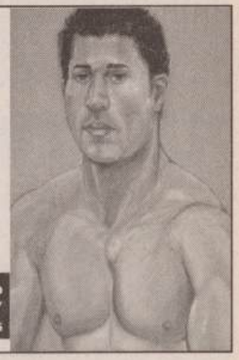
♦ **After Hours.** Saturdays, midnight to 3 am. Featuring the QMZ (Queer Music Zone) with Jimmy Carper. KPFT 90.1 FM, 713/526-5738.

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

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ART/PHOTOGRAPHY

♦ ***Channeling.*** Tracie Brownlee's rich, juicy paintings present an intimate view of television's voyeuristic world. Images of people & situations taken from "reality TV" cop shows & 24-hour news channels are painted with great skill & complete abandon, using closed-captioning to illuminate the soap opera-like narratives. Through Oct. 12 @ DiverseWorks' Project Gallery, 1117 East Frwy. 713/335-3445, www.diverseworks.org.

♦ ***Elevations Transcendsualistic*** is a dynamic, site-specific wall mural installation configured in response to DiverseWorks' Main Gallery. Approaching architectural space as a blank canvas and using vibrant color & sound, artist Paul Henry Ramirez transforms the gallery into a dynamic backdrop for this latest series of sensuous, surreal, & meticulously crafted paintings. Through Oct. 12 @ DiverseWorks' Main Gallery, 1117 East Freeway, 713/335-3445, www.diverseworks.org.

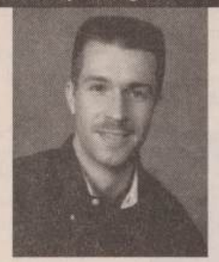
♦ ***Ready to Wear.*** A show of artist-made wearable art from purses made of saran wrap to evening wraps made of silk, *Ready to Wear* will present work by contemporary craft artists who are producing functional fashion items. Oct. 7–Nov. 3 @ Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, 4848 Main St., 713/529-4848.

♦ ***"See America First": The Prints of H.C. Westerman*** includes over 45 lithographs, linoleum cuts, & woodblock prints, along with selected working drawings, related finished drawings, color proof variations, alternate print states, and selected linocut & wood blocks that will be shown alongside the editioned prints. Oct. 4–Nov. 17 @ the Contemporary Arts Museum, 5216 Montrose Blvd., 713/284-8250.

♦ **Watercolors by Richard Byrd** are still-life paintings inspired by contemporary urban life. Some of his subject matter includes Asian-inspired floral arrangements, martinis, & other home accessories. Byrd, a native Houstonian, has had his work displayed in numerous exhibitions and is a member of the Watercolor Art Society of Houston and Art League, Houston. Oct. 25–Nov. 22 @ Loft & Home Essentials, 1009 Missouri St. at Montrose, 713/522-5638.

Calendar Deadline for *OutSmart*'s Nov. issue: Sat., Oct. 12, 5 p.m.

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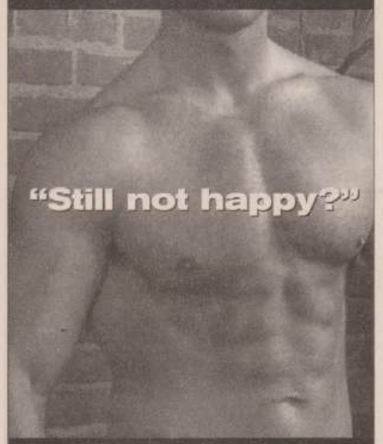
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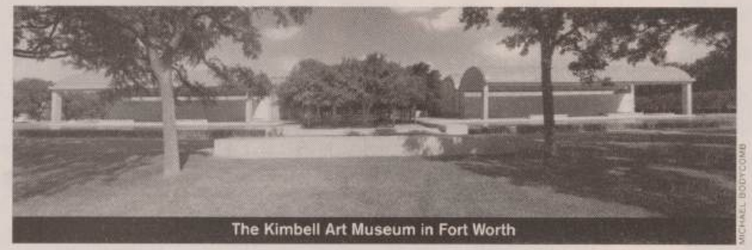
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WESTERN ART

Museums in this half of the nation have queer art, too


The Kimbell Art Museum in Fort Worth

MICHAEL BODYCOMB

Gay-popular vacation destinations have often grown out of both informal and established artists' colonies. These kinds of communities have traditionally been among the most visible enclaves to welcome, and often embrace, lesbians and gay men, and so it's no surprise that many of the nation's best museums of art contain works in their collections or often mount exhibitions of specifically gay relevance. In fact, you could probably find some work of at least nominal queer significance in just about every major art museum in at least the Western world.

What follows are descriptions of just a handful of the many stellar museums in the western United States, using the Mississippi as the boundary, with especially strong ties to the lesbian and gay community. (In September, we visited museums in the eastern half of the country.) Gay interest aside, these are all museums that any devotee of visual—especially contemporary—art would enjoy visiting.

Amon Carter Museum, the Kimbell Art Museum, and the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Fort Worth

Dallas may draw the bulk of the visitors to north central Texas, but some of the world's top art museums are found in the neighboring self-described "cow town" of Fort Worth. First, the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, which in mid-December will move into a new 153,000-square-foot space designed by Tadao Ando, has one of the nation's top contemporary collections. You will find major works by Mark Rothko, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Roy Lichtenstein, and David Hockney, among many others. Next, the Amon Carter Museum, whose photography collection includes works by Ansel Adams, Dorothea Lange, and Laura Gilpin, is a shutterbug's dream. Also note the many fine Western bronzes and paintings, including the Thomas Eakins painting *Swimming*—controversial in its day for a somewhat homoerotic depiction of young nude men frolicking in a lake. This museum underwent a dramatic expansion designed by gay architectural wonder Philip Johnson, which was completed in 2001 and tripled the size of the original facility. When in Fort Worth, also be certain to visit the definitive Louis Kahn-designed Kimbell Art Museum, an exceptional collection best-known for its famous Caravaggio work, *The Cardsharps,* plus creations by El Greco, Goya, and Rembrandt.

Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley

Fans of the avant-garde and the experimental have long lauded this fine arts and film venue at the left-leaning University of California Berkeley. The museum earned notoriety in 1995 for its exceptional and provocative exhibition *In a Different Light,* which explored the gay and lesbian experience through an extensive and eclectic display of 20th-century artworks. Since that time, the museum has continued to present acclaimed rotating shows, including many with gay relevance (such as *Continuous Replay: The Photographs of Arnie Zane* a couple of years ago). Look to the Film Archive as well to host the kinds of events and lectures that challenge conventions. And keep in mind the museum's 7,000-piece permanent collection, which includes an unrivaled trove of paintings by Hans Hofmann, numerous French Impressionist works, and a superb assemblage of Asian art.

Museum of Contemporary Art and the Geffen Contemporary, Los Angeles

While it has been said, quite accurately, that downtown Los Angeles lacks soul, it does possess the vaunted Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), which has amassed a greater collection in its 63-year existence than many museums have in several centuries. Holdings include works by such diverse artists as Cindy Sherman, Jackson Pollock, Susan Rothenberg, and Frank Stella. Nearby, MOCA at the Geffen Contemporary (named in 1996 for gay media magnate David Geffen, a huge benefactor) presents cutting-edge rotating modern-art exhibitions. Finally, right in the heart of gay West Hollywood, smaller shows are mounted at the MOCA Gallery at the Pacific Design Center.

The Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, Santa Fe

Opened in summer 1997 near the historic Plaza in the artistically rich city of Santa Fe, New Mexico, this museum traces the life of the bisexual artist, who resided during the last half of her life in the village of Abiquiu, about 50 miles to the northwest. This is a relatively small facility, with nine galleries displaying various works from a permanent collection of about 135 paintings and sculptures. Sometimes criticized for providing relatively little biographical information on O'Keeffe or context on the works shown, the O'Keeffe is nevertheless a must for any fan of the artist, and it presents some excellent rotating exhibits that bring in many works you won't see anywhere else.

Walker Art Center, Minneapolis

As much as any city in the Midwest, Minneapolis consciously embraces the daring, the emerging, the unexpected, and the innovative. Nowhere is this sensibility more evident than at the Walker Art Center, which has earned a reputation for presenting visual and performance works of both acclaimed and up-and-coming artists. You'll find paintings and sculpture by Marcel Duchamp, Sherrie Levine, and Jasper Johns gracing the permanent collection, but you might also catch a movement workshop by Bill T. Jones or a performance by the Urban Bush Women. And just outside the museum, you can traipse through the 11 landscaped acres that comprise the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden. In fact, with one of the nation's leading theater districts, a bevy of slick galleries and design shops, the Leviathan Minneapolis Institute of Arts, St. Paul's Minnesota Museum of American Art, and the Walker, the Twin Cities collectively offer one of the most impressive cultural arts scenes in North America.

Andrew Collins authored the Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA *and six regional gay guides for Fodor's. He can be reached at GayFodors@aol.com. For more Out of Town, visit www.gaytravel.com.*

THE LITTLE BLACK BOOK

Amon Carter Museum. 3501 Camp Bowie Blvd., Fort Worth, 817/738-1933, www.cartermuseum.org
Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive. 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510/642-0808, www.bampfa.berkeley.edu
Georgia O'Keeffe Museum. 217 Johnson St., Santa Fe, 505/946-1000, www.okeeffemuseum.org
Kimbell Art Museum. 3333 Camp Bowie Blvd., Fort Worth, 817/332-8451, www.kimbellart.org
Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth. 1309 Montgomery St., Fort Worth, 817/738-9215, www.mamfw.org
Museum of Contemporary Art. 250 S. Grand Ave., downtown Los Angeles, 213/626-6222, www.moca.org
MOCA at the Geffen Contemporary. 152 N. Central Ave., Little Tokyo section of downtown Los Angeles, 213/484-3350
Walker Art Center. Vineland Place at Lyndale Ave. S, Minneapolis, 612/375-7622, www.walkerart.org

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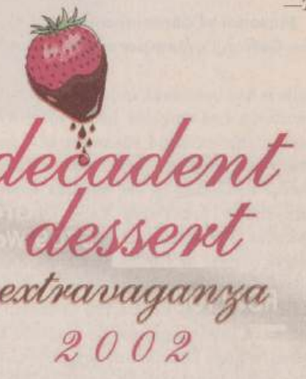
TEAM EFFORT

Mo Mong and Dacapo's join forces in a delectable fundraiser

Two community favorites, Mo Mong and Dacapo's, are among the restaurants and food outlets providing sweet treats for the Decadent Dessert Extravaganza 2002 on Sunday, October 6, 4-7 p.m. The second annual event at Meteor (2306 Genesee) raises funds for AssistHers, the volunteer organization that works to meet the health needs of lesbians in the Houston area.

Other participants include Acadian Bakers, Baba Yega, Don Carlos Catering, Fabio's, Jim Benton Catering, Luby's, Oscar's Creamery, Sweet Tooth Solutions by Chef Angela, and Three Dog Bakery (for pet treats). Jerry Atwood and Marsha Carlton will entertain. Tickets are $20 in advance, $25 at the door.

OutSmart readers named Mo Mong (1201 Westheimer; 713/524-5664) best Vietnamese restaurant in the Gayest & Greatest survey (see page 38). Dacapo's in the Heights (1141 East 11th; 713/869-9141) is one of the top bakeries in town. Dacapo's chef Lisa Biggerstaff, who will be serving treats at the Decadent Dessert Extravaganza, offered this recipe for a tasty cookie to enjoy at the event or make at home. —*TB*



So sweet: The logo for the October 6 AssistHers benefit.

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Dacapo's Raspberry Swirl Cookies



LANCE WALKER

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2 whole eggs
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
4 cups all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt

Filling:

Your favorite prepared raspberry jam

Cream butter and sugar in a bowl with an electric mixer. Gradually add eggs and vanilla a little at a time. Mix until light, about five minutes. Add remaining dry ingredients. Mix until soft dough forms. Chill dough in refrigerator for at least two hours.

Remove dough from refrigerator and divide in half. Form each half into a long roll. Roll out each onto a floured surface to form a 12-by-15-inch rectangle that is about 3/16 of an inch thick. Spread a thin layer of jam over the dough. Starting with one long side, tightly roll up the rectangle, jellyroll fashion. Wrap in plastic wrap and chill in the refrigerator for at least 20 minutes.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Remove dough from refrigerator, unwrap, and slice about 3/4 of an inch thick. Bake cookies on a baking sheet for 8–10 minutes until slightly brown. Makes about four dozen cookies. ■

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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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Business News

Fitness Exchange has new owners—**Mary Ann McBee** and **Susan Sosnowy**. The two women, who are domestic partners, purchased the gym from **Al McClerren** in May. McBee had previously served as general manager of Fitness Exchange for several years. After managing a Miami fitness facility for nearly four years, she returned to Houston.

Located in Montrose, the 30,000-square-foot facility houses more than 75 cardiovascular machines, 6 lines of resistance training, and 3 free weight areas. "That means there is no waiting to work out, no matter what time of day," McBee says. In addition, new cardiovascular classes, including yoga, body sculpting, Boot Camp, and spinning, have been added to supplement the step aerobics classes.

Jeff Alonzo, the new manager of the personal training department, has expanded and improved that area. Alonzo is a respected personal trainer with 17 years of experience in the fitness industry, the last five at Fitness Exchange.

"Fitness Exchange appreciates the support it has received from our community since 1978," McBee says. "We plan to build on the positive aspects of the gym while implementing a customer-oriented business structure designed to meet the needs of each and every member." In fact, each new member will receive two one-hour sessions with a Fitness Exchange personal trainer to get started on the right track.

Fitness Exchange is located at 4040 Milam. The telephone number is 713/524-9932.

In August, Heights/Montrose real estate broker **Karen Derr** was elected to the Houston Area Realtors (HAR) board of directors. Derr's position represents medium-size firms. She will serve for two years. One of her first official duties was to attend the presentation of Texas Association of Realtors Political Action Committee funds to local political candidates. Derr also participated in a September 12 strategic planning meeting in Galveston that addressed new directions for HAR, the nation's largest Realtor association. **Karen Derr and Associates** has 22 Realtor associates, of which half are gay or lesbian individuals. The firm has three offices: in the Heights, downtown, and Galveston. The main telephone number is 713/862-1600.

Shane Hennessey, MEd, LPC, CHt, has announced some changes to his business. His new office is in the rear of the same building at 1712 Fairview. The new phone number is 713/524-1771, extension 3. His new e-mail address is ethanshane@ houston.rr.com.

On Saturday, October 12, the **Rotary Club of League City** will launch the South Shore Dockside Wine and Food Festival at the South Shore Harbour Resort and Marina. This 11 a.m.–11 p.m. event will include food and wine tastings, culinary demonstrations, and displays of high-performance boats and luxury yachts. Entertainment as well as art and fashion shows will be presented throughout the day. The $12 per person admission includes a souvenir wine glass and five tasting tickets. South Shore Harbour Resort and Marina is located at 2500 South Shore Blvd. on the south side of Clear Lake in League City. For information, contact **Roy Green** at 281/334-1000 or **Dee Scott** at 281/332-6006. The event website is www.southshorefestival. com

Through October 15, clients of **2 Girls Cleaning** can choose to have 5 percent of their fee donated to one of the following organizations:

- Kim's Place, the recreational facility at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center established in tribute to the late Houston Comets star Kim Perrot
- VH1 Save The Music
- Houston SPCA
- H.A.T.C.H. (Houston Area Teenage Coalition of Homosexuals)
- PFLAG Houston (Parents, Friends & Families of Lesbians & Gays)
- Bering-Omega Community Services Foundation
- Human Rights Campaign

From October 15 through the end of the year, the designated charities are A Christmas Songfest, AIDS Foundation Houston, AssistHers, The Children's Art Project at M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston GLBT Community Center, PFLAG/HATCH Youth Scholarship Foundation, Houston SPCA, and the International House of Blues Foundation.

Wynn Ann Chaney and **Hillary Woest**, 2 Girls Cleaning co-owners, offer a full range of interior cosmetics and cleaning services. The telephone number is 713/569-2023. The e-mail contact is cleaning_2girls@hotmail.com.

Carol White has opened **Greenberry's Coffee & Tea Company** at 2311 West Alabama (713/522-7005) in the Upper Kirby District. Open seven days a week, Greenberry's serves freshly brewed coffee, tea, and specialty beverages as well as fresh scones and other bakery goods. The store also sells a variety of packaged coffees and teas, coffee cups, and serving pieces. Gift baskets are available.

When he works with supporters of H.A.T.C.H. (Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals) through the end of the year, **Gordon Bayless** of **Ayers & Ayers, Realtors** will donate 10 percent of his earned commissions

- on purchase transactions scheduled to close on or before December 31, 2002, in which he is the buyer's agent under a signed exclusive buyer representation agreement with his firm; and/or
- on all listings for which he is the listing agent representing the seller under an exclusive right to sell agreement with his firm, signed on or before December 31, 2002, for a minimum of four months, provided his firm is the listing and/or selling broker at the time of funding.

Individuals should identify themselves as H.A.T.C.H. supporters at the time of first contact. Bayless's voicemail pager number is 713/762-2906. His e-mail address is Gordon@GordonBayless.com. ■



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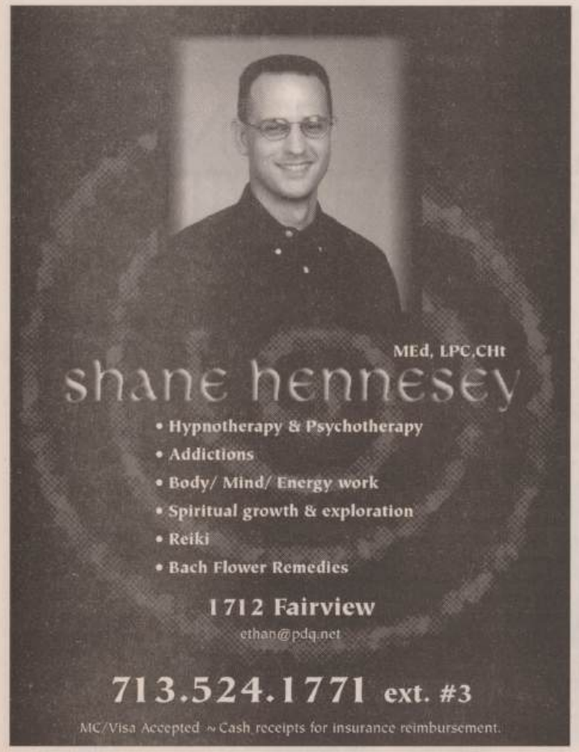
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Bar Guide

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. Sunday brunch starts at 11am and doesn't end till 3 in the afternoon. 1312 W. Alabama • 713/523-5230.

BRAZOS RIVER BOTTOM
The BRB, Houston's country-western bar brings you denim, boots, and cowboy hats. Located just outside Montrose, this bar calls Midtown home. The BRB has two bars to serve you. Whether dancing, playing pool, or just cruising, you're sure to see some true Texas dancing. 2400 Brazos • 713/528-9192.

BRICKS II
This neighborhood bar on Fairview boasts a jukebox loaded with C/W music. Cement floors, cold draft, and the occasional cowboy hat, you can drink your fill in a low-key atmosphere where regulars rule. 617 Fairview • 713/528-8102.

CHANCES/NEW BARN/G-SPOT
This three-in-one spot Lesbian bar gives you a place to two-step, rock, and sit down and talk—all under one very large roof. 1100 Westheimer • 713/523-7217.

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

CLUB BIG YO
Their mission statement is, "our ladies on top where they belong. This is an all girls production; our male friends are welcome." Thursday: talent night. Friday & Saturday 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.

CLUB RAINBOW
A mixed crowd, this bar is just off the curve in Montrose located conveniently on Westheimer. 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.

DECADES
Celebrating its fourth year in business, you are invited to the bar with lots of local color. If you want to go out for some local fun, don't pass up Decades, just a few blocks west of Montrose. 1205 Richmond • 713/521-2224.

DIAMOND JIMM'S NIGHT CLUB
Diamond Jimm's is "Houston's Alternative Lifestyle Nightclub" . . . a gay club that is straight-friendly. A DJ creates a great dance place "with the best music covering the rainbow." Open 7 days, 6 pm–2 am, 18 and up. 13331 Kuykendahl (near Ella Blvd., just minutes from the Montrose, off I-45 at Kuykendahl) • 281/875-3330.

E/J's
Located on the western end of Montrose, E/J's attracts a crowd from all over while keeping the charm of a local colorful hangout. You never have to wait for a cocktail, so drink up and enjoy the nightly entertainment on and off the stage. 2517 Ralph • 713/527-9071.

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



J.R.'S/SANTA FE
Where do you meet the boys? Right here! JR's boasts everything from pool tables to karaoke to table dancers, depending on the day of the week. 808/804 Pacific • 713/521-2519.

KEYS WEST
It's Cheers in Neartown. Must-see décor featuring a piano bar and guest entertainment, Tue.–Sat. 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 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. 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. 2306 Genesee • 713/521-0123.

MO MONG
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. 1201 Westheimer #B • 713/524-5664.

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

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









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

PACIFIC STREET
This two-story 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.

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. Outstanding light and laser shows add to the varied pumped-up music. 2401 San Jacinto • 713-759-9606.

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

611
You can wake up and go to this bar that opens at 7 am. 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
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.

Conroe

RANCH HILL SALOON
Just 30 miles north of Houston in Conroe, this spot features daily drink specials, live entertainment, & Wednesday karaoke night. 2111 Airport Rd. • 936/441-6426.

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. See some of the hottest male dancers around. 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." 315 Tremont (23rd) • 409/765-5805 • thekontiki.com.

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
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, jukebox & TV (Latin station) • 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 and grab some of that nice Gulf breeze. Two blocks from the Seawall. 2501 Ave O, corner of 25th • 409/765-9092.

Beaumont

THE COPA
This two-story hot dance club 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. ■





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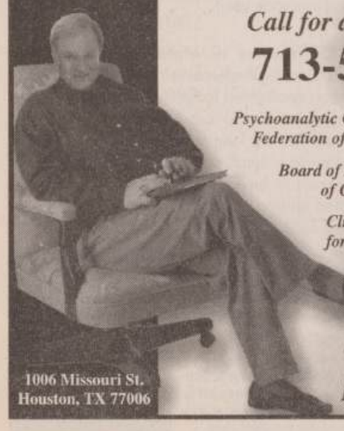
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SignOut

by Lilly Roddy

Lots of activity is going on as the month begins. Mercury finally goes direct on the 6th, and it will be time to start new activities by the 8th. However, Venus goes retrograde on the 10th, which doesn't give us much time to shift. Venus represents things and people that we value and love. During the retrograde time, we look back at what made us make the decisions to get involved or make that choice in the first place. Relationships that are in difficult times will be pushed to their edge. Others will just seek renewal in their existing relationships. Venus goes direct at the end of November. Fun days are the 1st, 16th, 17th, 18th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 28th, and 29th. Days to call in sick are the 3rd, 6th, 9th, 10th, 14th, and 31st.

ARIES (March 21–April 19). Relationships and shared resources are certainly on the menu for you this month. You will generally be more direct with people in your work and home environment. There may be a tendency for you to seek out challenges when none is offered. Some of you may just see getting to know someone better as an adventure. You will probably prefer the latter. Relationships on the rocks will certainly go through some tough times after the 16th. Work may be an easier place to be if they don't fence you in.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20). You may feel like you are doing that new dance, the Enron Two-Step. You are moving two steps forward and having to take three steps back and hide behind your partner. Your career choice is on slippery ground. You are confused, and for right now that is the best place you can be. You know for sure that you are not continuing on the path you were on with that "Bridge Out" sign ahead. Take this time to re-account for your choices. You may need to make more than just a subtle shift. And you are feeling more alone even if you are in a partnership. Look for new ways to assure your partner. She really needs it.

GEMINI (May 21–June 21). You will be happy with your ruling planet going direct on the 6th. Now you can stop backwards talking and track on back life your get. It is a good month to pay attention to your health. You will really want to go down Chocolate Lane and Coconut Circle to satisfy that sweet tooth. You are a bit edgy at the beginning of the month, but you lighten up by mid-month. Coworkers can be more difficult to deal with; their relationships overrun the workplace. Be careful that you don't become the mother confessor and get dragged down in the muck. This is a great time to shift your routines so that you are not bored.

CANCER (June 22–July 22). You are being dragged down to the depths of Hell this month. Oh, sorry, you are going to visit with your parents. That must have been a slip or projection or too much therapy. You are seeking emotional security by bonding with the internally projected images of your childhood–and throwing the projections of those same shadowy images onto the people around you. Get your home into shape. Work on those projects that you have been putting off. It will give you that inner security you have been seeking.

LEO (July 23–August 22). Gosh, you are the happy sunshine pixie this month, spreading your fairy dust of hope and good wishes everywhere you go. You just see endless possibilities–half-full glasses of water, pot with every chicken, and soon you will be channeling Shirley Temple. You are certainly in a good time. Opportunities are opening up everywhere. Continuing education, travel, and meeting the perfect life partner for the weekend are just around the corner. Be careful on buying new things for your home this month–you may regret the choice at the end of November.

Happy Birthday to Clive Barker.

Born October 5, 1952, the openly gay Barker is an author, artist, and producer. What does he have to say about Halloween and Hollywood? "In West Hollywood there's always an element of very bad taste, which is always welcome."



DAVID ARMSTRONG

VIRGO (August 23–September 22). Money and finances have you in a funk this month. You are really trying to get a handle on your life. You are feeling the pressure that all you have done and built up to amass this giant empire isn't making you feel the satisfaction and confidence that you thought it would. And worst, you are feeling that you are not being appreciated. I can see that bottom lip sticking out now. This can make you feel very withdrawn and drive your loved ones away. Try keeping that lip under control.

LIBRA (September 23–October 23). The sun enters your romantic sign this month, making you a magnet for all those who enter your realm of physical, mental, and spiritual fulfillment. You may be distracted by a nagging financial problem that you have successfully avoided in the past. Now is the month to get it out of the way. And then you will have plenty of time to plan the surprise party your friends are going to throw for you. You are certainly in a reflective time prior to your birthday with your ruling planet retrograde. You may feel a little nostalgic or even a bit melancholy. But by the end of the month, you will be ready to face your public once again.

SCORPIO (October 24–November 21). That lovely little temptress, Aphrodite, is running through your sign. She is magnetizing your personality and activating your sex drive. Of course, she will be going retrograde, so she will be dragging you through some dramas that you thought you had already seen before. And you have seen them before. Yes, remember that intense passionate lover who later became a stalker. Would it help if he brought flowers and candy? And relationships that are on their last breath you will pronounce dead. You are just making way for all the nominees that Venus is hypnotizing and bringing to your door. Oh, work, career . . . yes, that looks good.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22–December 21). You are certainly being social this month, and yet you are still trying to fulfill all those obligations at work. Only a Sag can burn a candle at all three ends and still think that she has one more end. You may appear to be aggressive to some, especially in the workplace. They just don't have any ova. By mid-month you will be winding it all down, needing some time for recuperation. And you did spend all of last month getting those piles of papers out of your office. So you have earned a rest.

CAPRICORN (December 22–January 19). The planets are moving through the career sector of your zodiac this month. This is the place where you like to shine and feel important and helpful to all the people in your universe. Old friends come to visit you from the past. Keep your schedule flexible so you can adapt. This can be a difficult month if someone tries to squash your individuality at work. You certainly won't stand for that. And very likely you will be squashing back. Frustration levels may reach their peak by the 11th. You will move your attention outside of work after the 24th. And then life will be a bowl of cherries.

AQUARIUS (January 20–February 18). A mixed bag of nuts is on hand for you this month. You are mentally restless. You are seeking but don't know what the destination looks like. You are tired and need to rest, but you cannot turn off your brain to get the rest you need. You are more visible than usual, and others may expect you to take a leadership role. And you aren't sure you want to make that commitment. Try to remember to be true to yourself, and you won't feel so fragmented. Otherwise, you will be reaching out and feeling overextended.

PISCES (February 19–March 20). Just a simple job of balancing the forces in the universe this month is what is spotlighted for you. Good and evil, light and dark, sweet and sour–take your pick. Or take them all. You are longing for a routine, something mundane to ground your existence. The smallest of tasks seem to have all the secrets of the cosmos bundled up into it. Some of you are hiding away waiting for it to pass. Others are swimming in the galaxy, drinking at the edge of the Milky Way. It's not due to leave the station till 2008. So you might as well learn to swim.



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

(continued from page 78)

services (continued)

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Out in Houston




1 The Montrose Softball League board was honored at the August 4 awards banquet: (front row, from l) **Jerome Banasic**, **Cindy Schafer**, (back row, from l) **Mike Harwell**, **Johnny Johnson**, **Roy Olachia**, and **Marc Garcia**.

2 **Chris Cox** (l) and **Barry Harris**, the remixing and production duo Thunderpuss, performed at South Beach on August 3.

3 On August 4, NLA: Houston presented a performance of *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* at Sonoma (now 1415 Grille) to raise funds for Camp Hope.

4 **Bruce Metsker** and **Dave Uthe** hosted their annual B&D Party on August 4.

5 Guests at the B&D Party.

6 Houston Black Tie Dinner co-chairs **Carlos Reyes Jr.** and **Chree Boydstun** greeted guests at the July 26 kick-off reception for the event, taking place on October 12 at the Hotel InterContinental.

7 In the November issue, *OutSmart* will reveal the results of The Big Switch, the decorating project sponsored by the magazine with Bassett Furniture Direct, Houston Public Television Channel 8, and the *Houston Chronicle*. On August 31, The Big Switch crew surprised the winners, **Patricia Wysinger** and **Jocelyn Wyatt**, at their homes. Celebrating after the announcement were (from l) Big Switch designer **Jennifer Loh**, **Wysinger**, **Ernie Manouse** of Channel 8, **Wyatt**, and Big Switch designer **Troy Broussard**. Look for the coverage in the magazine and on the "The Connection," hosted by Manouse, on November 2 and 3.

8 The Big Switch winners **Jocelyn Wyatt** (l) and **Patricia Wysinger**.

9 Bricks II manager **Mathew Pelletier** takes aim. *OutSmart* readers named Bricks II one of the top three spots for shooting pool in the Gayest & Greatest survey, which begins on page 38.

10 **Ed Moniger**, EJ's owner, gets a hug at the club from **Riano**. In the Gayest & Greatest survey, EJ's was named one of the top spots for ogling male dancers.

11 Islanders and travelers gather on the deck at the Hollywood, named Gayest and Greatest best accommodations in Galveston.

12 **Brooks Ballard** (c) hosted a reception for City Council's **Annise Parker** (l) and **Ada Edwards** on August 28.

13 Other guests at the reception included **Kathy Hubbard** (l), who is Parker's life partner, and Harris County Democratic Party chairwoman **Sue Schecter**.

14 Among the diners at the July 7 barbecue cookout hosted by STAG (Some Transgenders Are Guys) were (clockwise from l) **GreenWitch**, **Fatima Horbovetz**, and **Merlyn**. The cookout took place at the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center

15 **Ronnie Siefert** and **Stella Link** (also known as **Elmer Shehane**) celebrated at the August 28 Garden Party at Meteor.











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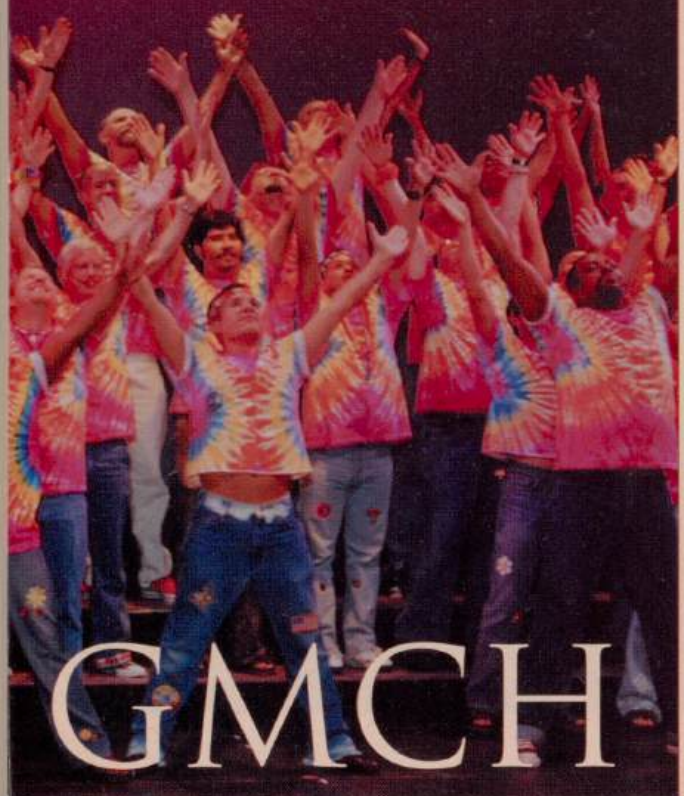
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