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

JANUARY 2003 • COMPLIMENTARY

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About the cover:

Annise Parker, who leads "People to Watch 2003" (page 40) pauses at City Hall. Photographed for *OutSmart* by John Conroy/Varsity Productions. Inset photos, clockwise from top left: Mitchell Katine, photo by John Conroy; Alton LeDay, photo by David Lewis; Binh Nguyen, photo by John Conroy; Vanessa Edwards Foster, photo by John Conroy; Mary Ann McBee, photo by David Lewis.

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OutSmart

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

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TEXAS REPUBLICANS & HOMOSEXUALITY

Thanks for the excellent article by Rich Arenschieldt about the Bush administration's apparent lack of interest in helping those with HIV/AIDS ["Fallout," December]. Unfortunately, this lack of interest appears to permeate administration policy and extends to other issues affecting gays, too. It is clearly a warning that gays must unite as never before and let their voices be heard.

As we must realize, the Texas Republican Party, and to a major extent the national Republican Party, do not care a fig about gays. They have cozied up with the Christian Right, which basically views gays as something less than human.

We need only to look at the official Texas Republican Party platform, printed on their website (www.texasgop.org/library/RPTPlatform2000.pdf) to see where Texas Republicans stand on AIDS and gays. Also need we forget that our state is where the current Bush administration was born?

Under the heading of "Strengthening Families and Promoting a Freer Society" (which obviously does not mean a freer society for gays) is the following:

"Homosexuality." The Party believes that the practice of sodomy tears at the fabric of society, contributes to the breakdown of the family unit, and leads to the spread of dangerous, communicable diseases. Homosexual behavior is contrary to the fundamental, unchanging truths that have been ordained by God, recognized by our country's

founders, and shared by the majority of Texans. Homosexuality must not be presented as an acceptable "alternative" lifestyle in our public education and policy, nor should "family" be redefined to include homosexual "couples." We are opposed to any granting of special legal entitlements, recognition, or privileges including, but not limited to, marriage between persons of the same sex, custody of children by homosexuals, homosexual partner insurance or retirement benefits. We oppose any criminal or civil penalties against those who oppose homosexuality out of faith, conviction, or belief in traditional values."

Unfortunately, this type of hate rhetoric may well be what underlies "compassionate conservatism" today. This platform actually seems to say that killing gays is perfectly OK and should not be prosecuted. If this is their idea of compassion, let's just hope they don't get even more compassionate in the future, whether it be AIDS they are dealing with or guaranteeing gays their basic freedoms.

Claude M. Gruener
Austin, Texas

RIGHT TO LOVE

The outdated desire of men to control the actions of others is a history whose time has come. Sexual preferences are just that. What you choose to do sexually, as long as it does not infringe upon the rights of others, is no less God given than the right to bear arms. It is amazing how the mentality of men allows

Letters

us to kill in the name of God, but not to love. As a society of men and women, what do we believe should be the rule? Our lives are continually defined by nonsexual old men who can't even control their own lives. Why do we as citizens continue to fund the lives of these so-called purveyors of justice, whose only clear aim in life is to arm, maim, and kill? We as citizens deserve the right to love in any manner that we deem desirable, and again, that does not infringe upon the rights of others.

Laura J. Richardson
Claymont, Delaware

CLARIFICATION

In the December issue, we reported that the AIDS Housing Coalition of Houston closed in 2002 ["Share the Wealth"]. Matt Locklin, executive of the nonprofit group, has since announced that the coalition, which indeed ceased operations in July, has reorganized and now operates the West Heights Shelter for individuals living with HIV. Rodney Mills is the new president of the organization. The coalition information: AIDS Housing Coalition of Houston, Inc., 502 West 24th Street, Houston, Texas 77008, 713/864-1795.

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

From the Publisher

Welcome to OutSmart's first annual People to Watch issue, a salute to newsworthy GLBT individuals in Houston.

We began working on this issue almost six months ago, when the OutSmart staff and a 45-member "kitchen cabinet" started gathering information on individuals to profile. We then narrowed the list to 30 from the expanding pool of candidates (we're still receiving names!).

Some individuals, including Annise Parker, Sue Lovell, and Mitchell Katine, are certain to make the headlines in 2003, but all of the people we profiled have interesting projects on the horizon. Some work in the public arena, and many are also involved in work that supports the community. What these folks have in common is that they are out, proud gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender Houstonians. We believe that their lives are truly role models.

We know that many other people fit this description. If you would like to suggest a person to profile, please let us know. We plan to make People to Watch a yearly feature.

On January 21, OutSmart will host a reception honoring the People to Watch 2003. The 5:30-7:30 p.m. event will take place at South Beach (810 Pacific). If you would like to join us that evening in saluting these individuals, please respond on our website, www.outsmartmagazine.com.

You may have recently noticed a few

changes in OutSmart. Tim Brookover has been at the helm of our editorial department for several months. Tim is an experienced writer and editor, having worked over the years for several magazines in Houston. He is also a board member and immediate past president of the Houston GLBT Community Center and serves on the advisory boards of the Gulf Coast Archive & Museum of GLBT History and Community Awareness for Transgender Support.

In February, OutSmart begins its 10th

year of publication. We particularly thank our readers for continuing to support our advertisers who keep us publishing. They advertise in OutSmart because they want to put the message forth that they seek and value the business of the GLBT community. In return, we hope you will support them with your business and let them know how much you appreciate them.

Happy New Year!

Greg Jeu
Publisher



OutSmart's staff: (back row, l-r) Greg Jeu, Jim Hurst, and Thomas Chelena; (front row, l-r) Todd Williams, John Nagy, Tim Brookover, and Blase DiStefano.

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GOOD INTENTIONS. Making, then breaking, New Year's resolutions is a tradition even more antique than Trent Lott's notion of American history. Nonetheless, we launch 2003 by asking a few community folks about their plans:

Steven Jerome, Houston Black GLBT Coalition director and Gay & Lesbian Switchboard volunteer manager:

1. Quit smoking cigarettes. (Probably won't.)
2. Devote more time to the African American GLBT community. (Probably will.)
3. Slow down and take time to smell the flowers and enjoy life. (Flowers are in my garden.)
4. Grow old gracefully. (Don't know how to do that!)

B. K. Silva, peripatetic activist:

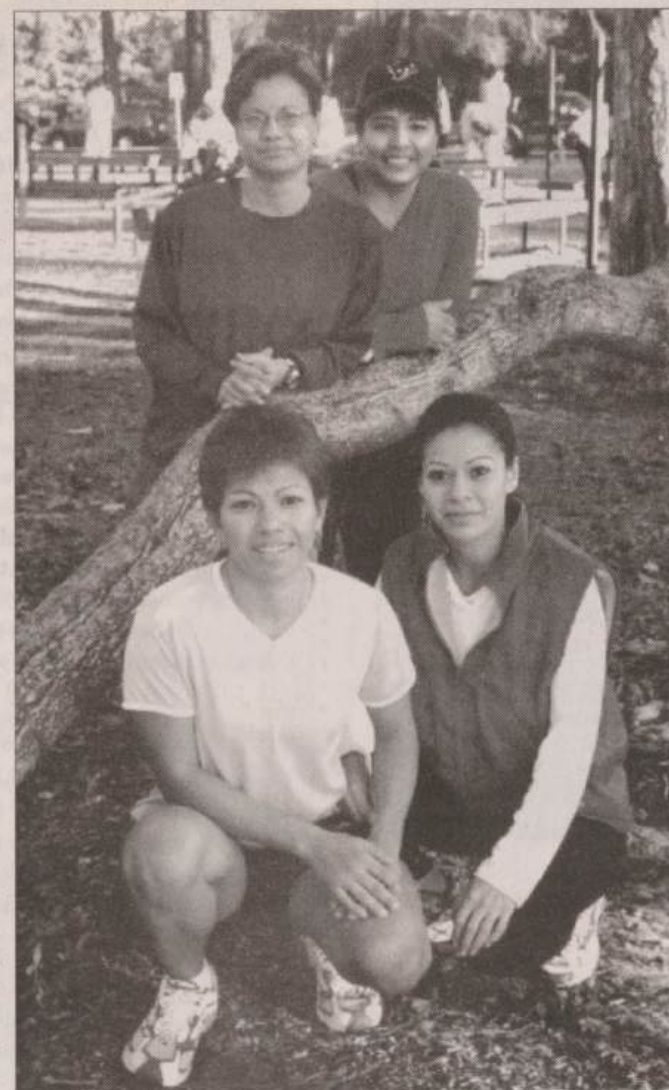
Resolved: I am going to continue to work to ensure that every member of our community who wants a home finds a safe and secure one—that goes for the Community Center, the Community Awareness for Transgender Support Shelter Project, as well as for Rascal and myself!

Ken McLeod, Bering Support Network director:

1. I continue my resolution from past years: to eat as much chocolate as I can, as often as possible.
2. I resolve *not* to resolve again to exercise more, because everyone knows it just is not going to happen!
3. I also resolve to be more attentive to celebrating life every day. (This probably comes from having been in a major auto accident recently and being lucky enough to walk away from it when my car was bashed on all four sides.)

Mary Jean Tiernan, new executive director of Gay Men's Chorus of Houston:

I do not make annual resolutions. My resolutions take place every morning before I get out of bed. Each day is a new start, another gift. Every morning I ask that I might be a more compassionate, considerate, understanding, and thoughtful person.



SISTER ACT. On January 19, the field of runners in the hp Houston Marathon will include siblings Sandy Rodriguez (clockwise from front row l), Rachel Rodriguez, Irma Rodriguez, and Patricia Rodriguez. This is the first year the sisters Rodriguez—only one of them is nongay—have participated together in the event. Rachel and Sandy have run in the marathon twice before. Pat and Irma will be running for the first time. "We're a pretty close family," Sandy says. "Our goal is to finish together!"

Nelson Vergel, founder of Program for Wellness Restoration, PoWeR:

To be able to show my love for friends in more than just words and to finish my second book and give as many seminars as I can to help people stay healthy.

Jackie Thorne, Miss Honeybee 2002:

I resolve to help out our community by raising funds, especially for the transgender shelter and the charities chosen by the new monarchs for the Royal

LookOut
by Tim Brookover

Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star—and have fun while doing it."

REGAL EAGLES. Speaking of the Single-Star Court, Emperor XVIII **Woody Stiner** and Empress XVIII **Shelby St. John** crown their successors at the annual coronation on January 25. Elections for the new sovereigns of the majestic fundraising organization take place on January 18 at 500 Lovett Blvd. Any metro-area resident can vote. Just show your driver's license and tuck in those hanging chads.

Sources remain mum on whether the Imperial Court of Houston, the breakaway, so-called "rebel court" led by **Sean Carter**, will stage a sneak attack. All we are saying is give peace a chance.

GOOD WORKS. On January 19, Bayou City Boys Club presents a kick-off party for the Jungle 11 event at **Evin Thayer** Studios. This year, the BCBC bash will take place on April 19. **Fernando Delariva, Mike Collins, Jimmy Giacona, and Danny Pleason** will co-chair the evening, a fundraiser for six AIDS-service organizations.

Bunnies on the Bayou is accepting applications from 501(c)(3) groups that wish to receive funds from the annual spring fling. The deadline is February 14. Proposals must include details of a specific project and other required paperwork. For more information, check out www.bunnies.org or call **Greg**

Moye (713/214-4092 day, 713/629-4993 evening).

JUST FOLKS. Missed crucial episodes of vintage *Queer As Folk*? On January 8, Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center volunteers **Kendrick Johnson** and **GreenWitch** begin hosting a twice-monthly viewing party of season one of the Showtime series. Episodes will screen on the second and fourth Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the center. ■



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Bob Smith on Dubya

(Out, 12/02, Bob Smith)

Bush made the "Hall of Shame" in the December issue of Out magazine (written by openly gay comedian Bob Smith):

For a second year, Bush refused to sign a proclamation declaring June Gay and Lesbian Pride Month, leaving the "compassionate" conservative in the dust. What's the big deal? It's not like we're asking him to issue Rainbow Pride money or proclaim that Abe Lincoln was gay just because he slept in the same bed with a cute guy for four years, which he did. FDR almost counts too, except that Eleanor only looked like a guy.

Nancy Pelosi

(House minority leader)

(The Advocate, 12/24/02, Bill Ghent)

Some conservatives... have called her a "San Francisco liberal." ... Still, Pelosi remains undeterred, telling *The Washington Post*, "When people say 'San Francisco liberal,' are they talking about protecting the environment, educating the American children, building economic success? No, they are talking about gay people. Well, I... believe all people are God's children. And the last time I checked, that included gay people."

Diane Sawyer

(The Advocate, 12/24/02, Erik Meers)

For just an instant, when asked if she knows that she's a sex symbol to lesbians, Sawyer is startled. "No. Really!" She laughs. "I didn't know." She laughs again, then she's back on track. "That's very flattering. Of course, of course, thank you for telling me."

Justin Timberlake

(singer)

(The Advocate, 12/24/02, Larry Flick)

Justin Timberlake: ... [O]ne of my best friends from when I was 14 was gay.

Larry Flick: What did you think when you found out?

I always knew. It just took him a while to get the courage up to tell me. When he did, I told him that it didn't matter. It didn't change the fact that he was my friend. I wasn't thinking that he wanted to be more than friends, and he wasn't.

It's funny, men are taught by TV and other types of media to exploit women—to look at them as sex objects. Men are taught to see anything on the opposite side of themselves as something sexual, and I guess that includes gay men. It's crazy. But I think that's why there's sometimes tension between straight and gay men. We've been taught to be predators, and straight men don't always know what to do with the idea of another man as something to be pursued or exploited sexually.

It's true. I find that every time I encounter a straight man who finds out I'm gay, the first thing he wonders is if I want to do him.

They're used to seeing a female and thinking about what it's like to be in bed with her. It's ironic that straight society has such strong opinions about something they don't really know about. I'm not going to say I understand what it's like to be a gay male. That's not my life experience. I can tell you what it's like to be in my shoes. And I can be compassionate.

Queer Quotes

Compiled by Blase DiStefano

Megan Mullally

In one of her most joyful sexual stunts of all, Megan-Karen got to lip-lock with Debra-Grace in two such smooches—while role-playing as Grace's ex-boyfriend. Megan says she and Debra "are so used to each other that the kiss wasn't even discussed. We just did it." And did it good. The first take—which ended up being the one that aired—was a bodaciously long mouth-to-mouth, though a shorter one was also shot because back then the network was a little nervous. Karen sure wasn't. "She has some bisexual leanings," says Megan. "She's an equal opportunity employer!"

"... When I was single, if I had met a woman I really liked and gotten into a relationship with her, I don't think I'd have been reticent about it. I'd have absolutely no problem treating it as if it was with a guy. ... But I'm in a really great relationship now. ... I'm not interested in anybody but him," says Megan of her fiancé, "whether it be men or women, because Nick's just the right person for me. ... I don't think I'm not bisexual anymore; that's just not an issue."



MEGAN MULLALLY: Does she have bisexual leanings like Karen, her character on *Will & Grace*? INSET: Karen kisses Grace (Debra Messing).



The Anna Nicole Holiday Special aired on E! in December. One of Nicole's guest was Margaret Cho, who French-kissed Nicole. After the passionate kiss, Cho said, "OK. Thank you for the party. I have to go home now ... and, uh, masturbate. Bye. Love you."

Margaret Cho

Johnny Knoxville



(The Advocate, 12/24/02, Dave White)

But what's gay about [*Jackass: The Movie*]? "Well, one review called it the gayest film of all time. It was our favorite review," says Knoxville. ... "What's gay about it? You mean besides there being no women and the fact that we're constantly naked and touching each other?" asks Knoxville, laughing. "Nothing much, really. ..."

DRESS TO KILL

What do Jennifer Aniston and Brad Pitt, Bob Newhart, Elvis Costello, Harry Dean Stanton, Dick Martin, Rebecca DeMornay, Larry Gelbart, and Angie Dickinson have in common? They were all backstage on the same night after seeing British comedian, actor, and executive transvestite Eddie Izzard perform in Los Angeles on his last tour. They are all a part of Izzard's eclectic fan base. • Don't know Eddie Izzard? Or want



more of Eddie Izzard? With the DVD release of *Dress to Kill*, you can watch his HBO special at your own convenience... over and over again. Watch him juggle the "Star-Spangled Banner," the British royal family, squirrels, monkeys, transvestitism, Italians on their motorcycles, and so much more, all with tremendous intelligence, wit, and skill. His makeup and heels take a back seat to his ingenious delivery. The DVD includes *Dress to Circle* (Izzard performs in French in Paris), *America 1998* (photo documentary), subtitles in Spanish, French, and English, and show commentaries. • Izzard costarred with Ewan McGregor in Todd Haynes's *Velvet Goldmine* (1998) and was recently seen in *All the Queen's Men* with Matt LeBlanc. • From Anti- (www.anti.com).

—Blase DiStefano

ALL ABOUT BETTE

All About Eve headlines list of remastered DVDs

On January 14, Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment invites film fans to begin the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Academy Awards, with the launch of its new Fox Studio Classics DVDs. In a yearlong commemoration, Fox will unveil beautifully remastered DVD versions of the studio's numerous Oscar winners and nominees from its more than 60-year heritage, beginning with three Best Picture favorites—*All About Eve*, *Gentleman's Agreement* and *How Green Was My Valley*. These acclaimed DVD titles will be priced for collecting at \$19.98 (VHS \$9.98). On the first Tuesday of each subsequent month throughout 2003, and beyond, one completely restored classic will be added to the collection, featuring rarely and never-before-seen value-added materials. • All DVDs in the Fox Studio Classics DVD collection will include bonus features such as original theatrical trailers, screenplays, and still galleries. The newly restored *All About Eve* DVD features a restoration comparison, commentary tracks by Celeste Holm, Christopher Mankiewicz, Joseph L. Mankiewicz biographer Ken Geist, and



author Sam Staggs. PLUS: the A&E "Backstory" on *All About Eve*; an original Bette Davis interview with Leonard Slater of *News Week Magazine*; an interview with Anne Baxter for *Woman's Home Companion Magazine*; loads of authentic Movie Tone News footage from the 1951 Academy Awards, the 1951 film gala premiere, the *Holiday Magazine* Awards, and the *Look Magazine* Awards; the original theatrical trailers; and more. • Nominated for 14 Academy Awards

—more than any other picture in Oscar history, until *Titanic* (1997) duplicated the same feat 47 years later—*All About Eve* won six Oscars: Best Picture, Best Supporting Actor (George Sanders), Best Director (Joseph L. Mankiewicz), Best Screenplay (Joseph L. Mankiewicz), Best Sound Recording, and Best Black & White Costume Design. The four leading ladies in the film were each nominated for awards including Best Actress for Bette Davis and Anne Baxter and Best Supporting Actress for Celeste Holm and Thelma Ritter. *All About Eve* is called "one of the smartest pictures of all time... a picture for any era" by the *Los Angeles Times*. We'll second that. —Troy Carrington

ALL ABOUT JUDY

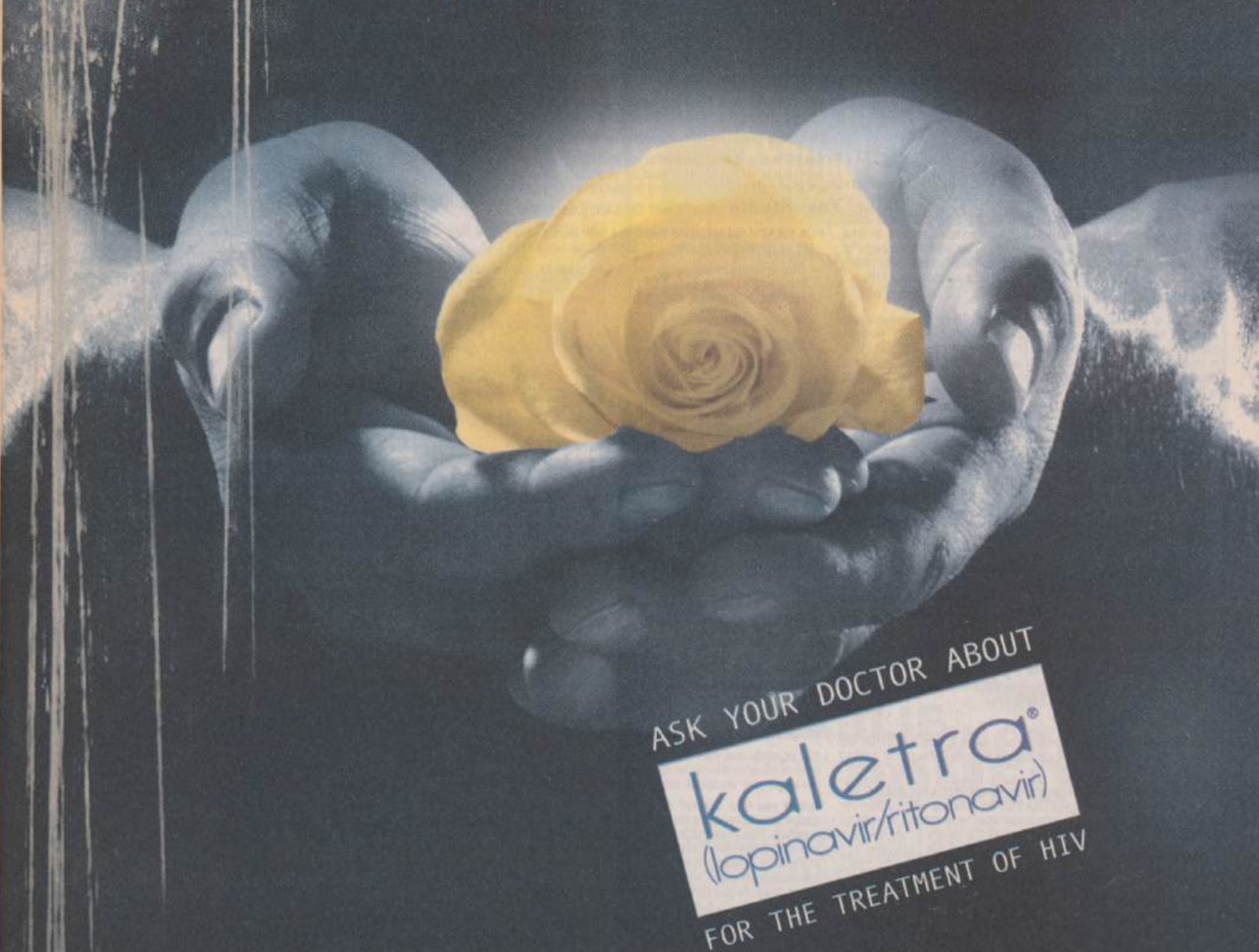
The Judy Garland Collection includes four DVDs

Judy, Frank & Dean: *Once in a Lifetime* Three entertainment legends are captured at the height of their careers in this Emmy-nominated 1962 TV special. Garland, Frank Sinatra, and Dean Martin—in their first and only appearance together—present a jewel of a musical offering, giving us the opportunity to experience the sum total of the performers' masterful individual talents. • *Judy Garland Live at the London Palladium with Liza Minnelli* This classic show—performed on November 16, 1964—was one of Garland's last appearances at the historic London Palladium. This unforgettable night also marked Liza Minnelli's first public stage performance with her legendary mother. • *Judy Garland, Robert Goulet & Phil Silvers Special* This TV event, which aired February



1963, helped launch the famed *Judy Garland Show*, which captivated audiences throughout '63 and '64. Includes a bonus feature of Hollywood home movies. • *Judy Garland: The Concert Years* This special program—hosted by Garland's daughter Lorna Luft—is a loving tribute to the life and timeless popularity of Garland, who began as a small-time vaudeville act and grew up to be one of the greatest entertainers of all time. Featuring the fond reminiscences of many family and friends, this show is filled with some of Garland's finest filmed performances. Includes her singing—on her own and with stars such as Barbra Streisand, Lena Horne, Liza Minnelli, and Tony Bennett—several of her greatest songs. A bonus feature: the Hollywood gala premiere of *A Star Is Born*. • From Kultur (www.kultur.com). —TC →

WHAT KALETRA HAS TO OFFER MAY SURPRISE YOU



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

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

Safety Information

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

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

Pancreatitis and liver problems, which may cause death, have been

reported in patients receiving KALETRA. Tell your doctor if you have or have had liver disease such as hepatitis. Your doctor may want to monitor your liver function. In patients taking protease inhibitors, increased bleeding (in patients with hemophilia) and diabetes/high blood sugar have occurred. Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients receiving antiretroviral therapy. Some patients receiving KALETRA have had large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol. The most commonly reported side effects of moderate or severe intensity are: abnormal bowel movements, diarrhea, feeling weak or tired, headache, and nausea. Children most often reported diarrhea, rash, taste aversion, and vomiting.

KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol.

Please see adjacent page for Patient Information.

www.kaletra.com
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Abbott Park, IL 60064

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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 methylergonovine such as Cafergot®, Migranal®, D.H.E. 45®, Ergotrate Maleate, Methergine, and others

— Halcion® (triazolam)

— Hismanal® (astemizole)

— Orap® (pimozide)

— Propulsid® (cisapride)

— Rythmol® (propafenone)

— Seidane® (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 (Tegreto® and others)
These medicines may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.

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

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

What are the possible side effects of KALETRA?

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

- The most commonly reported side effects of moderate severity that

are thought to be drug related are: abnormal stools (bowel movements), diarrhea, feeling weak/tired, headache, and nausea. Children taking KALETRA may sometimes get a skin rash.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

What should I tell my doctor before taking KALETRA?

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

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

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

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

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

How do I store KALETRA?

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

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

- Avoid exposure to excessive heat.

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

General advice about prescription medicines:

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

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MORE MOVIES ON DVD/VHS



Everything Relative. After its world premiere at the Sundance Film Festival in 1996, Sharon Pollack's *Everything Relative* played to enthusiastic audiences at gay and lesbian film festivals across North America, followed by a limited release in major markets. Hailed by Kevin Thomas of the *Los Angeles Times* as "one of the best lesbian films yet," *Everything Relative* charts the reunion of eight women who ran a street theater group in the '70s. When two of the women have a baby, the gang convenes at the couple's

Northampton home for the bris. Amidst softball, skinny-dipping, and still-smoldering sexual secrets, the women discover how their lives, loves, and politics have changed over the years. The film stars Ellen McLaughlin, Olivia Negrón, and Stacy Nelkin, and features a special appearance by Harvey Fierstein. • The DVD has SDH technology (subtitled for the deaf and hearing-impaired), and fans of the film can now enjoy a commentary track by director Pollack and outtakes from the film. • You can order the DVD or VHS by visiting www.wolfevideo.com or by calling 1-800-GET-WOLFE. —TC



Stray Dogs. Guinevere Turner stars in this Southern gothic tale as Darla Carter, a resilient mother of two who has just found out that she's pregnant again. With the help of her husband's sister Jolene (Dot-Marie Jones)—who quietly nurses a forbidden crush—Darla resolves to leave her drunken husband Myers (Bill Sage) once and for all. Filled with intense performances and full of surprises, Jeffrey Anderson of the *San Francisco Examiner* declares *Stray Dogs* a "meticulous, intense, unforgettable drama that

makes you want to curl up under the cover afterwards." From Filling the Gap (www.fillingthegap.com). —TC



Forbidden City U.S.A., Arthur Dong's first feature-length documentary, discovers the history of the notorious and groundbreaking Chinese-American nightclub that inspired the musical *Flower Drum Song*. Combining interviews and remarkable archival film and photographs, the film looks behind the musical characters of Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Flower Drum Song* to show a generation of Asian-American pioneers who fought cultural barriers and racism to pursue their love for American song and dance. • The DVD features bonus footage that has never been seen before, as well as a nostalgic scrapbook with over 200 period photos and assorted memorabilia from the club. You can order the DVD by contacting the Deep-Focus Film Library at 1-800-343-5540 or by visiting www.DeepFocusProductions.com. —TC ■



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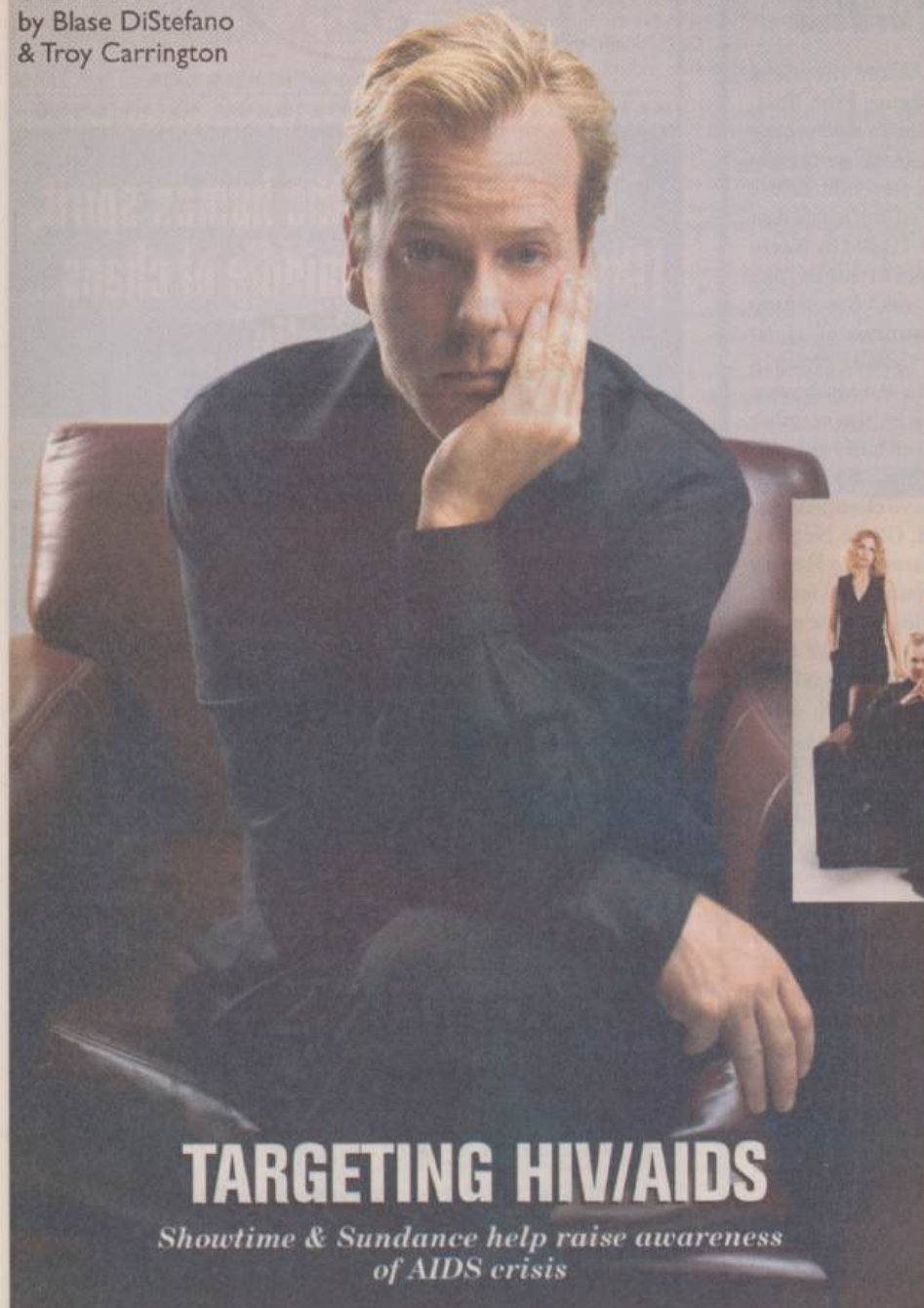
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by Blase DiStefano
& Troy Carrington



When Natalie arrives and sees her brother snapping at his employees, she's ready to pack it up. (The two had a rotten childhood with a rotten father who was suspected of killing their mother.) Yeah, I know it sounds like a soap opera, but it's actually a beautifully written and well-acted film (Sutherland as a snooty gay queen is superb). When Roy tells his sister that he has AIDS and that his lover died of AIDS, the two siblings begin a healing process. Don't miss it. Premieres **Sun., Jan. 12** at 7 p.m. on Showtime. Repeat airings: 1/13 at 9 p.m., 1/22 at 7 p.m., 1/25 at 8:45 p.m., and 1/28 at 8 p.m.

Sundance Channel presents two acclaimed documentary films about living with AIDS. Monte Bramer's *Paul Monette: The Brink of Summer's End* profiles the National Book Award-winning writer Paul Monette, one of the world's most eloquent voices on the subject of AIDS. The film, which won the Audience Award at the 1997 Sundance Film Festival, was made with Monette's collaboration shortly before his death in 1995.

Peter Friedman and Tom Joslin's *Silverlake Life: The View*

Kyra Sedgwick, Kiefer Sutherland, and Stockard Channing star in Showtime's *Behind the Red Door*.

from *Here* is an intimate, deeply moving portrait of a gay couple, Tom Joslin and Mark Massi, coping with AIDS. Joslin, a filmmaker and teacher, began the video diary when he and Massi learned they were both infected with HIV. The film won the Grand Jury Prize and Freedom and Expression Awards at the 1993 Sundance Film Festival.

Monette airs **Mon., Jan. 13**; *Silverlake* airs **Tues., Jan. 14**; both at 8 p.m. on Sundance Channel. →



Sundance Channel airs two AIDS-related documentaries: *Silverlake Life: The View from Here* (above) and *Paul Monette: The Brink of Summer's End*.

Viacom, one of the largest media companies in the world, and the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, a leader in health information and research, have created an unprecedented, cross-platform public information campaign to eradicate ignorance about HIV/AIDS. The multi-year campaign will encompass the creation and dissemination of information about the HIV virus and its prevention through a variety of media, including TV, radio, and outdoor.

Showtime and Sundance Channel join Viacom in this company-wide initiative to raise awareness about the ongoing global AIDS crisis.

Showtime premieres its latest original picture *Behind the Red Door*, starring Kiefer Sutherland, Kyra Sedgwick, and Stockard Channing.

Supposedly, a red door keeps evil out. Well, upon meeting Roy (Kiefer Sutherland), you'd think he had never even seen a red door; "evil" is probably not the best word to describe him, but he is certainly one helluva angry prick.

Natalie (Kyra Sedgwick) is offered a photo shoot in Boston; she gets the gig through Julia (Stockard Channing, in yet another gay-friendly role). Julia, well aware that the shoot is for Roy, Natalie's older gay brother, doesn't inform Natalie of the ruse.

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LIFE AND DEATH ON PBS

The life of Bayard Rustin and the death of Lance Loud

Brother Outsider:
The Life of Bayard Rustin

Long before Martin Luther King Jr. became a national figure, Bayard Rustin routinely put his body—and his life—on the line as a crusader for racial justice. Rustin's commitment to pacifism and his visionary advocacy of Gandhian nonviolence made him a pioneer in the '40s and captured King's imagination in the '50s. In 1963, with more than 20 years of organizing experience behind him, Rustin brought his unique skills to the crowning glory of his civil rights career: his work organizing the historic March on Washington, the biggest protest America had ever witnessed. • But Rustin was also seen as a political liability. He was openly gay during the homophobic era of the '40s and '50s; as a result, he was shunned by the very civil rights movement he helped create. This film chronicles his life story. Though he was an illegitimate son, an African American, a gay man, and a one-time member of the Communist Party, Rustin eventually became a respected political leader. He was a longtime advisor to Martin Luther King Jr. and was known and respected by presidents and foreign leaders. • **Airs on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Mon., Jan. 20, at 9 p.m. on PBS.**



Top photo: Bayard Rustin (r) with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1963 at the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.
Bottom photo: Lance Loud at age 21.

Lance Loud:
A Death in an American Family

An American Family, the original reality TV series about the Loud family of Santa Barbara, California, premiered on January 13, 1973. *Lance Loud: A Death in an American Family* commemorates the 30th anniversary of the PBS documentary series. "This is not to emphasize the sadness of my demise but rather emphasize the love of my family and friends. When time comes up, I want to be filmed because life this past year has taught me so much. I also stand as a role model as to what not to do in one's life." This is a quote from a letter by Lance Loud to the filmmakers Susan and Alan Raymond. "The core of the new film," say the filmmakers, "include the filming we did with Lance and his family the few months shortly before he died in December 2001, as well as his memorial service at the Chateau Marmont Hotel in Los Angeles, January 2002." The one-hour program points out Loud's distinction as the first openly-gay character on television and includes an interview Rufus Wainwright, who also belts out a stirring rendition of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow." **Mon., Jan. 6, at 8 p.m. on PBS. A rebroadcast of episode #2 of *An American Family* follows.**

THE END OF OZ

Coming off its most-watched season, HBO's prison drama *Oz* returns for its sixth and final season this month with eight new episodes. Among the guest stars are Betty Buckley, Joel Grey, and Patti LuPone. Among others, the returning cast includes Rita Moreno, Harold Perrineau, B.D. Wong, Lee Tergesen, and Christopher Meloni (pictured). *Oz* is about the relentless struggles for power inside the Oswald State Correctional Facility, where inmates and correctional officers battle ruthlessly for survival amid warring factions and explosive acts of retribution. In this final season, *Oz* will wrap up some of its storylines, with some of the main characters experiencing redemption and spiritual awakening. The new season begins **Sun., Jan. 5, at 8 p.m. on HBO.**



TWO ON SUNDANCE

Things You Can Tell Just by Looking at Her
Rodrigo Garcia's debut feature is composed of five narratives, which examine the hidden emotional lives of women in contemporary Los Angeles. An unmarried bank manager (Holly Hunter) faces the possibility of an abortion; a police detective (Amy Brenneman) discovers her blind sister's (Cameron Diaz) astute insight; a lonely gynecologist (Glenn Close) consults a psychic; a lesbian couple (Calista Flockhart and Valeria Golino) confronts the finality of their relationship; and a single mother (Kathy Baker) becomes erotically intrigued by a dwarf next door. **Various dates:** Sun., Jan. 5, 9 a.m. & 10 p.m.; Wed., Jan. 22, 9 a.m. & 8 p.m.; Tues., Jan. 28, noon & 11:30 p.m. on Sundance Channel. (To confirm dates and times, visit www.sundancechannel.com.)

Our Lady of the Assassins

The violent inferno of Columbia's drug capital, Medellín, plays host to Fernando (Germán Jaramillo), a gay writer who has returned to die after a 30-year exile. While preparing his last goodbyes, Fernando falls in love with a young street thug (Anderson Ballesteros), who serves as Fernando's guide to the Medellín of his youth. Barbet Schroeder's adaptation of

Fernando Vallejo's novel was largely filmed secretly under dangerous circumstances



on the streets of Medellín. **Various dates:** Sat., Jan. 11, 9 p.m.; Mon., Jan. 27, 9 p.m. on Sundance Channel. (To confirm dates/times, visit www.sundancechannel.com.)

WILL & DAN

At press time, we were thrilled to find out that on *Will & Grace*, Will (Eric McCormack) may finally have another romantic interest. And to our delight, he is played by the oh-so-gay-friendly Dan Futterman. (In an interview in *The Advocate* in 2001, he had to be coaxed into mentioning his wife. "I always find it creepy when you read an article about someone playing a gay character and the first thing they do is mention their girlfriend or wife.") In the episode, "Phagmalion Part One: Gay It Forward," Futterman begins a multi-episode stint as a cousin of Karen (Megan Mullally) who recently decided to come out of the closet. **Thursdays at 8 p.m. on NBC.**

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Recent Releases

Tony Bennett & k.d. lang
A Wonderful World



Inspired by the songs associated with Louis Armstrong—a friend and colleague of Tony Bennett's as well as a major influence on both Bennett and k.d. lang—*A Wonderful*

World features such songs as "La Vie en Rose," "If We Ever Meet Again," "I'm Confessin' (That I Love You)," and the Armstrong classic, "What a Wonderful World." K.d. lang, whose successful career spans country, pop, and torch song, joined Bennett on tour during the summer of 2001 and has known him since they recorded "Moonglow" together in 1994 for Bennett's MTV Unplugged TV special. Lang brought "La Vie en Rose" to the table: "I always loved the song and remember, when I was younger, dancing to the old Grace Jones version of it. So we decided that we'd do a bossa nova version." "What a Wonderful World" took on a special significance to lang when she was on tour with Bennett: "We were on the road, Tony and I, when September 11 happened, and something about the song reminds me of that day." "Because of everything that's happened, I'm glad we made a peaceful album," adds Bennett. "We wanted to make something calm, to give people a little oasis of serenity instead of being stressed out." Bennett and lang have succeeded. From RPM Records/Columbia Records. More info: www.tonybennett.net, www.kdlang.com, or www.columbiarecords.com. —Troy Carrington

Cassius
Au Rêve



Like numerous creative teams, particularly in dance music, Cassius are a duo. Phillipe Zdar and Boombass met in Paris in 1988 and immediately took to creating music together. The résumé they have since built up behind them as producers is impressive, having handled MC Solaar's milestone *Qui Sème...* album in the early '90s, but it is with the release of their own 14-track full-length *Au Rêve* that they are finally allowed to really shine. The album is a study in the different musical genres the two have immersed themselves in over the years—weaving in and out from house music to hip-hop and reggae, occasionally touching on techno and drum & bass, finding room for a few wailing guitar solos here and there. Even with the chart-topping presence of its musical genres, the album finds room for innovation, and is likely to sound fresh years from now. From Astralwerks (www.astralwerks.com). —Lance Walker

GrooveOut

by Gregg Shapiro

A VERY QUEER YEAR

2002 saw an abundance of recordings by out artists

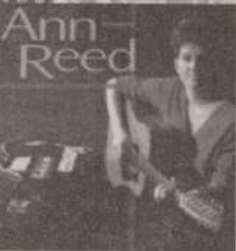


Before 2002 fades into history, I wanted to point out that last year there didn't seem to be an end to the number of CDs put out by members of the GLBT community. I have probably only scratched the surface of what is out there, but I also feel like I have discovered or been reintroduced to some of the best and brightest that these artists have to offer.

Cocteau Twins meet **Radiohead** in the lovely, but impenetrable vowel movements of Icelandic band **Sigur Ros** on their () (MCA). The lush and grand arrangements of the eight untitled tracks take the listener to new and uncharted places and states of being. Some of the songs are romantic enough to be the soundtrack to a night of passionate sex. Openly gay lead singer **Jonsi** hits the high notes in a lo-fi sort of way that is both seductive and terrifying.

I have been waiting years for the opportunity to write

The Quails, Reuben, and Ann Reed are just a few of the out musicians who shared their talents with us in 2002.



ANN REED IN CONCERT

Minnesota folk singer/songwriter Ann Reed will perform at the Houston Community College Heinen Theater on Saturday, January 11, at 7:30 p.m. The Houston trio St. Brigid's Flame will open for Reed. The members of Flame are Constance Braden, Elizabeth Jeter, and Mary Radspinner. Tickets are \$15. To order, call 800/947-9180.



about **David Clement's** second full-length album. Shortly after I received an advance copy of the then-titled *Hard Candy*, Clement (among many other artists) was dropped by the major label in a restructuring process, and the album was unreleased. In the years that have passed between the planned original release and the current version, now known as *Your Free Gift* (Show Dog Tunes), Clement's songs have been featured on a couple of WB network programs, and he has performed a lot of live shows. You would never know the album has been sitting on a shelf for a few years. "Ahhh" is a smart song about "a stupid song that you love so much," with its surfer punk beat and hypnotic organ. "Ms. Davis," which makes reference to

both his "first wet dream" and "Angela Davis on TV," is only one of Clement's political pop songs. The gorgeous "Geriatrphilia," a plea for growing old together, is Clement's most honest love song. You can purchase the album at www.davidclement.com.

Easily the most promising debut by a queer artist in 2002 is the self-titled six-song EP by **Kitko** (www.kitko.org). Kitko turns childhood songs and games into the most amorous invitation of the season on "Row Your Boat." On "The Bitch Song," she sings, "I'm a bitch/I'm a bitch/I'm a bitch if I know what I want/I'm a bitch/I'm a bitch if I don't let myself get stepped on," and demands equal pay for women (among other things). It has anthem written all over it. "Alphabet Song," in which she spells out her kiss off, "A-B-C-D-E-F Go away from me," is an instant classic.

A hazy light emanates from the center of *Dusk* (Clutter), the debut disk by **Reuben**. The shadowy circus ambiance of "Do Something" makes reference to Billie Holiday, while encouraging the listener to take action (come out?), in this way, "Though Papa may be out of his head and Mama in bed/cut your losses. Let the dead bury the dead." The homo heat of "Me&Rico" makes it one of the best out songs of the year—"stoney," "swishy," "picky," and "tricky," and a lot of fun. "Care of Myself" is soul music that sticks to the soles of your shoes, and "Don't Believe" could be a gospel tune for atheists. "Service Man" sounds like the long-lost brother of Scott Free's "Garbage Man," and the bold "Let It Go" celebrates the personal freedoms of the present by saying goodbye to the old ways and days. Note to Reuben: Love the Le Tigre jacket that you sport on the album cover!

As always, Minneapolis-based singer/songwriter **Ann Reed** has found a way to balance her moving and emotionally powerful songs with her unique sense of humor on *Gift of Age* (Turtlecub). Reed offers her original perspective on the passage of time on the heartfelt "Saying Hello," the title track, and "Two Trees." Her gift for story songs can be heard on "Get Outta My Kitchen" and "Marching Back to School." Her delightfully humorous point of view buoys the songs "Please, Mr. Ashcroft," on which she implores the attorney general to spare us his singing, and "Meals on Wheels," about eating junk food in your car. Reed will perform in Houston on January 11 (see sidebar).

One of the surest signs of a generation gap in the gay community is the age group that refuses to identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual. They are the ones who firmly embraced the "queer" moniker, although

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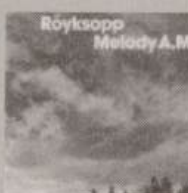
Recent Releases

Tori Amos
Scarlet's Walk



With her brutally honest and introspective musical and lyrical styles, Amos engages the listener in a story that follows Scarlet's character across America. The themes explored in *Scarlet's Walk* range from an outcry over America's tragic treatment of Native Americans, to the impact of the September 11 terrorist attacks, to her sadness at the image-conscious culture of America. I especially liked "Taxi Ride," where Scarlet learns of the death of a gay friend; the song reveals how people react to death and the betrayal that can happen even after death. Heavy subject matter is her trademark, and Tori Amos delivers. From Epic Records (www.epicrecords.com). —Andrea Rodricks

Röyksopp
Melody A.M.



Years before the Nordic funk duo of Torbjørn Brundtland and Svein Berge took on the name Röyksopp, they had been schoolmates in the rural town of Tromsø, Norway. It was here, finding their music classes lacking in what they considered exciting or interesting instruments, that they began to experiment with creating their own sounds. The product of that early innovation is evident on *Melody A.M.*, a beautiful collection of dance-based tracks that bleed emotion and brilliantly conceived production. It is a consistent album, every track resonating in a gorgeous blend of warm sounds layered perfectly over one other, vocals coming in and out with intensity and beats, keeping the entire thing strung together. The stunner on the album is "Sparks," which features Anneli Drecker of the band Bel Canto on vocals. "Sparks," like the rest of the album, stands out in its refusal to stay put, roaming about within its own melodies to keep the listener attached to it through its completion. A bonus disc of re-mixes will be a nice treat for those leaning more toward the club circuit. From Astralwerks (www.astralwerks.com). —LW

Betty Buckley
The Doorway



Betty Buckley gives inspirational emotion and effortless grace to standards by Cole Porter ("I Concentrate on You"), Paul Simon ("Bridge Over Troubled Water"), Rodgers & Hart ("With a Song in My Heart"), and John Lennon ("Imagine"), while also highlighting new songs, including one by Buckley herself (the title song). The Tony Award-winning actress is currently

costarring in the HBO series *Oz*, which begins its last season this month. *The Doorway* is available in stores and through the label's website at www.flynsworthalley.com. —JC

Toni Braxton
More Than a Woman



Toni Braxton's fifth album, *More Than a Woman*, is largely hip-hop-based and includes many different musical settings. The collaborative efforts of today's hottest music producers along with one of the most recognized names in R&B is sure to take this album to the top. Braxton's smooth, sultry voice is as mesmerizing as ever. She continues to re-invent herself through her music, and this time she gives her fans something different musically. From Arista Records (www.aristarec.com). —AR

Kim Richey
Rise



Despite the overwhelming pop overtones of Kim Richey's fourth release, there is an air of subtlety to the songs that is only revealed with multiple listens. The artwork on the record is loud and most of the songs move with an uncomfortably upbeat pace for what the vocals are doing, but the melodies of the music itself and the laid-back production stand out after a while. To say that the music is poppy, though, is a wide generalization. The overall sound is more in an alt-country direction than anything else, with Kim's beautiful and sometimes raspy voice controlling the direction of all the emotions effortlessly. From Lost Highway (www.kimrichey.com). —LW

Mad'house
Absolutely Mad



Buse Unlu is the voice behind the music and she does a good job with these disco-infused Madonna classics. The album covers a range of Madonna hits with house/trance rhythms and techno elements fit for the dance floors. "Like A Prayer" by Mad'house, dominating Euro charts, is very good indeed! The album also contains two of Mad'house's original tracks, "Be Yourself" and "Lady of the Dawn." From Radikal Records (www.radikal.com). —AR

Ian Bostridge
The Noël Coward Songbook

Coward, the dandy English polymath, never proclaimed his gay-ness, but his orientation was no secret (nor were his affairs with men). Today Coward remains best known for his comedies and talent for living as a personality. Tenor Ian Bostridge emphasizes Coward's musical-theater legacy. Most any showtune queen knows "Mad Dogs and Englishmen," Coward's smirk at British expatriates. →

of them do find themselves mainly attracted to members of the same gender. **The Quails**, a trio from San Francisco, fits that category. They will say that some of the band members are in same-sex relationships. *Atmosphere (Inconvenient)* is the trio's second album, and it's a good one. Reminiscent of the riot grrrl sound of the Pacific Northwest (e.g. **Sleater-Kinney**), the Quails also distinguish themselves by having male bass players **Seth Lorinczi** sing the lead on a few songs (including "Digitons"). Tracks that take wing include "Memo from the Desk of the Quails," "When I Was a Lifeboat," and "Your Heart Is a Muscle the Size of a Fist."

Two years after it was released in Europe, *Milagro* (Sunnyside) by African-American singer/songwriter and out lesbian **Natalia King**, is going to expose the American music-buying public to an important new voice. Some categorize her sound as blues, but it owes more to jazz (think of an earthy **Patricia Barber**) in the way that the musicians and also King herself stretch out over the course of the album's nine tracks. Highlights include "Eye to Eye," "Drag," and the title track.

I don't know how the number of gay male opera singers stacks up against the number of gay male opera fans, but with **The Celtic Tenors**, we can at least add two of its three members (**James and Niall**) to the gay roster. *So Strong* (Angel) also reflects a gay sensibility in the song selection. Opening with the sumptuous "Nella Fantasia" (originally an instrumental from the movie *The Mission*), the trio performs a lovely rendition of **Paul McCartney's** "Mull of Kintyre," and achieves high drama with the late **Freddie Mercury's** "Love Of My Life." Gay composer **Samuel Barber's** "Adagio" receives the vocalese treatment, and "Anthem" from *Chess* is appropriately anthemic.

I receive an abundance of "home-made" CDs and every once in a while, one stands out from the rest. **Jay Spears** sounds like a cross between **Mark Weigle** and **Tom Yore** on his album *Boy Howdy* (www.jayspears.com). "I Like Mike" is a quirky tune about a baseball player boyfriend. The catchy "I'm Gonna Fall In Love" borders on silly, but is saved by the sincerity of Spears' delivery "You Will Love Again," sung by **Annie Combs** (with backing vocals by Spears), is the disc's best song.

Pop culture journalist **Gregg Shapiro** is also a published fiction writer and poet. He has a poem in the new collection, *Sweet Jesus* (Anthology Press).

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Airlock Drystar



It's not surprising to find out that the members of Airlock have all been involved in soundtrack work in their past. Somewhat cloaked as a pop record, even with all of the distinctive voices of this Belgian quartet, *Drystar* showcases all of the subtle and atmospheric tendencies of the music we hear in films and advertisements. The connection runs deeper than that similarity as "Face Down" was first used in the cult film "Parabellum" before it eventually crossed over into European radio and brought the group to the attention of the public. The key to Airlock's success has been the way they have taken that music which so commonly takes a backseat in our minds and royally blended it with their obvious love of pop music. Let's hope they continue doing both. From One Little Indian in the UK and Surge Recordings stateside (www.surgerecordings.com). —LW

Theory of a Deadman Theory of a Deadman



When songwriter Tyler Connolly passed on a demo tape to friend Chad Kroeger, he didn't think much of it. Kroeger, however, is the singer for the successful rock band Nickelback, and happened to promptly fall in love with the tape. A few days later he was on the phone working out a record deal with his new label 604 Records, and the rest is history. They emerged from the studio months later with a heavy, driving album full of melodic and aggressive songs that can stand next to any of their post-grunge heavy-weight peers. It is guitar-driven rock in its purest form, forged from all the intensity of their rock 'n' roll roots and, considering their geography, certainly a lifetime's worth of hockey games. From Roadrunner/604 Records. Info: www.roadrunnerrecords.com, www.604records.com, or www.theoryofadeadman.com. —LW



DVD Kylie Minogue Fever 2002 "Live in Manchester"

The Aussie pop star has become an international superstar. Her latest DVD has lots of life and energy and is sure to be another smash. Her first single "Can't Get You Out of My Head" has already gained her popularity in the U.S. club scene. The catchy, upbeat dance tracks have sophisticated disco sounds without the heavy techno or electronic overtones. The DVD captures Minogue's live show that toured the UK, Europe, and Australia. From Capitol Records (www.hollywoodandvine.com). —AR

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra Composed and conducted by Tolga Kashif The Queen Symphony



This exciting new work is both a tribute to and inspired by the music of rock legends, Queen. *The Queen Symphony* is a six-movement piece, which explores the themes of a number of Queen's enduringly successful songs, drawing on and developing the band's own wide-ranging musical influences and tastes. Tolga Kashif has collaborated with Elton John, David Bowie, and Bono, to name a few. From Angel Records (www.angelrecords.com) on Jan. 7. —TC

Vivian Green A Love Story



Singer-songwriter Vivian Green's debut album, *A Love Story*, is a compelling piece of storytelling. With a flawless voice and soulful/jazzy vibes, Green sings about love, lost and found, and all the feelings experienced while recording the album, both positive and negative. This impressive debut disc is a collection of slow ballads and up-tempo tracks carried out by the emotionally powerful style of new Philly soul. From Columbia Records (www.columbiarecords.com). —AR

Chanticleer Our American Journey



To mark its 25th-anniversary season, the male a cappella ensemble Chanticleer has released an impressive collection of songs that span American musical traditions. The disc opens with the traditional Appalachian melody "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah," a fine introduction to the ringing power of these 12 voices. Other treasures include two Mexican baroque jewels and "Whispers," a haunting commissioned work from Steven Stucky that incorporates lines from gay poet-father Walt Whitman's "Whispers of Heavenly Death." The guys also give a lovely, languorous reading to "Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair" by Stephen Foster. Less successful are stabs at Broadway numbers like the Gershwins' "Love Walked In." The Chanticleer voices somehow never quite fit the show-tune idiom. Still, with *American Journey*, the San Francisco-based ensemble (at least one of whom, Christopher Fritzsche, is openly gay) remains the gold standard for male singers. Chanticleer will perform on January 14 in a Houston Friends of Chamber Music concert at Stude Concert Hall, Rice University. From Teldec Classics. More info: www.chanticleer.org. —TB

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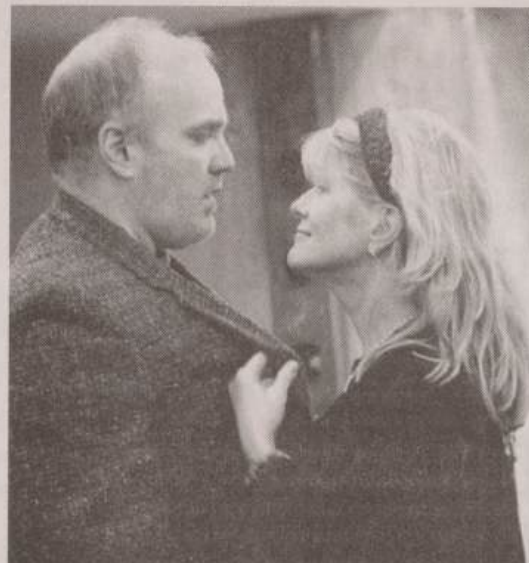
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Out in the Arts

by D.L. Groover



Fun and games: James Black and Judith Ivey rehearsed *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* last month at the Alley.

NOT TO BE MISSED. The Alley Theatre celebrates dramatist **Edward Albee's** 75th birthday with a mini-festival this month, and their program choices are superb. One is a hallmark in American drama—correction, a hallmark for all drama—his black comedy masterpiece, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (January 10–February 8). The second is his newest work, the Tony Award-winning *The Goat or Who Is Sylvia?* (January 17–February 16). *Woolf* stars one of our favorites, **Judith Ivey**, as dysfunctional Martha, and **James Black** as co-dependent George, with **Ty Mayberry** and **Elizabeth Bunch** as the innocents lured into the couple's alcohol-sodden love/hate world of “get the guest.” *Goat*, with **Todd Waite** and **Elizabeth Hefflin**, concerns a successful married couple whose entire world is shattered when the perfectly rational husband reveals to all his marital affair with Sylvia, the goat next door. Sounds just like Albee. Go see both and be rewarded by the theatrical thought-provoking gymnastics of America's greatest living playwright.

SOUR NOTES. The crumbling exterior walls of Jones Hall, Houston Symphony's home base, are an ironic manifestation of the orchestra's continuing financial quagmire. The musicians want a pay freeze for the first year of the new contract and a continuation of their 52-week contract, which includes 9 paid weeks of vacation. Their current annual minimum salary is \$74,100. The Symphony Society—i.e., their board of directors—asks the musicians to remain at their weekly salary, reduce their paid vacation to three weeks, and perhaps pay more for their

health-care benefits. With the impasse, both musicians and management might as well stand outside and wait to be conked on the head by the falling travertine marble. That would be less painful. Saddled with a \$6 million debt and a projected season deficit of \$2.3 million, the symphony faces a serious crisis—another one. Bailed out in 1998 by unprecedented gifts of \$3.65 million each from the Wortham Foundation and Houston Endowment to wipe out debt, no one with the orchestra has learned anything. The musicians say, Just raise more money. The board, cutting administration staff, says, Help us with pay cuts. A strike or a lockout looms on the horizon like the wind-tossed galleon out of *Flying Dutchman*. Stay tuned for further

musical misadventures.

YOU CAN RIDE MY TAIL. I wish I had made up that line, but it's the rousing final song to the silly and highly entertaining *Top Gun! The Musical*, which received its U.S. premiere at Theater LaB. Written by **Denis McGrath** and **Scott White**, this homoerotic parody of the 1986 **Tom Cruise/Tony Scott** paean to macho navy pilots (a vapid gay-friendly recruiting poster of a movie and already its own parody) is the backstage story of a hapless cast, a pressurized director, and the top-brass producer butting heads to create a musical. All the problems that can plague such a futile venture are lovingly skewered in cheesy production numbers and wink-wink nod-nod double entendres. **Jonathan McVay** (with the best guns of any Actors Equity member in Houston), **Greg Gorden** (who can play a gay queen better than anyone), and **Jimmy Phillips** (who blusters better than Phineas T.) brought sterling timing, great pipes, and a grown-up professionalism to the staging, compensating for the distaff vocals. How can you miss with a tap number called “Asses in Seats” or “Play Well With Others”?

ENCORE. Don't forget the repeat one-time only performance of Bayou City Concert Musicals' *A Little Night Music* in Zilkha Hall at the Hobby Center on January 27. **Stephen Sondheim's** bittersweet turn-of-the-century valentine to love gained, lost, and regained is given a sterling rendition, thanks in large part to the exemplary cast under the champagne direction of **Paul Hope** and **David Thome**. The performance is a benefit for the Center for AIDS. ■

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November 2002

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News Briefs

JUDY REEVES, Gulf Coast Archive and Museum of GLBT History secretary:

The challenges are almost too numerous to mention, I think. The biggest one that faces us as a community is the realization that we are not a small, cohesive community in a tiny area of a large city. We are a huge contingency of human beings from all walks of life in all corners of this city, county, and state and that Montrose is not the capital of queersville! We will go nowhere and accomplish nothing until we realize that cooperation and caring are the paths to follow.

ALEJANDRO MORUA, principal of the Ripley House charter school:

The number of Hispanic elected officials will increase after the November 2003 elections.

2003 will mark the year that Hispanics constitute 50 percent of the city's population.

Annise Parker will become the city's first openly elected lesbian controller.

We will go to war with Iraq in the first quarter of the new year.

Texas will face a severe economic crisis (thanks to the fiscally conservative elected Republican leadership) that will dramatically impact services to the poor and those in need.

There will be more antigay, anti-immigrant bills introduced into the Texas legislature.

SUE NULL, Parents, Friends & Families of Lesbians & Gays-Houston stalwart:

Here are my wishes/challenges for 2003, and sadly, both have to do with funding:

1. I wish that the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center would receive wider support from GLBT community members, especially from those who perhaps have no direct personal need for its services, but who could spare the funds to help it become a true community resource for those many people who could reap its benefits. I was startled to compare Dallas' expansive facilities with the meager facilities and support that we have in Houston.

2. I wish that the transgender shelter, like HLGCC, would not be constantly on the brink of financial disaster.



Rev. Janet Parker



Phyllis Frye

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

We asked a few active individuals in the community to identify challenges for 2003 or make predictions for the year ahead. Their responses ranged from the personal to the political.

Basically, where are the caring people? Sometimes I despair and wonder if too many people confine their social concerns to their computer keyboards and their financial donations to a piece of finery without considering the real needs of the community.

JERRY SIMONEAUX, Stonewall Law Association of Greater Houston president:

In the summer of 2003, the Supreme Court will find that the Texas Homosexual Conduct Law is unconstitutional because it violates the Equal Protection Clause. This will spark a very heated debate over marriage laws that allow state recognition of unions comprised only of opposite-sex couples. Before the end of 2003, someone will take a state marriage law before the U.S. Supreme Court arguing violation of equal protection.

REV. JANET PARKER, minister of Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Community Church:

Maybe it is the circle of people that I spend my time with, but I see the GLBT community going forward and making great strides in 2003. In my own corner of the world, I desire to see the community as a whole come together—where we work together, play together, learn and grow together.

If I can do this where I live and work, maybe others can do the same. I want my life not to just be about being a lesbian, but about being a person with moral values, talents and gifts to share—and most of all a person who is spiritual, with God at the center of my life. I have a lot to give back to society, and by doing this I believe the "homosexual issue" may not become as important as one thought it was.

PHYLLIS RANDOLPH FRYE, attorney and transgender warrior:

In 2003 we will see an unfolding of a hold-all-the-aces conservative agenda in the appointment of judges and regulators and in the passing of statutes that will take decades to undo. The only way for the GLBT community to survive this is for us to keep coming out of the closet in higher numbers to make this personal.

PAUL GUILLORY, Men's Gathering discussion and support group moderator:

I think that there are many challenges that prevent same-sex relationships from being successful. There seems to be an unwritten expectation that it's OK to cheat on your partner. Many times this is discussed, but most of the time it is not. Coupled with this is the inability to be honest. Since many relationships start with sex, the foundation of many relationships remains weak, and as they develop, the "drama" intensifies. I don't see this improving until the way that many gay men were socialized is addressed, along with the issue of possible "sex addiction."

start with sex, the foundation of many relationships remains weak, and as they develop, the "drama" intensifies. I don't see this improving until the way that many gay men were socialized is addressed, along with the issue of possible "sex addiction."

BRENDA THOMAS, transgender activist:

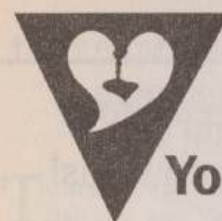
There are many challenges that face the GLBT community in the upcoming year: the increase in HIV and STDs within the gay community, the possibility of the loss of statewide funding for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), fundraising and financial support for so many organizations that are so in need, and the current political climate that engulfs not only Houston, but our nation as a whole. This is going to be a year that all of us will have to spend a little extra time and energy to keep our community from being ravaged.



Paul Guillory



Jerry Simoneaux



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GROUPS MARK KING HOLIDAY

To mark the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, two Episcopal congregations and Integrity, the organization for GLBT Episcopalians, will host two days of worship and discussion.

On Sunday, **January 19**, St. Stephen's Episcopal will hold a 6 p.m. service led by Dr. Louie Crew, the founder of Integrity.

St. James Episcopal will host a dinner and discussion on Sunday, **January 20**, led by Dr. Crew and the Rev. Paul Abernathy, who is the rector at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C. Abernathy will then preach and celebrate communion at a 7:30 p.m. service.

Lisa Pearson and Victor Schill are co-chairs of the weekend events.

For more information, contact Sharon Hamman, 281/241-0590, or Muffie Moroney, 713/622-2255.

• On **January 20**, the Houston Black GLBT Coalition and the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center will co-host an evening of readings and music in honor of Dr. King, featuring Aaron Coleman. The event will begin at 7 p.m. at the community center.

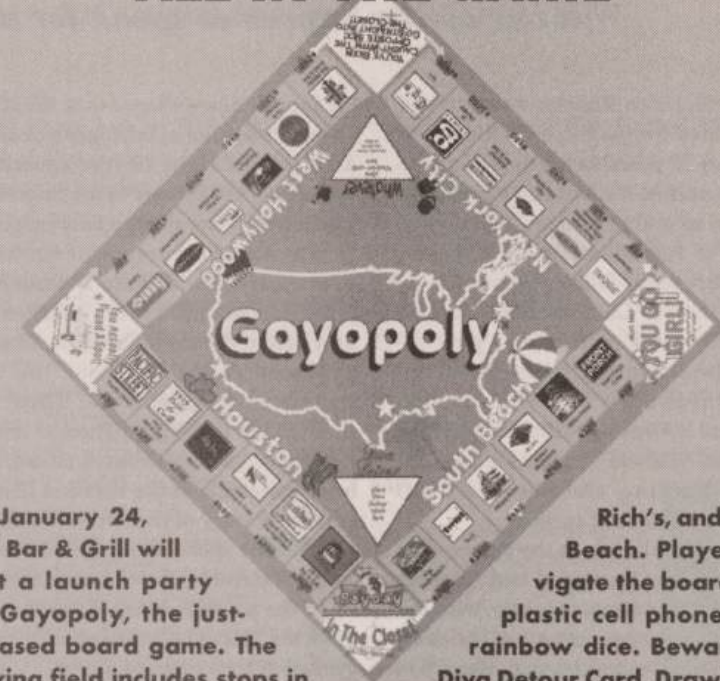
NATIONAL AIDS GROUP BRINGS TRAINING WORKSHOPS TO HOUSTON

The National Minority AIDS Council will host five days of training sessions for Houston HIV/AIDS service groups and advocates on **February 3-7**. The event at the Crowne Plaza Hotel downtown will focus on HIV-treatment updates, fundraising, board development, media training, and other issues. A two-day session will deal with the Ryan White Care Act.

There is no fee to participate in the sessions. For registration and details: www.nmac.org or Faisal Alam at 800/653-8144.

The National Minority AIDS Council, headquartered in Washington, D.C., is the nation's largest organization working with communities of color in the war against HIV/AIDS.

ALL IN THE GAME



On **January 24**, JR's Bar & Grill will host a launch party for **Gayopoly**, the just-released board game. The playing field includes stops in eight major gay cities, including Houston destinations Lobo Bookshop & Cafe, Pacific Street,

Rich's, and South Beach. Players navigate the board with plastic cell phones and rainbow dice. Beware the Diva Detour Card. Draw it and you may have to sing. For more on **Gayopoly** or details on the JR's event: www.gayopoly.com.



OH, MARY As press time neared, Mary's closed. One of the two oldest-surviving gay clubs in Houston, Mary's had become more than a Montrose bar. The place was an institution. Only days later, *OutSmart* learned that Michael Gaitz, the owner of the Outpost, had acquired and opened Mary's. Gaitz has planned a January 12 appreciation party for longtime owners Cliff Owen and Gaye Yancey. ■

JUST CAUSE

Will one of the Supremes speak for us in the sodomy case?

Justice Clarence Thomas has been on the United States Supreme Court for just over 10 years. In his decade on the court, he has earned a reputation for barely speaking during oral argument, leaving the questioning of the advocates who appear before the court to his fellow justices.

Not any more. Last month, Justice Thomas finally awoke, and spoke passionately and at length during the argument of a tough case involving a First Amendment issue. The case is *Virginia v. Black*. The issue is whether a 50-year-old Virginia statute that bans cross burning violates the First Amendment right to free speech.

The appeal resulted from the prosecution of Barry Black, who organized and led a Ku Klux Klan rally on private property, with the permission of the owner. As part of the rally, a 25-30-foot-tall cross was burned. Black was charged with violating Virginia's cross-burning statute, convicted, and appealed. In

his appeal, Black alleged that the statute was an unconstitutional infringement on his First Amendment right to free speech. Black's appeal worked its way to the Supreme Court, which heard arguments on December 11.

The hour-long argument started out like most others, with Justice Thomas letting his colleagues ask most of the questions. For the first half of the argument, the other justices appeared skeptical about the constitutionality of the statute. Then, halfway through the argument, Thomas interrupted. He did not ask questions. Instead, he gave a brief speech about the Ku Klux Klan and the horrific history of racism in the South.

Thomas spoke about the Klan's 100-year "reign of terror" on black communities leading up to the passage of the Virginia statute. He asserted that the burning of a cross is "a symbol of that reign of terror . . . unlike any symbol in our society," whose only purpose is "to cause fear and to terrorize a population."

While the justices frequently interrupt each other during arguments, they did not interrupt Thomas. Instead, they listened intently until he finished. Afterward, they seemed less skeptical about upholding the statute as constitutional.

What happened during argument to turn the other justices around? Clarence Thomas spoke.

And when he spoke, the other justices sat transfixed while their black colleague personalized the experience of being intimidated by a burning cross. They sat speechless while he talked about the "reign of

continued on page 36

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.



THE SKY IS NOT FALLING

Republican victory does not signal the end of our rights

Is the Democrats' disaster also a disaster for gays? It's not likely, but you wouldn't know that from what gay organizations and pundits are telling us.

The Human Rights Campaign said the GOP victory creates "rocky political terrain" and vaguely hinted that "obstacles may emerge from a more conservative leadership."

The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force warned that gays are "in jeopardy of seeing more anti-GLBT legislation introduced."

Ann Rostow, one of the most interesting and certainly one of the best writers among gay news analysts today (and a friend of mine), wrote what everybody on the gay left was thinking but most were too politic to say. In her weekly "News with a View" column, under the unobtrusive title "Disaster," she called the election "a fu--ing train wreck" and predicted "there's no group that's going to suffer any more than we will."

Rocky terrain? Gays in jeopardy? A fu--

ing train wreck?

We've been here before. When the GOP took control of Congress in 1994, we were treated to doom-and-gloom scenarios from gay Democrats unaccustomed to finding their party in the minority.

When Bush won the presidency, we were told he would never hire an openly gay person to a post in his administration and would repeal the executive order protecting gay federal employees from job discrimination. On its website, NGLTF even featured a mock "count" of Bush's openly gay appointees starting with 0, which is where NGLTF imagined the count would stay. After a dozen or so openly gay Bush appointees, including an ambassador, the NGLTF counter is gone. The executive order is still there.

Every time the Republicans win an election, the Chicken Littles come out to cluck. What demons with pitchforks await us this time? What travails have they devised

to make our lives but a vale of tears? What tyranny do we whiff in this new ill breeze?

It is first important to note what this election was and was not about. The main issues were post-9/11 domestic security, a possible war with Iraq, the Bush tax cut, and a few other things having to do with Social Security and Medicare. On these matters most voters appear to have trusted the Republicans more than they trusted the Democrats. It didn't hurt that a popular Republican president with an outstanding foreign policy record campaigned hard for his party's candidates. →

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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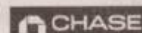
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LeftOut continued from page 34

terror" visited on his race. After Clarence Thomas made it personal, his colleagues blinked in the face of the Constitution.

This has happened before. In 1973, Justice Lewis Powell voted with majority in *Roe v. Wade*, which held that women have a constitutional right to privacy that includes the right to abort a non-viable fetus.

After leaving the bench, Powell explained that his vote in *Roe v. Wade* was based, in part, on an experience he had as a lawyer. While working at a law firm, a firm mail clerk came to Powell for help. The clerk had gotten his girlfriend pregnant. Abortion was illegal, and she attempted to abort the fetus herself. She died as a result of the abortion. Powell explained that this experience changed him and influenced his vote in *Roe v. Wade*.

After he retired, Powell also said that he regretted his 1986 vote in *Bowers v. Hardwick*. In *Bowers*, the Supreme Court upheld the criminal convictions of two Georgia men for having sex in a private home. The vote was 5-4. Powell said that he realized upon reflection that the dissent "had the better argument." He also said that at the time of the *Bowers* decision, he did not know any homosexuals. If he had, such a personal relationship might have affected his vote, and *Bowers* might have gone the other way. (Ironically, one of Powell's law clerks was gay, but was not out to Powell.)

About a week before Clarence Thomas personalized a racist "reign of terror" for his colleagues in the cross-burning case, the Supreme Court agreed to hear *Lawrence v. Texas*. In *Lawrence*, two gay men are challenging the constitutionality of the Texas "Homosexual Conduct" statute, which outlaws gay sex even if it is consensual and done in private. *Lawrence* provides the Court with the perfect opportunity to fix the mistake that Powell says it made in *Bowers*.

While I am hopeful that the Supreme Court will overturn *Bowers* and hold that the Texas statute is unconstitutional, I worry.

I worry because I wonder who on the court will personalize the persecution of gays and lesbians as Thomas personalized the persecution of blacks. Who on the court has a personal relationship with a gay or lesbian person like Powell had with someone who had suffered because of an archaic abortion law? Who on the court will speak for us? ■

OutRight continued from previous page

Note carefully what is not on that list of 2002 election issues. Republicans did not run on preserving traditional moral values, much less on explicitly antigay pledges. They did not ask for, and did not receive, a mandate to subjugate gays.

The mandate Republicans did get is a hair-thin one. A difference of just 44,000 votes in three states would have allowed the Democrats to keep the Senate. The majority can be lost as easily as it was won, and Republicans know it. They have marked well the lesson of 1994: Don't overplay your hand.

Combine that with the fact that more moderate Republicans have replaced three of the Senate's most inveterate antigay social conservatives—Jesse Helms, Strom Thurmond, and Bob Smith. My hunch is the GOP will move cautiously on a range of issues, none of which have anything to do directly with homosexuality.

So just what do the doomsayers predict? HRC and NGLTF are short on specifics, but Rostow is characteristically forthcoming.

In the department of good-things-that-would've-happened-but-won't-now-that-the-Neanderthals-are-in-charge, we have the long-suffering Employment Non-Discrimination Act and a federal hate crimes bill. "Goodbye ENDA and so long Hate Crime Bill," writes Rostow.

It's probably true that we won't see either of these measures pass a GOP-dominated Congress in the next two years, but how likely were they to pass a Democratic Senate? In the two years Democrats controlled the presidency and both houses of Congress, they failed even to consider a gay civil rights bill. In the year and a half the Democrats controlled the Senate, they once again failed even to consider either of these measures.

I know, I know. The Democrats *would* have brought them up for votes *if* only they had kept their majority. They are always promising to do things for us once we have again demonstrated our devotion to them.

In the department of bad-things-that-will-happen-now-that-the-Neanderthals-are-in-charge, Rostow says we face "a radical version of the faith-based social services bill" and some cloven-hoofed judicial nominees.

On the faith-based initiatives plan, endorsed by Al Gore and Bush in 2000, a proposal to exempt federally funded religious institutions from civil rights laws that protect gays and other groups has been shelved. There has been no effort to revive the exemption. I doubt the Republicans will risk offending the country's burgeoning minority population for little or no political gain.

On the judicial nominees, a perennial cause for lefty teeth gnashing, a couple of them may be objectionable to some people on nongay grounds (like abortion) but there is no credible evidence Bush's nominees have antigay agendas. Overwhelmingly, they are qualified moderate conservatives.

There are reasons why the gay left might oppose the GOP's tenuous ascendancy. From environmental to foreign policy, Republicans stand for everything they hate. But they can't scare us again with antigay nightmares. ■

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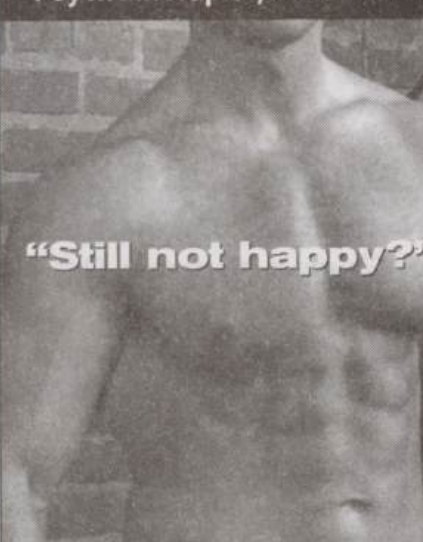
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WE BUILT THIS CITY

Gay people are key to the success of U.S. burghs, says a top economist

There are probably more gay households in Houston than *Leave It to Beaver* households," New Economy Dr. Richard Florida told a Warwick Hotel audience on his second of three Houston visits in two years.

Except for a few knowing chuckles, the crowd sat quietly for a few seconds.

Florida made a similar *Leave It to Beaver* comparison during his recent Houston speech before 800 business and civic leaders at Central Houston's annual luncheon. He also discussed his controversial "gay index" and the importance of tolerance, diversity, and quality of life to cities that want to thrive in the 21st century.

While his acclaimed, best-selling economic theories and city rankings are turning the heads of old-school business leaders, headlines about the gay index, tolerance, and quality of place are attracting attention all over the world.

Florida's home base is Pittsburgh's Carnegie Mellon University, where he directs the Center

for Economic Development. His theories helped redevelop Pittsburgh and the Great Lakes region as well as a growing number of cities that have hired him as consultant.

His already packed speaking/consulting schedule tightened with the publication last summer of his sixth book, the best-selling *Rise of the Creative Class* (Basic Books).

The 38 million-strong creative class makes up about 30 percent of the workforce. They are scientists, engineers, professors, artists, writers, architects, and anyone else who is paid to think, such as professionals in the legal, health, financial, and business management fields.

This increasingly mobile and finicky class wants to move to cities that "get it." Their parents may have settled for any city with the highest-paying job, but today's creative class wants the whole package, a "world class people climate":

- recreation and leisure amenities
- a vibrant arts and music scene
- abundant natural amenities

- attractive neighborhoods
- historic preservation
- cultural diversity and tolerance

A healthy business climate with low taxes and incentives used to be enough for top corporations, which could then attract top talent. But, as Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina has said, "Keep your tax incentives and highway interchanges. We will go where the highly skilled people are."

And where are the highly skilled people? They live in cities with "Quality of Place," according to Dr. Florida.

Can you picture San Francisco, Austin, and Boston, the top three cities in Florida's creative index? Houston is Number 7.

The core of Florida's theory lies in the three T's: technology, talent, and tolerance. A region needs all three to succeed as a creative center. Creativity can be artistic, economic, or technological.

To gauge a region's creative capabilities and

potential for quality growth, Florida developed a creativity index, composed of four indicators.

The strongest indicator of a region's creative success is a large "gay" population. (Florida uses the term *gay* partly because that index, co-developed by Gary Gates, is based on 1990 census data of same-sex male households.) Not that there are a disproportionate number of gay men in creative-class professions, but as Florida has said, gays are the "canaries of the creative economy." As if some of us didn't already know, cities with large GLBT populations are far more tolerant. They are also open to innovative ideas. The five U.S. metropolitan areas with the highest concentration of gays are all among the top 15 high-tech areas: San Francisco, Washington, D.C., Austin, Atlanta, and San Diego.

As you might imagine, the gay index led to what Florida describes as an "outcry," and it sold a lot of books.

The bohemian index, or percentage of artistically creative people, strongly correlates with a vibrant business community and forecasts creative employment growth. Ten of the top 15 "bohemian" metropolitan areas also number among the nation's top 15 technology regions. These include: Seattle, Los Angeles, New York, Washington, D.C., San Francisco, and Boston.

The innovation index is based on patents per capita, and the high-tech index is taken from Milken. All of these measured indexes,

focus groups, and interviews add up to a ranked list of 268 regions.

Will Florida's lists ever become as important as other famous business lists (*Fortune*, *Forbes*, and now *Florida*?). Who can say, but his lists are having an impact. Cities that don't score well—or want to score higher—write about the list in papers from Shreveport to rural Montana. Others hire Florida (Memphis, Pittsburgh, Buffalo). Or pay him \$10,000 a speech (as the Greater Houston Partnership has done twice, once as a co-sponsor with the *Chronicle* and city).

I can't help but wonder how many Houston audience members take pride in Houston's Number 7 ranking, and how many think we need to move up on the list and are willing to invest in a better city—cleaner air, better mass transit, "planned" development and historic preservation, infrastructure, bayou beautification, more parks and libraries, a more balanced health-care system . . . and more tolerance for its GLBT citizens.

"Bigotry is bad for business" was one of the themes of the 1985 gay rights referendum. The GLBT community certainly understood a critical element of Florida's economic theories long before they became best sellers. Florida uses the terms *openness*, *diversity*, and *tolerance*, which is fine with me. These relatively mainstream words may be the most effective terms for the business community

and the general public. Despite the results in the recent Proposition 2 referendum, I believe a majority of Houstonians are at least reasonably "tolerant." We will have to wait and see how Dave Wilson's narrow victory on Prop 2 affects Houston's future rankings.

Florida's timing is perfect for Houston in other ways. More and more city leaders are at least getting used to the fact that the quality-of-life movement is finally taking root in the mainstream business community. I can only hope that each speech loosens more concrete around the gung-ho developer mindset and moves it closer to Florida's Quality-of-Place mindset. What more effective messenger for Houston than a respected, outside economic development expert.

For More on the Creative Class:

www.creativeclass.org/ci.htm
www.heinz.cmu.edu/researchers/faculty/florida.html

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



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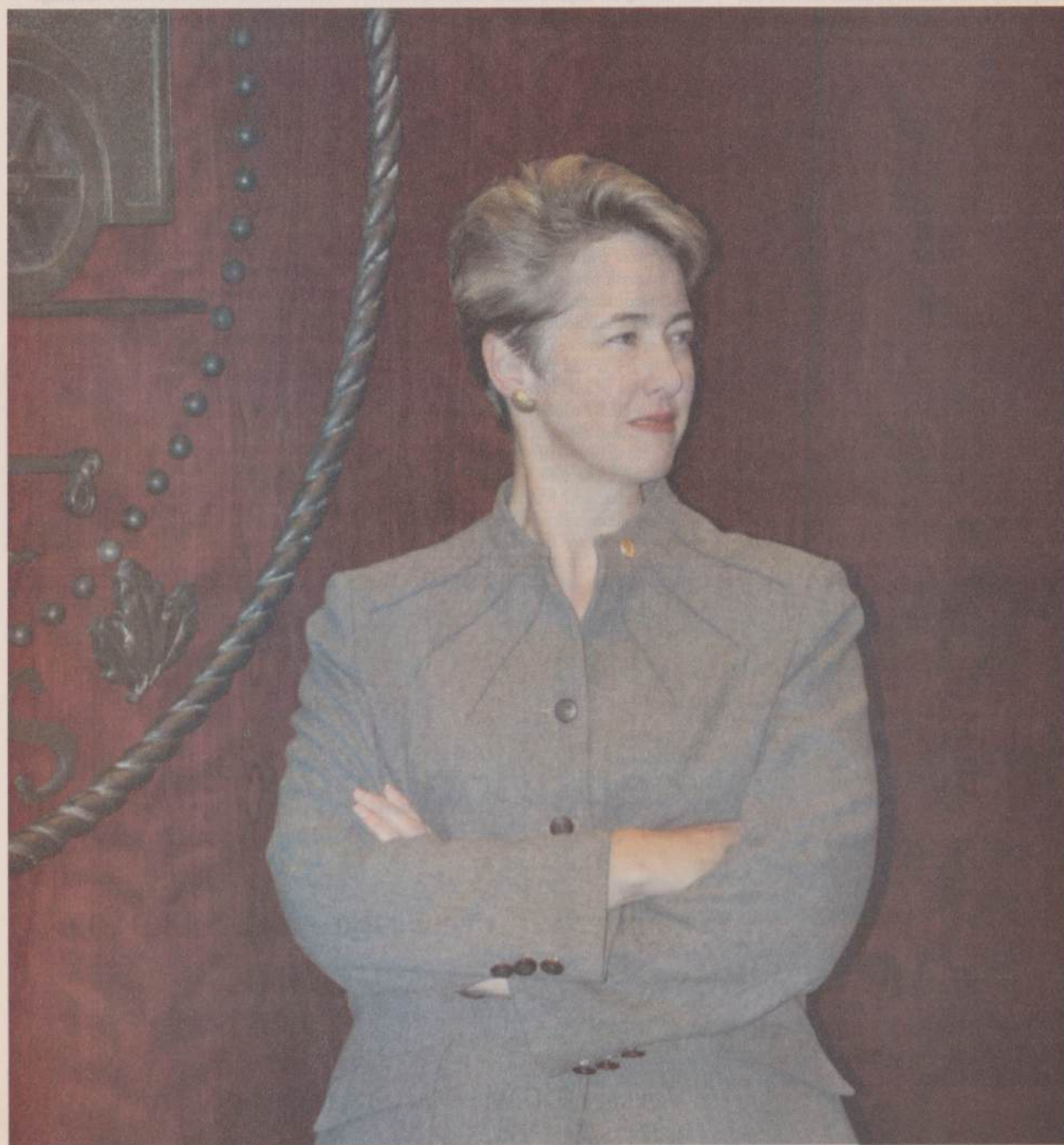
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Photographed at City Hall by John Conroy

People to Watch 2003

Profiles by Clarence Burton Bagby, Thomas Robert Blanton,
Tonia Nita Bowser, Tim Brookover, Andrew Christopher,
and Eric A.T. Dieckman

*Poised for her city controller race, Annise Parker
leads our list of GLBT Houstonians who will make
headlines or make noise this year*

Annise Parker

With a twinkle in her eye, Houston City Council member Annise Parker last month discussed her plans to run for city controller in November.

"I really enjoy local government and want to stay in local government as long as I can," a visibly enthused Parker said. "I would love to be mayor someday or make the transition to county government, but I'm not ready for that right now."

Known for her passion for electoral politics and her work as a lifelong activist for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender equality, Parker served two consecutive terms in the mid 1980s as the president of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus. She has been and continues to be

active in historic preservation, environmental, and affordable housing causes and organizations. Parker currently serves on the Contemporary Arts Museum board as well as the advisory boards of Trees for Houston and the Houston GLBT Community Center.

The city charter limits city council, the mayor, and controller to three consecutive three-year terms. Parker is currently in the middle of her third and final term as an at-large city council member.

Although city government elected office is generally considered entry level, as an at-large Houston city council member Parker's constituency is larger than the population of 16 states, she explained. "I represent more people than a third of the nation's governors, so this has been a great proving ground for national

politics," she said.

Known as a financial watchdog during her tenure as chair of the City Council fiscal affairs committee, Parker feels well prepared to take on the job of city controller. She also chairs the Neighborhood Protection Committee.

Kathy Hubbard is Parker's life partner of 12 years. A board member of the Political Caucus and the John Steven Kellett Foundation, Hubbard has also been extremely active in civic affairs for years.

There have been some big changes in the Parker-Hubbard household. Parker said friends should call to find out about the newest member of their family and that "after 12 years in our previous home, we recently bought a new house in anticipation of changes in our household."

—Clarence Burton Bagby



Photographed on the Rice campus by Yvonne Feece

Uri McMillan

Some say sticks and stones break bones but that words don't hurt. Uri McMillan knows that is nonsense. An outspoken student and activist at Rice University, McMillan strives to enlighten students, faculty, and the community about diversity issues, including how language can warm spirits or crush souls. As president of PRIDE, the GLBT student group, McMillan helped lead the protest in response to published anti-gay comments by the Rice football coach. These efforts included t-shirts printed with slogan "I Am Not Homophobic," worn to the homecoming game. This year, McMillan will begin graduate studies to pursue his dream of becoming an English professor. —Tonia Nita Bowser



Photographed by Blase DiStefano

Hillary Woest

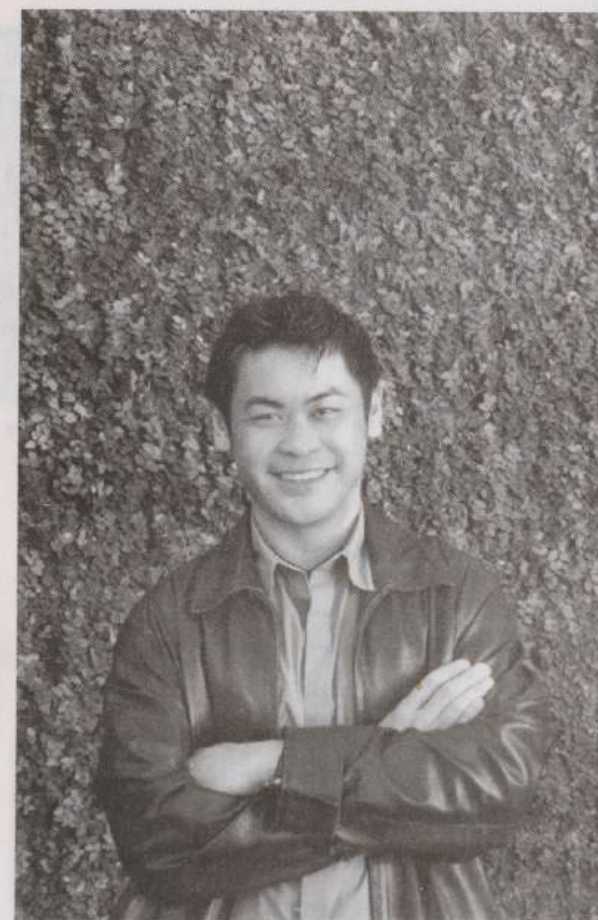
An intense entrepreneurial spirit led Hillary Woest to establish 2 Girls Cleaning, a successful local business. In 2003, she will also continue her volunteer service as a new board member of the Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce, and she will work with other Houston GLBT Community Center board members to reinvigorate that organization. Woest will also launch Leisure & Arts Promoting Healing (LAAPH, pronounced "laugh"), a nonprofit group that will provide learning opportunities for individuals with life-threatening diseases. "If you can dream it, you can do it," Walt Disney once said. Woest would say the same thing today. —TNB



Photographed at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites Galleria by David Lewis

Edwin Leslie & Russell Coker

Next month, Edwin Leslie (pictured) and partner Russell Coker will break ground on a new Holiday Inn Express in Texas City. The hoteliers will add this property to an expanding empire that includes a hotel in Hot Springs, Arkansas. The Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites Galleria, which they took over last March, is one of the few properties in the chain with openly gay owners. Leslie and Coker have been negotiating with bankers to buy a hotel in Cincinnati and plan to sign the contract this month. "Our goal for 2003 is to acquire between five and eight hotels," Leslie says. "The new year looks really good." —Tim Brookover



Photographed by Tim Brookover

Sixto Wagan

Fierce, fabulous, and fashion savvy, DiverseWorks performing arts director Sixto Wagan is a man keen on motivating Houstonians to become more involved in the arts in their communities. This year, he will direct an inspired season of media and performing arts at the downtown art space. He will also launch Turned Up Volume, an initiative to encourage art appreciation, activism, and leadership among youth. From 1996 to 1999, Wagan was a member of Queer Artist Collective (QuAC), a group of inspired young people who performed at DiverseWorks and across town. Now he is one of the grown-ups in charge. —TNB



Photographed in Dalia Stokes' office by Tim Brookover

Dalia Stokes

"The challenge for Democrats is figuring out how to bring people back into the party while you keep the base energized," attorney Dalia Stokes says. "In Texas, the Democrats have been in a rebuilding mode since 1994." An activist in GLBT as well as Democratic circles, Stokes is a candidate for Harris County party chairperson. The executive committee will vote on January 13. A former judicial candidate, Stokes helped found River Oaks Area Democratic Women in 1997 and has served in Human Rights Campaign leadership positions. She was a Pride parade grand marshal in 1991, the same year she and partner Bobbie Bayless celebrated their 25th anniversary. —TB



Photographed by John Conroy

Mitchell Katine

In 2003, attorney Mitchell Katine will not only make headlines. He will make history. Katine is the attorney for John Lawrence and Tyron Gardner, arrested in 1998 while having sex in Lawrence's apartment. Four years later, the Supreme Court will consider *Lawrence and Garner v. Texas*, a challenge to the state "Homosexual Conduct" statute. Katine brought in the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, and attorneys will present arguments in the spring, with an expected summer decision. "Most commentators are predicting that we will win," he says. For Katine, though, the case is not only development. He and partner Walter Avila have adopted two infants, named Sebrina and Sebastian Katine. —TB →



Photographed by Blase DiStefano

➡ **Leslie Hamilton**
A senior University of Houston biology major/chemistry minor, Leslie Hamilton, 42, began serving as president of GLOBAL in spring 2002, not long after becoming involved with the group. He was recently re-elected to office through fall 2003. Hamilton's aims for the student group include reaching beyond campus by organizing Houston GLBT Community Center benefits, an alumni advisory board, and a scholarship program for GLOBAL members. Plans don't stop there. "Some of our members expressed interest in starting a fraternity," he says. He points out funds for such an effort are not now available. Obviously, the ambition is present. —Eric A.T. Dieckman



Photographed at UH by Yvonne Feece

↑ Shirley Knight

One of the founders of and force behind the Houston Women's Festival, Shirley Knight also sits on the board of the Athena Art Project, the nonprofit organization that sponsors the festival (October 18 this year) and holds events that raise awareness of women artists. Next month, Athena will host its second annual Speed Dating event at Meteor. Participants will pay a nominal fee to chat briefly with different women in hopes of clicking with someone special. According to Knight, the event last year attracted more than 70 singles. "People have been clamoring for another one."

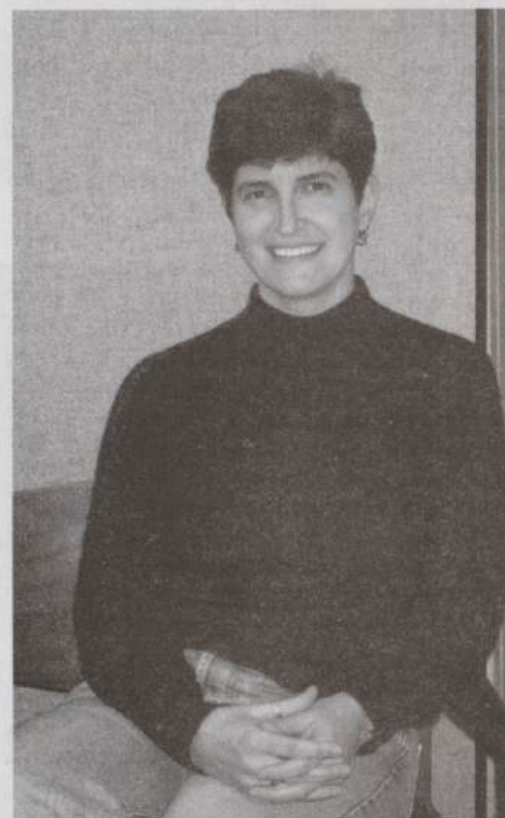
—Thomas Robert Blanton



Photographed by Tim Brookover

➡ Lisa Shore

"I wanted to be an astronaut when I was a little girl," Lisa Shore says. Poor eyesight thwarted that early ambition. Now Shore is even more integral to the space program. She trains astronauts on the use of their suits and the airlocks in the space station, "so they can go out and space walk," she says. Shore is prepping for the next mission, which will launch in October. Of NASA and the Johnson Space Center, the Philadelphia native reports, "It's not a real open environment, but it's not something that would ever come up in your daily work. You either know what you're talking about or you don't." —TB



Photographed by Tim Brookover

◀ María González

University of Houston English professor María González is completing her second book, a history of Chicano studies. "One of the arguments I make is that it was the queers that really opened Chicano studies," she says. "They moved it from a macho boys' club to a more complex, interesting field." González, director of graduate studies in her department, also teaches an undergrad queer theory course. "Teasingly, I tell my friends I'm the big dyke on campus, even though I am only 5'2", González quips. "I like to be the really out faculty member." She is also National Women's Studies Association president, which in June will convene in New Orleans. —TB

Lynne Huffer

2003 will be a very busy year for Lynne Huffer. A French professor at Rice University, this year Huffer will assume the post of director of Women and Gender Studies, a new graduate program. One of the faculty sponsors of the PRIDE student group on campus, she will also teach "Introduction to Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies." In addition, Huffer (partner of companion person-to-watch Tamara Jones) will work on two books in 2003: The first is an academic book on ethics and literature in contemporary society. The second is a memoir about her relationship with her mother, who is also a lesbian. —TNB



Photographed by Blase DiStefano



Photographed by John Conroy

Binh Nguyen

Born in Vietnam, Binh has been busy the 11 years he has lived in the United States. He is currently engaged in a long list of activities, including graduate studies at the University of Houston Clear Lake; hosting and producing Saigon Houston Radio, a program on 900 AM KREH for youth in the Vietnamese community; and disseminating news via the Vietnamese Voices Overseas website, www.VVOS.net. Last month, Binh began producing a weekly Vietnamese television show that airs on the public-access channel. In 2003, he plans to expand the use of media to reach the 200,000 people from his homeland who live in the Houston area. —TNB

Kendric Johnson

Early on, Kendric Johnson learned an amazing secret—giving back to the places where we live and work warms hearts and makes our eyes do that sparkly thing. A Kentucky transplant, Johnson is a dedicated activist committed to improving life through his service as a Houston GLBT Community Center volunteer. Johnson, 28, says he received many affirming lessons from other gay, lesbian, and bisexual men and women while serving in the army, and he is eager to pass on what he has learned. In 2003, Johnson hopes to mentor at least one student at Houston Community College, which he will enter in the fall. —TNB



Photographed at the Community Center by Tim Brookover



Photographed by Tim Brookover

Shari Goldsberry

Forging ahead where others do not tread, Shari Goldsberry has assumed the mantle of the Log Cabin Republicans. "I am looking forward to growing Log Cabin-Houston back into the powerful club it once was under the leadership of Gary Van Ooteghem," Goldsberry says. "He was a fantastic leader, and I'm not certain the club has recovered fully from his departure and subsequent passing. But we must continue his work if we are to make life better for those that come after us." Goldsberry, 29, is a student at the South Texas College of Law. She and partner Jennifer are the parents of six-year-old Jonathan. —TB

Tamara Jones

Tamara Jones is a thoughtful and thought-provoking woman. That's why she is in sync with the political pulse of our city. As chief of staff and legislative aide for council person Ada Edwards, Jones is an empathetic, emphatic, and effective manager and political strategist. In 2003, Jones will lend her talents to the Radical Progressive Political Study & Action Group, a local organization she will co-found to strengthen the political movement around town. My mom says womenfolk carry strength in their hair. Tamara Jones' distinctive dreadlocks must hold astounding power. —TNB



Photographed by Blase DiStefano

Domingo Ovalle

Sitting in Domingo Ovalle's kitchen is a wonderful experience. A former restaurateur in San Antonio, Ovalle now operates a catering business from his home in Houston. He is also president of GLOBO, Gay and Lesbians Organized By Orgullo. This new group will work throughout the year to host Baile Internacional, the gala benefit dance held during Pride week, which was revived to great acclaim in 2002. Orgullo, which translates as *pride*, is something Ovalle demonstrates in all he does—from his volunteer work at Memorial Hermann Hospital to his catering firm to his support of his community. —TNB →



Photographed by Tim Brookover

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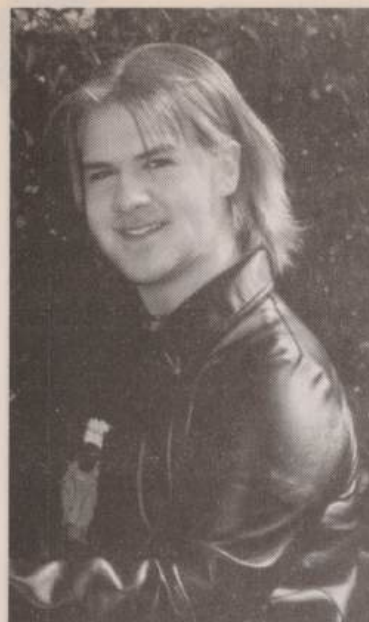
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Photographed by Yvonne Feece

➡ Sue Lovell

In February, Sue Lovell—the first woman president of the Gay Political Caucus (1983-85) and the first openly gay or lesbian person from Texas elected to the Democratic National Committee—will announce her candidacy for an at-large city council position. “2003 is a very important year for the whole city and our community,”

Lovell says. “To solve some of the problems that the city is facing we are going to need people who are creative and can think outside of the box.” The mother of three, Lovell works for MATCH (Mills Access to Training and Service), which provides job opportunities at Katy Mills Mall. —TB



Photographed by Blase DiStefano

♣ Justin Frazier

A veteran of the youth-support group H.A.T.C.H., Justin Frazier begins his second semester this month at Houston Community College—“thanks to a HATCH/PFLAG scholarship,” he points out. Known for his exuberantly decorated outfits, Frazier, 19, is naturally a fashion major. However, as he looks to the future, Frazier also ponders possible careers as a therapist, writer, or musician. In 2002, he graduated from Lamar High School, where he transferred in his sophomore year after a stint in the country. “Those 5 years there were kind of just for me. In Waller, I didn’t have that many friends, but I had a lot of spare time to teach myself to sew and cook. That’s what made me strong.” —TB



Photographed by Tim Brookover

♣ Tracy Wilson

“It’s going to be an uphill fight,” says Tracy Wilson of efforts to restore the AIDS Drug Assistance Program. As president of AIDS Coalition Texas Now (ACT Now), Wilson will lead a January 16 trip to Austin for the vote by the Texas Board of Health on proposed changes to the eligibility criteria, which would eliminate thousands. “If we can mobilize enough people across the state and educate, I think we have a chance,” says the Ohio native, who chairs the Thomas Street Clinic patient advisory council. He adds that ACT Now plans a march on Austin in the spring. “This is a huge, grass-roots, ground-swell movement that’s based here in Houston.” —TB

♣ Vanessa Edwards Foster

“The only time I’d vote was to vote someone out of office,” says Vanessa Edwards Foster, explaining her unlikely move into transgender activism. Not until she transitioned from male to female did Foster realize how much her community was neglected by the political process. Now the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition chairperson and Texas Gender Advocacy Information Network co-chair, Foster is coordinating a fall 2003 Federal Lobby Days event, when NTAC and a coalition of other transgender organizations will visit Capitol Hill to spread awareness of transgender community needs, focusing on employment nondiscrimination. “We have a realistic shot at this,” Foster says. —TRB



Photographed by John Conroy



Photographed by Blase DiStefano

♣ Madalyn Sklar

Superstar Madalyn Sklar. At *OutSmart* we imagine that’s what folks who know her call Madalyn. As a girl, Sklar wanted to be the next rock icon. Instead, she works to make that dream a reality for women musicians across the country. Founder of GoGirlsMusic.com, a site dedicated to independent performers, she launches a do-it-yourself online page for bands called GoGirlsGigs.com this month. Check out the website for details about the annual GoGirlsMusicFest and the GoGirlsRock! Houston Pride show and for updates on GoGirl showcases. Believe it or not, Sklar also runs a business, Orbit Web Design. “I have quite an entrepreneurial spirit,” she says. —TNB



Photographed by Blase DiStefano

♣ Michael DeVoll

A teacher at private Episcopal High School, Michael DeVoll leads the group trying to re-start a Gay, Lesbian & Straight Educators Network chapter. So far, Houston teachers, who lack job protection, have been reluctant to join, he reports. “There still seems to be a lot of homophobia in HISD.” He persists. “I am interested in all this because I know things can be better for the kids.” DeVoll, who studied teen development issues in grad school, has contributed a chapter to *From Our Voices: Art Educators and Artists Speak Out About Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Issues* (Kendall/Hunt), to be published in 2003. —TB

➡ Steven Foster

What do you do?

I’m a writer-director-producer for ADV Films.

In “the biz,” you’re a hyphenate.

Yeah, I’m a hyphenate.

How was your 2002?

Amazing. I went to Cannes this year. Had an NPR interview a week ago. Channel 11 the other day. The entertainment industry’s looking at us like a real player, which we are. And, oh yeah, we’re launching our own television network. Nice year.

What’s happening in 2003?

I’ll have a series on our network. MTV wants to spin-off a series I’ve done, so I’m working with them on that. One day I’m in Houston working on these little cartoons, then all of a sudden I’m in the office of the guy who discovered *Beavis & Butthead* and *South Park*. That resulted in some VH1 stuff in the pike. “Check your local listings,” you know?

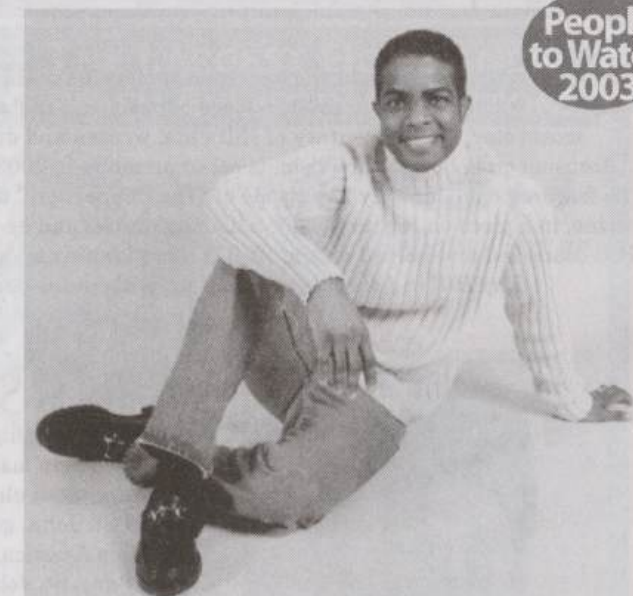
—Andrew Christopher →



Photographed by Theresa DiMenno

♣ Alton LeDay

Proving that art history is a valid college major, Alton LeDay has turned his design skills to charity. LeDay—Decorative Center Houston director of marketing and design services—recently organized a chapter of Quilts for Kids, which provides quilts to children battling HIV/AIDS and terminal illnesses as well as abused children and adults in AIDS hospices. Over the past six months, LeDay and a 10-volunteer team distributed more than 150 quilts. “The quilts mean so much to the families,” LeDay says. LeDay is now coordinating The Bag Lunch, a fall 2003 auction of handbags created by local designers (he will create a gym bag) that will raise money for Quilts for Kids. —TRB



Photographed by David Lewis

People
to Watch
2003

People to Watch 2003

Without a doubt the backbone of Houston's GLBT community, Ray Hill has been an activist, a stage performer, a radio personality, and now a movie star. A documentary of Hill's life, written and directed by Erin Sax and focusing on his prison activism, is set to premiere in 2003. Additionally, Hill will be featured on a January 23 episode of "The Connection," the local PBS newsmagazine, in a piece on Richard Cain, a lifelong convict and ex-white supremacist who Hill counseled and helped reform. Hill is also planning a Valentine's Day revival of *Ray Hill in Love*, his one-man show about his past relationships. —TRB

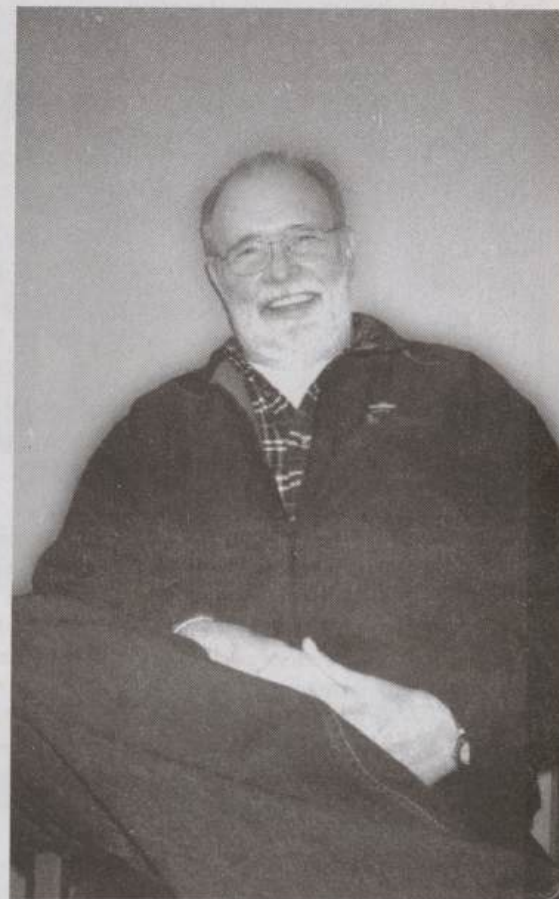


Photographed at Lotus Works Centre by David Lewis

SoFonda St. John

By raising money night after night, drag artists help make the community run. One of these glam fundraisers, SoFonda St. John, got her start in the Miss Camp America system. Jason Cryer by day, St. John moved on to perform benefit shows for causes including the Galveston transgender shelter. Miss Gay Pride in 2001, she is now a candidate for empress of the Royal, Sovereign, and Imperial Court of the Single Star (see page 9). "We have so many worthy causes," says the diva. "I hope to create one of the best attended and in turn one of the most profitable years we have ever seen." —TB

Ray Hill



Photographed by Tim Brookover

Nixon Wheat

The scion of a wealthy Liberty family, Nixon Wheat recently established the John Nixon Wheat Foundation, a charitable trust. In late 2002 alone, he supported a number of prominent causes in Houston and New York. These included "Partners in Caring," the joint benefit of the Assistance Fund, Montrose Clinic, and the PWA Coalition Houston and the 20th anniversary of the Princess Grace Awards. In 2003, the organizations that Wheat will assist include DIFFA (Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS) and the Human Rights Campaign. He will also help underwrite the GQ Man of the Year awards. —TB



Photographed by Kim Coffman

Mary Ann McBee

Photographed by David Lewis

Dreams sometimes change, but the core of the important ones often stays the same. Growing up, Mary Ann McBee hoped to become a pro athlete. Today she is dedicated to helping others. In 2002, McBee purchased Fitness Exchange, a business institution in the community, from Al McClerran, prior to his death in July. In 2003, her goal is to integrate Fitness Exchange even more into the community through personal training, classes, and other programs. "We want to make this not only a place for weights and cardio," she says, "but to include education seminars of all types of health issues that face men and women." —TNB

Clarence Burton Bagby prepared the election preview for the November issue. Thomas Robert Blanton is a Houston writer and poet. Tonia Nita Bowser is a Houston writer. Tim Brookover is editor of this magazine. Andrew Christopher works for ADV Films. Eric A.T. Dieckman reported on Texas travel in the December issue.

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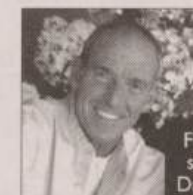
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After the Fall

The fire sale of Enron memorabilia has included a revolving disco E, limousines, power plants, and tacky key chains and lapel pins. But the ruins from the collapse of America's seventh-largest corporation and largest energy trading company continue to burn. The smoke clogs federal and state courts. Indictments, accusations, and the ubiquitous denials will continue for years as prosecutors stamp out the embers from Enron's conflagration of deception and greed.

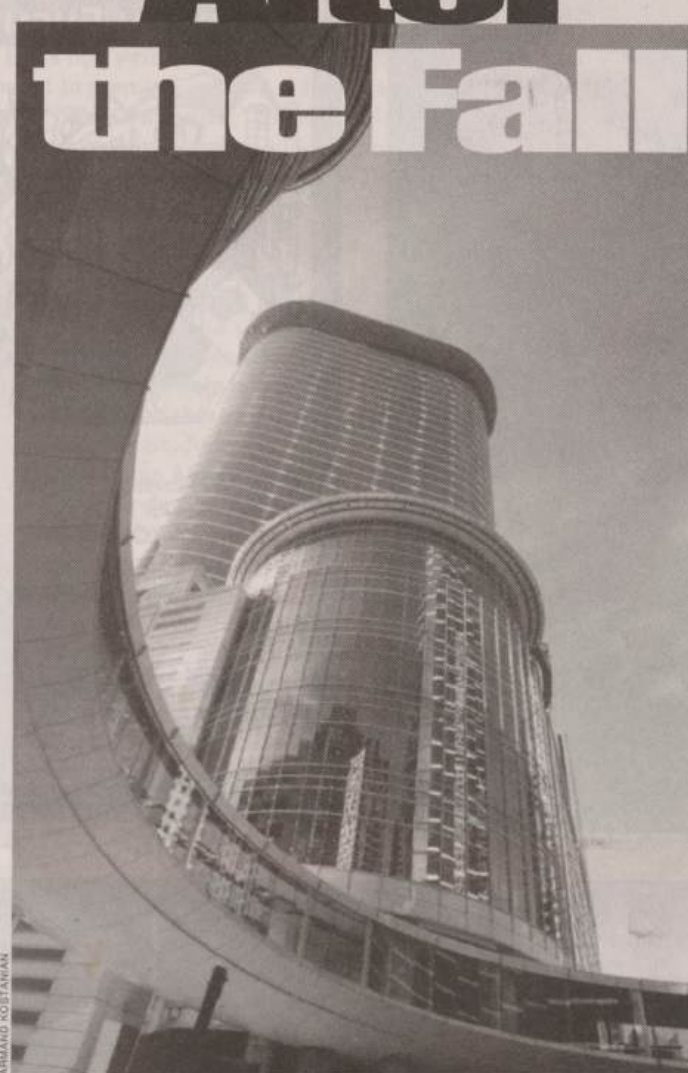
The truth about the fall of Houston's 20-ton gorilla may never be completely known, but many more heads will roll before it all plays out. So far, more than two dozen books have detailed Enron's implosion, with another due out early next month: *Power Failure*, co-written by Houston journalist Mimi Swartz and Enron whistle-blower Sherron Watkins, with our community's Pokey Anderson as research assistant.

In bankruptcy proceedings, Enron limps along, selling off assets that a few years ago were the company's crown jewels. Since "Bloody Monday" of December 2001, when the ax fell and 401(k) plans evaporated without so much as a "sorry" from management, we wondered what had become of the gay workers—the ones who haven't already copped a plea, that is.

In the second installment of our Enron series, we talk to three gay men: Two are former employees, and one still works for the corporation. All have ridden out the worst storm of their business lives. Though battered from the experience, they have all become stronger, even philosophical.

"When you work for a big company, you just don't think it can happen to you."

Glenn Dickson, once a director in the retail risk-manage-



*Three gay men
who survived the collapse of Enron
reflect on life and career
since the Bloody Monday of a year ago*

by D.L. Groover

ment group that sold long-term energy contracts to such premiere American outlets as Compaq and IBM, saw the writing on the wall at 1400 Smith months before the December firings.

"They were laying people off all year," he recalled recently. "They tightened the spending, started to cut excess costs, and aggressively weeded out people. Everybody felt they were on pins and needles. All the people who got fired all year long got their full severance packages. Then all of us who got fired on Bloody Monday didn't get jack. Everybody assumed we'd get our packages. No one had any concept that you could get thrown out with nothing from a big company like that. Talk about the rug being pulled out from under you."

More fortunate than most, Dickson had planned for years to start his own company. He used the same methods that served him well at Enron and applied his commercial real-estate knowledge to residential real estate. He started Complete Property Services, a management

firm, two months after being laid off and had his first client by the end of February 2002.

"If you're willing to take some risks as an entrepreneur, you can really make up for lost time," he said.

Still, the first year has been rough. Dickson has exhausted his savings, hasn't had a salary since Enron, and operates out of his home. Even so, he said getting fired has been the best thing that has happened to him, although he misses the corporate environment.

"I was totally out there and comfortable," he said. "Everybody knew and nobody cared. It was obviously of no issue in the company. I was put in increasingly visible and influential roles, and nobody gave a flip, just the way it ought to be."

"It was a young, attractive employee base. I continually marvel at the physical beauty of the people who worked there. You were old if you were over 35."

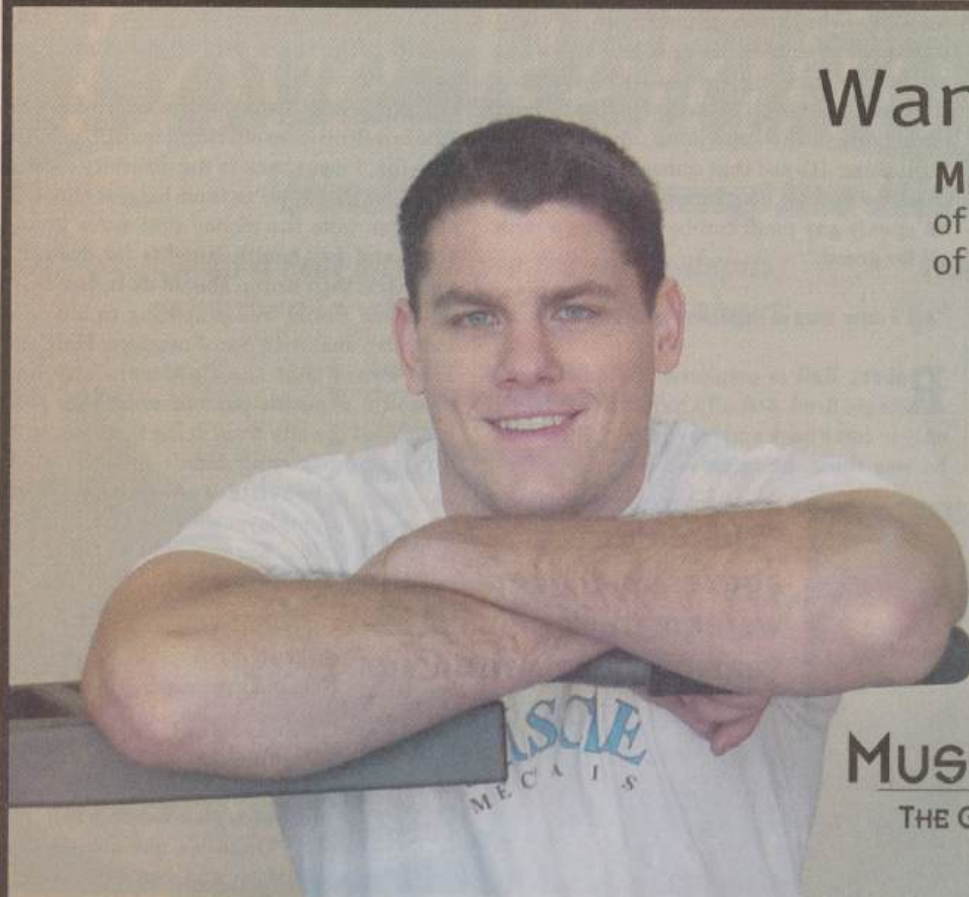
This emphasis on youth, though, was responsible for Enron's downfall.

"The company rewarded aggressive people who were smart, so you had 32-year-old vice presidents running around," Dickson said. "I think that was the Achilles heel of the company."

"The young, never-been-battle-tested-type managers that tended to run the place were go, go go, how fast can we get it done, innovation, try new things, the world is my oyster. And there wasn't a lot of thought to the long-term and how we were actually going to deliver what we sold. Sales was doing its thing, risk management was doing its thing, and operations was doing its thing, and it created a lot of confusion. That became a cycle that spiraled cost-wise completely out of control. The accounting gimmicks made it look like we were making progress."

But now, a year after his lay off, Dickson is his own boss.

"I thought when I got to Enron I had it made. I feel safe now. My biggest drive to do this was to never be fired again." →



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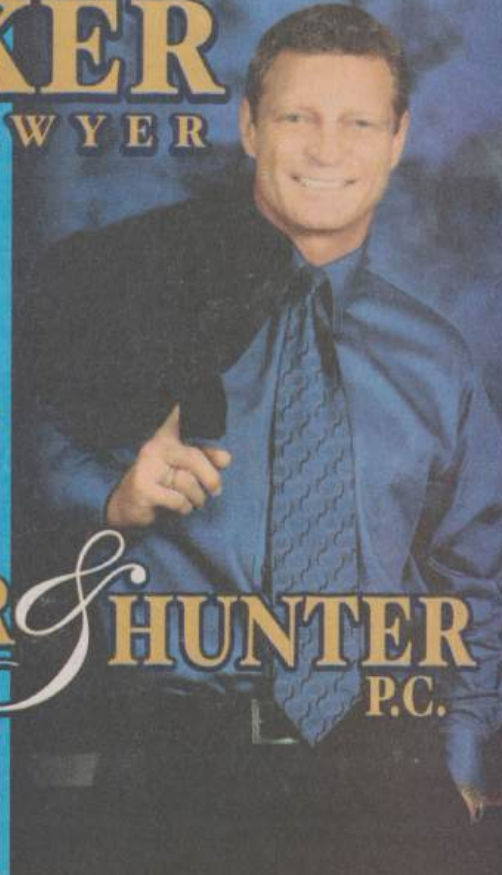
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"These days, you either have so much work that you can't see straight, or you have no work."

For the foreseeable future, Larry Pardue has a job. He survived the massive firings, as did 2,500 others, and continues to work as corporate secretary for Enron's international holdings.

"The sad part is to walk through the company," Pardue said. "It's toxic. Believe it or not, there are still people there who are disillusioned, thinking that we're in something other than liquidation."

Under a new corporate policy, Pardue works nine-hour days, nine days in a row, to tie up the increasingly unraveled threads of what is left of the mighty company. He said he has enough work to keep him busy for three years.

"I don't suspect the estate will be around that long, with staff at least. But given the amount of companies that we still have, it's going to be awhile. Of course, we're all at the mercy of the creditors, so no one can say for sure."

Pardue has been at Enron four years, but sometimes slipped into past tense as if he was already gone.

"It was a wonderful place to work. It's sad what's happened. I love my job. I love the work. It's just that we're all working ourselves out of a job as fast as we can. That's the irony of it all."

"Things happened the way they happened, but it was a wonderful place, gay or otherwise. That never really became an issue. I never saw any kind of discrimination, any kind of backlash, or anything. It just didn't matter. Everyone was on a high, just as anyone would be not knowing there was a time bomb ticking away."

Eventually, Pardue's job will end. Piece by piece, all the holdings will be sold, liquidated, merged, and Enron will be no more.

"I don't even have the energy to look for a new job," Pardue said. "By profession, I'm a university professor. I taught Spanish at Rice and the University of St. Thomas. I haven't taught in about a year. I would like to get back to that. There's certainly no money in it, but then anyone who's teaching isn't during it for that reason."

"Corporate America has changed. Either you're cut out for it and thrive on it, or it's just a bunch of crap. I'm not that type of person who can expend things and people for the sake of money."

"Those who got us where we are today

may have been bright, but there's a big difference in those who are bright and won't sell out for anything and those who are truly the best they can be in the field. It's all about caring, about the experience, and doing the right thing. It's sad that someone like Kopper [Andrew Fastow lieutenant Michael Kopper, an openly gay man] can be led down a path all for greed."

"All I saw was a nightmare ahead of me."

Robert Hall is emphatic. He quit before he got fired. Actually, he left Enron twice, only to come back and leave again. But when he was there, he improved the lot of every

"The company rewarded aggressive people who were smart, so you had 32-year-old vice presidents running around. I think that was the Achilles heel of the company."

—Glenn Dickson

Glenn Dickson with Maggie



gay employee. Through his influence on Enron's diversity council, sexual orientation and domestic-partner benefits were added to corporate policy, both implemented without hassle. He now works in Columbus, Ohio, for Enron rival American Electric Power and wants to get that corporation up to speed on same-gender issues.

"I was with Enron for 13 years," Hall said in a recent phone interview from Columbus. "I did a little bit of everything, from being a market rep on the pipeline side to running the office for the marketing arm. My last job was VP of energy operations."

"It was a good place to work. If you got yourself out there and were looking to do something different, they gave you the opportunity."

Enron was also open to gender politics, as Hall found out when he became one of the founding members of the diversity council, which had been created to deal with the large numbers of Chinese, Japanese, and Indians hired after Enron acquired vast holdings in Asia. This effort focused on internal community relations (displaying a menorah in the lobby at Hanukkah along with the Christmas lights, for example). There was an issue that the council hadn't considered. But Hall had.

"Enron didn't have a sexual discrimination policy," he recalled. "This was back in 1999. I challenged them on it. We

wrote up a new policy, took it to HR, they took it to the board, and it immediately got added in."

"A year later, about the time Vinson & Elkins [the law firm] were offering domestic-partner benefits, I went back to the diversity council and said, 'Look, we're their biggest client. If they can take the money that we're giving them and pay health benefits for domestic partners, then Enron should do it, too.'"

When Enron was preparing to bid on a lucrative deal with San Francisco, Hall was also aware that the California city had passed a domestic-partner ordinance that precluded the city from doing business with any company that didn't provide such benefits to its unmarried employees. Without DP benefits, Enron would be out of the competition.

"That got brought up through the diversity council, went through human resources, through the board, and the management approved it," Pardue said. "Pretty rapidly there, we did two major steps forward. We were on a roll."

"Once we got sexual orientation and domestic-partner benefits in the organization, we

kind of went on our way. If somebody finds out I'm gay, and they don't like me because of that, it's not going to affect my career here at Enron."

"That was one of the things Enron brought to the energy business: a broader view. It wasn't the good-ol-boys' system anymore. People could succeed as long as you worked hard and did your job. It didn't matter who you spent the night with."

Pardue now works for a company without a sexual-orientation policy or domestic-partner benefits. "We do have a diversity council," he said. "I've submitted my name. We'll see if it's as accepted now as companies were in the past."

Hall survived the bankruptcy filing in December and stayed in Enron's marketing and retail group until April. He quit for three months, then returned to Enron as a transportation rep on the pipeline. He stayed two months until AEP called. Now AEP has shut down its energy trading division and has begun to lay off employees.

"I'm not sure what my status will be," he said. "I think I'm employed for a while. Of course, that could all change tomorrow. If there's one thing I've learned in this process is that there's no stability. Every day is a new day."

Groover interviewed former Enron web master Brandon Rigney for the December OutSmart.

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TALES FROM THE DARK SIDE

Two chance encounters provide a glimpse into a corporate spectacle

Every year has a marker that distinguishes it from the prior one. In 2000 it was the predicted universe collapse as the result of Why2K. The Twin Towers tragedy indelibly stamped 2001. Last year echoed with the question, "How can a cadre of greedy people shake the world's confidence in the American capitalistic system?" A year on, we have just observed the "paper" anniversary of the Enron mess, a spectacle many investors viewed from atop a pile of worthless stock certificates and amid 401K plans best described as "ephemeral." Part of American folklore, the decimation of billions in individual wealth is now fodder for television commercials. In the past weeks I collided with two of the major players in the theft of our time.

My first encounter was with the bad-boy-turned-federal witness against Enron. This twerp's plea bargain proves that not every gay man desires to be at the bottom of the pole in the penitentiary. (I imagine the cast of players in the real Oz isn't nearly as hunky as the HBO illusionists would have us believe.)

This meeting was a situation I couldn't avoid. Instead of telling him, "If half of what reported about you is true, I hope you are force-fed nothing but used kitty litter for the rest of your life," I pretended not to know who he was. Call me a coward, but I really didn't know what to do or the proper etiquette when meeting an alleged heinous criminal. I mumbled something about the volunteer endeavor he was engaged in, and the *enfant terrible* looked me straight in the eye and said, "Well, at the end of the day I just want to feel good about myself." I must have lost consciousness for a nanosecond. When my head stopped spinning, my first thought was, "You could have done that before you

engineered schemes to defraud thousands of people of millions of dollars." Dumbfounded, I simply walked away.

Weeks later, I strolled into my favorite Thai restaurant and spotted a couple I have known and worked with when I was a

It had the opposite effect. Suddenly every neuron in my brain fired at once. I glanced at the wife, seeking confirmation of what I have just heard. She smiled blandly.

I decided *not* to walk away. In a stage voice loud enough to be heard by all in the restaurant, I responded, "You mean to tell me that if you woke up one morning and EVERYTHING you had worked for was gone, it would *only* be money?" Again, he peered at me. "Maybe the events of the last few months will help people realize what is really important in their lives." Stupefied, I realized that this man thought he had done nothing wrong.

This chat concluded, I joined my dinner companions, sputtering with rage. I took a sip of water to regain my composure. A small roach crawled out of my glass and into my mouth. Normally, I would have vomited at such a thing. But I was fine. It didn't sicken me nearly as much as the meeting that had just occurred.

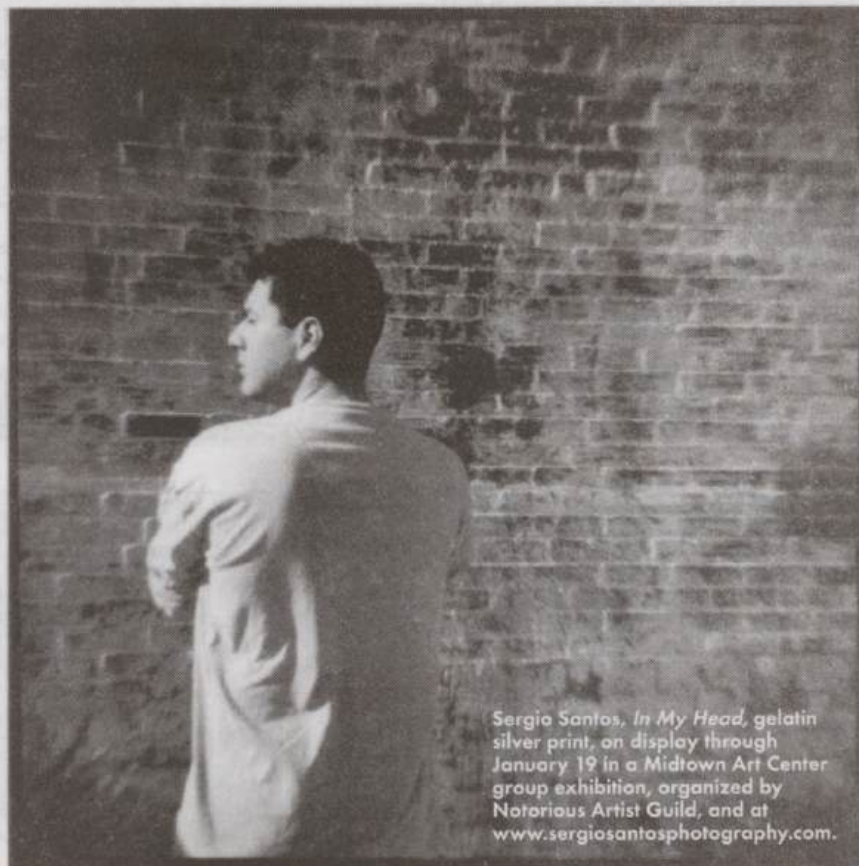
These chance encounters have given me a direct link into the upper echelon

of the Enron corporate psyche. The lie these men pursued so permeated their minds that it morphed, to them, into the truth.

Darth Vader and I have something in common. We've both seen the dark side.

A friend who is a talented social worker recently jumped into the for-profit world. "It's great," she exclaimed at the time. "I've got a company car, corporate American Express card, and I don't have to worry about funding or job security. What a relief!" Twelve weeks later, when asked about her work, she pauses. "You know, it's okay. But there's just no higher purpose to what I'm doing."

Rich Arenschioldt reflected on the bleak prospects for AIDS funding in the December OutSmart.



Sergio Santos, *In My Head*, gelatin silver print, on display through January 19 in a Midtown Art Center group exhibition, organized by Notorious Artist Guild, and at www.sergiosantosphotography.com.

COURTESY SERGIO SANTOS

portfolio manager responsible for \$500 million of other people's money. (If they only knew—a gay guy babysitting all their right-wing assets.) We exchanged surprised pleasantries typical for encounters that happen every five years. I asked the hubby what he was doing, to which he replied, "Oh, I work [present tense] at Enron." Without thinking, I expressed my condolences: "That must be a tough place to work right now. What happened to all those people is just criminal."

A moment passed. I got an unsettled feeling in my gut. Mr. Enron guy looked me in the eye and, with an earnestness that defied reality, responded, "What happened to all those people—it was only money." This comment didn't make me lose consciousness.

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Our astrologer Lilly Roddy charts the year ahead. Shields up, Virgo!

Illustrations by David Eduardo Flores Perez

How to read your sign: You will notice that five planets affect each sign. These outer planets remain in a sign for an extended period of time and therefore have long-term effects. And each of these outer planets affects each sign differently. As you read your sign, you may find that different planets have opposite effects on the same sign. This is not unusual and gives rise to some of the dilemmas we face. In the best of circumstances, the planets will work together.

We are a combination of planets and signs. We are not just our Sun sign. Most people know this because the Sun returns to the same place in the sky on a rather regular schedule. But even that is not an exact process. In our calendars, we have "leap year" to help readjust the solar calendars for the deteriorating orbit of our Earth and the expansion of our Sun. These things affect the cycles of the planets. So some of you may have your Sun in the path of these outer planets. Others have had the influence, and others have yet to encounter it. But you may have other bodies in those degrees such as your Moon, Mercury, Mars, etc. And if you are not familiar with your astrology chart, you may not know this. But you may still feel the influence of the outer planets that I write about because of these other planets in your chart.

Those of you who know your Moon or rising sign should read those sections as well as your Sun sign. You will get a larger picture of what is going on for you astrologically. The Moon symbolizes your emotions. The rising sign reflects your outer personality. And the Sun determines your conscious path of your ego.

Mercury retrograde (techno talk): This is a process that occurs three or four times a year. The retrograde is an illusion but still has an influence on us as people. From a solar or heliocentric point of view, the planet Mercury and the Earth are conjunct. Astronomers refer to this as an inferior conjunction. There are two points that represent the start and stop of Mercury retrograde. The first point is Mercury going Stationary Retrograde. On that day Mercury "stops" its forward motion and begins to move backward. And at the end of the retrograde, Mercury goes Stationary Direct and begins its forward movement once again. On these dates, Mercury is stationary or not moving at all. These are usually considered the more negative times of the Mercury retrograde period. So, on these dates, both Stationary Retrograde and Direct, it is best to allow a few days before and a few days after the dates to avoid the influences of the retrograde period. Mercury goes retrograde this year from January 1 through January 22, April 26 through May 20, August 28 through September 20, and December 17 through January 5, 2004. I will elaborate more on each of these periods during the year.

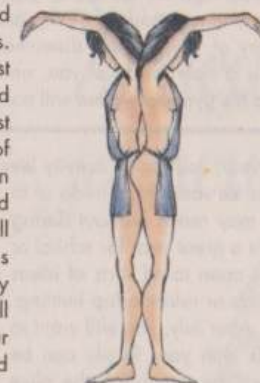
This year, three outer planets change signs. This tends to mean a change of direction of people's attitude, moods, and what they are drawn to as a whole population. And of course these things affect us individually. This year, Uranus, planet of change, inventiveness, and rebellion, moves into Pisces on March 10. Saturn, planet of responsibility, long-term goals, and public judgment, moves in Cancer on June 3. And Jupiter, planet of growth, travel, and expansion, enters the sign of Virgo on August 27. We do have another planet going retrograde that will affect us very strongly this year. That planet is Mars. And Mars will be retrograde from July 29 through September 26.

Enough of the technical astrological stuff. Let's get to what really counts. What will happen to me?

Lilly Roddy has been a professional astrologer for 19 1/2 years. She counsels individuals in personal, business, and financial matters and teaches classes in astrology. Her website is www.hermesfoot.com.

JUPITER. Jupiter inspires growth and inspiration in people, and in the first half of the year, you will find that your creative juices are flowing. You are in a playful mood and may not be work- or goal-oriented. If you can motivate yourself, this can be a time when you can sell your ideas or yourself to a company or to other people. Your children can be a real source of illumination and enlightenment. They can show you how to be more playful overall in your life and how to find joy in mundane events. You will really want to be an escapist during the last week of January and the first week of February and the last week of May and the first week of June. Keep that time very flexible in your life. Get away from routines and boring habits. In September, you will be ready to make those life patterns all new and different. And you will pay extra attention to your diet and all health regimens. Be prepared: Your work area is going to expand, and you may be taking on additional work.

Saturn. You are getting your day-to-day routines and habits in order. You can expect your communication skills to remain clear until June. You have been paying more attention to details than you usually like to. But it has not seemed like a burden, but rather a chance to get your life more cleaned up. You have been a bit resistant to changing your routines. You have been getting messages all along that you could do better. And you will continue to be extra careful before you alter anything you are doing. Some of this will show up as your childhood patterns being challenged. You had a "truth" that you were holding onto from your adolescence. But is it currently fitting into your life pattern? After May, you begin to focus on home and family. And the deficiencies there will be glaring back at you. Some of you will move. Others will redo the abode you are currently residing in. And still others will be drawn back to the old home place. Elderly parents will need more care this year. And you will have to have better rules around the



ARIES

(March 21–April 19)

place where you live. Otherwise, you will be feeling resentful for having to be in charge of everything. Bottom line is that you want your nest to be like you want it and not littered with the expectations of others.

Uranus and Neptune. Friendships and group associations are not as easy as they used to be. You are feeling out of place or that you just don't belong. Even old friends may seem to have moved away, and you are not as connected as you once were. One part of this is that you are more open to being an individual than you have been in the past. Or these groups and friends once reflected who you were and what you wanted in your life, and now they don't. Especially toward the summer, you will want new friends in your life. And you may even be joining some different organizations. Those of you born April 1 through the 5th will be on an individualist path, or that of a loner, as we would see you. And you may still not want any more of a group association than you have now. You may compensate for these energies by drawing in people who feel that they don't really belong any-

where either. These friends are likely to be short term, so don't put too much into the relationships. **Pluto.** Education and expansion of your reality makes it way into your brain this year. You were very resistant to new ideas last year. But in 2003 you will be much more interested in the different way people are rather than how similar they are to you. And if you want to travel this year, it will be much easier. You will not run across as many blocks as you did last year. If you travel for work, you can expect much more of that. And even those of you who don't will have much more contact with people from different areas of the country than you usually do. And some of you need to consider that where you work will be moving. This should arise between September and December of 2003.

Jupiter. The first half of the year you will be trying to figure out just what gives you that sense of internal security. Some of you will want to move to a new location, others will want to redecorate, and still others will have legal problems connected to the family property. But all of you will crave to get away from it all and avoid all the hassles. Deep down you are digging up those angry emotions about having to make everyone happy and sublimate your own feelings. In September, you are more calm and looking for pleasures and sensual experiences. And this would be the time for over-indulgence and lavishness. If you are interested in having children, this would be a great time for that. You will feel fertile to almost anything that feeds your creative senses. And prepare for some travel at



TAURUS

(April 20–May 20)

the end of the year. You will not want to follow the customs you have observed in the past.

Saturn. In the first half of the year, you are not letting your cautious eye off those finances. Every dollar, every piece of yourself, every part of your energy investment has to have a return. Some may think you are being miserly. You are just so unsure of what you want exactly and what you are going to invest yourself in. After June, you begin to get a handle on the direction of your life, at least on a daily basis. You will have more order in your life. In fact, you will demand it. Daily relationships will be under your judgmental gaze. They have to give something back to you or you will not have them

around. Your examination and change of habits will also fall into this discriminating period.

Uranus and Neptune. For those of you born on or who have planets in the latter parts of the sign, especially those born May 18 through the 20: You are very restless, especially in relation to your career. You are very volatile and may feel like you have to get out at all cost. Make sure you have a plan beyond how you feel immediately. If not, this will come up again in May, and you can make a choice then. Those of you born on or with planets in the early part of the sign, and especially those born April 29 through May 3, are looking around and asking yourself the cosmic questions of "Why am I here?" and "Does anything I do count?" Many of you will feel disenchanted with your career and relationships. There is a hole inside of you, and you are feeling empty. Taking Zoloft or going to the gym more often will not take care

of it. Time to find your personal connection to the Cosmic Creator. For both groups, keep your decisions reasonable and based on short-term time periods.

Pluto. Intimacy is the issue here. You will want to know what's behind that mask that your partner, best friend, or business associate is wearing. Sometimes this can be a truth-at-all-costs cycle. You are ridding yourself of the barriers you have built up, which others have to leap over to get to your heart. If you are in a relationship, take your partner and run to a therapist. Don't be surprised that some of the people you have invited into your life are accustomed to this barrier and don't want to tear down the Berlin Wall. If you have people like this in your life and they don't want to change, this would be a message to move on. December is a tense month regarding these intimacy outlets.

Jupiter. During the first half of the year, your daily activity level is really expanding. And there always seems to be some thing to do or to have to do. Be careful because you may reach burnout during February and at the end of May. This is a great year for school or continuing education classes. You are open to all sorts of ideas and people. This is great energy for job or relationship hunting. Your possessiveness is like a magnet. After July, you will want to move to a larger place. Old wounds with your family can be healed during this time. And they will be extending the olive branch. Relationships are rather tense in December. Keep an open mind and an open heart during that month.

Saturn is certainly making you get your life in order during the first half of the year. You are in an assessing period. If what you have is not getting your life advanced, then you have to rework that idea or get rid of it. And this can be an especially difficult time for relationships. You are holding your partnership up to a lofty set of standards. And this is particularly strong for those of your born June 12 through the 20th. Relationships may become unraveled during May. After June, you are ready to get your financial house in order. And ready or not, this is what you will be doing. You will want more respect from others and more money for the services you perform at work, and you will be held just as accountable by everyone else. Of course, if you want to get yourself out of debt, this is the time to get it done. Others may even see you as driven. I hope they cross only at the crosswalks.



GEMINI

(May 21-June 21)

Uranus and Neptune. A career shift is in the air. You are ready for a new project and precisely something that is on the cutting edge of the field you are in. Routines are not working for you. Even the business that you work for may take on a whole new department that will spark your interest. If this doesn't happen, you will be looking for some place that offers this. If you are holding on and trying not to create waves, the Cosmos will send you a big one during August and September. And this is super strong for those of you born May 21 through the 25th. You really want something that fills your soul. And you will have to feel that you are making a difference. Some of you will want to travel to fill this part of you. Others will go back to school to follow their dreams. For those of you born May 31 through June 5 or have planets in those degrees, you will be impacted the most potentially.

Pluto is just taking your relationships and turning them inside out. I consider this one of the more difficult aspects to have influencing you. If you are born June 6 through the 11th or have planets in those degrees, you may feel that you are going through a meat grinder. Relationships have to be very strong and built on the most solid and ethical standards to survive this. Some of you will see the writing on the wall and know that it is time to bring the relationship to an end, no matter how right it seemed in the beginning. August and September will make you apprehensive. Be real. That is all Pluto will allow you to be.

Jupiter is visiting your money sector for the first half of the year. You will want to earn a lot of money and spend a lot, too. You can anticipate a raise from your current job or an increase in your fees. And this can help you market yourself to a new job or promote a new product that you are offering. The only negative effect is that you can be too indulgent with yourself—like that is a bad thing. By August you are speaking and writing more. There is a greater amount of day-to-day activity in your life. You will have a very full dance card. And the masses will just want to be around you. And what a great time this is to take or teach a class. You have lots of information to share with extra helpings of optimism and enthusiasm and a cherry on top.

Saturn has been testing your ability to be with others. She wants the people in your life to have similar spiritual goals. And if they don't, she will be just like your mother and won't let you play with those nasty dirty kids down at the end of the block. And you had better be working on your spiritual rituals. She doesn't want you in heaven with holes in your underwear. Saturn enters your sign of Cancer in June and will be visiting for the next 2 1/3 years. Now Saturn is very different from Jupiter. Saturn wants results, long-term plans and goals that you must follow, and precision about being right and successful. She can be a wet blanket for all that Jupiter optimism. But by combining Saturn and Jupiter's aspects, you can experience a lot of growth with a substantial sense of using what you gain to help provide for a more secure future.

Uranus and Neptune. You have had a strong interest in understand-



CANCER

(June 22-July 22)

ing the emotional motivation that drives people. And this goes beyond a psychological understanding but reaches out to find the ethereal urge that is hidden from all but the most perceptive person's view. Those of you born July 1 through the 6th or with planets in those degrees are the most influenced. Other who are born July 19 through the 22nd or with planets in those degrees are stepping beyond what is safe. This is quite a step for the tentative Moon Kids. Tradition will only be something that you build on and pass on to the next generation. There is nothing to hold you back. Your friends will see you as brave, but you will see it only as the next step. And you will be educating those around you, causing no factions to rise up against you. Make sure that you take the time to share your life with those around you. You will generate more change than you know.

Pluto. You have been changing your health and work habits for quite a while now. This all started in 1996 and slowly continues. Those Crabs that will be influenced this year are born July 9 through the 13th or have planets in those degrees. Pluto roots out negative and toxic behavior patterns and allows your essence to shine through. She will change your work environment and make it a happier and healthier place to be. Some of the changes could be upsetting to you, especially during August and September. But resisting only makes it worse. Eventually you will give in to the forces around you. This is your year to change health and work patterns and environments. Embrace the force that took Persephone to the underworld to show her the gold.

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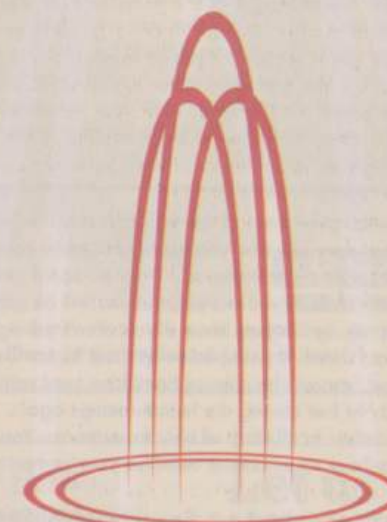
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Jupiter, planet of growth and expansion, begins the year in your sign and will be there until the very end of August. During this time, you will want to grow beyond any limitations that you or others have placed on you in the past. You are encouraged to travel, go back to school, or have children. Relationships should go well during this time, too. You are more optimistic than usual and will be able to ignore those slight hurts that you encounter through the day. Look out for limitations in your career when you will feel unappreciated from the end of April through the end of May. After September, you want to spend more money, and you don't have a good handle on the long-term effects of overspending. Watch for signs of that so that you can avoid the problems.

Saturn is having you review all your friends and group associations. They must have a purpose in your life and give back something significant to you for being affiliated with them. Don't be surprised if long-term friends leave your life during this phase. It is just a case of you outgrowing the relationship. After June, you are beginning to shift your critique to your spiritual life. And with group associations, you will find that you are not as connected to the larger source as you would like to be. You may experience some depression about this. This may just generally cause you to feel isolated and alone, even if you are not connected to the spiritual questing. All belief systems may fall short since you are looking for some tangible evidence that life does have a larger purpose.

Jupiter is influencing the area of spiritual connections during the first two-thirds of the year. And you are able to make connections to all belief systems simultaneously. Your personal guides and angels are very close to you this year, so you will be getting some guided help along the path even if you aren't asking for any. You can attract some very supportive spiritual human being types. After August, you will be coming back from your spiritual journey and ready to live among the human beings again. You are open and optimistic to all kinds of new experiences. You will want to travel, go back to school, or re-infuse your current relationship.

Saturn has been making you toe the line when it comes to getting your career path in line with what you are doing. Either you are doing what has to be done to make a difference or you are noticing just where you are wasting your time and effort. You will only be interested in moving toward the path of completion. You may also feel very judgmental about yourself and your past accomplishments. And you will experience some sense of depression or valuelessness. After June, you are feeling less oppressed and are rebuilding your connections to groups and friends. Saturn's judgment will move into this area of your zodiac. Now friends will have to serve a purpose in your life, and if they don't, you will end those friendships.

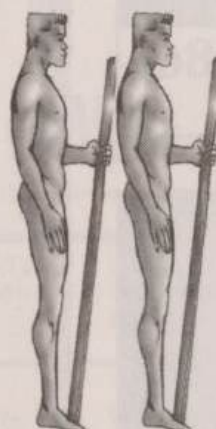
Uranus and Neptune are continuing their awakening of



LEO

(July 23-August 22)

large projects and to teachers that appear to be larger than life. And your charms are especially magnetic all year. At work or in relationships, you will be able to influence others to do more than they normally would for you. During the month of December, you may have taken on more than you can handle. Watch for over-commitment during this time.



VIRGO

(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Uranus and Neptune. Those of you born February 15 through the 18th or with planets in this area can expect to feel very restless in relationships. You are looking for excitement, and you are not willing to tolerate the boredom of the routines that you and your partner have established. And there are many outlets for this boredom, such as changing routines, couple's therapy, or seeking out a new partner. But you will not tolerate the past terms. Those of you born January 31 through February 4 or with planets in those degrees are looking for your soul mate. The connections that you and your partner need have to go way beyond what most people expect to find in a partnership. We could call this psychic bonding. Be careful, you could feel it even if the person is unconsciously projecting. February and June will be times when your psychic sensitivity is especially strong.

Pluto. Personal creativity and the expression of an inner power are combining this year. They are motivating you to look for outlets that display your talents to show others just what really lies deep inside of you. You will be attracted to

your life patterns and habits that usually exist below your surface of consciousness. Old or pre-existing health problems may surface, as they represent issues of physical and emotional neglect. There could be confrontations in your work environment that rub up against loyalty issues. Be loyal to you first. This is strongest for those of you born September 1 through the 6th or with planets in those degrees. Those of you born August 23 through the 26th or with planets in those degrees will be having a relationship crisis. You will not be as tolerant of relationship patterns that make you feel constricted or trapped. This can be a very critical year for some of your relationships. In a phrase, this is a make-or-break time for you. And this time is extra sensitive during August and September.

Pluto is stirring up trouble in your family. She is grabbing you by the base, pulling your roots out of the ground, shaking off the dirt, and shoving them in your face. This is where you come from. These are your secrets. Do you like having them out in the light? Pluto is just helping you detoxify your emotional-based system. She is so helpful. There are big changes happening with your family. Parents are retiring; you are doing home repairs and changing your whole base of operations. Stressful times are sure to come during August and September. Keep your shields handy.

Saturn has been urging you to learn more and expand your horizons about the way the world operates. This may mean going to school to get updated on computers or to learn new ways of doing your business. And you have been very receptive to this process. In June, you become very much more goal-oriented. And whatever you have been learning will now have to have a usable outcome. Your time and resources will mean more to you. And you will be more strict about who you give those parts of yourself to. You will also want to totally revamp your career path. You will question what you are doing and whether it really brings you the satisfaction that you want. If it does, but not to the extent that you want, you will be cleaning house. Watch for



LIBRA

(Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

Jupiter is bringing you all types of new friends and associates. You will have a busy social life with many people wanting to meet you. This can be a great time for business networking or community organizations. And some of those people may affect your life in a very spiritual manner during February and June. They have some special gift for you. After August, you are a bit more reflective about your personal path. You will want to do some volunteer work or help your favorite charity. And you are really in the mood to give back to people around you. Just make sure that they will be appreciative or that you give without strong expectations. Work will be overwhelming during August and September, and you will be without that Libran balance you are so well known for.

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struggles with authority figures. There are indications that you are not being appreciated. Ask for what you want and base your next decision on what to do after that.

Uranus and Neptune are stimulating your inventiveness and artistry. Your inner child is being awakened, and she really wants to get out and play. And she doesn't want to wait in line for other people in front of her. If you have children, this is a time of separation from them. You want them to be more independent. And some are holding on for dear life, creating more drama in their own lives so that you are drawn back in to rescue them. If you don't have children, you will have friends in this role. And they seem to be especially needy at this time. Work environments are due for a change in March for those of you born September 23 through the 28th or with planets in those

degrees. Look for new equipment or computers or restructuring of the divisions in your company. August and September are especially fertile months for this activity.

Pluto is directing you to be more true and authentic with your communications. You are not beating around the bush, as you are apt to do. And you are less likely to avoid confrontations to keep the peace, as you usually do. This may be hard on those closest to you, but you won't mind telling them about it. And if you are on a path to get something done, people had better not stand in your way. Watch for car problems in August and September and December. You may have to buy a new vehicle. Relationships with siblings can be tense, as you no longer want to live in the past with them. They are just not sure how to talk to you. But, you will be happy to tell them about it.

Jupiter is really providing you with fabulous opportunities to expand your career. You are ready to step out into the world and make yourself a place. You will be attracting people to you who have status in the community in which you live. You can also expect to be extra busy at work. Take advantage of this time to promote yourself or your product. Raises and promotions are right there for you to take advantage of. After August, the spotlight shifts from shining on you to shining on the groups that you are involved with. Friends that you have not seen for a while will re-emerge. You will be offered leadership positions in any group that you belong to. Others feel the enthusiasm that you emanate. And they will want to bask in the afterglow. **Saturn** has been challenging the authenticity of your relationships. You will only allow real encounters with people. Since you are inviting them into that most personal of space that Scorpios guard vigilantly, they had better be ready to meet the real you. You will expose your expectations. And just the consideration that they might be reluctant to appease will close the door to your heart. Are you sensitive? You would give most psychics a run for their money. After June, you take a deep breath and give your romantic partners a break. Now it is time to explore life philosophies. And just how do those dovetail with your partner? OK, breathing time over. Reasoned doctrine meets with concrete life. Mental concepts won't suffice. You want genu-



SCORPIO

(Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

ine feelings. And be prepared for your partner to challenge your male bovine offerings.

Uranus and Neptune are visiting your family and emotional roots. Those of you born November 20 through the 22nd or with planets in those degrees will be cutting the umbilical cord from your psychological roots. You may be moving, your parents may be retiring, or you may just feel that home makes you feel ensnared. This could be especially tense at the end of August. Those of you who feel that you are floating in space wishing you could find your connection to the ethereal essence are those born between November 2 and the 7th or with planets in those degrees. For you, no place feels familiar. You are hiding out because you just don't know what to think or feel or do. Your eyes are open wide.

Pluto is transforming your value system. You question everything about yourself that you once thought had value. Security is more difficult to define. Last year forced you to really look at the concept of money and how it had you. And now you are looking for fresh ways to utilize your aptitudes and gifts. And it won't be just something to fill in that hole for an immediate fix. It must typify your version of integrity and truth. Others may see you as hard to please while you know you are just looking for that precise candy bar. And you won't take anything less.

Jupiter, your ruling planet, is bolstering your desire to travel, write, take classes, and generally expand your knowledge of life. You are more open-minded about almost any new idea. And you are ready to share your knowledge and information with those around you. This can be an especially good time to meet with others and promote your business or products. And you can make an excellent impression on your boss with your wisdom. After August, you will be sending those arrows in the direction of your career. And get ready, because it is going to be very busy. Some of you will be starting a new career or relocating with your current company. This will cause some problems with your family during August and September. Eventually they will let go of their resistance and support your decisions.

Saturn is making you sit and take notice about how you manage your relationships. And overall, Saturn is concerned with practicality. So in the case of those relationships that you have to put too much into with too little response, you are putting them on notice. They either respond to your expectations or you will bring them to an end. This is also having an impact on those who you deal with at work or in business. And you are reacting to them in the same way. For the relationships that do live up to your expectations, you are reconfirming your commitment to them. After June, you dive even deeper into your expectations in relationships. Now you look at what you and your partners hide behind when you wear those masks. Money problems may show up in business and romantic partnerships. Bring



SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

them to the surface and get them solved.

Uranus and Neptune are making sure that the people who you deal with in your everyday life are pleasant and kind. You are more susceptible to harshness and intolerance than usual. And you won't be able to just breeze over it as you usually do. Those of you born December 1 through the 8th or with planets in those degrees will be particularly affected during February and June. And those of you born November 21 through the 25th or with those degrees are getting ready to cut that old family umbilical cord. Psychologically, you may feel rootless, want to move, or redecorate the old same place. You may feel trapped by antique feelings of guilt or the drive to do the right thing. You will be putting all that trash out by the side of the road this year.

Pluto has been metamorphosing your life over the last several years. And those of you born December 7 through the 12th or with planets in those degrees will be experiencing Pluto's wrecking ball as it crashes through anything that needs to be taken down. Simply put, you are going through a psychological death. And your old ego is being detoxified. Many of the things that you thought were important may not be anymore. And anything that you once defined as a part of that ego structure will go through this testing period. Some of you will let go of your current career path, your relationship, possessions, and friends. And the things that remain will really reflect who you are. And August and September show up distinctively as very intense periods.

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Jupiter is making you look at the money you have invested in stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and resources shared with a partner. And you will want to feel more secure in these areas of your life. Part of your life creativity surges from this area of the zodiac. And if you are not feeling confident about this part of your life, you will feel that your creative juices are being stymied. This may simply show up as feeling that your partner spends more money than you do. And while you are being parsimonious, your actions are unappreciated and ignored. You will not be keeping these feelings to yourself during February and June. After August, you are more calm and organized. You will have fixed the hole in the dam. Achieving your goals will be easier. And you will want to extend your intellectual wisdom. School or travel will become a part of your plans in the fall or winter.

Saturn, your ruling planet, has been spending a lot of time getting your work environment organized. An antiquated method of doing business or interacting with coworkers has improved. You are not willing to be the big parent at work and solve all the problems that your coworkers have. And you are not willing to take the responsibility for the laxity of the company that you work for. Essentially, you are finding out what to be responsible for and what not to be responsible for. After June, you shine this light of judgment onto your relationships. There are big overhauls headed your



Capricorn

(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

way in this arena. Couple's counseling would be a good thing to consider even if your primary partner is your business associate. And those of you who have been sitting on the fence about commitment in a relationship will be taking the plunge. You are ready because you will not feel that you have to be in charge of everything.

Jupiter is influencing your relationships in a most positive way. You and your partner are getting closer than ever. And if you are not in a relationship, then Jupiter will certainly fill up your dance card so that you have plenty of choices. This activation may show through your relationships. Your partner may be extremely busy traveling, through work or increasing the social arena. And as long as you are asked to go with them, you are happy. You don't really want to go; you just want to be asked. Try to get away from it all with your partner during February and June. After August, you are looking for a deepening commitment from your partner. There could be better money conditions, which would help both of you to be more open. And you could find that your partner is being very supportive of you during the end of the year. If you are not in a relationship, someone will enter your life to play this role for you.



Aquarius

(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Saturn is defining your sense of creativity and giving it a definition that has been lacking in the past. Some of you will feel judged by this process since

Uranus and Neptune are also creating some havoc in your money sector. You are just not sure if you are using your capabilities and resources to make yourself most contented with your life. There is certainly a strong longing to make sure that what you are doing extends from your soul. This is being most strongly felt by those of you born December 30 through January 4 or with planets in those degrees. For those of you born January 18 through the 21st or with planets in those degrees, you will want to free yourself of debt and emotional obligations. And you are interested in living life to its fullest, not restricted by *shoulds* and *oughts*. You will free yourself of those conditioned constraints.

Pluto is helping to revamp your spiritual world. You are looking for real connections in your life on earth with the spiritual life that you want to have. You will not be willing to wait for death to bring you internal happiness and release. You want those things now. Parts of the fears that surface are that you will be seen as irresponsible. So you over-react and take a stance that sometimes seems rigid. This year, you are being forced to let those old truths go. Those of you born January 7 through the 11th or with planets in those degrees are going to be the most influenced by this. These issues will be very strong during August and September. Stay connected to your body so that you are not accident prone.

you just can't create the thing in your brain. It has to have physical manifestations. So this is a great time to give your ideas form and fashion. After June, you are organizing your health and work habits. Every thing must have its place. Be careful that the people in your immediate environment and especially those who you work with don't think you are being rigid and anal. You are sure to show signs of that. And this is the year to pay a visit to the doctor, dentist, and all health-care practitioners. Don't be surprised if your dentist has a desire to restructure your mouth. You most likely are overdue.

Uranus and Neptune are really making their dominance felt since they have been in your sign over the last few years. Those of you born February 16 through the 19th or with planets in those degrees are feeling as if you need to make a break from anything that is old, boring, and not personally challenging. You will not al-

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ABOUT THE ARTIST

David Eduardo Flores Perez is a mixed-media artist, specializing in illustration and portraiture. He has illustrated and written a comic, *The 4th Dimension*, for *Hentai Magazine*, distributed in his native Spain and throughout South America. Flores Perez is also a musician and computer technician. He lives with his partner, the poet and author A.C. Coleman, in southwest Houston. Flores Perez does portraits on commission. To contact him, visit www.OutSmartMagazine.com.



low yourself to be restricted in any way. And this would include intellectually or through unconscious family patterns or controlling mates. Those of you born January 9 through February 4 or with planets in those degrees are on a spiritual pilgrimage. And it would be best if you could just take the year off and seek your connection with your holy monad. The most you will know this year is what you don't want to do. Making a choice about

Jupiter is increasing your workload but not necessarily your wages. However, there are promises being made to you about good things to come if you can ride the waves. And you should ride them out if you can. There are good things on the horizon for you, even though you may have to wait until August to see them. You are just likely to be more tired than usual since you are doing more than you really can do energetically. Make sure you get some time to yourself so you can rest. After August, relationships look really good in your life. If you are in one, prepare for it to be better. If you are single, be prepared for that special someone to come into your life. The relationship could go very well and very quickly. So a commitment could be generated during the end of the year.

Saturn is kicking your family around in the first half of the year. You are learning how they have taken advantage of how sweet and nice you are to them. They don't realize that you are being good to them. But this year they have been learning. You are not doing as many things for them without some sense of appreciation. And you are doing major house cleaning where you are living. There must be an order to all things in your life. After June, you are lighter. You now will be directed to putting your creativity into a goal-oriented enterprise. If you have children, then you will be expecting them to act more maturely in their lives. And they will definitely take on more leadership roles in their lives either at school or work. You will want more time to play and enjoy your life.

Uranus is entering your sign for the first time in 84 years. The process is under way as the year

what you want to do over the next year will be very difficult at best. Keep life-altering decisions to a minimum.

Pluto is cleaning out the friends sector in your zodiac arena. One thing that you seek in friends is the truth. They don't have to agree with you or your philosophy, but they have to tell you the truth. Even if that truth is to go take a one-mile walk on a half-mile pier, they must be honest. And with anything



PISCES

(Feb. 19-March 20)

less than that, you will give those former friends their walking papers. This is very difficult for you since you pride yourself on the notion that you are open to all types of people. And you almost are that open. But you are establishing new boundaries. You will see examples of this in your life during August and September and during December. Out with the old and in with the new!

opens and only intensifies after March. Uranus drives us to be more individualistic. She wants us to break the chains that bind. Any part of your life that makes you feel restricted or bored will have to change or be gotten rid of. This is strongest for those of you born February 19 through the 22nd or with planets in those degrees. August and September could be a very tense time. Neptune, remaining in Aquarius, is making you question your core universal truths. And she is exposing those "truths" that have led you astray. This can be a time when you are really questioning the substance of your spiritual and religious beliefs. You may not know what to believe in. This is strongest for those of you born February 28 through March 4 or with planets in those degrees.

Pluto is and has been affecting the career area of your horoscope for quite a while. She has been administering her colonics to a small group each year. And this year, the Fishes that will be the most cleaned out by Pluto will be those of you born March 7 through the 11th or with planets in those degrees. Pluto effects great change in your career life. She can create mergers and downsizing. She can bring an end to what you have been doing for decades. And this could be a great time to consider where you would like to take this energy in your life and use it to your best benefit. If you begin a new career path in which you are cleaning up an old mess and making it all new, then you are probably in the right area. Just don't expect things to be calm and consistent.

LOOKING AHEAD...

For more than 10 years,

Lilly Roddy has interpreted all things astrological for Up & Out Communications readers (both *OutSmart* and its predecessor publication, *Uptown Express*).

On Thursday, January 16, she will forecast the year ahead in detail during a lecture, "What's Happening for Your Astrological Sign in 2003," at the Ramada Plaza Hotel (2828 Southwest Frwy. near Kirby). The fee for the 7:30-9:30 p.m. event, co-sponsored by *OutSmart*, is \$15 per person.

More information and reservations: 713/529-5842 or Lillycath@aol.com.

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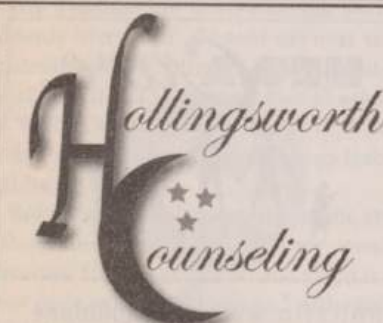


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BIRTH OF A LESBIAN

A swirly boyfriend gives a nudge into the realm of woman love

Where do lesbians come from? Are we born this way? Do we choose it? Is there a maniacal Dr. Dykenstein in some cliffside la-BOR-at'ry piecing together exhumed body parts and jolting them to life on stormy nights with a giant Hitachi Magic Wand?

Born, chosen, or created, lesbians roam the earth trying to find each other. Not an easy task in a world where all our identifying hairstyles are co-opted by mainstream fashion. If we are lucky enough to detect others of our kind, we must initiate contact.

But some of us are slow. I didn't jump into the arms of my first lesbian lover. I was pushed, thank God(ess)! I may have stayed lost in hetspace forever if it hadn't been for my final boyfriend. What a pal. Kind and gentle—nothing like the other overpowering, self-absorbed, clit-ignorant

college boys I knew. Boyfriend had a pretty face and was sweet as a bee charmer. His high tenor warbled through "Bridge Over Troubled Water" like a choirboy, which he had been.

We hiked to our special woodland hideout, where he sang to me while I braided wildflowers into his long silky hair. We pranced and spun in the meadow. We were stardust. We were golden. And oh so high.

Boyfriend lived across from an all-woman communal household where he bought his monthly lid. Those women didn't like men coming over, so Boyfriend asked me if I would be his weed runner. I crossed the street with his money folded up in the pocket of my long tie-dyed skirt.

The pot-women were friendly. I could see they were compatible roommates, unlike the couple I shared a rental with, whose constant arguing partly motivated my frequent

overnights at Boyfriend's place. I enjoyed visiting the commune but was eager to get back across the street and enjoy the purchase with my far-out guy.

Boyfriend was a good dancer, meaning he would just slip off into his own world while I did the same. We liked to go out dancing, but I always got hit on at straight clubs. Not being the "keep your hands off my woman" sort of man, Boyfriend suggested we try our town's only gay bar. We went on a Thursday, "Women's Night." Nobody cared that Boyfriend was a guy. It was a real liberal place. I had no idea my own queer streak was as wide as k.d. lang's vocal range, but somehow I felt right at home.

I adored being surrounded by strong, confident, man-less women. I relaxed around them. But I also felt kind of sorry for them because they didn't have a great

guy like my long-haired swirly boy groovin' over there in the corner of the dance floor.

Visions of the bar women danced in my head when Boyfriend and I went back to his place. He sure was open-minded: He complied with my request for dickless sex and cheerfully indulged my fantasy of him being a woman worshipper at my goddess temple. I had one terrific guy.

One day in our woodland hideout, my dancing queen gently suggested I might be a lesbian. That really hurt. It meant I had failed at my efforts to comply with years of conditioning to be more feminine, more soft-spoken so boys' feelings wouldn't get hurt and I wouldn't come off as some kind of queer. Boyfriend's comment stung. But he had planted the seed.

Back at the bar, Boyfriend danced, and I studied the bar dykes. I searched for any indication I might be one of them. I didn't walk or dress the way they did. I was terrible at shooting pool. I didn't even own one single bandana. I was no lesbian.

But I got all tingly imagining what kissing one would feel like. In a mysterious bout of overactive bladder I kept dashing off to the women's restroom. I leaned against the stall and I longed for one of those bar dykes to pounce and smooch me into submission. I didn't mention that fantasy to Boyfriend, but he had my number.

His need for my weed-running services suddenly increased. He sent me over to the commune so often, I finally ended up staying the night. One of the roommates shared her bed with me and taught me everything I needed to know about being a happy lesbian. Real happy!

Before long, I only went across the street to Boyfriend's house to make my monthly deliveries. He was good-natured about it and never once said "I told you so," although he certainly had.

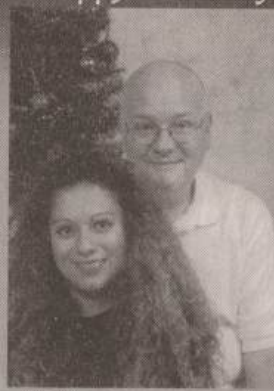
After college, he moved away. I like to think his next girlfriend pushed him into the arms of the Radical Faeries with whom he traipsed off into the woods to dance and sing with his kindred spirits.

The "born vs. choice" argument reminds me of him. Was I born this way? Did I choose it? Or did I just happen to have a wonderful boyfriend who steered me toward my natural destiny? If you run into him swirling around the dance floor, please thank him for me. I may have forgotten to do that.



Sally Sheklow is a Pacific Northwest writer who dances with women. Send your fan mail to sally@wymprov.com.

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Calendar of Events

Deadline for OutSmart's February issue is 5 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 11.

JANUARY

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 Xscape, 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.

10 & 12 (Fri. & Sun.)

Brain Killer is the duo of trombonist Brian Allen & Jacob Koller. Their compositions & improvisations explore diverse heavy sounds that take to the playing field with odd metres and cata-pulting sonorities. For this performance, featuring guest percussionist Corey Fogel, Brain Killer will explore electro-acoustic sounds by adding laptops, keyboards, samplers, & other electronics to the mix. Tickets \$15 (members \$10). 10 pm on Fri., 8 pm on Sun. @ DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway. For 24-hour reservations, call 713/335-3445 or visit www.diverseworks.org.

11 (Sat.)

Lang Lang. Society for the Performing Arts presents Lang in his Houston recital debut. His technique is colossal, his involvement is total, & his musicianship is already as strong & as unique as that of many great predecessors at the keyboard. This 20-year-old Chinese-born pianist has been called "the Tiger Woods of classical music." The program includes Haydn's *Sonata in E*; Mendelssohn's *Fantasies or Caprices*; Schubert's *Fantasy in C Major*; Liszt's *Paganini Etudes*; Chopin's *Nocturne in D-flat Major*; and Balakirev's

Fantasia Orientale. Tickets \$29-\$45. 8 pm @ Wortham Center's Cullen Theater. Tickets can be purchased online at www.spahouston.org, by phone at 713-227-4SPA, or at the box office at Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana. Info: Society for the Performing Arts at 713-227-4SPA.

14-19 (Tue.-Sun.)

Charlie Victor Romeo. Be sure your tray table and seat back are in the full upright position and your seat belt is fastened. Society for the Performing Arts presents the ride of your life. One of the most unique and riveting theatrical experiences, Charlie Victor Romeo, another acronym for "cockpit voice recorder," is a performance documentary derived entirely from the infamous "Black Box" transcripts of six major real-life airline emergencies. It takes audiences out of their customary role as mere airline passengers and inserts them into the tension-filled cockpits of actual flights in distress. A fascinating portrait of the psychology of crisis and triumph of the human spirit. Tues., Jan. 14-Sat., Jan. 18, 7:30 pm; matinees on Sat., Jan. 18 & Sun., Jan. 19, 2 pm @ The Hobby Center's Zilkha Hall. Tickets (\$29-\$45) can be purchased online at www.spahouston.org, by phone at 713-227-4SPA, or at the box office at Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana St. More info: Society for the Performing Arts at 713-227-4SPA.

INFO NEEDED FOR YOUR EVENT LISTING: a few lines of info about your event; date/time; cost; location/address; organization name; AND two phone numbers—one for OutSmart to reach you for questions and one for OutSmart readers to get more info on your event. **Mail info to:** OutSmart Magazine, 3406 Audubon Place, Houston 77006. **Fax info to:** 713/522-3275. **E-mail info to:** calendar@outsmartmagazine.com. **NO LISTINGS CAN BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE DEADLINE DATE—SAT., JAN. 11.**

16 (Thu.)

Miss Diamond Jimm's. January is the first month in this year-long contest to crown "Miss Diamond Jimm's 2004," and it benefits the Houston Gay and Lesbian Community Center. Winner will receive \$100 cash, the title "January's Diamond," a tiara, a sash, an 8x10 picture (to be hung in the club and be displayed in next month's OutSmart magazine), and will qualify for the finals to be held in December 2003 for the title of "Miss Diamond Jimm's." This is a judged contest. Go to www.diamondjimms.com for full details. Beer & well drink specials till 10 pm. Show starts 10-ish pm, and there is a \$7 cover charge at the door @ Diamond Jimm's, 13331 Kuykendahl, 281/875-3330.

16-18 (Thu.-Sat.)

Universes is a five-person performance ensemble hailing from the Bronx to fuse poetry, & music. Slanguage ex-

poses the urban landscape of New York in rap, gospel, riffs, bluesy laments, & other poetic forms to forge a dynamic rhythm that takes the listener by storm. It creates "a work of heart & soul that distills the essence of the city" (New York Times). Tickets \$20 (members \$15, students/artists/seniors \$10). 8 pm @ DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway. For 24-hour reservations, call 713/335-3445 or visit www.diverseworks.org.

18 (Sat.)

HOG Gets Moody. Houston Outdoor Group (HOG) is visiting Moody Gardens. There is a day pass that allows you to see everything for \$29.95 (or you can pay for only the attractions you wish to see). For more info on Moody Gardens, visit www.moodygardens.com. For more info on HOG: 713/KAMP-OUT.

18 (Sat.)

Family to Family Adoptions, Inc. is a nonprofit licensed agency for domestic & international adoptions. This is their annual adoption conference where you can meet their adoption counselors, adoptive families, & children. Seating reserved to 80 people. Brunch served 10 am-noon. A \$10 donation would be appreciated. 10 am-2 pm @ Shoney's Inn of Sugar Land, 14444 Southwest Freeway, Sugar Land, TX. For more info: 713/249-5941.

18 & 25 (Sat.)

Dialogue: Racism. In conjunction with William Pope.L: eRacism (see Calendar's "Art/Photography" section), Diverse-Works will host Dialogue: Racism, presented by the Center for the Healing of Racism. This workshop will provide a safe, respectful, & loving atmosphere for individuals to learn new information, share their experiences, ask questions, dispel fear, get to know each other, and to stop the separation. Free & open to the public. Register by calling the Center for the Healing of Racism at 713/520-8226.

19 (Sun.)

Golden Globe Awards. The foursome of Will & Grace, Dennis Quaid as a gay man in *Far from Heaven*, and Salma Hayek as a bisexual in the title role of *Frida*—just a few of the GLBT nominees. The recipient of the 2003 Cecil B. DeMille Award will be Gene Hackman, who portrayed one of the ugliest drag queens in history in *The Birdcage*—not that the Golden Globes will emphasize that fact, or even mention it, for that matter. Tune in from 7-10 pm on NBC for the festivities.

23 (Thu.)

Kronos Quarter. This season, in their 30th anniversary year as an ensemble, Kronos Quartet (presented by Society for the Performing Arts) will perform a captivating new work entitled *The NASA Project: Sun Rings*, which breaks exciting new ground in its collaboration with technology, visual arts, & sound. Incredible musicality, actual recordings from space, & visual images of the universe will all connect to create a mesmerizing musical constellation. Tickets \$29-\$45. 8 pm @ Wortham Center's Cullen Theater. Tickets can be purchased online at www.spahouston.org, by phone at 713-227-4SPA, or at the box office at Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana St. Info: Society for the Performing Arts at 713-227-4SPA.

27 (Mon.)

Listen to George Saunders & Colson Whitehead. Saunders, whose fiction appears regularly in *The New Yorker*, is author of the story collections *CivilWar-Land in Bad Decline* and *Pastoralia*; upon the release of his first collection, Garrison Keillor called him "a brilliant satirist bursting out of the gate in full stride." Whitehead is the author of two novels, *The Intuitionist* and *John Henry Days*, which was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award and one of *The New York Times* best books of 2001. They are part of Inprint's 2003 Margaret Root Brown Houston Read-

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FRUIT COCKTAIL



Top row (l-r): Chris Pool, David Barron, Buzz Bellmont.
Bottom row (l-r): Mike Lovell, Jamie Davenport, Braden Hunt.

JOE WATTS

Fruit Cocktail, a world premiere musical revue by the musically gifted Eric Lane Barnes (*Fairy Tales*), consists of mostly comedy numbers, and a few ballads, with a cast of six men who sing about the contemporary gay lifestyle. *Fairy Tales*, the inaugural production at Theatre New West, was a major success, both critically and at the box office. *Fruit Cocktail*, with a cast of six men, will be directed by Joe Watts, artistic director of Theatre New West. Musical director is Michael Harren.

What: Fruit Cocktail
When: Jan. 17-Mar. 8 (Fridays & Saturdays)
Where: Theatre New West, 1415 California
Cost: \$20
Reservations/info: 713/394-0464

BENEFIT PERFORMANCE
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ing Series, 7:30 pm (no late seating) @ Alley Theatre, 615 Louisiana. Suggested donation is \$5 (students/senior citizens free). For more info: 713/521-2026 or www.inprint-inc.org.

27 (Mon.)

A Little Night Music. Stephen Sondheim's multiple Tony Award-winning musical, based on Ingmar Bergman's 1955 film masterpiece *Smiles of a Summer Night*, is Sondheim's most blissful score. It is a warm, witty, & romantic tale of mismatched lovers in turn-of-the-century Sweden. Producer and co-director Paul Hope has assembled a cast of Houston's finest performers for this fully staged concert rendition which includes a 13-piece orchestra. Presented by Bayou City Concert Musicals and benefitting the Center for AIDS Hope and Remembrance Project. Tickets \$35 & \$50. 7:30 pm @ Hobby Center's Zilkha Hall, 713/315-2525.

29-Feb. 2 (Wed.-Sun.)

The Kinsey Sicks, nicknamed "America's Favorite Dragapella Quartet," have been called "gut-wrenchingly funny" (*The Advocate*) and have been praised for their "voices sweet as a birdsong" (*New York Times*). Over the past year, they have shared their alleged talents with the world, most notably through a highly-acclaimed off-Broadway run at New York's legendary Studio 54. That production garnered critical praise, including a Drama Desk Award nomination for best lyrics, a Lucille Lortel Award nomination for best off-Broadway and best costumes, and a nomination for a GLAAD Media Award. The Kinsey Sicks have recently released their third CD, *Sicks in the City*. 7:30 pm (with additional 2:30 pm matinees on Sat. & Sun.) @ Zilks Hall in the Hobby Center. Tickets (\$26 & \$31) are available at the Hobby Center box office; to charge by phone, call 713/315-2525.

31 (Fri.)

Ying Quartet, presented by Da Camera of Houston, are four siblings who explore American chamber music, from American composer Samuel Barber's *String Quartet* to Cuban immigrant Paquito D'Rivera's *The Village Street Quartet* to a new quartet by Chinese-American composer Chen Yi. Beethoven serves as a touchstone for the great tradition of chamber music with his *String Quartet, Op. 59, No. 2*. 8 pm @ Wortham Center's Cullen Theater, 500 Texas Ave. Tickets (\$20-\$35; half price for students/seniors with valid ID) are available by contacting the Da Camera Music Center, 1427 Branard, at 713/524-5050, or online at www.dacamera.com.

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Workshop on Prayer. Brigid's Place presents visiting minister Jim Cotter, an ordained "freerange" Anglican, word-smith, publisher, liturgist, lecturer, and preacher whose life passion is to help searchers and seekers, especially those on or off the edge of churches and those bruised by condemnation from churches. His writings seek to make connections between faith and everyday life, exploring issues of sexuality, healing, and ministry. Cotter's books (such as *Quiverful*, a "thoughts for the day" book on issues of sexuality, particularly same-sex relationships, and prayer books, as well as books on a variety of subjects) will be available for browsing and purchase. **Friday, January 24, 7-9 pm:** What kind of breathing-spaces for prayer today? After the presentation and discussion and praying together of *Prayer at Night's* Approaching, you are invited to stay and visit with Cotter at a reception. Cost \$10.

Saturday, January 25, 9 am-2:30 pm: How can we craft prayers that breathe with new life? After an initial presentation, the group will work individually or in small groups drafting, for example, a blessing prayer, an embodied prayer, or a lament. Then the group will reflect on the work they have done. An hour-long lunch break will allow the group to become better acquainted, then gather again in the afternoon for another presentation and sharing. Cost \$35 (lunch included). Both events take place at Christ Church Cathedral, 1117 Texas Avenue, 713/590-3333. • Brigid's Place is named after St. Brigid, a fifth-century Irish Celtic saint who founded a double monastery of nuns and monks based on the social concept of equality between men and women. They were known for their wisdom, compassion, hospitality, and healing. For more information on Brigid's Place, visit www.brigidsplace.org, and for more information on Jim Cotter, visit www.cottercairns.co.uk/.



Openly gay minister
Jim Cotter makes an
appearance in Houston

PLANNING AHEAD

FEBRUARY

February 1 (Sat.)

Hal Holbrook. The award-winning actor takes center stage for his one-man show *Mark Twain Tonight*, which he has been performing every year since 1954. 8 pm @ Galveston's Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Postoffice. Tickets (\$18.50-\$67) are available by calling 800/821-1894 or online at www.thegrand.com.

February 7-9 (Fri.-Sun.)

Texas Home & Garden Show. This 17th annual spring event features over 1500 exhibits, products, and services; and includes a designer garden home; latest trends from local designers and decorators; art, antique, & accessories showcase; a haven of lawn & garden ideas; home & garden seminars and gourmet cooking shows; everything for home improvement; and info on destinations around the world, around the country, and in Texas. \$8.50 (kids under 14 free). Fri. 2-9 pm, Sat. 10 am-9 pm; Sun. 11 am-6 pm @ Reliant Center. For more info: 713/529-1616 or www.TexasHomeandGarden.com.

PERFORMING ARTS

♦ **Blast!** was the winner of the 2001 Tony Award for Best Special Theatrical Event and a 2001 Emmy Award for Best Choreography. *Blast!* is the celebration of movement & music. Jan. 7-12 @ the Hobby Center, 800 Bagby. Purchase tickets (\$30-\$60) at the box office, Ticketmaster outlets, www.ticketmaster.com, or 713/629-3700.

♦ **The Book of Liz.** Sister Donderstock is Squeamish, a sect unto itself. But alas, all is not well with the Squeamish, and soon she finds herself out in the real world. On the road with no friends, she soon meets Mr. Peanut and begins a simple life as a waitress at the Plymouth Crock Diner. And that's just the beginning for poor, sweat-soaked Sister D... Fridays & Saturdays at 8 pm, Jan. 8-Feb. 8 @ Theatre LaB Houston, 1706 Alamo. (There are two Sunday matinees: Jan. 26 & Feb. 2 at 5 p.m.) Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$22 at the door. To reserve tickets: 713/868-7516. For more info: www.theaterlabhouston.com.

♦ **A Fertle Holiday.** When the dizzy Fertles from Dumpster, Texas, celebrate a holiday reunion with their tony relatives from San Diego, the laughs come thick

as Ma Fertle's butter pie. This show, written by Radio Music Theatre's Steve Farrell, launched the Fertle cult cycle 18 years ago. It's as fresh and weird as ever. Through Jan. 18 @ Radio Music Theatre, 2623 Colquitt, 713/522-7722.

♦ **George M!** Opening on Broadway over three decades ago, the award-winning musical traces George M. Cohan's life from the time he began his career as a member of his parents' small-time vaudeville act through the days and the songs of his greatest successes and culminates with his performance impersonating Franklin Roosevelt in Rodgers & Hart's musical *I'd Rather Be Right*. Tickets \$18.50-\$67. 3 & 8 pm on Sat., Jan. 11, and 3 pm on Sun., Jan. 12 @ Galveston's Grand 1894 Opera House, 2001 Postoffice, 800/821-1894, www.thegrand.com.

♦ **The Goat or Who Is Sylvia?** Winner of the 2002 Tony Award for Best Play, voted Best Play of 2002 by the New York Drama Critics Circle, & recipient of the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Play, *The Goat* extends the boundaries of American drama. "The sense that everything's going right is a sure sign that everything's going wrong." Stevie tells her husband Martin, a successful architect who has just received an international prize, been awarded a lucrative contract, & celebrated his 50th birthday all in one week. His surprising confession of an extramarital affair jolts his family & best friend. Jan. 17-Feb. 16 @ the Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave. Tickets to preview performances are \$25; tickets after the Jan. 22 opening are \$40-\$45. Purchase tickets at www.alleytheatre.org, at the Alley box office, or by calling 713/228-8421.

♦ **Houston Grand Opera** presents *Lucia di Lammermoor* and *The Merry Widow*. • *Lucia di Lammermoor*. Laura Claycomb takes on the title role in this new production, a role she has never before sung in the U.S. Joining her will be Vinson Cole as her love, Chen-Ye Yuan as her brother, and Raymond Aceto as her priest. Jan. 16-Feb. 2. Tickets start at \$10. • *The Merry Widow*. No one in Paris can seem to decide who should marry Hanna (Susan Graham), a flirtatious widow with a fortune. Hanna spends her time sorting out suitors, while a fortune-seeking baron (Dale Travis) plays matchmaker between the widow & the rogue Danilo (Bo Skovhus). Jan. 30-Feb. 16. Tickets start at \$15. • Both operas performed @ Wortham Center's Brown Theater. Tickets are available by calling 713/228-6737 or by visiting www.houstongrandopera.org.

♦ **Jacques Brel Is Alive and Well and Living in**



Twyla Tharp Dance. Ostensibly innovative, elegantly modern, creatively traditional are all descriptions that encapsulate the splendor of choreographer Twyla Tharp and her new company, Twyla Tharp Dance. Known for her work in both modern dance and ballet, as well as for her Hollywood films, television, and stage work, Twyla Tharp is recognized as one of the 20th century's truly great choreographers. A performance of *Westerly Round*, *Surfer at the River Styx*, and a new work will be featured. Boldly crisscrossing all boundaries of dance, Tharp has integrated various styles and forms to create works marked by her indelible signature. Tickets are \$15-\$55. Presented by Society for the Performing Arts, **Friday, January 24, 8 p.m.** at Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana. Tickets can be purchased online at www.spahouston.org, by phone at 713-227-4SPA, or at the box office at Jones Hall. More info: Society for the Performing Arts at 713-227-4772.

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Paris. Houston chanteuse Deborah Bolly directs & performs in this intimate event featuring the pointed, passionate, & profound songs of Belgian songwriter Jacques Brel. Jan. 16-Feb. 16 @ Main Street Theater in Rice Village, 2540 Times Blvd. Tickets are \$20-\$30. For more info: www.mainstreettheater.com or 713/524-6706.

♦ **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 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 presented at 8 pm @ Marriott West Loop, 1750 West Loop South at San Felipe. Reservations required: 713/944-2583 or www.mysterycafe-houston.com.

♦ **My Fair Lady.** Based on the comedy Pygmalion by George Bernard Shaw, My Fair Lady shows how Henry Higgins, professor of linguistics, transforms Eliza Doolittle, a lowly flower girl, into a princess. To name a few of the gems in the score: "I Could Have Danced All Night," "With a Little Bit of Luck," "The Rain in Spain," "On the Street Where You Live," "I've Grown Accustomed to Her Face." Jan. 30-Feb. 16 @ the Hobby Center, 800 Bagby. Tickets (\$25-\$68) are available at

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♦ **The Piano Lesson** by August Wilson. A brother & sister battle over a piano—a family heirloom—and over their own lives, which are similarly obsessed with ghosts & the sacrifices of their ancestors. Jan. 25-Feb. 23 @ the Ensemble Theatre, 3535 Main St., 713/520-0055.

♦ **Rumors** is a farce by Neil Simon. The deputy mayor of New York is slightly shot & his wife goes missing, so his lawyer quickly decides on a cover-up just as the guests begin arriving for the couple's anniversary. 8 pm, Fridays & Saturdays, Jan. 31-Mar. 8, @ the Company Onstage, 536 Westbury Square. Tickets are \$12. Info/ reservations: 713/726-1219.

♦ **South Pacific.** Michael Nouri and Erin Dilly star in this new production that features an unforgettable score with some of Broadway's most enduring favorites, such as "I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Outta My Hair," "Bali Hai," and "Some Enchanted Evening." Tickets range from \$18.50 to \$67. 3 & 8 pm on Sat., Jan. 18, and 3 pm on Sun., Jan. 19 @ Galveston's Grand 1894 Opera House, 2001 Postoffice, 800/821-1894, www.thegrand.com.

♦ **Syncopation.** Henry dreams of becoming a ballroom dancer. Anna yearns for a life of her own. But the harsh realities of turn-of-the-century New York threaten to dash the hopes harbored by this middle-aged meat packer & disheartened young factory worker. When Anna answers Henry's ad for a dance partner, the future seems within reach. Jan. 15-Feb. 9 @ Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway. Tickets (\$32-\$42; preview performances \$22-\$25) are available by visiting www.stages-theatre.com or by calling 713/527-0123.

♦ **Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?** takes place in the home of George (James Black) & Martha (Judith Ivey), a couple living in mordant, uproarious antagonism. In the still hours of a Saturday night, the two entertain a young married couple, introducing them to fun & games. But before the drunken night is through, there are harsh self-revelations for all. Jan. 10-Feb. 8 @ the Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave. Tickets to preview performances are \$20-\$40; tickets after the Jan. 15 opening are \$35-\$50. Purchase tickets at www.alleytheatre.org, at the Alley box office, or by calling 713/228-8421.

PERFORMING ARTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

♦ **Johnny Tremain.** On Dec. 16, 1773, a group of Boston citizens protested the British tax on tea imported to the colonies by dumping 342 chests into the Boston Harbor. Johnny Tremain is the fictional adventure of a young apprentice silversmith who gets caught up in the event. Jan. 29-Feb. 21 @ Main Street Theater in Chelsea Market, 4617 Montrose. Public performances: Feb. 9 & 16; school performances: Jan. 29-Feb. 21. Tickets for public performances are \$8 for children/students/seniors, \$10 for adults; for school performance rates, call 713/524-7998 or e-mail vstjohn@mainstreettheater.com. For more info: www.mainstreettheater.com or 713/524-6706.

♦ **The Magic Ring Dang Do.** Peter, a farm boy who wants to be a knight, goes to Honest John, a used-armor dealer, for advice. He is sent to perform a heroic deed, & with the help of Oswald, a misunderstood ogre, saves a lovely princess from the evil dragon that lives in a cave. Saturdays, 11 am & 1:30 pm, Jan. 18-Mar. 1, @ the Company Onstage, 536 Westbury Square. Tickets are \$6. Info/reservations: 713/726-1219.

♦ **Sunday Gold** is a historical look at life in 1840's North Carolina. It is the story of Annie & Lizzie, two childhood friends who must confront the harsh realities of slavery in America's first mining town, Gold Hill.

This story brings to light a part of our country's history while offering the opportunity to examine universal questions of sacrifice & loyalty. Recommended for grades 4 & up. Jan. 25-Mar. 1 @ Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway. Tickets are \$8 and are available by calling the box office at 713/527-0123. For more info: www.stages-theatre.com.

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

♦ **2003 Print Auction Exhibition** features work by 125 regionally, nationally, & internationally known photographers. The auction will be held on Tues, Feb. 11 @ SP Martel Auditorium, Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 3511 Yoakum. A preview will be held 6-7 pm, the auction 7-9 pm. The exhibit will take place Jan. 17-Feb. 9 @ Houston Center for Photography, 1441 W. Alabama, www.hcponline.org, 713/529-4755.

♦ **Jasper Johns: Drawings** brings together some 35 objects selected from Johns's own holdings as well as private collections. The exhibition reviews the broad career of this singularly American artist through his works on paper, beginning with his early iconic images of targets, beer cans, flagstones, & flags—and continues into the present day with his more complex works that often find the artist quoting as much from the history of art as from his own oeuvre. Jan. 31-May 4 @ the Menil Collection, 1515 Sul Ross, 713/525-9400, www.menil.org.

♦ **Lubricious.** In his first Texas exhibition, New York-based artist Scott Teplin fills DiverseWorks' Project Space with an offbeat collection of drawings, wallpaper, & video that obsessively & humorously explores the malleable nature of lubricants. Jan. 10-Feb. 22 @ DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway, 713/335-3445, www.diverseworks.org.

♦ **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 @ the Contemporary Arts Museum, 5216 Montrose Blvd., 713/284-8255, www.camh.org.

♦ **William Pope.L: eRacism.** Citing racial conundrum as the engine which drives his work, Pope.L addresses contemporary issues such as class, consumerism, & culturally embedded racism with dark humor and biting critique. His art installations use unconventional materials such as peanut butter, mayonnaise, and Pop Tarts to provoke a closer examination of the "stuff" of everyday life and to raise questions about art as a commodity. Jan. 10-Feb. 22 @ DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway, 713/335-3445, www.diverseworks.org. Opening reception: Fri., Jan. 10, 7-9 pm.

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by Bob Gaiser

SNOW NICE

An Aspen insider offers some Ski Week tips



COURTESY CHRIS LEWIS

What began as a chance encounter on the streets of Aspen between a group of local gay men and a visiting group from California is now the world's premier gay-and-lesbian ski party. Twenty-six years after that meeting, Aspen Gay & Lesbian Ski Week (January 19-26) will feature 3,500 people with hundreds of events spread over the Aspen and Snowmass area. The biggest such happening in the country, Ski Week includes women-specific events, friendship dinners, cross-country skiing, and more private parties than you could ever hope to attend.

Here are just a few highlights:

Ski Week organizers are planning a gala dinner atop Aspen Mountain in conjunction with The Little Nell to launch the Vision Campaign for the future of the Aspen Gay and Lesbian Community Fund (AGLCF), which benefits from some Ski Week proceeds. The Vision Dinner will feature remarkable

GLBT youth and the presentation of the first-ever AGLCF Youth of Vision scholarships. Judy Shepard will speak and present one of these scholarships.

The CIRE Foundation (Community Issues Requiring Education), the nonprofit documentary producer, partnered with the Matthew Shepard Foundation to make *OUT in the Cold*, which examines the lives of homeless gay youth and tries to dispel some of the preconceived notions of homelessness. Screened on January 20, the film focuses on the lives of those who have been abandoned by their families, friends, and society because of their sexual orientation.

Take *Billy Elliot*, mix it with *The Osbournes*, and add a dash of *Waiting for Guffman*, and you have *Showboy*, another film being featured during the Aspen Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. The director, Christian Taylor, who also served as writer/producer on HBO's *Six Feet Under*, will introduce his film



COURTESY DON HAUBOLDT

MOUNTAIN MEN: Every year, Houstonians make up a major contingent of the Aspen Gay & Lesbian Ski Week crowd. Photo at top of page (clockwise from lower l): The Rockies were the backdrop for John Lewis, Chris Lewis, Bob Kennedy, Tim Haley, Bryan Beissel, and David Santos. Photo above: Don Hauboldt (far r) stopped on the slopes with (r-l) Dick Evans, Cliff Kitten, Mickey Hagey, and two unidentified friends from California.

and speak at the Vision Dinner.

The gender-bending Kinsey Sicks, which *The Advocate* has called "gut-wrenchingly funny," will appear on January 23 at the famous Wheeler Opera House. This hilarious a cappella quartet is back on the road, serving up a feast of music and comedy for the second year in a row.

Check out the second annual eXtreme Gay Gaymes at Aspen Highlands on January 23. Ski Week will welcome the fastest skiers and boarders to town, and a post-race reception will honor Gay Games athletes.

After all of these activities (along with the parties), you might want to try the Aspen Club & Spa (866 4-VITALITY, www.aspenclub.com) for some pampering. Find yourself while resting in the simple, serene setting of the Alpine Garden Room or embrace the evolving elements of your soul on a journey into the mind/body studios. Try something entirely different with La Stone Therapy, which incorporates the use of warm and cool stones to provide toxin-clearing acupressure. AGLCF will benefit from these services if you mention Ski Week when you book an appointment.

For details: www.gayskiweek.com or 800/367-8290.

Bob Gaiser is the webmaster for Aspen Gay & Lesbian Ski Week, www.gayskiweek.com.

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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. Call 713/520-7237 ext. 10 for details.



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Business News

J.T. Demeres has moved his de'Murs Hair Studio to 2621 Milam, Suite C, in Midtown. The telephone number is 713/520-2020.

On January 31 and February 1, Shanghai River will host its annual Chinese New Year celebrations, featuring a special evening menu and dynamic dragon dance. The restaurant is located at 2407 Westheimer near Kirby. The telephone number is 713/528-5528.

Patrick J. Vachon, LMSW-ACP, has announced a series of 20-hour workshops for couples and individuals based on Imago Relationship Therapy. Vachon will offer the first workshop, "Getting the Love You Want," for lesbian and gay couples beginning February 28. Additional workshops will begin on July 11 and October 17. Vachon will present "Getting the Love You Want" workshops for heterosexual couples beginning March 28 and August 15. "Keeping the Love You Find" workshops for individuals will begin on April 25 and September 26. Fees are \$550 for the couples' workshops and \$300 per person for the individuals' workshop. Registration: 713/524-1771, ext. 1, or www.imagohealing.com.

Maria Selma Restaurant now offers \$1.95 margarita specials every Thursday night. In addition, Rene Hidalgo's new Mexican eatery has a Monday-Friday 11 a.m.-7 p.m. happy hour and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. breakfast on Saturday and Sunday. Maria Selma is located at 1617 Richmond. The telephone number is 713/528-4920.



Michael Siboyeh, co-owner of Riva's Italian Restaurant, shows off the Blue Ribbon Award for its clean kitchen recently given by KTRK Channel 13 news personality Marvin Zindler. Riva's is located at 1117 Missouri. The telephone number is 713/529-3450.

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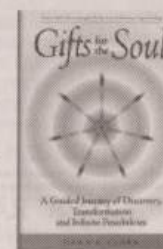
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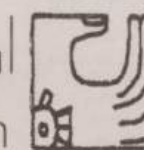
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Cute 2 Bedrooms, 2Baths W/Den on large lot in deed restricted Timbergrove.. Did not flood during Allison (per seller). Updated in 2001: includes new paint inside & out, refinished hardwoods, new tile in kitchen, ceiling fans. \$174,900. Call Bryan K. Williams, Coldwell Banker Swilley Hudson, 713/869-0456, Cell: 281/236-5475.

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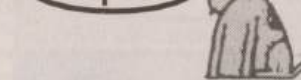
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BRAZOS RIVER BOTTOM
The BRB, Houston's country-western bar, brings you denim, boots, and cowboy hats. Located just outside Montrose, this bar calls Midtown home. Whether dancing, playing pool, or just cruising, you're sure to see some true Texas dancing. 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.

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 KALIPSO
Four nights a week, this club in the Spring Branch area offers the best in Latin music, including cumbia, merengue, ranchera, salsa, and sonidero, as well as Latin and English pop. Emcee Ashely Houston hosts midnight shows on Friday and Sunday. Male dancers strut their stuff every Sunday night. 6806 Long Point #F • 713/688-6562.

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.

CLUB XCAPE
Located in South Houston, Club Xcape offers several special nights including Monday Madness with MC Jenny Craig and Wednesday-night GOT (Girls on Top) with DJ Rocky B and female dancers. Ghetto Fabulous Friday, featuring the best rap, hip-hop, and boogie music, marks the end of the work-week. 2612 South Richey • 713/944-7663.

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

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MO MONG
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MYRA'S CANTINA
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MARY'S PLACE
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Right after the holidays, we enter into a Mercury retrograde period from January 1 through January 26. So put off making those new-year resolutions until the end of January; otherwise, you will have to redo your list. Desires are great and tempers are short January 3 and January 11. You will send and receive a lot of mixed messages near the end of the month. Be flexible and maintain very reasonable expectations. The Sun enters the sign of Aquarius on January 20. Mercury spends all of her time in Capricorn stirring up tradition. Venus is slinking her way out of Scorpio on the 8th and enters freedom-loving Sagittarius on the 17th. The rest of the planets are happy where they are and are not changing this month.

ARIES (March 21–April 19). With Mercury retrograding through your career sector, you can expect lots of problems to come to the surface that you and others have overlooked. And it will be difficult to shake the feeling that you are responsible even if you aren't. Relationships in general will be a lot easier as you won't be looking so strongly for that intangible soul connection. And after the 20th, you are ready to have friends in and just forget about the holidays all together. You are in a social and public period for the next two months. Use that to promote yourself in groups, relationships, and through business connections.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20). The second half of the month is just so much better for you. But before we can get there, we must muddle through a tangled web of emotional ups and downs. This will show up resolutely in relationships, both business and personal. You are at the end of your tolerance, and things have to be better or you will be ending partnerships. The beginning of the month is especially tough. But maybe it is not so bad to clean house as the new year begins. Your attention is totally concentrated on your career as we get to the 20th. Some of you will be starting new career paths, and others will know they are in the right place. Either way, you will not be confused.

GEMINI (May 21–June 21). With your ruling planet, Mercury, retrograding as the year begins, you will have to wait for a clean start of 2003. Money and shared resources are the big issues. And you will not want to be alone this month. You have certainly felt out of step with partnerships even if you are in one. After the 8th, you may be calling up old friends and trying to reconnect. Your co-workers need a boost, and they usually depend on you for this energy transfer. You are doing all you can but don't seem to be able to get that cheerleader outfit on. After the 23rd, you will be your old rah-rah self.

CANCER (June 22–July 22). The moon kids are really paying attention to their relationships this month. There is a lot of activity especially with retrograding Mercury visiting that part of your horoscope. You will be very emotional, and your

partner will want you to be very logical. If you can both take a step forward into each other's arena, that would be very helpful. You are really ready to get on with your work life this month and particularly after the 17th. You may have to hold your crabs back until Mercury resumes its direct path on the 23rd. Money continues to be your theme song.

LEO (July 23–August 22). You will be leading the pride this month on the clean-up-and-get-organized detail. You could appear very driven and unyielding to others that you work with. Imagine that! You do not and will not waste your time on other people's dramas this month. Relationships are so much more playful and fun. And if your current beau is not fun, then you will be shopping those after-holiday sales. Relationships are



Happy Birthday to Ellen DeGeneres.

Born January 26, 1958,
the openly gay comedienne
is scheduled to host a talk show
in the fall of 2003.

DeGeneres is pictured here from her
Emmy-nominated 2000 HBO comedy
special *Ellen DeGeneres: The Beginning*.

more serious by the end of the month. And some of you, this year, will be headed down that path of marital bliss/life partnership/ritual ceremony that you read about.

VIRGO (August 23–September 22). Even though you are still working to get your ducks and paper clips in a row, an inner urge wants you to play this month. If you can combine your playfulness with your career goals, you can really turn on that magnet and attract the things you want. You are more into your let's-get-organized mode after the 20th. Spring cleaning will come early for you this year. Relationships take on a whole new color. Your tolerance with the existing conditions, if you are not happy, will be at an all-time low. Change is in the air. Do you smell it?

LIBRA (September 23–October 23). Yes, you will be cleaning and straightening up the house or your family for this whole month. You could just turn the hose on the whole project and just wash away all that dirt. Parental quandaries and emotional baggage will turn up in the most unusual places. Your children will be saying the same things to you that you said to your parents. Later you can call your parents and apologize. Big work and career plans are on the horizon, so get all those unfinished projects out of the way, because you won't have time by the end of this month.

SCORPIO (October 24–November 21). Your communications skills will be tested this month. If you mean what you say and have said what you meant, then you will be living your life in the extreme vein of truth. If not, everyone will be there to point out to you where you are screwing up. You

may want to really lay low as the year begins. You are not at your most patient and loving. On the career front, things continue to look good there and only improve and expand. February will be a great career month. Get your self in order. You won't have the time next month.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22–December 21). Money and finances lead the charge this month. And with Mercury retrograding in this zone of your horoscope, problems that have gotten away from you in the past will bubble up to the surface. Your choices: Be happy you can correct them now or be mad that you missed them and still have to correct them. Don't you just love free will? Relationships still seem to be costly, and an out-of-town friend may still be your best option. Is that what a "layaway" is? You life will get very, very, very busy after the 20th. Make sure you have time for yourself so you don't overschedule your life.

CAPRICORN (December 22–January 19). Particularly with Mercury retrograde, you are really reviewing your past this year. It is your birthday time and the time to consider what you did and what you wanted to do—and to figure out a new game plan for this year. Please make sure that you don't make any permanent decisions until after the 23rd. You are still trying to get your workplace in order. You have to replace equipment that has seen better days. Be sure to include romance on your calendar for next year. It will demand a place even if you are not ready.

AQUARIUS (January 20–February 18). This is your traditional time of hiding out and avoiding all those happy new-year faces that are pounding on your door wanting something from you. You just have to pace yourself and say no earlier on rather than try to please everyone around you. That way you won't feel discounted and ignored. Your energy comes back as we near the end of the month, and you are ready to come back into the light. Relationships continue to look promising.

PISCES (February 19–March 20). Reviewing your friendships and group associations are high on your list this month of activity. Which ones will you keep and which ones will end up in the dumpster? They had better serve you and your long-term goals, or you will be getting rid of them. Career takes a big leap back into your life after the 20th. You will notice that you are ready for some new challenges in your life. At the end of the month, you will be putting people on notice. You will not seem like yourself and will be more confrontational and edgy than usual. I hope the people around you can get used to it.

Astrologer Lilly Roddy gives
her annual year forecast
beginning on page 58.
Lilly Roddy's website is
www.hermesfoot.com.



SignOut
by Lilly Roddy



Out in Houston

1 Hillary Woest (r) organized the October 26 Bewitched Ball, a benefit for the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center held at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites Galleria. Also sporting costumes were Jonathan Arceneaux (l) and Trish Lynn (c).

2 Philanthropist Nixon Wheat (l) and actress Jane Fonda attended the September 6 preview of the exhibition *The Quilts of Gee's Bend* at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

3 Miguel Ortega (l-r), bartender Neal Day, Gerry Schaub, and Steve Turicchi gathered at Robert Lafitte's in Galveston.

4 Tiara-crowned Phillip Wood celebrated his birthday with chums at Los Tonyos on October 27.

5 Pamela Benson (l) and Nancy Wintle staffed the AssistHers booth at Empower 2002, the September 21-22 expo organized by the Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce.

6 Artist Torie McMillan organized An Evening of Art & Music, a September 20 benefit exhibition of at the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. She spearheads the Art Group, a collection of young talents who meet at the Center.

7 Del Simecek (l) and Wes Giles manned the American Veterans for Equal Rights booth at Empower 2002.

8 On October 3, the Houston Roughnecks rugby team made an appearance at The King Biscuit. The local rugbys have a match in town with the Dallas Diablos on January 11.

9 On October 19-20, the cast of Halloween Magic presented *The Women? A Ya-Ya Montrose Sisterhood*, which benefited AIDS Foundation Houston, People With AIDS Coalition, Resurrection MCC, Center for AIDS, Houston Buyers Club, Casa de Esperanza de Los Ninos, Montrose Clinic, and the Assistance Fund.

10 Steve Enright (l-r), John Copous, Jacqui Armendariz, Veronica Flores, and Stephanie Torres volunteered at the Human Race on October 27. The Holocaust Museum Houston event at the University of Houston benefited nonprofit organizations including AIDS Foundation Houston and Montrose Counseling Center.

11 John Wind (l), David Anderson (c), and Jennifer Decker performed in *Eros: A Circus* by Houston playwright John Harvey on August 25 at Helios. Ticket sales from the Mildred's Umbrella Theatre Company production benefited the Community Center.

12 Coy Tow (l) and Dennis Schwarz also donned costumes for the October 26 Bewitched Ball.

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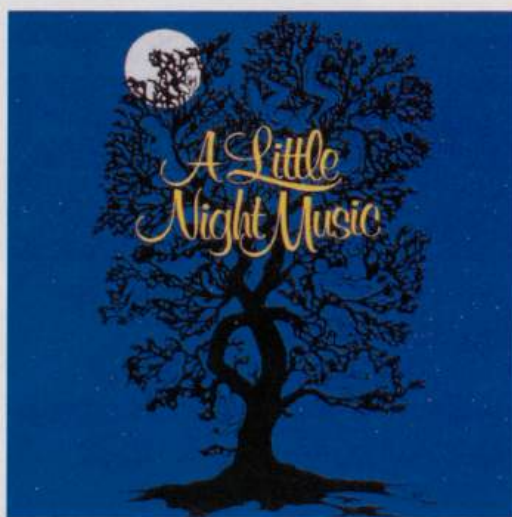
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