

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

NOW IN OUR 10th YEAR

MARCH 2003 • COMPLIMENTARY

Out ▼ Smart

SUPREME CHOICE

On March 26, the High Court hears arguments in the sodomy case. The outcome will change

LIVES

Attorney Mitchell Katine reflects on the historic case

CONFRONTING HATE

Austin-Bound Activists Fight for Our Rights

Laramie Project Actors Face Fred Phelps

RUMORS OF WAR

A Community Responds to Military Action





Kiss Me, Kate

—SEXY MUSICAL
COMEDY FROM COLE
PORTER AND BILL
SHAKESPEARE

—ONE TONY AWARD
WASN'T ENOUGH!
BEST MUSICAL—1949
BEST REVIVAL—2000

MARCH 20 – APRIL 6

HOBBY CENTER

For Tickets: 713.558.TUTS • www.tuts.com

ExxonMobil

HUMANA

Williams

Continental
Airlines

KPRC
HOUSTON

I'm Still Punny From The Block...

Bunnies On The Bayou 2003

Easter Sunday
April 20, 2003 • 2-7pm

Wortham Center
Fish Plaza • 500 Texas Avenue • Houston TX

\$25
Entry Donation

21
and UP
(please bring I.D.)

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



To Volunteer or for more information hit the website:
www.bunnies.org

THANK YOU
OUTSMART READERS

FOR VOTING GALLERY FURNITURE
MOST FABULOUS FURNITURE STORE,
MOST SUPPORTIVE OF THE GLBT COMMUNITY,
AND "MATTRESS MAC" LOCAL HERO



**Saves you
money!**



6006 I-45 North (between Tidwell & Parker) **713/694-5570**

Bring in
this ad
and receive

\$50 OFF

ANY
PURCHASE
OF \$500
OR MORE



We're **out** to show you a good time!

The top four teams in women's college basketball are making a fast break to Atlanta for a week of

championship fun, April 4-8. Get into the game by visiting the city that embraces inclusion — in political leadership, business policies and gay-friendly neighborhoods where couples walk hand-in-hand. **A city that celebrates diversity.**

A city full of possibilities and endless choices. Check out the sports action from open practices to autograph sessions as excitement builds for the big games. Chill out on April 7 at the Victory Fund's **"Winning Women"**

party with MC Kate Clinton and special guests Lin Dunn of WNBA Seattle Storm fame, LPGA Pro Bronwyn Russell, and UW-Milwaukee Panthers Coach Sandy Botham. Hoops week in Hotlanta — a slam-dunk of a good time!

Atlanta welcomes you!



Visit www.gay-atlanta.com and book your trip now!

5300 MINUTES

5000 Night & Weekend Minutes
- PLUS -
300 Anytime Minutes

Nationwide Long Distance Included

\$29⁹⁹

I wish I were as big as this deal!



Get 4 phones
FREE!

After \$50 mail-in rebate per phone and with 2-year service agreements.

Freedom Rings

Premier PAGING & WIRELESS

GAY OWNED AND OPERATED

The Value Adds Up

With World Class Clarity, And The Most Competitive Plans, Only Cingular Offers Such A Great Value.

cingular
WIRELESS

Limited time offer. Offer ends March 31, 2003. Credit approval & new service commitment on eligible Cingular calling plan required. Offer cannot be combined with any other offers. Calls subject to taxes, universal service charge, gross receipts surcharge & other charges, which are subject to change. Airtime in excess of any package minutes will be charged at a per minute rate of \$.19 - \$.49. Airtime & other measured usage are rounded up to the next full minute at the end of each call for billing purposes. Calls originated or received while outside of your Cingular Home Calling area are subject to roaming charges. \$36 activation fee. Unused included minutes do not rollover to the next billing period & are forfeited. Night hours 9pm to 7am Mon to Fri, & weekend hours are 9pm on Fri to 7am on Mon. Included Long Distance applies to calls originating & terminating within the 50 United States. Airtime charges apply. International calling is additional. FamilyTalk requires a one or two-year agreement for each line & is available with select Cingular rate plans. An \$18 activation fee applies to additional lines. Selected FamilyTalk options replace any existing promotional options on current line. FamilyTalk plans are limited to 3 additional lines & require primary number to be in good standing & liable for all monthly billings. FamilyTalk plans include package minutes included with primary number & are shared by the additional lines. Other conditions & restrictions apply. See contract and rate plan brochure for details. 2002. Cingular Wireless & FamilyTalk are registered trademarks. Cingular Rollover & the graphic icon are Service Marks Cingular Wireless LLC. ©2002 Cingular Wireless LLC.

Get FamilyTalk®

- Share your minutes with family
- Add up to three additional lines for just \$19.99 per line per month
- Get unlimited mobile to mobile on plans starting at \$39.99

Ask for Details!

12220 Murphy Road
(South of the Beltway on 59S)
281.575.8500

1450 Sam Houston Parkway, North
(I-10 W and the Beltway)
713.465.8883

FREE DELIVERY!

NOW PUBLISHING IN OUR 10TH YEAR!

OutSmart

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

Publisher Greg Jeu

Associate Publisher James T. Hurst

Editor Tim Brookover

Creative Director/Entertainment Editor

Blaise DiStefano

Graphic Artists Terry Klumpp, Todd Williams

Contributing Writers Dale Carpenter, Troy

Carrington, Lawrence Ferber, D.L. Groover, Josef

Molnar, Daryl Moore, Annise D. Parker, Lilly

Roddy, Andrea Rodricks, Gregg Shapiro, Sally

Shelkow, Michael Stuart, Lance Walker

Proofreader Mary Sieber

Photographers/Illustrators John Conroy, Dalton

DeHart, Yvonne Feece, Bob Jackson, David Lewis,

David Eduardo Flores Perez

Account Executives Thomas Chelena, Greg Jeu,

John Nagy, Todd Williams

National Advertising Representative

Rivendell Marketing Co., Inc. - 212/242-6863



Publishers of OutSmart Magazine
3406 Audubon Place • Houston, TX 77006
713/520-7237 • 713/522-3275 Fax

Subscriptions: \$23/12, \$40/24 Issues

E-mail address: letters@outsmartmagazine.com

Website address: www.outsmartmagazine.com

OutSmart is published monthly. Estimated readership in Houston and surrounding areas is 60,000. Up&Out Communications is not responsible for claims and practices of advertisers. The opinions and views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the staff or management of OutSmart. Inclusion in OutSmart does not imply sexual orientation. ©2003 by Up&Out Communications. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or part without permission of the publisher is strictly prohibited. Unsolicited material is accepted. No manuscript returned without SASE.

VERIFIED
AUDIT CIRCULATION
www.verifiedaudit.com



A FOUNDING MEMBER OF
GREATER HOUSTON
GAY & LESBIAN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CONTENTS

Vol. 10 • No. 2
MARCH 2003

Arts & Entertainment

- 8 Letter from the Editor
- 9 Letters
- 10 LookOut/TIM BROOKOVER Transgenders v. Vatican...
- 12 Queer Quotes/BLAISE DISTEFANO Dan Futterman, Liz Taylor, Rosie...
- 14 Television/BLAISE DISTEFANO Queer As Folk and Six Feet Under return...
- 21 DVD/VHS/BLAISE DISTEFANO/TROY CARRINGTON Sordid Lives, Sistas 'n the City...
- 24 Out in the Arts/D.L. GROOVER Albee's Goat shocks...
- 26 Theater Normal comes to Houston.
- 28 Movies/LAWRENCE FERBER The queer crop from Sundance.
- 34 GrooveOut/GREGG SHAPIRO Andy Bell chats about Erasure's cover album; plus reviews of new releases from Deborah Vial, Jody Watley...

News & Comment

- 39 News Briefs Community responses to the prospect of war; a town hall meeting on the sodomy-law case; and a Kindred Spirits web extra.
- 44 LeftOut/DARYL MOORE Bush doesn't want to appear yellow.
- 45 OutRight/DALE CARPENTER The anti-invasion stance of the Task Force is wrong.
- 48 Inside Out at City Hall/ANNISE PARKER The city offers access to grants.
- 52 Health Local groups join national efforts to improve access.

Features

- 54 Acting Against Hate In Kingwood, Laramie Project actors defy Fred Phelps. By Tim Brookover
- 56 Supreme Chance The ruling in the sodomy case will change our lives. By JOSEF MOLNAR
- 61 Making History The Lawrence and Garner v. Texas attorney offers a personal perspective. By MITCHELL KATINE
- 65 Attack from the Right Conservative bills before the Legislature threaten our community. By RANDALL ELLIS
- 69 Art on Alabama A gallery grows in Montrose. PHOTOS: BOB JACKSON
- 72 Prime Time Mr. Prime Choice contestants strike a pose. PHOTOS: DAVID LEWIS

Out & About

- 74 OutFront/TIM BROOKOVER Hats off to spring and birdhouses with purpose.
- 76 DineOut/TIM BROOKOVER Outdoor dining and a LaStrada update.
- 78 OutLoud/SALLY SHELKOW Luck be a voluptuous lady tonight.
- 80 Out of Town/ANDREW COLLINS A veteran traveler logs his pet peeves.
- 82 Calendar Where's My Dinner, Bitch?...
- 94 Bar/Club Guide Featuring John Benavides.
- 96 SignOut/LILLY RODDY
- 98 SceneOut

Advertisers' Index

- 88 Classifieds
- 91 Business News
- 92 OutSmart Advertisers



About the cover:

Images, clockwise from top: Supreme Court/Getty Images; John Lawrence/Lambda Legal; figure of Justice; Houstonian Kevin Ward, photographed by John Conroy (Ward appears courtesy of Millenia Models); Tyron Garner/Lambda Legal; male couple/Lifestyles; attorney Ruth Harlow/Lambda Legal. Cover design by Terry Klumpp.

Letter from the Editor

Most of the people reading this magazine are criminals. If you live in Texas, and you have sex with individuals of the same gender, you violate the law. I am a native of this state, where the residents and their legislators express pride in independence, and my government's keen interest in the private lives of gay folks always puzzled me. Growing up in a place where reactionary conservatism usually trumped the old-line liberalism I knew at home, I struggled to understand how the right could be at once eager to keep government out of the schools, the church, and industry, yet so insistent on inserting the politicians and courts in the bedroom (not to mention the womb).

This month, the Supreme Court will hear arguments in *Lawrence and Garner v. Texas*, a case in which two men from Houston challenge the power of the state to regulate the ways we are intimate with one another. What is potentially more significant, a reconsideration of the Texas Homosexual Conduct statute, popularly known as the sodomy law, by the Court could result in the abolition of a tool for discrimination. Then, one often-cited legal basis for inequality in

regard to GLBT people (*The sodomy law says you are bad, so we won't allow you to marry, adopt children or even keep your biologically conceived kids, live here securely with your non-citizen partner, have inheritance rights, etc.*) will be removed.

I am a native of this state, where the residents and their legislators express pride in independence, and my government's keen interest in the private lives of gay folks always puzzled me.

As Josef Molnar writes in this issue, a judicial victory for the GLBT community in the current case will not instantly fix everything. Even with the courts on one's side, society tends to change slowly. But bringing another aspect of the law into compliance with the Constitution would be

a start. (Josef will be in the Supreme Court chambers when Ruth Harlow of Lambda Legal presents the case to the Justices and will report on the proceedings.)

Two men involved in the struggle for our rights contribute work this month. Mitchell Katine, the attorney for Lawrence and Garner, offers a personal perspective on the historic case. Randall Ellis, executive director of Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby, sounds an alarm about the resurgent homophobic forces in Austin.

As I write, the Bush administration strives to avoid peace. By the time you hold the magazine, missiles may have hurtled into Baghdad. In preparation for a possible war, we asked several people in the community to respond to events. Their comments appear on page 39 and on *OutSmart's* website.

The magazine looks and feels different this month. With this issue, we experiment with a return to a slicker paper. Whatever the ingredients, *OutSmart* both reflects and relies on the community. As always, we hope you enjoy our work and encourage your response.

Tim Brookover
Editor

Letters

FAN OF JANE

I just finished reading the interview Blase [DiStefano] did with Jane Olivor ["The Unexpected Jane," December 2000]. Wonderful interview, wonderful interviewee, and wonderful interviewer. I do so miss her music. I learned to appreciate her so much more from the interview. Thanks.

James S. Helyer
Toledo, Ohio

Since Blase's interview, the singer has launched www.janeolivor.com. In 2001, she released a holiday album, *Songs of the Season*, including one written for her by composer Stephen Schwartz (Godspell, Pippin, Pocahontas).

CORRECTION

In "Good Heavens" in the January issue, some dates in the Uranus and Neptune section of Leo were incorrect. This is the correct listing from astrologer Lilly Roddy:

Uranus and Neptune. Those of you born August 19 through the 23rd 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 August 3 through the 8th 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.

Because of a printer error, part of Gregg Shapiro's article "Divas in Distress" did not appear in the February issue. The full text can be read at www.outsmartmagazine.com.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

OutSmart photographer David Lewis and his partner, the painter Ryan Fugate, are exhibiting work at Tropioca, the Midtown tea and coffee bar. Lewis also had photographs in a recent Houston Community College exhibition inspired by the Houston Grand Opera production *Sibanda!* Lewis's website is www.davidlewisimages.com.

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.

MARK B. LEVIN

Board Certified Personal Injury Trial Law



Mark Summer, Administrator and John Wald, Legal Assistant

- ★ AUTO ACCIDENTS
- ★ ON THE JOB INJURIES
- ★ WORKMENS' COMP.
- ★ CRIMINAL
- ★ WRONGFUL DEATH
- ★ MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

Call Mark Summer or John Wald
for your Free Consultation

281.355.7936

2813 WEST T.C. JESTER BLVD. • HOUSTON, TEXAS 77018

SPRING EXTRAVAGANZA!

CANTONI'S SPRING PREVIEW PARTY • THURSDAY, MARCH 13 • 7-9PM

\$10 PER PERSON CHARGE AT DOOR WILL BENEFIT DIFFA

It's hip, it's fun, it's in fashion...and it's all at Cantoni. Come see our dramatic new collection of furniture and accessories during our Spring Extravaganza and don't miss the party on March 13th. It will be an evening of fun, furniture, and fashion, with a \$10 per person door charge

COME FLY WITH ME DESIGNED BY VLADIMIR KAGAN

PaperCITY
MAGAZINE



DESIGNING INTERIORS FOR MODERN LIFESTYLES
HOUSTON • 9889 WESTHEIMER • 1 BLOCK WEST OF GESSNER • 713.787.9494
DALLAS • 4800 ALPHA ROAD • 2 BLOCKS WEST OF THE GALLERIA • 972.934.9191
STORE HOURS • MON-FRI: 10AM-7PM, SAT: 10AM-6PM, SUN: 1PM-5PM
WWW.CANTONI.COM

cantoni
FURNITURE • ACCESSORIES • DESIGN STUDIO



UNCREDITED

AN EXAMINED LIFE. Houston model, performer, and transgender individual Leslie Townsend will sign copies of her new autobiography, *Hidden in Plain Sight* (Writers Club Press/iUniverse), at Borders River Oaks on March 8, at 2 p.m. "I hope that my experience through this tangled web has shed some light on the trials and tribulations of being transgender," she writes. "If one person reads my story and gains the ability to chart a course towards their dreams, then it will have been worth it."

GOOD WORKS. Thirty years ago, the Texas Riders launched Let Us Entertain You, a weekend of bar fun for folks returning from New Orleans Mardi Gras. Now presented by the Houston Council of Clubs, a consortium of 12 leather/levis groups, the March 6-9 extravaganza includes parties and events at six clubs, climaxing in the March 9 "Show of Shows" at Rich's Houston. Check out www.lueyweekend.com for a schedule. **Bob Bouton** is Houston Council of Clubs chairman, and **Daddy Rose** and **Lloyd Powell** are co-chairmen.

Thousands of striders will invade downtown on March 9 for the 5-kilometer AIDS Walk Houston. **Kelly Rowland** of Destiny's Child will appear. Proceeds will benefit the foundation and 13 other HIV/AIDS service organizations, including AIDS

Coalition of Coastal Texas and People With AIDS Coalition-Houston.

Houston Area Community Services will throw its first fundraiser on March 14. The bash at the Warwick celebrates the fifth-year anniversary for the organization, which provides an array of HIV/AIDS resources.

Joe C. Fuentes Jr. is executive director.

Robbie MacIver, **Ron Page**, and **Jeffrey Palmer** are among the lead underwriters for Bringin' in the Silver, the Montrose Counseling Center fundraiser on March 14 at the Magnolia Ballroom. Yes, the annual benefit is usually dubbed *green* in a nod to the traditional St. Patrick's Day time frame. The color changed this year to honor the organization's 25th anniversary.

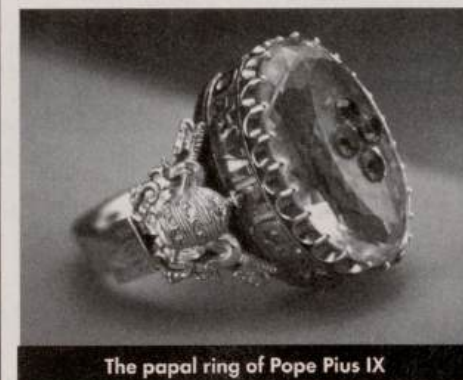
On March 16, the brand-new restaurant and party space Rouge is the site of an

afternoon Kolbe Project benefit. The Plant House, the **Gracely** family, and **Karen Derr & Associates Realty** are underwriting this event. Founded in 1989 by two Franciscans as an HIV/AIDS outreach group, the faith-based Kolbe Project has expanded to include regular worship and social events. **Thomas Nitschke** is executive director.

The annual Night in Black Leather bash is the largest leather fundraising event in the Southwest. On March 21, Los Angeles physician **Tony Mills**, former International Mr. Leather and HIV educator, will kick off the weekend with his discussion "Sex, Drugs, and Hard Bodies" at Keys West. Then a March 22 show at Rich's Houston will feature an array of performers, among them **Daddy Wade**, **Regina Dane**, and **Clay Howell** with his special guest, **Shagata Mustache** (read it aloud). Mr. International Leather 2003 **Stephen Weber** will emcee, and Mr. Texas Leather **Ken Fiegel** will appear. **Jim Benton**, **David Haynes**, and **Robert Harwood** are co-directors for Night in Black Leather, presented by **Don Gill**. Proceeds support Houston Buyers Club.

HOLY FATHERS! In a doctrinal document sent *sub secretum* (under secrecy) to papal representatives worldwide, the Vatican recently ruled that transgender folk simply do not exist. Given this antediluvian stance, trans activists just might want to show up en masse to tour the exhibition *Saint Peter and the Vatican: The Legacy of the Popes* at the Houston Museum of Natural Science through July 27.

Even while protesting the church's ongoing homo- and transphobia, one can still



The papal ring of Pope Pius IX

hope that the show includes guys clad in the riotously festive costumes adopted by the pontiff's own manly Swiss Guards during the reign of **Julius III** (1550-1555), who once bestowed the purple (an ecclesiastical honor) on his favorite, **Innocenzo del Monte**, a 17-year-old boy whom the pope had picked up on the streets of Parma. ■

I want to stay in control of HIV and live my life.

That's why I want resistance-minimizing therapy. To keep my HIV undetectable.

Talk to your doctor about therapy that can help keep HIV undetectable.



For more information visit www.abbottvirology.com

MY GOAL: TO KEEP HIV UNDETECTABLE

Abbott Laboratories
Abbott Park, IL 60064

©2002, Abbott Laboratories

02J-036-4961-7

January 2003

Printed in USA

HOLY COW!
WE'RE MOOOOVING!



Visit us at our beautiful
new location 526 Waugh
@ Allen Parkway.

See website for details

yoga body
HOUSTON

WEIGHT LOSS • BODY SCULPTING • STRESS RELIEF
www.yogabodyhouston.com 713.522.6080



"TAN
WHERE
THE
SUN
DON'T
SHINE"

Tan in 60 seconds UV FREE!
713.520.6611

415 Westheimer Houston, Texas
www.eclipsesunlesstanning.com

Nell Carter

(singer, actress)

(A&U, 9/02, Dann Dulin)

The interview from which this quote was taken is from the September 2002 issue of A&U. Nell Carter died February 2003.

"... Having unprotected sex—it's the equivalent of standing in front of a Mack truck. Now, you see that truck coming, either you get out of the way to protect yourself or you let the f-king thing run you over. It's crazy. There's no such thing as so much love that you cannot protect yourself. I wish with all my heart that there were bags of condoms available so students could pick them up. Some people might argue that I'm saying, 'Go out and have sex.' But what I'm saying is that nature is nature. People want to co-mingle."

Barbara Cook

(singer, whose son is gay)

(The Advocate, 2/18/03, Andrew Velez)

"What I will never, never be able to understand is how a family or a mother or father could be able to turn their backs on a child because of homosexuality or AIDS. And do that to themselves, much less to their children. I can't understand how anyone could come to that."

1 YEAR AGO THIS MONTH

Jon Stewart on Saturday Night Live

(Re: the military's ban on openly gay members)

"You know what I think the Army's actually afraid of? A thousand gay guys with M16s going, 'Who'd you call a faggot?'"

Ani DiFranco

(singer, songwriter)

(Out, 3/03, Ray Rogers)

"I was informed at the time [of my marriage] by many a media source that there was a cry of outrage, this big betrayal of my dyke fans by this hitching with an XY chromosome! But in retrospect, I don't remember experiencing any negativity. ... While her queer fans may be sad to hear of her [amicable separation from her husband, who is still her sound engineer], they'll also be overjoyed to hear her reaffirm that she is still 'bi all the way!'"

Rosie O'Donnell

(The Advocate, 1/21/03, Judy Weider)

Rosie O'Donnell: The gay community needs to stop pointing fingers at their brothers and sisters and saying "Not gay enough." It's not as though gay people didn't know I was gay; it was the people in Iowa.

Judy Weider: Yes, but the people in Iowa need to know.

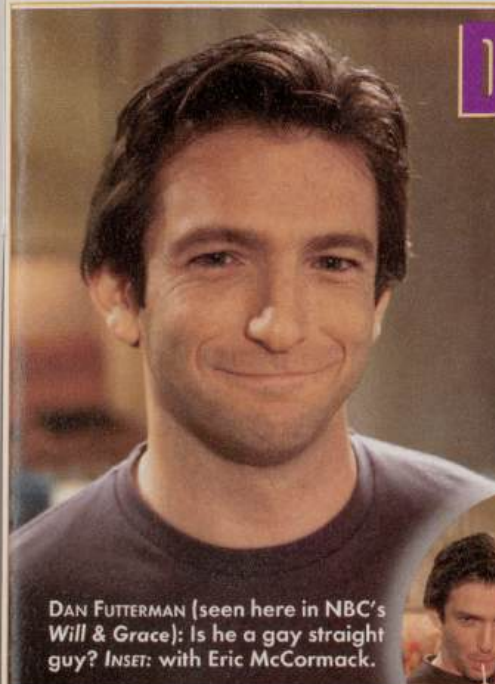
But look, I'm sitting on a plane and the flight attendant goes, "Hi, Rosie—oh, my God, my partner's name is Frank, and I just love you, love your show." I'm sitting next to Kelli [Carpenter, O'Donnell's partner], and we both wear matching rings—it's pretty obvious to everyone who's gay.

Yes, of course a gay flight attendant would know, Rosie.

OK, OK. ...

Are you aware of what your coming-out means to people?

I see it in the eyes of people who have stopped me since I came



DAN FUTTERMAN (seen here in NBC's Will & Grace): Is he a gay straight guy? INSET: with Eric McCormack.

Dan Futterman

(The Advocate, 2/18/03, Michael Giltz)

Michael Giltz: I want to make sure we have your whole gay career here. You've got your side career, your gay-for-pay career—

Dan Futterman: That's not the side—that's the bulk of my career!

That's right. What was your first gay role?

I think it was in a play called The Raft of Medusa [he played a gay Hasidic Jew]. ... After that was Angels in America. ...

So what was your next gay landmark?

I guess on TV—this [role on Will & Grace] is the first gay part on TV, although there was a running joke about my character on Judging Amy always being mistaken for gay.

Wasn't there the character on Sex and the City?

... The gay straight guy. I mean, the question [of the episode] was whether he was a gay straight man or a straight gay man. ... Then I guess the movie Urbania was next.

It doesn't get any gayer than Urbania.

[Laughs] No, it doesn't. That was the tag line for the movie: "It doesn't get any gayer than that." ...

Did you tell your folks, "OK, here comes Urbania"?

They're fine. ... [I]t's just completely not a big deal in my extended family. My cousin and his longtime boyfriend and my other cousin and her longtime—"girlfriend" seems crazy to say.

Partner.

Yeah. And their kid. ...

I'm sure you've been on the street and people assumed you were gay.

Right, which is fine. ...

Eric McCormack on Dan Futterman

(The Advocate, 2/18/03, Michael Giltz)

"So far I love Futterman," says McCormack.

"He's great, and I love that he's not George Clooney. I love that he's not hugely famous and Access Hollywood isn't reporting every day on if there's been a kiss or not. If Will's going to find love, I hope it's over time and that it's an actor who is great and multi-faceted and not necessarily a big star. Dan's just perfect for it. He doesn't come in trying to make the line funny. He tries to make it real first, and so it's twice as funny."

out, and I get it. I have seen gay people come over to me and cry and tell me how proud they are of me that I was now a part of them. And what I always say is "Thank you—and just so you know, I was always a part of you." They knew.

No, they didn't.

I guess they didn't. But, Judy, to me, I thought, Of course they do.

Well, I can't argue with what you thought.

... I'm adopting kids, I never pretended to have a husband and/or a boyfriend. So I didn't understand that people really didn't know.

All those people across America who didn't want to know colluded in your silence.

You know, there's a quote that says that society will be measured not only by the noise of the bad but by the silence of the good. And only recently did I realize, My silence was complacency. My silence did equal death in some ways. I only know now, having jumped off the bridge, what people are talking about. ...

Queer Quotes

Compiled by Blase DiStefano



Elizabeth Taylor

(A&U, 2/03, Dann Dulin)

"I live AIDS. It has become my life," she states precisely and sternly, annoyed by America's complacency about HIV. "We need to educate people! It should be taught in schools. My God, the highest rate of HIV infection is between [ages] 13 to 24. What is a 13-year-old doing f-king around anyway?" She is angry, takes a short breath, yet remains agitated. "HIV aside, don't they think about getting pregnant? What do their parents teach them? I would like to get all the parents together and give them holy s--t!" she brays heatedly, sounding more like shades of her character Martha in the film Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? [pictured above] ... And if Elizabeth could chat up these teens, what would she say? "You can have sex if you use a condom." ...

Gay playwright Edward Albee, born March 12, 1928, ... is best known for his 1962 play Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, which some critics have claimed secretly portrays a male couple in straight drag.

—from Today's Out Look calendar



ROSIE O'DONNELL (pictured here in 1993's Car 54, Where Are You?): Is silence golden?

QUEER AS FOLK

Showtime's groundbreaking series returns for its third season



Top row (l-r): Thea Gill, Sharon Gless, Michelle Clunie. Middle row (l-r): Robert Gant, Hal Sparks, Scott Lowell. Bottom row (l-r): Randy Harrison, Gale Harold, Peter Paige.

Does bed-hopping Brian (Gale Harold) truly love Justin (Randy Harrison)? Does Justin truly love Ethan (Fabrizio Filippo)? Will Emmett (Peter Paige) and Ted (Scott Lowell) take their friendship a step further? Will Lindsay (Thea Gill) and Melanie (Michelle Clunie) have another baby? Will Ben's (Robert Gant) HIV status interfere with his relationship with Michael (Hal Sparks)? There's only one way to find out: Tune in Sunday, **March 2**, 9 p.m. on Showtime for the first of 14 new episodes (each episode repeats the following Wednesday).

Davis + Oncken LLP

Representing Clients In Personal Injury And Criminal Law Matters
32 years combined trial experience.



Blair Davis

Kirk Oncken

HOUSTON
713.227.6800

SAN ANTONIO
210.227.6800

DWI • DRUG CASES • INDECENT EXPOSURE

Blair Davis is Board Certified in Criminal Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

The first step in securing a home loan
begins with us!

Stephanie Corona
713/266-5300

Stephanie@sourceonefinancing.com



Joel G. Garza
713/516-0060 or
713/266-5300

Joel@sourceonefinancing.com

New Purchases • Refinance • Home Equity
Home Improvement

\$2000 OFF CLOSING
PLUS-DINNER FOR 2
(up to \$250 combined value)

Rates are at a historic LOW!

Call for your free consultation today!

SourceOne Financing
"Your best interest at heart!"



SOCIETY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

BRINGING THE WORLD'S BEST TO HOUSTON



MERCE CUNNINGHAM DANCE COMPANY

Friday, May 9, 2003
8pm in Wortham Center's Cullen Theater

Known for his collaborations with John Cage, Andy Warhol, Robert Rauschenberg and Jasper Johns, Merce Cunningham's choreography does not rely on linear elements, be they narrative or psychological. Don't miss this 50th anniversary tour which includes a video montage with spoken word by Merce Cunningham.

For tickets call
713-227-4SPA
www.spahouston.org

Group Sales Discounts
713-632-8117

AIM ARTS 30 minutes prior
TALK to curtain

THE MITHOFF FAMILY
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

KUHF88.7FM
HOUSTON PUBLIC RADIO

Continental
Airlines

IT'S WHERE YOU FIND YOUR LOOK



LINDBERG®

Eye Elegance
FINE EYEWEAR

3966 Westheimer, Highland Village • Houston, TX 77027 • 713-622-4411

LOOKING FOR POSITIVE VOICES

- ⚡ Ryan White Planning Council is looking for volunteers to serve on the Council.
- ⚡ The primary responsibility of the Council is to determine what HIV/AIDS services are most needed.
- ⚡ This year, the Council will receive approximately \$20 million from the Federal Government for HIV/AIDS services in the Greater Houston Area.
- ⚡ Your participation DOES make a difference!

Contact Georgette Monaghan at 713-572-3724 or visit us on the web:
www.rwpc.org

RYAN WHITE PLANNING COUNCIL OFFICE OF SUPPORT

2223 West Loop South, Suite 240, Houston, TX 77027

Ph: 713-572-3724

Fax: 713-572-3740

TTY: 713-572-2813

www.rwpc.org

Artworks Houston

MONDAY-THURSDAY Noon-6 PM • FRIDAY Noon-4:30 PM • SATURDAY closed • SUNDAY 3 PM-5 PM

Artworks



G. Harvey-Spring Time

Artistry
you can
afford



Alla Stefanski-Art Jewelry

2470 Times Boulevard
@ Kelvin in the Rice Village

713.521.2233 artworks-houston.com



START THE WEEKEND ON
THURSDAY!

**\$1.95
MARGARITAS
ALL NIGHT**

HOUSTON'S HOTTEST
AUTHENTIC MEXICAN CUISINE

SAT & SUN
BREAKFAST 10AM-3PM

1617 Richmond • 713/528-4920

Television
continued from page 14

WHEN I WAS A GIRL

Ellen DeGeneres and many other women regress to their childhoods

When *I Was a Girl* is a new half-hour series, produced by Linda Ellerbee's Lucky Duck Productions, that showcases high-profile women of all ages and backgrounds who reveal personal stories from their childhood. While their stories are different, collectively they illustrate a common theme . . . they were all once little girls.

Hosted by *Sex and the City*'s Kristin Davis, the original episodes airing in March on WE: Women's Entertainment (every Monday at 9 p.m.) will feature:

March 3: India.Arie, Melissa Etheridge, Jo Dee Messina, Tanya Tucker, Lee Ann Womack, and Donna Summer.

March 10: Ellen DeGeneres, Sandra Bernhard, Candace Bushnell, Jane Kaczmarek, and Teri Garr.

March 17: Melanie Griffith, Susan Lucci, Joan Chen, Gladys Knight, Jean Smart, and Jane Pratt.

March 24: Lisa Ling, Mary Steenburgen, Kathy Najimy, Chris Evert, and Sigourney Weaver.



Ellen DeGeneres, before she came out.

"The caliber of women who participate in this project is astounding," comments executive producer Linda Ellerbee.

"It reaffirms that women appreciate sharing stories and establishing common bonds, no matter where you live or what you do. Emotional ties connect women. They are the ties that bind us, move us, and often make us double-over with laughter. They are connections of the heart. I wanted to create a documentary where women could share their experiences and celebrate our collective history as girls."



MORE ELLEN

Ellen DeGeneres returns to HBO later this year in an all-new stand-up special, which will tape at New York City's Beacon Theatre (the site of her last HBO special) in May, with debut slated for June.

DeGeneres headlined her first full-length stand-up TV performance in eight years with the 2000 HBO special *Ellen DeGeneres: The Beginning* (pictured left). Her other HBO credits include two solo specials and executive producing and starring in a segment of the HBO Films drama *If These Walls Could Talk 2*. DeGeneres was star of the hit CBS sitcom *Ellen*, which ran from 1994 to 1998.

This month, DeGeneres begins a national stand-up tour (she'll be in Houston on **March 29**, www.cc.com for tickets), culminating with the taping of the HBO special. Her other upcoming projects include a syndicated daytime talk show, debuting in the fall; the animated feature film *Finding Nemo*, scheduled for May; and a book of comedic short stories and essays from Simon & Schuster, scheduled for November.

OLIVER BEENE'S BUDDY IS FABULOUS

This new sitcom, set in 1962, revolves around 11-year-old Oliver Beene (Grant Rosenmeyer), a kid whose world is full of comedic chaos. His eccentric family is made up of his father Jerry (Grant Shaud—remember him as Murphy Brown's boss?), a dentist whose idea of a fun Sunday is drilling the kids' molars; his mother Charlotte (Wendy Makkena),

a homemaker who idolizes Jackie Kennedy; and his older brother Ted (Andrew Lawrence), a sports fanatic. One of his best friends is Michael (Taylor Emerson), the most fabulous kid in school who has an impeccable sense of style and a penchant for Judy Garland musicals. Uh, think he might be gay? *Oliver Beene* premieres Sunday, **March 9** at 7:30 p.m. on Fox. →

Taylor Emerson of the new Fox sitcom *Oliver Beene*.





Tom Wilkinson (l) and Jessica Lange

NORMAL

Tom Wilkinson and
Jessica Lange undergo a change

Every long-term relationship faces challenges. Who do you love—the person you see on the outside or the person who exists on the inside?

After 25 years of marriage, Roy (Tom Wilkinson) tells Irma (Jessica Lange) that he's a woman trapped in a man's body and wants a sex change. A poignant and funny story of love and acceptance, the HBO Films production *Normal* is a portrait of a marriage, showing the heart and soul of two people who have made a lifetime promise to each other. The Midwestern couple must look for what defines their relationship, and they find some unexpected answers.

Normal is directed by Jane Anderson, who adapted the script from her play *Looking for Normal*. Debuts on HBO Sunday, **March 16**, 9 p.m., with repeat airings throughout the month.

The film recently premiered at the Sundance Film Festival. (See page 28.)

BOTH PHOTOS: HBO. *NORMAL*: MELISSA MORELEY; *SIX FEET UNDER*: ART STREIBER

SIX FEET UNDER

Aren't you just dying for the new season?

On the first show of *Six Feet Under*'s third season, David (Michael C. Hall) and Keith (Mathew St. Patrick) start couples therapy, Fisher & Sons is now Fisher & Diaz, and Rico (Freddy Rodriguez) is trying to make sure he's no

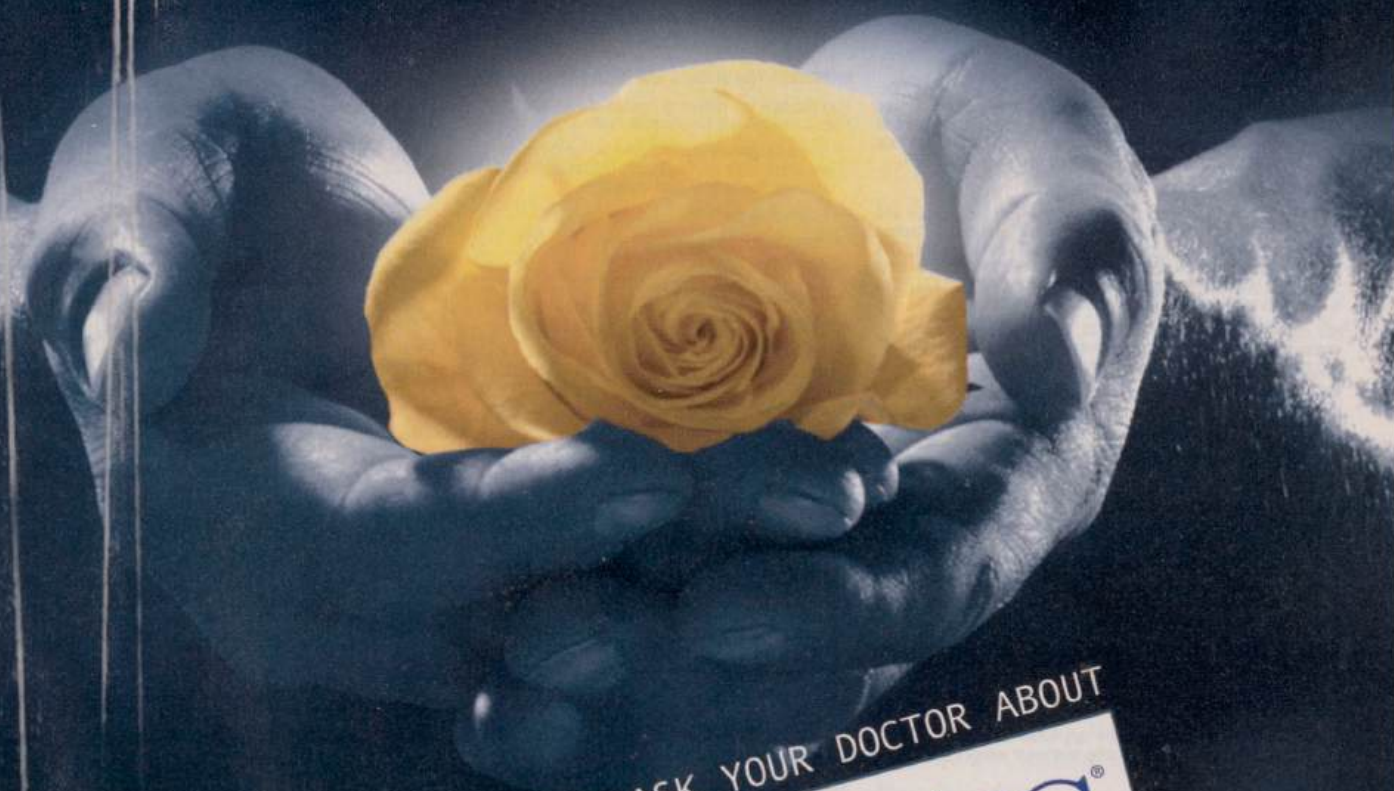
longer a "gofer." Claire (Lauren Ambrose) takes an interest in crematory worker Phil (J.P. Pitoc—remember him in *Trick?*), and Catherine O'Hara makes her debut as Lisa's (Lili Taylor) quirky boss and landlord. Kathy Bates, who returns

this season as one of the directors, also guest stars as a friend of Ruth's (Frances Conroy). Don't miss the fun on Sunday, **March 2**, at 8 p.m. on HBO. Repeat March airings: 4 (10 p.m.), 5 (8 p.m.), 8 (11:45 p.m.), and 22 (9 p.m.). ■

Six Feet Under cast (l-r): Freddy Rodriguez, Rachel Griffiths, Lauren Ambrose, Peter Krause, Frances Conroy, Michael C. Hall, Mathew St. Patrick.



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

www.kaletra.com

Abbott Laboratories
Abbott Park, IL 60064

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.

KALETRA™ (lopinavir/ritonavir) capsules (lopinavir/ritonavir) oral solution

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

Patient Information

KALETRA™ (kuh-LEE-tra)

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

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

What is KALETRA and how does it work?

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

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

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

Does KALETRA cure HIV or AIDS?

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

Does KALETRA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

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

How should I take KALETRA?

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

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

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

What happens if I take too much KALETRA?

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

As with all prescription medicines, KALETRA should be kept out of the reach of young children. KALETRA liquid contains a large

amount of alcohol. If a toddler or young child accidentally drinks more than the recommended dose of KALETRA, it could make him/her sick from too much alcohol. Contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately if this happens.

Who should not take KALETRA?

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

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

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

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

Can I take KALETRA with other medications?

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

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA:

- Do not take the following medicines with KALETRA because they can cause serious problems or death if taken with KALETRA.
 - Dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine and methylethyl-ergotamine such as Cafergot®, Migranal®, D.H.E. 45®, Ergotrate Maleate, Methergine, and others
 - Halcion® (triazolam)
 - Hismanal® (astemizole)
 - Orap® (pimozide)
 - Propulsid® (cisapride)
 - Rythmol® (propafenone)
 - Seldane® (terfenadine)
 - Tambocor™ (flecainide)
 - Versed® (midazolam)

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

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

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

Medicines that require dosage adjustments:

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

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

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

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

What are the possible side effects of KALETRA?

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

- The most commonly reported side effects of moderate severity that

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

What should I tell my doctor before taking KALETRA?

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

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

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

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

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

How do I store KALETRA?

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

- 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.

* The brands listed are trademarks of their respective owners and are not trademarks of Abbott Laboratories. The makers of these brands are not affiliated with and do not endorse Abbott Laboratories or its products.

Ref.: 03-5177-R6

Revised: January, 2002

028-036-2825-1 MASTER

ABBOTT LABORATORIES
NORTH CHICAGO, IL 60064, U.S.A.

02D-036-3562-1
PRINTED IN U.S.A.

DVD/VHS

TRASHY TEXANS

Some of our favorite celebs go Southern and sordid

Forget some of the terrible acting. Forget some of the terrible production values. But don't forget that *Sordid Lives* has its heart in the right place, which makes it not only watchable, but downright fun, y'all—especially in the second viewing.

The very dysfunctional group of small-town Texans includes Delta Burke, Bonnie Bedelia, Olivia Newton-John, Beau Bridges, and Leslie Jordan (you may not recognize the latter's name, but you'll recognize the face, even though he's in drag . . . as a Tammy Wynette impersonator, no less; you can also catch him as a semi-regular on *Will & Grace* as Karen's nemesis).

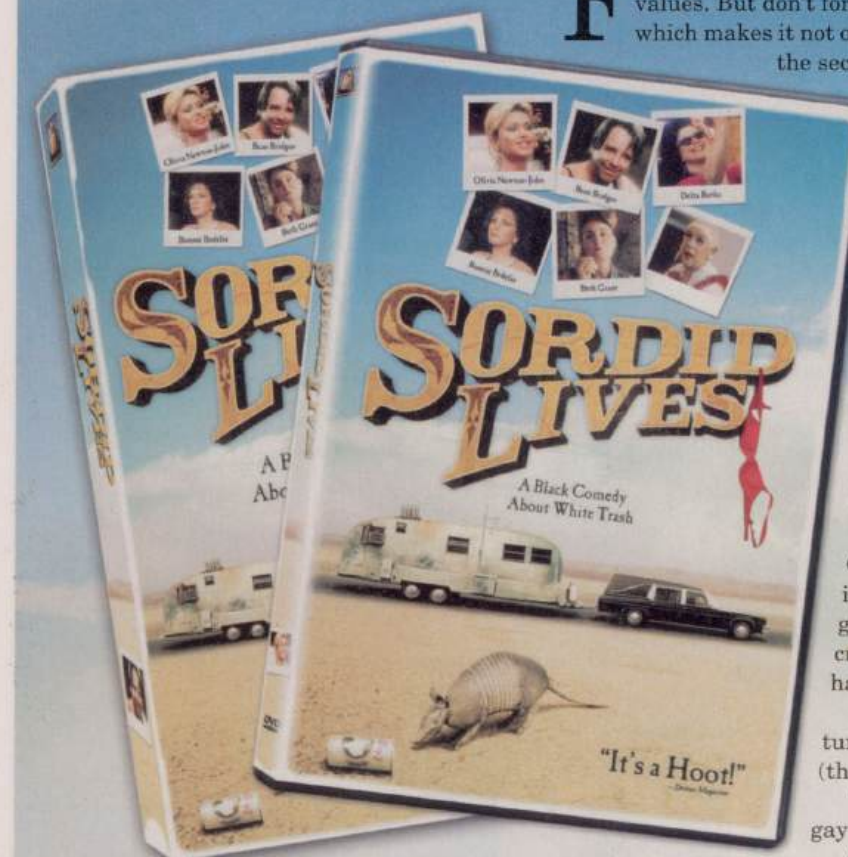
The weakest link in this trashy spectacle is Kirk Geiger as Ty Williamson, the gay son of Latrelle Williamson (Bedelia) who lives in West Hollywood; that he also lives in the closet is the crux of the story. The whole clan is gathering for the funeral of the family matriarch, but Ty can't seem to crawl out of that closet to make an appearance.

No matter. When you've got Delta and Bonnie and Olivia and Beau (in one scene in a lacy black bra!) interacting, you've got one helluva good time. And the good times continue with Newton-John's country crooning, not to mention her role as . . . well, if you haven't seen it, there's no reason to spoil it for you.

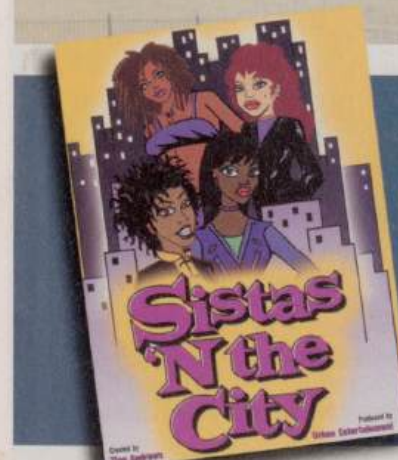
The *Sordid Lives* DVD includes, among other features, 10 deleted scenes plus interviews with Del Shores (the writer/director), Bedelia, Jordan, and many more.

Trivia: Bonnie Bedelia also played the mother of a gay man in the 1997 TV drama *Any Mother's Son*.

Available March 18 from Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment. —Blaise DiStefano



The cast of *Sordid Lives* includes (l-r): Bonnie Bedelia, Olivia Newton-John, Kirk Geiger, Ann Walker, Beth Grant, Leslie Jordan, Earl H. Bullock, Delta Burke, and Beau Bridges.



SISTAS 'N THE CITY

This animated parody series of *Sex and the City* takes you through the lives of four very different women: Tameka, a publicist; Mercedes, a visual artist and painter; Jordan, a bonafide BAP (Black American Princess); and Athena, a lesbian neo-soul singer, who is voiced by underground rapper Medusa. One of the best bonus features is the interview with Medusa, who explains how her character's lesbianism makes her a little more open so

she can see all the other characters' points of view. (Check out www.onebadista.com for more on Medusa.) • The writer and creator is screenwriter Tina Andrews, who wrote the award-winning miniseries *Sally Hemings: An American Scandal*. She was also the first African-American woman to win the 2001 Writers Guild of America Award. • Available March 25 from Urban Entertainment. —BD →



HEIGHTS—2/2, remodeled in '00 heart of pine floors, modern kitchen, plenty of pantry & closet space, great deck overlooks new pool and spa and lots more! \$269K Call Karen at 713/875-7050.



HEIGHTS—large new construction, all new modern conveniences, granite counters, hardwood floors, on a great street next to similar homes by a great Heights builder, finished garage apt is a plus! \$529K Call Bob Derr at 713/875-7049.



MONTROSE—Incredible 3 bed 3.5 bath loft-style townhome, awesome views of downtown, custom cabinets, granite counters, HUGE master bath, closets galore! \$425K. Angie or Megan at 713/818-5608.



MONTROSE—Larger home with big rooms, HUGE dining room, beautiful hallway is perfect for displaying your artwork, master is large with sitting room. 269K Call Bob Derr today! 713/875-7049.



Margot Perez
Senior Agent
281-932-7764

Specializing in
The Heights, Montrose
& Beyond!



PREMIER HEIGHTS LOCATION!

Pride of Esplanade Homes in this historical renovation. State-of-the-art amenities, wine cellar, sound system, security system, period fixtures, stately doors for \$649K.

KAREN DERR & ASSOCIATES REALTY—VIEW PDF FLYERS @ KARENDERR.COM



Karen Derr
Broker
713.875.7050

KARENDERR.COM
PEOPLELOVE PORCHES.COM



GARDEN OAKS—3/2-Fab renovation on a huge lot in Garden Oaks. Super baths and kitchen, granite counters, beautiful hardwoods, excellent floor plan, huge backyard has screened summer house—BBQ area, deck off second story is great for parties. \$329K Call Karen at 713/875-7050.



FABULOUS New Construction by Featherstone with double porches front and rear, granite counters, Jenn-air gas counters, sitting area off master, dual A/C sys. deep lot, unfinished garage apt, great floor plan, fireplace. \$429. Call Karen at 713/875-7050.



Bruce Hutmacher
281.216.0557



Richard Buentello
281.222.9311

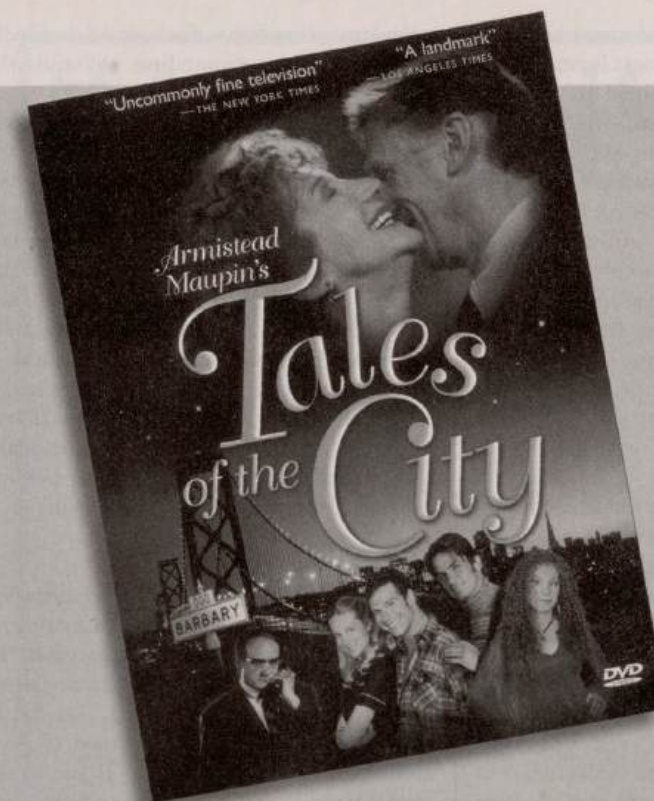


This great beauty features high-end finishings from pecan floors, detail molding, high ceilings, multi-levels for formal & den, granite counters, porte-cochere. Plus comparable guest house. You'll definitely want to see this! 3/2/2 for \$497K.



Wonderful home with lots of sq.ft. Recent updates include paint, carpet, fixtures, electric, bathroom, kitchen, landscape. Other updates include new roof and foundation. 3/2/2 for \$129K.

KAREN DERR & ASSOCIATES REALTY—VIEW PDF FLYERS @ KARENDERR.COM



TALES OF THE CITY

First six episodes, never before on DVD

Named one of the 10 best miniseries of all times by *Entertainment Weekly*, Armistead Maupin's *Tales of the City* introduces us to 28 Barbary Lane in hip, hot, anything-goes 1970s San Francisco. The powerhouse cast includes Olympia Dukakis, Laura Linney, Chloe Webb, and features Thomas Gibson, Billy Campbell, and Paul Gross. Now available on DVD and VHS. The DVD includes audio commentary by Maupin, director Alastair Reid, Dukakis, and Linney; exclusive behind-the-scenes location and rehearsal footage; cast bios; and much more. From Wolfe Video at 1-800-GET-WOLFE (438-9653) or www.wolfevideo.com. —Troy Carrington

SHOWTIME'S QUEER AS FOLK

Complete second season

Called "truly revolutionary" by the *New York Times*, *Queer as Folk* instantly became Showtime's most watched original program upon its premiere in 1999, and it continues to break new ground in depicting the lives of gays and lesbians on television. Outrageous, hilarious, graphic, wonderful—and all 20 episodes of the second season are included in this boxed set. Five-tape VHS or six-disc DVD. The DVD includes three hours of ex-

tras, including "Inside Babylon," "A Week in the Life of QAF," "QAF on the Pride Tour," and a sneak preview of season three. From Twentieth Century Fox. Now in stores. —TC



A QUEER AS FOLK NOVEL

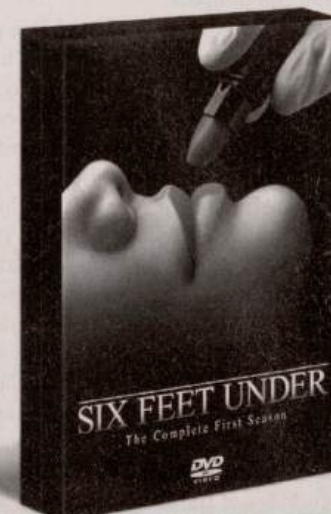
In *Every Nine Seconds* (Pocket Books Fiction Trade Paperback Original), the first book in a new three-book series, author Joseph Brodton invites readers to visit the earlier lives of Brian Kinney and Michael Novotny by revealing tales that haven't been shared on TV, shining light on the intimate history of two of our favorite *Queer as Folk* personalities.



SIX FEET UNDER

Complete first season

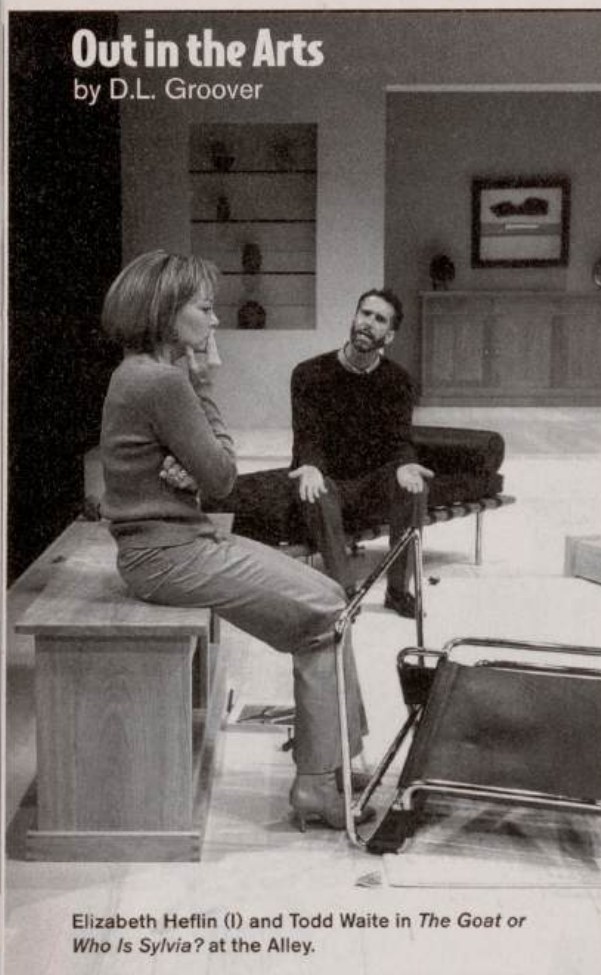
From openly gay Alan Ball, the Oscar-winning writer of *American Beauty*, comes a series that digs where others fear to tread. When a bus kills Nathaniel Fisher, owner of the Fisher & Sons Funeral Home in Los Angeles, the tragedy casts a pall on the homecoming of his prodigal son Nate. Together with his mother Ruth, brother David, and sister Claire, they must address the family business, and the many more personal matters that arise when your life is *Six Feet Under*. The HBO series was the winner of six Emmys in 2002. Available from Wolfe Video at 1-800-GET-WOLFE (432-9653) or www.wolfevideo.com. —TC



KAREN DERR & ASSOCIATES REALTY—VIEW PDF FLYERS @ KARENDERR.COM

Out in the Arts

by D.L. Groover



Elizabeth Heflin (l) and Todd Waite in *The Goat or Who Is Sylvia?* at the Alley.

ALBEE KIDS YOU NOT. If you think nothing in our jaded "whatever" age can shock anymore, no taboos that haven't been flaunted by way of Jerry Springer, here comes Edward Albee, America's greatest living playwright, to blister the wallpaper—and our minds—with his latest Tony Award-winner *The Goat or Who Is Sylvia?* Played concurrently at the Alley Theatre with his first great success, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (with an intensely blowzy yet sympathetic Judith Ivey as Martha and a suppressed volcano in James Black's co-dependent George), Albee's latest blackest-of-black comedy is a distillation of all his prodigious theatrical gifts as well as a wicked postmodern spin on Greek tragedy (great man with tragic flaw, the shattering effects on wife and son, a Greek chorus of one, even a Dionysian goat—the Sylvia of the title and the hero's love interest).

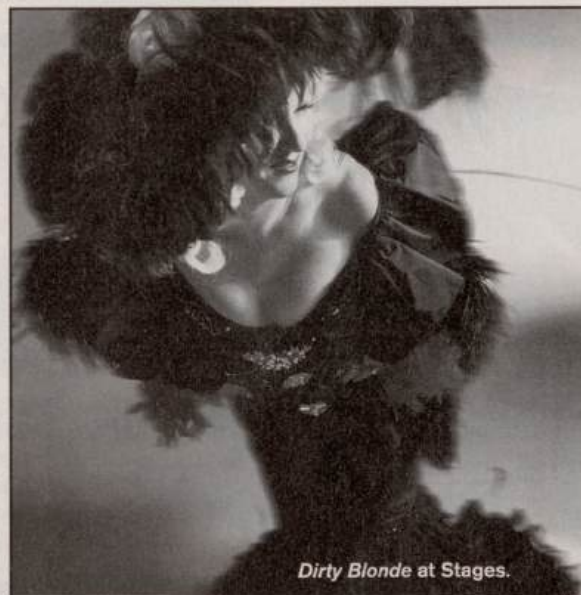
The play amazed in wonderful, horrible ways as it sped inexorably from confession through consternation to a grieving fate-filled conclusion. Words can wound, and Albee, through his profound craftsmanship, stings with shocking taboo-busters that stop time while our hearts break. Todd Waite embodied the guilt-free, besotted Martin

with lively befuddled angst and had us believing he's the next logical choice for PETA poster child. Elizabeth Heflin unleashed all the wifely Furies with sexy perfection. Matt Hune, a student at HSPVA, made a stunning professional debut as conflicted gay son Billy; and Alley stalwart James Belcher, spouting expletives, was society's outraged conscience. This most adult play about finding love in the most peculiar place was haunting. If you were fortunate to see this splendid production, you will never forget it.

DEAD WIDOW. You know something is really wrong when the most memorable highlight of an opera is the dancing. It took a bevy of Maxim girls, squealing, hiking up their petticoats with legs a-twirl, and cart-wheeling across the stage, to blast me awake during Houston Grand Opera's shockingly low-brow version of Franz Lehár's 1905 operetta confection, *The Merry Widow*. This explosion of action and color irradiated the surrounding dullness with energy, sex, and a sweeping pas de deux that crystallized the love story in a more profound way than anything the molasses-paced, lumpy production could dream

of managing.

Lehár's intoxicating melodies have bubbled into our consciousness, but in this production borrowed from San Francisco Opera, his beguiling waltzes were swamped under B-grade regional theater schtick. Sad to say, mezzo Susan Graham, with her patented creamy voice so astonishing weeks ago in the fiendish ornamentation of Handel's *Ariodante*, made no impression at all. One of



Dirty Blonde at Stages.

opera's reigning divas, she seemed decidedly unmerit and uncommanding, not traits the widow Hanna should possess.

Baritone Bo Skovhus, a picture book Count Danilo, came off best, but he too joined in the *Saturday Night Live* low jinks with only half a heart. Both were given no help at all from conductor Patrick Summers, who approached the soufflé score as if it were a memorial service. Where was the bounce, the lilt, the fizz in the champagne? Christopher Hassall's maladroitness English adaptation shared much of the blame, with its doggerel rhymes and a lame book without a sprinkling of period flavor or charm. Even if your taste in champagne knows but Korbel, HGO's stab at Lehár's delicious froth was, at best, stale beer.

KEEP IN MIND:

- *The Four Temperaments*. Houston Ballet. Through March 9. One of Paul Hindemith's greatest musical compositions becomes the framework for one of George Balanchine's greatest neo-classical ballets. Its dance movement, like the music, is refined, elegant, and powerful beyond words. If you're not moved by the arching lifts of the finale, you are dead.

- *You Can't Take It with You*. Alley Theatre. Through March 29. Kaufman and Hart's delicious screwball 1936 comedy pits convention (the uptight snobby Kirbys) against anarchy (the reprobate wacky Vanderhofs). Guess who wins?

- *The Noblest of Drugs*. Infernal Bridegroom Productions. Opens March 20. In a world premiere collaboration with the inventive Bobbindoctrin Puppet Theatre, IBP presents the life and times of Stanislaw Witkiewicz, exceptionally gifted Polish writer, painter, photographer, dramatist, architect. His work, which included the theory of pure form and the belief in "catastrophism," or the disintegration of civilization, inspired the theater of the absurd. He would have loved the puppets.

- *Where's My Dinner, Bitch?* Dos chicas theater commune, at Helios. Through March 22. From the gals who brought you the greasy yet tasty *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom*, *Porn Stars Gone Bad*, and *Zastrozzi*, the *Master of Discipline*, comes this world premiere not-suitable-for-children satire from Bob Morgan. Trailer-trash husbands die while their put-upon wives put on better lipstick. Bitter and black like the sneering mouth to hell.

- *Dirty Blonde*. Stages Repertory Theatre. March 19–April 13. Claudia Shear's inventive, witty look at Mae West and the legendary power of dreams to transform lives has been a sensation on both sides of the Atlantic. Come up and see her. Hollywood rules. ■

"A MONSTER HIT!"

MICHAEL RIEDEL, NEW YORK POST

This irresistible musical weaves 22 of ABBA's greatest hits into the story of a mother, her soon-to-be-wed daughter, and her daughter's three possible dads...



BENNY ANDERSSON & BJÖRN ULVAEUS'

MAMMA MIA!

THE SMASH HIT MUSICAL BASED ON THE SONGS OF ABBA®

ON SALE NOW! • APRIL 15-27

HOBBY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

800 Bagby at Walker

ticketmaster.com or call 713-629-3700

Groups of 20 or more: 713-693-2692

www.mamma-mia.com

MAMMA MIA! ORIGINAL CAST RECORDING AVAILABLE ON DECCA BROADWAY



AT HOME AT THE HOBBY CENTER
broadwayacrossamerica.com

The Houston Chronicle
Your daily information source
houstonchronicle.com



Presented By
SFA
SOCIETY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
Bringing the World's Best to Houston

All tickets subject to convenience charges. Dates subject to change without notice.

Just a Normal Guy

Poignant, provocative one-man performance has Houston premiere at DiverseWorks

What do an eight-year-old boy who witnesses a life-altering tragedy, a Southern Junior Leaguer who yearns for romances past, and a rootin' tootin' cowboy who needs anger management classes right quick have in common?

All three are the creations of openly gay writer/actor Randall White. More important, they are three of the 11 funny and poignant individuals that White introduces us to in his show who have forever lost their innocence, yet somehow managed to salvage a chunk of dignity from the wreckage nevertheless.

"I believe *Normal* nudges the audience to examine such issues as hope, prejudice, and personal freedom... many times without their realizing it," White says. "It's also a chance for me to get a few things off of my chest when it comes to how we need to challenge conventional wisdom so much more often than we do."

Prior to 1985, White studied and pursued an acting and writing career. But he left the theater world for a 12-year-long career in nonprofit management.

The death of his partner in 1997 from multiple myeloma, and a cancer diagnosis of his own that same year, shifted his priorities.

"Writing and performing is what I always thought I would do for a living, until I allowed myself to become derailed by the expectations of others," White says. "One of the themes of *Normal* is how we can let ourselves be controlled by the voices of others and how important it is for us to turn those voices off."

"Creating and performing *Normal* is, in essence, my professional return to 'normal.'"

Using only chairs as props, White dons the personalities of 11 characters whose stories are as rich and varied as the set is simple and spare. A lesbian landscaper gives a testimony at an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, giving us a peek at the sensitive human being beneath the sarcastic shell. A Protestant minister delivers a heartfelt sermon he realizes will most likely be his last before the congregation. A quadriplegic shows the audience that it is never too late to let one's spirit take flight.

"My characters not only make audience members laugh and cry, they also make them gulp and squirm," White says. "I tell people to leave Aunt Esther at home, for this ain't no Neil Simon play."

"*Normal* provides all of us—gay, straight, Hispanic, African American, disabled, fully-abled, misanthropic, or just misunderstood—the opportunity to take a good hard look at how we look at one another," he says. "And I want all of us to understand that if we feel just a few steps to the left or right of 'normal,' that is probably the best place to be." ■

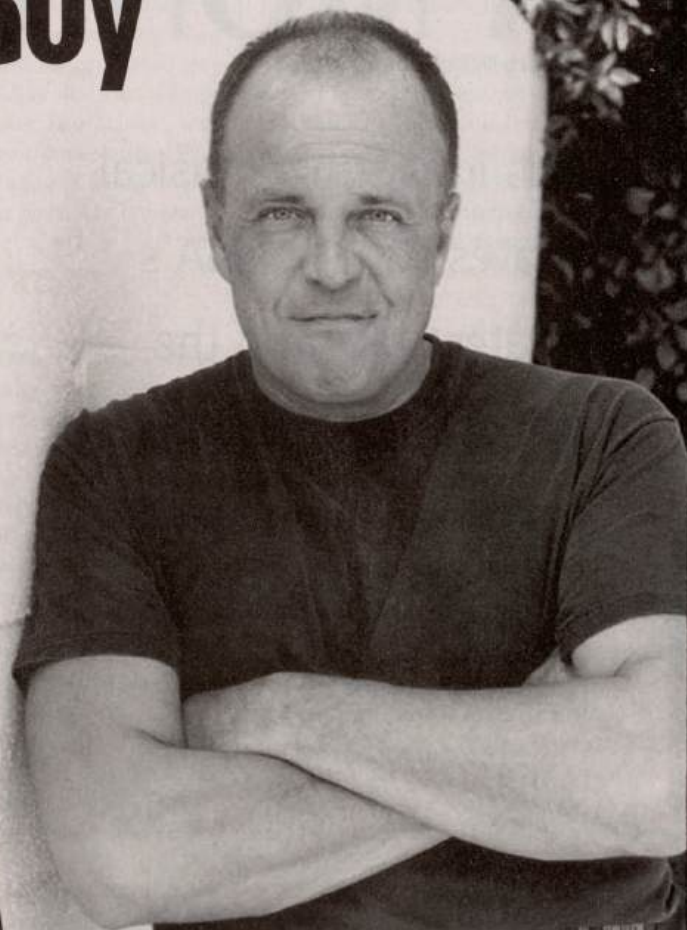
PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

What: *Normal*

When: March 13, 14, 15, 21, 22 at 8 p.m., March 23 at 3 p.m.

Where: DiverseWorks Art Space, 1117 East Frwy, I-10 at N. Main

Tickets: \$12 (Thu/Sun) plus tax or \$16 (Fri/Sat) plus tax if purchased online at www.normaltheplay.com. Tickets are \$15 (Thu/Sun) plus tax or \$20 (Fri/Sat) plus tax if purchased at the door or by phone. Call, toll-free, 1-877-946-9997. No additional handling charges.



Randall White (clockwise from top): as himself; as Dean Lee Smith; as Kristofer; and as Tara O'Hara.

ALL PHOTOS: COURTESY ABIE TUCKER PRODUCTIONS

DOWNTOWN HOUSTON
APRIL 17-20, 2003
EASTER WEEKEND

BCBC Hosts the Main Event: *Tribal Heat* - April 19 at Verizon Wireless Theater

Weekend Passes:
 • 3 Day - \$95
 • 3 Day Gold - \$125
 • 3 Day Platinum - \$200

www.bayoucityboysclub.org

Jungle 11

THURSDAY - APRIL 17 - WEEKEND KICKOFF
 METEOR - 9 PM - 2 AM • NO COVER

FRIDAY - APRIL 18 - GATHER THE TRIBE
 PRODUCED BY M2M ENTERTAINMENT
 RICH'S HOUSTON
 DJ ROLAND BELMARES
 9 PM - 5 AM • \$20 AT THE DOOR

SATURDAY - APRIL 19 - JUNGLE 11: TRIBAL HEAT
 PRODUCED BY BCBC
 VERIZON WIRELESS THEATER
 DJ MONTY Q / ENTERTAINMENT BY CIRCUITMOM
 10 PM - 4 AM • \$45 IN ADVANCE \$55 AT DOOR

AFTER HOURS SUN. MORNING - TRIBAL COMMUNION
 PRODUCED BY SPOILED BOYZ
 BOAKA BAR AND MERCURY ROOM
 DJ DAWNA MONTEL
 3:30 AM - 9 AM • \$20 AT DOOR

SUNDAY - APRIL 20 - TRIBAL LUST
 PRODUCED BY CHARLES ARMSTRONG INVESTMENTS
 SOUTH BEACH - THE NIGHTCLUB
 DJ BARRY HARRIS
 9 PM - 4 AM • \$15 AT DOOR

BCBC **South Beach** **JOCKO** **MAJAN** **copy.com** **OutSmart** **SB**

For travel and host hotel arrangements, advance tickets and weekend passes, contact Rob Bell, Official Travel Coordinator for Jungle 11. 1-800-667-2475 or rob@rainbowhighvacations.com

design: www.RandomSky.com

Talk To Your Partner About HIV.

It's Preventable.

713-794-9020

HIV/STD INFO-HOTLINE

Houston Department of Health and Human Services

SUNDANCE'S QUEER CROP

Flicks ranged from a Gina Gershon rocker to a Charles Busch star turn



Charles Busch (center) in *Die Mommie Die*

Diversity might be an overused term, but it certainly applies to the 2003 Sundance Film Festival.

"Serious dramas, hedonistic partying, important documentaries, and films that couldn't have been made any other time," reels off out programmer Shari Frilot of the selections.

Frilot says this year marked a higher quantity and quality of gay-themed film submissions, with many titles boasting a studio or company attachment/affiliation. And, signaling an "evolution toward films that happen to have gay characters rather than films that are about gayness," other films incorporated gay characters and

themes without necessarily placing them center-stage. Unfortunately, not many gay-themed works originated from gay minority filmmakers this year, which Frilot attributes to the fact that "it's just harder for them to make movies." Tragically, one such celebrated filmmaker, Native American queer Clint Morrill (a.k.a. Clint Alberta, Jules Karatechamp), who had seen his films bow at Sundance in 2000 and 2002, committed suicide last year.

AIDS issues, meanwhile, surfaced prominently in several works, including a pair of documentaries: *State of Denial*, a look at South Africa's crisis and response, and *To Live Is Better Than to Die*, a portrait of a

harshly affected family in mainland China.

Although many of this year's queer films were strong, provocative, and just plain campy, the awards didn't come rolling in for them. That said, Andrew Jarecki's controversial *Capturing the Friedmans* snagged the Grand Jury Prize for Best Documentary. And Charles Busch won an Outstanding Performance honor for his hysterical and nuanced (in the grandest sense, mind you) portrayal of a demented has-been singer/actress in *Die Mommie Die*.

This rundown of the Sundance queer crop is a de facto preview of the films you will see at gay film festivals, on cable, and in theaters later this year.

class UK teen (Matthew Leitch) escaping his hellish, abusive home life by impersonating the posh son of an art gallery owner.

Residing in Paris under this false identity, he is taken in by a gay sugar daddy and his American hustler lover. A credit-card-fraud

AKA

The Story: Presented in a visually busy three-screen format, *AKA* imagines Dean, a lower-

Because I may be scared, but I'm not alone.

**Don't Give Up.
Plan Your Future With VIRACEPT®.**

Because it's strong and effective. Keep your viral load down with the #1 prescribed HIV medication of its kind.* VIRACEPT works with you to keep your life on track.

Because it's easy to live with. VIRACEPT's easy dosing schedule and manageable side effects have been helping all kinds of people continue to lead their lives on their own terms.

Because it saves future options. When choosing a treatment plan, it's important to consider what options you will have in the future. Studies show taking VIRACEPT early on leaves you with choices in treatment for later. Ask your doctor about your future with VIRACEPT.

VIRACEPT®
nelfinavir mesylate
tablets and oral powder

VIRACEPT is indicated in combination with other antiretroviral agents for the treatment of HIV infection. The most common side effect of VIRACEPT is diarrhea, which can usually be controlled with over-the-counter treatments. Some prescription and non-prescription drugs and supplements should not be taken with VIRACEPT, so talk to your doctor first. For some people, protease inhibitors have been associated with the onset or worsening of diabetes mellitus and hyperglycemia, changes in body fat, and increased bleeding in hemophiliacs. **HIV drugs do not cure HIV infection or prevent you from spreading the virus.**

Refer to the important information on the next page. For more information, call toll free 1-888-VIRACEPT or visit www.viracept.com.



VIRACEPT® (nelfinavir mesylate)

Tablets and Oral Powder

Information for Patients

about VIRACEPT® (VI-ra-cept)
Generic Name: nelfinavir (nelfinavir) mesylate

For the Treatment of Human
Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection

Please read this information carefully before taking VIRACEPT. Also, please read this leaflet each time you renew the prescription, just in case anything has changed. This is a summary and not a replacement for a careful discussion with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss VIRACEPT when you start taking this medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when taking VIRACEPT and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

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

WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

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

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

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

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

DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

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

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

WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

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

Medicines you should not take with VIRACEPT:

Propulsid® (cispripide, for heartburn)
Cardarone® (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)
Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglute®, Cardioquin®, Quinidex®, and others
Ergot derivatives (Catergot® and others, for migraine headaches)
Halcion® (triazolam)
Versed® (midazolam)
Mevacor® (lovastatin, for cholesterol lowering)
Zocor® (simvastatin, for cholesterol lowering)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Oral contraceptives ("the pill")

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

Special considerations

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

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

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

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

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

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

Retrovir (zidovudine, AZT)
Epivir (lamivudine, 3TC)
Zent (stavudine, d4T)
Videx® (didanosine, ddI)

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

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

Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Viramune® (nevirapine)
The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood is unchanged. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Viramune.
Sustiva™ (efavirenz)

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

Other NNRTIs

VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Crixivan® (indinavir)
The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.
Norvir™ (ritonavir)

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

Invirase® (saquinavir)

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

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

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

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

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

HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dosing in children 2 to 13 years of age

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

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

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

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

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

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

How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

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

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

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

Do not add water to bottles of oral powder.

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

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

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

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

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

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

Call 1.888.VIRACEPT

VIRACEPT and Agouron are registered trademarks of Agouron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Copyright ©2001, Agouron Pharmaceuticals, Inc. All rights reserved.



Agouron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
La Jolla, California, 92037, USA
1-V01171-BG

L203-0001 PPI
Rev. 01/25/01

investigator and a gnawing sense of identity displacement, however, threaten Dean's new life.

The Scoop: A queer twist on *Catch Me If You Can*, AKA is based on the surprising, real-life story of director Duncan Roy. For five years, Roy posed as the son of Lady Rendlesham, an aristocratic London socialite.

Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin

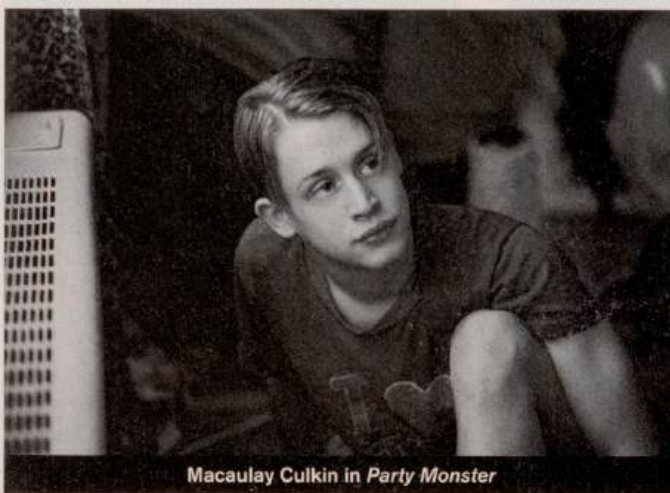
The Story: Bayard Rustin was a black civil rights leader on a par with Martin Luther King Jr. in gumption and achievements. However, due to his open homosexuality, Rustin was shunned by his peers and goes largely unremembered today. In this touching, archival material-rich documentary by Nancy Kates and Bennett Singer, Rustin—who was responsible for organizing the 1963 March on Washington—gets his well-deserved due.

The Scoop: A must-see that, hopefully, school systems will incorporate into their curriculum. While screening at the festival, *Brother Outsider* aired on PBS on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Camp

The Story: A rousing *Fame*-esque musical set at the fictitious performance arts camp Camp Ovation. During one summer, a sexy and possibly straight camper, Ivan (Daniel Letterle), rattles the lives of a sweet girl (Joanna Chilcoat) and gay boy (Robin de Jesus).

The Scoop: *Camp* was based on and shot at the Catskills theater camp Stagedoor Manor, which director Todd Graff attended in the '70s. He wasn't the only Stagedoor alumnus at the festival. Others included *Girls Will Be Girls* producer Michael

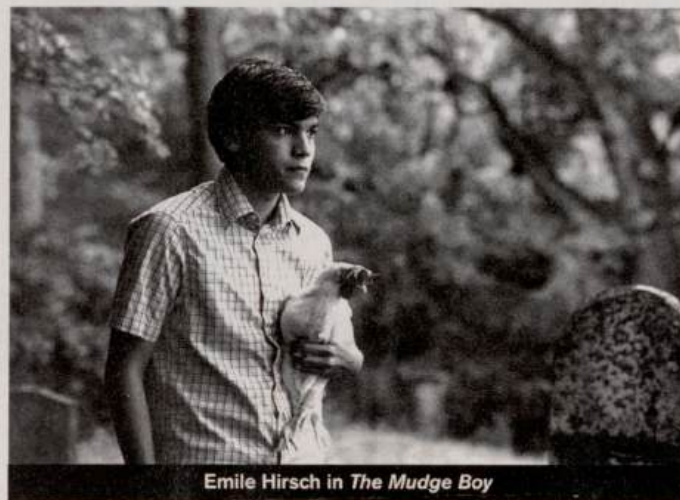


Macaulay Culkin in *Party Monster*

Warwick, actor Robert Downey Jr., and yours truly.

Capturing the Friedmans

The Story: In the 1980s, police in Great Neck, New York, arrested Arnold Friedman and one of his three sons, Jesse, for the alleged sexual abuse of children in a computer class they taught. Director Andrew Jarecki probes the case, facts, evidence, and lack thereof, unearthing a series of ambiguities and doubts regarding their guilt. In the process, we witness the family crumble from the inside through extensive home video footage.



Emile Hirsch in *The Mudge Boy*

The Scoop: This Sundance award-winner sparked off a fiery Q&A session one evening. A woman whose child had been in the Friedmans' computer class stood up and lobbed allegations at Jarecki, whom she believed to be in support of the Friedmans' innocence. Jarecki, who researched his subjects exhaustively, shot back facts that contradicted her accusations. Asked why she even came to see the film, the woman responded, "From the title, I thought it was going to be about capturing the Friedmans."

Die Mommie Die!

The Story: Based on Charles Busch's play of the same name, this



Olympia Dukakis (r) and Don McKellar in *The Event*

homage to women's movies of the '40-'60s combines camp, high production values, and omnisexual action. Busch reprises his role as Angela Arden, an aging has-been with a constipated hubby (Philip Baker Hall), homo son (Stark Sands), angry daughter (Natasha Lyonne), bisexual lover (Jason Priestley), and a murderous tendency. When daddy dies from a poisoned suppository, everyone pursues mommy for revenge and a few dark secrets.

The Scoop: Busch is brilliant as ever, while Priestley plays for both teams onscreen. A nude pool scene with Priestley was tragically lost after a waterproofed camera proved not quite waterproof.

The Education of Gore Vidal

The Story: Produced for the *American Masters* television series, this

entertaining documentary mixes interviews with the gay scribe/political thinker, archival footage, and readings of his work by the likes of Paul Newman and Susan Sarandon.

The Scoop: *The Education of Gore Vidal* isn't the first queer documentary by three-time Academy Award-nominee Deborah Dickson. The director was responsible for last year's equally delightful *Ruthie and Connie: Every Room in the House*. Her new film will air on PBS stations this summer.

The Event

The Story: An assistant district attorney (Parker Posey) investigates a possibly connected rash of suicides in Chelsea. One of the recently deceased is Matt (Brent Carver), a musician with AIDS whose mother (Olympia Dukakis), sisters, and friends are hiding a secret that could solve the case.

The Scoop: A serious, politically tinged

tearjerker that left even a press screening audience—which is infamously unmoving—audibly sniffing and sobbing. Dukakis's maternal performance is possibly her best.

Girls Will Be Girls

The Story: Three Hollywood ladies—fallen star Evie (Jack Plotnick), whipping dog Coco Peru (Clinton Leupp), and starlet wannabe Varla Jean Merman (Jeffery Roberson)—clash in the same apartment, bound by betrayals, men, and abortions.

The Scoop: This comedy is anything but a drag. And the quotable, bitter zingers are plentiful, including the advice, "A little less binge, a little more purge" and "Feelings are like treasures, so bury them."

Irreversible

The Story: Unraveling in reverse style à la *Memento*, French director Gaspar Noe's revenge film sees a rape victim's lover pursuing the sleazy bisexual perpetrator.

The Scoop: A nine-minute rape scene and a brutal fire extinguisher bludgeoning made this movie a wave-maker at Cannes. At Sundance, audiences also fled, traumatized. One audience experienced 15 adverse reactions, including vomiting and fainting.

Laurel Canyon

The Story: Frances McDormand plays a bisexual record producer living in California's Laurel Canyon. When her son and his begging-for-adventure girlfriend (Christian Bale and Kate Beckinsale) visit, sexual sparks go wild.

The Scoop: Directed/written by out lesbian Lisa Cholodenko (*High Art*), this quiet yet well-reviewed selection sees McDormand lock lips with another lady.

Madame Sata

The Story: Set in 1930s Rio de Janeiro, director Karim Ainouz's stunning debut feature stars Lazaro Ramos as a real-life legendary local figure, Joao Francisco dos Santos, a.k.a. Madame Sata. A feral, violent, and charismatic black man, Santos transforms from bitter fringe criminal to beloved cross-dressing performer—and, tragically, back again.

The Scoop: Distributor Wellspring will release this feverish stunner, which brings us a stereotype-defying, ass-kicking queer of color, come summer.

The Mudge Boy

The Story: Emile Hirsch stars as Duncan, an

emotionally distant farmer's sensitive son. A social reject whose only comforts are a chicken and his dead mother's clothes, Duncan finally manages to connect with Perry, a rowdy older neighborhood teen.

The Scoop: Director Michael Burke developed *The Mudge Boy* from his 1999 Sundance award-winning short film, *Fish Belly White*. Showtime is hoping to secure a theatrical release for *The Mudge Boy*, and Purdue will sponsor the chicken's Oscar campaign. (OK, I jest).

Nightstalker

The Story: Crack-smoking serial killer Richard Ramirez (Bret Roberts) is on the loose in 1980s Los Angeles, and only



Real-life Calpernia Addams (l) and Lee Pace, the actor who portrays her, in *Soldier's Girl*

Gabriella Martinez (Roselyn Sanchez), a lesbian detective, can stop his rampage.

The Scoop: While the lesbian status of Gabriella is downplayed to the point that it isn't even acknowledged onscreen, the character was always envisioned as queer, says director Chris Fisher. Frilot vouches for its "dyke vibes."

Normal

The Story: Midwestern couple Roy and Irma Applewood (Tom Wilkinson and Jessica Lange) are celebrating their 25th anniversary when Roy comes clean with a shocking revelation: He wants to have a sex change. Irma flips out, as does the church, family members, Roy's factory co-workers, and even thrift-store clerks. Can love conquer all?

The Scoop: Jessica Lange works every moment of this Jane Anderson-directed HBO production like it's an Oscar-winner. Kudos to Hayden Panettiere as the couple's adorable baby-dyke daughter. Debuts March 16 on HBO. [For more Normal, see page 18.]

Party Monster

The Story: Based on Fenton Bailey and Randy

Barbato's same-name documentary, *Party Monster* stars Macaulay Culkin as famed club-kid killer Michael Alig. Seth Green portrays flaming best friend James St. James (on whose memoir, *Disco Bloodbath*, the script was based).

The Scoop: If only the film was as good—and explicitly gay—as the Sundance party held in its honor. Green, Chloe Sevigny, Culkin, and brother Kieran showed up at Park City's The Shop for the stunning shindig, which featured a Salt Lake City Mormon boy stripping naked onstage. Not one to abstain from kooky club antics, the real James St. James jammed his fingers into the lad's very special, blessed place. As for the film itself, Green steals it, although the sight of Culkin parading around with a surgical mask as makeshift jockstrap is priceless.

Prey for Rock and Roll

The Story: Gina Gershon stars as Jacki, the bisexual front woman of an all-girl rock band. Now 40, Jacki realizes she has to shit (read: get signed) or get off the pot (read: break up the band). Her girlfriend is hoping for the latter, while the band's resident lesbian couple, Faith (Lori Petty) and Sally (Shelly Cole), are angling for the former. Add tragedies, ex-

convicts, drugs, and plot twists.

The Scoop: At long last, Gershon and her lips are back in lesbo mode. And can she sing, as proved at a party for the film at Cisero's nightclub.

Soldier's Girl

The Story: This movie is based on the true story of soldier Barry Winchell and transsexual performer Calpernia Addams. Troy Garrity plays Winchell, who falls for Calpernia (Lee Pace) after meeting up in a drag bar. When a nosy superior and chemically imbalanced roommate interfere, tragedy results.

The Scoop: A Showtime production, *Soldier's Girl* is a sublime and affecting work that further affirms the network's progressive stance. Few audience members were able to hold back tears at screenings, including Calpernia Addams, who attended the festival. [Soldier's Girl is scheduled to air on Showtime in the next few months.]

Lawrence Ferber's writing has appeared in Entertainment Weekly and The Advocate. He reported on the newly out Rawhide Kid in the February issue of OutSmart.

NOCHE

COCINA Y BAR

GREAT FOOD

GREAT ATMOSPHERE

OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK
FOR LUNCH AND DINNER

SUNDAY BRUNCH \$13.95

2409 MONTROSE
AT HYDE PARK

713-529-8559

Moon. Shine.

Laser hair removal (that's out of this world).

LASER TREATMENTS • BOTOX • FACIAL REJUVENATION
COSMETIC SURGERY • LIPOSUCTION

713.383.0833

JACQUELINE'S SKINCARE
AT ERMOSA CENTRE FOR PLASTIC SURGERY

STAGES
REPERTORY
THEATRE

“good girls go
to heaven...
bad girls go
everywhere else”

— Mae West

Dirty Blonde

By Claudia Shear, conceived by
Claudia Shear and James Lapine

March 19 - April 13, 2003

Tickets 713 527 0123
www.stagetheatre.com

Continental
Airlines
Official airline of Stages

Voted BEST TRAVEL AGENCY In the
OutSmart Gayest & Greatest Readers' Choice Awards

CONCIERGE TRAVEL, INC.



713.661.2117
877.775.9616

Call Joakim (KIM) www.conciergetravel.cc

TEXAS LARGEST
RSVP VACATIONS
SUPPLIER!

Recent Releases

Erlend Øye
Unrest



Working with a gaggle of well-known producers and taking up residency in Berlin as well as several other new environments, Erlend Øye has crafted an album that is a far cry from his more recognized work with Kings of Convenience. Originating in Bergen, Norway, The Kings have enjoyed tremendous success in Europe and are best described by their album title *Quiet is the New Loud*. Øye doesn't stray too terribly far from the volume levels of his other act on his solo album but has definitely pushed the production a lot further. The songs are laden with pop hooks but with more developed, built-out electro backgrounds that feel connected throughout. He calls this his tribute to A-ha's *Hunting High and Low* album from the early '80s and has successfully tapped into what a lot of us are listening for in such great pop records. From Astralwerks (www.astralwerks.com).

—Lance Walker

Club Hits
Queer As Nervous



These infectious grooves will be recognizable to dance music fans everywhere. Barry Harris's "Dive in the Pool" with vocals by Pepper Mashay not only was a huge hit on the club circuit but also became the theme song for Showtime's hit series *Queer as Folk*. The album is a compilation of the biggest club hits, ideal for any fan of the show. On Nervous Records (www.nervous.co.uk or www.nervousnyc.com). —Andrea Rodricks

Cosmo Vitelli
Clean



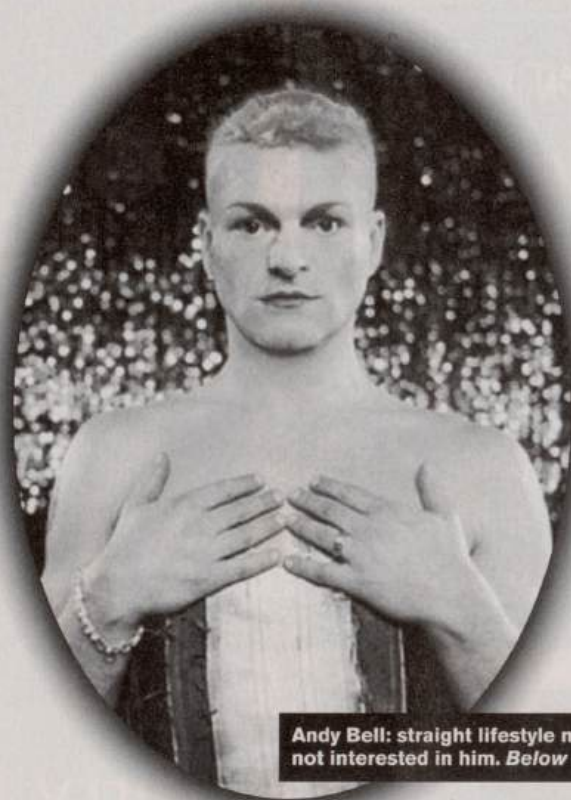
According to his bio, Cosmo Vitelli shares his name with only one other man in recent history, a character from the 1976 film *The Killing of a Chinese Bookie*. He also has a sound all to himself as he has constructed an album of ethereal electronic compositions based in techno but crossing over to pop in small

GrooveOut

by Gregg Shapiro

GIVING VOICE

In town this month,
Andy Bell chats about Erasure's new cover album



Andy Bell: straight lifestyle magazines are not interested in him. Below with Vince Clarke.

Andy Bell of Erasure can belt like nobody's business. At one time or another, you've probably found yourself dancing to a song performed by one of the most recognizable voices in modern music. No strangers to the occasional cover tune, Erasure (Bell and Vince Clarke, along with Gareth Jones) puts their distinctive synth-pop mark on a broad range of songs on their aptly titled 10th album, *Other People's Songs* (Mute). When you hear their rendition of Peter Gabriel's "Solsbury Hill," you will wonder why they didn't cover him sooner. I spoke to Bell while he was stateside with Erasure (at Numbers on March 14) to tape a gig on VH1 Classic's "All Star Jams" show.

Gregg Shapiro: Erasure has a history of doing cover tunes, most notably "River Deep, Mountain High" from *The Innocents*, and, of course, the Abba songs on the *Abba-Esque* EP. What's the best thing about performing, as the new album is called, *Other People's Songs*?

Andy Bell: I hadn't realized when we did the cover version of "River Deep, Mountain High," that it was a Phil Spector song. *Other People's Songs* was going to be a solo project of all Phil Spector songs. Vince came over to see me in Spain and he said, "Andy, this is a really good idea. Could we do it as an Erasure project? We can all choose which songs we want to do." When you're doing cover versions, it's very personal. You sing them because you want to sing them. I thought

with *Other People's Songs*, I wanted to be seen more as a singer, and not just as a member of Erasure. It sounds quite egotistical [laughs], but that was the thing, really.

With a voice like that, why wouldn't you want people to hear you singing? [Laughs] I was thinking, Well, Dusty's gone and Freddie's gone, so somebody's got to carry the torch.

Some of the songs, including "Everyday," "Ebb Tide," "Walking in the



Rain," and "True Love Ways" are from the early days of rock and roll. Is there something in particular about that era that speaks to you?

Doing the album was like saying a thank you to my parents for my pop education. My mom was a huge Elvis fan, and my dad was a Buddy Holly fan. Apart from that, they had lots of early country-and-western music, in which rock and roll has its roots. I feel like I was born in the wrong era. My voice is much more suited towards 1930s and 1940s.

The cover of "Can't Help Falling in Love" made me think of the JXL remix of the Elvis Presley track "A Little Less Conversation," which first became popular in Europe. What do you think of the ongoing fascination with Elvis?

To me, there's never been anybody that has matched him. Not that I'm a rock and roll singer, but I feel like I have the same intonation and feeling and blues-tinged thing to my voice that Elvis had.

Yes, lots of emotion.

I also love dancing around while I'm performing and singing. Whenever I see Elvis, I can't take my eyes off of him. There hasn't been anybody else like him.

Another benefit of having Erasure cover a song is that less well-known songwriters and bands have a chance to be exposed to a whole new audience. I'm thinking specifically of Cliff Eberhardt's "Goodnight" and "Everybody's Got to Learn Sometime" by the Korgis. What does it mean to you to have the opportunity to introduce some of your favorite songs to your fans?

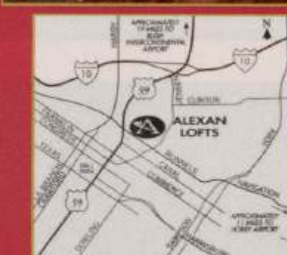
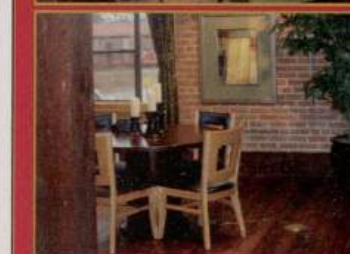
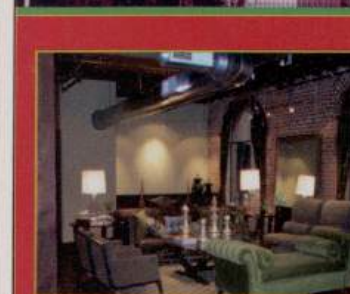
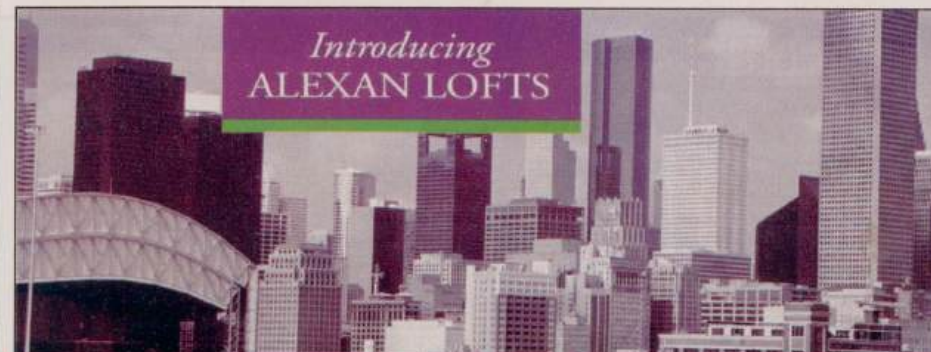
To me, that's really beautiful. That was part of the reason that we did it as well. There are so many [TV] programs now in the UK that are all about fame, [such as] the *Pop Idols* program. They always do these really cheesy versions of the most obvious songs that are going to be hits. I felt like this isn't about the songs or the people that wrote the songs or the spirit in which the songs were written. [*Other People's Songs*] is a bit like a songbook. We really care about the songs.

"When Will I See You Again" is a chestnut from the early disco era, originally sung by The Three Degrees. What can you tell me about your connection to that song and to the music of that time?

That was one of the last songs that we came upon. We did want to do a



Introducing ALEXAN LOFTS



2015 Number One, The Houston Times
713.225.2115
15000 Katy



AT HOME WITH HOUSTON'S HERITAGE

Once known as the Americas Building, Alexan Lofts are the creative conversion of six warehouses that were built on the southern banks of Buffalo Bayou between 1880 and 1920. Alexan Lofts are designed to showcase sixteen-foot ceilings, original brick walls, historic wooden floors, and massive beams harvested from hundred-year-old Texas Heartwood Pines. This historic piece of land is home to Houstonians of all ages who appreciate historic roots.

- One, two and three bedroom lofts
- Over 60 floor plans
- Direct Skyline views
- Open ceilings up to 16' with exposed beams
- Athletic Club
- Welcome Center with inviting social area and complimentary coffee bar
- Business and Conference Host Center
- Multi-level Parking Garage

alexanlofts@tcresidential.com • www.alexanlofts.com

HRC Dinner
Human Rights Campaign
March 15th



Galleria III Location
713.626.3318



Any Tuxedo
Rental for
the HRC Dinner
\$59.95

15% OFF ALL RETAIL PRICES

9 Houston Locations,
Over 460 Locations Nationwide

Danny Kallen, District Manager

Recent Releases

bursts. *Clean* is a study in transitions, mirroring the well-traveled life of its creator, who has spent time as a DJ playing in Paris, Rome, Cologne, and Glasgow, having been originally born in France but growing up in Africa. Those travels have opened up his songwriting and ear for innovative production as his seamless integration of analog instruments and electronic sequences has dressed this album up for any occasion. From Astralwerks (www.astralwerks.com). —LW

Various Artists

Naked Music Presents Bare Essentials 2



The attractively named record label Naked Music out of the San Francisco area has been releasing records for nearly five years, constantly re-conceiving and metamorphosing the boundaries of their own signature sound. This latest release is a series of remixes and unreleased tracks from the throng of international artists on their roster. The sound is based in dance music but is undeniably dressed in funk and soul, perhaps sampling from those sources but all the same cloaking



deborah vial cooler heart

Deborah Vial Cooler Heart

Vocalist Deborah Vial is a former member of the all-lesbian band Blanche Fury. This is her first CD as a solo artist, but Deborah is hardly a newcomer. With a strong voice and cathartic lyrics, the openly gay Deborah Vial has played at Lilith Fair and opened for some big-name acts. Vial has joined Dallas-based adult contemporary band Astrogen, and they both were featured at Chances last month. On Last Beat Records (www.lastbeatrecords.com). For more info: www.deborahvial.com/index.html, www.astrogen.com, and www.chanceshouston.com. —AR

those origins in a most clever fashion. One unique aspect of the compilation is that some of Naked's upstart artists such as Quant and Andy Caldwell can be heard remixing the work of the more established Blue Six and Miguel Migs. As a whole it plays like a dance party—very tribal and focused with enough density to implore future listeners, with gorgeous retro artwork that will reel in the rest of us. From Astralwerks (www.astralwerks.com). —LW

Jody Watley Midnight Lounge



Contemporary soul meets house/funk rhythms. Jody Watley is no stranger to dance music. Her albums have topped R&B, pop, jazz, soul, and dance charts. Watley's latest album, *Midnight Lounge*, is a collection of soulful dance beats and has the dance/soul diva combining elements from house, mid-tempo disco, R&B, and soul. From Shanachie Entertainment (www.shanachie.com). For more info: www.flylifemusic.com and www.missjodywatley.com. —AR

disco classic song. I was thinking about doing "Ring My Bell," but because my last name is Bell it's a bit too corny. You can't do "I Will Survive" because it's been done so many times before. We were thinking about doing "Hot Stuff" by Donna Summer because I thought the riff would be really good for Vince, that [sings] "doodoo dooodoo dooodoo / dooodoo dooodoo dooodoo" with the synthesizer. Then I was listening to The Three Degrees greatest hits, like "The Runner". . .

It's interesting that you should mention that song because Giorgio Moroder, who worked with Donna Summer, also worked with The Three Degrees.

And they're fantastic! I love Giorgio Moroder's early stuff with Donna Summer on Casablanca.

You performed a duet with k.d. lang on "(No More Tears) Enough Is Enough" about 10 years ago. Do you have favorite songs from the heyday of the disco era that you could imagine recording in the future?

This is our 10th album, and Vince and I have written more than 150 original songs. When you do cover versions, it's so easy to get labeled as a covers band, and you can't do your own stuff. We have to be quite careful. Obviously there are loads and loads of songs like that that I would love to do. I'll tell you one song which I dare not touch, and that's "And I'm Telling You I'm Not Going."

Yes, Jennifer Holliday.

That is just incredible, that song.

You could do it. You could totally pull it off. And also Blue Mink. [sings] "Take a pinch of white man/wrap him up in black skin . . ." It's called "Melting Pot."

You were in New York in mid-January for a taping of VH1's "All Star Jams" program. How did that go?

It was really good. They were very pleased to see us and meet us. What's great about it is that now there are so many gay people in the industry. There always have been, but they were invisible before. I've always been out. But then you'd go around doing all these radio shows, and they'd be in the closet. If you met them again over a 10-year period, they would slowly come out to you. Now, because it's much more of a given thing, it's so upfront. All the press that we've gotten has been through the gay media. None of the straight lifestyle magazines are interested in us, which I think is a shame.

You know you'll always have a place with the gay press.

Check out www.outsmartmagazine.com for more of Gregg's interview with Andy Bell.

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).

The Schrader Clinic aims to provide superior healthcare services for Houston's gay and lesbian community in a professional and discreet environment. We support our client's well being by providing superior clinical care and compassion.



Shannon R. Schrader MD; Penny M. Rohde PAC; Carlos A. Farinas MD; Julia A. Kovacs MD

S_c

THE
SCHRADER
CLINIC

"We strive to maintain exceptional quality and unparalleled customer service."

Family Practice • HIV Care
Internal Medicine / Endocrinology

4101 Greenbriar • Suite 200
Houston, Texas 77098

Most insurance plans accepted.

(713) 526-1717

Visit our website at:
www.theschraderclinic.com



▶ ▶ READY ▶ ▶ SET ▶ ▶ GET TESTED ▶

Free Anonymous
HIV/STD Testing.
713-526-0555 ext. 226

WALKER
TEXAS LAWYER
Personal Injury
Attorney

Criminal Cases
DWI

JAMES S. WALKER
Committed, Experienced, Aggressive.

Call me for a free no obligation,
professional assessment of your case.

WALKER & HUNTER
P.C.

1924 Portsmouth
Houston, Texas 77098

713.552.1117
1.800.732.2934
walkertx.lawyer@aol.com

Licensed by the Supreme Court of Texas
not board certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.



For service that exceeds your expectations!

If you are buying, selling, moving up, downsizing, relocating or just curious about the market, please call me.

I'm working for you!

BOB ZUCCARELLO
REALTOR®

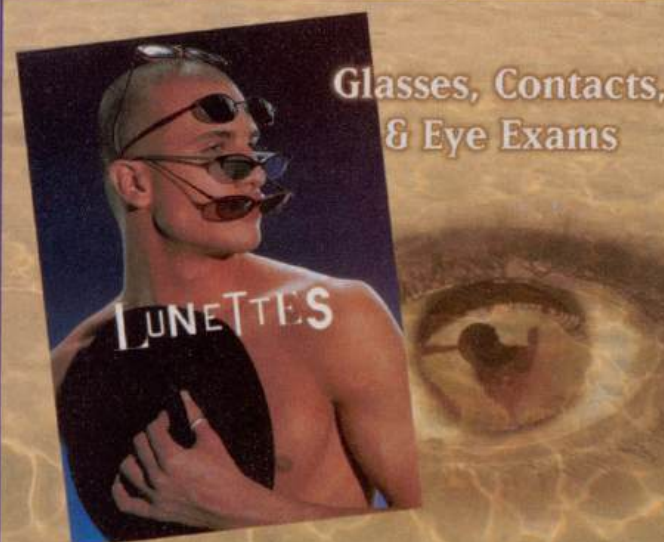
Office: 281 444-5140 x456
Cell: 281 773-7357
Fax: 281 444-0630



Prudential | GARY GREENE
REALTORS®

3910 FM 1960 West, Suite 100, Houston, TX 77068

e-mail: bobz@garygreene.com



Ralph Lauren • Calvin Klein • D&G • Gucci • JPG • Modo
Christian Dior • Kate Spade • Lasik Consultations

Dr. Michael Del Sardo, O.D.

Therapeutic Optometrist
TSO Briargrove
6100 Westheimer, Suite 138

713-785-2022



After months of inspections and mounting tension, the United States proceeds inexorably toward a military action in Iraq. In the administration's view, the basis behind an attack

"I've lived through World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf War, and Afghanistan and dislike wars ... I have limits on 'turning the other cheek'; but no one has convinced me that Iraq has slapped us..."

— Rev. Ralph Lasher
Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection

would be that Saddam Hussein's government has weapons of mass destruction and

"As a gay man, I think we should ... embrace the bigger cause, cherish the simple things: love, friendship, life —not war, death, and destruction."

— Brick Bishop
Artist and massage therapist

intends to use them. In early February, secretary of state Colin Powell testified before the UN Security Council on what he called previously classified evidence indicating

that Hussein was circumventing arms inspectors. The intelligence that Powell pro-

"Compassion dictates that we accomplish what we should have in 1991: Free the Iraqi people from the nightmare that is Saddam Hussein if required unilaterally, just as Clinton did in Bosnia, Kosovo, and Haiti."

— Shari Goldsberry
President, Log Cabin Republicans-Houston

vided consisted of hints, overheard conversations, and implications as well as information that had been known when inspectors left Iraq in 1991.

Complicating the war picture is North

"A community of unique individuals cannot express one opinion about such a multidimensional topic. However, we can stand united in our complete and unwavering support for the brave men and women in our Armed Forces."

— Mark Boline
Coldwell Banker United Realtors

Korea, which, according to CIA director George Tenet, not only has one or two nuclear weapons, but also the ability to

deliver them to at least the west coast of the United States with a three-stage rocket. The administration downplayed the significance of Tenet's testimony. According to one source: "This old news is why it's important

"I do not believe that this war has anything to do with oil, land, or the people of any one country. We have become so caught up in our lives and our religion and the driving force to be 'right' that we have forgotten that we are talking about souls on both sides of the ocean. I feel that our president is a good man. He showed that with the space shuttle loss a couple of weeks ago. But on the other hand, he has got to be right, damn the rest."

— Mitch Rainey
President, American Veterans for Equal Rights

to proceed with deployment of missile defense and also why the president is focused on multilateral diplomatic talks to deal with North Korea."

We asked an array of individuals in the community for their thoughts about the prospect for a U.S. attack on Iraq.

— Michael Stuart

For more comments, see
www.outsmartmagazine.com

Brennan & Johnson
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



We put the heart of the firm into every case for every client.

HIV LAW • Adoption • Real Estate • Custody Disputes
Cohabitation Agreements • Wills & Probates
Personal Injury • Criminal Law

FREE CONSULTATION • 713.522.1211

2402 COMMONWEALTH • HOUSTON, TX 77006 • WWW.LAWBRENNAN.COM

JR 2003 Ford Ford Ranger FX4
JACK ROACH FORD
6445 SOUTHWEST FREEWAY • HOUSTON, TX 77074

Serving our customers with
dignity and respect
since 1921

Thank you OutSmart Readers!
Jack Roach Ford — Voted one of the Best Auto Dealerships in the Readers Choice Awards



Stephen Rubin

Certified Sales & Leasing
Main Number: 281-588-5000
Direct: 281-588-5036
Fax: 281-588-5428
E-mail: srubin@jackroach.com
www.jackroach.com



Sign of the times: Protesters at the February 15 anti-war rally in Eleanor Tinsley Park.
PHOTOGRAPHY: YVONNE FEECE

NewsBriefs

BELL TO SPEAK AT HRC DINNER

The Houston chapter of the Human Rights Campaign will present Rep. Chris Bell with the first John Walzel Political Equality Award on Saturday, March 15.

Judy Shepard, the mother of hate-crime victim Matthew Shepard, will present the award to Bell for his contributions to the



Judy Shepard

HRC. Bell will make the keynote speech at the sixth annual black-tie event at the Houston Intercontinental Hotel.



Robert Gant

Bell, who will attend the event with his wife Alison, is a freshman in the U.S. House of Representatives and a former Houston city councilman.

The Houston chapter has renamed its political equality award to honor Walzel, the prominent local jeweler and community supporter who died in 2002.

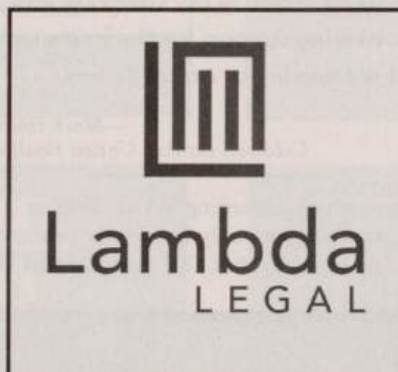
Queer as Folk actor Robert Gant will be the featured speaker. Frank Billingsley, KPRC weatherman, will emcee. Tickets: 713/522-1115 or www.hrchoouston.org.

—Josef Molnar

TOWN HALL MEETING VIEWS SODOMY CASE

A week before Lambda Legal presents arguments in the Texas sodomy law case before the Supreme Court, the advocacy group will hold a town hall meeting on the issue in Houston.

Lee Taft from the Dallas office of Lambda Legal will host the event on March 20, 6:30–8 p.m., at the Houston GLBT



Community Center. Mitchell Katine, attorney for case petitioners John Lawrence and Tyron Garner, will co-host the meeting, which is free and open to the public.

The Stonewall Law Association of Greater Houston and the State Bar of Texas section on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identifications Issues are co-sponsors.

More coverage of *Lawrence and Garner v. Texas* begins on page 56.

ACTIVISTS BIKE INTO HOUSTON

On April 3 and 4, lesbian rights activists Carrie Stone and Elisia Ross will stop in Houston on their cross-country bicycle tour to promote equal rights for GLBT relationships. The GAYducks: Get All Your Ducks in a Row ride began in St. Augustine, Florida, on

February 25. On April 4, the Houston GLBT Community Center will host a welcome reception for Stone and Ross. More info: www.GAYducks.org.

ROYALTY GATHERS AT RICH'S

An array of past Miss Gay Houston and Mr. Gay Houston titleholders will gather at Rich's Houston on March 21 to honor drag performer Dyan Michaels, who died in January. These winners will include Ricci Alan and Kara Dion,



Miss Gay Houston Kara Dion



Mr. Gay Houston Ricci Alan

crowned in 2002. Artist John Palmer, Mr. Gay Houston 1999, will create a painting memorializing Michaels, which will be auctioned to benefit Montrose Clinic. In an unusual combined pageant, Mr. and Miss Gay Houston 2003 will be chosen.

—continued on page 42

BAYTOWN
Ford

Over 800 NEW FORD CARS, TRUCKS, SUV's & USED VEHICLES AVAILABLE

2003 Expedition

2ND CHANCE FINANCING IS OUR SPECIALTY

If we can't get your loan approved, we will give you \$200 for trying!

4110 I-10 East (at John Martin Rd exit)
Just 15 min. from downtown Houston Baytown, TX

Fred Ramsey (281) 839-3466

Jay Bomberger (281) 839-3339

LASIK

Laser Vision Correction
Managed through Laser Eye Institute

It's been said the eyes are the windows to the soul—
We do windows.

Laser Vision Correction for Nearsightedness, Farsightedness and Astigmatism.
Starting at \$849 per eye

Today's Vision
RIVER OAKS
The Ones To See
1426 W. Gray (Next to Cafe Express)
713-640-2020

Bruce D. Krutinger, O.D. F.A.A.O.
Therapeutic Optometrist

Having Difficulty With Your Relationships?

"Getting the Love You Want"
workshops for couples

or

"Keeping the Love You Find"
workshops for individuals

CAN HELP!

This intensive 20-hour experience is based on the IMAGO Relationship Therapy developed by Harville Hendrix, Ph.D., author of the best selling books *Getting the Love You Want*, *A Guide for Couples* and *Keeping the Love You Find*, *A Guide for Singles*. IMAGO is guided by the belief that relationships have a hidden purpose: that of healing childhood wounds. IMAGO Relationship Therapy stresses the importance of understanding and cooperating with this unconscious agenda and offers specific ways to access the nurturing and care from your relationship that was missed in childhood.



Workshops presented by
Patrick J. Vachon, LMSW-ACP

"Getting the Love You Want" Workshops
For Heterosexual Couples • \$550/couple

March 28–30, 2003
August 15–17, 2003

"Getting the Love You Want" Workshops
For Lesbian & Gay Couples • \$550/couple

February 28–March 2, 2003
July 11–13, 2003
October 17–19, 2003

"Keeping the Love You Find" Workshops
For Individuals • \$300/person

April 25–27, 2003
September 26–28, 2003

To register or for more information,
call Patrick Vachon at (713) 524-1771 ext. 1
or visit www.ImagoHealing.com

Fabulous Food! Fabulous Service!
Fabulous Host!
Let "...of course!" be your next course



Box Lunches
Luncheon Meetings
Corporate Catering



Buffets & Seated Dinners



Wedding Receptions
& Holy Unions



Cocktail Receptions
Office and Private Parties

**YOUR COMPLETE EVENT
PLANNING & CATERING SERVICE
FOR EFFORTLESS ENTERTAINING**



1701 California Street • Houston, TX 77006

713/526-1800
713/528-6336 Fax

WWW.OFCOURSEONLINE.COM
WWW.CLAYTONCATERING.COM

LeftOut
by Daryl Moore

DUBYA'S TRUE COLORS

Bush doesn't want to appear yellow

It's been a year since Bush announced that he would keep us posted about where we stand in the War on Terror by providing us with the following color-coded system:

Green	Blue	Yellow	Orange	Red
Low risk of terror attack	Continuing, general risk of terror attack	Increased and predictable threat of attack	High risk, likely terror attack	Severe risk, attack may be imminent.

In the last year, we've been green, blue, and yellow. But no matter what color we were, we never got any instruction from the government except to be alert and look for signs of "suspicious activity," whatever that is.

Last month, however, we were under an "orange alert." We were told that a terrorist attack was likely. Our new homeland security director instructed us to buy duct tape and plastic sheeting.

I didn't bother. I figured I would just wait until we were on "red alert" before I would fight the crowds and go for the real stuff, duct tape and plastic sheeting. After all, I had Saran Wrap and Scotch tape. Surely, in the event of a chemical, biological, or radiological attack, those would work just as well.

I've never understood the purpose of Dubya's color-coded warning system. I believe his cabinet came up with it to give him a way to remember what our risk level is and to scare the American public into forgetting about domestic problems.

Thanks to this nifty system, on any

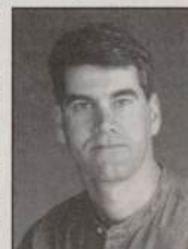
given day—and depending on what color alert we're under—we now allegedly know what our chances are of getting blown up or being anthraxed.

And people are actually trying to follow this panic-by-color system. They're stocking up on batteries and transistor radios. They're keeping their cars full of \$2/gallon gas. Some were filmed covering their houses with plastic sheeting and duct tape. One acknowledged that it probably wouldn't help, but it gave him something to do.

That's the problem with Bush's color-coded approach to terrorism. The colors don't mean anything. If we're blue or yellow, and we're at risk of being attacked,

continued on page 46

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.



OutRight
by Dale Carpenter

THE TASK FORCE AND WAR

The anti-invasion stance of the NGLTF is wrong

Echoing its wrongheaded anti-Gulf War stand of 12 years ago, the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) has joined up with a gaggle of peace-at-any-price groups issuing a statement opposed to military action against Iraq. The anti-war stand is wrong for two reasons. First, there are good reasons to support a war if it comes to that. Second, while the issue of possible war is a serious one, it is not a particularly gay issue.

On the substantive question of whether to attack Iraq, NGLTF offers unpersuasive reasons for its opposition.

The anti-war statement the Task Force has signed onto begins by agreeing with the Bush administration that "Saddam Hussein cannot be allowed to possess weapons of mass destruction."

It's worth considering why this is so. Put to one side Saddam's unbelievable cruelty to his own people. He is (1) a megalomaniacal dictator (2) with a long record of aggression against his neighbors (3) in a region of vital strategic importance (4) who is hell-bent on getting his hands on nukes and (5) is surrounded by fearful sycophants telling him he can do no wrong and lose no war.

Those five facts represent an explosive combination. They make



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.

Saddam an unusually dangerous man prone to gross overestimation of his power. He attacked Iran in 1980 thinking he would win a decisive victory in short order. He invaded Kuwait and stayed there, believing he could beat the United States and its allies. He attacked Israel with 50 missiles thinking he would spark a region-wide Arab-Israeli conflict. All bad judgments.

A nuclear-armed Soviet Union was deterred during the Cold War because its leaders understood the costs of war, as do the leaders of nuclear-armed China and Russia today. Not so Saddam. A nuclear-armed Saddam would be an effectively undeterrable megalomaniac with a megaloweapon.

How do NGLTF and its "progressive" allies plan to prevent what all agree would be a calamity? "We support rigorous UN weapons inspections to assure Iraq's effective disarmament," they say.

Let's pause to enjoy the irony of this statement. Weapons inspectors are in Iraq now, as they were not in the last years of the Clinton administration, *only* because of the threats of military action issued by the Bush administration, which threats the left has spent the past few months denouncing as war mongering.

Weapons inspections alone will not likely "assure" Iraq's disarmament. Saddam's regime has lied, obstructed, and delayed to thwart them over the past 12 years. It's foolhardy to think a hundred or so inspectors will ferret out all the weapons or weapons programs in a hostile country the size of California.

NGLTF and its peace-loving comrades



Unique and Distinctive Eyewear



Eye Exams • Contacts

DR. EVAN MAPES
4317 Montrose Blvd. #2

spectacles
ON MONTROSE

713/529.EYES

Gay Beach

7 Gay Bars

60-Plus Attractions

Clothing-Optional Area

Complimentary Breakfast

Happy Hour

Rates From
\$59.95

GALVESTON
HOLLYWOOD
N



Voted BEST LODGING 2002
Gayest & Greatest Readers' Choice Awards
2001 & 2002

THE ISLAND'S 1ST GAY RESORT

31st & Seawall • Galveston Island • 1.888.899.0899 • 409.750.8900



Osaka
Japanese Restaurant

515 WESTHEIMER, SUITE E.
713.533.9098
OPEN DAILY, 11AM - LATE NIGHT

Carolyn L. Gardiner, M.D.
Board Certified Internal Medicine



- Gay & Lesbian Health Issues
- Well Women Exams
- Treatment of Acute & Chronic Illnesses
- Screening for Hypertension, Diabetes and Cholesterol
- Most Insurance Plans Accepted
- FREE PARKING

We've moved!

4126 Southwest Freeway
Suite 1100
Houston, Texas 77027
Tele 713 965-9898

LeftOut

continued from page 44

we're not being told what to do. We're just told we don't need to buy anything special and to go on with our lives while we maintain a lookout for some nutcase with a box-cutter or shoe bomb. At least with an "orange alert" we're instructed to do something, even if it won't do any good.

God only knows what we're supposed to do on "red alert." Neither Bush nor anyone in his newly created but underfunded Homeland Security Department has told us. I guess they figure that if we all have duct tape and plastic, what else could we need? (How about Absolut Vodka and marijuana brownies? Who cares if Bush doesn't

drink, and the attorney general doesn't believe marijuana can be medicinal?)

This whole thing is ridiculous. It's a sham to scare the American public into doing something—namely, going to war against Iraq—with the hope that if we do something like take out Saddam Hussein, things will get better at home. Or at least we'll be too distracted to figure out things aren't better at home, that we're not better off than we were two years ago.

The Bush Administration's color-coded scare chart should be changed to show what's really going on in America. If it were, it might look something like this:

Green	Blue	Yellow	Orange	Red
Dubya's approval ratings are 82%. No need to distract the American public.	Dubya's numbers are down. The economy is sliding. Talk about terrorism to distract the public.	Unemployment is up, the stock market is down, and North Korea says it can shoot a missile to U.S. Talk more about terrorism. Scare people into forgetting about North Korea and the U.S. economy.	Support for a unilateral war against Iraq is fading, millions plan war protest. Talk about terrorism. Make it sound imminent. Scare people so badly they think plastic and duct tape might help them.	Dubya's approval ratings drop below 40%. He sees himself like his dad, a one-term. Talk about terrorism non-stop. Scare the hell out of people so they can't focus on anything else.

We are on "orange alert." Things are not going well at home. The stock market is down. The economy is sliding. Unemployment is rising. And the Republicans are in charge of everything.

It's time to focus on the real problems and to hold the Administration, the House, and the Senate accountable. Duct tape and plastic sheeting won't do. ■

OutRight

continued from previous page

worry that a war "will increase human suffering, arouse animosity toward our country, increase the likelihood of terrorist attacks, damage the economy, and undermine our moral standing in the world." In fact, a war is more likely to do the opposite of all these things.

Human suffering in Iraq, already at unbearable levels under Saddam, would be alleviated if he were removed. There might be some short-term anger at the United States in the Arab world and some corresponding increase in terrorist recruitment, but in the long term, most (especially most Iraqis) will welcome the elimination of a hated dictator and the restoration of civilization. As for the economy, the last war showed that returning regional stability to the Middle East by beating an aggressor is a boon. And if the "moral standing" of the

United States around the world really suffers because we liberate yet another country from medievalism, we'll just have to bear that cost.

What's remarkable about this discussion so far is how none of it has anything in particular to do with gay rights. If there is a gay interest at all, it lies in removing an antigay regime to make the lives of gay Iraqis at least marginally tolerable. But that would counsel gay support for a war.

The Task Force's only explanation of the connection between a potential Iraq war and gay rights is this: "In the aftermath of September 11th, we have become increasingly alarmed," said executive director Lorri Jean in a press release. "Without the constitutional rights and protections now being gutted by this administration, our GLBT movement would not be where it is today."

Jean did not specify which rights it

have been "gutted"—courts have upheld almost every step taken so far to increase domestic security—but they evidently don't include the right to issue non sequiturs in press releases.

The measures NGLTF complains of came in response to September 11, not in anticipation of military action against Saddam. They would have been taken regardless of whether we attack Iraq.

To the extent the elimination of Saddam would increase American security, as I believe it would, it would relieve pressure to further reduce liberties. Besides, there is no evidence the war on terror has diminished the ability of gay groups to fight for gay civil rights.

Thus, while I share to a limited extent the Task Force's professed civil-liberties concerns, that is a poor reason for a gay group to oppose a war against Iraq.

So we come back to the question, why take a stand at all?

The answer, I think, is that NGLTF has completed its transformation from an organization concerned about gay rights to an organization concerned about all the world's problems. It is no longer a gay organization, and barely pretends to be. ■

OTHER VOICES

For additional perspectives on the community and war, see page 39.



You deserve a bank that really understands you and your neighborhood.

SUPERIOR BRANCH SERVICES

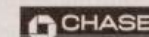
At Chase, we know how important it is to understand—and meet—our neighbors' needs. That's why we strive to provide the conveniences that make your life easier.

Appreciate a full range of products and services designed to meet your needs, coupled with the kind of high service quality you deserve. Stop in today! Visit or call one of our 49 convenient branches in the Greater Houston area. 1-800-235-8522

Chase • Downtown
712 Main Street
713-216-4775

Chase • Reagan (Heights)
545 W. 19th Street
713-868-6791

Chase • Upper Kirby
2435 West Alabama
713-525-2287



THE RIGHT RELATIONSHIP IS EVERYTHING.®

© 2003 J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. All rights reserved. J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, Member FDIC.

Kenneth W. Lester D.C.

Chiropractic Care
Rehabilitation
Soft Tissue Injuries
Sports Injuries
Myofascial Release
Auto Accidents
Work-Related Injuries
Personal Injuries

KIRBY HEALTH & WELLNESS
2727 Kirby Drive, Suite 324 713.526.5252

**Center for
Healthy
Sexuality**

Treatment of:

- Intimacy & Relationship Issues
- Sexual Addiction
- Sexual Abuse
- Obsessive/Compulsive Disorders
- Depression/Anxiety Disorders

Individual, Couple and
Group Therapies Available

Barbara Levinson,
Ph.D., RN, LMFT

Licensed Marriage
& Family Therapist

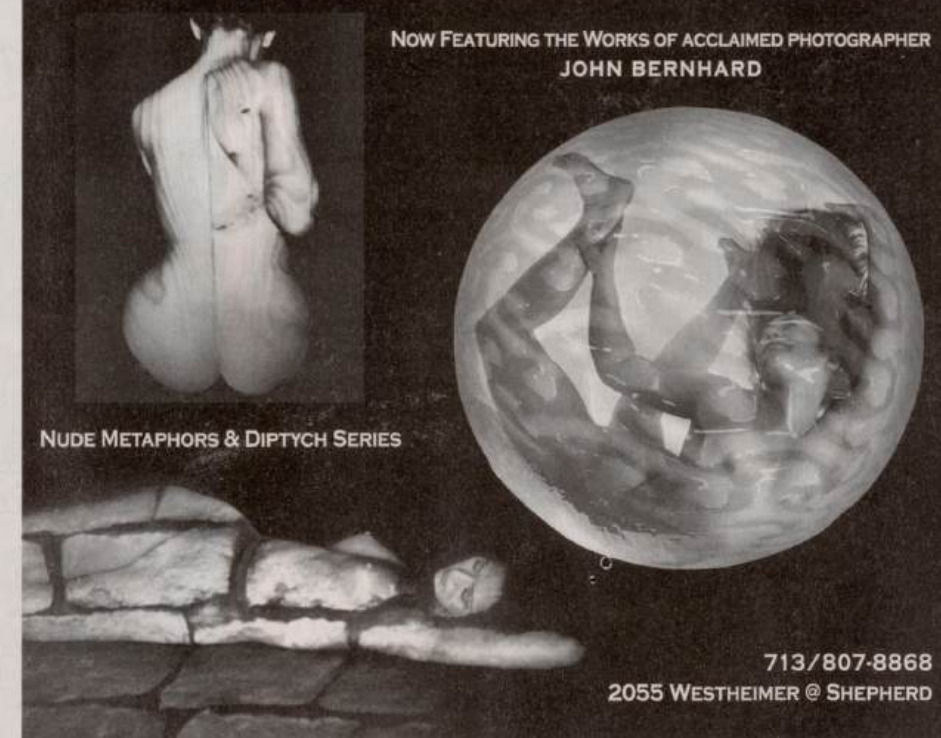
(713) 785-7111

2400 Augusta Cr., Suite 120, Houston, TX 77057

ESCARPA

GALLERY & UNIQUE FINE GIFTS
FINE ART OBJECTS, GIFTS AND ACCESSORIES FOR HOME AND OFFICE

NOW FEATURING THE WORKS OF ACCLAIMED PHOTOGRAPHER
JOHN BERNHARD



NUDE METAPHORS & DIPTYCH SERIES

713/807-8868

2055 WESTHEIMER @ SHEPHERD

MONEY HUNT

Though not a treasure chest, the city does offer access to some grants

Cheryl Murray, Mayor Lee Brown's grants team director, regularly interrupts her work to answer a call referred by 311. "How can I get a city grant?" the caller asks. Paulette Wagner in Housing and Community Development tells the same story.

Nonprofits ask the city for grants for everything from community centers and housing developments to HIV/AIDS service contracts and \$5,000 Planning Department neighborhood matching grants. Many organizations have become savvy enough to read the department's grants web page first (www.ci.houston.tx.us/hcd/newpages/consolidated.html).

The city devotes almost no general fund (local tax) dollars to grants. Instead, it administers or "passes through" grants of federal and state dollars. The bulk of these grants are concentrated in three departments—Housing and Community

Development, Health, and the Mayor's Office—with Planning offering small matching grants for things like esplanade plantings.

The buzz about "city grants" floating around has apparently confused some people, who innocently ask if there are any grants available for their particular nonprofit. Some people see the city as a treasure chest of grants (not to mention contracts and consulting jobs) for the well connected. The truth is that in a very real sense, city government may be the city's largest nonprofit partially funded by external grants. Our \$2.5 billion budget includes \$147.5 million in federal, state, and foundation grant funds, and we need to do an even better job of acquiring grants.

Murray was appointed in 1999 to step up city efforts to win public safety grants. Reflecting the mayor's emphasis on children, she concentrates on juvenile delin-

quency, anti-gang efforts, and after-school program grants.

When someone asks Murray how to get a city grant, or any grant, she recommends some basic resources:

- Funding Fax, the weekly e-mail grants bulletin from the University of Houston Graduate School of Social Work (\$75/year). Contact Amy Blakeney, 713/743-8143 or access www.uh.edu/ocp/tfs.htm.
- Houston Public Library (central) searchable foundation database.
- Federal Register and Texas Register (www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/aces140.html and www.governor.state.tx.us/divisions/stategrants).
- United Way Management Assistance Program, which provides consulting and training for nonprofits. Call 713/685-2312.
- Association of Fundraising Professionals (www.afpnet.org).

Murray also hopes to put more grant

information on the city website. (Information about the mayor's grants team and youth programs: www.ci.houston.tx.us/opsdp/grants.htm.)

Like many grant writers, Murray learned on the job. As she sees it, "The city's main role is to help nonprofits, which carry the load, become stronger and more successful with grant applications. There's a lot of money out there."

It may not seem that way to some Houston nonprofits caught in the downward spiral of corporate contributions and energy industry collapses. I was surprised to learn recently that U.S. foundation grants have more than doubled since 1996, and that despite the economy the outlook for grants is quite rosy. According to a new report from the Foundation Center, foundations gave about \$29 billion in 2001. The center tracks more than 56,000 grant-making foundations, twice the number of foundations since 1987. The report notes that these newer, mostly independent foundations have brightened the grant picture because most will receive their principal endowments over the next 15 years.

Paulette Wagner, manager of Strategic Planning, helps administer the largest and most flexible block of grants that passes through the city: \$57 million in federal Housing and Urban Development grants that

fund the city's entire Housing and Community Development Department. The grants are broken into four categories:

- Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), \$38.4 million, is the primary source of federal funding for cities to improve the physical, social, and economic conditions in low- and moderate-income communities.
- HOME, \$13.7 million, funds affordable housing through mortgage assistance and construction funds and provides home repair for the elderly and disabled.
- Emergency Shelter Grant, \$1.2 million, for homeless services.
- Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS, \$4.4 million, funds Houston's problem-riddled program. Let me just say for now that new director Daisy Stiner is working hard to improve the administration of the program.

The city applies for the grants, which are based on population, income levels, and housing needs, through its lengthy consolidated plan. Many hands have a finger in this big pie: nonprofits, department heads, and, traditionally, citizens with varying degrees of influence. The final plan is approved by the housing director and the mayor and adopted by council.

By law, 15 percent of the funds (about \$8.7 million) can be used for "public services," including health care as well as elderly and

disabled services, homeless and youth services, job training, and so forth. In FY2003, \$182,000 of this went to HIV/AIDS education, \$120,000 was spent on health transportation services, and \$610,000 was allocated for tuberculosis control, all of which impact the GLBT community.

As money gets even tighter at the city, the fight for these funds will intensify. Some council members may be looking at CDBG funds to help pay for the city's storm water-drainage needs (to offset the need for a \$3.50-\$5/month drainage fee). I would also hope that we could find more federal public service funds for HIV/AIDS and Hep C prevention, which is greatly needed, especially considering the city's miniscule HIV/AIDS general fund contribution of \$200,000-\$300,000.

Only slightly smaller than the \$57 million CDBG bundle is the \$52.7 million in grants that fund half the city health department budget. As you may know, about \$5.4 million

Annise Parker is serving her third term in Houston City Council At-large Position 1 and has announced her candidacy for city controller. To receive her bi-monthly e-mail newsletter, contact annise.parker@cityofhouston.net or call 713/247-2014. Her website is www.ci.houston.tx.us/citygovt/council/1.



Docu-Scan, Inc.

Document Scanning at its Very Best

Docu-Scan, Inc. will save your company time, space and money by converting your vast amounts of paperwork to Compact Disk in an easily retrievable manner. Whether it be medical or legal files, employment or accounting records, insurance claim files — any type of business record — from the smallest to the largest, imaging and archiving technologies provide your business with increased organization and flexibility by placing millions of documents at your fingertips. Data storage to Compact Disk can be utilized for your closed or stored files, as well as current files, all of which can easily be updated.

Image/Text recorded to CD allows for:

- Comprehensive Indexing & Tabbing
- Word Search Availability
- Easy Document Access & Printing
- Easy Document Review & Recovery
- Data Storage/Archiving
- Security & Confidentiality—ensures unalterable media
- Reduction in Photocopying Costs & Storage Costs

Additional Services Include:

- Services Designed to Fit Your Individual Needs
- File/Document Preparation & Reassembly
- X-Rays Scanned to CD
- Off-Site Backup Storage Available
- Pick Up & Delivery

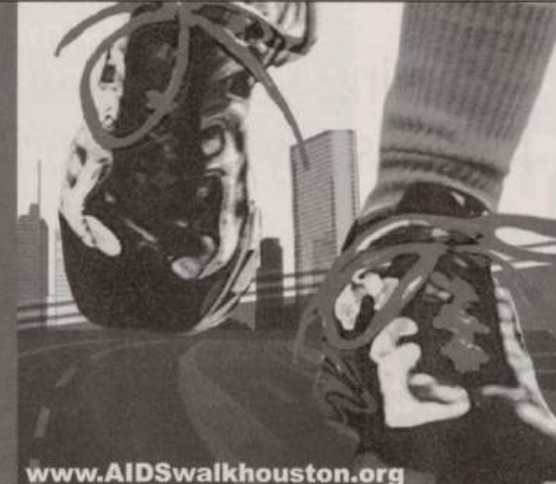
Docu-Scan, Inc.

Tel: 713-868-1614 • Fax: 713-802-9806

*Take it off
Take it All off*

Town & Country
Plastic Surgery
Professional & Discreet Laser Hair Removal
713-467-0146
Complimentary Consultation
www.yarishmd.com 10565 Katy Fwy., Suite 100

AIDS Walk Houston



www.AIDSwalkhouston.org

**Raising Awareness
One Step at a Time**

**Sunday, March 9, 2003
8:00 am Registration
10:00 am WALK**

**Sam Houston Park - Downtown
1000 Bagby Street**

**2003
AIDS
WALK
HOUSTON**

AIDS Foundation Houston • AIDS Coalition of Coastal Texas • AVES • The Center for AIDS
Bread of Life • Brentwood Community Foundation • Families Under Urban & Social Attack
Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program • American Red Cross Houston Chapter • St. Hope Foundation
Fifth Ward Enrichment Program • Houston Area Community Services • People with AIDS Coalition

JPMorganChase
ExxonMobil

Chase
OutSmart

Davis + Oncken LLP

Representing Clients In Personal Injury And Criminal Law Matters
Former Felony Prosecutors



HOUSTON
713.227.6800

SAN ANTONIO
210.227.6800

DWI • DRUG CASES • INDECENT EXPOSURE
Blair Davis is Board Certified in Criminal Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

Simple Network Solutions

**No More
Computer Headaches
for You and Your Staff!**

www.simplens.com
936.441.5253

Simple Network Solutions
promises to bring a new efficiency
and effectiveness to the way you do business.

- Reduce your capital expenses and operating costs.
- Get more equipment for your budget.
- Know your budgeting expenses and services for the year and control and eliminate hidden costs.
- Services include user-help desk service, asset management, hardware and maintenance, configuration management, training, remote server monitoring, backups and upgrades/patches.
- We can manage your workstations, servers and printers and reduce downtime.
- Let us customize your services to meet the support requirements you need.

Let us be your on-call IT department.



Featured Property of the Month



Open House
Sunday, March 23 • 2-5 PM

Comfortable Montrose bungalow, 2 bedroom, 2 baths. Great sun-room off kitchen! Garage converted into a lounge/exercise room complete with bathroom. Easy living inside the loop!...\$235,000

Glen Fillmore

Independent Realtor
713/875-9482
glenfillmore@aol.com



KAREN DERR & ASSOCIATES REALTY
713/862-1600 • www.KarenDerr.com

Do you like to Travel?

**Have you ever booked a flight, hotel or cruise?
Learn how to get paid for doing just that!**

Become an independent Outside Travel Agent with a reputable company.
Learn how to book travel from home.
\$157.00 Investment required to start your own business.

Earn Commissions and Great Benefits!



Brian Champagne
Independent Travel Agent
Presidential Director's Club Top Producer

(713) 533-1333

If you have Champagne Wishes and Caviar Dreams, go to:
www.IndependentTravelAgents.com

InsideOut at City Hall continued from page 49
of that is federal Centers for Disease Control funds awarded to local HIV/AIDS service providers in a program that has required considerable intervention from council members over the years. (I wrote about this extensively in the August 2002 *OutSmart*.)

The good news is that, so far, grants to the health department are trending up, \$52.7 million in FY2002 from \$41.6 million in FY2000. The bad news is that the economy and budget cuts have stripped the department to bare bones. The contribution from the city's general fund has actually declined:

- \$56.4 million in FY2001
- \$58.1 million in FY2002
- \$54.5 million in FY2003

Health department personnel and services cannot keep pace with the demands of a growing city with an escalating HIV/AIDS and Hep C crisis and a large uninsured population. Organizations seeking grants and services from the department are dealing with about 15 percent fewer employees (operating under greater stress) than three years ago.

Still, I hope this information makes it easier to apply for a grant from the city. As always, council offices are here to help guide you through the processes in the various departments. ■

GentleLASE

safely removes
unwanted hair
without
damaging
the delicate
pores and
structures
of the skin

Elvis Torres, D.O.
Board Certified
Certified Laser Specialists
5420 Dashwood #306
Houston, Texas 77081

713.664.7230 • www.bellaireLaserCenter.com

Helping you buy your home is my first priority!

Mortgage Rates
are at a record low.

Now is the perfect
time to purchase
or refinance!

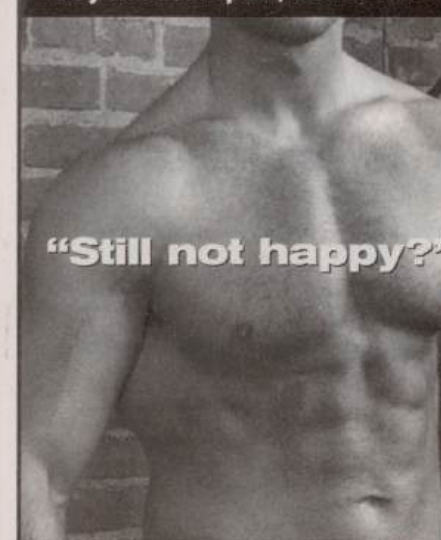


Debbie Ratliff
Loan Officer

- ★ Conventional
- ★ FHA & VA Approved
- ★ Niche Programs 97-103% financing
- ★ Free Pre-Qualification

Home Loan Corporation
1717 St. James Place, Suite 136
Houston, TX 77056
713.297.8000
dratliff@homeloanincorp.com

Daniel Garces Psychotherapist/Consultant



"Still not happy?"

Free Phone Consultation
713.526.8390

Voted "Best Therapist" *OutSmart*
2000, 2001 & 2002
Readers' Choice Awards

Visit "Daniel's Mind" online at: www.dansmind.net
E-mail: dan77006@yahoo.com

Announcing.....

The 2003-04 Blue Book

Copies of this free, Houston Area HIV/AIDS
Resource Directory are now available
at the following locations:

The Ryan White Planning Council Office of Support

2223 West Loop South, Suite 240
Houston, Texas 77027
Office hours: 8 am to 5 pm

The Houston Regional HIV/AIDS Resource Group

500 Lovett Boulevard, Suite 100
Houston, Texas 77006
Office hours: 8 am to 5 pm

There are forty books per case.
Questions? Call 713/572-3724.

It's Time to Refinance!

Rates are at a 40 year low!

Contact me for your FREE evaluation.

E-Z
MORTGAGE
SERVICES
TEXAS

Your Best Source For Home Loans

Tammi
Wise

Senior
Loan Officer/
Co-Owner



(281) 392-4224

www.tammiwise.com

TLLO#640

Sit! Stay!



PET SITTERS

DEDICATED TO THE CARE OF
PETS AND THEIR PEOPLE

713-802-1220

www.sitstaypet.com

with this coupon your

FIRST VISIT FREE

Expires 03/31/03

Health

CRITICAL CARE

Local groups join national efforts
to improve awareness and access

Health Awareness Week

As part of the first National LGBT Health Awareness Week, the Montrose Clinic will host a health fair on Tuesday, March 18. During the 3-7 p.m. event, the clinic will offer free screenings for cholesterol, diabetes, blood pressure, anemia, prostate cancer, and HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. Services will also be available at no charge through three clinic programs: Frost Eye Clinic, Women's Health Clinic, and Body Positive Wellness Center.

The clinic will serve refreshments and give door prizes.

The National Coalition for LGBT Health has organized the health awareness week (March 16-22) across the United States. More than 50 local, state, and national organizations, including Montrose Clinic, founded the coalition in 2000. The website is www.lgbthealth.net.

Check out the website GayHealth (www.gayhealth.com) for more on National LGBT Health Awareness Week.

Cover the Uninsured Week

Forty-one million Americans had no health insurance in 2001, up 1.4 million from the previous year. This figure represents 14.6 percent of the population. Rates of the uninsured increased in all income groups, according to U.S. Census Bureau figures.

At the same time, during 2001, an estimated two million Americans lost their health insurance due to job loss, the largest one-year increase in the number of uninsured in nearly a decade.

As a group, GLBT Americans are insured at even lower rates than other individuals and families.

Because uninsured Americans cannot afford needed medical care, they live sicker and die younger than Americans with health coverage. Three facts:

- Uninsured women who develop breast cancer are twice as likely to die as insured women with the same diagnosis.
- Uninsured men are nearly twice as likely to be diagnosed at a late stage of colon cancer as insured men.
- Eight out of 10 uninsured Americans are in working families.

To focus attention on the plight of Americans who lack health insurance, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and 11 other national organizations have organized Cover the Uninsured Week (March 10-16). This endeavor will include grassroots events across the United States.

Cover The Uninsured Week • March 10-16

When you're uninsured, life turns out differently.

There are 41 million Americans with no health insurance.

March 10-16 is Cover The Uninsured Week in your community. Get involved—and help get America covered.

CoverTheUninsuredWeek.org

U.S. Chamber of Commerce • AFL-CIO • The Business Roundtable • Service Employees International Union • Healthcare Leadership Council • American Medical Association • American Nurses Association • Health Insurance Association of America • Coalition for the Elderly • Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association • American Hospital Association • Federation of American Hospitals • Catholic Health Association of the United States • LGBT • United Way of America • The California Endowment • W. E. B. DuBois Foundation • The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Real world: An ad produced for Cover the Uninsured Week.

Locally, the Houston GLBT Community Center will serve as a clearinghouse for information produced by Cover the Uninsured Week.

"By helping to disseminate the compelling facts, we hope to help encourage a dialogue in our city about the lack of insurance, which is a critical, often hidden issue for GLBT Houstonians," center president Clarence Burton Bagby says.

Check out www.covertheuninsured.org or www.houstonglbtcenter.org for more information. ■

New Homeowners Insurance Markets!

Experience.
Professionalism.
Courteous Service!

For Auto,
Home &
Health

Jeffrey Bules

713.661.7700

Schmerler Insurance Agency

6575 W. Loop South Ste. 185 Bellaire, TX 77401 • SchmerlerAgency.com



Platinum and Diamond for a
Lifetime Commitment.

IWMarks

Fine Fashion Jewelry, Diamonds,
Bridal Jewelry and Better Swiss Watches
3841 Bellaire Blvd. • 713-668-5000
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 10-6 Thu. 10-9



H
HOUSTON
HOUSE

High Rise
Apartment Homes
1617 Fannin
Houston, TX 77002
713/308-2000



www.houstonhouseapts.com

Experience not just inside the loop, but the heart of downtown with breathtaking views from the privacy of your own spacious balcony. From the convenient location our residents choose from downtown abundant variety of restaurants, theaters, nightlife, museums, baseball and shopping centers.

Your home offers paid electric, no utility deposit, 24 hour information desk, closed circuit TV monitoring, work out facilities and sauna, clubroom for private parties, guest suites, maid service, onsite grocery store and deli, dry cleaning and wash fold service, panoramic heated pool.

One Bedroom apartments starting at \$775.00

Corporate Suites Available

Leasing Line: 713/308-2000

Bring this ad in and receive 1 month free rent!

Wouldn't it be nice
to have a Realtor
in the family?

Call me...
I'm family.

Mark Boline

Houston Realtor

713.623.5709

800.506.SOLD

www.houston-realty.com

mark@houston-realty.com



COLDWELL
BANKER

United Realtors

Each office independently
owned and operated.

ACTING *against* HATE

In Kingwood, Laramie Project actors defy Fred Phelps

At Matthew Shepard's funeral in 1998, mourners faced Fred Phelps and his snarling Westboro Baptist Church followers. On March 7 and 8, Kingwood College presents the final performances of *The Laramie Project*, which examines the aftermath of Shepard's murder, and Phelps and his Topeka minions will again be on the scene. The play, written by Moises

Kaufman and the Tectonic Theater Project (and directed by Ron Jones), imparts a message of tolerance lost on Phelps, whose only gift is for hating.

Once Phelps and his gang depart the small northern Harris County campus (www.kingwoodcollege.com), they will protest on March 9 at four Kingwood churches, then at NASA, where they will impugn the memories of the Columbia astronauts.

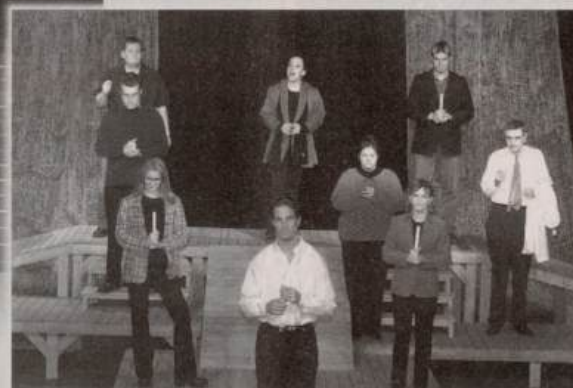
While Phelps is in town, the Houston GLBT Community Center will use his presence for a creative fundraiser inspired by anti-Fred money-raising efforts in Ann Arbor and other cities. For every minute Phelps agitates in the Houston area, individuals can pledge the sum of their choice (at www.houstonglbtcenter.org). Against his will, Phelps may do some good here after all.

—Tim Brookover



ABOVE: Hat act: Ted Pfister as Fred Phelps in *The Laramie Project*. INSET: *The Laramie Project* cast at Kingwood College.

BELOW: Face of hate: Fred Phelps' gang at a past protest.



LARAMIE PROJECT: PHILIPS - COURTESY EQUUSFORCE, INC.

The Magick Cauldron

books • crystals • swords
daggers • tarot cards • herbs
jewelry • classes • counseling
clothing • essential oils

528 WESTHEIMER
(between Montrose & Taft)

713.523.0069
Mon-Sat 10am-7pm • Sun Noon-6pm

Discover MasterCard VISA American Express

MEGAcare.

holistic wellness solutions
for everybody, everywhere, everytime

Non-Toxic Immune System Stimulant

Effective in the treatment of:

- Thrush
- Soft Esophageal Lesions
- Immune System Stimulation
- Skin Lesions
- Herpes
- Psoriasis

Marion Gebhardt
2500 Old Farm Road, Ste. 728C
Houston, TX 77063
713/478-4536
megaheal@aol.com

The Eye Glassiers of Houston
Elegant Eyewear

alain mikli
Lunettes
Eye DC
VERSACE
AIR
DANIEL SWAROVSKI
FRED PARIS

Tel: 713/552-9400
1131 Uptown Park Blvd., Suite 4, Houston, Texas 77056

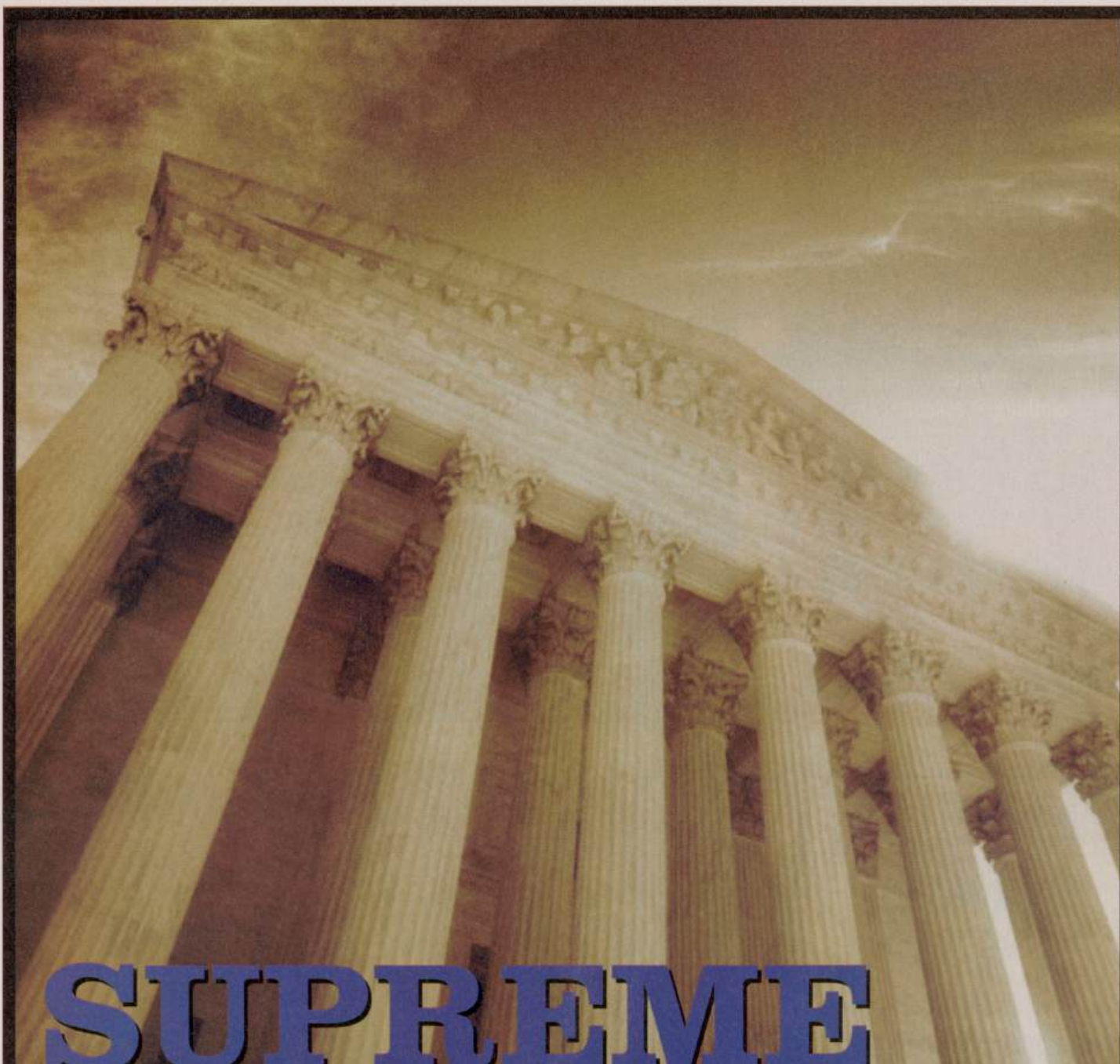
Patrick J. McNamara MD

Houston's Best Doctor - 2001
Houston's Best Doctor - 2002
OutSmart Readers' Poll

Compassionate care for our community
From general adult medical issues to specialized HIV care, Dr. McNamara has been serving the community for over 16 years.

Stephanie Estala FNP-C
Patrick J. McNamara MD

For an appointment call
(713) 52 HIV DR (524-4837)
4101 Greenbriar, Suite 355, Houston, TX 77098



SUPREME CHANCE

The High Court justices hear arguments this month in the Texas sodomy law case. Their ruling will change our lives. by Josef Molnar

On March 26, the United States Supreme Court will hear opening arguments in *Lawrence and Garner v. Texas*, one of the most important cases in the history of gay civil rights.

The Court will decide whether the Texas Homosexual Conduct statute violates the gay community's constitutional right to privacy and equal protection under the law. The statute, commonly known as the Texas sodomy law, impacts the lives of gay and lesbian people by criminalizing consensual sex between same-sex partners. Apart from the issue of outlawing the most private, intimate conduct of American citizens, the law (and similar laws in other states) is often cited by government, industry, the church, and individuals as the foundation for discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people.

THE CASE

In September of 1998, Harris County sheriff's deputies, responding to a neighbor's false report of an armed intruder, entered John Lawrence's apartment and found him engaging in consensual sex with another man, Tyron Garner. The men were arrested, jailed, and convicted under



Lives in the balance: The 1998 arrest of Tyron Garner (l) and John Lawrence led to the Supreme Court case.

the Texas Homosexual Conduct statute, a Class C misdemeanor. They were later released and fined \$200 each.

Even though punishment for the offense does not include imprisonment, Garner and Lawrence were arrested and held overnight based on a 2001 Supreme Court ruling, which states that an officer who witnesses a crime can arrest the offender.

The neighbor who reported the incident was later jailed and convicted of filing a false report, but the damage was done. Garner and Lawrence are now considered sex offenders in several states, a fact that

requires them to register as such should they move to any of those states.

Being stamped with the sex offender label is bad enough. However, disclosure of such a conviction is typically required on applications for everything from apartment rentals to loan requests, and will almost always adversely affect the outcome. Sex offenders are also restricted from a host of professional and lay occupations, such as bus driving, interior design, and teaching. Few people would consider sexual offenders for volunteerism or in child-custody cases.

Garner and Lawrence took the case to the 14th District Court of Appeals, asserting that the homosexual conduct law violated their constitutional rights to privacy and the equal rights amendment of the Texas constitution, which states "equality under the law shall not be denied or abridged because of sex, race, color, creed, or national origin." A three-judge panel of the court overturned the conviction.

The Harris County district attorney appealed the case to the entire body of appellate judges, which reinstated the conviction. Garner and Lawrence then appealed to the state's Criminal Court of Appeals, which denied the case. In December, the Supreme Court announced the March hearing.

THREE CONCERNS

The *Lawrence and Garner v. Texas* case will present three concerns to the Supreme Court. The Justices have the option of addressing all, some, or none of these points, but an affirmative answer to any one of them will result in progress for gay civil rights:

- 1) If the Texas Homosexual Conduct law violates federal equal protection laws;
- 2) if gay people have the right to privacy in their own homes; and
- 3) if the 1986 *Bowers v. Hardwick* decision should be overturned.

Houston lawyer Mitchell Katine has represented Lawrence and Garner in court [see "Making History," page 61]. In a recent interview, he said the Texas law both criminalizes gay people and defines how others perceive gay people.

"It has an impact on how other people view homosexuals," he said, "because we are taught that we make laws that criminalize bad behavior, and that people who violate those laws are bad people."

Katine disagrees with the state's claims that the law equally criminalizes homosexual conduct among all people, both gay and straight. "They have said that this is not a

THE BOWERS V. HARDWICK PRECEDENT

By Michael Stuart

The Supreme Court decided *Bowers v. Hardwick* on June 30, 1986, upholding a lower-court decision that held Georgia's sodomy law constitutional. The law criminalized consensual sodomy between two adults, including gay people.

In 1982, Michael Hardwick was charged with violating Georgia's sodomy law after a police officer (serving a warrant for Hardwick's failure to pay a public-drunkenness fine) entered his home, invited by a houseguest, and caught Hardwick engaged in oral sex with his partner. The district attorney decided not to bring the charges against him. Still, Hardwick brought the suit to a federal court, arguing that the Georgia statute put him, as a homosexual, in imminent danger of arrest, thus violating his constitutional rights. He also said that the statute itself was in violation of the U.S. Constitution.

The district court dismissed the case, indicating that Hardwick had failed to propose a valid claim. Hardwick then took the case to the Court of Appeals, which upheld his claim, citing the Ninth Amendment and the due-process clause of the 14th Amendment when saying that the statute violated Hardwick's fundamental rights to choose how to regulate his private life.

The state appealed the case to the Supreme Court. In its 5-4 opinion, the Court argued that the case only demonstrated that homosexual sex was not a constitutionally protected right.

There were two dissenting opinions. In his dissent, Justice John Paul Stephens indicated that the unreasonably high penalty for violating the Georgia statute—up to eight years in jail—presented an Eighth Amendment issue. Justice Harry Blackmun wrote the second dissent, in which he held that the majority opinion failed to acknowledge the issue presented in the case, which was whether Americans have the fundamental right to make decisions about their own lives. Blackmun wrote that laws like sodomy

—continued on page 59

6TH ANNUAL HOUSTON HRC GALA 2003

SATURDAY
MARCH 15, 2003

HOUSTON
INTERCONTINENTAL
HOTEL

SPONSORS

Continental Airlines Prudential Financial
GREMILLION & CO. FINE ART, INC. TIFFANY & CO.
Bank of America Momentum Audi
Copy.com Carl Moore Antiques
Greenwood King Neiman Marcus
Hotel Derek Rosemount Estate Wines
Lake Austin Spa Resort Saks Fifth Avenue



ROBERT GANT



JUDY SHEPARD



CONGRESSMAN
CHRIS BELL

EMCEE

Frank Billingsley
chief meteorologist KPRC Channel 2

SPECIAL GUESTS

Robert Gant
from the cast of Showtime's *Queer as Folk*
Judy Shepard
mother of Matthew Shepard and HRC Director

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Congressman Chris Bell
recipient of the first annual
John Walzel Political Equality Award

TICKETS

\$175, \$275 and \$375
Box Office Tickets at www.boxofficetickets.com
or call 1-800-494-TIXS (8497).
Visit our website at www.hrchouston.org or
call 713-522-1115 for more information.

law that involves homosexuals," Katine said, "because straight people have sex with straight people of the same sex, too."

Ruth Harlow, the legal director with Lambda Legal, the New York-based non-profit organization that provides legal resources to the gay community in civil rights issues, and a constitutional law expert, will present the oral argument before the Supreme Court for the petitioners. She previously argued the case before the Court of Appeals. (William J. Delmore III of the Harris County district attorney's office and Matthew Paul, state prosecuting attorney, will present the argument for the state of Texas.)

"This is a very important case for all lesbians and gays in hoping to finally lift a sodomy law that has been hanging over their heads," Harlow said in a recent telephone interview from Lambda Legal's office. "All adults, whether gay or straight, have the right to engage in consensual sex with another adult."

Although all states have at one time had sexual conduct laws governing so-called "unnatural" sex acts, most states have repealed these laws. Only 13 states—Alabama, Florida, Idaho, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Utah, and Virginia—continue to outlaw sodomy for straight and gay people. The law in Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas prohibits sodomy only for same-sex couples.

These states claim to maintain the anti-sodomy laws for moral reasons, but Katine pointed out that outlawing private, consensual behavior does not pose a state interest, since such relations do not challenge public decency. In fact, the state's lack of prosecutorial interest in the sodomy law supports the argument for removing it entirely.

If the Supreme Court agrees that the Texas sodomy law promotes inequality for gay people, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and this state will have to decide whether to expand their laws to include heterosexuals or repeal the laws.

PRIVATE LIVES

The Court will strike a serious constitutional blow to the sodomy law if it decides to rule that gays have the fundamental right to privacy as outlined in the 14th Amendment. Depending on the way it words a decision, the Court could simultaneously strike down laws that seek to legislate a person's intimate behavior in his or her home, which also affects heterosexual couples in states with applicable laws.

Previous Court rulings have limited the

law's ability to investigate people in their homes, thus preventing sodomy laws in



Supreme player: Constitutional law expert Ruth Harlow of Lambda Legal will present the arguments on March 26.

general from being enforced through observation by law enforcement officials. Still, the Garner and Lawrence case demonstrates how circumstances can bring the law into a person's home and uncover intimate behavior that the state deems illegal.

"That would say that all persons have the right to engage in whatever sexual behavior they want in the privacy of their home, as long as it's not for money, or involving children," Katine said. "I think it would provide some strength to gay and lesbian people."

However, the Court could decide instead to maintain that the state has a right to legislate personal behavior, and instead decide to take the opportunity to remove the inequality posed by *Bowers v. Hardwick*.

In that case, the Court upheld a Georgia statute that criminalized homosexual conduct, citing the due-process clause. It declared that the Constitution does not grant homosexuals the same right to privacy as heterosexuals.

Although the Supreme Court could decide to retain *Bowers v. Hardwick*, a number of legal experts have raised questions about its constitutionality. These individuals include Lewis Powell, the Justice who cast the tie-breaking vote on the case. After his retirement in 1987, Powell (who died in 1998) wrote that he voted as he did in part because he didn't think such laws mattered. [For more on this aspect of the case, read Daryl Moore's January 2003 column, "Just

—continued on page 60

statutes that follow tradition can conflict with the Constitution. "[I]t is revolting to have no better reason for a rule of law than that so it was laid down in the time of Henry IV," he wrote. "It is still more revolting if the grounds upon which it was laid down have vanished long since, and the rule simply persists from blind imitation of the past."

Michael Hardwick died of AIDS-related complications in 1991.

Michael Stuart is a Houston writer. Josef Molnar contributed to this article.

THE OTHER SIDE

A portion of the written comments to the Supreme Court from Harris County district attorney Charles A. Rosenthal Jr.:

"There is no conflict for this Court to resolve, and there is no need for this Court's intervention in a debate which is ongoing in the various state legislatures, the deliberative bodies properly charged with the task of determining whether particular conduct is still regarded as immoral to the extent that it warrants the imposition of a penal sanction."

"In light of the fact that homosexual anal sodomy was viewed as criminal behavior under state law and the common law for a period of centuries, that conduct could not conceivably have achieved the status of a 'fundamental right' in the brief period of sixteen years since *Bowers* was decided."

"Fundamental rights must be grounded in the nation's history and legal traditions, and as noted in *Bowers* and in the opinion of the court below, the states of the Union have traditionally punished homosexual conduct as a serious criminal offense. History has not changed, and it is inconceivable that homosexual sodomy has suddenly achieved the status of a treasured constitutional right, deeply rooted in the nation's history and legal traditions, in the few years since *Bowers* was decided."

05

What Makes a Beautiful Smile?
proportional smile lines
natural color
balanced teeth alignment
healthy gum tissue

These issues can be addressed with the latest dental procedures. Combining artistry with dentistry, smiles are transformed into attractive and vibrant smiles.

LIFE'S SMILES

The Art of Dentistry
Dr. Randy Mitchmore
Consistently Exceptional Dentistry
713.592.9300
2617 W Holcombe@Kirby
www.drmitchmore.com

Welcome to a new world of comfort dentistry – Conscious Sedation –
Sleep comfortably through your appointment and leave with a new smile!

Cause," at www.outsmartmagazine.com.]

The Court contradicted the Bowers decision by establishing in the 1996 case *Romer v. Evans* that laws denying gay people their civil rights are unconstitutional.

By overturning the Bowers decision, the Court would equalize the privacy issue for gay and straight people, Katine pointed out.

"This is not a question of whether judges like homosexuals or homosexual behavior," he said. "This is a question of whether or not individuals have the right as an adult to engage in that behavior. Our country stands for the proposition of protecting unpopular thinking and thoughts and actions and behavior, and so I'm hoping the Court will stand by that in this area."

Equalizing privacy rights, however, does not automatically mean individuals have a right to sexual privacy in their homes. States would still have the right to ban sodomy, but a ruling against the state of Texas would force all states that single out gay people to rewrite those laws to include heterosexuals. This act would reverse Texas' last change in its sodomy laws, which the legislature rewrote in the 1970s to exclude straight people.

"The court could say that the state has a right to say whether people can engage in sodomy in their house or not and uphold *Bowers v. Hardwick*," Katine said. "And in that same decision they can say, 'Although we think a state can make that law, they can't single out gay or lesbian people. It's either all or nothing.'"

The decision might encourage Texas to remove the Homosexual Conduct law instead of equalizing it, but the repeal would not eliminate the possibility that a law addressing "deviant sexual behavior" for all state residents might be added later.

BEFORE THE BENCH

The struggle for the fate of gay people rests in the hands of the Supreme Court, which has its fair share of conservatives. However, at least four Justices had to agree to even consider the case, which indicates that they consider the issues important enough to warrant a review.

One of the Court's most conservative Justices, Antonin Scalia, takes a broad approach to every American's right to privacy, and he is expected to reject the sodomy law as a breach of personal privacy. Scalia wrote the majority opinion in a recent case involving home searches using thermal imaging, in which the Court denied law enforcement officials the right to do so. The decision severely limited the law's ability to monitor the homes of citizens.

Justices Clarence Thomas and Sandra Day O'Connor have also historically supported right-to-privacy issues. Although O'Connor was part of the majority during the *Bowers* case, the concerns presented in this case may give her an opportunity to consider the situation from a new angle. Katine said he is hopeful that moderate Justices, such as Anthony Kennedy, will agree.

"We may get a very good decision with a lot of justices and not just a 5-4 decision," he said. "We may have seven or eight judges."

As in the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* case, which outlawed segregation, the Supreme Court will find itself attacked by groups that will believe it acted inappropriately, whatever the decision.

"If they come down in favor of gay and lesbian people, I'm sure that there will be a lot of conservative people who feel the Supreme Court has committed an abomination," Katine said. "And if they come down and say, 'This is not a violation of equal protection,' that this is not a violation of privacy... there are a lot of people who will be very disappointed in the Supreme Court, who feel that they... are not enforcing the laws as they should."

Although overturning laws that target gay people will help them demand equal treatment in legal cases, it will not guarantee social acceptance. Much of the standard, popular opinion regarding homosexuality derives from religious beliefs, which a Supreme Court ruling will not change. However, opponents of full rights for gay people would no longer have legal support for those beliefs.

Although the Supreme Court can overrule the Texas law and declare that gay people have a right to privacy, the lack of legal supports in other areas still affects gays outside of their homes. There are few laws that protect gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people from being fired from their jobs, and even fewer laws that address the legal rights of committed gay couples.

Katine believes that even if the Supreme Court does not rule favorably in this case, the media attention has advanced gay people by helping society to understand the lives of gay people.

"That provides an educational opportunity for people to learn about homosexuals and homosexual behavior, and it destigmatizes it to a certain degree," he said, "and I think that's a good thing."

"So win or lose, we win."

Josef Molnar interviewed AIDS activist Kevin Jackson for the February issue.

FRIENDS OF THE COURT

More than 130 respected conservative, liberal, and moderate organizations and individuals have filed *amicus curiae*, or "friend of the court," briefs expressing their opinion that the Supreme Court should overturn the previous ruling. Groups range from the expected, including the Human Rights Campaign and the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, to the surprising (former senator and conservative Alan Simpson).

ACLU of Texas

Action Wisconsin

Affirmation: Gay and Lesbian Mormons

Affirmation: United Methodists for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Concerns

AFL-CIO

AIDS Action

Alliance for Full Acceptance

Alliance of Baptists

American Bar Association

American Civil Liberties Union

American Friends Service Committee

American Orthopsychiatric Association

American Psychiatric Association

American Psychological Association

American Public Health Association

Amnesty International U.S.A.

Andrew Koppelman

Anti-Defamation League

Association of Nurses in AIDS Care

Axios USA

Brethren/Mennonite Council for Lesbian and Gay Concerns

Bruce A. Ackerman

Cato Institute

Cimarron Foundation of Oklahoma

Community Center of Idaho

David B. Cruz

David D. Cole

Derrick A. Bell

Dignity USA

Disciples Justice Action Network

Elizabeth Lapovsky Kennedy

Equal Partners in Faith

Equality Alabama

Equality Florida

MAKING HISTORY

Attorney Mitchell Katine reflects on his role in the case before the Court

I am primarily a civil litigation attorney representing individuals in employment, insurance, business, and real estate matters, but as a gay individual, I have always looked for ways to use my skills to help the gay and lesbian community. Unfortunately, since so few laws protect gay and lesbian people, I have had very few opportunities to support clients on gay or lesbian civil rights matters. This has been a big source of frustration for me.

That changed in 1998, when I received a telephone call from a friend, who asked me if I would be willing to represent two men who were arrested for having sex in their home.

I thought the call was a joke.

After 15 years of practicing law and representing many members of the gay and lesbian community, as well as hundreds of HIV-positive people, I had never heard of anyone who had been arrested for having sex in the privacy of their home. I thought someone had to be drunk, on drugs, or having sex in public to be arrested. So I asked for evidence that these men, John Geddes Lawrence and Tyron Garner, were arrested solely for this reason.

Within a few minutes, I received a copy of the paperwork filed by the arresting sheriff's officers.

The report read that the officers responded to what later proved to be a false report of a weapons disturbance. Upon entering the apartment, the officers discovered John and Tyron engaged in anal intercourse, which violates §21.06 of the Texas Penal Code. The men were subsequently arrested and taken to jail.

I have known about the Texas Homosexual Conduct law for many years, and to this point I knew it was used against individuals to classify them as criminals in areas of employment, housing, family law matters, and general discrimination. But I had never heard of an active application of

the law to gay people who were having sex in the privacy of their own home.

During the term of Governor Ann

Richards, I was considered for an appointment to the Texas Real Estate

Commission. As part of the screening process, I was required to complete a ques-

tionnaire, which asked me about my personal and business conduct. One of the ques-

tions asked if I had ever been arrested. I found

this question troubling, since it did not ask whether I had ever been convicted of a crime, but only if I had been arrested for one. I instantly thought back to the Texas Homosexual Conduct statute and realized that my consideration for appointment to the commission could be jeopardized if I had been arrested for anything, including homosexual conduct.

I was able to answer *No* to the question, but when I thought about my clients-to-be, I realized their response would have to be *Yes*, whether or not they were ever convicted for that offense.

As I reflected on my own experience, and with the written documentation in hand, it appeared to me that this was the case that might ultimately present the question to the U.S. Supreme Court on whether such laws violate the constitutional rights of gays and lesbians to privacy, and whether or not this law violates the equal protection provisions of the Constitution.

I immediately accepted the case and contacted my new clients. I met with John and Tyron, who were very upset that they



Brief victory: Mitchell Katine flanked by John Lawrence (l) and Tyron Garner at the Court of Appeals.

COURTESY MITCHELL KATINE

Equality Mississippi
Equality Virginia
Erwin Chemerinsky
Estelle B. Freedman
Evan Caminker
Fellowship of Reconciling Pentecostals International
Frank Michelman
Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders
Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation
Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Utah
Gay and Lesbian Lawyers Association of South Florida
Gay and Lesbian Lawyers of Philadelphia
GayLaw
Geoffrey R. Stone
George Chauncey
Hadassah
Human Rights Campaign
Human Rights Watch
Institute for Justice
Integrity
Interights
Jack M. Balkin
John D'Emilio
John Howard
Kansas Unity and Pride Alliance
Kenji Yoshino
Liberty Education Forum
Linda P. Kerber
Louisiana Electorate of Gays and Lesbians
Lutherans Concerned/North America
Lynn Hunt
Mark D. Jordan
Mary Robinson
Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Fund
Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights
More Light Presbyterians
Nancy F. Cott
National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors
National Association of Social Workers
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
National Lesbian and Gay Law Association
National Mental Health Association
National Minority AIDS Council
North Carolina Gay and Lesbian Attorneys
Northaven United Methodist Church
NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund
Parents, Friends & Family of Lesbians & Gays
Paul Brest

had had their privacy invaded, were arrested, and then taken to jail.

After my meeting, I contacted Lambda Legal Defense in New York, with whom I had worked in the past on HIV discrimination matters. I wanted to inform them of

"I feel strongly that the Court will ultimately declare the Texas Homosexual Conduct statute unconstitutional and possibly overturn Bowers v. Hardwick."

the significance of my clients' case and seek their input about the best way to handle the constitutional challenges presented by the situation.

Coincidentally, on the day I called, the Lambda Legal directors were holding a legal review meeting to consider new cases. I spoke with Suzanne Goldberg and explained the circumstances of the case to her. Lambda Legal soon agreed to accept the case and work with us.

From the beginning, I understood that this case potentially had national significance, but I also understood that the chances of it actually getting to the Supreme Court and being accepted were very rare. In fact, it was only after two years of working on the case, when the possibility of going to the Supreme Court became more of a reality, that I filed my application for admission to the Court.

A few years ago, I helped start the State Bar of Texas Section on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identification Issues, which was the first section in the country that addressed gay and lesbian issues and HIV issues. Although the process by which we established the section was difficult, to say the least, it is important to realize that the public attention that our application received was not wasted. I believe that the more the public thinks about, talks about, and is forced to make decisions about gay and lesbian and HIV issues, the more heterosexual friends, families, and adversaries will come to understand the fight for gay and lesbian civil rights.

The same analysis and thought process has gone into whether or not to proceed to the highest court in this country with the *Lawrence and Garner v. Texas* case. Since the beginning, we have had to decide the risks of going forward versus the potential positive results that might be achieved, because in doing so, we had to understand that we were already burdened with a very

bad case from 1986 called *Bowers v. Hardwick*.

In that case, the Supreme Court said that gay and lesbian people do not enjoy the same right to privacy that other citizens in this country enjoy. But I considered two very important factors when I decided to proceed.

The first is that many legal scholars have said that the decision is incorrect and should be overturned. By proceeding forward with this case, we determined that it would enable the Court, if it ultimately took the case, to consider overturning the decision.

The second important factor is that the *Bowers v. Hardwick* case was decided strictly on privacy issues, and not the equal protection issues that are addressed in our current case.

The Texas Homosexual Conduct statute



Mitchell Katine: "I thought the call was a joke."

criminalizes sodomy not for all practitioners, but only based on the gender of the individuals engaging in that behavior. For this reason, I believe the statute clearly violates the equal protection provisions of the Constitution. The only grounds that have been asserted in support of the law have been morality and family values, which I do not believe are legitimate grounds to uphold the statute.

I think it would be naive to fail to comment on the political influence that our system of judges has on the decision-making process in Texas. There have been many cases when a judge has indicated to me that he or she has made a ruling or a decision out of concern for the negative

- continued on page 68

People for the American Way Foundation
Pride at Work
Promo
Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund
Reconciling Ministries Network Republican Unity Coalition
S.A.V.E.
Sanford Levinson
Seventh-Day Adventist Kinship International
Society of American Law Teachers
SoulForce
South Carolina Gay and Lesbian Pride Movement
Steven H. Shiffrin
Stonewall Law Association of Greater Houston
Texas Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
The Al-Fatih Foundation
The Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund
The Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists
The Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom
The Bay Area Transgender Lawyers' Association
The Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism
The Gay and Lesbian Affirming Disciples Alliance, Inc.
The General Synod of the United Church of Christ
The Honorable Alan K. Simpson
The Interfaith Alliance
The Lawyers Committee for Human Rights
The Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago
The Lesbian and Gay Law Association of Greater New York
The Lesbian and Gay Lawyers Association of Los Angeles
The Log Cabin Republicans
The Massachusetts Lesbian and Gay Bar Association
The Methodist Federation for Social Action
The Minnesota Lavender Bar Association
The Most Rev. Frank T. Griswold
The Northwest Women's Law Center
The Oregon Gay and Lesbian Law Association
The Stonewall Bar Association
The Tom Homann Law Association of San Diego
The Unitarian Universalist Association
The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches
The Washington Lesbian and Gay Legal Society
The World Congress of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Jews
Thomas C. Holt
Thomas L. Karst
Whitman-Walker Clinic
William B. Rubenstein
Your Family

**Rude and impersonal service from other dealers?
Call me for the best personal deal!**

ALL NEW
MATRIX



NEWLY DESIGNED
COROLLA



CAMRY

DEAN CRAFT
DIRECT: 832-814-8140
FAX: 713-270-3706
dcraft@mccallgroup.com



STERLING McCall TOYOTA

9400 SOUTHWEST FREEWAY • BETWEEN GESSNER AND BISSENET

new & used cars on the web at:
www.sterlingmccalltoyota.com
AOL Keyword: Sterling McCall Toyota

713-270-3900

**"Dot
by dot
building
up the
image..."**

Marion E. Coleman
Your Community Image Inker!
Thank You OutSmart readers for voting
me, Marion Coleman,
"Brightest gay business person."

House of Coleman
Fine Printing & Graphics

901 WEST ALABAMA
HOUSTON, TX 77006-4693
713.523.2521
FAX 713.524.2643



Celebrate
Resurrection MCC's
30th Anniversary

Masque Ball

April 25, 2003
DoubleTree on Allen Parkway
TICKETS ON SALE NOW

For more information, call 713/861-9149
or email: mccc@airmail.net

Scramble Golf Tournament

April 26, 2003
At Bear Creek Golf Course
We are now registering players and sponsors!

For more information, call 713/937-7926
or 281/337-4546 or email: rmccgolf@yahoo.com

Masque Ball

Nicole
After



Town & Country
Plastic Surgery
R. Scott Yarish, M.D.
10565 Katy Fwy, Suite 100 • 713/467-0146



Sheena Alford
TG Care Specialist

We at Town & Country Plastic Surgery are committed to...

- Supporting the TG community by whatever means we are able
- Providing an environment whereby TG patients feel accepted, comfortable and as stress free as possible
- To continual education and understanding of our TG patient needs
- To provide cosmetic services that will help TG patients obtain a more feminine or masculine look that they desire
- To always do our best to make sure that you will be happy with yourself and your changes

"I would highly recommend Dr. Yarish for facial feminization or any other cosmetic procedure. He is a skilled surgeon."

-Nicole

Visit our website at www.transformingyou.com

Transgender Feminization

Beautiful Home in Great Location!



1809 Cherryhurst
\$259,900

*Beautiful River Oaks Area
Townhouse!*

2214 Welch • \$268,000



Other Great Listings!

4515 Verone • \$750,000
1215 West Bell • \$189,000
5410 Crooms • \$189,000

ALLEN HOLMAN

HOLMAN REALTY

3121 Richmond Avenue, #222 • Houston, TX 77098
(713) 520-8100

SANCTUARY FOR ALL



Living God's Reconciling Love!
Join Us For Sunday Services
at 8:30 a.m. or 10:50 a.m.

**BERING MEMORIAL
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Rev. Marilyn Meeker-Williams, Senior Pastor
1440 Harold Street at Mulberry • Houston, TX 77006
713.526.1017 • www.beringumc.org

Attack from the Right



STATE CAPITOL PHOTO COURTESY TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PHOTOGRAPHY DEPT.

New conservative bills before the Legislature threaten our community, as Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby exec Randall Ellis reports. This month, a march on Austin will confront this crisis

A Texas-size battle is brewing in the state Legislature this session, and the GLBT community is the focus of the attack.

In the name of traditional families across the great Lone Star State, ultra-right-wing legislators have already filed three antigay bills. All three bills seek to marginalize GLBT families and reinforce the fact that gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgender people are second-class citizens. With a shift in the balance of power after the November elections, the religious right wasted no time in declaring a holy war on the Texas GLBT community. With that in mind, they established top priorities for the 78th session of the Texas Legislature as passage of an antigay/lesbian marriage bill along with bills that would limit the ability of gays and lesbians to adopt or serve as foster parents.

The three antigay bills:

• **House Bill 38**, sponsored by Rep. Warren Chisum (R-Pamapa), otherwise known as the Texas Defense

of Marriage Act, seeks to codify marriage as a legal relationship between one man and one woman. The religious right fears a possible assault by gays and lesbians, who may obtain recognition of their relationships in another state. These zealots are terrified that gays and lesbians will force Texas to recognize the unions they have obtained outside of Texas.

• **House Bill 194**, sponsored by Rep. Robert Talton (R-Houston), would disqualify gays, lesbians, and bisexuals from serving as foster parents. This bill would also authorize child protective service agencies to conduct investigations into homes where foster children are currently placed with suspected homosexuals.

• **House Bill 916**, sponsored by Rep. Sid Miller (R-Stephenville), seeks to limit the rights of gay and lesbian adoptive parents. This bill attempts to ban gay and lesbian families from obtaining a second-parent adoption, in effect keeping both parents from being recognized as

legal parents of the adoptive child.

The essence of HB 38, HB 194, and HB 916 is hate: the hate of gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgenders. These bills reinforce the fact that because of hate, certain sections of the population—in this case, gays and lesbians—are treated differently from

"After the November elections, the religious right wasted no time in declaring a holy war on the Texas GLBT community."

others with regard to basic civil equality. Like the demeaning laws that once barred matrimony between a black person and a white person, HB 38, HB 194, and HB 916 target certain individuals as less than fully equal before the law, as less than fully human.

The religious right loves to demonize gays and lesbians. They prefer that the



THE Health Club For Montrose!

The Latest Workout Machines,
Cardio Equipment, & Free Weights
on 2 Spacious Levels.

- Helpful, Friendly Staff
- Boot Camp & Abs Classes
- Immaculately Clean
- Step Aerobics
- Ample Free Parking
- Yoga & Spinning
- Steam, Saunas & Spas
- Tanning

4040 Milam St. Houston 713.524.9932
www.FitnessExchange.cc

1/2 OFF Guaranteed
Renewal Rate Memberships!

RUN FAST! JUMP HIGH! TRAIN SMART!
TRAIN WITH FEX
832.524.5333

Investment | Retirement | Education Planning

Mike Ryan MBA, Sandy White CFP, CFS, Bill Green CFP, Gary Brownfield MBA

get Money Smart.com with **GREENWHITE ADVISORS**

"Be smart. Plan your financial future."

CFP® is a registered trademark of the Board of Certified Financial Planners.

HOUSTON 1225 N Loop W, Suite 1030 • 713.869.1144
Securities offered through Communiwealth Financial Network, Member NASD/SIPC

essential
touch

alan davidson
registered massage therapist

Voted
"MOST MAGICAL MASSAGE"
by OutSmart Readers
1997, 2000, 2001, & 2002

1712 Fairview
Houston, Texas 77006

713.942.0923

Jeff Vannice, PhD
Psychologist



Over 12 Years of
Professional Experience

Gay/Lesbian Issues
Children/Adolescents/Adults
Parenting Issues
Spirituality
Individuals/Couples/Families

1415 N. Loop West, #780
Houston, TX 77008
(Between Shepherd and Ella on the N. Loop)

713-426-4455

MARCH ON AUSTIN

The GLBT community of Texas will no longer stand for discrimination of any kind. On March 16, we have the opportunity to stand united and fight back when the Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas sponsors the "Rally for our Youth/ Rally for Our Families." This is a chance for thousands of us to come together as one in Austin, raising our voices in unison and sending a strong, clear message to lawmakers.

The rally will be the largest gay rights event in Texas. The event will begin at 12:30 p.m. on March 16 on the south steps of the capitol grounds. A 3:30-6 p.m. film screening will follow the rally at the downtown Alamo Drafthouse. Participants are then invited to a 7:30-10 p.m. social mixer at the 1920's Club.

The following day, LGRL will hold a lobby day. Beginning at 8 a.m. in the Capitol Grille inside the state capitol, LGRL will conduct a short training to familiarize participants with the issues of concern as well as lobbying and the legislative process in general. After the training, participants are encouraged to visit and speak with legislators and their staffs. —Randall Ellis

MORE GROUPS LOBBY

The Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby march and lobby day on March 16-17 won't be the only action this month in Austin.

Texas Gender Advocacy & Information Network will lobby lawmakers on March 3. More info: TGAINDir@aol.com.

ACT NOW! Texas will meet with legislators on March 26 about the state of the threatened AIDS Drug Assistance Program. More info: ACTNowHouston@aol.com.

TALK BACK

This session, the Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas launched the District Lobbying Project to encourage gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgenders, and allies to communicate more frequently with elected representatives. Nothing is more effective at debunking the biases and stereotypes invoked by our opponents than actually showing legislators and the public who gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Texans are.

To obtain a District Lobbying Project kit, contact the LGRL at 512/474-5475 or by e-mail at info@lgrl.org. —RL

American public only see negative images of gays and lesbians, images that portray us as sexual predators. They want the majority of Americans to remain ignorant of the fact that most gays and lesbians are just as they see themselves: loving caring people. They are purposefully deceitful, using fear for their political purposes and financial gain.

Legislation is not justified simply because the thought of two women married or two men raising a child together makes some Texans uncomfortable. It is frightening and dangerous when the moral and religious beliefs of one group are imposed upon another. While we must respect the beliefs of other people, we must never allow state-sanctioned morality to be the law of the land.

The time to act is now. We must contact our legislators, who are at work for us in Austin, to let them know how we feel about these issues. We must respond to this hate by engaging in the political process. Make no mistake. These legislators work for us, but it is our responsibility to let them know where we stand on issues of importance to us.

The path to equality in Texas is rocky and full of obstacles. The GLBT community has fought many battles and made enormous strides. In the '70s, we stood up to a state law banning gays and lesbians from organizing at public universities. In the '80s, our community fought off attempts to quarantine people living with HIV/AIDS. Just last session, we saw the passage of the James Byrd Hate Crimes Act, marking the first time gays and lesbians were recognized and protected under Texas law.

Slowly, we have enlightened lawmakers. A day will come when gay citizens in Texas will be free to marry the person of their choice, to form families as they choose to, and to live free of discrimination. When that day arrives, these lawmakers will have a choice. They can ask the GLBT community and all citizens of Texas for forgiveness, much as Trent Lott did when his racism became blatantly clear, or they can take their place in history as tyrannical hatemongers whose legacies will serve as a constant reminder that hate and fear left unchecked are dangers to freedom—not just the freedom of the GLBT community, but the freedom of all to live the lives they choose.

Randall Ellis is executive director of the Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas (www.lgrl.org).

\$27.95
MONTH

HOUSTON
GYM

713.880.9191
1501 DURHAM
MON-FRI 5-10 • SAT-SUN 8-6
WWW.HOUSTONGYM.COM

Got Equity?

Take advantage of our
Home Equity rates as low as

5.74%*
APR



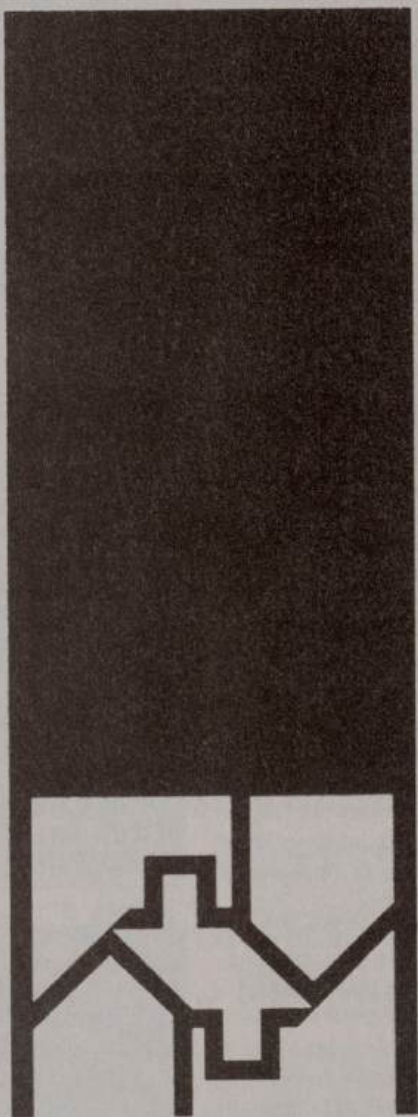
1629 S. Voss Rd., Houston • (713) 978-7381

*Rate and interest rate subject to credit approval. Property insurance must be required. Rate stated is as of 2/12/03 and is subject to change without notice. Minimum loan \$5,000, maximum loan \$150,000, other amounts considered on a case-by-case basis. Rate shown is for a home equity loan of more than \$25,000 at a 5 or 10 year term. Rate requires auto debit from a Coastal Banc checking account and includes .25% discount for balance checking account. Rates and the corresponding APR depend on the actual term of the loan, the loan amount, your credit history and other factors. Coastal Banc's internal credit policy. Other fees may apply.

Over 89% of our readers tell
us they will go out of their way to
support businesses who
advertise in OutSmart.

Shouldn't you be advertising here too?

Call 713/520-7237 for details



BROOKSBALLARD
Mortgage Corporation

**BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS
GROUNDED IN INTEGRITY**

2480 Bolsover, Houston, Texas 77005
Tel: 713-522-7474 Fax: 713-522-3636
www.brooksballardmortgage.com
Licensed in the State of Texas



continued from page 62

response from the media and the voters.
At the same time, I think it is important to note that we were originally successful at the 14th Court of Appeals, when Justice Anderson and Chief Justice Murphy declared the Texas Homosexual Conduct statute is unconstitutional based upon the Texas Equal Rights Amendment.

**"I am often reminded
that there are few of us
surviving to carry
the torch of civil rights
matters."**

It was extremely courageous of those two Republican judges to have issued that opinion when they must have known how their political party would view it. In fact, after they issued their 2-1 panel decision, there was a strong backlash against them by the Republican Party.

U.S. Supreme Court Justice appointments are for life. Once selected by the president and approved by Congress, the Justices do not fear being voted out of office or replaced by any constituency. Therefore, it is my hope and belief that the Supreme Court is independent of the political pressures that we have to endure in Texas.

I feel strongly that the Court will ultimately declare the Texas Homosexual Conduct statute unconstitutional and possibly overturn *Bowers v. Hardwick*. With the death of many, many friends and clients who have been active in gay and lesbian civil rights and HIV matters, including the late Eugene Harrington, a professor at Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshal School of Law, I am often reminded that there are few of us surviving to carry the torch of civil rights matters.

On March 26, 2003, we will enter the Supreme Court chamber, which proudly proclaims "Equal Justice for All." As a gay attorney, I am excited because this case offers me a rare opportunity to be involved in a truly historic event that will affect the future of gay and lesbian people. I am also excited to be involved with *Lawrence and Garner v. Texas* because, as a new father, I feel as if I am doing my part in order to try to make the country and world a better place for my children and the children of other people.

*Mitchell Katine is an attorney with
Williams, Birnberg & Andersen L.L.P*

Art on Alabama



Art guys:
Travis Rhodes (l)
and Matthew
Kiernan have
opened Matthew
Travis Gallery in
Montrose.

A gallery grows in Montrose

by Tim Brookover • Photography by Bob Jackson

Even on a sullen Houston afternoon, light floods the gallery. Paintings and works on paper cover the walls and hang on vertical wooden racks. The street din from West Alabama seems distant, subdued. →

Special Offer!

\$25 off*

Any Complete Tuxedo Rental

or

15% off*

Your Retail Purchase

AI's
FORMAL WEAR

www.aisformalwear.com

Dial your area code and

730-4ALS

ASCOT
TUXEDOS

www.ascottuxedos.com

Dial your area code and

730-4TUX

*On tuxedo rentals starting at \$89.95. No other discounts or promotions apply. Retail offer applies to regular priced merchandise. See store for details. Expires 3/15/2003.



SKIP THE FLYING TIME... PUT YOUR WORRIES ASIDE...

**Come On Down To
Galveston Island
For A Good Time!**

- ❖ Stay With The Friendliest People
- ❖ Pool
- ❖ Hot Tub
- ❖ Close To:
Beach ♦ Clubs ♦ Restaurants ♦ Entertainment ♦ Shopping

Paradise
GUEST HOUSE
A Galveston Island Resort

2317 Avenue P,
Galveston Island

409.762.6677; toll free 1.877.919.6677

www.galveston.com/paradise

Contact Island Properties Realtors,
our sister company; "We've been selling
Galveston for more than 20 years!"

G-TOWN
guest houses

1301 Avenue M

Galveston Island

409.762.2117 or

toll free 1.866.735.2749

www.gtowntex.com

AIDS Walk Houston



www.AIDSwalkhouston.org

**Raising Awareness
One Step at a Time**

Sunday, March 9, 2003

8:00 am Registration

10:00 am WALK

**Sam Houston Park - Downtown
1000 Bagby Street**

AIDS Foundation Houston - AIDS Coalition of Coastal Texas - AVES - The Center for AIDS
Bread of Life - Breastwood Community Foundation - Families Under Urban & Social Attack
Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program - American Red Cross Houston Chapter - St. Hope Foundation
Fifth Ward Enrichment Program - Houston Area Community Services - People with AIDS Coalition

JPMorganChase

ExxonMobil

Comcast

OutSmart

903

2020

MASSAGE BY KEN

KEN CLAUDE RMT

(713)
**240
9598**

- Swedish Massage
- Light to Deep Tissue
- Aromatherapy
- Reflexology

Massage For Everyone
InCalls | OutCalls
Convenient Montrose Location

11AM-8PM
Tuesday-Sunday



Downpour (2002) by Richard Fox, one of the gay artists with the gallery.



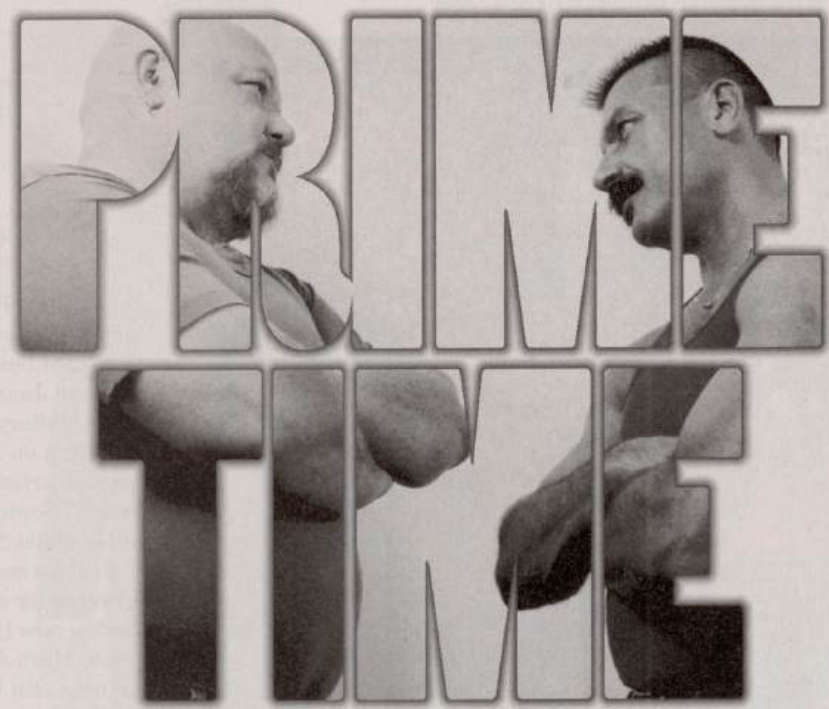
Gallery artist Alan Hurwitz's Seawall at Midnight (2001).

Matthew Kiernan and Travis Rhodes opened the storefront art space that bears their combined names in January. Their Matthew Travis Gallery will open its third exhibition on March 29 with gay Houston artist Alan Hurwitz ["8 Who Create," September *OutSmart*] and Dallas artist Steve Lawrence.

Besides serving as another showcase for art, Kiernan and Rhodes' new business is a tribute to a friend, Myra Aronson. When the partners still lived in New York, public-relations specialist Aronson worked with them to raise capital for a gallery. Then, Aronson died on American Airlines flight 11, the first plane to hit the World Trade Center. In October, Kiernan learned that Aronson had left him the funding to open the gallery.

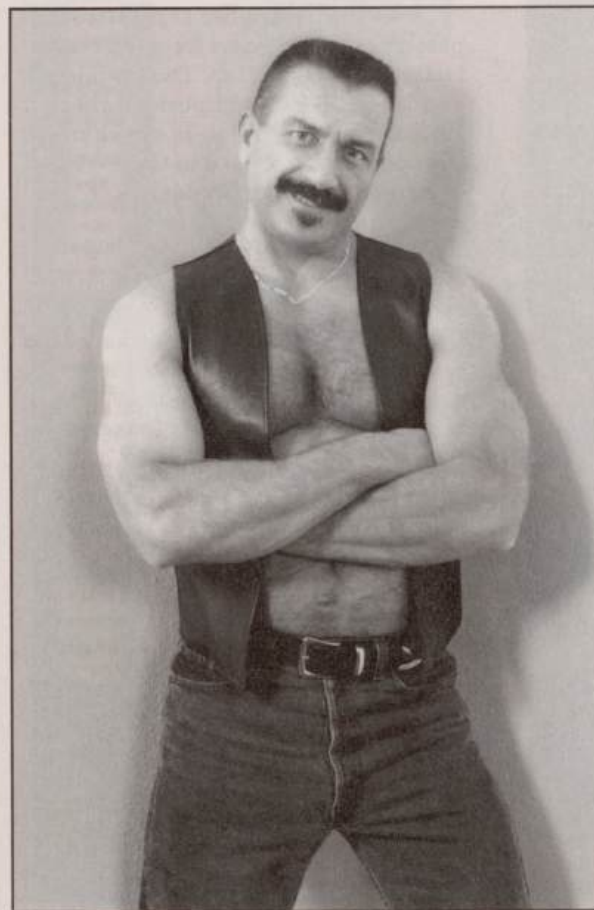
After the September 11 catastrophe, prospects dimmed for a start-up business in Manhattan. The partners decided to relocate to Houston, where Rhodes grew up. "We were struck by the budding art scene and the camaraderie among art dealers here," Rhodes says.

With their gallery (www.matthewtravisgallery.com) now open on West Alabama, Kiernan and Rhodes show work by a collection of artists from Texas and across the nation. "The work of our artists represents the endurance of American art in an unsettled time," Kiernan says. ■



The two Mr. Prime Choice contestants strike a pose for photographer David Lewis

Location: Houston GLBT Community Center



Lloyd Powell • Cause: Men's Health Network

Admirers of grown-up guys—you know who you are—will flock to the Ripcord on April 5 for the Mr. Prime Choice Texas contest. Besides showcasing more body hair than the typical gay-boy party, the annual event raises funds for the Colt 45's Stone Soup fund and other causes. In the scoring, each competitor even gets points for the amount of money he raises for his designated charity. The Miss America folks should take a lesson.

Steve Carbone • Cause: The Assistance Fund



The West Gray Cafe
New Owner
"Serving 24 Hours!"
Full Menu
Full Bar
Private Party Room

415 West Gray
713/528.2887

JOHN CONROY

PHOTOGRAPHER • MODEL



- SPORTS/FITNESS
 - MODEL PORTFOLIOS
 - ACTORS HEADSHOTS
- PHONE 713•542•8277



- COUPLES, BRIDAL, FAMILY
 - FASHION ADVERTISING
 - BUSINESS PORTRAITS
- FAX 713•669•1709

www.varsityproductions.com

Profoundly Relaxing...
 Exceptionally Therapeutic!



Voted best massage therapist by
 Texas Triangle Readers Poll 2000 & 2001

- In calls & Out calls
- Light to deep tissue
- On-site Chair massage
- Serving the community for over 7 years
- Gift certificates available

Initial
 Massage
 Discount

PAUL RUTLEDGE

Registered Massage Therapist #012781
 Call 713-592-0444



\$3 OFF MENS HAIRCUTS • \$5 OFF WOMENS HAIRCUTS • \$5 OFF CHEMICAL SERVICES

**SALON
 ESSIE**
 713.521.7511

Leave Your Hair To Essie
 10 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE
 Cut • Color • Highlights • Perms
 2615 Richmond @ Kirby
 NOW HIRING EXPERIENCED STYLISTS

No more wire hangers, ever!

Last month, *OutSmart* and the Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival asked our readers and viewers to let us know their favorite GLBT or campy films of all time. Your top 5 so far: *Mommie Dearest*, *Hairspray*, *Valley of the Dolls*, *What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?*, and *But I'm a Cheerleader*. You just might see one of your faves on the big screen at this year's Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, which premieres at the end of May, so keep 'em coming at www.outsmartmagazine.com.

IN THE GARDEN

Hats off to spring, birdhouses with a purpose, and azaleas

THEY'RE THE TOPS

Camille Waters and friend and fitness trainer Shana Ross model *chapeaux* for the festive hat contest during Lettuce Have a Grand Picnic on March 30. Waters, whose pioneering vegetarian Natural Child restaurant was a '70s landmark, organizes the annual epicurean feast at her garden at 610 Jackson Hill at Blossom. Tickets for the 1-4 p.m. event are \$25, and proceeds benefit Chef's Collaborative and Urban Harvest. Twelve local chefs will prepare dishes using the heirloom lettuces and salad greens cultivated by Waters on four inner-city lots. More info: Urban Harvest at 713/880-5540 or Camille@lettucelady.com.



Hattitude: Camille Waters (r) and Shana Ross in one of Waters' blooming gardens.

A VERY, VERY, VERY FINE HOUSE

Kiki Neumann is building birdhouses again. After a cancer diagnosis last fall and a double mastectomy, she has returned to crafting her distinctive avian abodes from recycled materials. To celebrate her victory over breast cancer, Neumann now makes birdhouses adorned with wings and pink ribbons stenciled on the roof. "Getting a mammogram every year is the reason that I can hammer and nail with such enthusiasm," Neumann says. "I only hope that others will get their mammograms, no matter what family history they have. My cancer came out of the blue sky."

The winged houses are available for \$29 at Inside/Outside in the Heights (510 West 18th; 713/869-6911) or through her business, Mother's Old Fencepost (281/289-2893; www.mothersoldfencepost.com). Neumann will donate a portion of proceeds to Houston health clinics and mammogram providers.



House proud: Kiki Neumann with her winged, cancer-fighting birdhouses.

"I cannot sit back quietly watching as more and more women are getting this disease," Neumann says. "They might find out too late. I know that early detection saved my life so that I can make these simple reminders for others."

OUT IN THE YARD

The Garden and Yard Society has encouraged GLBT green thumbs since 1996. With the perfect acronym GAYS, the group meets on the first Friday of the month at a member's home, local nursery, or other garden spot. One of the GAYS members, Terry Gordon Smith, designed and maintains the cottage garden at the Omega House hospice. In March, Joann Trial will give a presentation on propagating rain lilies.

To reach GAYS, call 713/661-6378 or 713/863-1066.

ON THE TRAIL

The historic grounds at Bayou Bend Collection & Gardens are one of stops on the annual Azalea Trail tour of landscapes abloom with Houston's signature flower. Perched above Buffalo Bayou, the 14 acres of flowering and woodland gardens were established in the 1920s by arts patron and philanthropist Ima Hogg. Her home is now the American decorative arts wing of the Museum of Fine Arts. The other six stops along the March 1-2 and March 8-9 Azalea Trail include Rienzi, the museum's center for European decorative arts, just across the bayou. Tickets for all seven stops are \$20. A ticket to a single stop is \$5. Proceeds benefit civic projects of the River Oaks Garden Club. More info: www.riveroaksgardenclub.org.



Flower power: The gardens at Bayou Bend, one of the stops along the Azalea Trail.

HOME & GARDEN SHOW

DOOR PRIZES • TROPICAL PLANTS • HOME IMPROVEMENTS • SEMINARS • ANIMAL PSYCHIC • HERBS • FINE JEWELRY • HEALTH EXPERTS • GOURMET FOODS • FREE PARKING

NEW IMPROVED! 15th Annual Animal Shelter & Adoption Center Home & Garden Show of Galveston Island, Inc.

All proceeds from this event benefit the Animal Shelter and Adoption Center of Galveston Island, Inc.

Saturday, March 15th - 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 16th - 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Moody Gardens Convention Center

• Accessories and Services for the Home, Lawn & Garden
• Blooming & Tropical Plants • Fine Crafts • Antiques
• Gourmet Foods and Much More

UTMB Health Expo offering a variety of services
Sunday 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

"How to Build a Home from A to Z"
Sponsored by: Baytown Residential Builders & Renovators
Saturday 11:00 a.m.

"A Home Buyer's Workshop"
Brought to you by Bank of America
Saturday 10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.

Admission at the door:
\$5.00 Adults, \$4.00 Seniors / Students, Under 12 Free
Parking is Free

EASIER ACCESS TO SHOW • ANTIQUES • APPRAISALS • BUILDING EXPERTS • BLOOMING PLANTS • FREEBIES • ANIMAL CARE • RENOVATIONS EXPERTS • FINE CRAFTS

River Oaks Chrysler Jeep

#1 Chrysler Jeep Dealer in Texas! HUGE INVENTORY to select from!



New & Pre-owned Also Available New Dodge & Ford Trucks!

No Pressure No Hassle Best Prices!

CONVENIENTLY LOCATED HWY 59 AND KIRBY

ASK FOR ROGERS (713) 524-3801

I will treat you like "family"!



SEE IT CLEARLY!

State-Of-The-Art Medical Eye Care

Exams for glasses/contacts
Cataract Surgery
LASIK Surgery
Comprehensive Ophthalmology



Diagnostic Eye Center Bellaire

Personal attention for results you can see

Stewart Zuckerbrod, MD

5420 Dashwood, Suite 101 • Houston Texas 77081
713.668.9118 | 832.553.EYES (3937)



The Community's Best Grocery Store, OutSmart Gayest & Greatest Readers' Choice Awards 2002.

Your Kroger Signature store on Montrose offers one-stop shopping convenience.

- ✓ MEAL CENTER
- ✓ NUTRITION CENTER
- ✓ ORGANIC PRODUCE
- ✓ WINE CHILLER
- ✓ FLORAL SHOPPE
- ✓ FTD WORLDWIDE FLORAL DELIVERY
- ✓ PHARMACY
- ✓ DELI/PASTRY SHOPPE
- ✓ SELF SERVICE SEAFOOD
- ✓ SARA LEE SANDWICH SHOPPE
- ✓ ROTISSERIE CHICKEN
- ✓ FLAME GRILLING

3300 Montrose Blvd.
713.526.7865

Pharmacy: 713.526.1239



SPRING MIX

Outdoor dining, a swanky lounge, and a La Strada search

GREAT OUTDOORS

Early spring, before the heat moves in, is one of the best seasons for outdoor dining. These are a few of our favorite Montrose-area spots for noshing al fresco:

- **Baba Yega**, 2607 Grant, 713/522-0042
- **Backstreet Café**, 1103 South Shepherd, 713/521-2239
- **Bistro Vino**, 819 West Alabama, 713/526-5500
- **Brasil**, 2606 Dunlavy, 713/528-1993
- **Café Express** at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, 1001 Bissonnet, 713/639-7300
- **Daily Review Café**, 3412 West Lamar, 713/520-9217
- **Maria Selma**, 1617 Richmond, 713/528-4920
- **Noche Cucina y Bar**, 2409 Montrose, 713/529-8559
- **Riva's Italian Restaurant**, 1117 Missouri, 713/529-3450.

LOUNGE LIFE

This month, Rickshaw general manager Eric Sterling and executive chef Michael Potowski



The Mojito at Bambú

open Bambú, a campy new lounge inside the Euro-Asian restaurant (2810 Westheimer, 713/942-7272). Amid Indian-inspired curtains, Peruvian embroidered cushions, and rich-colored Thai pillows, Sterling offers complimentary hors d'oeuvres during Wednesday-Friday cocktail hours. Specialty drinks include the Mambo Mojito.

GO FOR A SANDWICH

Greenberry's Coffee & Tea, becoming a favorite spot for the community, now serves sandwiches. Varieties include turkey, chicken salad, tuna salad, and vegetable with a hummus side. Greenberry's is located at 2311 West Alabama (713/522-7005, www.greenberrys.com/houston).

WHAT HAPPENED TO LA STRADA?

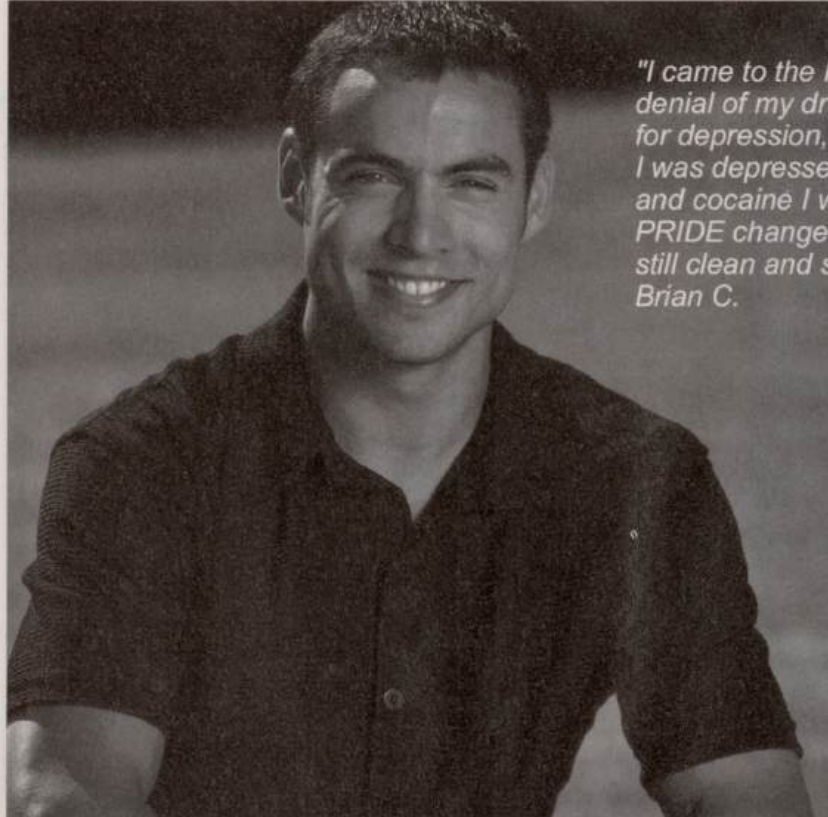
For months, a scraped-clean lot has been all that remained of the Westheimer-at-Taft La Strada, destroyed by fire last year. An announced fall opening came and went. The brunch crowd despaired ever enjoying another Bellini-drenched Sunday.

Now Carl Jones, a manager at the second La Strada (5161 San Felipe, 713/850-9999), reveals that ground should be broken by the time you read this report. Why the delay? "They have been trying to get the building right," Jones says. "We're going to have the restaurant for a long time. We want to do it right."

Upon completion of the new two-story building with second-floor outdoor patio, Jones will return as a manager. "I'm going back over there, and I'm looking forward to it."



A scene from the La Strada on Westheimer



"I came to the PRIDE unit, scared, unsure and in complete denial of my drug and alcohol problem. I checked myself in for depression, it never occurred to me that the reason I was depressed was the amount of alcohol, marijuana and cocaine I was putting into my body on a regular basis. PRIDE changed my life. Now, almost 3 years later, I am still clean and sober, living a life beyond my wildest dreams."
Brian C.

Just Call
PRIDE INSTITUTE
800-54-PRIDE

www.pride-institute.com
Dallas, TX • Chicago, IL • Fort Lauderdale, FL
Minneapolis, MN • New York, NY • Summit, NJ

The nations leader in treating the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender communities for over 15 years.

The Community Page



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.

Freedom Rings
Premier
PAGING & WIRELESS

Order and activate a new Nextel phone and we'll donate \$25 to the Community Center! See our ad for details. 713/465-8883; 281/575-8500

Back From New York
MASSAGE
by rail

Nationally Certified Massage Therapist
832/524-7700 or 713/527-0400

MASSAGE
by Ken
Ken Claude, RMT#28519
713/240-9598

The Lovett Inn

Distinctive Lodging & Catering Accommodations.
You'll love it at the Lovett!
503 Lovett Blvd. • 713/522-5224



Our first priority is helping you buy the home of your dreams!
Debbie Ratliff, Loan Officer
Home Loan Corp.
Call 713/297-8000

Proudly supporting the Community
Glen Fillmore
Karen Derr
& Associates Realty
713/875-9482



Happy Birthday to the OutSmart Pisceans.
Blase DiStefano-March 11
Daniel Malachowski-March 22
John Nagy-March 8

Just remember that every day we live we lose five thousand brain cells... or is it five million? I used to know.

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



Karen Derr
and Associates
Realty
proudly supports the Community.
Call us for all your real estate needs. 713/862-1600



Proudly supporting our Community!
Bryan Williams
Coldwell Banker Swilley-Hudson
713/869-0456; cell 281/236-5475

Diagnostic Eye Center Bellaire
Personal attention for serious eye care
Stewart Zuckerbrod, MD
5420 Dashwood, Suite 101
713/668-9118

Proud to support the Community Center

On March 8, Happy Birthday Jerry Caliendo
from your OutSmart friends

Help fulfill the prom dreams of Houston high school students. Donate your used tuxes, dresses and formal wear!

The Fairy Godmother Project of Houston collects new and almost new formal dresses, tuxedos and accessories for Houston area high school students who are not able to purchase or rent their own prom attire. Call Ellen Chang, president of the Fairy Godmother Project of Houston, at 832-545-0202 or email her at eychang@hotmail.com.

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

JAYBIRD

Luck be a voluptuous naked lady tonight

I am the luckiest person in the world. Okay, maybe the guy who won the \$360 million PowerBall is pretty lucky, but now that poor guy will never know if people only like him for his new helicopter. I, on the other hand, having won by a landslide the title of "Most Unlikely to Ever Own a Helicopter," am therefore lucky enough to trust the sincerity of my friends.

I am definitely lucky to have absolute trust in my girlfriend's love. When she steps out of the bathroom still steaming from her morning shower, drops her towel, and shouts "Ta-da," I know she's not gold digging for any chopper excursion. She hopes I don't mind that she's naked as a jaybird, and I assure her she looks nothing like a jaybird, which is the honest truth. That inspires her to jump into a rousing rendition of "Rockin' Robin," punctuated by a dance step you'll just have to imagine

for yourself, but which perfectly expresses the concept and rhythm of "Tweedle-ee-deedle-ee-deet."

While she's singing about all the little birdies on Jaybird Street, I'm thinking how lucky I am to have this wowie-zowie dance show just for me, right here in the comfort of my own home. In all his *Bandstand* days, Dick Clark himself never saw such great moves.

Speaking of dicks, last week we went to see a movie starring Jack Nicholson about a man's self-discovery after his plump, and therefore supposedly unappealing, wife dies while dust-busting spilled flour off the kitchen floor. I would just once like to see a movie about a woman's self-discovery after her unappealing husband suffers an untimely, dust-busting death. And here I thought women's liberation would have caught on by now.

But fortunately, the picture was not a total loss. For one thing, *Girlfriend* and I got to spend hours in a dark theater holding hands—another example of that good luck thing. Granted, the theater was so crowded we had to sit in the front row and crane our necks back to tonsillectomy position. However—and here's my good fortune again—from that perspective the actors appeared to have gigantic torsos and heads the size of a common rutabaga, a distortion in itself entertaining enough to more than make up for our mounting chiropractic bills.

My good luck landed us in seats with plenty of room to stretch our legs. Laid out like that, we could simultaneously watch Jack Nicholson learn that life is what you make it and train for the luge.

As another lucky bonus, Kathy Bates comes in so late in the film that our brains

had time to compensate for the optical-illusion rutabaga heads. By the time Goddess Bates walks on the scene, the actors' heads now appeared to have grown to the size of large kohlrabi.

Speaking of large, and I refer back to the lucky aspect of my life again, in the unexpected best part of the whole movie, *Girlfriend* and I were thrilled to catch a fleeting-yet-sensual glimpse of film's Supreme Being, Kathy Bates, disrobing for the hot tub. Who knew we would have the sensuality of size affirmed and promoted at the theater that day? Wow. What luck! Finally, there was a real, voluptuous woman on the big screen. Victoria's Secret could gain a huge (literally) market segment if it would hire models built like Kathy to do its skimpy underwear commercials. You don't need an Audubon field guide to know there is nothing in the world that looks less like a jaybird. Except—lucky me—my own private dancer. "Tweedle-ee-deedle-ee-deet."



Sally Sheklow lives in Oregon with her voluptuous girlfriend. Send your comments to sally@wymprov.com.

Spring Has Sprung!

Families are Heading to the Beach!

- Affordable Suites with Gulf-view Balcony
- Kitchens with Cook Top, Refrigerator, etc.
- Swimming Pools & Whirlpools
- Fitness Center & Tennis Court
- Children's Playground & Picnic Areas
- 10,000 sq. ft. of Meeting Facilities

THE VICTORIAN
CONDO-HOTEL
& CONFERENCE CENTER

A Suite for the Price of a Room!

6300 Seawall • Galveston • 409-740-3555

For Family Rates: 800-231-6363 Or Online: www.victoriancondo.com

Are your Medicare/health rates leaping out-of-sight?
We have great rates on Medicare Supps!

Insurance for those over 55 & Great Rates

We specialize in
Medicare Supplements
Major Medical Insurance
Final Expense Life
Long Term Care
Annuities

For over 24 years we have offered
Quality company & Great rates to Texans
Vic Toucho • Great Service Brokerage, Inc.
713-521-2323 800-999-0023
2311 Dunlavy (at Fairview), Suite #210
Houston, TX 77006



Redefining Private Practice

Emergencies Welcome
Invisalign® Invisible Braces
Implants
Opalescence® 1 hour teeth whitening system
Tooth Shade Fillings

Cory Logan DDS, PA

Cosmetic, Implant, Orthodontic & General Dentistry
530 Waugh Drive | Houston, TX 77019
p: 713.942.8598 | f: 713.942.8591

* To reserve a complimentary Cosmetic Consultation, contact our office

Experience A Beautiful Tomorrow Today

Distinctive B&B Lodging
& Catering Accommodations



THE LOVETT INN

Located in the Heart of Montrose!

Historic Accommodations
Corporate Meeting Rooms
Banquet Facilities
Jacuzzi Suites
Pool/Hot Tub
Near Downtown, Museums
and the Medical Center

501 Lovett Blvd. Houston, TX 77006
Call (713) 522-5224
Fax (713) 528-6708
www.Lovettinn.com

Voted Favorite B&B Lodging
—OutSmart's Gayest & Greatest
Reader Poll 2002



2551 amherst



rice village

713.533.9107



Ted Vorster, OD
Therapeutic Optometrist

Exceptional Eyeframes
Examinations Contact Lenses

Out of Town

by Andrew Collins

PET PEEVES ON THE ROAD

A veteran travel writer logs his protests

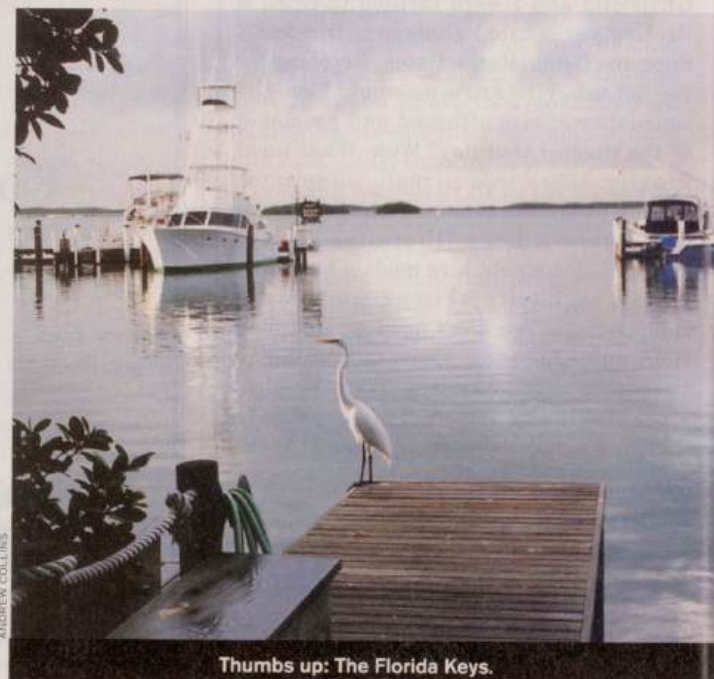
Although I've spent more than 50 percent of the past 12 years on the road, when people ask me to share with them my most horrible travel experiences and most common complaints, I usually can't think of much to say. I'm quite content. The constant waking up in different places, the occasional feeling of disorientation, the packing and repacking, the running to catch flights, the logistics of planning three-month trips—this is all stuff I actually enjoy.

Nevertheless, there are just a few things that get my goat, none of them especially weighty or devastating. I expect to be confronted every so often with crises—overbooked airplanes, hotel reservations gone missing, cars breaking down. That's all right. It's

mostly the little things that drive me crazy.

Hotel bedspreads.

If you're lying on a bed in a hotel room as you read this, put down your magazine immediately and remove the bedspread. Stuff happens on top of beds. And whether in cheap motels or posh four-star resorts, hotel bedspreads are consistently grim. At many hotels, bedspreads are changed weekly; at others, it's sort of a seasonal tradition, like spring cleaning. I may be picky about hotel cleanliness (I was surely influenced by my mother, who has never allowed her bare feet to touch the floor of a hotel room), but I don't mind even no-frills motels. I won't, however, sit on that bedspread.



Thumbs up: The Florida Keys.

Hotels that change sheets and towels daily.

At the risk of appearing impossible to please, I also disapprove of hotels that change linens daily, thereby using far more water and laundry detergent than is necessary. I don't change my sheets and towels daily when I'm at home. Why would I need them changed daily when I travel? Fortunately, many hotels have begun instituting water-saving policies whereby guests are asked to indicate when they want fresh linens. If your hotel doesn't offer such a program, try asking that your linens and sheets be changed every few days. It's a fairly painless way to help save the planet.

Gay business-owners who blame the gay community for their own shortcomings.

I can't tell you how many times I've met gay innkeepers, shop owners, restaurateurs, and barkeepers who have complained to me that "the gay community doesn't support us." Fair enough. It's disheartening when a gay business can't make it, especially when it's a good one that deserves to succeed. But I've seen plenty of gay businesses fail simply because they weren't as good as their competitors. For example, I don't have sympathy for an innkeeper who runs a less-appealing B&B than a straight-owned but gay-friendly competitor and then complains, "The other place is just marketing to gays for the money." In the end, being gay-owned doesn't exempt any business from having to compete with the rest of the world for the gay community's hard-earned dollars.

Car rental insurance.

When I rent a car, I expect to be asked if I would like to purchase a CDW (collision-damage waiver). That's fine. But once I decline, explaining that my own auto-insurance policy covers my use of rental cars, I don't appreciate the often deceptive or aggressive pitches that sometimes follow. If you're not covered by your own car insurer or by a credit-card issuer (always check first), a CDW can make sense. Otherwise, it's basically a scam.

My favorite pitch? "Mr. Collins, your car insurance, with its deductible, leaves you responsible for the first \$500 in damages in the event of an accident. For just \$10 a day, the CDW eliminates your deductible by covering that initial \$500 worth of damages. Personally, I never rent a car without opting for this coverage."

My reply: "So, let me get this straight. If your car insurer offered to waive your policy's \$500 deductible at a daily cost to you of \$10, you'd do it? You'd pay \$3,650 over the course of a year to guard against having to fork over the first \$500 in

damages in the highly unlikely event of an accident?"

B&Bs with a million rules.

If you're going to open a public accommodation, no matter how small, you should expect that some of your guests are going to do things that bother you. I don't blame innkeepers for posting a few household rules. At some B&Bs, however, I've been presented with hefty three-ring binders crammed with lists of *dos* and *don'ts*. Some innkeepers feel compelled to draft a new rule every time a guest does something that derails their sense of order: "Please do not feed orange juice to the cat." "Do not set the electronic-blanket thermostat above 5." "Always return the Trivial Pursuit game to the credenza behind the love seat."

Enough already! If sense of order is that important to you, don't open a business that brings strangers into your home.

Florida.

In all my years as a travel writer, I've never actually confessed on record that I don't care for a city, much less an entire state. But, hey, there's a first time for everything: I don't especially like Florida.

Don't get me wrong. I thoroughly enjoy Key West, but that's not *really* Florida. It's a tiny island closer to Havana than to Miami. The state's other ultragay destination, Fort Lauderdale, has also grown on me over the years. But I still get itchy when I'm there for more than three days. And I've driven up and down both coasts and crisscrossed the state at many points, and I simply have not liked much of what I've found.

I'm not sure what the problem is. Some of my best friends are Floridaphiles. Some of them live there, by choice. True, I do tend to prefer places with dry, four-season climates and big mountains, but that hasn't kept me from falling in love with Louisiana. Could it be the miles of high-rise cookie-cutter condos and soulless strip malls that rivet the state's perimeter? That's partly what bugs me. But perhaps what I like least is the way Florida's tourism industry caters unabashedly to crowds. It's the land of cruise-ship vacations, theme parks, spring-break mayhem, circuit parties, and bodies crammed together along the shore like sardines. Me? I'd rather spend a week in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

For more Out of Town "Pet Peeves," check out www.outsmartmagazine.com.

Andrew Collins is the author of Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA and eight additional travel guides. He can be reached at GayFodors@aol.com. For more Out of Town, visit www.gaytravel.com.

redefine your life



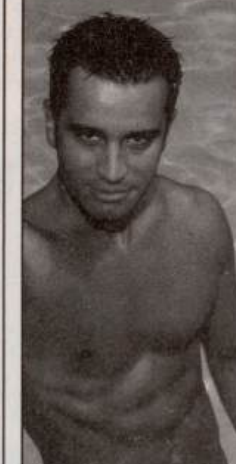
your body
CENTER

• open to all fitness levels
• with modifications for more
• advance poses
• complimentary trial classes
• for first time guests
• centrally located near
waugh and westheimer
1415 california
suite 108
houston, tx 77006
t: 713-274-0800
f: 713-874-0835
info@yourbodycenter.com
www.yourbodycenter.com
yoga • pilates • massage

\$2.00 off class session with your Pride Card

Eduardo Costa

Personal Fitness Instructor



Strength & Flexibility
Toning & Shaping
Nutrition
Fat Loss

Train at "ONE 2 ONE"
3930 Kirby Dr.

(713) 302-5202

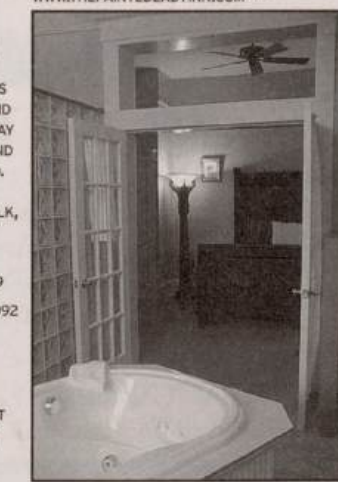
An artsy bed and breakfast in downtown San Antonio

The Painted Lady Inn

WWW.THEPAINTEDLADYINN.COM

POPULAR
INN WITH
LUXURIOUS
SUITES AND
ROOMS. GAY
OWNED AND
OPERATED.
NEAR
RIVER WALK,
ALAMO
RATES:
\$129 - \$219
210-220-1092

10%
OFF FOR
OUTSMART
READERS



davidlewisIMAGES

events
headshots
portraits
art



Call (713) 240-5508
www.davidlewisimages.com

FIND YOUR NEW MOON
AND CELESTIAL BODY.

Laser hair removal (that's out of this world).

FACIAL REJUVENATION
LASER TREATMENTS \ BOTOX
COSMETIC SURGERY \ LIPOSUCTION

713.383.0833
JACQUELINE'S SKINCARE
AT ERMOSA CENTRE FOR PLASTIC SURGERY

Take It To
The Next Level
With A
12-WEEK
PERSONAL FITNESS
Program

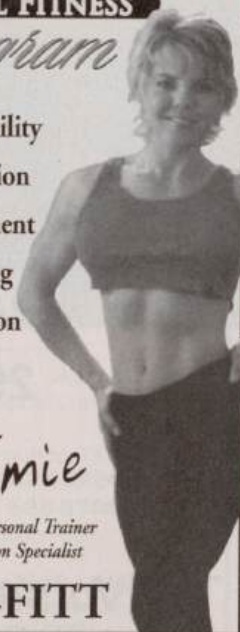
- Increase Flexibility
- Injury Prevention
- Pain Management
- Weight Training
- Proper Nutrition

Coach
Kimmie

Certified Personal Trainer
& Nutrition Specialist

832-443-FITT

Voted: "Best Female Trainer"!



Calendar of Events

Deadline for OutSmart's April issue is 5 p.m., Tuesday, Mar. 11.

MARCH

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; El'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, midnite-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.

4-9 (Tue.-Sun.)

The Music Man marches into the Hobby Center as part of the Broadway in Houston series presented by Society for the Performing Arts. 8 pm, Tue.-Fri.; 2 & 8 pm, Sat.; 2 & 7:30 pm Sun @ Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, 800 Bagby at Walker. Tickets available at the box office, Ticketmaster outlets, www.ticketmaster.com or 713/629-3700. Wheelchair accessible.

7 & 8 (Fri. & Sat.)

Pippin. Once upon a time, the young prince Pippin longed to discover the secret of true happiness & fulfillment. He sought it in the glories of the battlefield, the temptations of love, & the intrigues of political power. In the end, he found it in the simple pleasures of home & family. Pippin not only finds it difficult being the son of a great man—Charlemagne—but also has a tough time finding his purpose in life. This hip, tongue-in-cheek, anachronistic fairy tale captivated Broadway audiences & con-

tinues to appeal to the young-at-heart everywhere. Tickets are \$5. Starts at 7:30 pm both nights @ Underwood Theatre, Episcopal High School, 4560 Bissonnet, Bellaire.

11 & 17 (Tue. & Mon.)

Hypnosis. On the 11th: Weight Loss Using Hypnosis. Stop cravings, stop binges. Lose weight permanently, using the power of the mind, with Dr. Ed Martin. • On the 17th: Stop Smoking thru Hypnosis. Release the habit and compulsion with help from certified hypnotherapist, Dr. Tom Johnson. • Both at 7:30 pm @ CenterPoint, 1920 Hollister. Info: 713-932-7224 or www.centerpointhouston.com.

14 (Fri.)

The Art of the Fugue: Bach Now. Short new works inspired by Bach's *The Art of the Fugue*. A stylistically diverse "who's-who" of contemporary composers responds to Bach in compositions commissioned by the Brentano String Quartet. Presented by Da Camera of

Houston at 8 pm @ the Wortham Center's Cullen Theater, 500 Texas. Tickets (\$20-\$35) are available by contacting the Da Camera Music Center, 1427 Branard, at 713/524-5050, or online at www.dacamera.com.

14-16 (Fri.-Sun.)

Galveston Home & Garden Show. This 15th annual show kicks off with an "Evening for the Animals" soiree. For \$40 per person, guests can get a jump-start on the crowds with a sneak preview of the exhibits on Friday at 6 pm, plus complimentary food, beer, wine, and sodas. There will also be a silent auction and a chance to win a cruise for two or two tickets anywhere Southwest Airlines flies in the U.S. Tickets for the show, which starts at 10 am on Saturday, are \$5 adults and \$4 seniors/students. For more info: Cynthia at 409/763-0263.

15 (Sat.)

Kindred Spirits Reunion Dance. The party takes place from 8 pm-1 am @ the Edwin Hornberger Center, 2151

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

W. Holcombe at Shamrock Dr. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Advance tickets can be purchased from Acadian Bakers, Basic Brothers, Dacapo's, House of Coleman, Keys West, Meteor, the Montrose Clinic/Montrose Counseling Center, the Houston Buyers Club, and Lesbian Health Initiative.

15 (Sat.)

Wellness & Psychic Expo. Explore alternative healthcare medicine & products including vitamins & magnets; try aromatherapy, acupressure, reflexology,

WHERE'S MY DINNER, BITCH?



Anne Zimmerman (l) and Elva Evans

Theatergoers hungry for a change from the usual fare will enjoy a serving of *Where's My Dinner, Bitch?*, an original comedy by Houston-based playwright Bob Morgan. *Where's My Dinner, Bitch?* illustrates the power of female bonding as the husbands of abused trailer-park gals begin showing up dead across Jackson County. When the regional

manager for Nova Cosmetics begins a torrid lesbian romance with the head of a woman's shelter to further her sales, the ladies of Jackson County simultaneously move from being hapless abuse-shelter residents to rising stars in the direct-marketing cosmetics field. This thoughtful, feminist play contains violence, strong language, and nudity and is not suitable for children. ■

What: *Where's My Dinner, Bitch?*

When: Through Mar. 22

(Fridays & Saturdays at 8 p.m.; pay-what-you-want performances Mondays, Mar. 10 & 17)

Where: 411 Westheimer (upstairs at Helios)

Cost: \$10 (\$6 seniors & students)

Reservations: 713/201-0193

Be warned (or be glad): contains nudity

& more. Entry \$2. CenterPoint, 1920 Hollister. Info: 713-932-7224 or www.centerpointhouston.com.

17 (Mon.)

Listen Up. Tomaz Salamun, the author of 30 books of poetry translated into almost every European language, is one of Europe's most popular & prolific poets and a leading figure in the Eastern European avant garde. His works in English include *Feast* (edited by Charles Simic). Simic has had published more than 60 books in the U.S. & abroad, among them the Pulitzer Prize-winning *The World Doesn't End: Prose Poems*. They are part of Inprint's 2003 Margaret Root Brown Houston Reading Series. 7:30 pm (no late seating) @ Alley Theatre, 615 Louisiana. Suggested donation is \$5 (students/senior citizens free). Info: 713/521-2026 or www.inprint-inc.org.

20 (Thu.)

Mamma Mia Promotion Party. Join OutSmart for this special party. Reasons to join us: • Ticket giveaways • Mamma Mia merchandise giveaways • Hear your favorite ABBA songs one more time • Great excuse for a night out. 8 pm @ Meteor, 2306 Genesee.

21 (Fri.)

Spalding Gray. Join Gray for his always-funny, poignant, & insightful "Interviewing the Audience," in which he turns the spotlight onto audience members, who, prompted by Gray's empathetic questions & quips, reveal their innermost desires, fears, joys, & longings. A master of what the *Washington Post* has called "public psychotherapy," Gray creates a cathartic event for performer & audience. Presented by Society for the Performing Arts at 8 pm @ Wortham Center's Cullen Theater, 500 Texas. Tickets: 713/227-45PA or visit www.spahouston.org.

21-23 (Fri.-Sun.)

Bayou City Art Festival. Memorial Park provides the backdrop for this fine-art event showcasing 300 national & international artists. Take a walking tour into a landscape of creativity & imagination featuring 17 distinctive categories of original artwork exhibited in individual artists' booths. The festival offers a unique opportunity for the eminent collector or the neophyte to talk with the artists about their art styles, lifestyles, & inspirations. This one-on-one opportunity with the artist is one of the reasons the event attracts an impressive assemblage of designers & collectors. Guests can enjoy the sounds of eclectic music while relaxing at the wine cafés or beer taverns, enjoy the myriad of foods from Houston restaurants, & play in the Creative Zone for kids and those who still create like kids. 10 am-6 pm in Memorial Park. \$7 (children 12 & under free). Free METRO shuttle service from area locations. See www.bayoucityartfestival.com for schedule.

22 (Sat.)

Festival of the Vernal Equinox. For more info on this Aurora Picture Show fundraiser, call the Aurora Picture Show (800 Aurora) at 713/868-2101 or visit them online at www.aurorapictureshow.org.

23 (Sun.)

The Journey to Taizé is a service in the style of Taizé, France. All are welcome. 6 pm @ Trinity Episcopal Church, 1015 Holman St. in Midtown Houston, 713/528-4100.

24 (Mon.)

Music and Poetry: Without End. Sarah Rothenberg & lyric poet Adam Zagajewski explore themes of memory, spirituality, & ecstatic joy in music & words. Zagajewski reads his poetry, which lends itself to an intimate dialogue with music. His readings in English & Polish are reflected musically in selected piano works. 7:30 pm @ the Menil Collection, 1515 Sul Ross. Tickets (\$30) are available by contacting the Da Camera Music Center, 1427 Branard, at 713/524-5050, or online at www.dacamera.com. →

OWN a 1-BEDROOM HOME for

\$970/Mo.
and NO DOWN PAYMENT

Act Now and Save Over \$9,000!



Premium 1-bedroom homes can now be yours for just \$970/Month and No Money Down. Or choose a 2-bedroom home for just \$1080/Month and No Money Down.* Either way, owning your own slice of the city has never been easier...or smarter. Must close by March 31, 2003.

THE RENAISSANCE AT RIVER OAKS

Private Residences

2111 Welch Street • Houston, TX 77019

SALES CENTER OPEN DAILY: MONDAY - SATURDAY 9 AM TO 6 PM SUNDAY 12 PM TO 6 PM

Countrywide
HOME LOANS

Matthew Vest, Branch Manager, 713.291.3884
Scott Pelzer, Home Loan Consultant, 713.703.7299
2714 W. Lake Houston Pkwy #180
Kingwood, TX 77339
281.361.8546

The Nation's Leading Condominium Developer
AMERICAN INVSCO

www.therenaissancecondo.com
713-529-0111



Equal housing lender. ©2001 Countrywide Loans, Inc. Realtor participation invited. Prices subject to change without notice. Prices, conditions and restrictions vary. Offers not combinable with any other offer. *"No Down Payment" offer only valid for owner-occupied purchases; monthly payment shown based on purchase of sample one and two bedroom homes.

Gifts for you and your pets!

Quality Puppy Grooming at
J. Andrews
THE
PET SALON & DAY SPA
3601-C Westheimer
713.963.9595
www.jandrewspetgrooming.com

FAT CAT FLATS
CATS ONLY

Special Care,
Boarding
and Grooming
for Kitties

1516 West Alabama
713.528.MEOW (6369)
www.fatcatflats.com



PAX PLUMBING SERVICE

**Women-Owned & Operated
Plumbing Service Since 1985**

- Residential • Commercial
- New Construction
- Repairs & Remodeling
- Building Maintenance

Amelia Reed
License #J-28054

Call 713/698-5012 (pager)
713/939-1552 • Hours: Mon-Sat.

MASSAGE



**MIND • BODY
SOUL**

713/397-8808

MONTROSE LOCATION
• SWEDISH
• RELAXATION
• DEEP TISSUE

RMT34440

Joel

I'm spending Mardi Gras with Mari!

Merry Days
Glorified Pet Sitting Service

- Pick up & Delivery for Vet & Grooming Appointments
- Scheduled Visits or Day Care Available
- Bonded and Insured
- Reasonable Rates
- Gourmet Pet Meals



Mari Davis

832/527-8955 or 281/358-5116
Serving Montrose and the Surrounding Areas

26 (Wed.)

Women's Professional Soccer returns to Houston with Atlanta Beat/San Diego Spirit exhibition game. Sellout crowd at last October's WUSA exhibition game proves Houstonians love women's professional soccer. The San Diego Spirit team roster features 2002 Chevy Athlete of the Year Shannon MacMillan, U.S. national team captain Julie Foudy, 2003 #1 draft pick Aly Wagner, and Houstonians Amy Sauer & Susan Bush. The Atlanta Beat features World Cup goalkeeper Briana Scurry, Olympic gold medalist Cindy Parlow, Canada's leading scorer Charmaine Hooper, and Texas A&M grad Melanie Wilson. The pre-season exhibition game will kickoff at 7 pm with the Atlanta Beat playing the San Diego Spirit @ the Rice University Track/Soccer Stadium. Tickets available at www.hwsa.org, the Rice University ticket office, all Soccer 4 All stores in the greater Houston area, and Soccer Time in Pasadena.

28 (Fri.)

Dee Dee Bridgewater: Gettin' Weill'd. The celebrated vocalist returns to Houston to perform new arrangements of theater songs by Kurt Weill. Featured on Bridgewater's new Verve CD *This Is New*, the songs include "September Song" and "Lost in the Stars." 8 pm @ Wortham Center's Cullen Theater, 500 Texas Ave. Tickets (\$25-\$40) are available by contacting the Da Camera Music Center, 1427 Branard, at 713/524-5050, or online at www.dacamera.com.

28 (Fri.)

A Day in London, 1712. The Mercury Baroque Ensemble presents musical scenes from everyday life. For info/tickets: 713/498-4853, e-mail Mercury@houston.rr.com, or visit www.MercuryBaroqueEnsemble.org.

28 & 29 (Fri. & Sat.)

The End of Things and Melt. Acclaimed Australian choreographer Lucy Guerin comes to Houston with two provocative works: the stunning exploration of everyday minutiae in *The End of Things* and the physical exploration of psychological extremes in *Melt*. Tickets \$20 (members \$15; students/artists/seniors \$10). DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway. Reservations: 713/335-3445. More info: www.diverseworks.org.

28-30 (Fri.-Sun.)

Camp. No, not that kind of camp. If you're into the outdoors kind of camping, join HOG (Houston Outdoor Group) for a campsite in Martin Dies State Park. Located at the edge of the Big Thicket National Preserve, the park is in the heavily-forested area known

as the "East Texas Pineywood." Five miles of hiking trails provide excellent opportunities to view wildlife. Three campsites have been reserved. Pets on leashes are welcome. To review the Martin Dies website: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/martindi/martindi.htm#body. For more info: 713/KAMP-OUT (526-7688).

28-30 (Fri.-Sun.)

The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater has earned an international reputation as one of the most acclaimed ambassadors of American culture as they promote the uniqueness of black cultural expression & the preservation & enrichment of the American modern dance heritage. They grew from a now-fabled performance on March 1958 at the 92nd Street Young Men's Hebrew Association in New York. Led by founder Alvin Ailey, a group of young black modern dancers changed the perception of American dance forever. The Ailey company has gone on to perform for an estimated 19 million people in 48 states & in 68 countries on six continents, including two historic residencies in South Africa. Upon viewing these innovative performances, audiences will be unable to resist the spirit of revolution The Ailey embodies. Surprises in motion are common, as are surprises in line up. Ticketholders for the Fri. & Sat. performances will be treated to *Following the Subtle Current Upstream*, *Prayers from the Edge*, & *Revelations*. Sunday's matinee, currently for sale to groups of 15 or more, will be composed of *The Winter in Lisbon*, *Love Songs*, *Serving Nia*, and *Revelations*. Society for the Performing Arts presents the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater on Fri. & Sat. at 8 pm & Sun. at 2 pm in Jones Hall. Tickets (\$15-\$50) can be purchased online at www.spahouston.org, by phone at 713/227-45PA, or at the box office at Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana. Info about Alvin Ailey Modern Dance Theater: www.alvinaiiley.org.

29 & 30 (Sat. & Sun.)

Camera Show. Come see what develops at the 53rd Semi-annual Camera Show and Sale. Usable & collectible cameras, accessories, darkroom equipment, photographic literature & images, and much more. Free appraisals & complimentary camera & shutter check-ups. \$5 each day. Sat., 10 am-5 pm, and Sun., 10 am-4 pm @ the Marriott Hotel (formerly Radisson)-Hobby Airport, 9100 Gulf Freeway at the Airport exit. For more info: 713/868-9606.

30 (Sun.)

Ancient Traditions: A Celebration of Classic Cultures. This eclectic performance conducted by John Axelrod features the world premiere of a commissioned work by Kaarim al-Zand, professor of composition at the Shepherd School of Music; Leonard Bernstein's "Serenade, after Plato's Symposium"; and Beethoven's Symphony No. 9—"Ode to Joy." Tickets \$10-\$28. Presented by OrchestraX in association with the Southwest Region of the Anti-Defamation League at 7:30 pm in Zilkha Hall @ the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, 800 Bagby at Rusk. For more info: 713/225-6729 or www.orchestraX.com.

PLANNING AHEAD

APRIL April 2 (Wed.)

A Little Day Music. Da Camera of Houston's free lunchtime performance series continues with "Lunch with the Russians" featuring the Marian Anderson String Quartet. Da Camera's lunchtime series features live music and drawings for tickets to Da Camera's upcoming events. Noon in the Grand Foyer, Wortham Center, 500 Texas. More info: www.dacamera.com or 713/524-7601, ext. 15.

April 4 (Fri.)

Russian Night: Moscow Soloists with Yuri Bashmet. Violist & conductor Yuri Bashmet & Moscow Soloists

perform Bach, Britten, Takemitsu, & Tchaikovsky. Presented by Da Camera of Houston, 8 pm @ Wortham Center's Cullen Theater, 500 Texas. Tickets (\$20-\$35; students/seniors half price) are available by contacting the Da Camera Music Center, 1427 Branard, at 713/524-5050, or online at www.dacamera.com.

April 11 (Fri.)

Gay Signings. Dean James, gay store manager of *Murder by the Book*, will sign & discuss his 2nd novel, *Faked to Death*, which features gay American sleuth, Simon Kirby-Jones. Greg Herren, gay New Orleans crime novelist, will sign & discuss his new gay mystery, *Bourbon Street*. Both at 6 pm @ *Murder by the Book*, 2342 Bissonnet, 713/524-8597.

MAY

May 7-11 (Wed.-Sun.)

Gay Men's Health Summit. This 3rd summit—to be held in Raleigh, North Carolina—is part of a nationwide effort to create a strong, visible grassroots movement among diverse gay men focused on a wide range of sexual, mental, & community health concerns that need to be addressed. The 2003 summit will consist of over 100 sessions of activities, debates, workshops, & videos. The main focus of the summit will be on interactive workshops. This is no ordinary health conference. The program for this four-day event is built by the participants who contribute program proposals to a committee that reviews them & selects outstanding proposals that meet the objective of creating a strong & comprehensive program around gay, bisexual, & queer health. Concerns to be addressed include—but are not limited to—major illnesses like hepatitis, chronic fatigue syndrome & prostate cancer, as well as mental health issues, same-sex domestic violence, and the relationship between spirituality & health. For more info: www.GMH52003.org.

PERFORMING ARTS

♦ **Dirty Blonde.** What makes a legend? What makes a romance? A healthy dose of obsession never hurts... and actually helps Charlie, a film archivist, and Jo, an aspiring actress, to fulfill and embrace their destiny. These two loners meet at Mae West's grave in Queens. When Charlie reveals how he was befriended by West, he takes Jo on a wild reminiscence of 1930s Hollywood, sequined gowns, & the making of an icon. Mar. 19-Apr. 13 @ Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway. Tickets (\$32-\$42; preview performances \$22-\$25) are available by calling 713/527-0123 or by visiting www.stages theatre.com.

♦ **Einstein and the Polar Bear.** A young woman is stranded in a snowstorm & seeks shelter in the home of a popular, highly regarded, reclusive writer. The writer's father once met Einstein, a polar bear is loose in the village, & the young lady is both attractive & mysterious. 8 pm, Fridays & Saturdays, Mar. 28-May 3, @ the Company Onstage, 536 Westbury Square. Tickets are \$12. Info/reservations: 713/726-1219.

♦ **An Evening of One-Acts:** two one-act plays by Rice University's playwright-in-residence Douglas Mitchell. His works were seen last winter at Theatre LaB Houston and included the comedies *A Surplus of Charity* & *It's Hard to Say*. Mitchell's plays explore internal confrontations, which we most often choose not to see ourselves. 8 pm, through Mar. 15 @ Theatre LaB Houston, 1706 Alamo. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$22 at the door. To reserve tickets: 713/868-7516. For more info: www.theaterlabhouston.com.

♦ **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 lifestyle. *Fairy Tales*, the inaugural production at

Theatre New West, was a major success, both critically & at the box office. *Fruit Cocktail* is directed by Joe Watts, artistic director of Theatre New West. Musical director is Michael Harren. Through Mar. 8 @ Theatre New West, 1415 California. Tickets \$20. Reservations/info: 713/522-2204.

♦ **Harlem After Hours.** This classy & entertaining world premiere musical transforms the stage into a vintage Harlem after-hours club, where a calvacade of singers & showstoppers razzle & dazzle us with their late-night jams & reveries of the heart. Mar. 15-Apr. 13 @ the Ensemble Theatre, 3535 Main St., 713/520-0055.

♦ **Houston Ballet's Cinderella.** A beautiful waif in cinders transformed into a princess, a handsome prince, and a glass slipper lost at the stroke of midnight... it's Ben Stevenson's production of *Cinderella*. Mar. 13-23 @ Wortham Center's Brown Theater, Texas at Smith. Tickets available at the ballet box office at the Wortham, at the Houston Ballet at 1916 W. Gray, by phone at 713/227-ARTS, or online at www.houstonballet.org.

♦ **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.** Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's classic family musical and perennial favorite tells the Bible story of Joseph and his coat of many colors entirely in song. Presented by the Houston-based Doin' What Matters Theatre Company, the diverse cast, selected during citywide auditions, showcases some of Houston's finest talent. A portion of ticket sales from this show will be donated to Spaulding for Children's foster care, adoption, and post-adoption programs. Fri., Mar. 7 at 7:30 pm; Sat., Mar. 8 at 2:30 & 7:30 pm; and Sun., Mar. 9 at 6 pm, @ the Hobby Center's Zilkha Hall. For tickets (\$25-\$30): the Hobby Center Box Office, 713/315-2525, or www.thehobbycenter.org. More info about the production or Doin' What Matters: 281/558-0857.

♦ **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



Arlington Crt - 35 West Terrace
3/2.5/2.5, 5,982 sf one story. Beautiful, private 27,000 sf double ravine loc. Tranquil forest views. \$999,000.

Museum - 1400 Hermann 7E
2/2. 1728 sf flat with views of downtown and Hermann Park/Med Center. \$310,000.

West U - 6522 Wesleyan
2/1/1. Cute, updated bungalow with yard. \$204,999 or \$1600/month.

Michael Anderson, Realtor

Committed to the Gay Community
Committed to Real Estate

Michael Berry Properties
223 Westheimer Road
Houston, Texas 77006

713.522.5225 ofc
713.522.3286 fax
832.264.8523 cell

MICHAEL BERRY
Properties, Inc.
713.522.5225

PATRICK J. VACHON
L.M.S.W., A.C.P.



Certified IMAGO
Relationship
Therapist &
Workshop
Presenter

Certified Sexual
Addiction
Therapist

Phone: 713.524.1771
Email: VachonPJ@aol.com

1712 Fairview
Houston, Texas 77006-1711
www.imagohealing.com



**Go Beyond
The Given.**

We are a new thought
spiritual alternative just
40 minutes from The Montrose.

Come join our diverse
community for Sunday
celebrations at 9 and 11 am.

Creative Life Spiritual Center

5326 Spring Stuebner Road
between I-45 (exit 70A) and Kuykendahl
Jesse Jennings, D.D., Founding Minister
www.creativelife.org 281 350 5157

**Specializing in
Personality-Guided
Therapy**

...because every
person is unique

I'd Be Glad To Help You
• Build Self-Esteem
• Improve Relationships
• Overcome
- Stress and Fears
- Depression

DEBORAH DENSON, LMSW-ACP

• Licensed Master of Social Work
• Advanced Clinical Practitioner

3000 Wesleyan Suite 345 • 713-850-7225

La Jaliscience

RESTAURANT & BAR



THANK YOU GLBT COMMUNITY FOR 24 YEARS OF SERVICE!

FREE with this ad: APPETIZER with purchase of 2 dinner plates
COUPON VALID MON-THU. EXPIRES 03/31/03

1308 Montrose
Houston, TX 77019

Happy Hour
Mon-Fri 3-7PM

713/524-8676



COUNSELING & PSYCHOTHERAPY

- Certified IMAGO Relationship Therapist
- Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist
- Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor
- 21 Years Counseling Experience

DENISE O'DOHERTY

3730 KIRBY DR., STE. 910 • HOUSTON, 77098

(713) 524-9525

Understanding

Your Issues. Discovering Solutions Together.

LIVING OUT
COUNSELING CONNECTION

3400 Montrose, Suite 510

713.523.4567 Insurance. Sliding Scale.

Individual • Couples • Group • Clinical Supervision



COLLEEN R. LOGAN, PhD, LPC

Art Keller, D.C.

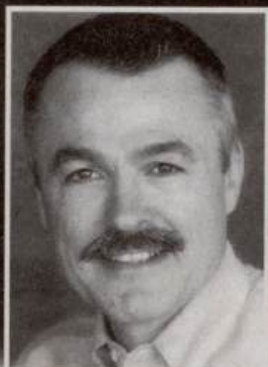
CHIMNEY ROCK CHIROPRACTIC CENTER

- Work Injuries
- Impairment Ratings
- Sports Injuries
- Auto Accidents
- Acupuncture

Se Habla Español • All major credit cards accepted

(713) 781-3344

3033 Chimney Rock, Ste 440 @ Richmond



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.

♦ **Kiss Me Kate** is derived from Shakespeare's comedy *The Taming of the Shrew*. The show takes place backstage during an out-of-town tryout for a musical. An egotistical actor-producer & his ex-wife bicker & romance their way through this timeless story. Their hilarious antics take place in a play within a play, both on & off the stage. Mar. 20-Apr. 6 @ the Hobby Center, 800 Bagby. Tickets (\$25-\$68) are available at 713/558-8887, at the box office, or at www.tuts.com.

♦ **The Little Foxes** is the story of three siblings who allow hatred & greed to destroy their family. Mar. 13-Apr. 13 @ Main Street Theater in Rice Village, 2540 Times Blvd. Tickets are \$20-\$30. For more info: www.mainstreettheater.com or 713/524-6706.

♦ **The Music Man**. Strike up the band! Traveling salesman & smooth-talking con-man Professor Harold Hill is headed our way in this all-new adaptation of the Broadway smash hit. Mar. 4-9 @ the Hobby Center, 800 Bagby at Walker. Tickets: 713/629-3700 or www.ticketmaster.com.

♦ **The Stand-In** is a biting satire of Hollywood closets. Lester Perry, famous soap opera hunk, is playing gay in a made-for-TV movie. Will he out himself in the process? Directed by Unhinged Productions' artistic director Chris Jimmerson, this laugh-filled play features 10 actors who play over 40 characters between them. Through Mar. 16 (Fridays & Saturdays at 8 pm, Sundays at 5 pm) @ Atomic Café, 1320 Nance. Tickets are \$10-\$15. Reservations/info: 713/547-0440. Be warned (or be glad): contains nudity.

♦ **The Supporting Cast**. Hilarity ensues amidst the Malibu summer fires & mudslides when a weekend gathering at the beach turns sour as the guests get the opportunity to read a soon-to-be-published "tell-all" novel about them. Tickets \$10 (students/seniors \$9; matinees \$8). Fridays & Saturdays, 8:30 pm, Sundays at 3 pm, through Mar. 22 @ Theatre Suburbia, 1410 W. 43rd St., 713/682-3525, www.theatresuburbia.com.

♦ **You Can't Take It with You**. Alice Sycamore must introduce her fiancé's straitlaced family to her eccentric family of hobby-horse-loving, firework enthusiasts. Grandpa hunts snakes, throws darts, & ignores income tax payments, while other family members write plays, operate amateur printing presses, & play the xylophone. When the families meet, the worlds of the wealthy, uptight Kirbys and the slightly off-kilter Sycamores collide. Through Mar. 29 @ the Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave. Tickets available at www.alleytheatre.org at the Alley box office, or by calling 713/228-8421.

♦ **Young and Fertile** features the ever-popular Fertile Family of Dumpster, Texas. A class reunion has everybody flashing back to their favorite moments from the 1970s. Champagnes, wines, beers, cappuccino, & munchies are available throughout the show. Admission is \$18. Through May 3 @ Radio Music Theatre, 2623 Colquitt. Reservations/info: 713/522-7722.

PERFORMING ARTS

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

♦ **Aladdin and the Magic Lamp**. Imagine a cave full of gleaming treasure, a mysterious storyteller, an evil magician, a beautiful princess, an all-powerful genie, & a magic lamp. Follow Aladdin & his friend the camel on an exciting adventure. Saturdays, 11 am & 1:30 pm, Mar. 15-Apr. 26, @ the Company Onstage, 536 Westbury Square. Tickets \$6. Info: 713/726-1219.

♦ **Junie B. Jones** is a quirky, outrageous six-year-old with a penchant for trouble, which begins with her first ride on a school bus on the first day of kindergarten. Highlights of her year include the fire department rescuing her, meanie Jim's birthday party, monsters under the bed, her favorite aunt's wedding, but she finally graduates to first grade to everyone's relief. Mar. 4-Apr. 10 @ Main Street Theater in Chelsea Market, 4617 Montrose. Public performances: Mar. 8, 15, 22, 29, Apr. 5; school performances: Mar. 4-Apr. 10. 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: 713/524-6706 or www.mainstreettheater.com.

♦ **Main Street Theater Kids on Stage Summer Performing Arts Camp**. Young performers will turn into shining stars as they experience the excitement of a summer filled with theatrical activities & dance. Under the direction of professional actors, dancers, & educators, campers will learn all aspects of theater production, including acting, movement, directing, costume & set design, and makeup. Dance classes will teach campers to let loose and have fun with creative movement as well as teaching popular dance styles such as jazz, modern, hip-hop, & swing. At the end of each session, campers in each age group will produce & rehearse an eye-popping, high-energy production including a play & a choreographed dance spectacular for family & friends. For ages 4-14, June 9-Aug. 8. Prices range from \$215-\$465. For more info: Angela Harris, director of education, 713/524-9196, or e-mail at aharris@mainstreettheater.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

♦ **Flip Side** is an exhibit based on the collaboration of artists & writers, presented by Women in the Visual and Literary Arts (WVLA). Through Mar. 14 @ Bank of America Center, 700 Louisiana. Hours are M-F, 6 am-6 pm. For more info: 281/293-0231.

♦ **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. Through May 4 @ the Menil Collection, 1515 Sul Ross, 713/525-9400, www.menil.org.

♦ **Mind the Gap: Work from Houston High Schools**. Dealing broadly with the theme of gaps, orifices, holes, or spaces, *Mind the Gap* includes over 40 works of art in a variety of media, including painting, sculpture, works on paper, collage, & a site-specific wall drawing created especially for the Contemporary Arts Museum, 5216 Montrose Blvd., 713/284-8250. *Mind the Gap* is on view through Mar. 23.

♦ **Mads Gamdrup: Renunciation**. Featuring 16 large-scale color photographs that focus on the desert landscapes of the U.S., Morocco, Egypt, & Iceland, the exhibition examines the intersection of the real & the imagined through the lens of landscape imagery.

Through Mar. 16 @ Blaffer Gallery, the Art Museum of U of H, 120 Fine Arts Building, 713/743-9528, www.blaffergallery.org.

♦ **No Boundaries** features a collaboration with Houston sculptor Pat Moberley Moore, Florida painter Joan Blackmore Nixon, & Texas photographer Connie Moberley. Through Apr. 5 @ Archway Gallery, 2013 W. Gray, 713/522-2409, www.archwaygallery.com.

♦ **Poetics of Clay: An International Perspective** is an exhibition of selected ceramic works by world-renowned artists drawn from numerous private & public collections. Includes vessels, domestic ware, sculpture, & an architectural installation by artists from approximately 17 countries. Through May 3 @ Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, 4848 Main Street, 713/529-4848, www.crafthouston.org.

♦ **A Sense of Place**. Maide Rutherford's oil on linen paintings reveal a unique style for landscapes & abstracts that captivate the mind with vibrant colors, forms, & shadows. Mar. 3-28 in the Main Gallery @ the Jung Center, 5200 Montrose. In the Side Gallery: Water-Impressionism—Claudette Goux's delicate patterns & infinite shifting colors in nature.

♦ **Guo Shun**. The first showing of the works of Chinese artist Guo Shun from Xiangtang, Hunan, China, includes oil paintings & pen sketches. His painting "Childhood Song" was selected into the Picture Album of Chinese Still Life Paintings in 1997; his "Emperor Qing Shihuang" painting won a bronze medal & was collected by the Chinese Art Museum. Opening reception: Mar. 6, 6-10pm; continuing exhibition: Mar. 7-11 @ Magnolia Gallery, 715 Franklin Street at Milam.

♦ **The Sound We Make Together**. Harrell Fletcher consistently derives inspiration for his community-based, conceptual art projects by observing & interacting with the communities in which his work is shown. Using this approach, Fletcher shapes relationships with strangers that develop into focal points for the work. *The Sound We Make Together* provides a portrait of the community of Houston & the nature of communities themselves—how we find, build, & maintain them. Mar. 7-Apr. 19 @ DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway, 713/335-3445, www.diverseworks.org.

CALENDAR DEADLINE
for OutSmart's April issue:
Tue., Mar. 11, 5 p.m.

VOTED 2002
BEST MASSAGE
IN HOUSTON BY TRIANGLE READERS

MASSAGE
by rail

NATIONALLY CERTIFIED THERAPIST
PREFERRED 1.5 HOURS\$75
1 HOUR\$60
1" VISIT—20% DISCOUNT!

Jacuzzi Before and/or After Massage
Available in Private Tropical Setting

CALL 832.524.7700
OR 713.527.0400

2740 Kirby Drive • 832.661.3398

JOSH RODRIGUEZ
Certified Personal Trainer

Complimentary
1 hour personal training session
and dietary consultation
\$150.00 value

Dr. Jackie Doval M.S., D.C., C.A.C.
HUMAN AND ANIMAL CHIROPRACTIC

Chiropractor for all Walks of Life!

Humans
Horses
Dogs
Cats

"A Unique
Practice for
the Montrose
Family!"



Dr. Jackie & son Mario
404 Westheimer
(WESTHEIMER & TAFT)
713.627.9355

www.avcdoctors.com | www.docjackie.com

Jennifer
Segel, LPC

Expressive
Arts
Therapist

Individuals
Couples
Families
Sliding Scale

Counseling

"What You Can Feel, You Can Heal"
Phone: 713/304.8407

OutSmart Marketplace

• ACCOMMODATIONS

THE LOVETT INN
Affordable luxury in the heart of Montrose. Beautifully appointed rooms for both business and leisure travelers. All rooms have direct dial phones, private bath, breakfast, and color TVs. Also available VCR, FAX, Jacuzzi suites, pool, and spa. Walk to clubs, restaurants, shopping, and public transportation. Convenient to Downtown, Galleria, Medical & Convention Centers.
713/522-5224

• ROCKIN' R' RANCH

Houston area's only Gay & Lesbian camp grounds. Rustic camp sites available. Coming soon showers and comfort stations. For information and reservations, call Pat or Debbie in Navasota at 936/894-3779.

• ANNOUNCEMENTS

Houston Scuba Academy
• Scuba Lessons
• Equipment
• Travel
With this ad receive \$50 off equipment when basic open water scuba lessons are purchased.
www.HoustonScubaAcademy.com
12505 Hillcroft • Houston, TX 77035 • 713.721.7788

• SALSA DANCING?

New SALSA DANCE GROUP forming just for fun! Instructor and students wanted. Call 713/520-5771
SHAKE YOUR BOOTY!

• CLEANING SERVICES

A Man's Maid Cleaning Service. Professional & Dependable. Homes & Apartments. Move In/Move Out. Call Aaron 713/942-7511.

• EMPLOYMENT

See Houston's elite & upscale parties first hand!
Carlton Hospitality now hiring bartenders & waiters. Part time/flexible hours - pay up to \$10/hour! Call Paul at 713/691-2000

OFFICE POSITION - family oriented. 27 yr old reputable service business ISO of qualified individual. Requirements: ans. multi-line phones, contracts, set-up spreadsheets, comp. literate, FILING, prefer 2 yrs. college, proven wk hist., good personality, sharp, quick thinker, self starter w/ideas, hard worker. Sal. comm. w/history, benefits+401k, casual env. Bilingual (Span.) a+, hi energy person/w a great attitude. If you love a challenge give us a call 713/668-1021, ask for Maria. EOE

• EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSITION

The Houston GLBT Community Center is seeking qualified candidates for newly created executive director position.
Duties include: • Development & implementation of Center fundraising • Coordination of newsletter & brochure production • Management of volunteers • Oversight of Center facilities & day-to-day operations. Executive director reports to pres. of the board of directors. Compensation is commensurate with performance. Experience with nonprofits a must. Mail resumes to: Executive Director Search, Houston GLBT Community Center, PO Box 2304, Houston, TX 77252-2304. Deadline is March 20, 2003 • EOE

• EMPLOYMENT

NOW HIRING SALES MANAGER
Full Time / Part Time
Flexible Schedules
Knowledge of Antiques
Retail Experience Helpful
People-Friendly A Must
Contact Len @ 480/203-4255 or Fax Resume To 281/583-2730

• ANTIQUES SUPER-MALL

70 FM 1960 West
Houston, TX 77090
281/583-2700

• HAIR SALONS

Shaun Penn
"Eventually you'll find a stylist that you like."
713.521.2444

• MASSAGE

CALL JOE
First-Time Massage
Client Specials.
Relaxation, Sports,
or Light/Deep
Massage.
713/540-7544
MT#014552

estevan jeff
hands TO CAR
713 802 0439
inkworkx.com/massage.htm

Hair Color Specialist & Massage
by LePepe.
Relax and enjoy!
FREE HAIRCUT WITH MASSAGE DURING March 713/622-1622: 713/392-7361(cel)
In/Out Calls; Late Calls Welcome.
www.hairandmassagebylepepe.com

THOM OF HOUSTON. Massage - Sunday, Monday and Tuesday only. 713/523-6577

• MASSAGE

Massage by Ken
Massage for everyone
In or Out Calls.
Convenient
Montrose location.
Experience stress relief.
By appointment only.
11AM to 8 PM
Ken Claude
713.240.9598

HEALING HANDS. Caring and healing hands with Swedish, Deep Tissue massage. Balancing your life by restoring flow and energy. Peaceful, relaxing and rejuvenating for total health. RMT#2233. Howard Kanelakos 713/528-6174. (Please note my new number).

Dave's Hands. Shiatsu and Swedish massage with an experienced therapist. Relaxation and deep tissue combined into one massage. Obese persons welcome. Great treatment from a strong man. 713/805-2048.

Profoundly Relaxing...
Exceptionally Therapeutic!
For the best massage from a professional and experienced therapist, call
Paul Rutledge
713/592-0444
In/Out Calls • Flexible Hours
SEE MY DISPLAY AD IN THIS ISSUE!

Massage Therapy. Therapeutic and deep tissue by Jason. Memorial Park at Montrose area (big metal house on Fairview!). College guy. RMT# 23870. 713/524-5400/cel 713/863-8888 or www.sizzlingmassage.com

Classic Massage
"In The Heights"
Maturity and experience. Great rates. Relaxing, therapeutic massage in private studio in the Heights. Evenings 6-10 pm and weekends 12-10 pm. Call for appointment, Byron 713/202-9786. Visit my website at www.classicmassage.com
Second available.

SPORTS AND DEEP TISSUE FULL BODY MASSAGE
Now Doing Out Calls & In Calls
Heights Studio Location
Daily 10AM-6 PM
Zeppelin Massage
Tom Zeppelin • 713.542.0426
REGISTERED MASSAGE THERAPIST (RMT)

• PAINTERS

PAINTING SHEETROCK REPAIR TEXTURES
Call Marcia
832-567-3804
Bonded & Insured

• RETAIL/FOR SALE

FOR PLEASURES
Dare the pleasure of enhancing your beauty.
707 College Avenue
South Houston, TX 77587
713-947-6500
• Exotic Clothes • Dancewear • Wigs
• Lingerie • Perfumes • Clubwear

Erotic cabaret boutique
Houston's Premiere Lingerie Superstore
1222 Westheimer
713/528-4565
20th anniversary
www.eroticcabaret.com

• REAL ESTATE/FOR RENT

Galveston Summer Rental. Wanted Lesbian(s) to rent nice 2/1 home for summer. Dates negotiable. Off street parking, fenced yard, fully furnished w/ A/C & W/D. One mile from beach. \$1500/summer plus utilities. Call Jeane or Sandy at 409/762-1917.

• REAL ESTATE/FOR SALE

Renovated Westbury Square condo updated in 2002. All new appliances stay including refrigerator, built in microwave & stove. New Berber Carpet, paint, countertops, recessed lighting and much more. \$35,500. 832/661-1502.

SOUTHAMPTON: A fabulous contemporary home near Rice U and Medical Center. Great for entertaining. Ideal for professional pair. Small children need not apply. Entry has atrium with view to living room and kitchen. Sunken living room has expanse of glass looking out on patio and plantings. Wood-burning fireplace, wet bar. Three full baths. Two master bedroom suites, one down, one up. Also on second floor are library, office and clothes closet to die for. Screened porch off upstairs bedroom. Two car garage opens to alley. Call 713/558-3259 or 713/963-0032.

Montrose, 3/2/1, 1,811 square feet (per HCAD). Remodeled 1930s bungalow with modern accents throughout. Hardwoods, updated kitchen, huge master suite with vaulted ceilings. Heated pool with fountains. \$299,900. Jeff James, Heritage Texas Properties, 713/349-9725. www.jeffjames.com

Fabulous Museum District high-rise. 2003 remodeled open plan, stellar downtown view. High ceilings, hardwoods, Calif. Closet pantry, custom built-ins. New contemporary fixtures, glass block wall and French doors on master. Immaculate! \$133,900. Or rent: \$1,270 + \$275 for elec., wtr, cable, pkgng/valet, tennis, w/d conn. Owner-Agent. 281/686-1661.

• SERVICES

UNIONS OF THE HEART
Unions Performed Anytime - Anywhere
You Want To Be Married!
281/478-5706
www.UnionsPerformed.com
Offering a variety of ceremonies.
Each couple receives a Certificate of Union/Marriage & Keepsake Transcript.

HOME ON THE WEB

Looking for a sweet home deal?

You could click your heels three times to get back to your old home. Or you can click your mouse on www.OutSmartMagazine.com/homeontheweb

to find the home of your dreams!

Visit OutSmart's new real estate home on the web for properties for lease and for sale.
View virtual tours of homes, find an agent and more.

Contemporary Heights Home

One of a kind contemporary home in the Houston Heights. Open, yet with intimate spaces and private interior courtyard. Separate guest or children's retreat and den gives the feel of being connected with just enough distance. Curved wooden staircase leads to master bedroom, secondary bedroom, two full baths and an additional den or study. Back deck has been enclosed to become an intimate area. This home is perfect for entertaining with its large, open entrance hall, two-story living area and spacious dining room. The architectural detail and design is superb in this stunning home.....\$399,000



Bryan K. Williams
Coldwell Banker
Swilley Hudson Realtors
713.869.0456 (Office)
281.236.5475 (Cell)



For a virtual tour of this home visit www.OutSmartMagazine.com/homes

• SERVICES

Save Thousands!
Sell your home for only 4% Commission!
Why pay the standard 6%?
Value Realty
office: 713/666-9895 cell: 713/540-7511

Pest Control
For a Pest Management Professional, Call David Huffman
Low to zero pesticides used!

Odorless Commercial Services
Residential & Commercial
Since 1987, in the Montrose, Heights & Southhampton
713.523.1540

CLERGYMAN AVAILABLE
Let Thomas help you honor life's special events: Holy Unions, Blessings, Memorials, Funerals.
713/522-7626

Houston Photographer
www.davidlewisimages.com



• Full Privacy
• Events
• Single, Couples, Family Pics
713/240-5508

• SERVICES

RE-CONSTRUCT
Call for free estimate for all your home improvement needs.
No job to small!
CALL TODAY
713.545.7452

CONTEMPORARY CATHOLIC PRIEST
I will perform commitment ceremonies at your location.
Call Father Milton
713/822-1073
www.catholicswithoulachurch.org

SPIN advertising with a twist.

advertising is hard.
...don't do it alone.

SPIN agency
graphic design \ advertising \ multimedia \ cd-roms \ corporate presentations \ website development copywriting \ creative conceiving \ award-winning team

713.622.SPIN (7746)
WWW.SPINAGENCY.COM

Charming Montrose Bungalow
Comfortable Montrose bungalow, 2 bedroom, 2 baths. Great sunroom off kitchen! Garage converted into a lounge/exercise room complete with bathroom. Easy living inside the Loop!...\$235,000



Glen Fillmore
Karen Derr & Associates
(713) 862-1600 (Office)
713/875-9482 (Cell)
glenfillmore@aol.com

For a virtual tour of this home visit www.OutSmartMagazine.com/homes

To advertise on our Home on the Web page call 713/520-7237.

Visit OutSmartMagazine.com/HomeontheWeb

• SERVICES

Who's watching your kids while you're away?
P.S. In the Heights Pet Sitting Service
• Experienced • Bonded
• Professional • Competitive Rates:
\$20/day (2+visits) Special 25% cash, or new client discount
Call Daniel 713/669-3698

• SERVICES

RFA "Recovery from Food Addiction," A12 Step Program, meeting every Thur, Noon-1PM, St. Stephen's Church, 1805 W Alabama. GLBT/Straight, open to ALL 713-673-2848. A fellowship of food addicts dedicated to physical, spiritual and emotional recovery.
www.geocities.com/RFA77235/

MARKETPLACE AD RATES

Marketplace Classifieds are per column inch. Column inch width is 1.688. Word line ads are 30 words or less, plus \$1 per additional word and 50 cents for all words in bold. Add additional \$6 per issue to have your classified ad appear on our website. Ads can also be placed on our secure website at www.OutSmartMagazine.com.

Marketplace	1 Month	3 Month	6 Month	12 Month
Color Boxed Ad per inch	\$60	\$54	\$49	\$44
B/W Boxed Ad per inch	\$45	\$41	\$36	\$33
30-Word Line Ad	\$25	\$23	\$21	\$20

Deadline: March 15 for the April, 2003 issue. Order by phone & pay by VISA, MC, AMEX, or Discover. Or FAX it 713/522-3275. Sorry, we do not bill. Mail ad & payment to: OutSmart 3406 Audubon, Houston, TX 77006-4412. For more information, call 713/520-7237.

An ad placed in OutSmart Magazine reaches loyal, interested readers. OutSmart's circulation figures are audited independently by Verified Audit Circulation, your guarantee of an accurate count.

VERIFIED AUDIT CIRCULATION
www.verifiedaudit.com
Verified Audit Circulation is a national auditing service respected for over 50 years in the publishing industry. Insist on Audited Circulations like OutSmart.
For advertising information call 713/520-7237.

Clean out your closets, ladies!

Help fulfill the prom dreams of Houston high school students.

The Fairy Godmother Project of Houston needs new and nearly new formal dresses and accessories (that means jewelry, girls) for high school students who are not able to purchase or rent their own prom attire.

So can't squeeze into that sequined sheath? Don't want people to see you in that red taffeta again? And that Versace is so 2002.

Be sweet for a change and make a student's prom night special. Call Ellen Chang of the Fairy Godmother Project at (832) 545-0202 or email her at eychang@hotmail.com. She is looking for tuxedos, too, so tell your boyfriends.



Who's watching your kids when you're away?



THESE ARE NOT MODELS. THESE ARE ACTUAL CLIENTS!
Your pet's pic could go here, call us for details...

PET SITTING IN THE HEIGHTS
• Experienced • Bonded
• Professional • References Available

Competitive Rates:
\$20/day (2+ visits) or \$10/visit.
SPECIAL 25% CASH, OR
NEW CLIENT DISCOUNT!

P.S. IN THE HEIGHTS
713/869-3698

Not meant to solicit current clients of other services.

"Properly done, modern dental care should NEVER hurt, should not be stressful and should last a long time."

We employ the **best** and **newest techniques** and **materials** because YOU are our first and only concern.

My practice is not a "clinic" setting! YOU get quality time, one patient at a time. Every time. Come see how much difference a nonclinical setting makes for comfort!

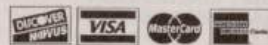
Strict adherence to cutting-edge sterilization of all instruments and facilities.

Bruce W. Smith

1006 MISSOURI ST.

Hours By Appointment

713.529.4364



Restorative, Cosmetic and Preventative Dentistry for Adults Since 1981

See what 2003 has in store for you.



Lilly Roddy Astrologer

Personal, Relationships & Business Readings
Past Life Regressions • Reiki Master • Astrology Tape Series

Consultations by Appointment Only
Call 713/529-5842

Gift Certificates • Credit Cards Accepted
email: LillyCath@aol.com • www.cybersim.com/hermes

Business News

Yoga Body moves this month to a new location, 526 Waugh Drive at Allen Parkway. At this spot, which overlooks the green space along Buffalo Bayou, the center will offer more than 60 classes per week in an array of yoga disciplines, including Anusara, Ashtanga, Bikram, Kundalini, and Pranayama (yogic breathing). Classes are also given in prenatal and postnatal yoga, children's yoga, and yoga for cancer patients and breast-cancer survivors. **Darla Magee**, RYT, and **Farida Meguid**, RYT, are the Yoga Body teachers. In celebration of its new home, Yoga Body is having a moving sale. The telephone number is 713/522-6080. The website is www.yogabodyhouston.com.

Arlette Pharo, D.O., will lead a workshop on the March 15-22 Psychic and Spiritual Healing Cruise, organized by the public relations/special events firm Intuitive Vision Network. Pharo is the founder of the **Healing Arts Medical Center** in Houston. The seven-night Eastern Caribbean cruise will take place aboard the Holland America ship *MS Zandaam*. More cruise info: Contact **Lori Herzog** at the Cruise Center, 713/407-9691. Pharo has served for eight years on the board of the American Holistic Medical Association. Her teaching affiliations include Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine and Doctor's Hospital Airline Residency Program. She can be heard regularly on Wisdom Radio (www.wisdomradio.com).

George Renfro has joined **Karpas Properties** as a broker associate. A native Houstonian and University of Houston alumnus, Renfro is also a graduate of the Realtors Institute and a certified residential specialist. The Karpas Properties telephone number is 713/850-1777. Renfro's cell phone number is 832/969-4751, and his e-mail address is george@georgerenfro.com.

Ryan Fugate, profiled in "Share the Wealth" in the December *OutSmart*, has opened a therapeutic massage and body-work practice. Fugate specializes in Swedish massage, neuromuscular therapy, myo-facial release, deep-tissue, sports massage, and Reiki. His telephone number is 713/269-7926.

The new **National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce** is conducting a membership drive. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the organization incorporated last November. Goals include establishing a venture capital fund; networking with corporate America to increase the number of gays and lesbians at the executive level; and publishing a gay business magazine. **Chance Mitchell** and **Justin Nelson** are co-founders. The website is www.nglcc.org.

"IT'S IRRESISTIBLE!"

MICHAEL RIEDEL, NEW YORK POST

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

And
Broadway in Houston
Present a
MAMMA MIA! Night



BENNY ANDERSSON & BJÖRN ULVAEUS'
MAMMA MIA!
THE SMASH HIT MUSICAL BASED ON THE SONGS OF ABBA®

Join **OutSmart Thursday, March 20, at 8PM at**



REASONS TO JOIN US:

- TICKET GIVEAWAYS
- MAMMA MIA MERCHANDISE GIVEAWAYS
- HEAR YOUR FAVORITE ABBA SONGS ONE MORE TIME
- GREAT EXCUSE FOR A NIGHT OUT



2306 GENESEE • HOUSTON, TX
713.521.0123



LET US HELP MAKE YOUR ST. PATRICK'S & MARDI GRAS GREAT!



HOLLYWOOD PORTRAIT STUDIOS

Call For An Appointment
713.523.9683

Celebrating Over 20 Years Of Excellence • Specializing in Unique Portraits
Ask About Our Club Plan • Offer valid through March 31, 2003

"Family Portraits" Graduations Holy Unions Pets Special Occasions Weddings Children's Parties Passport Photos Immigration Photos

www.hollywood-portraits.com

Bring In This Ad And Receive ...
(1) 8x10 • (2) 5x7
(4) Wallet Size
Only
\$9.95

Show your OutSmart Pride Card and get special discounts, free admissions, and exclusive offers from OutSmart advertisers!
(Look for the  pride card and merchant offer)

-----ACCOMMODATIONS-----

GTown Guest Houses
1301 Ave M - Galveston 409/762-2117
The Lovett Inn
501 Lovett, Houston 713/522-5224
The Painted Lady Inn
San Antonio 210/220-1092
Paradise Guest House
2317 Ave P/Galveston 1-877/919-6677

-----ADVERTISING/MARKETING-----

OutSmart Magazine
3406 Audubon Place 713/520-7237

-----APARTMENTS/CONDOMINIUMS-----

Alexan Lofts
2115 Runnels Street 713/225-2115
Houston House Apartments
1617 Fannin 713/308-2000
The Renaissance at River Oaks
2111 Welch Street 713/529-0111

-----ASTROLOGERS-----

Lilly Roddy Astrology
..... 713/529-5842
10% OFF ASTROLOGICAL READINGS.

-----ATTORNEYS/LEGAL SERVICES-----

Brennan & Johnson Law Firm
2402 Commonwealth 713/522-1211
10% DISCOUNT OFF HOURLY RATES.
Davis & Oncken LLP/
Blair David/Kirk Oncken
PO Box 52487 713/227-6800
Mark Levin, Attorney
2813 West T.C. Jester 281/355-7936
Simon & Associates
401 Studewood #350 713/524-6000
15% OFF SELECTED SERVICES
Jim S. Walker, P.C.
1924 Portsmouth 800/732-2934

-----AUTOMOTIVE SALES-----

Baytown Ford/Jay Bomberger
4110 I-10 East 281-839-3355
Fred Haas Toyota/Jimmy Jones
20400 I-45 N. 281/297-7000
Jack Roach Ford/Stephen Rubin
6445 Southwest Frwy., 281/588-5000
River Oaks Chrysler/Jeep
Rogers Hall
4807 Kirby 713/524-3801
Sterling McCall Toyota/Dean Craft
9400 Southwest Freeway 713-270-3900

-----CATERING-----

Clayton Catering..."of course!"
1701 California 713/526-1800

-----CHURCHES/SYNAGOGUES-----

Bering Memorial United Methodist
1440 Harold 713/526-1017
Congregation Beth Israel - Alan Hurwitz
..... 713/523-3673
Creative Life Spiritual Center
5326 Spring-Stuebner 281/350-5157
First Unitarian U. Church
5200 Fannin 713/526-5200

-----CLOTHING-----

Jewel's Boutique
2404 Taft 713/523-3557

-----COMMUNITY/NONPROFITS-----

AIDS Walk Houston
..... www.AIDSwalkhouston.org
Gay & Lesbian Community Center
3400 Montrose 713/524-3818

Houston Area Community Services

3730 Kirby Dr #820 713/526-0555
Montrose Counseling Center
701 Richmond 713/529-0037
Pride Institute
..... 800/54-PRIDE

Ryan White Planning Council

2223 W. Loop S., Ste. 240 713/572-3724

-----COMPUTERS/INTERNET-----

Atomar Communications/Anthony Bures
..... 713/528-0404
Simple Network Solution
..... 936/441-5253

Copy.com

1201 Westheimer 713/528-1201
10% OFF ALL STORE SERVICES.

-----CONSTRUCTION/REMODELING-----

U.S. Construction/Joe Hlavac
..... 713/526-7679

-----EDUCATION-----

Getting The Love You Want Workshops/
Patrick J. Vachon, LMSW, ACP
..... 713/524-1771

-----ENTERTAINMENT/NIGHT LIFE-----

Bunnies On The Bayou
..... www.bunnies.org

Chances /The Barn/G-Spot
1100 Westheimer 713/523-7217
Clear Channel Entertainment
Mamma Mia! (tickets) 713/629-3700
Gay-Atlanta
..... www.gay-atlanta.com

Gay Men's Chorus of Houston

..... 713/355-6559

Home & Garden Show (Galv)

Moody Garden Convention Center
..... 409/763-0263

Jungle (Bayou City Boys Club)

..... www.BayouCityBoysClub.org

Rich's

2401 San Jacinto 713/759-9610
South Beach
804 Pacific Street 713/521-2519
Stages (Dirty Blonde)
3201 Allen Pkwy., Ste. 101 713/527-0123
Theatre Under The Stars
Kiss Me Kate (tickets) 713/558-TUTS

-----FINANCIAL SERVICES-----

Chase Bank of Texas
..... 713/216-7000
Green/White Advisors
1225 N. Loop West, #1030 713/869-1144
4645 Sweetwater, Sugarland 281/491-5566

-----FITNESS CLUBS/TRAINERS-----

Eduardo Costa
..... 713/302-5202
Fitness Exchange
4040 Milam 713/524-9932
Houston Gym
1501 Durham 713/880-9191
Kimberly Marler, Personal Trainer
..... 832/443-FITT

Muscle Mechanics/John Aaron

617 Richmond 713/523-5330
Josh Rodriguez
2740 Kirby Dr. 713/523-5330
Yoga Body / Darla Magee
..... 713/522-6080

Your Body Center

1415 California St., Ste. 108 713/874-0835
\$2 OFF CLASS SESSION

---GRAPHIC DESIGNERS/PRINTING---

Avantage Design
4200 Montrose, #520 713/528-3311
15% OFF SELECTED PRINTING ORDERS

House of Coleman

901 W. Alabama 713/523-2521
Vilven Design Group
1418 Heights Blvd 713/880-8662

--GROCERIES, SUPPLIES & LIQUOR--

Kroger
3300 Montrose 713/526-7865

-----HAIR/SKIN CARE/SALONS-----

Bellaire Laser Center/Elvis Torres, D.O.
5420 Dashwood, Ste. 306 713/644-7230
Emanon/Dennis Cox
2404 Montrose Blvd 713/529-0810
Hair Removal of Houston
5264 Beechnut 713/666-0802
Meg-A Care Connections, Inc
2500 Old Farm Rd., #728C 713/478-4536
Jacqueline's Skincare
..... 713/383-0833

Salon Essie

2615 Richmond 713/521-7511
Skin Renewal Center/
Dr. Patrick McNamara
4101 Greenbriar, #355 713/533-0800
Town & Country Plastic Surgery/
Skin Enrichment Center, LTD/
R. Scott Yarish, MD, PA
10565 Katy Frwy, #100 713/467-0146

-----HEALTH CARE-----

Alternative Health & Wellness/
Jackie Doval, DC
404 Westheimer 713/627-9355
Chimney Rock Chiropractic Ctr
Art Keller, D.C.
3033 Chimney Rock 713/781-3344
Kirby Wellness Center / Kenneth W. Lester
2727 Kirby Dr., Ste. 324 713/526-5252

• COUNSELING/THERAPY •

Tony Carroll, LMSW-ACP
1006 Missouri 713/527-0000
Deborah Denson, LMSW-ACP
3000 Wesleyan 713/850-7225
Daniel Garces, MS, LPC, LMFT
3316 Mt. Vernon 713/526-8390
20% OFF INITIAL VISIT.

Enod Gray, LMSW-ACP, C. Ht., CSAT
4200 Montrose 713/522-7014
Barbara Levinson, PhD/ Ctr for Healthy
Sexuality
2400 Augusta Dr. #120 713/785-7111
Denise O'Doherty, LPC, MSN, LMFT
3730 Kirby 713/524-9525
Jennifer Segel, LPC
4200 Montrose 713/304-8407
Bob Snellgrove, LMSW-ACP
3400 Montrose 713/522-7014
Jeff Vannice, PhD
1415 N. Loop W., #780 713/426-4455

• DENTISTS •

Cory J. Logan, DDS
530 Waugh Drive 713/942-8598

LifeSmiles/Randy Mitchmore, DDS

2617 W. Holcombe Blvd. 713/592-9300
Bruce W. Smith, DDS.
1006 Missouri 713/529-4364

• HEALTH SERVICES •

Premier HealthLink
..... 888/959-7240

• MASSAGE THERAPIST/YOGA •

Ken Claude
..... 713/240-9598
Alan Davidson/Essential Touch
..... 713/942-0923
20% DISCOUNT OFF FACIALS.

Raul Guzman

..... 832/524-7700
Joel Leal
..... 713/397-8808
Paul Rutledge
..... 713/592-0444

• OPHTHALMOLOGISTS •

Diagnostic Eye Center Bellaire/Stewart
Zuckerbrod, MD
5420 Dashwood, Suite 101 713/668-9118

• OPTOMETRISTS •

Eye Elegance
3966 Westheimer 713/622-4411
The Eye Glassiers of Houston - Dr. Kotecha
1131 Uptown Park Blvd #4 713-552-9400
Eye Spy/Ted Foster
2551 Amherst 713/533-9107
Texas State Optical
6100 Westheimer, Ste. 138 713/785-2022
Today's Vision/Dr. Bruce Krutsinger
426 W. Gray 713/640-2020
Spectacles on Montrose/Dr. Mapes
4317 Montrose, Ste. 2 713/529-3937

• PHYSICIANS •

Carolyn Gardiner, M.D.
4126 SW Freeway, #1100 713/965-9898
Schrader Clinic
4101 Greenbriar, Ste. 200 713/526-1717

• PLASTIC SURGERY •

Town & Country Plastic Surgery/
Skin Enrichment Center, LTD/
R. Scott Yarish, MD, PA
10565 Katy Frwy, #100 713/467-0146

---HOME FURNISHINGS/SERVICES---

Cantoni
9889 Westheimer 713/787-9494
Gallery Furniture
6006 I-45 N 713/694-5570

---INSURANCE AGENCIES/AGENTS---

Jeffrey T. Bules
6575 W. Loop South, #185 713/661-7700
Great Service Brokerage, Inc./
Victor Toucho
2311 Dunlavy, STE. 210 713/521-2323
Rob Schmerler
6575 W. Loop South, #185 713/661-7700

-----JEWELERS-----

I.W. Marks Jewelers
3841 Bellaire Blvd. 713/668-5000

-----PET SERVICES/VETERINARY-----

Alternative Health & Wellness/
Chiropractor-Jackie Doval, DC
404 Westheimer 713/627-9355
Fat Cat Flats/Pet Salon
1516 W. Alabama 713/528-6369
3601-C Westheimer 713/963-9595

Merry Days Glorified Pet Sitting

..... 832/527-8955
P.S. Pet Sitting Service in the Heights
..... 713/869-3698

Sit Stay Pet Sitting Service

2015 Sheldon St 713/802-1220

-----PHOTOGRAPHY-----

David Lewis Photography
..... 713/240-5508
Hollywood Portrait Studios
2643 Richmond Avenue 713/523-9683
FREE SITTING FEE (A \$40.00 VALUE)
Varsity Productions / John Conroy
..... 713/669-1709

-----PLUMBING SERVICES-----

PAX Plumbing / Amelia Reed
..... 713/698-5012

-----PRINTING/COPY CENTERS-----

Avantage Design
4200 Montrose, #520 713/528-3311
15% OFF SELECTED PRINT SERVICES
Copy.com
1201 Westheimer 713/528-1201
10% OFF ALL STORE SERVICES.

Docu-Scan

1418 Heights Blvd. 713/861-1921
House of Coleman
901 W. Alabama 713/523-2521

---PSYCHIC/INTUITIVE READERS---

Joe Paxton
..... 713/523-1627
Lilly Roddy Astrology
..... 713/529-5842
10% OFF ASTROLOGICAL READINGS.

---REAL ESTATE SERVICES---

• REALTORS/AGENTS •

Michael Anderson/Michael Berry

Properties
223 Westheimer 713/522-5225
Mark Boline/Coldwell Banker
..... 281/588-1322

Bob Derr/Karen Derr & Assoc.

1034 Heights Blvd 713/875-7049
Karen Derr/Karen Derr & Assoc.
1034 Heights Blvd 713/862-1600
Glen Fillmore/Karen Derr & Assoc.
1034 Heights Blvd. 713/862-1600
Bruce Hutmacher/Karen Derr & Assoc.
1034 Heights Blvd. 281/216-0557
Richard Buenteello/Karen Derr & Assoc.
1034 Heights Blvd. 281/222-9311
Margot Perez/Karen Derr & Assoc.
1034 Heights Blvd. 281/932-7764
Prudential Gary Green/Bob Zuccarello
3910 FM 1960 West, STE. 100 281/444-5140

• MORTGAGE LENDERS/

TITLE COMPANIES •

Brooks Ballard Mortgage Corporation
2480 Bolsover 713/522-7474
Coastal Banc/Cody Grizzofli
1629 S. Voss 713/978-7381
Countrywide Home Loans/Sam Porter
4060 Bissonnet 713/660-6977 ext. 231
Countrywide Home Loans/Matthew Vest or
Roger Ray
2714 W. Lake Houston 281/361-8546
E-Z Mortgage Services of Texas/
Tammi Wise
2323 S. Shepherd Dr., #1170 281/392-4224
Homeloan Corp./Debbie Ratliff
1717 St. James Place 713/297-8000
SourceOne Financing/Joel G. Garza
2066 S. Gessner, Ste. 260 713/864-6212
Wells Fargo Mortgage/Larry Broughton
1301 McKinney 713/654-3085

---RESTAURANTS/COFFEE BARS---

El Meson Restaurant
2425 University Blvd 713/522-9306
Magic Island
2215 SW Freeway 713/526-2442
Maria Selma Restaurant
1617 Richmond 713/528-4920

MoMong

1201 Westheimer 713/524-5664
10% OFF ANY MENU ITEM SUN-THURS/LUNCH
OR DINNER. EXCLUDES ALCOHOL & GRATUITY.
Noche Cuchina Y Bar
2409 Montrose 713/529-8559
Osaka Japanese Restaurant
515 Westheimer 713/533-9098
Riva's Italian Restaurant
1117 Missouri 713/529-3450
West Gray Cafe
415 West Gray 713/528-2887
Ziggy's
2320 W. Alabama 713/527-8588

---SPECIALTY RETAIL---

Al's Formal Wear
..... 713/791-1888

Artworks Houston

2470 Times Blvd 713/521-2233
Magick Cauldron
528 Westheimer 713/523-0069
Gingis Formal Wear
..... 713/626-3318

-----STORAGE-----

Shurgard Storage
Mike Ramirez 832/338-5400

-----TANNING-----

Eclipse Sunless Tanning
415 Westheimer 713/520-6611

---TELEPHONES/CELL/WIRELESS---

Premier Paging & Wireless
12220 Murphy Road, Stafford 281/575-8500
1450 W. Sam Houston Pkwy, N. #111
..... 713/465-8883
CALL FOR PRIDE CARD SPECIALS

-----TRAVEL-----

Concierge Travel Inc.
5008 Mimosa 713/661-2117
Brian Champagne
..... 713/533-1333



Get Your **FREE**
Pride Card Today!

Register at www.outsmartmagazine.com or fill out the membership form.
Membership is FREE, so get your card to build community, save money, and have fun!

OutSmart Pride Card Membership Form

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____

Love Relationships

Finding & Keeping the Right Partner

Join a real gay couple for an in-depth workshop in which you will learn about:

- ▶ Being attracted to better partners.
- ▶ Identifying and overcoming what has kept you single.
- ▶ Getting over going after the wrong ones.
- ▶ Improving your dating skills.
- ▶ Eliminating incompatible people sooner.
- ▶ Predicting the outcome via the natural progression of relationships.
- ▶ Exploring new places and ways for meeting the right men.

Houston Workshops for Gay Men, Lesbians, and Couples

Single Gay Men Mar. 8/9, 2003
Sept. 27/28, 2003

Single Lesbians Jan. 25/26, 2003
Oct. 25/25, 2003

Gay/Lesbian Couples Feb. 8/9, 2003
Aug. 23/24, 2003

Saturday, 10-5 with lunch ♦ Sunday, 1-5 with wine & cheese
\$115 ♦ Limited Seating ♦ Reservation Required

Tony@HoustonTherapist.com
713.527.0000
For RSVP or More Information

TONY CARROLL, LMSW-ACP

BAR & CLUB GUIDE

HOUSTON

BOCADOS

On Wednesday nights, women pack this Mexican restaurant for dancing and socializing. Sunday brunch starts at 11 a.m. and lasts till 3 in the afternoon. 1312 West Alabama • 713/523-5230.

BRAZOS RIVER BOTTOM

The BRB, Houston's leading country-western bar, is located in Midtown, just outside Montrose. Expect to see some fast and fancy two-stepping. Great benefit shows often take place on Sunday night. 2400 Brazos • 713/528-9192.

BRIAR PATCH

One of the oldest gay nightspots in Houston, the venerable Briar Patch recently moved to a new Montrose location. Show tunes of the piano bar are the main attraction. 2312 Crocker • 713/665-9678.

BRICKS II

This neighborhood joint boasts a jukebox loaded with country music, busy pool tables, cold draft, and the occasional cowboy hat. Regulars rule at this low-key spot. 617 Fairview • 713/528-8102.

CHANCES/THE BARN/G-SPOT

This three-in-one women's bar provides a place to two-step, rock, and sit down and talk—all under one roof. Thursday night features Kazi's Karaoke. 1100 Westheimer • 713/523-7217 • www.chanceshouston.com.

CLUB BIG YO

With the motto "This is an all girls production; our male friends are welcome," this Southwest club offers special evenings including Thursday talent night. Dancers strut on Sunday. 6306 Skyline • 713/953-0268, 281/322-0394 • www.clubbigyo.com.

CLUB KALIPSO

This Spring Branch club offers hot Latin music, including cumbia, merengue, ranchera, and salsa as well as Latin and English pop. Male dancers work their stuff every Sunday night. 6806 Long Point #F • 713/688-6562.

CLUB INERGY

A nightlife institution for 12 years, this Southwest club 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 lesbian crowd, this bar is located on the Westheimer curve in Montrose. The Glow Girl dancers perform on Sunday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday nights. 1417-B Westheimer • 713/522-5166.

CLUB XCAPE

Located in South Houston, Club Xcape offers special nights including Monday Madness with MC Jenny Craig. Ghetto Fabulous Friday, featuring rap, hip-hop, and bootie music, marks the end of the week. 2612 South Richey • 713/944-7863.

COUSIN'S

Drag fans pack this club in the heart of Montrose for its campy shows on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. 817 Fairview • 713/528-9204.

DECADES

Celebrating its fourth year in business, this casual neighborhood bar packs lots of local color. Decades regularly hosts pool tournaments and benefit events. 1205 Richmond • 713/521-2224.

BEHIND THE BAR

WHO:
John Benavides

WHERE:
Mary's
1022 Westheimer,
713/527-9669

THIS MONTH:
Look for John on March 7 when Mary's holds Friday-night registration for the Houston Council of Clubs' 30th anniversary LUEY (Let Us Entertain You) Weekend (www.lueyweekend.com).



J.R.'s/SANTA FE

This Montrose standard offers features from pool tables, table dancers, to karaoke. Look for Carol Gilford and George Konar, named best bartenders in the 2002 Gayest & Greatest OutSmart reader poll. 808 Pacific • 713/521-2519.

KEYS WEST

Selected best piano bar in the Gayest & Greatest poll, this nightclub near downtown features regular performers and guest entertainers. The two-level deck provides a knock-out skyline view. 817 West Dallas • 713/571-7870 • www.keyswest.com.

MAIN STREET DEPOT

Formerly known as the Venture-N, this spot is located in the Midtown area on the Metrorail line (launching 2004). While the rail is under construction, patrons can enter from Fannin. 2923 Main • 713/522-0000.

MARY'S

One of the oldest clubs in Houston, Mary's shuttered briefly in January but reopened once purchased by Michael's Outpost owner Michael Galtz. Inside and outside bars stay busy at this legendary nightspot. 1022 Westheimer • 713/527-9669.

MELA'S

The crowd at this neighborhood spot drops by for the Tejano and country-western music, the women, and the pool tables. Owner Mela Contreras was a Pride parade grand marshal in 2002. 302 Tuam • 713/523-0747.

METEOR

The chic atmosphere at this Montrose video bar includes overstuffed couches, marble-topped bars, and stylish glassware. Attractive men and women gather here any night of the week for drinks and conversation. 2306 Genesee • 713/521-0123.

MICHAEL'S OUTPOST

Minutes from the heart of Montrose, this relaxed neighborhood bar hosts frequent pool and dart tournaments. On Wednesday, stop by for Rick's famous chili con queso and chips. 1419 Richmond • 713/520-8446.

MO MONG

Every Wednesday night, the guys and gals show up at this Vietnamese restaurant in droves to enjoy the martini specials. 1201 Westheimer #B • 713/524-5664.

MONTROSE MINING COMPANY

Great-looking male dancers bump and grind every night at this leather/denim spot. The two-tier back patio bar provides a perch for viewing the Pacific Street scenery. 805 Pacific • 713/529-7488.

PRIVE

The patio at this second-floor spot overlooks the lively Westheimer/Montrose intersection. The mixed crowd includes smartly dressed gays as well as non-gays. 910 Westheimer • 713/522-2542.

RAINBOW ROOM

This gathering spot north of Houston has a casual neighborhood atmosphere. The pool tables stay busy. 527 Barren Springs off Ella Boulevard • 281/872-0215.

RICH'S HOUSTON

Even after more than 20 years, the iconic two-story danceateria still draws an energetic crowd. Techno light and laser shows enhance the pumped-up music. 2401 San Jacinto • 713-759-9606 • www.richs-houston.com.

RIPCORD

OutSmart readers named this spot the best place to show off your leather in the Gayest & Greatest poll. Inside the bar, the Boots Leather Shop sells treasures for the leather/levi/uniform crowd. 715 Fairview • 713/521-2792 • www.ripcordjournal.com.

611 HYDE PARK PUB

On Friday and Saturday nights, this neighborhood spot offers great buffet dinners. Features include a beautiful garden-style patio. 611 Hyde Park • 713/526-7070.

SOUTH BEACH

The techno-chic sound system keeps shirtless boys pumped up late into the night. In the Gayest & Greatest poll, OutSmart readers named this spot the best club after 2 a.m. 810 Pacific • 713/529-SOBE (7623) • www.SouthBeachTheNightclub.com.

TOYZ

Latin house, hip-hop, salsa, and merengue flavor this Southwest Houston nightclub. Thursday is the Hot Papi Chulo contest. 5322 Glenmont • 713/868-4892.

VIVIANA'S

This club near downtown appeals to fans of Latino music and drag alike. 5219 Washington • 713/862-0203.

Note: Oz, the New Orleans nightclub, recently purchased the club Pacific Street (710 Pacific Street), now closed for remodeling. Diamond Jimm's, located at 13331 Kuykendahl, closed on February 1.

Conroe

RANCH HILL SALOON

Located 30 miles north of Houston, this spot features daily drink specials, live entertainment, and karaoke night on Wednesday. 2111 Airport Rd. • 936/441-6426.

Galveston

BLVD SALOON

In the Gayest & Greatest poll, OutSmart readers named this spot the best island place to show off your leather. The second-floor deck has a great view of the Gulf. 3102 Seawall Blvd. • 409/750-8571.

GARZA'S KON TIKI

Located downtown, the Kon Tiki is steps from the Strand. This spot was named favorite island club and best place to see male dancers in the Gayest & Greatest poll. 315 Tremont • 409/765-5805 • www.thekontiki.com.

MYRA'S CANTINA

Well-known island entertainer Myra Sanchez and her business partner Charles Peña opened this distinctly Latin neighborhood cantina. They offer beer, wine, and setups. • 813 21st (between Ball and Sealy)

ROBERT'S LAFITTE

A real neighborhood bar, this island institution attracts a colorful crowd of regulars and travelers. The club, only two blocks from Gulf, features a private patio. 2501 Ave Q (at 25th) • 409/765-9092.

Note: Jimmy's on the Beach, located at 904 Avenue M, closed in January.

Beaumont

THE COPA

The hangout for Lamar University students, this two-story dance club has pool tables, a spacious stage, and a staircase that would make Norma Desmond green with envy. 304 Orleans • 409/832-4206.

MARY'S PLACE

This new club opened in October. Miss Olivia Gardener hosts Talent Night on Tuesday. On Sunday, Latino Night includes Latin music and an all-Latino illusionist show. 485 Crockett • 409/832-4944.

Have bar or club news? Send it to clubguide@outsartmagazine.com.



A Magical Event of a Lifetime!

Elegant Dinner
Las Vegas Style Magic Shows
Dancing in the Temple of Isis
Lounge in the Den of Osiris

Present This Ad and
Receive 15% Off
Our Dinner & Show Package

Not valid with any other offer, or for groups over 14. Call for details

713-526-2442

www.themagicisland.com

2215 S. Frwy. (Between Kirby & Greenbriar)

Expires 3/31/2003



Only \$99.95 Per Month

The Answer To Affordable Health Care!
Everyone Accepted - Guaranteed

- NO Medical Exams
- NO Pre-existing Exclusions
- NO Age Restrictions
- Partners & Their Children Included

1.888.959.7240

Enroll Today!



PREMIER
HealthLink

Broker ID #21488 • PHL 011703B

This is not insurance.

Saturdays... Where Fun People Have A Great Time

810 Pacific • Houston Texas • 713 529-SOBE • southbeachthenightclub.com

the place to be...Wednesday

\$2.00 martinis (ALL NIGHT)

Thank You OutSmart Readers for Voting Us #1 Vietnamese Restaurant

mo mong 1201 Westheimer #B
montrose
(next to hollywood video)
713 524 5664

restaurant lounge bar

RICH'S HOUSTON

THURSDAY - SQUEEZE
FRIDAY - FREQUENCY
SATURDAY - WHERE ENERGY LIVES!

for info about upcoming events, parties,
or directions, log onto our website @ www.richs-houston.com
2401 san jacinto . info line...713.759.9606

Advertise your club or restaurant here.
For advertising information
call 713/520-7237.

THANK YOU FOR VOTING CHANCES "BEST LADIES BAR"

CHANCES

Monday
\$10 Buckets
Tuesday
Local's Night
Wednesday
\$2 Wells
Thursday
Steak Night's Back
6-8PM
Open Mic Returns
9PM-1AM
Friday
Shelia Lennon
10PM-2AM

THE BARN

THURSDAY

Karaoke
9PM-1AM • Qualify for Gay Pride

Friday
\$1.50
Lognecks
until 11PM

Thursday
"ICE"
\$2 Frozen Drinks
'till 11PM

Friday
Miss Money

Saturday
DJ 'till Dawn

St. Patrick's Day Party \$1 Vodka 5P-10P

3-1 JAMES REESE PROJECT 3-22 NINI CAMPS
3-8 BROWN SUGAR BAND 3-29 SAUCER HEAR
3-15 GILLI MOON

1100 Westheimer, Houston TX, 77006 • 713-523-7217
Chances opens at 2PM daily • Happy Hour 'till 7PM • www.chanceshouston.com

SignOut

by Lilly Roddy

The beginning of the month is very active, with Venus, Mars, and Mercury all changing signs before the 5th of the month. That should indicate a lot of activity going on in all of our lives. And the period of the 9th through the 18th seems to be a very tense time when we will be forced to make decisions. People's tempers should be at an all-time low, especially on the 10th, 13th, 16th, and 17th. Fortunately, as we get to the end of the third week, the energies begin to lighten up. • The new moon on the 2nd in Pisces stimulates our desires to feel more connected to who we are and what we do. On the 18th, the full Moon in Virgo will want us to define more clearly how to put those dreams of the new moon into everyday practice. • The Sun enters Aries on the 20th, the first day of spring. Mercury slips into Pisces on the 4th. Venus sails into Aquarius on the 2nd. Mars marches into Capricorn on the 4th. The rest of the planets are happy to be in the sign they are in except Uranus. She is changing signs after a seven-year visit in her home sign of Aquarius. Uranus enters Pisces on the 10th. And Pluto goes direct on the 23rd. She continues her journey through Sagittarius.

ARIES (March 21–April 19). This month you have to shift back and forth between your internal desire to retreat and nurture yourself spiritually and the external motivation to take care of work and social responsibilities. You may be short-tempered, as you don't feel that you are putting yourself first, and Aries must come first in their own lives. You may even sense that you are not relating to your friends as well. You will want to make sure that you give time to your public life and your private life. Otherwise, you will be snapping at those closest to you and driving them away. You will feel much better as the Sun enters your sign on the 20th. Balance should be the key idea this month.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20). Your friends and business associates can provide much-needed comfort this month. You need this because your career and public life are just not providing you with the sense of satisfaction that you are seeking. And some of you are off on a safari trying to recover that missing piece that used to make you feel more connected. Personal relationships can provide support at this time, but you will have to release the sense that you are in control. This is necessary so that people can get close to the real you. And you will want to spend much more time in your home or with your family.

GEMINI (May 21–June 21). Thank the goddess. Action and movement have returned to your life. You have really been working hard, but there always seemed to be another task. Does a gerbil on a wheel seem familiar to you? You are ready to initiate some excitement in your life. You will certainly need some new projects at work or a whole new career. And even personal relationships could begin to feel restrictive. They need some sprucing up, too. You will be rebelling against the image of yourself that you created in the past. It is you who is changing and not them.

CANCER (June 22–July 22). The time has come for you to come out of your crab hole, get back out into the sunlight, and end all that luxurious self-pitying and "why me" time. Sharpen up those claws. You will want to use them. You are being driven by a new sense of directions and goals. Security enters the picture, and you will want to feel connected once more to the process of self-control and appease those security urges. Relationships can be fun or horrible this month. You need an adventure with your partner. Routines can be bad for your relationship. I suggest a duel with whipped cream at close quarters.

LEO (July 23–August 22). Looking for great depths in your relationship/s is in your spotlight for the month. Most people think that you are looking for the glamour and limelight, but you are really seeking that spiritual connection or soul mate. And it is so disappointing when you find out that your choice has betrayed you. Some of your disappointment and anger will show up at work, which may be the reason you are having a hard time getting along with your playmates. You will be on the lookout for a new love interest if you are not able to solve existing problems with your current partner. If you are single, then you will just take this energy and get out there and make something happen.

VIRGO (August 23–September 22). You are working hard to get your workspace in order. Relationships are the major focus for you this month. Uranus, planet of excitement and rebellion, is entering your partnership area. There has to be some interest and electrification in this area of your life. Boring relationships will not survive this period. And existing ones need a jolt to pull you out of your complacency. This will not be an area of your life you can avoid. And home is not any sort of retreat or resting place. Get done what you have to do.

LIBRA (September 23–October 23). With so much going on with you, you hardly have time to get everything done. At work, you are putting everything in its place. You are about to reinvent your career or public life. That chosen part of your life has to work and give you a sense of security and reward for a job well done. If you are not getting that, you will be ready to move on. Home and family can be a real pain in the ankle. You may have to fight for your place there. And they are so used to you just being nice and doing as you are told. Won't they be surprised!

SCORPIO (October 24–November 21). You are entitled to some relaxation. You are much more interested in play than in work. And even though there are lots of opportunities on the horizon, you will only take them if they can enhance your fun factor. Home can be a great place to retreat to. You are more sensitive than usual, and you are ready to avoid the cocktail chatter you endured last month. And if you're interested in travel to get

away from it all, this remains a good time for that. At the end of the month, you are ready to get back into your comfortable work habits.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22–December 21). Finally, finally, finally, you are clearing out those relationships of your past. You have officially declared them dead and have attended all the funerals you are going to. Any person who fits into your life at this point had better be connected to the present and your future. You will be working on your family, your domicile, or your emotions. You are cleaning out those closets. And some of you will be moving or doing some major remodeling. By the end of the month, you are less driven and need a more creative outlet.

CAPRICORN (December 22–January 19). You are at the low end of your patience and tolerance this month, and you will be confronting people over things that have been bothering you. You may need a "to do" list so you can see how much you have gotten done. And if you have been waiting for a good time to start a project, this is the month, especially after the 4th. And yes, you want a new car. And you will have to have one—at least by August or September. And while your courage is strong, this can be a great time to join or associate with a business group. As the month ends, you are pushing even stronger to create a base of security.

AQUARIUS (January 20–February 18). Your personal resources are being highlighted this month, because you want some recognition for your hard work, your intelligence, and your creative ideas. You have to get this from those around you. Your partner, clients, and boss/es had better be shoveling out the oos and aaahs, or you will look for people who can. They might not enter the picture until the middle of April. But they are close. You are moving into a time when you will get to showcase who and what you are. You need to be ready, since the plane leaves next month.

PISCES (February 19–March 20). This is an extraordinary time to be a Pisces as the planet Uranus enters your sign for the first time in approximately 84 years. Uranus represents the ideal of breaking free of boundaries and traditions and looking for higher and loftier goals. Uranus will be in your sign for the next seven years and will have the strongest impact this year on those of you born in the first five days of the sign. The first indicators of Uranus are boredom and a desire for self-reinvention, which will show up everywhere. This means that things don't have to be bad to come to an end. You will just outgrow them.

A professional astrologer for nearly 20 years, Lilly Roddy counsels on an individual basis and teaches classes. Her website is www.hermesfoot.com.



Aries

Mar. 21–Apr. 19

ILLUSTRATION: DAVID EDUARDO FLORES PEREZ

You're buying a home. I think that merits a little respect, don't you?



SAM PORTER
LOAN OFFICER

Specializing
in home loans.
Focusing on
our community.
Giving my personal
best to every client.

Ranked "#1 in Customer Satisfaction
Among the Largest
National Home
Mortgage Lenders."

J.D. Power
and Associates



FEEL FREE TO CALL WITH QUESTIONS.

(713) 660-6977

EXT. 231

EMAIL: SAM_PORTER@COUNTRYWIDE.COM



Countrywide®

HOME LOANS



Trade service marks are the property of Countrywide Credit Industries, Inc. and/or its subsidiaries. Georgia Residential Mortgage License, 3465 East John Creekway, Suite 400, Duluth, GA 30097. Up-front approval subject to satisfactory property review and no change in financial condition. Rate protection subject to time limits. Some restrictions apply.

get out of the



CLOSET

and into
STORAGE!

50% OFF
First Full Month

Contact Mike @ 832-338-5400

10% OFF all packing & moving supplies

CONVENIENT MONTROSE
& HOUSTON LOCATIONS

NEW MOVE-INS ONLY

SHURGARD
STORAGE CENTER

Please join us for Montrose Counseling Center's
**25th Anniversary
Celebration**

BRINGIN'
IN THE
SILVER

Friday, March 14, 2003 • 5:30pm - 8:30pm

The Historic Magnolia Ballroom

715 Franklin (at Milam) • Houston, Texas

Donation at the Door \$50.00 • Refreshments & Hors D'oeuvres

Entertainment by Marshall Maxwell Entertainment Agency

Celebrity Bartenders: The Four Seasons Club

Silent Auction • Complimentary Valet Parking

For information about "Bringin' In The Green" or

Montrose Counseling Center please call: 713.529.0037, x324

Silver Shamrock Sponsors:

OutSmart

Bob & Nora Ackerley

Triangle

Steve Tarry

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

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

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

Riva's Italian Restaurant

1117 MISSOURI STREET 713.529.3450

One block north of
Westchase off Missouri





1



2



5



6



3



4



7

Out in Houston

1 Thieu Brown (with the ball) scored in the first Houston Roughnecks match on Dec. 14. The local rugby squad defeated the Dallas Diablos 42-12.

2 Donya Gardner (l-r), Cherry Harris, Terrie Ware (in white shirt), Tammy Wilson, and Gayla Gardner attended the Dec. 5 Twelve Days of Christmas benefit at Meteor. The Gardners founded the organization.

3 Cynthia Buddage (l) of U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee's office and Lora Clemmons also attended the Twelve Days event.

4 Chuck Cunningham (l), a Twelve Days host, posed with Brendan Harris.

5 At the Nov. 8 Sweet Tooth event, Ed Cordray (r), a Bering Dental Clinic founder, celebrated the 15th anniversary with Bering dentist Vicky Ottmers (l) and Rev. Don Sinclair, retired Bering Memorial United Methodist Church pastor.

6 Hampton Burt (l-r), James Hall, Mike Bolin, David Le Jeune, and Michael Locke read at the Dec. 1 Poetry Night at the Houston GLBT Community Center.

7 Jeff Shell (l) and Jeff Smith hosted the Dec. 12 Can Hunger for Kids event for Stone Soup at South Beach.

8 Mel White (l) visited with Jane and Irv Smith at the Nov. 3 PFLAG meeting at Christ Church Cathedral.

9 Houston Texans cheerleaders Sarah (l) and Lynn recently posed with Troy Trevino (second from l) and Rob Pitts (far right).



8



9

U.S. Construction & Services

Our capabilities include:

- Kitchen & Bath Remodeling
- Ceramic Tiling
- Interior & Exterior Painting
- Room Addition and Siding

We are an owner-operated company serving the Houston area for over 25 years, specializing in residential and commercial remodeling. We have many satisfied references, both residential and commercial, for your review. If we can be of assistance, please call.

Call for a free estimate.

U.S. Construction & Services ▼

(713) 526-7679 • Pager 713/698-0103 • E-mail: uscon@pdq.net

Joe Hlavac, Owner



Turn your house into the home of your dreams.



COLOR COPY HEADQUARTERS

49¢
color copies
100 or more of one original

Single-sided 8.5 x 11 color copies on photowhite paper. File send fees are additional if from a computer file. No other discounts/offers apply. Coupon must be presented at time order is placed. Expires April 15, 2003

copy.com

1201 Westheimer, Suite F
Houston, Texas, USA
713/528-1201



GAY MEN'S CHORUS *of* HOUSTON

SONGS OF THE
Classics

*The greatest works ever written for men's
chorus, with hilarious satires on the great
composers! Plus the Texas premiere of "Oliver
Button is a Sissy" adapted from the acclaimed
children's book by Tomi dePaola*

James Knapp

Artistic Director

Beth McConnell

Principal Accompanist

Saturday March 22, 8:00 pm

Sunday March 23, 3:00 pm

Wortham Theater Center, Cullen Theater
501 Texas

\$15 in advance
\$20 at the door

Order on-line: www.gmch.org/tickets

Order by phone: Box Office Tickets
800.494.8497

GMCH

Underwritten in part by a generous grant from
the Tom Moore Community Music Foundation

