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NOVEMBER 2002 • COMPLIMENTARY

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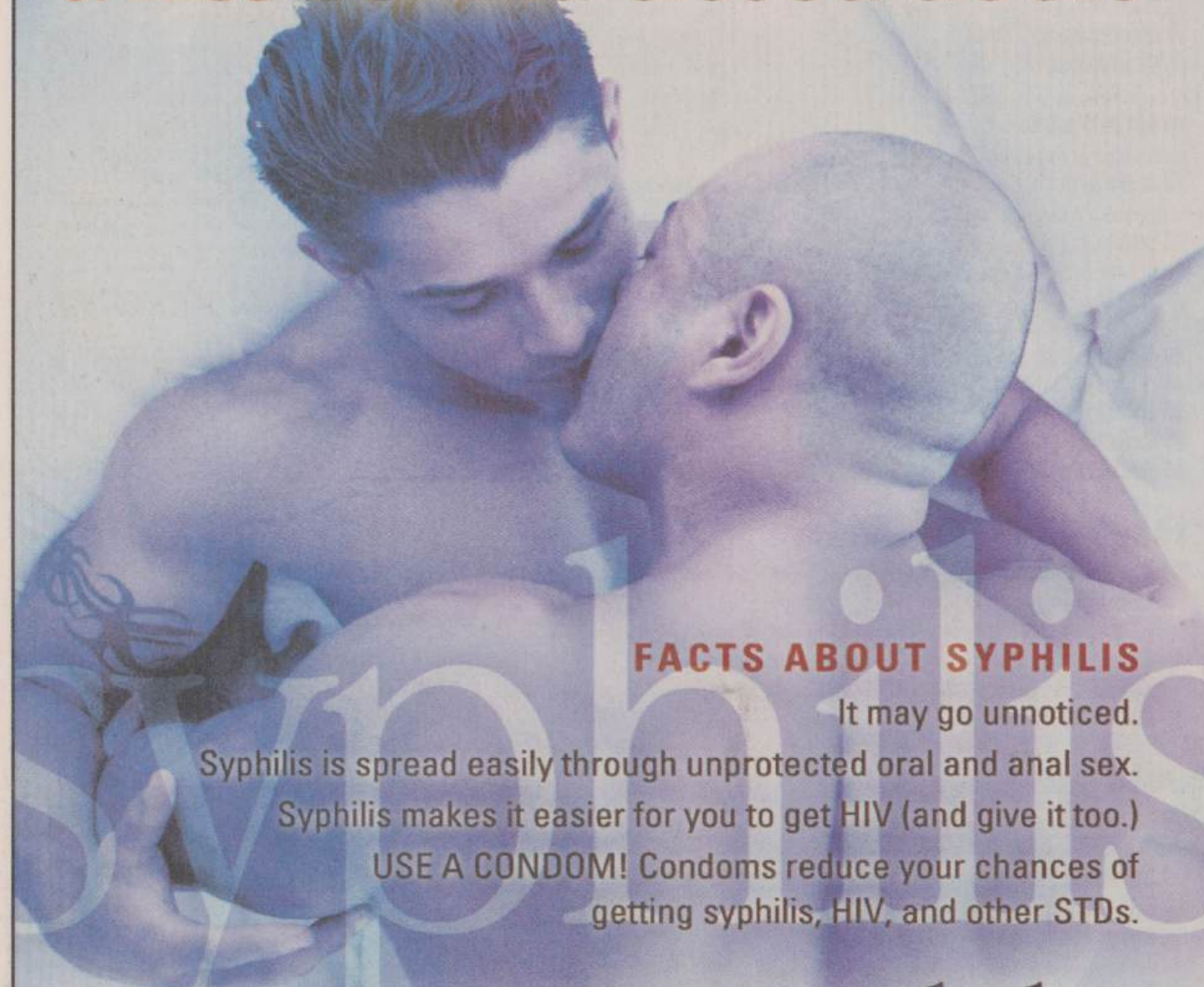
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About the cover:

Troy Broussard, one of the designers who made The Big Switch happen.
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OutSmart

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Letters

FAN MAIL

Thank you so much for the mention ["LookOut," October]. It is a great issue. All here at the faire loved the publicity.

Manny Gutierrez
Houston

Gutierrez is one of the many GLBT performers at the Texas Renaissance Festival, which continues through November 17.

I saw the information online and I loved the article ["Say It Loud," October]. I really want to thank you for your support.

Torelen Winbush
Houston

Winbush was publicity chairman for Blackexplo2002, the October 4-6 event presented by The Men's Gathering.

Great job with the Heather Juergensen article. ["Who Kisses Heather?" September]. I too just saw the movie [Kissing Jessica Stein] for the first time and loved it.

Andrea Schuster
Columbus, Ohio

CORRECTIONS

In our Gayest & Greatest coverage [October], we misspelled the names of interior decorator Mikel Reper and K. Griff Investigations owner Kathy Griffin. We listed incorrect contact information for real estate agent Bill Baldwin; a senior agent with Karen Derr & Associates, Baldwin can be reached at 281/850-6862.

In the October issue, we transposed captions for four of the "SceneOut" snapshots. Photos 2 and 3 show B&D Party hosts Bruce Metsker and Dave Uthe and some of their guests. Thunderpuss duo Chris Cox and Barry Harris, who performed at Rich's Houston, are in Photo 4. Photo 5 shows the cast of the NLA:Houston benefit production of *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* at 1415 Grille.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Music columnist Gregg Shapiro has a poem, "When Jesus Came to Skokie," in the new collection *Sweet Jesus: Poems About the Ultimate Icon* (Anthology Press), edited by Nick Carbo and Denise Duhamel.

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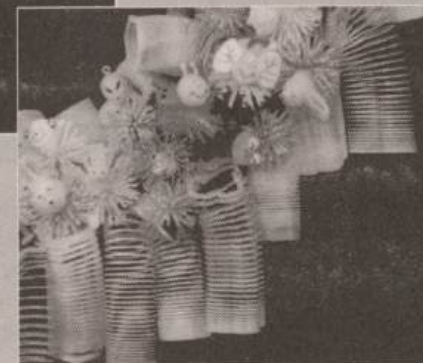
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FULL CIRCLE. The creator of "Slinky Porcupine," Ann McBride is one of 60 talents who have made one-of-a-kind holiday decorations for the November 23 DIFFA Wreath Collection event. Proceeds will benefit the local chapter

of Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS, which has returned \$2.7 million to service providers since 1987. Guests at the Decorative Center Houston silent auction (for more info: www.diffa.org/houston) can bid on wreaths that range from traditional to outlandish and fabulously gay.



DAVID LEWIS

SALUTE! Popularly known as EPAH, the Executive Profession Association of Houston snaps to attention on November 10 with the annual Military Ball. Proceeds from the event, at 1415 Bar & Grille, will benefit the local chapter of American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER). Guests should don military or tropical gear in keeping with the "South Pacific" theme. **Lauren Taylor**, Miss Gay USA 1999, will headline with her "Rum & Coca-Cola" show. EPAH community affairs co-chairs **Ernie Edge** and **Don Haulboldt** helm the Military Ball this year.

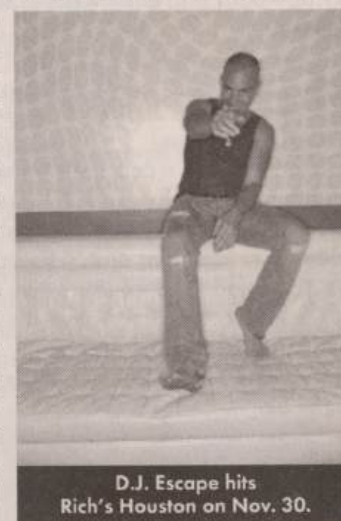
Speaking of veterans, the Human Rights Campaign will post personal stories from former GLBT military at www.hrc.org on Veterans Day, November 11. AVER and the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network partnered with HRC on this effort, "Documenting Courage: Veterans Speak Out." Of course, with Don't Ask, Don't Tell in force, active-duty personnel must still keep silent.

GOOD WORKS. Southwest Alternate Media Project (SWAMP), a stalwart supporter of the community, will mark 25

years of dedication to independent film with a November 1-3 tribute to co-founder and filmmaker **James Blue**. Organized by SWAMP executive director **Mary Lampe** with Rice University art department chair **Hamid Naficy**, the weekend at Rice Media Center will feature screenings of documentaries made by Blue (1930-1980), including *The March*, *Who Killed the Fourth Ward?*, and *Invisible City: The Houston Housing Crisis*. A Friday reception and silent auction will benefit SWAMP, which has worked with the Houston Lesbian & Gay Film Festival since its inception.

Unpack those togas. Roman Empire-inspired attire is required at Caligula 02, the November 9 bash at Mo Mong. **Dennis Beedon**, one of the organizers, explains that the long-term plan is to make this new theme event a fundraiser for community groups. DJ **Rick Taconi** will supply the music. For more information, call 713/410-5960.

PAWS Houston (Pets Are Wonderful Support), which has helped carry on the work of the late, great Pet Patrol, launches its holiday food drive on November 22 at Rover



D.J. Escape hits
Rich's Houston on Nov. 30.

RICHARD MITCHELL

WHAT'S IN STORE. Gay owned for 20 years, Basic Brothers marks two decades in business with celebrations this month. On Friday, November 22, low-key chief **Cody Holt** will host a 4-7 p.m. open house at the store. On Saturday, the clothier will throw a noon-5 p.m. parking-lot party, with hot dogs, beer, music, and go-go boys. Diva **Kelly Lauren** will perform during a by-invitation Saturday-night party at Rich's Houston, followed at midnight by a fashion show on the main stage. ■



Kelly Lauren performs on Nov. 23.

JEFFREY BRYAN

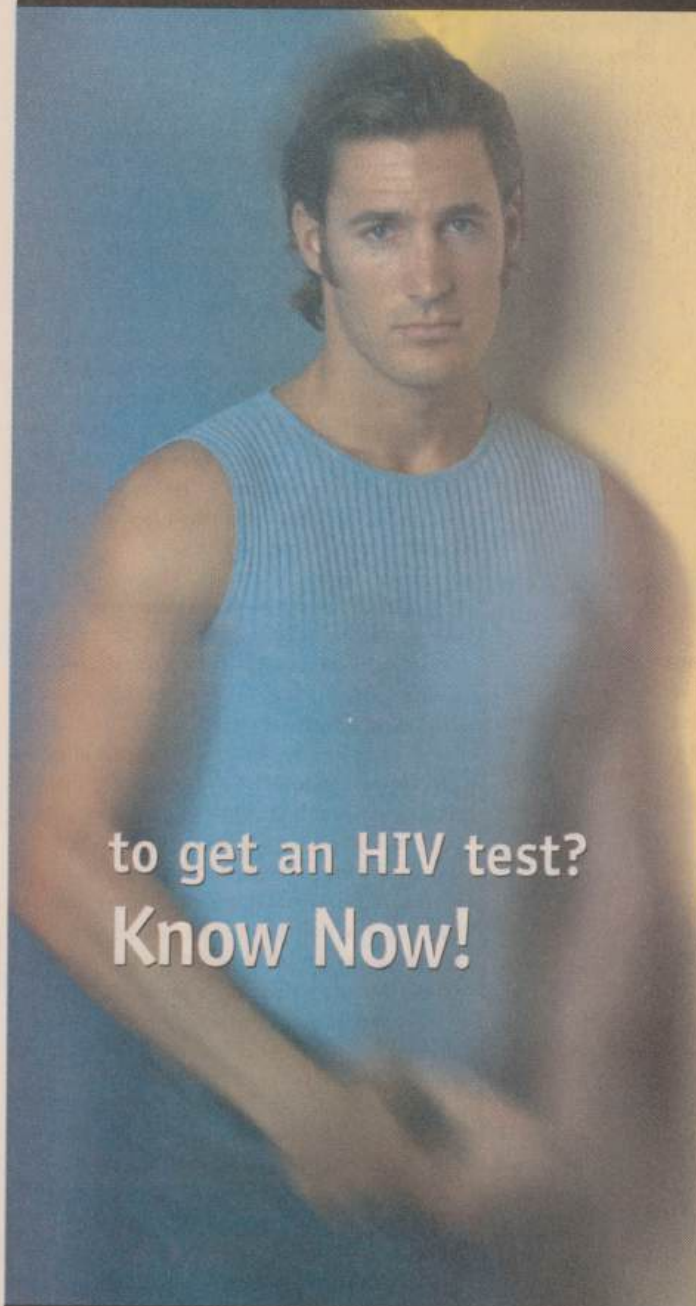
LookOut
by Tim Brookover

Oaks Pet Resort. On November 24, human and animal companions can support PAWS Houston by having snapshots taken with Santa at Three Dog Bakery. **Donna Dishman** and **Laura Welch** lead PAWS Houston.

FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD. For the fourth year, the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community will host a Thanksgiving potluck dinner at 803 Hawthorne. Noshing will begin about noon on Thursday, November 28, and continue until the food is gone. Cooks who want to contribute to the feast can alert center volunteer coordinator **Shawn McDermott** or fellow volunteer **GreenWitch** by calling 713/524-3818.

The over-indulgent among us can work off some holiday weight on November 30 at Rich's Houston, when **Jeff Jonas**, a.k.a. **D.J. Escape**, comes to town. Though nongay, the native New Yorker figures that 90 percent of the time he performs for gay crowds. In September, Jonas—who has worked with **Junior Vasquez** and **CeCe Peniston**—released his fourth DJ-mix disc, *Party Time 2003*.

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Catherine Deneuve (actress)

(The Advocate, 10/29/02, Alonso Duralde)

Re: her *amour fou* with bad girl Laurence Côté in *Thieves* (1996): "I was not sure that I would know how to be in love with a woman, because it's not only a sexual relationship, she is in love with that woman. But to be in love with a man or woman, it's the same thing; it has to do with giving and listening and being very open to someone, so it does not make much difference."

John Ritter (actor)

(Entertainment Weekly, 10/18/02)

Joking about who might play his parents on ABC's *8 Simple Rules for Dating My Teenage Daughter*: "I'm thinking Mary Tyler Moore and Carol Burnett as my lesbian moms."

Eddie Izzard (actor/comic)

(The Advocate, 10/29/02, Austin Bunn)

Austin Bunn: You're a heterosexual transvestite—what was it like to come out?

Eddie Izzard: ... When I was 23, I was in Islington [a London borough], and there was a transsexual help group there—the only one in the whole country. It was down the road half a mile. And I thought, *Well, this is karma*. So I went down there, and that helped me to come out. My whole big thing when I came out was that I had to go to the dentist, the doctor, the bank in makeup, and break conventions.

But if you're a straight transvestite, it's confusing. Why am I not bisexual? It seemed so much more logical. I've tried fantasizing about men, like Johnny Depp—God, that guy looks amazing—but I still don't want to sleep with him. So I'm a male lesbian.

Ethan Embry (actor)

(Out, 10/02, Jeffrey Epstein)

The actor, who has a penchant for sporting eye makeup ("It's fun; girls wear it, why can't I?") was asked by a straight male friend if he was gay. "I said, 'I'm not gay, but it's not like I wouldn't kiss you right now,'" Embry recalls. "He was like, 'Na-a-ah.' I said, 'You wouldn't give a f-k if you kissed me right now. C'mere.' I told him to close his eyes, and I totally f-ked him. Tongue and everything. After a minute he pushed me away. And I said, 'See, you were freaked out that you were going to like it, and you did.'"

Rebecca Romijn-Stamos (actress)

(The Advocate, 10/29/02)

Rebecca Romijn-Stamos is starring in the new thriller, *Femme Fatale*, where her passionate scenes with fellow supermodel Rie Rasmussen have set heart rates increasing. ...

The Advocate: Your character seduces both men and women. How does she approach them differently?

Rebecca Romijn-Stamos: She doesn't. She does whatever she has to do to get what she wants. She's a con artist.

While you were shooting this sexually daring movie role, your husband, John, was headlining that sexually daring musical, Cabaret. Are you guys the world's coolest couple or what?

No, we're just ... sexually daring.



SPIELBERG (seen here with Melissa Etheridge): no longer a boy scout?

Steven Spielberg

The Human Rights Campaign hosted its sixth annual national dinner in Washington, D.C., Sunday night. Oct. 13 Congressman Richard Gephardt, D-Mo., was the featured speaker. Melissa Etheridge presented Spielberg with his award.

Spielberg: ... For most of my life, I have been a passionate advocate of Scouting, and I served on the National Board for years until the Supreme Court Case of *Dave versus the Boy Scouts of America*, where I realized something that I had not been very aware of: that you could be black and white, Hispanic and Asian, Native American, Jewish, Catholic, Islamic—but you couldn't get into the scouts if you were gay.

I know it's tough just being a kid trying to find acceptance and trying to accept yourself. And kids who grow up gay, no matter what the circumstances they grow up in, the culture is constantly telling them that something is wrong with them, as they struggle to find out who they are. So I quit the Boy Scouts. I resigned my commission, which I know is one of the reasons that you're honoring me tonight.

On the one hand, I am honored and grateful to receive this award. ... On the other hand, it is a statement, I think, about our society when awards are given for something as basic as human rights. ... [O]bserving common humanity and decency should not be extraordinary. It should be an everyday occurrence, as natural as all the things we do without thinking. ...

I'd just like to say, quitting the Boy Scouts was probably one of the most painful experiences I've ever had to endure. But they are wrong and you are right. We are right and we have never been more right than we are right now, in this country and at this time. ...

I would so love to live in a world, as I currently do in the world of the arts, where the only currency is talent. ...

I am so proud to be here as an artist, and as a father and an American—always dreaming of the day when our future will echo all of these promises.

... I really feel that the changes are just out there. If I would sing, which I know you would all love me to do, I would be Richard Beymer, right now with that great song from *West Side Story*—"Something's Coming, Something Good." ...

Queer Quotes

Compiled by Blase DiStefano

Dennis Quaid

(The Advocate, 10/29/02, Alonso Duralde)

In *Far from Heaven*, Dennis Quaid plays a 1950s suburban husband tormented by his inability to control his homosexual longings.

Alonso Duralde: Did making the film change your point of view of gay people at all?

Dennis Quaid: No, not really, 'cause I've had gay friends throughout my life. In fact, when I was in high school, my two best friends were gay. I was the first straight person they came out of the closet to. I kind of went through it with them telling their parents and all that. This was back in the '60s in Texas, so it was really a shocking thing. One friend, his father threatened to kill him—an "I gave you life, I can take it away" sort of thing. And the other guy really struggled with being straight; in fact, he got married and had kids, his wife knowing that he was [gay]. He tried to be bisexual at one point in his life, and now he lives with his lover, and he's still very much a devoted father and everything. But he worked it out.



QUAID (seen here in 1982's *Tough Enough*): his best friends were gay?



(The Advocate, 10/29/02, Alonso Duralde)

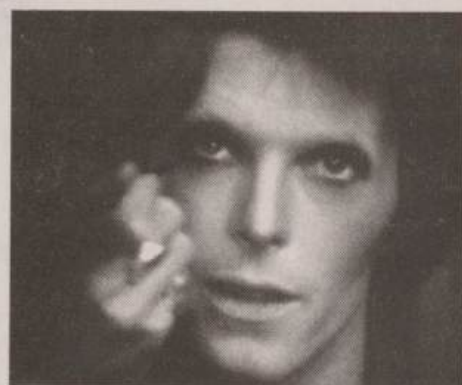
"My acting teacher used to say, 'Gosh, you walk like a truck driver,'" says Hennessy, who, like her TV heroine [in NBC's *Crossing Jordan*], was raised by her single father. "I guess I just learned that by being with my dad. I feel like the perception of what feminine is in this culture is so narrow," says the star. "That's why I was really happy to play a character who's not overly feminized. You know, somebody who could be misinterpreted. People might think, *Well, what the heck's up with her?* Is she gay, straight—does she have issues? I like to keep them thinking."

ZIGGY RETURNS

The film version of David Bowie's gender-bending creation turns 30

Ziggy Stardust is back! David Bowie's androgynous persona first arrived in the summer of 1972, the year the Watergate burglars were arrested, DDT was banned, *Ms.* magazine debuted, the word *psychedelic* was in common use, and The Moody Blues' *Tuesday Afternoon* was in regular rotation in the fledgling FM world. It would be another year before the American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality from its list of mental disorders and three years before CBGB's in New York began catering to the punk scene.

Bowie's *Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars* might as well have been from ... well, Mars. Bowie's touring transvestite extravaganza featured what would become musical touchstones for a generation: "Hang Onto Yourself," "Rock n Roll Suicide," and "Suffragette City." In one magical tour, Bowie legitimized gender bending, gave birth to glam rock, and achieved rock superstardom. Filmmaker D. A. Pennebaker captured the final date of the tour on celluloid. Better known for *Don't Look Back*, his 1967 documentary of Bob Dylan's England concert tour, Pennebaker shot both films using hand-held cameras, long before the stead-



USED WITH PERMISSION OF MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, HOUSTON

icam appeared. While Pennebaker filmed *Don't Look Back* in well-lit hotel rooms and limos, he lensed *Ziggy Stardust* almost entirely from the concert floor with only ambient light.

Pennebaker's record of Bowie's iconoclastic Ziggy/Lady Stardust spent the years between 1972 and 1983 in search of a distributor. Initially premiered in 1983 on ABC's late-night rock-and-roll program, the film saw limited theatrical release that same year. Critical reaction to the film was generally negative, and it does compare poorly to the 1973 *Woodstock* and 1978 *The Last Waltz*, the twin benchmarks of

concert film. Now re-released on the 30-year anniversary of the Ziggy Stardust tour, Pennebaker's original has been "remastered." The sound is better; the visuals are not. *Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars* is an out-of-focus, shadow-filled, jumpy mess of a movie. If Pennebaker intended to portray the experience of a concert through the haze of large quantities of drugs and alcohol, the film is a smashing success. Unfortunately, it is in fact a poor-quality documentary of a phenomenal artist at the beginning of a long career.

By the time *Ziggy Stardust* was in wide release, Bowie had exchanged his flowing silks and thigh-high boots for pressed linen and Ferragamos, becoming the Thin White Duke. Today he is reinventing the Internet as artistic forum. This month, we can look back almost to the beginning—out of focus and dim, as I suppose the distant past should be. —John Stiles

As part of the Revivals film series, the Museum of Fine Arts will screen *Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars* in Brown Auditorium on November 1, 8, 9, 29, and 30. Check out www.mfah.org for details.



LAN YU: mismatched men.↑ THE WIZARD OF OZ: It's back!↑ FRIDA: The painter comes to life.↑ THE BUSINESS OF FANCY DANCING: divergent paths.↑

LAN YU

From an erotic short story posted anonymously on the Internet, director Stanley Kwan has fashioned *Lan Yu*, a moving, arousing drama centered on the mismatched love affair between an older businessman and a gay college student set against the Tiananmen Square uprising. These two men meet one night in a pool hall and each are transformed by what turns out to be a life-changing sexual encounter. *Lan Yu* plays November 15-21 at Angelika Film Center, 713/225-5232. —Kristian Z. Salinas

THE WIZARD OF OZ

Follow the yellow-brick road again with the return of one of Hollywood's most cherished films, featuring Judy Garland as Dorothy. Lushly photographed in profound three-strip Technicolor, this 1939 classic remains an entertaining fairy tale for young and old. *The Wizard of Oz* plays November 22-28 at Angelika Film Center, 713/225-5232. —KZS

FRIDA

Julie Taymor, director of *Titus* and the stage version of *The Lion King*, finally brings to the screen the life of Mexican painter Frida Kahlo. Salma Hayek (pictured above with Ashley Judd) assumes the role once coveted by Madonna. Alfred Molina portrays Diego Rivera. Advance word hints that *Frida* will address Kahlo's romantic liaisons with women. Starts November 1 at Landmark's Greenway Theater, 713/626-0402. —Tim Brookover

THE BUSINESS OF FANCY DANCING

Sherman Alexie, the award-winning director of *Smoke Signals*, returns to the richly textured world of the American Indian reservation. Sixteen years after high school graduation, Aristotle Joseph and Seymour Polatkin (one now a gay poet) reunite and face their divergent paths in life. *The Business of Fancy Dancing*, which in July received the outstanding screenplay award at Outfest, plays November 22-28 at Angelika Film Center, 713/225-5232. —KZS

FRIDA: PETER BOREL; WIZARD: MOM. ALL OTHERS USED WITH PERMISSION OF ANGELIKA FILM CENTER

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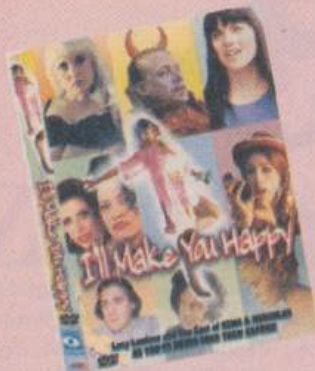
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I'LL MAKE YOU HAPPY

The camera, focused on a pair of hands putting on a pair of stockings, pans to the person's underwear. The bulge indicates a bit of transvestism on the part of the wearer. The opening scene of *I'll Make You Happy* proceeds with Siggy (Jodie Rimmer)—the prostitute the wearer has just boinked—shown stealing some dough from his wallet while he continues to dress. Her expression shows the boredom she feels with her life. • Then there's Siggy's agoraphobic roommate Lester (Carl Bland) whose first appearance in the film is in a botched suicide attempt. He's HIV-positive and considers it a death sentence, unwilling to venture out of the apartment he shares with Siggy. His dream of escaping to a mountaintop in Tibet is not lost on Siggy, who promises to get him there. "I'll make you happy," she tells him. It's fun to watch her trying to make his dream become a reality. • There's a "special appearance" by Lucy Lawless (*Xena, Warrior Princess*), who utters a couple of lines of dialogue and gives a "what a creep" look to a guy whose pickup lines have been heard a million times before. • The production values aren't the best, and a little more editing might have hurried the story along; however, *I'll Make You Happy* shouldn't arouse any suicidal thoughts. Actually, it should make you happy. • Available November 27 on VHS and DVD from Ariztial Entertainment. —Blase DiStefano

"LIFE IS A BANQUET"

Auntie Mame and her philosophy lead this month's smorgasbord of movies

Your 21st-century survival kit probably already has a bombproof vest, a couple of kegs of Ozarka, and an antidote to all of Saddam Hussein's pet viruses. Let me recommend that you also include the new DVD release of 1959's top movie moneymaker, *Auntie Mame*, one of the funniest movies ever made. You might also want to include a DVD player and a power source.

Patrick Dennis's *Auntie Mame* gave Rosalind Russell the greatest role of her career, both on stage and in this film version.

It's not exactly a gay movie, but somehow it's one of



the gayest (read: campiest) movies ever made, with classic lines like "Please dahling, your Auntie Mame is hung"! My own favorite line is delivered by the brilliant Joanna Barnes, who, as snotty Gloria Upson, asks, "What's wrong with Muriel Puce?" (You have to hear it in context.) *Auntie Mame*, like some of the classic "screwball" comedies of the '30s, never ages; it just gets better every time you see it.

DVD extras include the original *Auntie Mame* trailer and (masochists, take note) the trailer for Lucille Ball's wretched 1974 movie version of *Mame* the Broadway musical. (To those with more than a passing interest in the "history" of *Auntie Mame*, I suggest trying to find *Uncle Mame*, Eric Myers' superb biography of Everett [Pat] Tanner III [aka Patrick Dennis], whose contribution to camp and general outrageousness extended far beyond his semi-fictional auntie.) From Warner Home Video. —Jack Varsi

HAIRSPRAY

With his 1988 screen comedy *Hairspray*, director John Waters gave Ricki Lake her film debut, Divine a final role (before her death the next year), and star turns to Debbie Harry, Sonny Bono, Pia Zadora, and Waters vet Mink Stole. Fourteen years later, his tale of dancing teens and integration inspired the current Broadway hit with Harvey Fierstein, cross-dressing for the Divine role of Edna Turnblad. Truly, few films have such queer credentials.

This month, New Line Home Entertainment at last releases *Hairspray*, the movie, on its own single DVD. In addition to the wide-screen version of the flick, the disc includes audio commentary by Waters and Lake, the original theatrical trailer, cast and crew filmographies, and English subtitles.



The indelible image of Divine in tatty housedress and flip-flop slippers, ironing, still ranks as a marvelously camp moment. ("For all those people who always thought I was nothing more than a drag queen, wait until they see what I agreed to look like in *Hairspray*," Divine said upon the film's release. "Drag queens are supposed to be hung up on glamour. Not one person on the set recognized me or even noticed me, because I looked like half the women in Baltimore.") Waters has a cameo as a demented aversion-therapy shrink. (Bonus factoid: In 1964, the writer/director used an 8mm camera, a 17th-birthday gift from his grandmother, to make his first film, *Hag in a Black Leather Jacket*.) Available November 5 on DVD (\$19.98) from New Line Home Entertainment (www.newline.com). —Tim Brookover

THE IRON LADIES



Mon: My father hated me. He called me a "faggot." ... There will never be a day that I will ever love that man.

Pia: You don't have to love him, but you don't have to hate him either, Mon. Hatred only leads to suffering.

Wise words from one of many transgender players on a very unusual volleyball team, *The Iron Ladies*. This true story of a group of jocks (yes, I use the term loosely) and their lesbian coach is a riot. A little preachy? Yea. A little cliché-ridden? Yea. A little stereotypical? Yea, but what fun it is to watch the faggots win at sports! Watch the catfights! Watch the sissies get rough! Watch makeup save the day! • Winner of the audience award at both the San Francisco and New York lesbian and gay film festivals, *The Iron Ladies* is available on DVD (\$29.99) and VHS (\$59.99) from Strand Releasing. —BD ■

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Recent Releases



Tracy Chapman
Let It Rain

Tracy Chapman emerged in 1988 as an unlikely star. Making no concessions to fashion or femininity, this dreadlocked folk-based singer-songwriter has always had a striking originality. She hardly says a word about herself in any direction, but she has made no effort to hide her relationships with women. Chapman's rich vocals and simple instrument backing may not match the common perception of black music, but her fans will welcome the collection of calming folk sounds and subtle lyrics on this new CD. This brand-new effort exemplifies her gentle, passionate voice and simple lyrics. The music is lilting. From Elektra Records (www.elektra.com).

—Andrea Rodricks



India.arie
Little Things

Soul singer-songwriter India.arie has a natural talent, one that is apparent in her amazingly expressive vocals. Her music is a unique combination of folk, modern pop, and soul. Her second release, aptly named *Voyage to India*, follows the platinum success of her first CD by speaking across all genres. The warmth and strength in India.arie's vocals and songwriting is undeniable. She also recognizes the importance of inner strength and determination, especially for those living with HIV/AIDS—this year, she headed up the annual AIDS Walk in New Jersey. From Motown Records (www.motown.com). For more info: www.flylifemusic.com or www.indiaarie.com.

—AR



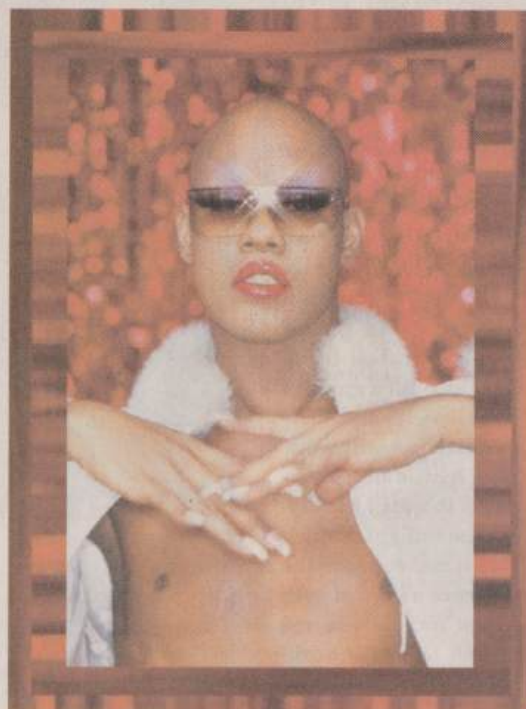
Original Broadway Cast Recording
Movin' Out

Through the choreography and direction of Twyla Tharp and the songs and piano pieces of Billy Joel, the new musical *Movin' Out* tells the story of best friends whose lives are forever changed, along with the world, in two turbulent decades of the 20th century. The score draws heavily on such milestone Joel albums as *The Stranger* and *An Innocent Man*. The hits "Just the Way You Are," "We Didn't Start the Fire," "Big Shot," and "Uptown Girl" are just a few of the songs woven into the story. Joel's songs also inspired characters in *Movin' Out*. From Sony Classical Music (www.sonyclassical.com). At press time, *Movin' Out* was to be featured on www.movinoutcastmusic.com on Sony Classical's website. —Troy Carrington →

GrooveOut

by Gregg Shapiro

KING OF QUEENS



Dance-music diva Kevin Aviance never fits the mold

Here is my favorite Kevin Aviance story: A few years ago, when I co-hosted the Friday night queer music show on LesBiGay Radio, I interviewed Aviance, whose album *Box of Chocolates* had just been released (he performs at Rich's Houston on November 9). The interview, which was done via telephone, live on the show, went off without a hitch, and my co-host, a lesbian with a bit of a Southern drawl, also asked him some good and pointed questions. As we were thanking him for being our guest on the show and saying goodbye to him, he thanked us in return, and then added, as his parting shot, "Stay cunt." This quip, of course, was in reference to his notorious dance-club hit. I think my co-host misunderstood, and said that she would do as he suggested. I turned to her, with our mics still on, and said, "Dear, I don't think he said, 'Stay country.'"

Gregg Shapiro: Yours is the first voice people hear in both the movie and on the soundtrack to the movie *Circuit*. How did it feel to be associated with both of those projects?

Kevin Aviance: To be honest with you, I didn't know the intensity of that project at all,

because I had just signed with the label. They got the project right when I was signing to the label. When they were trying to find songs for the album, they said, "Do you want to do this intro for us?" I said I would do the intro and I went in and it was so much fun doing it, because I got to be me. It took me back to when I was doing bitch tracks. I live for that whole "read-y," that attitude, and all that. I don't get to do that much anymore.

On the subject of movies, have you done any acting work since *Flawless* and *Punks*?

I have a new movie coming out on DVD this month called *Urban Massacre*. It's with all these up-and-coming hip-hop artists. I play a transgendered psychic Jamaican named Miss Leo. I get killed in it.

Oh, no!

Some people might like it actually [laughs]. **You recently had a number-one dance single on the Billboard charts with the song "Alive," which you co-wrote with Tony Moran and others. How did it feel to have yet another number-one dance single?**

Blessed. At the time, I was going through some bad times with my last record label. For this song to come out of nowhere and for this whole group of people to cultivate this record and then 9/11 happened, I guess it's my

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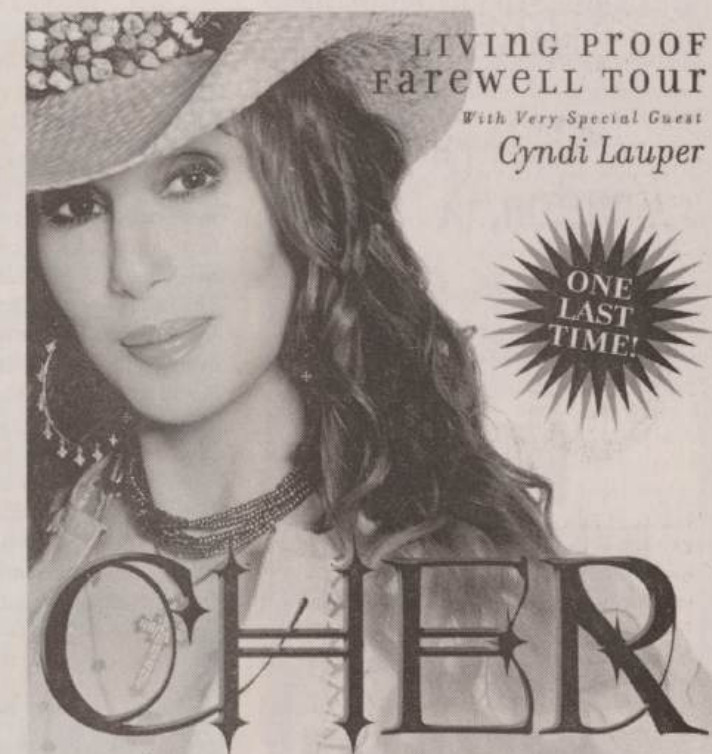
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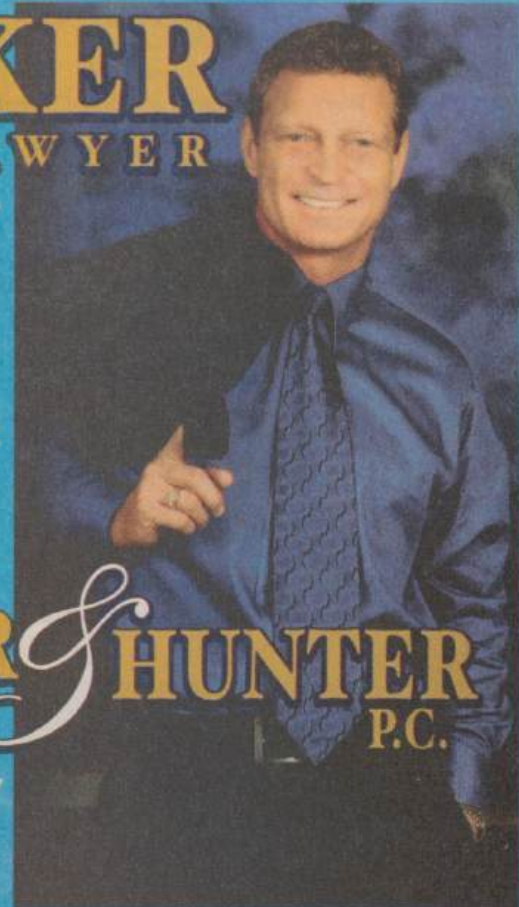
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message for the world.

I'm glad that you mentioned the new label, because you are currently working with Centaur Music and their Emerge label. Do you feel like you have a good working relationship with the folks at Centaur?

I feel like they can hit my market. The fact of the matter is that my audience is predominantly gay. A lot of times it was hard for them [previous label] to get the songs and the records unless they heard them in the stores and stuff.

The previous label had no idea how to market it?

They were basically a house label, and they really didn't have a gay direction. When you're someone like me, you need to penetrate the audience. That's what Centaur did. They penetrated the audience and got my audience the music. The fact is that I can work for the rest of my life because my gay audience loves me. That's more than what most artists have, so I need to embrace that and enjoy that.

You have a new CD, called *Entity*, which is scheduled for release early next year. What can you tell me about it?

With this album, I'm really taking a lot from our lifestyle as gay men, not trying to fit into a mold to where it goes pop. I have a story to tell. I've lost a lot of friends, and I've been through a lot of drama. I've also had a lot of fun. We lead glamorous lives. We're kings. That's what music is for—to make it into a universal language for everyone to understand.

How do you feel about the demise of Wigstock?

I don't think it should have ended. I really think they should have found a way to keep it. A lot of girls depended on that show to book themselves for the rest of the year. I think they could have maybe made it smaller, made it more of a closed-in event. It is a New York staple. There's always a new queen and a new promoter and a new act and a new something. That's the beautiful thing about it. It might take two or three years or 10 years, but there's always going to be another queen waiting to give it to the kids to allow them to perform again. The girls will never stop working here, honey.

Pop culture journalist Gregg Shapiro is also a published fiction writer and poet.

Recent Releases continued from page 16



Keely Smith

Keely Smith Swings Basie-Style... With Strings
Amid rumors that the swing revival is dead, buried, and forgotten, swing icon Keely Smith continues her own resurgence with *Keely Smith Swings Basie-Style... With Strings*. This 16-song tribute serves as an homage to the legendary bandleader Count Basie—which must be why Smith chose to include swing versions of, uh, Marvin Gaye's "How Sweet It Is (To Be Loved by You)" and Frankie Valli's "Can't Take My Eyes Off You." Seriously, Smith, blessed with one of the most distinctive vocal styles of all time, could probably swing *The Tibetan Book of the Dead* if she chose. On her new set, she mostly sticks to traditional standards like "April in Paris," "Happiness Is a Thing Called Joe," and "How High the Moon." If your brain cells haven't been fried by all the Celines and Marias running amuck through recent "pop" music, you'll welcome this collection of jazzy swing. One listen and you will understand why Keely Smith and former husband Louis Prima were once considered the undisputed king and queen of Las Vegas. From Concord Records (www.concordrecords.com).

—Jack Varsi

Christine Andreas

Here's to the Ladies
PS Classics, the label that celebrates the heritage of Broadway and American popular song, has released *Here's to the Ladies*, the new solo CD

from two-time Tony Award-nominee Christine Andreas. *Here's to the Ladies* is the star's deeply personal tribute to the famed leading dames of Broadway. From Mary Martin ("I'm Flying," "My Heart Belongs to Daddy") to Ethel Merman ("Some People," "They Say It's Wonderful") and from Gertrude Lawrence ("My Ship," "Shall We Dance?") to Barbara Cook ("Will He Like Me?"), *Here's to the Ladies* celebrates the legends of the stage and the songs they introduced. PS Classics is distributed by Image Entertainment. More info: www.psclassics.com. —TC



Ricky Ian Gordon

Only Heaven
Only Heaven blends the worlds of literature, musical theater, opera, and art song into a lyrical work that is at once joyous, poignant, and spiritual. This show joins the music of Ricky Ian Gordon and the poetry of Harlem Renaissance legend Langston Hughes. *Only Heaven* has been performed at Saint Ann's Church in Brooklyn and at the Connolly Theatre in Manhattan, but this world premiere recording draws on live performances recently staged by the Muse Machine in a new edition prepared by the composer featuring performers from Broadway and opera. From PS Classics (www.psclassics.com). —TC



Supreme Beings of Leisure
Divine Operating System
The Supreme Beings of Leisure (SBL) created a new sound. Even after the departure of two band members, Geri Soriano-Lightwood and Ramin Sakurai kept the SBL moniker and remain hardcore, high-tech music-makers. The band's sultry, trippy rhythm with cutting-edge computer electronics and distinctive vocals creates a unique sound. The music incorporates a diverse array of influences with dramatically varying styles. *Divine Operating System* highlights Soriano-Lightwood's smooth, soulful vocals, a lush sound that is an SBL trademark. The self-produced album features contributions from a myriad of outside sources. From Palm Pictures (www.palmpictures.com). More info: www.sbleisure.com. —AR

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INXS

The Best of INXS
In this tribute, INXS is back with their greatest music ever, along with newly re-mastered audios, detailed liner notes featuring archival photos, and previously unreleased bonus tracks. The music is a mixture of hard rock, dance, new wave, and pop grooves that capture the sheer vitality of the band's live performances. The album also includes "Original Sin," a song about interracial love that was banned by many radio stations. INXS infiltrated dance floors from coast to coast with three other reissued danceable rock albums, *Kick*, *X*, and *Welcome to Wherever You Are*, all legends in their own time. Jon Stevens fills in for former lead singer Michael Hutchence, found dead of an apparent suicide in November 1997. From Rhino Records (www.rhino.com) —AR



DJ Dan

Round Trip
Round Trip underlines DJ Dan's position as a trailblazer in the West Coast house scene (in May 2002, the *Los Angeles Times* named him number-one DJ). On this double-disc set, he takes it to the next level into the realm of sophisticated sound design by incorporating detailed sound effects into his mix. The theme of these effects is travel, thus the title. *Round Trip* takes a modern turn with dark and funky cuts like Jay-J and Chris Lum's "Freaks Like Us," and includes a slew of unreleased treasures such as Banji Boy's "Drama," John H and Rascal's "Afro Revenge," Full Tilt's "High Drama," and Angel Alanis' "Bitches and Drum Machines." From Kinetic Records (www.kineticrecords.com). —TC

Out in the Arts

by D.L. Groover



Isn't It Rich?: Paul Hope starred in *A Little Night Music* at Ovation's with (above) Hilary Fields and (inset) Heather Scheffel.

WE TOLD YOU SO. If you missed any of the three Bayou City Concert Musicals benefit performances of *A Little Night Music*, you will get another chance on January 27 when this thoroughly satisfying concert staging is remounted at Hobby Center. **Stephen Sondheim's** most pleasant and winsome musical comedy waltzed to life in September through incandescent performers, a stirring chamber music ensemble under **Kim Hupp**, and suitably understated direction by BCCM artistic director **Paul Hope** and **David Thome**. Sondheim's patented jaundiced view of love and marriage, softened through beguiling dance rhythms and the source material (**Ingmar Bergman's** nostalgic tintype of a movie, *Smiles of a Summer Night*) was well-nigh perfectly enacted by the assembled cast as they summoned all the wit, hurt, and irony so abundant in this adult musical. I mention the following actors not to exclude the exemplary others, but for their revelatory ways with this classic theater piece: **Deborah Hope's** mordantly comic Countess, **Alex Stutler's** blustery, macho Count, **Hilary Fields's** seductive Desiree, **Melanie Donihoo's** earthy Petra, Paul Hope's befuddled Fredrik, and **Sylvia Froman's** wise and canny Madame Armfeldt. Now in its third year, BCCM gets better each outing, if that is possible. With sellouts at Ovation's and reservations flooding in for the January encore performance, the company has exceeded the goal for its beneficiary, The Center for AIDS: Hope & Remembrance Project, as well as showcasing the best of Houston's musical theater talent. BCCM makes us smile. Sondheim should be smiling, too.

GREEK ACTIVE. Have we become so jaded that incest, suicide, disembowelment, and on-stage masturbation fail to titillate or even shock? In *Phaedra's Love*, her 1996 retelling of the Greek myth of Phaedra's lust

for her stepson Hippolytus, English playwright **Sarah Kane**, whose own personal Furies hounded her to early death at age 28, tried awfully hard to evoke ancient drama's verities of pity and horror. But ultimately, she rendered this most dysfunctional of royal families numbingly normal. The glacial direction of **Infernal Bridegroom Productions** artistic director **Jason Nodler** didn't help (he took the phrase *Grecian frieze* literally), while Kane's interpretation of Hippolytus as a bloated, sex-obsessed couch potato, who couldn't care less when stepmom services him, completely removed him from our compassion and involvement. Obviously,

Miss Kane wanted to shock more than enlighten, and Hippolytus' noble redemption rings hollow, like a cheap repro. Within **Kirk Markley's** resplendent neo-Attic cubed set, **Tamarie Cooper**, a besotted Phaedra, reigned with dignity and imbued needed life into this exercise in mythic excess, but she disappeared too quickly, dying off stage, leaving a gap in the play through which you could drive the Trojan horse. The only time the play caught fire was Phaedra's cremation. As her enshrouded body burst into roaring flame ready to engulf the tiny Axiom, terror was indeed invoked as I anxiously looked over my shoulder to see if HFD was near.

GREEK PASSIVE. The ancient world is getting a cinematic makeover not seen on screen since the golden days of **Cecil B. DeMille**. No less than three pictures are in the works for 2003 release. If you love sword-and-sandal flicks, or you are just a sucker for men in tunics, keep an eye on these. First out of the shoot is *Alexander the Great*, starring skinny little **Leonardo DiCaprio** as

the mighty Macedonian world conqueror. Alexander had only a handful of female conquests (mostly formal political marriages), but he saved the best of himself for his boyhood friend Hephaestion, who became the highest-ranking general of the great one's cavalry. The dynamic duo was a constant pair throughout the brief years of conquest, and Alexander died of grief eight months after his beloved died of typhus. One ancient Cynic philosopher was quoted thus: "Alexander was only defeated once, and that was by Hephaestion's thighs." But do you actually think the screaming pubescent fans will stand for pouty Leo lip-locking some actor? Nor do we have any hopes for *Troy*, **Wolfgang Petersen's** multi-gazillion dollar account of the *Iliad*, or *Fight Club Goes Greek*, starring **Brad Pitt** as Achilles and **Eric Bana** (*Black Hawk Down*) as Hector, prince of Troy. Hector killed Achilles' beloved Patrocles, which brought an enraged Achilles into the front ranks. He then slaughtered

Hector and turned the tide of the 10-year war to the Greek's advantage. But do you think newlywed **Jennifer Aniston** is going to allow hubby Pitt to passionately embrace a man onscreen or that the Hollywood suits and accountants will condone queer love in such a mainstream film? And then there's *Hannibal*, with **Vin Diesel** (yikes!) as the Carthaginian general who surprised Rome with his army of elephants. With biceps as big as pachyderms, he's a natural for this big lug of a warrior prince. He'll be fine, as long as he doesn't have to act.



Family Business: Tamarie Cooper (l) and Troy Schulze starred in *Infernal Bridegroom Productions' Phaedra's Love*.

NOVEMBER'S FINEST. Don't forget these: **Fruit Cocktail**, Theatre New West, Nov. 8-Dec. 28

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Dyke Action Machine, DiverseWorks, Nov. 1-Dec. 14

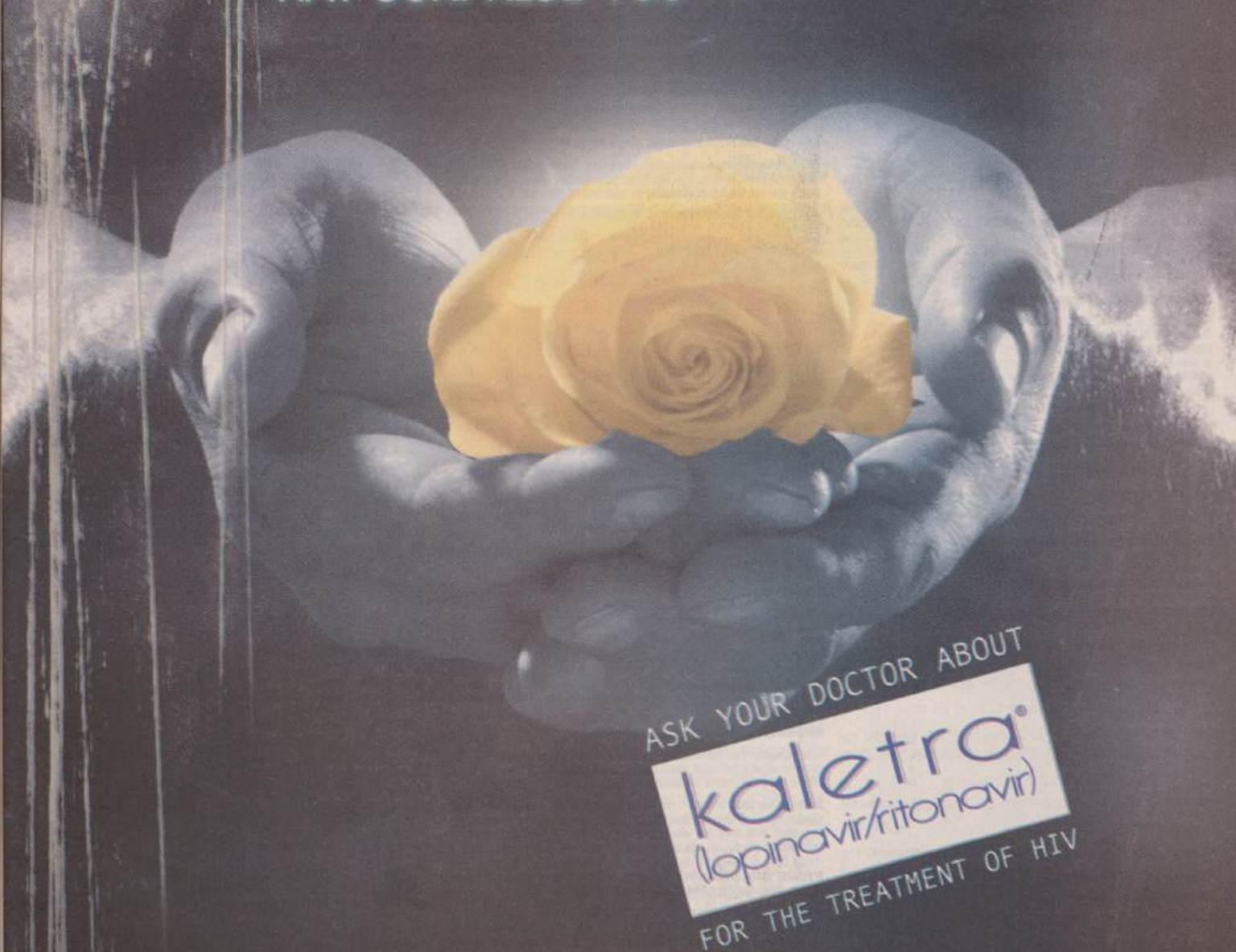
Ariodante, Houston Grand Opera, Nov. 1-17

Frame 312, Alley Theatre, through Nov. 24

The Drawer Boy, Stages Repertory Theatre, through Nov. 10

Sabrina Fair, Country Playhouse, Nov. 15-Dec. 7. ■

WHAT KALETRA HAS TO OFFER MAY SURPRISE YOU



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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

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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.

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May 2002

Printed in USA

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 methylethyl-ergonovine 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 anti-retroviral 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.

General advice about prescription medicines:

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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Ref.: 03-5177-R6

Revised: January, 2002

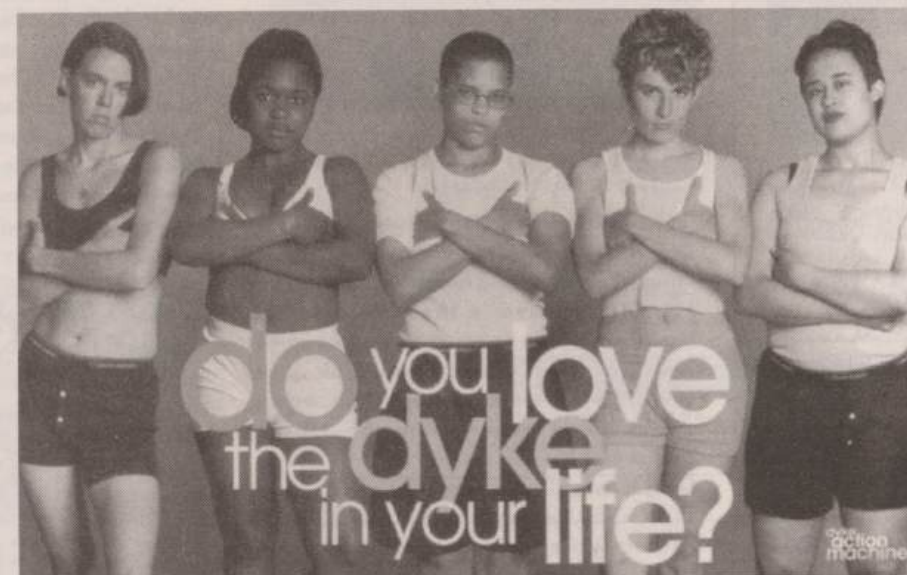
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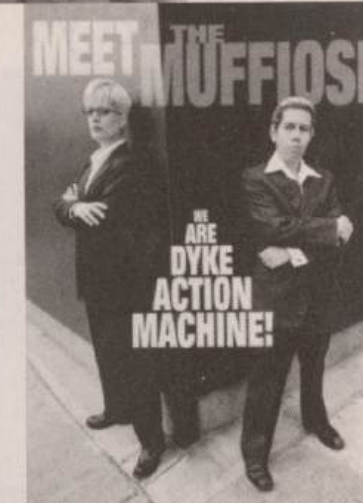
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(DAM!) DYKE ACTION MACHINE!

Oh DAM! 10 Years of Dyke Action Machine!



Founded by Carrie Moyer and Sue Schaffner in 1991, Dyke Action Machine! (DAM!) is a public art collaboration which critiques mainstream culture by inserting lesbian images into a recognizably commercial context. For the past 10 years, the work of this infamous duo has been a seamless part of New York City's visual environment—orchestrating massive poster campaigns that serve as a counter-narrative to mainstream outdoor advertising. *Oh DAM!* brings together a decade of work by Dyke Action Machine! and presents us with a visual timeline of some of the most hotly debated cultural issues of the late 20th century. November 1–December 14 at DiverseWorks (713/223-8346).



MAD ABOUT THE BOY

In drag-king persona Randy ManDragon, Kat Zemanek (c), and back-up duo Glitterblue (Stacy Lewis, l) and Tes Joujoux (Gretchen Dube, r) will travel to Austin on November 16 to perform in a show presented by Kings N Things, the drag-king troupe in the capital city (www.kingsnthings.com). The show, at the Elysium nightclub, will bring visibility in Texas to a burgeoning performance form



with roots in the New York club-and-theater scene of the '80s. Often dressed in hyper-guy garb, drag kings blur the line between what's considered masculine and feminine—and provide a gay old time. Increasing the gender bending, Zemanek, as ManDragon dressed in '40s-era hipster guy drag, will perform to a track by RuPaul, a man in glamour-queen drag. —TB

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ReadOut

by Gregg Shapiro

TO BE JEWISH AND QUEER

A new anthology addresses the intersection of the two identities

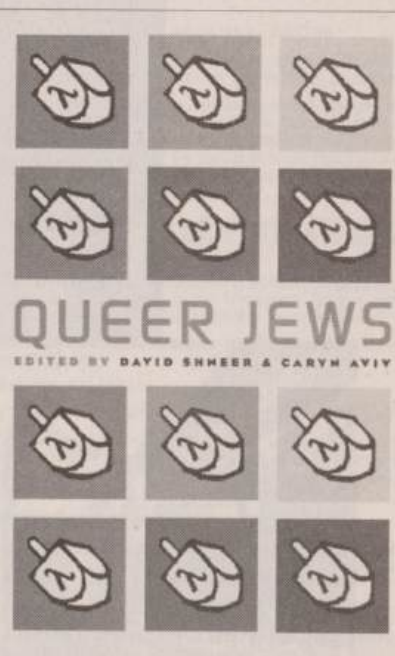
Caryn Aviv and David Shneer are the editors of the new essay collection *Queer Jews* (Routledge, \$19.95). Picking up where the groundbreaking *Twice Blessed* left off a dozen years ago, Aviv and Shneer—who met at Sha'ar Zahav, a synagogue in San Francisco—have compiled enlightening and thought-provoking essays by queer Jewish writers from across North America.

Gregg Shapiro: In your introduction to *Queer Jews*, you mention a shortage of “major books by and about lesbian and gay Jews” published in the United States. However, there is no shortage of queer Jewish writers. Why do you think queer Jewish writers spend more time writing about being queer than about being Jewish?

Caryn Aviv: That's a great question. I think that what happens is that [with] queer Jewish writers, Jewish identities come through in their writing, but not necessarily explicit, and they don't necessarily write about what it means to be Jewish. Part of that is because so many queer Jews have been so alienated by Judaism since they came out and felt unwelcome in Jewish communities, and it was difficult to maintain a connection to those kinds of communities, traditions, and practices that were so hostile to who they were as human beings. A lot of writing comes out of pain [laughs], whether it's the pain of coming out in a hostile society as queer or coming out as a queer Jew out of communities that might or might not be Orthodox or secular but that don't necessarily embrace that aspect of who they are as queers. That's why there aren't a lot of volumes that specifically look at the intersections of those two identities.

David Shneer: I guess you could ask the same question of why there were so many Jews involved in the '60s leftist movements—not as Jews, per se. I don't think there are easy answers for questions like why, especially in the 20th century, Jews have been over-represented in movements for change, not necessarily as Jews. There's this great article by Isaac Deutscher. He was a professor of philosophy at Oxford, from Poland. He coined the term “the non-Jewish

Jew.” His basic premise was that Jews have always lived on the margins of other societies and have therefore had a particular sensibility toward seeing beyond the specific and looking at, in his words, “the universal.” This also crosses over into other areas—for instance, music. There are plenty of queer musicians who sing openly about being Christians. At present, I can only think of one lesbian singer, Minna Bromberg, who has found a way to combine both her queer and Jewish identities—although Phranc did do a



cover of “Tzena, Tzena, Tzena” on her most recent disc.

CA: Right [laughs]. I think there are a couple of lesbian feminist folk singers from the '70s. I'm thinking of Alix Dobkin, for one, who has incorporated her socialist, Yiddishist past and secular Jewish culture into a lot of her songwriting, which is very lesbian. I think it's harder to do that today. Also, it's harder to have Jewish audiences if you're going to sing about queer stuff.

DS: I think that one of the things that we saw when we were putting this book together was that the reluctance to mark yourself as a Jew in your activism is changing. One of the great things about this collection of essays is that these are people who are active in changing culture and society broadly as

Jews. That's something new. For example, there's an essay by Jo Hirschmann and Elizabeth Wilson, who are both Marxist-inspired leftist activists. Their entire political program is inspired by Judaism. Thirty years ago, you would not have had socialists who were working for Marxist-inspired universal change as involved as they are in Jewish traditions.

I'm glad that you mentioned Hirschmann and Wilson. There is a definite San Francisco slant to the essays in the collection, which also includes writing by Nagle and Kanegson. San Francisco has long been a home to political radicals and activists. Do you think it works in the books favor to have such a strong focus on San Francisco, where the liberal and leftist community is still thriving?

DS: I think you could see San Francisco—and for the past 40 years, San Francisco has probably seen itself as—where everyone else might be in 20 or 30 years. If that's the case, then in 20 or 30 years every major federation is going to have a gay and lesbian outreach. Because of its focus on San Francisco, and maybe New York, I guess the book is slightly triumphalist, in the sense that people lament the state of queer politics, but part of what we're trying to say is that a lot has changed. That could be from the vantage point of San Francisco, New York, Los Angeles, and Toronto. That could be a rose-colored view of the world.

Avi Rose and Christie Balka's essay prompts me to ask about the influence that their book, *Twice Blessed*, had on you.

CA: It was huge! That was the book that helped me come out 10 years ago. I only came out, officially, like seven years ago. I was married. I was working at Women & Children First, a feminist bookstore in Chicago. I was surrounded by dykes, and I knew that I was queer and trapped in a bad heterosexual marriage. That [book] really helped me, because I so identify as a Jew. Because I grew up religious, I was really despondent that there was no way for me to come out safely and publicly and also maintain a connection to my Jewish communities. I really struggled with that for years. *Twice Blessed* was kind of a light at the end of the tunnel, [in that] there were people out there doing this and who were committed to Judaism and active in Jewish communities and openly gay. The other important book was *Nice Jewish Girls*, edited by Evelyn Torton Beck, which was specifically about dykes. That gave me some hope that there was a critical mass of Jewish dykes out there [laughs] who were out and still Jewish.

Rose and Balka's essay and Joan Nestle's essay appear to have been written specifically for this book. What were your

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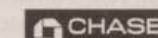
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criteria for soliciting work from writers?

CA: Specifically from them, we wanted Avi and Christie to write a reflection about how the book has changed the social landscape and what the reception was and their experience of writing it and doing a road show. Joan [Nestle] has been an intellectual mentor for 15 years. As an undergrad, she was my femme/dyke/diva role model.

DS: The process that we used was that we sent out queries electronically, because things travel really fast over the Internet [laughs]. Sometimes we solicited writers. We knew we wanted to have Avi and Christie in the book precisely because we felt like we were the next step in their work. Joan Nestle wrote back a critical response to our very rough introduction to the book. She's very much coming out of a tradition of non-particularity, of the universalist message. She thought we were being a little parochial. It was very important to hear that, and we really wanted to have her voice in the book. I kind of like that her essay is critical of our introduction. Ask two Jews something, and you get three opinions. It adds to the tension of the book. Not everyone agrees. Things aren't rosy for everybody, and I think her voice is important in that sense.

Being published, as it is, shortly after the release of the film *Trembling Before G-d*, and with an essay by Sandi Simcha Dubowski ["Trembling On The Road: A Simcha Diary"], would you consider *Queer Jews* to be a literary companion to *Trembling Before G-d*?

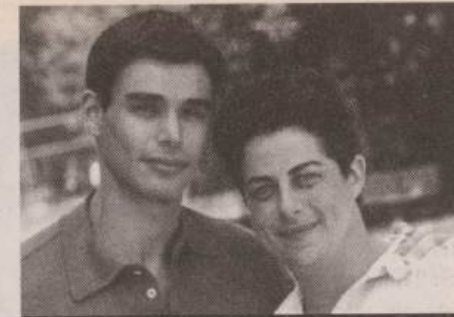
CA: Yes and no. Sandi is a friend of mine, and I'm so deeply honored that he contributed to the volume. I think that *Trembling Before G-d* is like a watershed moment in Jewish history. It's an amazing movie, and I think it speaks to overlapping but different audiences. *Trembling Before G-d* brings to the screen voices that have never been heard before in public—voices that are so shunned, marginalized, and stigmatized in Orthodox communities because the homophobia is so virulent there. He really hones in on the existential tension that people feel of "Can I maintain my commitment to Jewish law and to my Orthodox Jewish community and still honor my own integrity as a queer person?" That tension exists to a certain extent in other Jewish communities, but not nearly as it does for Orthodox Jews. Our book is, in a way, broader. Contributors come from all the different movements across the spectrum of Jewish communities in the United States and Canada. I like that about our book, because you hear a range of voices and it also complicates the notion of what does it mean to be Jewish.

DS: I think the projects are very different, actually, and I think Sandi would agree with me on this. I think for Sandi, his film was still in what you might call the wrestling stage. *Queer and Jewish*, for the people in his film, are clearly not reconciled. I think the story that Sandi wanted to tell was there is this whole closet within Judaism that we're not talking about—the Orthodox, and

especially the ultra-Orthodox, world. In his film, he talked about it. If anything, we're at the other end of the spectrum. These people who are writing in this book are not necessarily conflicted. But, by and large, the people in *Queer Jews* see themselves as queer and as Jewish and are activists as both. There isn't as much wrestling in this book as there was in *Twice Blessed*, and there isn't as much wrestling in this book as there is in *Trembling Before G-d*, and I don't think there is as much pain as there is in *Trembling*. What makes it such a powerful film is that, yes, we have *Will & Grace*, and yes we have this book talking about all these queers changing the face of Jewish society. But there are still a lot of people in pain about their sexual identity. Not everything is as triumphant as *Will & Grace* might want it to be [laughs].

Eve Sicular, in her essay "Outing the Archives," puts the parallels between Jewish and queer cultures into perspective when she writes, "As members of both an ethnic and a sexual minority, we are attuned to 'get' both queer and Jewish cues; straight Jews have the privilege of not paying attention to, or not even realizing the existence of, the lavender wavelength."

CA: I think she's hysterical, and I think she's right [laughs]. When you grow up



David Shneer (l) and Caryn Aviv,
authors of *Queer Jews*

feeling different, as either a Jew or a queer, you learn to read yourself into texts in a different way than people who are part of a dominant group—in a way that they don't have to. I think queer Jews think about those things. "Am I going to be humiliated in a synagogue? Will my partner be allowed to come up to the stage where people read Torah and participate in the service? Is my child going to be taunted at school if their classmates find out that I'm a lesbian?" I think that queer Jews have created a whole sub-language of reading themselves into things where they were previously ignored or erased. I think Eve's essay speaks to that.

DS: I'm not sure I would put it in the same way. Now that the book has come out, many

more queer people are interested in talking about it than Jewish people, thus far. For example, the interviews that we've been doing have almost exclusively been with queer publications and queer media—not yet with Jewish publications and Jewish media. We are doing a couple of Jewish book fairs in the fall. They were interested in having us. There has been more receptivity on the queer end thus far. What Eve experienced on her tours when she was talking about queer motifs in Yiddish films is something similar. I think what she is saying is that queer audiences were more receptive to learning about the Jewish films than Jewish audiences were to see the queer subtext. However, if my mother is any example, there are plenty of straight people interested in reading the book [laughs]. She is the head of the gift shop at her Conservative synagogue, and they are going to stock the book.

In her essay "Breaking Ground," Inbal Kashtan writes about "Jews who grew up disconnected from traditional Judaism because of our sexual orientation. . . ." Do you think that a change has taken place in Jewish households in regards to making sure that there is still a connection to traditional Judaism, regardless of an adolescent or young adult's sexual

continued on page 46

MYSTERY MAN

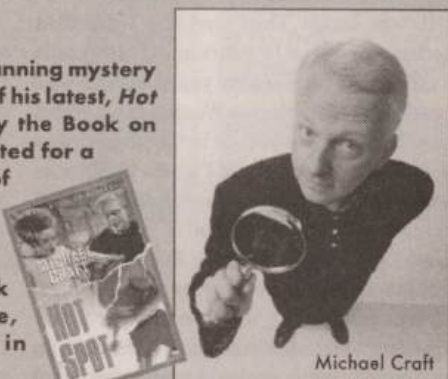
Michael Craft, author of the Mark Manning mystery series, will visit Houston to sign copies of his latest, *Hot Spot* (St. Martin's Press), at Murder by the Book on November 8 at 5:30 p.m. Twice nominated for a Lambda award, Craft was named "one of the top novelists in the cultishly popular gay mystery genre" by *Entertainment Weekly*.

In this *Hot Spot* excerpt, Mark Manning and his partner, Neil Waite, chat while foraging for breakfast in their kitchen:

So I told him about my dream, how the setting was and wasn't our living room, how I'd watched two men in business suits heat up for some steamy sex on a tasseled Victorian couch.

"But that's absurd," he interrupted. I was about to agree when he continued, "Victorian? Not in our living room." Neil was kidding (sort of), but I appreciated his discerning taste. The man had standards, and he stuck to them.

I agreed. "It was absurd—not just the setting, the clothes, and the sex, but the identity of the parties involved."



"Anyone I know?" Neil opened a bag of pastries and bagels left over from Saturday's breakfast. Jabbing a doughnut with his finger, he judged it fresh enough to serve again and emptied the bag onto a platter. The bagels, obligingly, didn't need to be tested, there being no way to distinguish stale specimens from fresh.

"Truth is, I couldn't see either of their faces, but one of the men addressed the other as—get this—Blain."

Neil turned, arching his brows. "The Republican? How delicious."

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DECISION 2002

The Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus Political Action Committee has endorsed 48 candidates and one bond election issue for the Tuesday, November 5, general election.

Founded in 1975, the caucus is the oldest gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender civil rights organization in the South. Check www.out-smartmagazine.com or www.hlgpc.org for the full endorsement list.

Ron Kirk • U.S. Senate • Democrat

The former Dallas mayor will co-sponsor the Employment Non-Discrimination Act as our Senator and also pledges to support the Local Law Enforcement Act (hate crimes bill) as well. Access www.ronkirk.com.

Sheila Jackson Lee • U.S. House District 18 • Democrat

Jackson Lee has an outstanding voting record on GLBT equality issues. She does not face significant opposition.

Chris Bell • U.S. House District 25 • Democrat

Bell's track record of support for GLBT equality during his years as an at-large member of Houston City Council includes support for employment equality laws (he voted for the Houston Non-Discrimination Ordinance), domestic partner benefits, and strong advocacy for HIV prevention and education funding. He pledges to support the federal ENDA and hate crimes bills. Access www.chrisbellforcongress.com.

Tony Sanchez • Governor • Democrat

Sanchez supports domestic-partner benefits and opposes bills that would outlaw gay and lesbian parenting and foster parenting. Sanchez also supports the Texas Employment Non-Discrimination Act, a bill that has been introduced in each of the last several sessions of the Texas Legislature by openly gay state Representative Glen Maxey of Austin. He also stated his support for Dallas state Representative Harryette Erhardt's education bill banning discrimination based upon sexual orientation in Texas schools. Sanchez opponent Rick Perry opposes GLBT equality legislation including ENDA.

Kirk Watson • Attorney General • Democrat

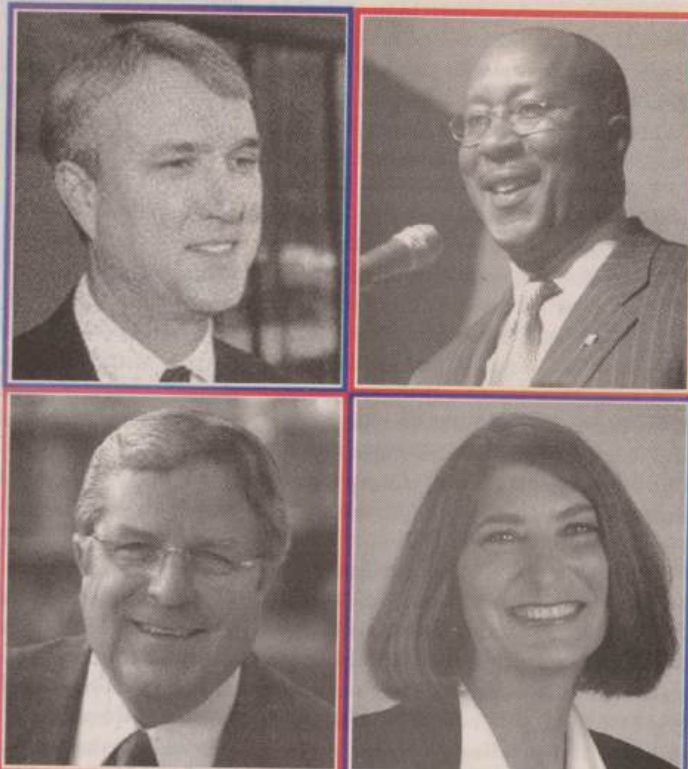
Marty Akins • State Comptroller • Democrat

Charles Mauch • Railroad Commission • Green

Brad Rockwell • State Supreme Court Place 2 • Green

John Whitmire • Texas Senate District 15 • Democrat

Senator Whitmire has an outstanding voting record on GLBT equality issues. He does not face significant opposition.



The candidates: The Political Caucus endorses (clockwise, from top left) Chris Bell, U.S. House District 25; Ron Kirk, U.S. Senate; Debra Danburg, Texas House District 134; and Tony Sanchez, Governor.

Debra Danburg • Texas Rep. District 134 • Democrat

As the 10th most senior member of the Texas House of Representatives, Danburg has been the strongest and most vocal proponent of GLBT equality in the Legislature. Danburg faces strong Republican opposition since the long-time incumbent's district was redrawn to strongly favor a Republican candidate. Access www.DebraDanburg.com.

Scott Hochberg • Texas Rep. District 137 • Democrat

One of the strongest supporters of GLBT equality in the Legislature, Representative Hochberg faces strong Republican opposition since the 10-year incumbent's district was redrawn to favor a Republican candidate. Access www.scotthochberg.com.

Joe Moreno • Texas Rep District 143 • Democrat

* Garnet Coleman • Texas Rep District 147 • Democrat

* Jessica Farrar • Texas Rep District 148 • Democrat

Sylvia Garcia • Commissioners Court Precinct 2 • Democrat

Garcia has a good chance of becoming the first Hispanic and the first female elected to the court and only the second woman to ever serve. She is in a tight race with a former Pasadena mayor. Access www.sylviagarciacampaign.com.

David Patronella • JP Precinct Court 1 Place 2 • Democrat

In the 2001 Houston Bar Association Poll, Justice of the Peace Patronella was rated outstanding by 70.7% of the attorneys, rating the highest rating of any justice court. Judge Patronella also spoke at the last caucus general meeting.

Houston Independent School District Bond Election • FOR

After years of advocacy by the caucus and Parents, Friends & Family of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG) Houston, the HISD board recently added sexual orientation to the district Student Code of Conduct. Note: Straight-ticket voting will not cast a vote on this issue. —Clarence Burton Bagby

* Denotes unopposed candidate

Find more election information and early voting locations at www.cclerk.hctx.net/elect.htm. Stonewall Democrats of Houston (www.stonewalldemocrats.org/houston) also endorsed a slate of candidates. The Log Cabin Republicans of Houston did not endorse candidates.

HOUSTONIAN NAMED TO LEAD STATE GROUP

Houstonian Randall K. Ellis is the new executive director of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas. Until last month, Ellis was district director for state representative Garnet Coleman and had served as a policy analyst in Coleman's Austin office during the last session of the Texas legislature.

Based in Austin, the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby (LGRL) is the largest gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender organization in Texas. LGRL works for the elimination of discrimination based on sexual orientation through lobbying, education, and research directed toward the Legislature and other state government agencies.

On November 16-17, LGRL will host a conference in Austin on ending discrimination in Texas schools. The Students, Teachers, and Allies Making Progress (STAMP) event, "STAMP Out Hate," will take place on the University of Texas campus. For more information, access www.lgrrl.org.



Randall K. Ellis

WORLD AIDS DAY PREVIEW

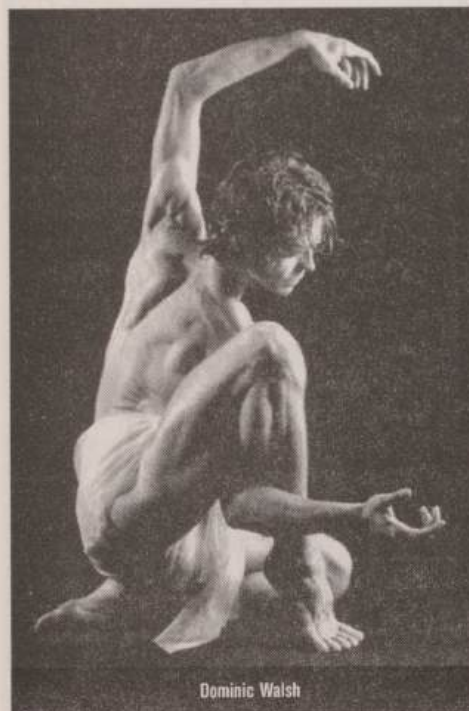
A few of the organizations with plans for marking the international day of action:

On December 1, the **Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center** and the **Gulf Coast Archive and Museum of GLBT History** will resume the Tree of Remembrance lighting ceremony. NAMES Project Houston, which folded

earlier this year, once hosted this annual event. The 2002 ceremony at the center will begin at 7 p.m.

DiverseWorks, the new **Dominic Walsh Dance Theater**, and **Hope Stone Dance** will present The Illumination Project, a benefit performance on December 1. Performances will take place at 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. at DiverseWorks. Tickets are \$25, and proceeds support the Baylor College of Medicine Pediatric AIDS Initiative and A Care Safe Place transitional living center. Other involved groups include **Gay Men's Chorus of Houston**.

Wells Fargo will host the annual **Worlds AIDS Day luncheon** benefiting **AIDS Foundation Houston** on December 4 at The Houstonian Hotel. Individual tickets begin at \$250. Deborah A. Fiorito and Barry Mandel will chair the event.



Dominic Walsh

DATEBOOK

Nov. 3 The new Imperial Court of Houston hosts **Coming Out Cotillion**, benefiting AssistHers and Camp Hope, at 1415 Grille & Bar, 6 p.m. \$5 suggested donation.

Nov. 10. Victory Fund luncheon featuring speaker Jennifer Veiga, openly lesbian Colorado politico, at the Warwick. Noon. \$60. Info and tickets: www.victoryfund.org.

TWO ORGANIZATIONS PARTNER IN HISTORY SERIES

On November 11, a program on 10 pivotal years in the city will launch an ongoing history series presented by the Gulf Coast Archive & Museum of GLBT History (GCAM) and the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. "GLBT History: Houston's First Decade, 1975-1985" will feature activists Ray Hill and Phyllis Randolph Frye with poet Aaron Coleman.

The 7 p.m. program at Theatre Suburbia (1410 West 43rd St.) will reprise an event presented by GCAM and the Stonewall Law Association of Greater Houston last June. Stonewall Law will host the November 11 program. Requested \$10 donations at the door will support both GCAM and the center. Individuals can purchase tickets in advance at www.gcam.org.

GCAM and the center plan to continue the history series by presenting new programs throughout the year.

VIGIL TO MARK NOV. 20 DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

In a year marred by 25 reported murders of transgender people, Houstonians will gather on November 20 for an evening vigil on the City Hall steps for Day of Remembrance. This year, nationwide observances of the fourth annual memorial day for trans victims of violence take

on more urgency following the October 3 slaying of California teen Gwen Araujo (born Eddie).

"The impact of what's happened this year is devastating," said Vanessa Edwards Foster, Houston vigil organizer and board chair of the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition. "I've lost a personal friend and protégée to this violence; for the fourth year in a row we've seen yet another murder here in Houston, Bibi Barajas; and we've lost three transgendered teenagers in high-profile, extremely violent incidents."

More information on Day of Remembrance observances across the nation can be found at www.gender.org/remember/day.



Murdered: Gwen Araujo

THE NOBEL FOR A NOBLE EX-PRESIDENT

Jimmy Carter receives the Peace Prize for suffering people around the world

Twenty-two years after leaving the Oval Office a landslide-loser to Ronald Reagan, Jimmy Carter will now forever be remembered as a winner. Having finally won the Nobel Peace Prize last month after being nominated more than 10 times, Carter responded when he was called at 4 a.m. and told of his selection, "I thought it was a joke."

Ironically that Carter would use those words. After all, when he ran for the presidency in 1976, he was considered a joke. He was, after all, a peanut farmer-turned-governor from a Southern state. He was such a straight arrow that he thought "lusting in his mind" was just as wrong as a "sin of the flesh." (If only another president from a Southern state would have had the same moral code.)

When Carter became president, he had never served in Congress or the U.S. Senate. He arrived a blank slate, with no experience in the Washington insider's game. Once in

Washington, he refused to become an insider. As a result, his presidency was largely considered a failure by almost everyone. Marred by high inflation and the Iranian hostage crisis, Carter lost in a landslide and quietly left town.

Two years later, he re-emerged and founded the Carter Center, a research group that seeks to "promote peace and human rights, resolve conflicts, foster democracy, and fight hunger and disease." In that endeavor, Carter has been tireless.

He has been building houses for Habitat for Humanity for 20 years. He has monitored elections around the globe to ensure that true democracy prevails. He has mediated crises from Haiti to North Korea.

He has rescinded his membership in the Southern Baptist Convention for its refusal to accept gays and lesbians. And he has traveled to Cuba to denounce Castro in his own back yard. While his focus has been

broad, his acts contain the common thread of equality for everyone.

Unlike his fellow ex-presidents, Carter has never joined corporate boards for pay. He has never gone on the lecture circuit to make speeches for profit. In short, he has refused to cash in on the presidency for personal gain, choosing instead to use his status as a former president to advance the cause of "suffering people around the world," on whose behalf he accepted the Nobel Prize.

He joins Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson as the only other American presidents to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

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.



MILITARY MANEUVERS

As a recent Harvard case shows, government support has a downside

He who pays the piper calls the tune. Harvard Law School recently got a reminder of this aphorism when the federal government threatened to cut off all funding for the school unless it ended its ban on military recruiting, a ban the school initiated to protest the military's discrimination against gays. For those who advocate the use of government power on behalf of gays, the episode should be a lesson in how that power may be turned against us.

For more than two decades, Harvard Law School has refused to give military recruiters access to its career placement department. Such departments facilitate contacts between students and potential employers by setting up interviews conducted on school property. Most of those employers are private law firms, but federal and state government agencies also recruit for their legal departments.

Like many law schools, Harvard bars

discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and requires recruiters to pledge they will not discriminate against gays in their employment practices. For most private-sector law firms, especially the largest and most prestigious firms, this requirement is no problem since they already have policies barring such discrimination.

But the U.S. military cannot make this nondiscrimination pledge. By federal law, passed by Congress and signed by President Clinton nine years ago, the military must expel known homosexuals. "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," as the policy is called, has resulted in an increase in discharges for homosexuality in almost every year since its inception.

Private schools around the country, like Harvard, have reacted to this discrimination by banning military recruitment on their campuses. This action has had little if any discernible effect on actual military recruitment of university students since

recruitment continues off-campus and military recruiters are often invited to visit by student groups. The policies serve mostly as a symbolic statement of non-cooperation with state-sponsored antigay discrimination.

Nevertheless, Congress responded with a 1996 federal law known as the Solomon Amendment after its sponsor, Rep. Gerald Solomon (R-NY). The Solomon Amendment makes federal funding for university research contingent on schools' allowing military recruitment on campus. In other words, "Let military recruiters on campus or we cut off your government money." →

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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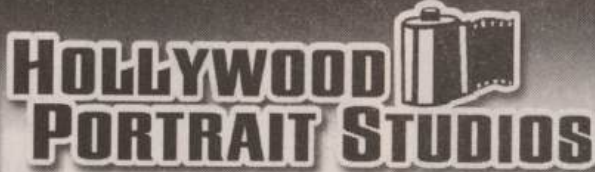
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LeftOut continued from page 30
And it is hard to imagine he will be joined by any other American president, current or former, in the foreseeable future.

Carter is 78. He predicts the end of his active life in "the next few months or years." Who will pick up his mantle?

Bill Clinton? It is hard to imagine him doing anything other than making money and continuing to play in politics. Does anyone really picture Bill Clinton building a house for Habitat or traveling the world to speak for free on behalf of the "suffering people around the world?"

George W. Bush? It is even harder to imagine him doing anything after leaving the White House other than playing golf or cutting down trees on his Crawford ranch. Does anyone really foresee the man who benefited from the Florida election debacle traveling the world to monitor elections, ensure democracy, and "wage peace."

Jimmy Carter is a Nobel winner. And he is likely the best ex-president we will ever see. Not bad for a peanut farmer from Georgia. ■

OutRight continued from previous page

Although Harvard permits military recruiters at undergraduate job fairs and allows them to visit the law school at the invitation of a student group, the U.S. Air Force recently informed the law school that the recruiting ban violates the Solomon Amendment. The Air Force threatened to recommend ending government funding to all of Harvard, not just the law school. That would have meant a loss of \$328 million a year, 16 percent of Harvard's operating budget, with serious repercussions for students' education, faculty work, and important research aided by money from the federal government.

Predictably, the law school's gay student group blamed the Bush administration for its "very heavy-handed approach to enforcing policy." However, the new get-tough line on military recruitment was first proposed by President Clinton's Defense Department in 2000. And, of course, Clinton signed the Solomon Amendment into law—another reward for all our hard work on his behalf.

Faced with this significant loss of federal money, the law school lifted its ban. In a letter to students and faculty, the dean wrote: "I have personally struggled with this issue. At the same time most of us reluctantly accept the reality that this university cannot afford the loss of federal funds." If Harvard, by far the richest private university in the country, can be brought to its knees by threats from the federal government, then no such institution will be able to resist.

The point here is not to defend university bans on military recruitment. That is a hard call, involving as it does the application of an important principle (nondiscrimination) to a

matter of national need (military recruitment) in a time of crisis (the war on terrorism and a potential war against Iraq). The bans are probably justifiable given the trivial impact they have on actual recruitment. But a good, and not necessarily homophobic, argument can be made against such bans. Further, private educational institutions can call attention to the military's discrimination without completely banning recruiting.

The point, instead, is to highlight the power the state wields when it grows to the point that it insinuates itself into almost every aspect of our lives. Almost no one—even the most stingy fiscal conservative—seriously opposes government funding for medical research, scientific studies, student loans, and similar good causes.

Yet the government that gives so generously with one hand can smack us with the other. As the Harvard experience demonstrates, even the richest and most powerful of us can become dependent on government sponsorship. The larger the role of the state in our lives, the more often we'll find ourselves in a conflict between what we want to do and what the government wants us to do. And we'll find the call to heel as irresistible as Harvard did.

Some gay civil rights advocates seem sanguine about using state power to make life better for gays. Hate crimes laws, employment discrimination protections, funding for community and AIDS groups, and other measures call on government to help us in some way.

At least some of these measures are surely worthwhile. But we must recognize they come at the cost of an expanded state, a state whose ends we will not always control. That should counsel considerable caution whenever someone proposes we surrender a little freedom for a little help from our government friend. ■



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InsideOut at City Hall

by Annise D. Parker

PARTY TIME

On election day, crucial races up and down the ballot revive two-party system

Remember when you had to sneak in endorsement cards on election day or copy a card by hand so you could openly display a list and make intelligent choices for local judges on page 30? That was when we had a two-party system with candidates from both parties. The endorsement cards almost disappeared because Republican candidates refused to seek any GLBT endorsements under pressure from their party. By the time we won the right to carry endorsement cards into the polls, we didn't need them because so many local judicial candidates no longer had opponents.

Record numbers of Harris County voters developed bad habits—straight party or blind voting. Some frustrated, lifelong GLBT Democrats began voting in the Republican primary so they would have a choice of judicial candidates. (They chose to vote against the right-wingers.)

Other Democrats stubbornly clung to the

two-party principle. They popped their voting pin into the hopeless hole next to the rare Democrat's name, then hovered defiantly over the names of each and every unopposed Republican candidate as if that vibrating pin could trigger an avalanche of votes away from the inevitable victor. Many voters just gave up at page 10 after the big contested races.

On Tuesday, November 5, we are going to have a real election again, all the way down the ballot. I want to spotlight a few local races, starting at the end of the ballot.

HISD BONDS

At the end of the ballot, voters will encounter a choice for \$808.6 million in Houston Independent School District bonds. Straight-ticket voting will not cast a vote on this issue.

I strongly support the HISD bond issue because it includes much-needed repairs and school construction in a fast-growing district.

Many HISD schools are in deplorable condition. The overwhelming approved 1998 bond issue was completed on time and under budget, but it addressed only one-third of the renovation needs outlined in an engineering study. For more information about the bond issue, check out www.houstonisd.org/HISD/portal/article/front/0,2435,20856_18784,00.html.

NIGHT AND DAY CHOICES

Regardless of party affiliation, GLBT voters need to consider the following candidates. There is a tremendous difference between these candidates and their opponents.

Garcia and Patronella. Almost as far back on the ballot are the county commissioner and justice of the peace contests. **Sylvia Garcia** has a good chance of becoming the first Hispanic and the first female elected to the court and only the second woman to serve. She needs every possible vote to defeat a former Pasadena mayor for County

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Commissioner Precinct 2. Garcia has been a strong city controller, and few office holders can match her for hard work.

Justice of the Peace **David Patronella** (Precinct 1, Place 2) was the highest-rated judge in the recent Houston Bar Association poll with a 97-percent approval rating. His opponent, with a 27-percent approval rating, is counting on Republican straight-ticket voting and voter apathy in down-ballot issues. We must not let this happen to a well-respected JP and strong supporter of our community.

Danburg and Hochberg. Redistricting has forced numerous Democratic state representatives into tough races. State reps **Debra Danburg** (District 134) and **Scott Hochberg** (District 137) are two of the best and most influential legislators and have been two of our strongest supporters in Austin. Care to guess why they were targeted? Losing either one of them would be disastrous for our community. Both deserve our all-out support.

Bell. Let's send **Chris Bell** to Washington. The former City Council member wants to continue serving Houstonians by using his considerable legislative and personal skills to represent the 25th Congressional District. He has a strong gay-rights track record, which includes a vote for the city's nondiscrimination ordinance.

Judges. Only four states—Texas, West Virginia, Louisiana, and Alabama—still elect their judges in partisan contests. Attorneys hate the system. A recent poll showed that 83 percent of Texans also oppose it. Can anyone be proud of some of the totally unqualified judges that have been swept into office, especially on the state's highest courts, by straight-ticket voting? This practice has embarrassed Republicans in the last few elections, but Democrats used to send their share

of bozos to the bench when they had the majority. Blindly voting for a judge who will make life-and-death decisions is reprehensible.

A FEW HELPFUL NUMBERS AND WEBSITES

- Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus: 713/521-1000, www.hglpc.com
- County election information: www.cclerk.hctx.net/elect.htm
- Electronic e-slate voting: www.harrisvotes.org/howto.htm
- Harris County Democratic Party: www.hcdp.org/index.html
- Harris County Republican Party: www.harriscountygop.com

CAMPAIGNS

- Chris Bell: 713/664-1200, www.chrisbellforcongress.com
- Debra Danburg: 713/520-8068, www.votedanburg.com
- Sylvia Garcia: 713/228-9922, www.sylvia-garcia-campaign.com
- Scott Hochberg: 713/660-7783, www.scotthochberg.com
- David Patronella: 713/528-9990.

ADVANCE WORK

A little research can help you select the most qualified candidates. Seek out endorsement cards from the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus (www.hglpc.com), the National Women's Political Caucus (www.nwpc.org) or other groups you respect. Unfortunately, all Republican judicial candidates continue to boycott the GLBT endorsing groups.

Read the *Houston Chronicle* endorsements (www.chron.com) as well as its election guide and other guides published by the League of Women Voters (available at libraries), the Houston Bar Association (www.hba.org), and the Planned Parenthood Action Fund (www.plannedparenthoodvotes.org). Attend candidate forums.

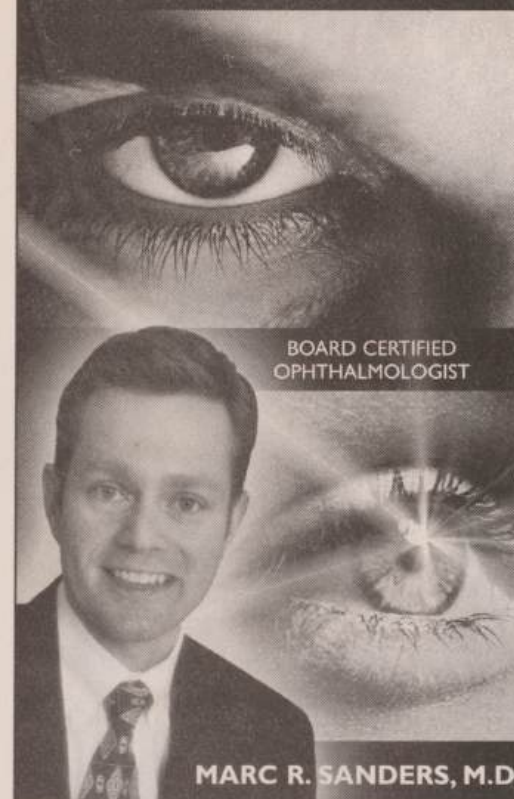
VOLUNTEER AND VOTE

If you have just a few hours before election day, please volunteer for a campaign. Then vote on November 4. This is the first time for complete electronic voting with the county's new machines. If you know your candidates and want to vote straight ticket with a few exceptions, just vote straight ticket then go back and select individual candidates of the other party. Election-day poll workers will be glad to demonstrate the e-slate device for you.

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



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THE BIG SWITCH

Photographed by Bob Jackson

One weekend in September, interior designers Troy Broussard and Jennifer Loh took over the Fifth Ward homes of Jocelyn Wyatt and Patricia Wysinger. Assisted by carpenter Arturo Ruiz, and trailed by a camera crew from Houston PBS Channel 8, Broussard and Loh made "The Big Switch," the house-changing, room-decorating venture initiated by *OutSmart*, Bassett Furniture Direct, and Channel 8.

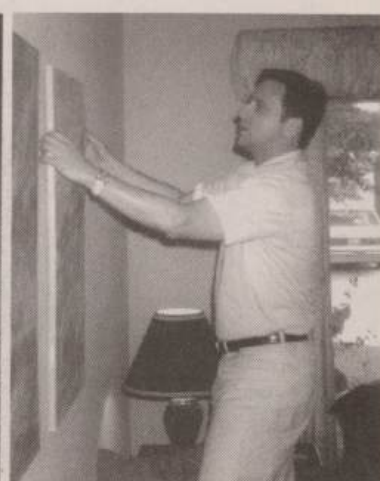
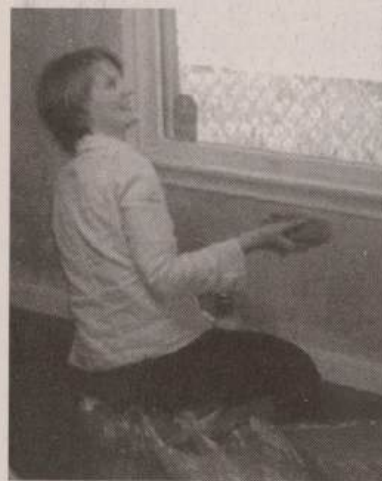
Selected by the Big Switch team from a field of entrants, Wyatt and Wysinger live next door to one another on a street of trim residences built in 1998 by Habitat for Humanity, the

extraordinary organization that works with local communities to create affordable housing around the world. A dedicated contest applicant, Wysinger had convinced Wyatt to complete the requested information and drop it off in August at the new Bassett flagship store. "I told Jocelyn to pray and pray," Wysinger says with a laugh.

Wyatt lives with two young sons in her two-bedroom home (a third adult son lives in the Northwest). She has coped with cancer for several years and continues to receive chemotherapy treatments, which can leave her weak. Once the secretary at her church, Wyatt has recently been able to attend Sunday services once again. Wysinger, who lives

alone, works for Continental Airlines.

For The Big Switch, the two neighbors changed houses during the two-day endeavor. Broussard and Loh worked with Wyatt and Wysinger—who could draft one helper each—to transform the living room in one another's house. The project rules limited each team to \$1,500 for all materials, and supplies, and furnishings, including at least one Bassett piece. After much painting and sewing and building, each team revealed a remarkably changed room. The entire Big Switch process will unfold on November 2 and 3 on "The Connection," the Channel 8 program hosted by Ernie Manouse. —TB →



IN PROGRESS. Designers Jennifer Loh (l) and Troy Broussard (r) worked to complete the Big Switch room transformation in less than two days. Toward the end of the second day, Broussard took a chat break (c) with Ernie Manouse of Houston Public Television, whose camera crew filmed the process.



LIVING COLOR. The new wall color, Monarch "September Leaf" with a rubbed umber glaze, instantly transformed Jocelyn Wyatt's living room. A "Giselle" sofa from Bassett Furniture Direct anchors the room. Loh found the wall prints and the ceiling light fixture at IKEA. To help make the room kid-friendly as well as stylish, Loh wrapped Wyatt's existing chairs in denim. The sheer cotton and silk check fabric for the window treatments from Loh's retail shop hang over faux-bamboo blinds from Lowe's. The cabinet (inset) is a Wyatt family piece.





COOL AND CRISP. In Patricia Wysinger's living room, the Benjamin Moore "Guilford Green" paint and the same color repeated in the window treatments unified the space. Broussard found the brass-and-chrome chandelier at the Guild Shop. Illustrating the range of Big Switch sources, the wool chenille throw on the side chair is from Wal-Mart, and the hand-woven rug is from Denton Jones. The three "Symphony" tables from Bassett surround the sofa (inset). The black leather chaise longue, one of Wysinger's favorite pieces, remained in its location beside the window.



BEFORE

Jocelyn Wyatt had more furniture and belongings in her living room at the start. Many of the items had been given to her, she said, and thus held little sentimental meaning. She did request that a wooden cabinet, a family

piece, remain in the room.

Echoing the dilemma of many homeowners, Patricia Wysinger explained that she had never completely decorated her room, because she could not fully decide on plans.

Over time, she had acquired a number of favored pieces, including an impressive black-leather chaise longue.

Once designers Troy Broussard and Jennifer Loh each drew a name from a hat, the two teams got to work. →



In Jocelyn Wyatt's house:

DESIGNER: Jennifer Loh, ASID, Burgess Loh Interiors, Inc., shown above measuring a sofa at Bassett Furniture Direct. (This month, Loh opens her own shop, BLI Collections, in the Resource Center.)

NEIGHBOR: Patricia Wysinger

HELPER: Rick Nuncio, a friend of Wysinger's

In Patricia Wysinger's house:
DESIGNER: Troy Broussard, Edward J. Perrault Design Associates, Inc., shown below exploring at the Guild Shop. (Broussard's partner, chiropractor Kenneth Lester, was on the cover of *OutSmart* in October.)

NEIGHBOR: Jocelyn Wyatt
HELPER: Gloria Washington, Wyatt's sister



Assisting both teams:
CARPENTER: Arturo Ruiz

AFTER

PATRICIA WYSINGER'S LIVING ROOM (page 40)

"From the beginning, I wanted to give Patricia an elegant room," designer Broussard says. "I'm amazed at how just the change of color made such a dramatic difference to the space. I did all the walls and ceiling in the same tone—Benjamin Moore 'Guilford Green'. That same color is repeated in the window treatments to convey a unified or seamless quality."



Broussard found the brass mirror at the Blue Bird Circle Shop. The Guild Shop was the source for the candlesticks and the framed print *African Mother*. A coat of paint transformed Wysinger's dining room chairs.

Broussard's sources ranged across the price-tag scale, from Denton Jones Inc. for the rug to Wal-Mart for a chenille throw. "No matter what the budget of the project, I will not compromise quality," the designer says. "I am also a firm believer that if the interior does not fit the personality or lifestyle of its inhabitant, then no matter how expensive or beautiful it cannot be good design."

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Green silk window treatments made by Custom Drapery
- Hand-woven wool dhurrie rug from Denton Jones Inc.
- Original acrylic-on-canvas paintings created on site by the team
- Pair of "Symphony" side tables and "Symphony" coffee table from Bassett Furniture Direct

DESIGNER DISCOVERY:

"I think that the eight-light brass-and-chrome chandelier was a fabulous find," Broussard says. "At \$50.40—marked down from \$127.50 at the Guild Shop—it worked into the budget, while stylistically it is transitional, a little contemporary and a little traditional. Its scale is perfect in that space."

WHAT THEY THINK

Patricia Wysinger (right) got to view her new room first, "I love it," she said later. "Troy did an incredible job with the colors in the room and using some of my own things."

At first look, Jocelyn Wyatt (left) did not like her room—a reaction recorded by the Channel 8 camera. Within days, however, she reported that she changed her mind. "Now I love it," she said. "I am so blessed. My neighbors and family have all come over and want this room, too." ■

JOCelyn WYATT'S LIVING ROOM (page 39)

"I wanted to create a family-oriented, kid-friendly room," designer Loh says. "I also planned a multi-functional room with lots of storage space. The entire room is unified by the color and the use of faux painting, which also gives the room a lot of character."

Loh, who is president of the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID), drew on sources that ranged from IKEA for abstract wall prints to Bassett Furniture Direct for the "Giselle" sofa that anchors the room. "I agree with Troy. No matter how high the budget is on a job, good design is good design, and it is available in all price brackets," Loh says. "You just need to know where to go to find it and have the knowledge and resources to combine it. A successful project between client and designer starts with open communication, understanding, and trust. Once that is established, the project can be all its owners want it to be."



The family cabinet received a more prominent site adjacent to the entry. Loh discovered the mirror in another room in Wyatt's house. A potted ivy and framed family snapshots completed the vignette.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Slipcovers from Pottery Barn
- Chrome light fixtures by IKEA
- Oversized denim-wrapped ottoman that doubles as seating and a table
- Window treatments of sheer cotton and silk check from Loh's new retail shop, BLI Collections, in the Resource Center over faux bamboo blinds from Lowe's

DESIGNER DISCOVERY:

I think the art from IKEA was a great find," Loh says. "Those three pictures were under \$20 framed."



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

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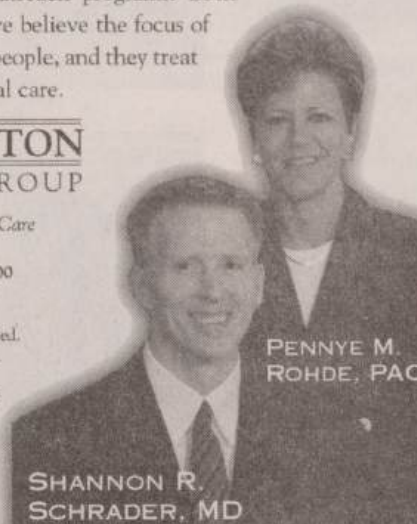
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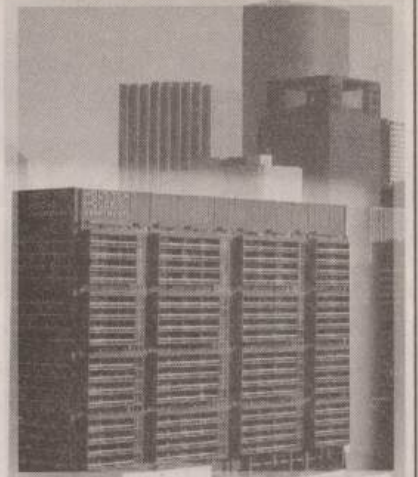
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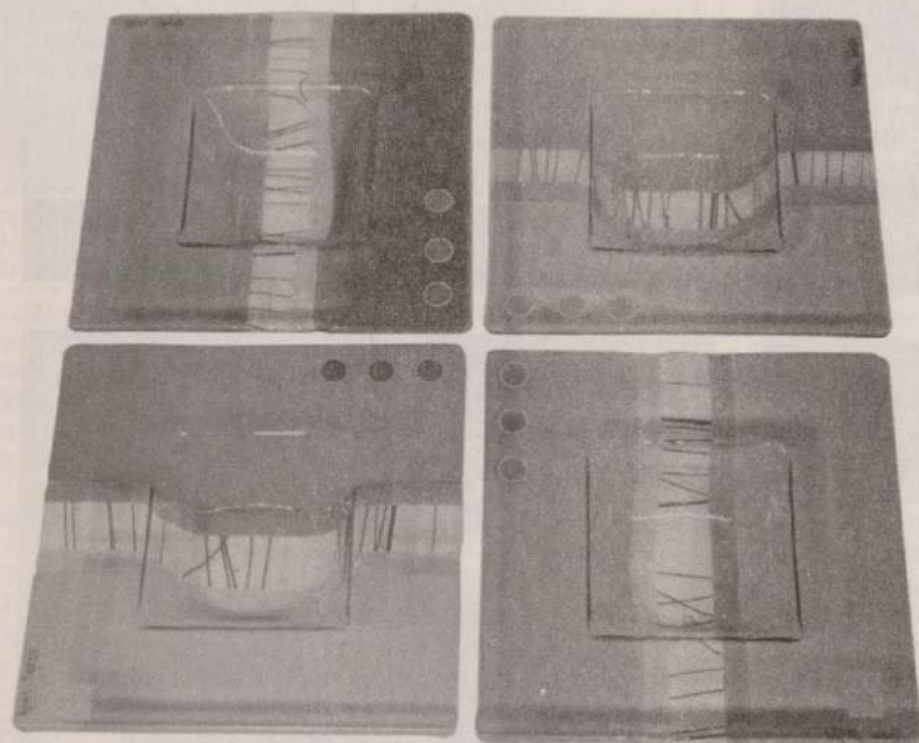
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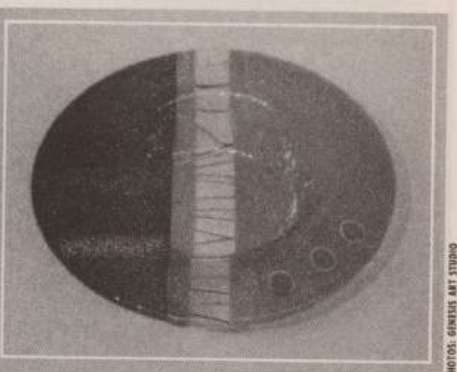
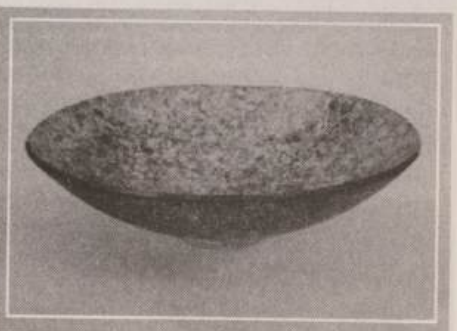
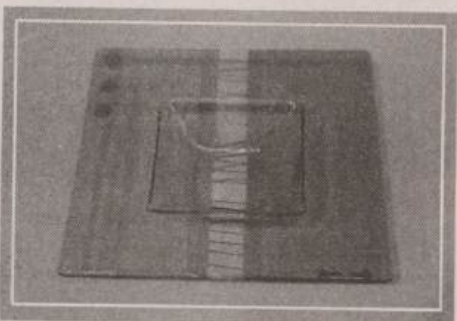
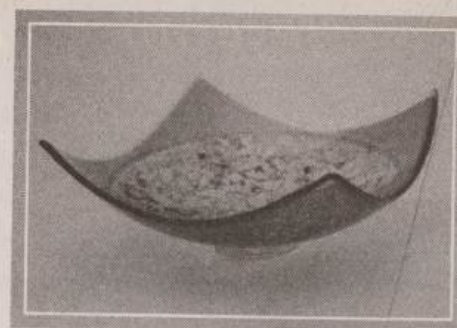
Gene Hester creates shimmering treasures for the table

We first learned of Gene Hester Studios through his stained-glass doors and windows, which adorn homes, offices, and churches across Houston. Then we discovered the brilliantly colored fused-glass objects he creates for the table. Fusing is a process by which an artisan melds two layers of glass—one clear, one a color—by heating them to 1500 degrees. A second 1350-degree firing and gravity allows the glass to “slump” into a stainless-steel form. The gleaming results seem to glow from within.



Fired up: Extraordinarily high temperatures produce Gene Hester's glass plates.

“I’ve been doing stained glass for 25 years,” Hester says. “This work allows me a little more freedom to be creative.” This month, Hester is part of a three-man exhibition at the brand-new Gallery 101, along with painter Chaz and Gary Kosmas, who works in porcelain and mirror. The opening-night reception at the gallery (1011 Washington Ave.) is November 9. The shops at the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, the Houston Potters Guild Shop, and the Galveston Arts Center also display Hester's work. —TB



PHOTOS: GENE'S ART STUDIO



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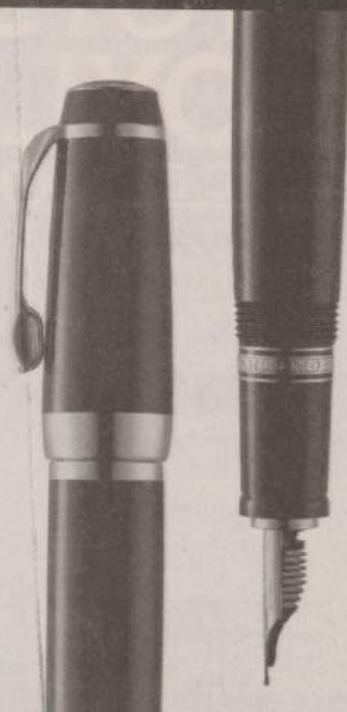
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Queer Jews continued from page 27

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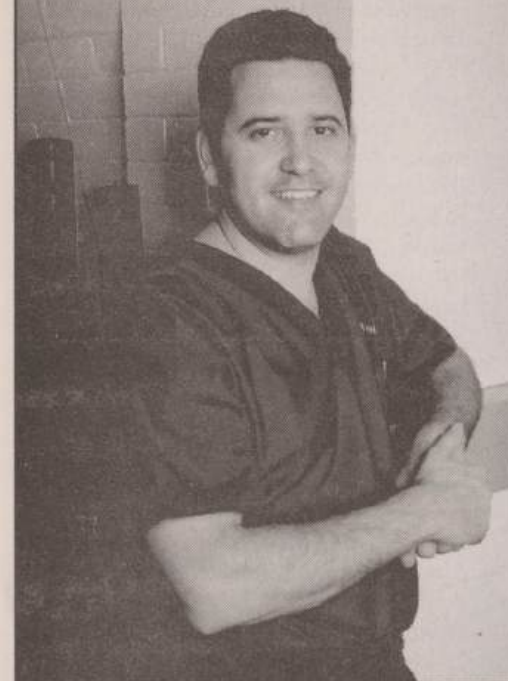
DS: Certainly. Inbal was writing about her experiences back in the '70s. I think that what she was expressing was that she was disconnected at a younger age because of her sexual identity. As an adult, she now felt like she had the tools to bring those back together again. Things have changed since then [Inbal's youth]. There are possibilities to be raised in connection to tradition and to being queer. Sandi's film says that there is still a long way to go in regards to the Orthodox closet. A lot of the contributors [to the anthology] have fine relationships with their families, although some don't. Both Caryn and I do. We're both relatively connected to Jewish backgrounds. There is more space now to be traditionally Jewish and queer. I think because of queer Jews feeling empowered now, families don't really have a choice. If you want your kid at the table, they're going to bring their partner. If my family doesn't come with me, then I'm going to make my own family. It's no longer my biological family or no family.

CA: I think that the majority of Jews in America today go to synagogue to be Jewish and don't do a lot of ritual stuff in their homes to be Jewish. Community centers and synagogues and organizations are public places where people can be Jewish. I don't know how friendly those places are for people who are publicly out. It depends on region and which movement you're talking about. Certainly, in Reform and Reconstructionist Jewish movements there has been a lot of progress made for queers to be out and open and take leadership positions and not be stigmatized if they come out at the age of 17. That's not the case for Conservatism and Orthodoxy.

Pop culture journalist Gregg Shapiro is also a published fiction writer and poet.

QUEER JEWS AT HOME. Mishpachot Alizim, the gay-and-lesbian Jewish group, and Congregation Beth Israel, will host two more sessions of the Gay & Lesbian Jewish Study Group on November 14 and December 19. Now in its second year, the study group began this series in September. Sessions take place at Beth Israel (5600 North Braeswood) beginning at 7 p.m. New participants are welcome for the final sessions, according to Alan Hurwitz, one of the group organizers. "We have had a range of topics, everything from the Book of Job, Jewish guilt, human sexuality, Jewish traditions and writings, and various holidays to Jewish concepts of the afterlife," Hurwitz said. The husband-and-wife team of Congregation Beth Israel associate rabbi Brenner Glickman and Rabbi Elaine Glickman facilitate the study group. More info: 713/771-6221, 713/523-3673, or ahur111@aol.com. —TB

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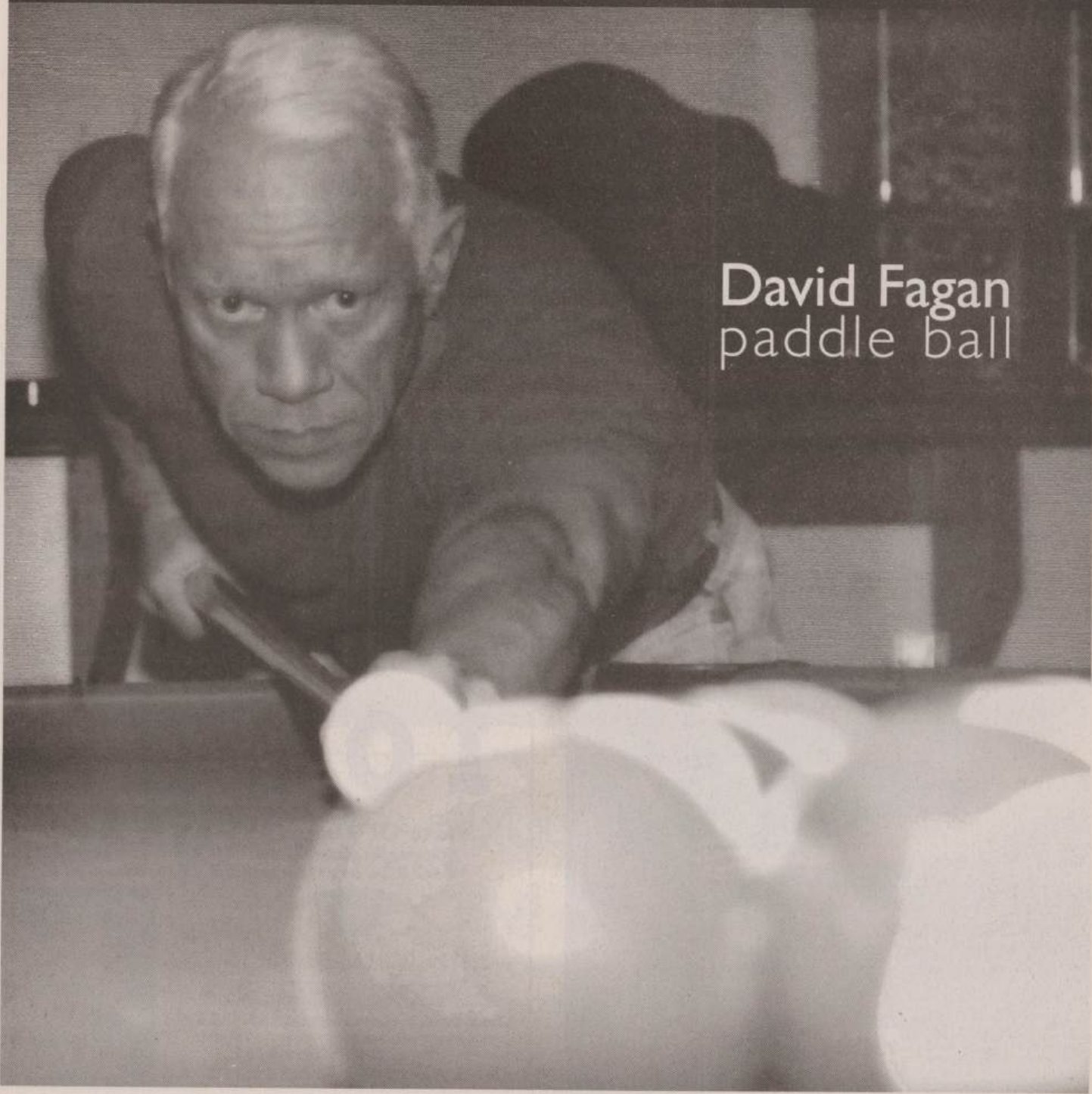
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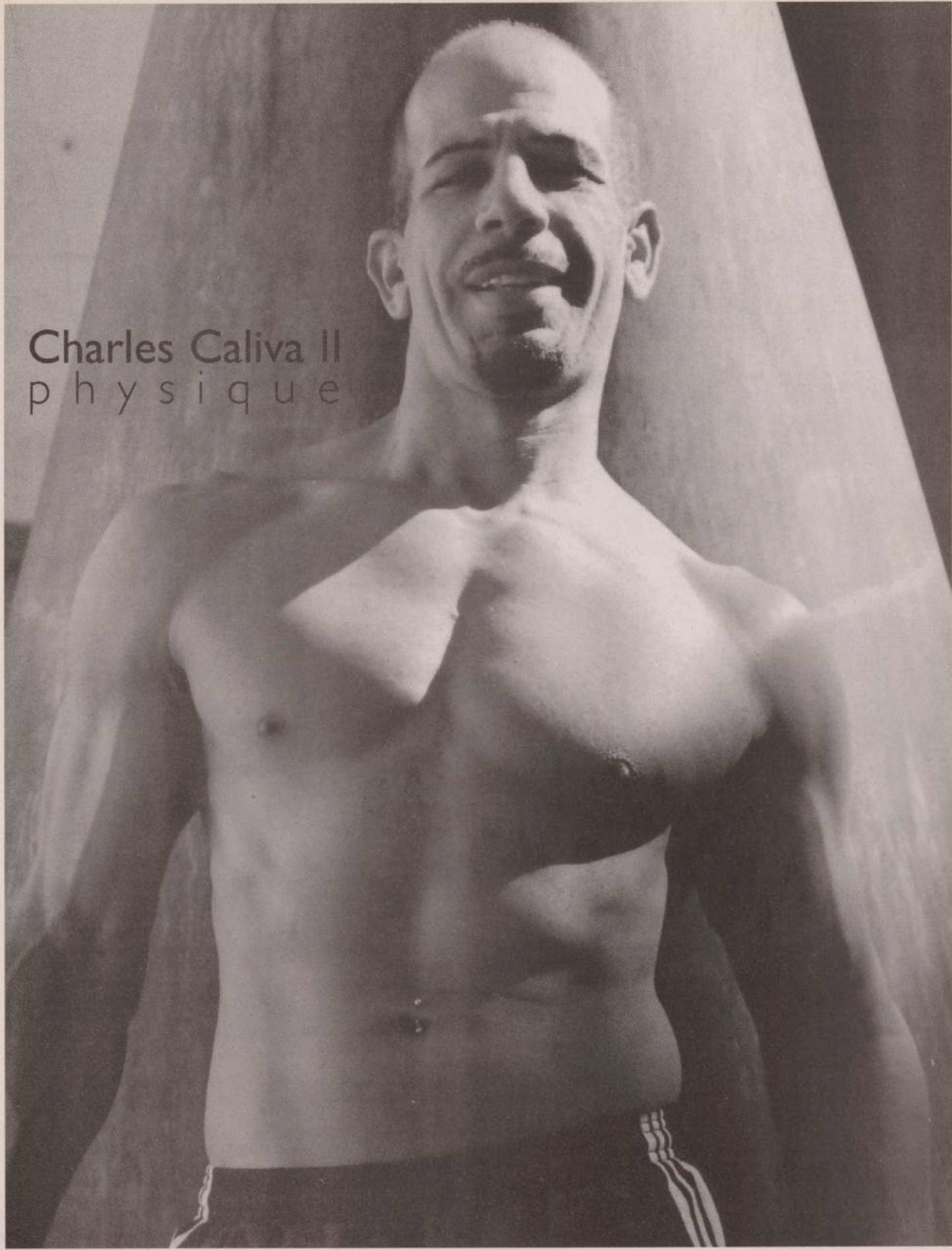
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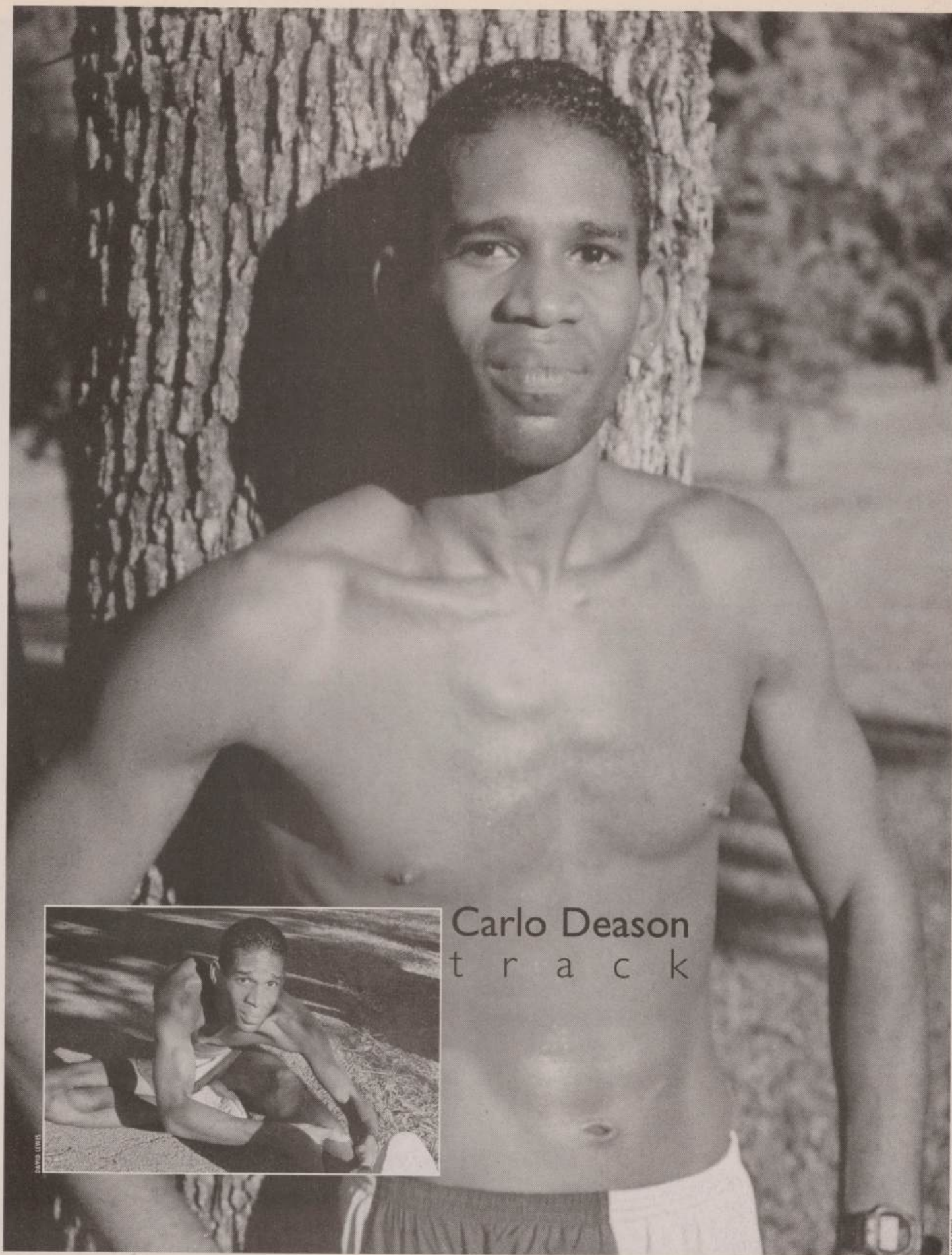
A band of Houstonians flies down to Sydney this month for Gay Games VI and the international fest Team Band 2002. Photographers David Lewis and Yvonne Feece captured a few of the jocks and musicians before they departed.



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1. (Clockwise from top r) **Mitch Mitchell**, **Carrie Howlett**, **Lori Hidalgo**, **Kas Cejka**, billiards. 2. **Mitch Mitchell**. 3. Houston Pride Band members (standing, from l) **Russell Williams**, **Debbie Hunt**, (seated, from l) **Connie Moore**, and **Kevin Taylor**. 4. **Frank Garcia**, marathon.



PHOTOGRAPHS: 1. DAVID LEWIS 2. DAVID LEWIS 3. YVONNE FEECE 4. DAVID LEWIS



Thousands of queer athletes and fans descend on Sydney this month for Gay Games VI Sport & Cultural Festival. Jimmy Sommerville and kd lang perform at "Fabulous," the November 2 opening ceremony in Aussie Stadium. Competition in 31 sports—from aerobics to figure skating to wrestling—continues for a week. Fox Studios is the site of the closing ceremony on November 9.



The Harbour Bridge in Sydney.

The concurrent cultural festival—and Sydney-wide "Queering the Streets" initiative—will add the arts to the jock mix. The wide-ranging program includes a panel chat with the tantalizing title "Debate: All Artists are Gay... All Athletes are Straight. Please Explain?" at the Art Gallery of New South Wales. Other no doubt hot tickets are the cabaret act Flat On Your Bacharach and the San Francisco comedy troupe I Love Lezzie.

More info: www.sydney2002.org.au.

At the same time, members of the Houston Pride Band have flown down to Australia for Team Band 2002, the international conference of GLBT music groups. The bands tune up in Melbourne, then march into Sydney for the Gay Games.

More info: www.gaybands.org/GGVI.



The Sydney Opera House.

Throughout the Games, Team Houston organizer David Fagan will roam the venues and events as OutSmart's correspondent. He will return with photos and recollections, which will appear in a future issue. →

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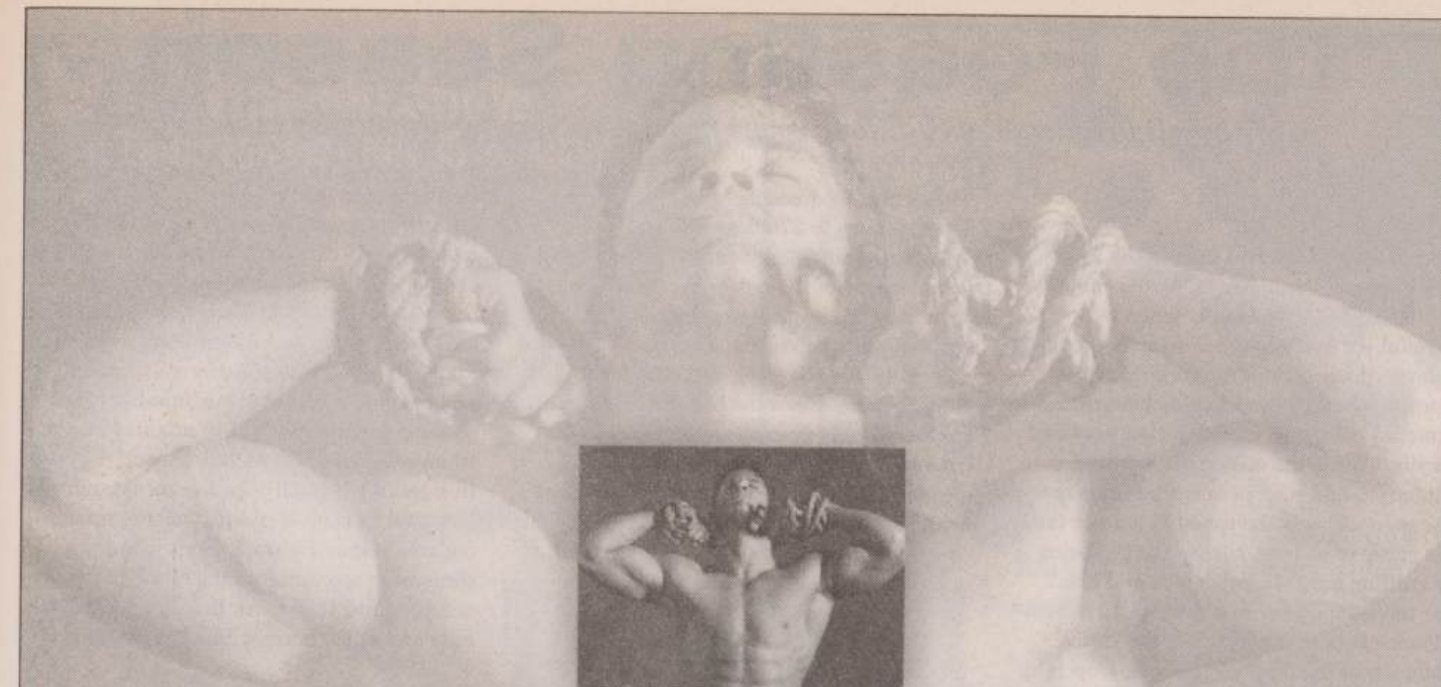
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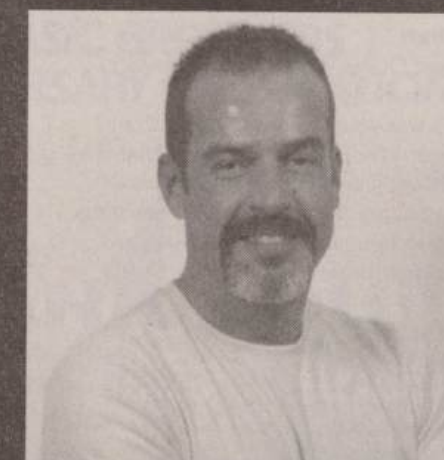
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The Feasting Season

With holiday meals ahead, four cooks provide recipes for the family table

by Eric A.T. Dieckman

It's the most wonderful time of the year: party season, the holidays, or, to some, the holiday. That time of year when we are grateful it's cold enough to wear a sweater, because the occasions for gorging are so plentiful that we need to hide blossoming tummies behind so much knitted wool and acrylic. This is the season we recall on January 1 and resolve to eat less and exercise more. Now is the time to hold our families close, or at least silence the bickering by stuffing our faces with food and drink. For the second year in a row, we have busted more guts than any other city in the nation, making it all the more appropriate to look to out Houstonians for outstanding holiday food.

The Cook

Buddha Dickson, chef of the soul-food wonderland Faust Café (3402 Fondren; 713/532-6775), former executive chef of SkyBar, owner of Café Avino prior to that, and chef and master baker of other restaurants in the past, including Ouisie's Table and Tasca.

The Dish

Roasted Duck with Apple Dressing and Roasted Chestnut Sauce
"When I was young, I always read those Bon Appetit recipes and found out that they were always leaving out a step or two. It really irked me. This recipe came out of my frustration to make a simple but elegant dish anybody could make."

The Recipe

1/2 cup mashed peeled chestnuts
1 3-pound duck
Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
1 sliced yellow onion
1 cored and sliced apple
1 garlic clove, minced
1 1/2 cups chicken stock
1 1/2 tablespoons cornstarch
1/2 cup heavy whipping cream

Dressing:

2 tablespoons apple brandy
2 tablespoons olive oil
2 tablespoons butter
1 1/2 cored, peeled, and sliced apples
1 teaspoon fresh minced sage
1 teaspoon minced garlic
2/3 cup finely chopped onion
1 1/4 cups chicken stock
8 cups brioche, cubed
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon freshly ground pepper

Preparing the dressing:

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
In a large sauté pan, heat the olive oil and 1 tablespoon of the butter over medium heat. Add the apples, sage, garlic, and onion. Cook and stir for 2 minutes. Carefully add the stock and cook for 1 minute more. Place the brioche cubes in a large bowl and pour the stock over them. Toss to moisten evenly and add salt and pepper. Place in baking dish and brush top with melted butter. Place in oven and bake 20-25 minutes.



Buddha Dickson

Preparing the duck:

Place the mashed chestnuts in a small saucepan and add enough water to cover. Cover pan and let simmer over low heat for 1 1/2 to 2 hours or until chestnuts are plump. Set aside.
Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Tie the drumsticks securely to the tail with cotton string. Rub the duck with a little olive oil and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Place duck in roasting pan and roast in the oven for 15 minutes. Turn duck over and roast 15 additional minutes. Remove duck from the oven and spoon off fat from the pan. Turn the duck breast-side up. Add to the pan the yellow onion, apple, and garlic. Return to the oven and roast for 30-40 additional minutes or until the juices run clear when the thighs are pricked with a fork. Remove the duck from the pan and set aside, but keep warm.

Preparing the sauce:

Pour off as much fat as you can from the roasting pan. Stir the chicken stock into the drippings, scraping up the browned bits at the bottom of the pan. Strain the liquid into a measuring cup and discard any solids. Pour the liquid into a medium saucepan and bring to a boil over medium-high heat, cooking uncovered for 6-10 minutes or when reduced to about 1/2 a cup. In a small bowl, stir together cornstarch and 1 tablespoon of cream. Stir the remaining cream into the stock mixture. Add the cornstarch mixture into the stock and cook, stirring until thickened. Stir in the chestnuts and apple brandy. Heat thoroughly.

To serve:

Place a large spoonful of dressing in the center of each plate. Arrange a breast and a thigh on each plate. Spoon the sauce over and all around them.

The Cook

Melissa Wood, minister, Houston GLBT Community Church, which meets on Sundays mornings at the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center.

The Dish

Melissa's Old-Fashioned Pecan Pie
"Here is a recipe that was handed down from my mother. I can't be sure, but I believe her mother handed it down to her. It is believed to date back to at least the 1940s. My mother loved to cook nearly as much as I loved her cooking. She was an old-fashioned home cook. Here is one of my favorites that she would make every holiday season. It's relatively easy to make, and, boy, is it good."

The Recipe

1/2 cup sugar
1/4 cup butter
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 cup Karo syrup
3 eggs
1 cup pecans
Unbaked pie shell

Mix all ingredients but the eggs until fluffy. Add the eggs. Pour in a saucepan and warm slightly over medium heat. Add pecans to the mix. Pour into the pie shell. Bake at 350 degrees for approximately 45 minutes. Let cool before serving.

(continued on page 73)

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THE STING

A pesky bug and a swollen mug remind that looks fortunately aren't everything

I can barely see. My face would be a great science-fair entry demonstrating the histamine response. It's swollen from the brows down to where my jaw used to be, leaving only tiny jack-o-lantern eye triangles and a bridgeless nose.

The unidentified flying insect left no pulsing stinger, no consolation that at least the perp is worse off than I am—just a teensy red dot right between the eyes. A perfect shot by the Annie Oakley of yellow jackets or hornets or whatever the heck it was. I never saw it.

I had been pruning overgrown shrubs when a sudden sharp pain in the middle of my forehead alerted me that *something wasn't right*. I stood still, like a dog trying to figure out what happened to the ball you just hid behind your back. Eventually—and this shows that humans actually are more intelligent than dogs—

I deduced from the loud buzzing sound in my hair that stinging insects were nearby. Luckily I had the wherewithal to drop my pruners before I started flailing at my scalp.

I ran inside, grabbed an ice cube and rubbed it on the throbbing spot between my eyebrows. If you want to know how to get an ice cream headache without eating ice cream, ask me!

My face started puffing up like a Jiffy-Pop bag. While I could still see the phone, I called Ask-a-Nurse. "Keep icing it," she told me, stifling a snicker. "Life-threatening allergic reactions usually happen within the first hour."

By the clock, I was out of the woods. But I kept checking my pulse anyway. I put on clean underwear just in case I was about to become the Should-Have-Carried-a-Bee-Sting-Kit poster girl.

Now my vision is framed with pillow shadows of puffy flesh. My lower lids are pink mounds making everything look like I'm seated behind two big bald guys. Goop keeps oozing out of my tear ducts, giving the effect of one of those movies where they show someone's psychedelic experience by smearing Vaseline on the lens.

My face is so distorted I couldn't pick myself out of a line-up. The stranger in the mirror looks like a cross between Margaret Cho and a Cabbage Patch doll. If I were in Beverly Hills I would fit right in with all the other bad Botox jobs. But I don't fit in around here, where most people can move their eyebrows.

I'm sure the "Oh my God, what happened to you?" response seems original to the person saying it. Call me antisocial. I would like to hole up until this passes. But I have to brave the world—the hardware store part

of it, anyway. Today is my last chance to exchange the 120 baseboard heater for the 240 that we should have ordered in the first place, but who knew? The high-pitched hum and orange-red glow tipped us off—and here's another example of that *smarter-than-dogs* thing—that the heater we had bought was too wimpy for the voltage surging through it. Kinda like my face feels right now.

Should I call and warn them? Do I need to wear a sign that says "Not my real face?" It's not that I care about looking beautiful for the heater guys. But I don't want to freak people out.

I wish I could make everyone rent *Mask* and be reminded that how we appear isn't the essence of who we are. Then again, that boy finds true love with a girl who thinks he is beautiful, but only because she is blind.

Too bad there aren't enough blind people to go around. Lucky for me that even though my sweetie's eyesight is fine, she still sees and loves the real me inside this distort-o-face. At least she says she does.



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Calendar of Events

Deadline for OutSmart's December issue is 5 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 12.

NOVEMBER

Daily (Mon.-Fri.)

HIV Testing. HCHD Thomas Street Clinic is offering HIV testing free to the public, 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.-Sat.)

HIV Testing. The Montrose Clinic offers free confidential HIV testing at these locations. **Monday:** Bricks, 617 Fairview, 4-8 pm; Keys West, 817 W. Dallas, 8 pm-midnight; Club Xcape, 2612 South Richey, 9 pm-midnight. **Tuesday:** The 611 Club, 611 Hyde Park, 4-8 pm; The Briar Patch, 2294 W. Holcombe, 8 pm-midnight; The Club Houston, 2205 Fannin, 8 pm-midnight. **Wednesday:** Mary's, 1022 Westheimer, 4-8 pm; Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne, 6-9 pm; Ripcord, 715 Fairview, 9 pm-midnight; E.J.'s, 2517 Ralph, 10 pm-1 am; Midtowne Spa, 3100 Fannin, 10 pm-1 am. **Thursday:** The Outpost, 1419 Richmond, 4-8 pm; Brazos River Bottom, 2400 Brazos, 8 pm-midnight; Cousins, 817 Fairview, 8 pm-midnight; Toyz Disco, 5322 Glenmont, 10 pm-1 am. **Friday:** Club Escandalo, 2053 Wirt, 8-10 pm; Viviana's, 5219 Washington, 10 pm-midnight; Midtowne Spa, 3100 Fannin, 10 pm-1 am; Club Kalipso, 6806 Longpoint, midnight-2 am. **Saturday:** Club Inergy, 5750 Chimney Rock, 9 pm-midnight. The

clinic offers classes for those newly diagnosed with HIV or Hepatitis C. For more info: 713/830-3000.

3 (Sun.)

Mel White. At PFLAG's general meeting, hear Mel White's account of his move to a home in Lynchburg, VA, across the street from Jerry Falwell's Thomas Road Baptist Church. He moved there recently with Gary Nixon, his life partner of more than 20 years. Falwell, notorious for his condemnation of those in the GLBT community, is a conservative minister, televangelist, and chancellor of Liberty University. 2 pm @ Christ Church Cathedral, 1117 Texas Ave. For more info: 713/467-3524.

3 & 16 (Sun. & Sat.)

Get Centered. At these wellness & psychic expos, explore alternative healthcare medicine & products, including vitamins & magnets. Try aromatherapy, acupuncture, reflexology, & more. Entry \$2. 1-5 pm @ CenterPoint for Body, Mind & Spirit, 1920 Hollister, 713/932-7224. www.centerpoint-houston.com. Also: yoga, t'ai chi, pilates, feng shui, & meditation, all starting Nov. 4.

7, 16, & 24 (Thu., Sat., & Sun.)

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 7th:** 6:30-8:30 pm, Methodist Hospital, 16655 Southwest Freeway, Sugar Land. **On the 16th:** 1-4 pm @ Family to Family Adoptions, 1000 Austin St., Ste. B, Richmond, TX. **On the 24th:** 6:30-8:30 pm @ Clear Lake Hospital, 500 Medical Center Blvd., Webster, TX. For more info: call 713/249-5941; e-mail info@fam2fam.org or Fam2fam@aol.com; or visit www.fam2fam.org.

8 (Fri.)

ComedySportz, Houston's longest-running improvisational comedy show, celebrates its 12th anniversary with a benefit for Gilda's Club, a free, emotional & social support community for people with cancer & their family & friends. Tickets \$12. A silent auction will also take place which will include donations from some of the finest restaurants, salons, & entertainment offerings in Houston. 8 pm @ Lambert Hall, 1703 Heights Blvd. at 17th St. More info: 713/868-1444.

8 & 9 (Fri. & Sat.)

Ballet Preljocaj. Society for the Performing Arts presents the Houston debut of the bold, innovative Ballet Preljocaj from France. Performances include *Helikopter* and *The Rite of Spring*, both contemporary works by choreographer Angelin Preljocaj. In *Helikopter*, Preljocaj takes music by Karlheinz Stockhausen and puts against it a gamut of dancers & video projections, thereby transforming the militaristic whirl of helicopter blades into a demanding dance of majestic beauty. Stravinsky's modern classical creation *The Rite of Spring* has been described as "an atomic bomb of new music." Because the piece was so contemporary & primal, its Paris premiere in 1913 caused a great scandal. Preljocaj has not abandoned Stravinsky's initial intent, but has instead embraced it as a work that is just as much about enthrallment as it is about a feeling of ancestral terror. 8 pm @ Wortham Center's Cullen Theater. Tickets (\$29-\$55) can be purchased online at www.spahouston.org, by phone at 713/227-45PA, or at the street level box office at Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana. For more info: Society for the Performing Arts, 713/227-4772.

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

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

(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.

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). Info: Robert Cullen at 713/365-0266 (after 6 pm).

10 (Sun.)

In the Heat of the Night. Winner of five Oscars including Best Picture and Best Actor (Rod Steiger), this 1967 film is a Civil Rights-era murder mystery that focuses on Southern race relations. In Sparta, Mississippi, a wealthy industrialist is murdered and Virgil Tibbs (Sidney Poitier) is arrested for the crime. When a phone call confirms that Tibbs is a police pathologist from Philadelphia, Sparta's sheriff (Steiger) is persuaded to enlist Tibbs's help with the investigation. Directed by Norman Jewison. 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.

10 (Sun.)

Mr. Prime Choice Benefit is in memory of Creath Robinson, Mr. Prime Choice 2001-2002. Benefits the Gulf Coast Archives and Museum & the Colt 45's. 8 pm @ the Ripcord, 715 Fairview. For more info: Robert Harwood at 713/571-7870 (M-F, 3-9 pm).

10 & 24 (Sun.)

The Fragility of Civil and Religious Liberty. From the selection of school textbooks, to a woman's right to choose abortion, to prayer in schools, to a general repression of human sexuality, to surveillance of potential terrorists and the establishment of "homeland" security, good & well-meaning people are attempting to circumvent and to change our laws. How should people of liberal & progressive convictions react to the challenges to civil & religious liberty posed by the increasing influence of Christian fundamentalism in this country? What is the cost of doing nothing? St. Stephen's Episcopal Church explores these questions in a series of special Sunday evening services. Excerpts from literature & the arts frame the issue, and invited guest speakers respond, involving everyone present in dialogue. The final two in this series are scheduled for 6 pm @ St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1805 West Alabama at Woodhead, 713/528-6665.

11 (Mon.)

Listen Up. Peruvian novelist, author of *Aunt Julia* and the *Scriptwriter*, *The Feast of the Goat*, *The Green House*, & many other books, Mario Vargas Llosa is considered one of Latin America's leading writers & a major contender for the Nobel Prize. His collection of essays, *Making Waves*, won the National Book Critics Circle Award, & he has received virtually every important international literary award. He is part of Inprint's 2002-2003 Margaret Root Brown Houston Reading Series. 7:30 pm @ Cullen Performance Hall, entrance #1, University of Houston campus. Suggested donation is \$5 (students/senior citizens free). For more info: 713/521-2026 or www.inprint-inc.org.

16 (Sat.)

Gregory Hines. As a singer, dancer, & star of Broadway shows, Gregory Hines exemplifies the term "multi-talented." He has earned an Emmy nomination, Tony

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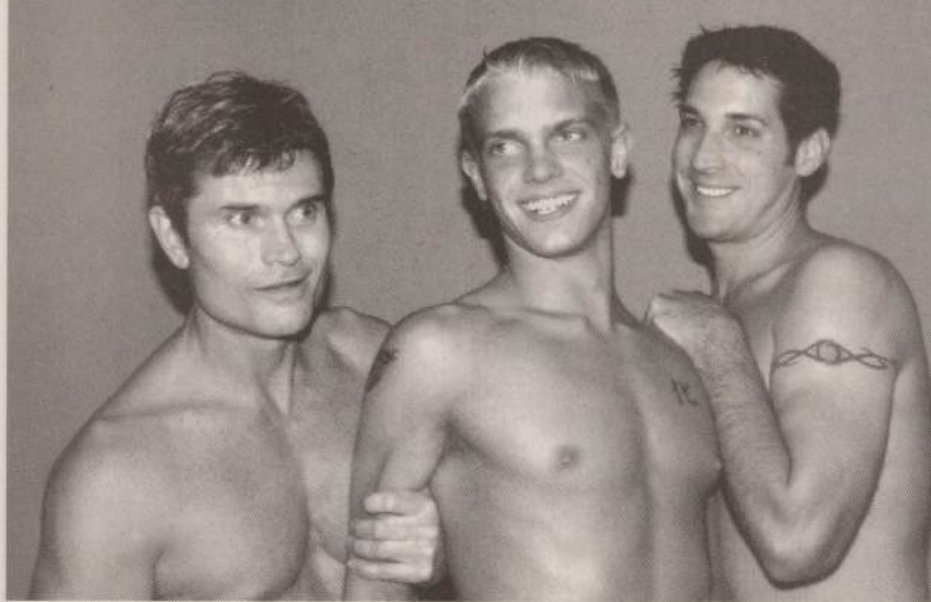
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THE COMING OUT PARTY



Theatre New West opens its 2002-2003 season with the southwest premiere, and the first production outside of New York and Los Angeles, of the smash comedy *The Coming Out Party* by John Michael Caffey. Adapted from Caffey's Pen Award-winning novel (outstanding fiction), *The Coming Out Party* is a gay Pygmalion set in West Hollywood, circa 1977, and played to sold-out houses in New York City and Los Angeles. "It's much better than *La Cage aux Folles*" (L.A. Times). Directed by Joe Watts.

What: *The Coming Out Party*
When: Through Nov. 23
(Fridays & Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sun., Nov. 17, 3 p.m.)
Where: Theatre New West, 1415 California
Cost: \$20
Reservations/info: 713/394-0464
L-r: David Blackwell, Aubry Vance, Jack George

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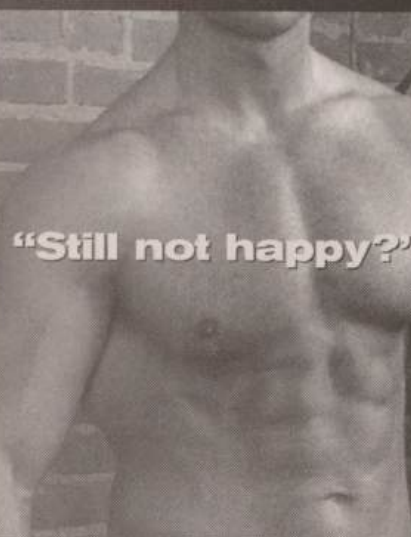
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nominations, & a Tony win for Best Actor in a Musical in *Jelly's Last Jam*. And he proved his comedic talent in last season's *Will & Grace*. Hines' stage show incorporates his stage, film, & recording works. Tickets \$39-\$87. 8 pm @ Galveston's Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Postoffice, 800/821-1894, www.thegrand.com.

17 (Sun.)

Homosexuality and the Bible video showing. There will be a lively video discussion by the Rev. Ken Martin (MCC Austin) of the Old and New Testament passages that have been used to support the belief that God condemns homosexuality. The Rev. Martin concludes that those looking for support of homophobia in the Bible are looking in the wrong place. Free of

charge. 1 pm @ First Unitarian Universalist Church, 5200 Fannin Street, 713/526-5200.

17 (Sun.)

Society for the Performing Arts presents violinist Hilary Hahn in her Houston recital debut. Hahn, called "America's Best" young classical musician by *Time* magazine, will be accompanied by Natalie Zhu on piano. The program includes Ernest Bloch's *Sonata for violin and piano* No. 1, Franz Schubert's *Sonata for violin and piano* in A Major, J.S. Bach's *Partita No. 3 in E Major for solo violin*, and Claude Debussy's *Sonata for violin and piano*. 7 pm @ Wortham Center's Cullen Theater. Tickets (\$29-\$45) can be purchased online at www.spahouston.org, by phone at 713/227-4SPA, or

at the street level box office at Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana. For more info: Society for the Performing Arts, 713/227-4772.

19-23 (Tue.-Sat.)

Jason Stuart. The openly gay comic & character actor travels to Austin with his outrageous stand-up act @ the Capitol City Comedy Club, 512/467-2333. For more info: www.jasonstuart.com.

22 (Fri.)

Three Mo' Tenors is presented by Society for the Performing Arts. Inspired by the incredible versatility of African-American operatic tenors, Three Mo' Tenors takes your spirit, body, & mind on a fantastic, memorable, & awe-inspiring musical journey. It was conceived

& directed by Broadway director Marion J. Caffey, who has forged an entertaining, theatrically staged concert for the whole family. Three Mo' Tenors stars the three vocalists Victor Trent Cook, Rodrick Dixon, & Thomas Young. Together, they explore seven musical forms and span 400 years of music in a single evening. They hit high Cs in opera, belt out Broadway, bend & scat notes in jazz, and stir your soul with haunting gospel & spirituals. 8 pm @ Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana. Tickets (\$15-\$55) can be purchased online at www.spahouston.org, by phone at 713/227-4SPA, or at the street level box office at Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana. For more info: Society for the Performing Arts, 713/227-4772.

22 & 23 (Fri. & Sat.)

Cabaret. What good is sitting alone in your room when you can sit with others to see the hit musical *Cabaret*? Winner of four 1998 Tony awards including Best Revival, this production brings the seedy glamour of the legendary Kit Kat Club to Galveston. Tickets \$18.50-\$67. 8 pm on Friday, 3 & 8 pm on Saturday, @ Galveston's Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Postoffice, 800/821-1894, www.thegrand.com.

23 (Sat.)

10th Annual Artists' Warehouse ArtCrawl. The downtown Artists' Warehouse District involves approximately 100 artists from a neighborhood cluster of more than 10 warehouses. Interwoven into this unique urban fabric of artist-rejuvenated warehouses are commercial art galleries, nonprofit organizations, restaurants, residential apartments, & sundry businesses. This diverse creative community consistently uses the Saturday before Thanksgiving to open their studio & workshop doors and invite the public to experience where they work & how they work. Bring your checkbook & take home an original artwork! (MasterCard & Visa not accepted.) Metro trolleys provided free to shuttle visitors from one warehouse to the next. Trolley maps available at each warehouse. Free parking available underneath I-10 between Main St. & San Jacinto, or park at any warehouse. Info: 713/229-9760.

23 & 24 (Sat. & Sun.)

The Salt Grass Potters will host its annual holiday sale for original hand-thrown & hand-built pottery, everything from functional tableware, decorative sculpture, magical fountains, & colorful tiles. 6-9 pm on Saturday, 10 am-5 pm on Sunday, @ the Clear Lake Meeting Room, 5002 Nasa Road One. For more info, call 281/331-7918, 281/337-6090, 281/332-4490, or visit www.saltgrasspotters.org.

Black Nativity. Audiences are transported through gospel music and dance from the splendor of the first Nativity in Bethlehem to a spirited Christmas Eve service in a Harlem gospel church. *Black Nativity* plays from **November 23-December 22** @ the Ensemble Theatre, 3535 Main Street. For ticket info/reservations, call 713/520-0055.

Frosty the Snowman. The children of Glenville love their unique new friend who can walk, talk, dance, and even sing! When Magnificent Max tempts Frosty into show business, he has to make an important decision with help from all of his new friends. 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., Saturdays, **November 23, 2002-January 4, 2003**, @ the Company Onstage, 536 Westbury Square. Tickets are \$6. Reservations recommended: 713/726-1219.

Sing Along Santa. Though we're pretty sure this wasn't intended to be gay, Santa makes his entrance in purple and, during the show, displays a wardrobe in the colors of the rainbow! Anyway, *Sing Along* is interactive and plays on a grand scale in what could be called a theatrical caroling party. Tickets \$10-\$25. 5:30 and 8 p.m., Friday, **November 15**, @ Galveston's Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Postoffice, 800/821-1894, www.thegrand.com.

The Toys Take Over Christmas. A show for families of all faiths, *Toys* reminds us of the power of generosity and love. A very special rag doll teaches her fellow toys and their creator that it is never too late to find the joy of forgiveness and compassion. **November 23-December 24**, @ Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway. Tickets are \$8. For more info/reservations, call 713/527-0220 or visit www.stagetheatre.com.

The Coal Camp Madonna is a heart-warming holiday story suitable for the entire family. Tickets \$10 (students/seniors \$9, matinees \$8 [all seats]). **November 1-30** @ Theatre Suburbia, 1410 W. 43rd, 713/682-3525.

Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol: A Ghost Story of Christmas is the touching story of the miserly old Scrooge who goes from "Bah, Humbug!" to "Merry Christmas!" From youngsters to the young at heart, audiences laugh with delight and scream with fright throughout Dickens' entertaining story of Scrooge, Tiny Tim, and the spirits of Christmas Past, Present, and Future. *A Christmas Carol* plays from **November 29-December 29** @ the Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave. For ticket info/reservations, call 713/228-8421 or visit www.alleytheatre.org.

Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol. After seven years in celestial limbo, Jacob Marley is in a bind: Either redeem Ebenezer Scrooge before Christmas morning or face eternal punishment. When haunting and chain rattling fall flat, Marley desperately attempts a series of cosmic tricks to put Scrooge on the road to righteousness—and save himself in the bargain. Five actors play dozens of roles. *Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol* plays from **November 26-December 29** @ Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway. Tickets are \$32-\$42 (preview performances \$22-\$25). For more info/reservations, call 713/527-0220 or visit www.stagetheatre.com.

The Nutcracker. Set in 19th-century Germany, the ballet opens at a Christmas party at which the mysterious magician Dr. Drosselmeyer gives his little niece Clara a magical toy that takes her on an unforgettable holiday journey. *The Nutcracker* runs from **November 29-December 29** @ Wortham Center's Brown Theater, Texas Ave, at Smith St. Tickets available at the ballet box office at the Wortham, at the Houston Ballet at 1916 W. Gray, by phone at 713/227-ARTS, or online at www.houstonballet.org.

THE HOLIDAYS ARE UPON US

Thanksgiving Day Parade. On Thanksgiving morning, about 400,000 spectators are expected to line the streets of downtown Houston for the 53rd annual Thanksgiving Day Parade. The parade will begin at 9 a.m. on Thursday, **November 28**, and will be televised on Channel 11 (CBS).

Dysfunctional Family Thanksgiving. Now in its fifth year, Dysfunctional Family Thanksgiving dishes up a daylong marathon of films—comedies, dramas, shorts, documentaries—certain to soothe, or at least distract, jangled holiday revelers. Films include *Kurt & Courtney*, *Happiness*, and *The Virgin Suicides*. Thursday, **November 28**, all day on the Sundance Channel. For a complete listing, go to www.sundancechannel.com.

Yuletide at Bayou Bend. For this annual celebration, eight rooms on the first floor of Bayou Bend, the former home of Houston philanthropist Miss Ima Hogg, are decorated to reflect seasonal events. \$10 adults, \$8.50 seniors (65+)/students with ID, and \$5 children (10-18). **November 21-December 31**. Reservations are required. For more info/reservations, call 713/639-7750.

Gloria. It's Christmas music by Handel, Vivaldi, and Corrette presented by the Mercury Baroque Ensemble. Tuesday, **December 5**. For info/tickets, call 713/498-4853, e-mail Mercury@houston.rr.com, or visit www.MercuryBaroqueEnsemble.org.

As It Is in Heaven is a new play that explores how a Shaker community in 1830s rural Kentucky reacts when several of its younger members claim to see angels. This Houston premiere plays at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, **December 6, 2002-January 11, 2003**, @ the Company Onstage, 536 Westbury Square. Tickets are \$12. Reservations recommended: 713/726-1219.



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29 & 30 (Fri. & Sat.)

Grease. The 5th-longest-running musical in Broadway history. Grease is the story about the "leader of the pack" who meets his bobby-sox sweetheart and proves once & for all... rock 'n' roll is king. Tickets \$18.50-\$67. 8 pm on Friday, 3 & 8 pm on Saturday. @ Galveston's Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Postoffice, 800/821-1894. www.thegrand.com.

PLANNING AHEAD

DECEMBER

December 1 (Sun.)

Help the Needy Drive. For the 21st year, B'nai B'rith will hold its annual drive. Bring nonperishable food, clothing, & toys, which will go to the Greater Houston Interfaith Ministries pantries. 8 am-sundown @ JCC, 5601 South Braeswood.

December 4 (Wednesday)

A Little Day Music. Da Camera of Houston's free lunchtime performance series continues with *Guitarras del Sur: Spanish Inspirations* featuring Edward Grigassy and Rodrigo Gamboa. The series features live music & drawings for tickets to Da Camera's upcoming events. For this free event, concertgoers are encouraged to bring & enjoy their lunches while listening to the music. Noon in the Grand Foyer @ the Wortham Theater Center, Texas Ave. at Smith. For more info: 713/524-7601, ext. 15, or visit www.dacamera.com.

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, through Nov. 16 @ The Company Onstage, 536 Westbury Square, 713/726-1219.

◆ **The Drawer Boy.** The play's central characters are haunted by the devastating injuries they suffered in World War II. When an eager young actor, researching material for a new play, uses their story—and the secrets they have harbored—the line between truth & storytelling is irrevocably blurred. Tickets \$32-\$42. Through Nov. 10 @ Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway, 713/527-0123, www.stagestheatre.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. Through 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. Through Nov. 9 @ the Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave. Tickets to preview performances: \$20-\$40; tickets after the Oct. 16 opening: \$35-\$50. Tickets can be purchased at www.alleytheatre.org, at the Alley box office, or by calling 713/228-8421. →

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In most cities, the GLBT Community Center is the birthplace for change, a safe harbor, and a vital resource to those who have been out for years and those just coming to awareness of their sexuality. From Los Angeles to New York, centers such as the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center depend on corporate sponsorship and individual donations to continue their vital services. And right now, Houston's center needs your help.

Each month, *OutSmart* will donate a 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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Wynn Ann Chaney, Rebecca Mahaffey,
Dane Powell, and Kara Ridenbaugh.
Thanks for a magical evening.



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◆ **Houston Grand Opera** presents *La Bohème* and *Ariodante*. • The 48th season opens 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. Through Nov. 16. • *Ariodante*: For the first time, American mezzo-soprano Susan Graham, a native of Texas, sings the pants role of the prince Ariodante, joined by soprano Alexandra Coku as his beloved princess. Through Nov. 17. • Both @ Wortham Center's Brown Theater, Texas Ave. at Smith St. Tickets (*La Bohème* \$15-\$250; *Ariodante* \$10-\$250) available at www.houstongrandopera.org, 713/228-OPERA, or in the Wortham Center's lobby.

◆ **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.

◆ **The Laramie Project**. A new resident theater company, etc (east-end theatre company), has formed on Galveston Island. Comprised of experienced theatrical professionals, the nonprofit etc promises to produce consistent, high-quality live theater of a wide variety, with a primary emphasis on innovative and "cutting-edge" plays. As etc's founding director Kim Mytelka says, "We rely on 'the kindness of strangers' for a successful start." True to its commitment to innovative drama, etc has chosen *The Laramie Project* as its premiere production. A powerful piece based on the prejudicial battering death of Matthew Shepard in 1998, this series of vignettes was taken from the actual documented facts of the case,

interviews, & journals of those close to the crime. Written by Moises Kaufman & the Members of the Tectonic Theatre Project. 8 pm on Thursdays, Fridays, & Saturdays, and 2:30 pm on Sundays, Nov. 1-16 @ 2001 Postoffice. Tickets available through The Grand 1894 Opera House box office at 800-821-1894 or www.TheGrand.com. More info regarding the play or etc sponsorship & volunteer opportunities: 409/762-3556 or islandetc@aol.com.

◆ **Over the River and through the Woods**. Nick's parents have moved to Florida and his sister to California, but he still lives in New York City and visits his Italian immigrant grandparents—both sets—for dinner every Sunday. This week Nick faces a dilemma: He'd like to tell his grandparents that he's been offered a job in another city, but he can't get a word in edgewise. He faces an uphill battle in trying to extricate himself from these loving but exasperating family ties. Nov. 7-Dec. 15 @ Main Street Theater in Rice Village, 2540 Times Blvd. Tickets are \$20-\$30. For more info: 713/524-6706 or www.mainstreettheater.com.

◆ **A Soap Opera** by the Kinks, presented by Infernal Bridegroom Productions. Released in 1975, *A Soap Opera* isn't just a rock opera about rock 'n' roll, it contains some of composer Ray Davies' most purely satisfying songs ever. Nov. 8-30 @ the Axiom, 2524 McKinney. Tickets \$12-\$17. There will be a sneak preview performance on Thurs., Nov. 7 (tickets will be \$35). Info: 713/522-8443 or www.infernalbridegroom.com.

◆ **Top Gun! The Musical**. All at Mach 3! If you see only one musical comedy about mounting a megamusical based on the movies, make it *Top Gun! The Musical*. You'll laugh. You'll hum. You'll believe a jet can fly! (This is worth seeing for the title alone!) Fridays & Saturdays at 8 pm, Nov. 16-Dec. 14 @ Theatre LaB Houston, 1706 Alamo. (Opening night is Wed., Nov. 13, 8 p.m., and there are two Sunday matinees, Dec. 1 & 8 at 5 p.m.) Tickets \$20 in advance, \$22 at the door. To reserve tickets: 713/868-7516.

PERFORMING ARTS

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

◆ **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, Nov. 2 & 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.

ART/PHOTOGRAPHY

◆ **Artworks-Houston** features three Houston artists for November: C. Ellen Hart for wall art, Alla Stefanski for jewelry, and Susan Cobb for ceramics. Established to meet the growing need for affordable contemporary artworks & gifts from local/regional artists & Israel, Artworks carries giftware, home & office accessories, & antique to modern wall art. Artworks works with individuals, designers, & decorators. 2470 Times Blvd. at Kelvin. Mon.-Thurs., noon-6 pm; Fri., noon-4:30 pm; and Sat., 3-5 pm. The store will open by appointment by calling 713/521-2233.

◆ **Asian Vision**. Thai artist Ithipol Thangchalok's decisive & intricate strokes, which focus on the power of nature and light, are energizing and have an electrifying feel. The semi-abstract works of Thai artist Tawatchai Somkong capture the true essence of the metaphysical world, revealing his journey in India for many years. Singapore artist Syed Mahmood Aljunied's works reveal the power of dancing waves and the flight of nature. Japanese artist Kyoko Ebina's "Person's Desires" captures the human search for self-expression. Chinese artist Yang Jin Long's fresh & colorful pieces are deep yet subtle. All of these works are presented by Iklektik Designs from Nov. 4-Dec. 7 @ Mo Mong, 1201 Westheimer, #B, 713/524-5664. Opening reception at Mo Mong: 7-9 pm, Thurs., Nov. 7. For more info on the artists: Iklektik Designs at 713/647-8542 or visit their website at www.iklektik.com.

◆ **Bamboo Roof**, an outdoor site-specific installation commissioned by Rice University Art Gallery, will be created by Japanese architect Shigeru Ban. The work will feature an expansive open-weave canopy of bamboo boards that spans the gallery plaza. The opening celebration: Sat., Nov. 9, with a lecture by Ban at 2 pm at Hamman Hall on Rice campus. More info: 713/348-6069 or www.rice.edu/ruag.

◆ **The Michael Smith Series**. Houston-based Nicholas Bakaysa's painterly interest lies in observing his subjects close up and often in their own domestic landscapes. This most recent body of work considers Michael Smith, a personal friend of the artist, in a variety of activities that form an intimately observed narrative of Smith's daily life. Through Nov. 23 @ Joan Wich & Co. Gallery, 402 Main, 2nd floor, 713/227-2480 or www.joanwichgallery.com.

◆ **Roxy Paine/Second Nature** focuses on two distinct-yet-interrelated bodies of Paine's work: monumental art-making machines & naturalistic, botanical environments. These two types of work illustrate a reversal between the artist, whose repetitive processes are machine-like, and machines, which are programmed to emulate human art-making. Through Jan. 12, 2003, & the Contemporary Arts Museum, 5216 Montrose Blvd., 713/284-8255, www.camh.org.

◆ **"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. Through Nov. 17 @ the Contemporary Arts Museum, 5216 Montrose Blvd., 713/284-8250.

◆ **UN Real Estates** is the first national touring solo exhibition of new work by the award-winning Cuban American artist Maria Elena Gonzalez. The gallery becomes a landing zone for sculptural "flying carpets" that double as mobile real estate and inspire thoughts of freedom, flight, ascension, & desire. Nov. 1-Dec. 14 @ DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway, 713/335-3445, www.diverseworks.org.

◆ **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. Through Nov. 22 @ Loft & Home Essentials, 1009 Missouri St. at Montrose, 713/522-5638.

Calendar Deadline
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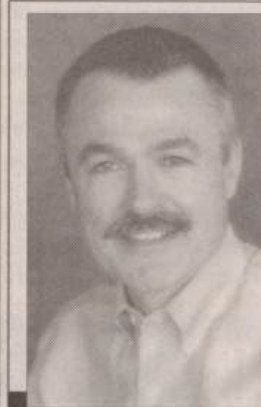
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USA STORM CALENDAR 2003

In 2003 the planet Mars will be closer to Earth than it has been in over a thousand years.

A dramatic increase in natural disasters can be expected worldwide. Alaska, Hawaii and the continental USA will be affected.

The Storm Calendar will provide advance warning on what type of weather or seismic event can be expected, where and when it will happen. Monthly weather and seismic forecasts will be listed for all States.

The USA Storm Calendar will be available in E-book format October 1, 2002 at:
www.jenniferlawson.com

The cost will be \$35.00. Credit Cards will be accepted. A 2003 Weather Calendar for Canada will be available from November 1, 2002. Jennifer Lawson's Violent Weather Predictions 2000-2001 was featured in Nexus Magazine.

WINTER IN P-TOWN

In the off season, Provincetown offers chilly pleasures

Houston can be absolutely great in the winter—not too cold, no snow, sometimes even T-shirt weather on Thanksgiving or even Christmas Day. Just think: no fireplaces, no high heating bills, no heavy overcoats, no snow shoveling.

What a drag.

If you have a hankering for some more classic winter weather, escape Houston's mildness and head up to Provincetown on Cape Cod for a bit of winter wandering.

Perhaps you have been to Provincetown, that crazy little place out on the very fingertip of Massachusetts. But if you are like most tourists, you probably visited in the summer or early fall. At that time, the population of P-town swells from about 3,500 to more than 50,000. After November 1, however, most of the tourists have departed, the town returns to "normal" (if that word ever applies to Provincetown), and folks settle in for the long Cape Cod winter. With the throngs diminished to almost nothing, the winter wonderland appears.

Now, don't think that it won't be cold on the Cape. It will. However, because of its proximity to the ocean, Cape Cod doesn't get the dreadful hard freezes or nasty blizzards that can paralyze the rest of New England.



The lighting of Pilgrim Monument opens the P-town holiday season.

According to the locals, there is nothing more beautiful than Commercial Street, the main drag, in the middle of winter, with the snow glistening off the eaves of the shops and restaurants. While nothing like summer, there are several times during the winter when the P-town population has a temporary mild swelling. Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Eve are, not surprisingly, three of these times.

Come down early in the week for the best bargains on P-town's best accommodations. Many guesthouses require two- or three-day

minimum stays on the actual holidays or the weekends that precede them, so call ahead to make reservations. If you come early in the week or before or after an actual holiday, there are deals to be had, and bargaining about the price of a room is not considered bad manners. Most inns won't discuss rate reductions over the phone, but if you arrive in town and actually show up during slow times, you can almost certainly get a great room for less than the published rate.

Three restaurants in P-town are open year-round: Napi's, on Freeman Street; Fanizzi's by the Sea at the east end of Commercial Street; and Licata's, on Bradford. Napi's has been around for more than 25 years and is a neighborhood favorite. Fanizzi's was recently taken over by a new owner—it was formerly Poochies, a P-town institution for 25 years. Fanizzi's boasts both comfort food and some fine dining specials at night, with a full bar and the ocean lapping at your window. A newcomer this year, Licata's is an Italian-style restaurant with some interesting dishes that take advantage of the Cape's unparalleled fresh seafood. Most other restaurants close for the month of January and sometimes February

as well. If you are here in November or December, stop by Ciro and Sal's for some excellent Italian food and some old world ambiance. Or try the Red Inn, way out on the west side of town, for some upscale food, candlelight, and a lovely old fireplace roaring away in the dining room.

After dinner, wander down the streets, window-shopping if it's a holiday week, or just hurrying to the next warm bar you can find if it isn't. Provincetown has one bar that is not just an institution but that verges on legend status after many years of being open year round. The Atlantic House (or the A-House, as it is called by everyone in town) has stood in the same spot for God-only-knows how many years, and it looks it, in every good sense of the word. Two fireplaces blaze in the winter, and the dark, cavern-like interior of the small bar next door to the dance bar is inviting without being the least bit solicitous. During the summer, the A-House is overrun with beautiful men, but in the winter this spot is for everyone—gay, lesbian, straight, bi, transgender, or any combination of those you can imagine. Grab a bar stool and order a brandy to warm your cockles (you do have cockles, don't you?). Be sure to say hello to the person next to you. P-town in the winter invites conversation wherever it can be found.

So pull that heavy winter coat out of storage, grab your long undies, and do something different this winter. Fly to Boston, rent a car, and drive out to the tip of the Cape for an unconventional, merry, and gay winter holiday in Provincetown. It's not just for summer anymore.

Houston writer and filmmaker Lauren Johnson reported on the "Healing the Hurt" safe-schools conference in the May 2002 OutSmart.

P-TOWN INFO/EVENTS

IF YOU GO

Check out these GLBT-friendly websites for more information:

The Gay & Lesbian Guide to Provincetown 365

www.ptown.org

InsideOut's Guide to Provincetown
www.ptownguide.com

SPECIAL EVENTS

November 7-10

Single Men's Weekend

Workshops include "Gay Dating Boot Camp 101" and "Building a Better Community."

November 27

Lighting of the Pilgrim Monument

Kicking off the holiday season, 5,000 lights adorn the 255-foot monument, the tallest granite structure in the United States.

November 29-31

Thanksgiving Weekend Crafts Fair

The Provincetown Art Association and Museum and Provincetown Town Hall are the two sites for this annual event.

December 6-8

Holly Folly

The Provincetown Business Guild and the Women Innkeepers of Provincetown sponsor this annual gay-and-lesbian holiday festival.

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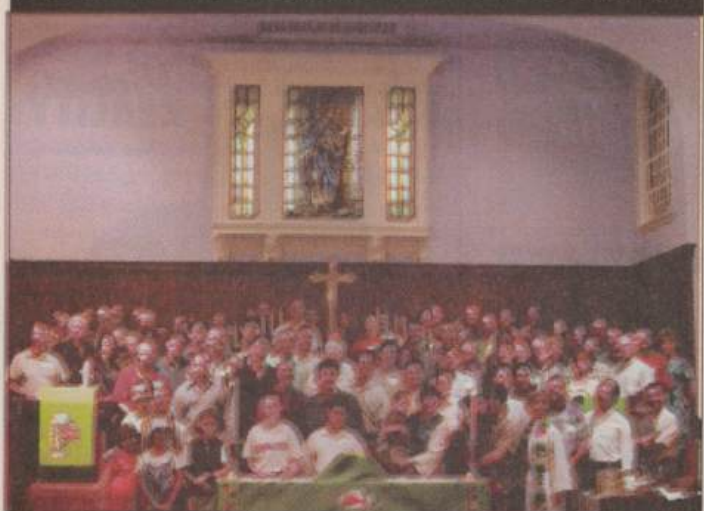
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Out Front

ONE FINE DAY

In November, a Mexican festival comes to life

Given the heart-rending losses the community has suffered, we think the Mexican festival of Dia de los Muertos should be celebrated more by us all. On one day in early November, families traditionally honor their dead relatives and friends, who return to earth to visit. Cemeteries get a sprucing up. Aromas from meals favored by loved ones fill kitchens. Ofrendas, or altars, adorned with clay figures and treasures that recall the deceased bring them to life, at least in memory. When Day of the Dead is observed, the beloved are never entirely lost. They are here, with us, embracing all the follies of life, laughing with mouths wide open. —TB

Greeting card created by Houston artist Daniel Lechon. \$2 each. From Casa Ramirez Folkart Gallery (239 West 19th St., 713/880-2420).



The Festival of Bones/El Festival de las Calaveras, written and illustrated by Luis San Vicente, published by Cinco Puntos Press of El Paso. \$14.95. Available at Casa Ramirez Folkart Gallery.

"Catrina" clay figure from Oaxaca. \$88. From Cosas at October Gallery (244 West 19th St., 713/861-3411), www.cosasgifts.com.

OBSERVING DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

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MECA
1900 Kane • 713/802-9370
www.multiculturalarts.org

Dia de los Muertos Exhibition
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Casa Ramirez Folkart Gallery
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Business News

Colonel Rice is the new general manager of
Mockingbird Bistro Wine Bar. A culinary veter-



Colonel Rice of
Mockingbird Bistro
Wine Bar

eran with 20 years of experience in the hospitality industry, Rice most recently opened and managed the cooking school at Central Market in Houston. A Culinary Institute of America graduate, the New York native has also worked locally at the Ritz-Carlton and at Mark's. **John Sheely** is the owner/chef of Mockingbird Bistro Wine Bar. The restaurant is located at 1985 Welch at McDuffie. The telephone number is 713/533-0200.

The Eye Glassiers of Houston (1131 Uptown Park Blvd., Suite 4) will host a trunk show on Friday, December 6, and Saturday, December 7, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., featuring the latest products from Lindberg of Denmark. The optical boutique will serve wine and cheese, and a Lindberg of Denmark representative will present the new colors and styles in the line. The Eye Glassiers of Houston is located in Uptown Park, Post Oak Boulevard at the West Loop. The telephone number is 713/552-9400.

Copy.com (1201 Westheimer) will donate 10 percent of the retail cost of custom holiday cards to the **Houston Buyers Club**, the nonprofit organization that offers low-cost nutritional supplements and vitamins to individuals who suffer from chronic illnesses. Card prices begin at \$45 for 25, which includes basic layout and blank envelopes. Customers who place orders by November 21 will receive a discount. Copy.com's telephone number is 713/528-1201. The website is www.copydot.com.

Harold Kelly has purchased Clayton Catering from **Joy Clayton**. Now a subsidiary of Kelly's catering firm "**...Of Course, Inc.**," the company offers services for events for guests of 10 to 2,500, including luncheons, buffets, dinners, office parties,



Harold Kelly of
"...Of Course,
Inc."

and cocktail and wedding receptions. Kelly's hospitality-industry experience includes work with **Tony Vallone's** catering outfit, tony's...at home. Clayton Catering and "...Of Course, Inc." are located at 1701 California. The telephone number is 713/526-1800, and the website is www.ofcourseonline.com.

Tony Gonzales is preparing to move his **Legends Hair Design** to 515 Westheimer. Scheduled to open in January, the new, larger salon, with 13 stylist stations, will anchor the east end of the Stanford Shopping Center. Until this new facility opens, Legends continues to operate at the current location, 906 Westheimer. Legends staff specialize in "all things hair," Gonzales says, including cuts, permanents, straightening, coloring, and highlights. Legends makeup artists can also help people prepare for events such as weddings and parties. The telephone number is 713/527-0188. ■

Holiday Food

(continued from page 56)



Damon Constantine

The Cook

Damon Constantine, owner of Damon's Salon, and partner with Ben Sullivan in Chachka, a new shop opening this month in the same historic residence that houses the salon. Chachka (at 902 Sul Ross; 713/529-0073) will carry home decorative items, both antique and new.

The Dish

Mississippi Mud Cake

"When I originally got the recipe from my mother, I wrote down everything she said. For the frosting, she mistakenly told me to use one cup of Carnation milk [instead of half a cup]. I even repeated it back to her. When I made it at home the first time, it was soaked, like a huge piece of fudge. I called her about it and she said, 'You're supposed to use half a cup.' That aside, it's so easy to make and takes so little time. No Thanksgiving is complete without my mother's Mississippi Mud Cake."

The Recipe

2 sticks butter
1/2 cup cocoa
2 cups sugar
4 eggs, slightly beaten
1 small can shaved or flaked coconut
1 & 1/2 cup self-rising flour
Pinch of salt
1 & 1/2 cup chopped pecans
1 9-ounce jar marshmallow crème
1 teaspoon vanilla

Melt together butter and cocoa in a saucepan. Remove from heat and stir in sugar and beaten eggs. Mix well. Add flour, salt, and vanilla and mix well. Add coconut and pecans and mix well. Spoon batter into a greased 13-by-9-by-2-inch pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 35-45 minutes.

While the cake is baking, mix the frosting (recipe follows). When cake is done, spread marshmallow cream on top of hot cake, then cover with chocolate frosting. Let cool before cutting and serving.

Chocolate Frosting:

1 1-pound box powdered sugar
1/2 cup Carnation milk

1/3 cup cocoa
1/2 stick softened butter

Combine sugar, milk, cocoa, and butter in a bowl. Mix until smooth. Reserve for cake.

The Cook

Joe Angel Babb, education and community outreach coordinator, the Alley Theatre. Babb manages a number of student, teacher, school, and family programs for the theater, including Theatre High and Saturday Spotlight.

The Dish

Cranberry Salsa

"I like the recipe because I was raised in a mixed-race household. My father is very much a Southern gentleman, and my mother very much a proud Latina. The cranberry salsa kind of represents my unique cultural heritage."

The Recipe

1 16-ounce can of whole berry cranberry sauce
1/4 cup canned jalapenos, chopped
1 green onion, diced
1 teaspoon dried cilantro
1 teaspoon ground cumin
1 teaspoon lime juice

Combine all ingredients in a medium-size mixing bowl. Serve. ■



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Bar Guide

BOCADOS

This Mexican restaurant serves comfort food, but on Wednesday nights, Houston's women turn out for dancing and socializing until 1 a.m. Popular with gay and straight alike. Sunday brunch starts at 11 a.m. 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. 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 • www.chanceshouston.com.

CHULO'S ICE HOUSE

Chulo's has a great friendly atmosphere. Built from the remnants of a gas station, Chulo's is a step sideways from the usual icehouse. The purple-felt pool table, and leopard-print table tops welcome you. 512 Elgin • 713/520-5218.

CLUB BIG YO

Their statement is, "our ladies on top where they belong. This is an all girls production; our male friends are welcome." Thursday: talent night. Fri. & Sat. nights: black male Chippendale & female dancers. Sun.: no cover all night, special shows/events emceed by Flawless Oz. 6305 Skyline • 713/953-0268; hotline 281/322-0394; www.clubbigyo.com.

CLUB INERGY

The city's premier Latino nightclub is located in southwest Houston. A local institution for 12 years, Inergy offers an eclectic mix of Latin rhythms, mainstream dance, and hip hop. Sunday is the special show night. 5750 Chimney Rock • 713/666-7310 • www.clubinergy.com.

CLUB RAINBOW

Welcoming 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 4 days, Wed. - Sat. 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.

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grab a cocktail, listen to your favorite tunes, and maybe shoot a round of pool. Like its name, it's groovy, hip, and a tad bit kitschy. 2159 Portsmouth • 713/524-3359.

INCOGNITO THE CLUB

Giving Houston's black gay community "a place to party comfortably" since 1995. The host of the annual mega-blast Houston-Splash, Incognito is located in a huge three-level space. Fri. night is girls' night, Sat. is for the boys, and Sun. is a male & female strip show. 3704 Fannin • 713/237-9431.

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 Newtown. 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 • www.keyswest.com.

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.

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2401 San Jacinto • info line...713.759.9606

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.

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611

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South Beach is the place for high-energy dancing. Its 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 • www.SouthBeachTheNightclub.com.

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Venus, planet of love, beauty, and sweets gets back on track after the 21st, just in time for Thanksgiving overindulgences. That should make everybody's relationships better. There is a Lunar Eclipse on the 19th in the sign of Taurus. We all may want more stability in our lives during that full moon phase. It is an active and busy month with many people really ready for the upcoming holidays. Days to overeat are the 3rd, 4th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 13th, 24th, 27th, and the 30th. Days for fasting are the 5th, 16th, and the 17th. Most all of the planets this month are in fire or air signs, especially close to Thanksgiving. This is not going to produce the most grounded time for the holiday and families, but it certainly will keep things from being dull.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You are taking things more personal lately. And you may even find that you are more withdrawn, even hibernating. You are in a very introspective place, and this is not familiar ground for you. The only place you are feeling connected is with your relationship partner, and things are edgy there, too. Don't draw a fight to you just to get some attention. You may get attention, but it will be negative. Closer to TG Day, your spirits begin to pick up. Invite a lot of people over and enjoy the distractions.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Relationships are spotlighted this month for you. And your relationships have to add to your sense of independence and freedom, or you are going to feel that you are trapped. Make sure that you and your current partner are in the same pasture. Even work relationships can have this tone. Your boss may be making demands on you that you don't think are fair. You should keep your schedule easy, open, and light. This will be exceptionally true during the week prior to TG Day. You are walking around not knowing where you are going and what is expected of you. Don't worry. Most of us feel this way naturally.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's health and work month for you. While we are all at the TG table, you will have some task to take care of that only you can do. One part of you will feel so important, and the other part will be hungry. There are lots of small fires to put out at work this month. And everyone will be waiting for the other person to make the first move. You can start your exercise and health regime before the holidays, and even a trip to the doctor for a checkup would be good for you. As the holiday rounds the corner, you are really ready to share this time with a partner. If you don't have a permanent one, see if you can rent one for the holidays. You will be glad you did.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You will find yourself pulled in several different directions this month. First, a part of you wants to take the month off and just immerse yourself in all the holiday festivities. In fact, you will want to do this for the next two months. Another part of you is very busy at work, and you know that you should be paying attention to your

work and your clients. There are some projects around the house, and they must get done. Where will you fit those in? And in the very back of your brain, you are wondering where your spirituality is. This will have you questioning your existence on the planet. I suggest eating out at someone else's house on TG Day.

LEO (July 23-August 22). The new play for this month is *Home and Family: Existential Dialectics in the Modern World*. If your family yells in the forest, and you are not there to hear them, are they really yelling? Are they really whining if your guilt factors are not stimulated? You still seem like you are that happy-go-lucky Sun Child, but your juices may be used to baste the turkey. And your loyalties will be tested between anyone who is your partner and

Happy Birthday to k.d. lang.

Born November 2, 1961,
the openly gay musician
is performing at the Gay Games
in Sydney, Australia,
on her birthday.

Pictured is lang from her 1997 album
Drag from Warner Bros. Records



your family. Avoid the guilt potholes in the road. You will certainly feel more energetic by the 1st of next month.

VIRGO (August 23-September 22). This is a great month to contact people from your early childhood or your brothers and sisters. You are very interested in making contacts with your past and at least with your memories. And you will be chatty this month. No subject will be taboo or one that you are not well informed about. Your home is the gathering place for all peoples and cultures for the TG holidays. The home fires will burn strongly in your heart. You need a break from work. You have been pushing too hard. After TG, you will be ready to get back to the Sequin Mines.

LIBRA (September 23-October 23). Money and personal resources make your list for the holidays. Even though most people don't know this about you, relationships are such an emotional investment for you. And that is why you work so hard to make the partnership so successful. You are getting your money in order and planning ahead for the next year. You are considering raising your prices or fees, or asking for that raise. You are very open and friendly for the holidays. Some people are unhappy with the old traditions, but you love the way they feel. And you are not afraid to let others know what you think.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 21). With Venus retrograding through your sign during your birthday time, you are particularly introspective. You may not feel very connected to the people in your life. And you will be contemplating what value you have in their lives. And you may come up very short.

SignOut by Lilly Roddy

Don't be surprised if you have had to put more effort into your relationships than you have gotten back. This time of realization will prompt you to do something about this as December begins. You will not go without love for this next birthday year.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22-December 21). This is always the time of the year you are in retreat, reserving your energy and stamina. You are extra sensitive to people and their emotions during this month. You just feel their not-so-hidden agenda. And you don't know why they continue to pretend that no one is on to them. You have really been working on yourself this year, confronting fears, losses, and unobtained goals. And now you are resting, getting ready for TG day and your own personal coming out as your birthday time gets closer. You can rely on friends this month to help you finish those special projects.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 19). You continue to remain in your element this month. You are taking charge at work and at home. No project moves forward unless you have okayed it. And no turkey is sliced without your approval. And what a great month to do some networking, particularly with groups and organizations that you have been active with in the past. You will feel like a queen, as they are so ready for your invigorating presence. You may stir some jealousy and competition around you. Ask them to be on your team so you have no one out there working against you. As TG holidays come, take some time to rest.

AQUARIUS (January 20-February 18). You are a force to be dealt with this month. You are creating a commotion wherever you go. You might as well enjoy it and get over that "I'm gonna be trapped" feeling. You are trapped if you are on the outside, too. Career is wonderfully highlighted this month. Some of you are questioning your choice, but as you should. As we get closer to TG day, you are more inclined to integrate yourself in a group and shy away from the glare of the spotlight. But IT returns in December.

PISCES (February 19-March 20). You are in a break time. It is a perfect time for getting out of town, shifting those conventional patterns, taking a class, or visiting your favorite getaway spot. Avoid work and all responsibility. As TG Day gets closer, you are being pulled back to your familiar positions of responsibility, of taking care of the Universe and everyone in it. Make sure you are sharing this blessed part of yourself with intelligent beings who have an ability to appreciate it. Check your family's ids. They may not be who they say they are.

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





Out in Houston



1 John Weinland (l) and Denise Martin gave hat-titude at the September 14 SNAP (Spay-Neuter Assistance Program) Gala at the George R. Brown Convention Center.

2 (L-r) Jim Salter, Steven Holbrook, Steven Tesney, and Grant Caplin also toasted the SNAP event.

3 Jessie Garza owns Garza's Kon Tiki in downtown Galveston.

4 Rex Gillit (l) and David Opheim took a break from the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston opening rehearsal on September 9.

5 (L-r) Dennis Traylor, Ann James, and Marcus Everstijn were in the crowd at a September 13 event for the new dAdA Productions.

6 Jon Moreland (l) acquired this painted chair from artist J. Palmer at the September 9 opening of his one-man exhibition at Betz Gallery.

7 Betz Gallery owner Laurie Betz (l) joined the artist at the opening, a fundraiser for the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center.

8 At the September 14 Pink Elephant & Donkey Rummage Sale at the Community Center, Brenda Thomas (c) checked out

some shoes at Dionne Redmond (l) and Christopher Evans' Men's Gathering/BlackExplo2002 table. The Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus hosted the sale, which supported the participating organizations and the Community Center.

9 GLOBAL, the University of Houston GLBT student group, washed cars in the Mary's parking lot on September 14 to raise funds for their National Coming Out Day GLOBAL Gayla at Rich's Houston.

10 The September 13 performance of the Bayou City Concert Musicals production of *A Little Night Music* featured Tye Blue as Henrik. The three sold-out shows at Ovations benefited the Center for AIDS.

11 On September 15, (l-r) Loyd Powell, Daddy Rose, Greg Smith, and Bob Boutin unveiled the new LUEY (Let Us Entertain You) pin and poster designs—by Darrell Lang/Houston Nomads and D.M. Foster, respectively—at EJ's. The 30th anniversary LUEY Weekend will take place March 6-8, 2003.

12 Channel 8's Ernie Manouse (r) received birthday wishes at his September 1 party from (l-r) Ivan Molnar, Kacie Hengel, and Josef Molnar.



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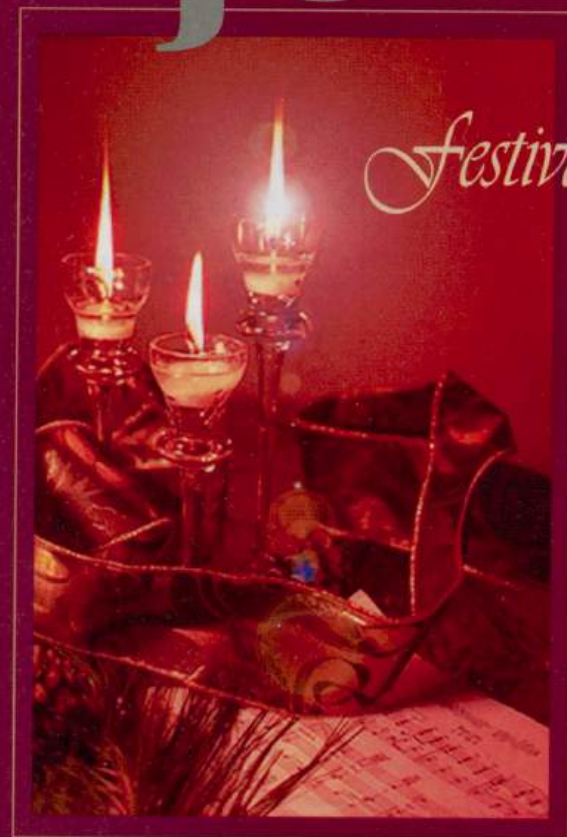
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