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7th Annual Gayest & Greatest Ballot Inside

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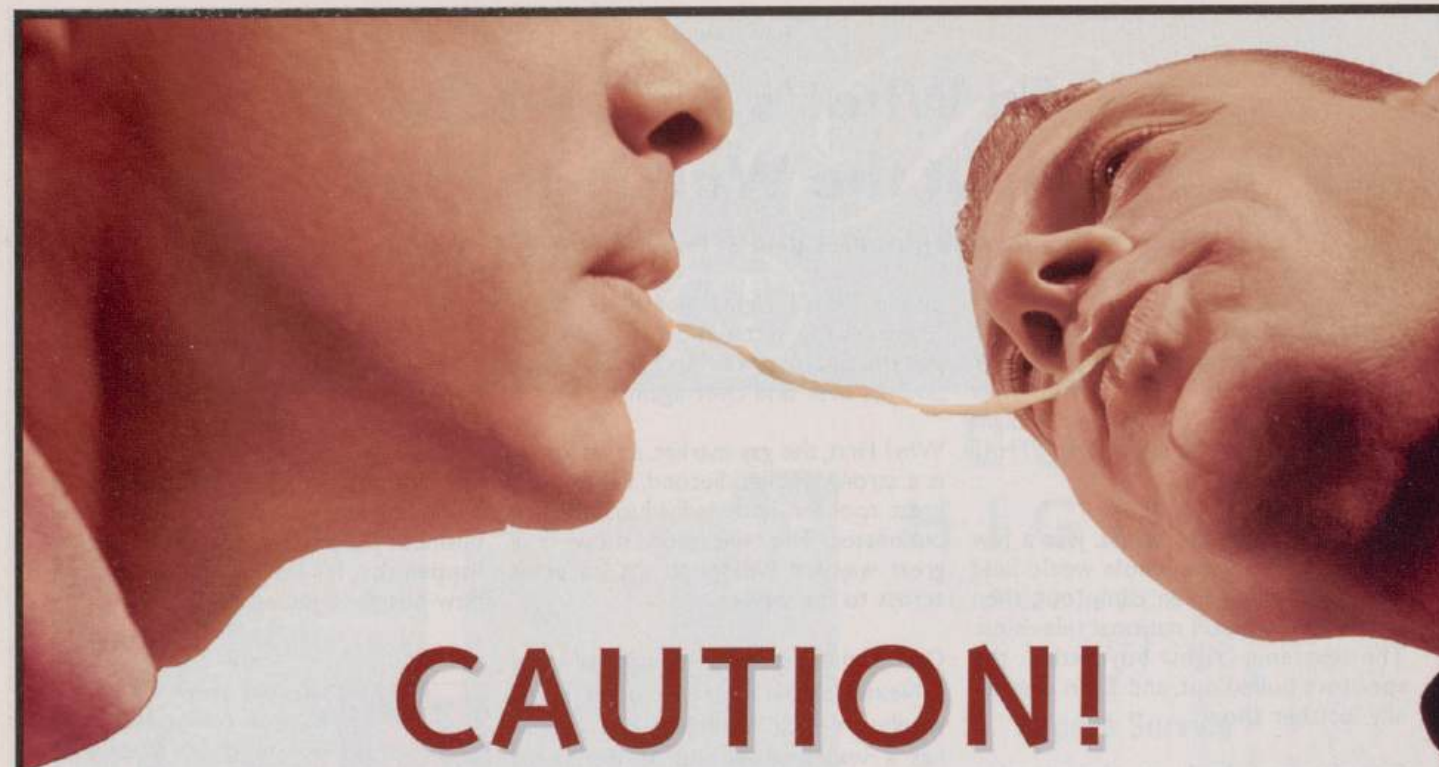
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So What's All the Talk About the Walkie-Talkie?

by Lea Bogle, President of Premier Paging & Wireless

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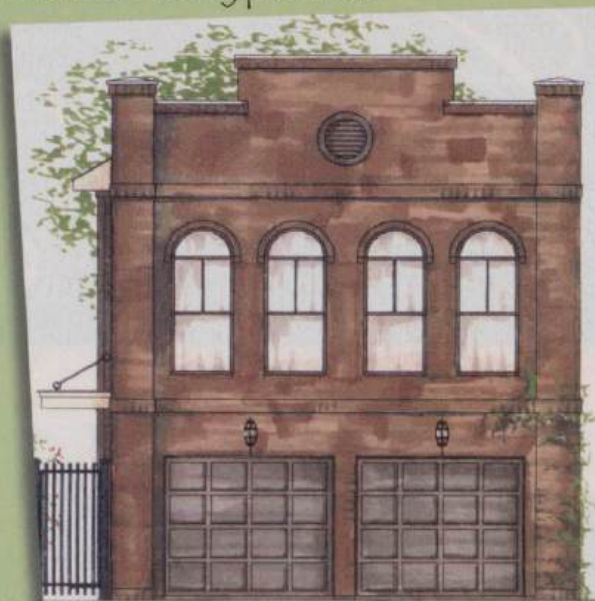
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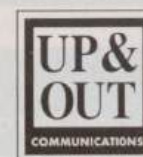
Graphic Artist Terry Klumpp

Contributing Writers Dale Carpenter, Troy Carrington, Eric A.T. Dieckman, D.L. Groover, Daryl Moore, Annise D. Parker, Lilly Roddy, Andrea Rodricks, Gregg Shapiro, Sally Sheklow, Lance Walker, Victor Zorn

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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.

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A few of the Roughnecks return from practice. See story, page 50. Photographs by John Conroy. Cover designed by Terry Klumpp.

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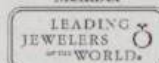
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Fred Walters Jr.
Houston

Walters wrote in after the announcement of the landmark Lawrence v. Texas decision.

DEEPLY THANKFUL

Just a quick note to thank you all, particularly Troy [Carrington], for the recent review of deepnine's *Flowers on the Dirt Road Home* ["Groove Out," June]. I really appreciate your support of independent musicians and the positive vibe.

Brent Roberts
Washington, D.C.

Roberts, an openly gay songwriter and musician, is the force behind the band deepnine (www.deepnine.com).

CORRECTIONS

Because we relied on inaccurate publicity information, we listed an incorrect toll-free phone number for G-Town Guesthouses in Galveston ("Out of Town," July). The number is 866/735-2749.

Due to a production error, we inadvertently omitted portions of the "LeftOut" and "OutRight" columns in the July issue. The complete text of the columns by Daryl Moore and Dale Carpenter can be read at www.outsmartmagazine.com.

TOTALLY GREAT!

Have a favorite restaurant? Want to honor a community hero or throw the spotlight on a great drag queen? Make your opinions count and complete the Gayest & Greatest reader-poll ballot in this issue beginning on page 41. You can also complete the ballot at www.outsmartmagazine.com, mail it in, or fill out a ballot at one of the four voting parties:

- Saturday, August 9, 8 p.m.
Garza's Kon Tiki, Galveston
- Wednesday, August 13, 9:30 p.m.
JR's Bar & Grill
- Thursday, August 14, 7 p.m.
Chances
- Friday, August 15, 8 p.m.
O Night Club

See details on page 42. The voting deadline is August 20. Look for all the results in our seventh annual Gayest & Greatest section in the October *OutSmart*.

LOVE LETTERS? HATE MAIL?

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

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LookOut

by Tim Brookover

GOOD WORKS. Recently, **Ken Claude** stopped by our offices to chat about his August 17 benefit event at EJ's, Miss Garbage Bag 2003—It Isn't Pretty. You read that right. "People love to come out and see guys make fools of themselves," he quipped. Claude plans to make this, uh, pageant of burly men draped in plastic an annual community fundraiser.

According to the rules, each contestant (facial hair and "men's leather boots" *de rigueur*) must wear a dress constructed of garbage bags. Paging **Isaac Mizrahi**. Claude, who was Mr. Texas Leather 1999, offers a useful tip for hopefuls: "Wal-Mart sells all the colors of the Leather Pride Flag." Judges will score men by attire and "ability to persevere against incredible odds." Maybe that refers to contestants with poor design skills or really skinny legs.

All proceeds from the 8 p.m. event will benefit Positive Vibe, a new clinic at Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital that serves HIV-positive youth ages 13 to 24. Sign up at kenclaude@sbcglobal.net.

Charles Armstrong, jefe of Charles Armstrong Investments (South Beach, JR's/Santa Fe, and Montrose Mining Company), has renewed his underwriting of Q-Patrol for the second year. His grant will allow the all-volunteer citizen's-patrol group to continue monitoring the neighborhood on Friday and Saturday nights. **Chris Arasin** is Q-Patrol chairman.

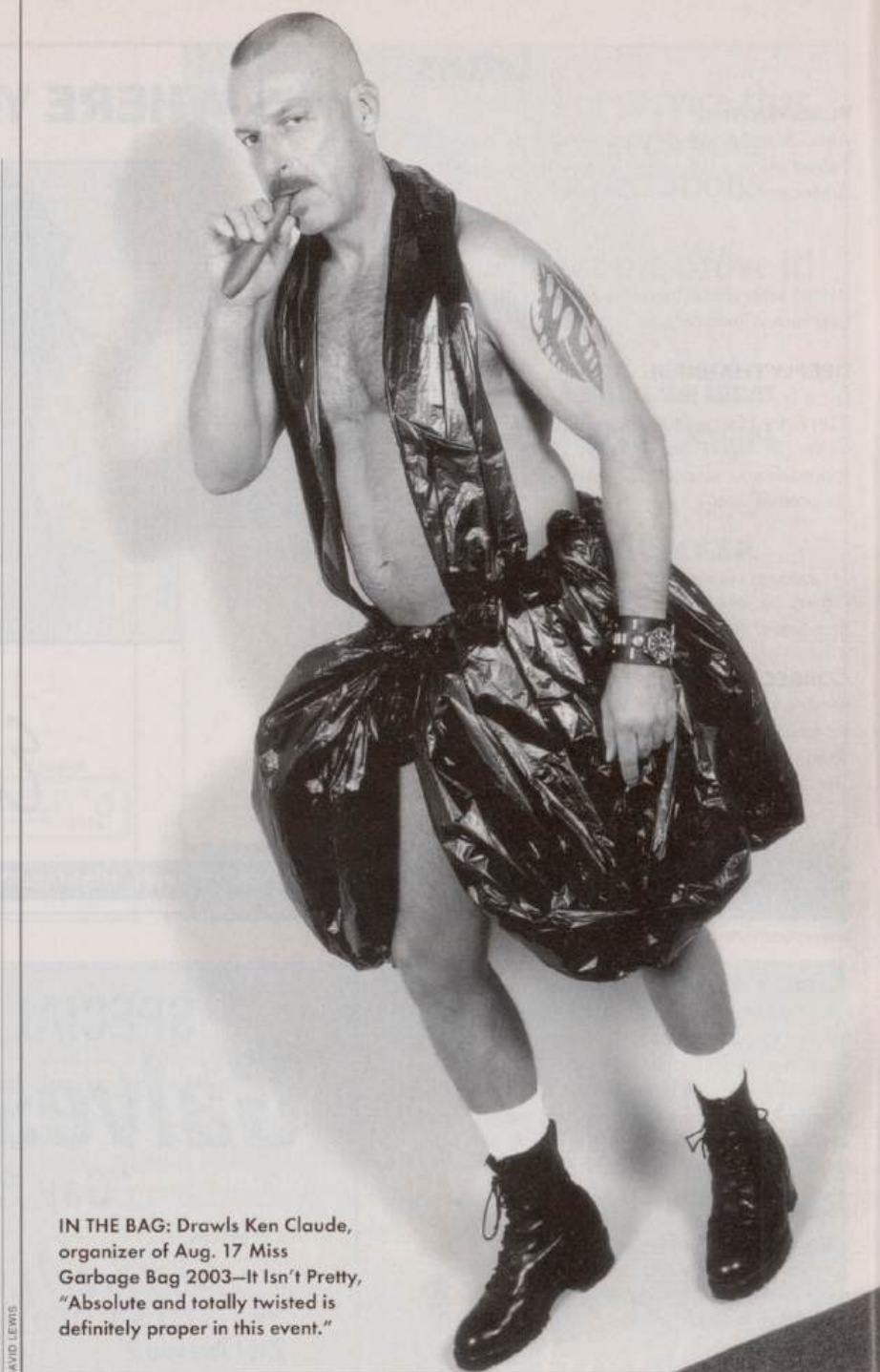
TIARA WATCH. The reigning Miss Gay Houston International US of A, **Selena St. John**, called with a reminder that the Miss Gay Texas US of A pageant will take place August 21–24 at Rich's Houston. "It's my first time competing in a big pageant like this," Selena revealed. On August 17, she will have a fundraiser for her crown quest at the Brazos River Bottom.

IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD. Entertainer **Jerry Atwood** e-mailed to report on the health of his friend, super-chanteuse **Marsha Carlton**. In late June, Carlton had a kidney removed to excise a tumor. "It appears that the malignancy has not spread," Atwood wrote. A January event at the home of **David Alquest** and **Bil Minturn** raised funds for medical care for Carlton who, like 41 million Americans, lacks health insurance. In a phone conversation later, Atwood predicted more benefits for the community singer.

Congrats to **Ken Fiegel**, who placed fifth overall in the May 25 International Mr. Leather competition in Chicago. We spotlighted Fiegel in "Hell-Bent for Leather" in our May issue.

Kudos also to **Korwin Goodman** on being named Daddy of Montrose in a July ceremony at Mary's. Does his win mean we can all start borrowing money from him and using his car?

ENTER, NAKED. Theater impresario **Christian DeVries** is reviving the long-running musical



IN THE BAG: Draws Ken Claude, organizer of Aug. 17 Miss Garbage Bag 2003—It Isn't Pretty. "Absolute and totally twisted is definitely proper in this event."

revue *Naked Boys Singing*. The lads will go nude beginning August 22 at Stargaze Theatre, formerly Bienvenue Theatre, which has moved to 4040 Milam on the third floor of the Fitness Exchange building. Got all that? The boys go naked on August 22. The new in-the-buff cast includes **Michael Backes**, **Damien Dane**, **Alvin Rodgers**, **Aubry Vance**, and **Cameron Wyont**.

Speaking of the disrobed, **Steve H.** and about a dozen other members of the local Lone Star Nudist Group will travel to Pennsylvania for the August 17–24 Gay Naturist International gathering in the Poconos. About 800 guys attend what

is billed as the largest organized nude gathering in the world. Steve reported by e-mail, "You see the range of manly beauty. All types are there. I am not all that young or body beautiful, but I do feel accepted for my 'bear'-type look. I do believe that we should accept the human body as made and not judge by the outside but what is on the inside. You can see all shapes and sizes at the Gathering—[and] all ages, over 21, of course. I have met couples who have met there as well as gay couples who have been together 50+ years at GNI." Intrigued? Check www.lonestarmen.net or call 713/866-8847. ■



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Andrew Holleran

(author, *Dancer from the Dance*)

(Out, 7/03, Andrew Holleran)

"[T]here is no point in having a relationship just for the sake of having a relationship; though I know people who would disagree—including the partners in the relationship I am now watching fall apart. Recently I decided they may in fact be renegotiating its terms just so that it can go on, since neither man wants to be alone, and both, for all their difficulties, have worked hard to keep it going. But not everyone is willing to do that work. They may be closer to the Andy Warhol who wrote that when he was lonely in high school he wanted a relationship more than anything in the world, but then he got his own TV, and he didn't need one anymore."

E.J. Graff

(author, *What Is Marriage For?*)

(Out, 7/03, E.J. Graff)

"... I met M, and I knew I'd stumbled into a cliché: I just plain liked her more than anyone I'd ever met. We spent dozens of hours together without running out of things to talk about; ... we laughed so hard my ribs hurt. So I didn't really mind when, after we finally did go horizontal, she gave me an ultimatum: monogamy or the highway. If I so much as kissed someone else, I would be erased from her life utterly, like a Soviet dissident. I tried to negotiate an exception for men—men were just sex, never love—but she was an absolutist. I accepted her terms. Sixteen years later, I haven't been sorry."

Lucy Lawless

(Out, 8/03, Michael Musto)

Michael Musto: Were Xena and Gabrielle really in love?

[*Lawless played the title role in Xena: The Warrior Princess.*]

Lucy Lawless: Where there's smoke, there's got to be fire. At the end, Xena says she had a very special friend. It was clear from the writing that it was a love relationship. I thought, *Yep, she's gay. You just outed my character.* It was all innuendo prior to that. It was fun to make the subtext go on. It became supertext to me.

But Xena did have some boyfriends along the way, right?

Yes, but I now think she was being bi-curious!

Camille Paglia

(Interview, 7/03, Ingrid Sischy)

Ingrid Sischy: ... All censorship does is cause an under-the-counter culture: in other words, more pornography.

Camille Paglia: Absolutely. My generation was raised in the repressive '50s, when everything was censored. Television was so bland they couldn't say the word *pregnant*. All of a sudden there was a revolution, so sex really was avant-garde for a while. But today's brassy sexual display is shallow and empty. There's very little eroticism in shows like *Are You Hot?*—which was like a meat parade of clunky kewpie dolls. ... There's a great moment in *Niagara* [1953] when Marilyn Monroe comes out of this honeymoon cottage at Niagara Falls and lounges on the stoop, her eyes half-closed while she croons along to a song. She's in a sensual haze—it's like she's on fire. She just exudes sensuality, a molten inner state of sexual heat. There was nothing like that in *Are You Hot?*



Jennifer Coolidge (costar of the recent *Legally Blonde 2* and seen here in 2001's *American Pie 2*): Would she be surprised if she decided to go the woman-on-woman route?

Queer Quotes

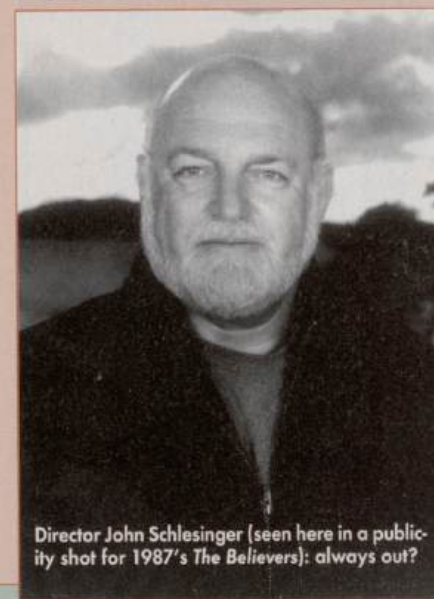
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John Schlesinger

(director, *Midnight Cowboy*, *Sunday Bloody Sunday*)

(Out, 6/03, William J. Mann)

John Schlesinger and photographer Michael Childers have been together for 36 years, always open about their relationship.



Director John Schlesinger (seen here in a publicity shot for 1987's *The Believers*): always out?

I don't suppose I could have ever lived that way [in the closet]," Schlesinger says, looking back some 30 years later. He knew the kinds of ruses perpetuated by people like producer Frank McCarthy (*Patton*) and his lover, the publicist Rupert Allan, who would arrive at parties separately with women and then act surprised to run into each other. Like the rest of Hollywood, Schlesinger was amused by the farce of producer Ross Hunter (*Imitation of Life*, *Airport*) pretending to be engaged to Nancy Sinatra when everyone knew he'd been living with set decorator Jacque Mapes for 20 years.

Sarah Jessica Parker

(TV Guide, 6/14/03, Jason Gay)

Re: Parker's character Carrie on *Sex and the City*.

"I know she will find contentment, and I don't know if that is with a man or a woman or alone or in a new life, a different place."

Jennifer Coolidge

(Out, 7/03, Michael Musto)

Jennifer Coolidge: I've never aggressively pursued a woman. Once in a while, I've had crushes on women. I like them so much that I'm turned on by them, but I haven't gone that route yet. But who knows? Life is full of surprises. **Michael Musto: Well, I'm not surprised that gay men love you so much.**

It happens to be my crowd. It's a mutual thing. They're loyal and funny and get my sense of humor. **Would you rather hang out with them than straight men?**

Are you kidding? That's all I hang out with!

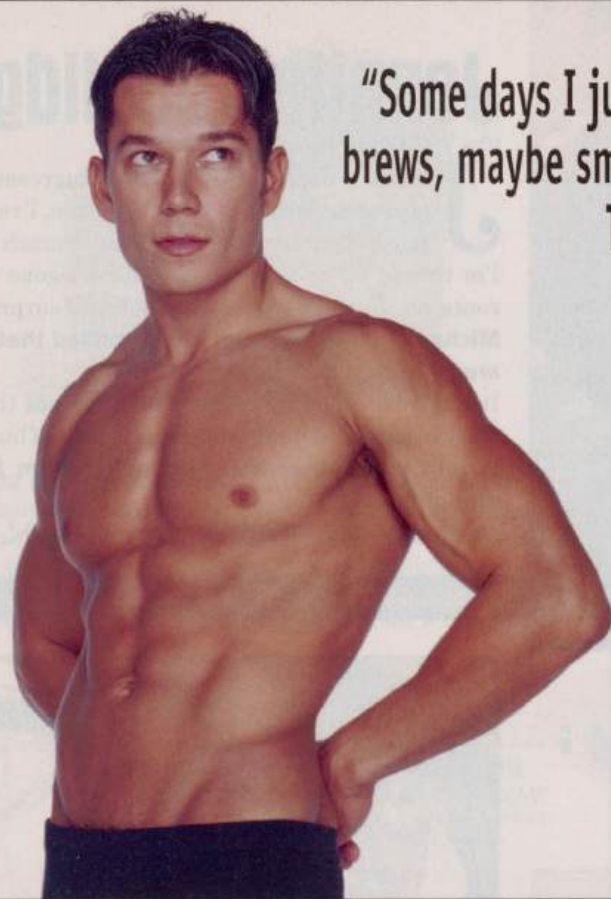


Jake Gyllenhaal (pictured here in 2001's *Bubble Boy*; inset: 2002's *The Good Girl*): honored to be liked by men?

Jake Gyllenhaal

(Out, 8/03, Chris Jensen)

We don't care that [Jake Gyllenhaal] is straight—and currently dating *Spider-Man*'s Kirsten Dunst—but could he at least throw us a bone and play gay? "Thanks for the honor you've bestowed upon me [*Out* magazine's 'Hottest Straight Guy We Wish Was Gay']," blushes the blue-eyed babe. ... "I hope I can do it service. So to speak."



"Some days I just wanna kick back, watch TV, chug a few brews, maybe smoke a stogie, and have a big, juicy steak. Then I get a look at my dad's big fat ass."

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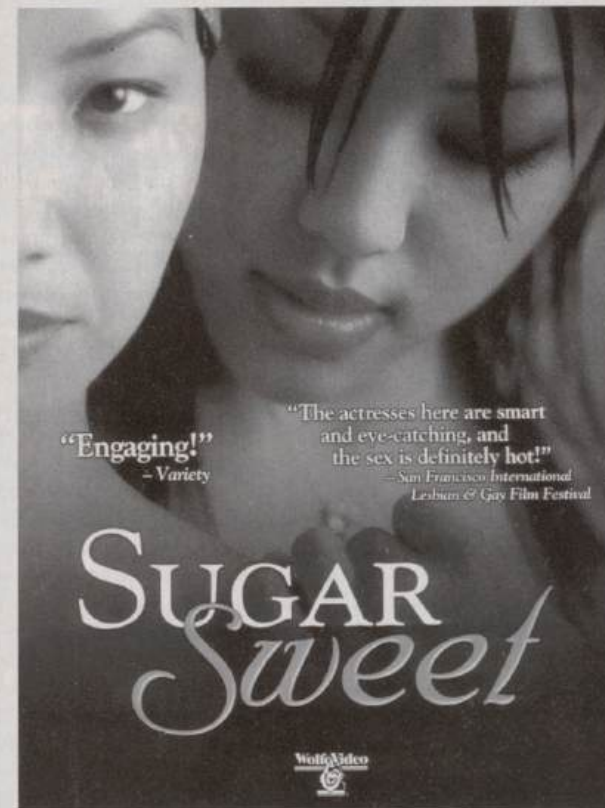
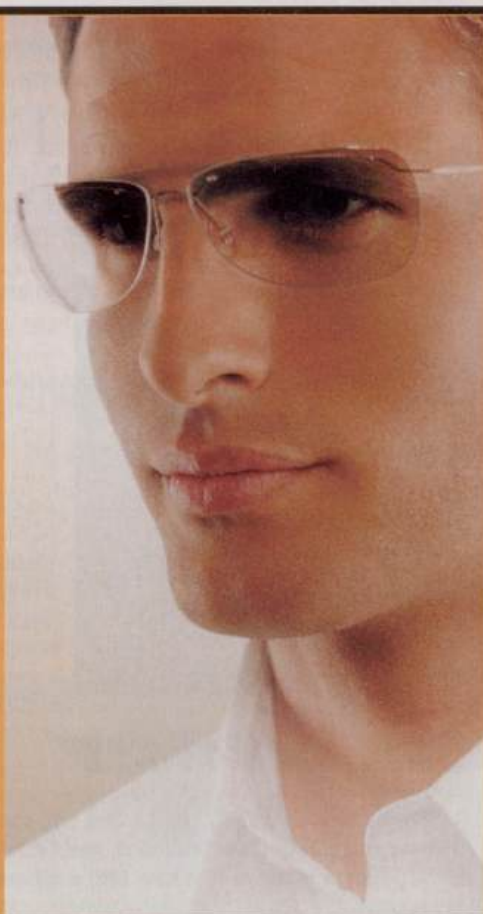
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Sugar Sweet comes to DVD and VHS

In this sassy and sexy film, Naomi pays the bills by directing lesbian porn. Her male bosses think her work is too gay; her friends think she's a sellout. For comfort, Naomi confides in a secret online soulmate named Sugar. • Then Naomi gets a chance to direct a popular matchmaking show in a daring girl/girl series. She casts her bubbly pal Azusa, whose love life is suffering, and no-nonsense executive Miki, whose outlet by night is exotic dancing. When their scripted TV romance flares into some hot off-screen action, even Naomi finds herself caught in the flame. • Hailed by the

Village Voice as "a funny look at lesbian porn, sex toys, and online dating," *Sugar Sweet* was described by *Asian Week* as a "sex-positive lesbian love triangle." Directed by Desiree Lim, *Sugar Sweet* is the first Japanese film to be made by and about lesbians. Due to the graphic, yet romantic, nature of the film, *Sugar Sweet* is recommended for adult audiences only. The DVD edition includes an interview with writer/director Lim and co-writer Carole Hisasue. • Available August 26 on DVD and VHS from Wolfe Video (www.wolfevideo.com or 1-800-GET-WOLFE). —Troy Carrington

I Love You, Baby

In this delightful, irreverent romantic comedy, where boy meets boy who then meets girl and all become more confused than ever, sexually ambivalent Marcos (Jorge Sanz) arrives in Madrid looking for love. He soon meets a struggling actor named Daniel (Santiago Magill), and the two start a whirlwind romance. One night, the lovers head off to a local bar for a spot of karaoke. While dueting on "I Can't Take My Eyes off You," Marcos is struck, quite literally, by a falling disco ball. Recovering from this bizarre incident, he starts to question his newfound sexuality and begins to date the fiery Marisol (Tiare Scana),

who has had her eye on Marcos for a while. Unable to be consoled, Daniel, in a moment of Boy George-inspired behavior, dyes his hair, applies some lipstick, and frocks up, determined to win back the confused Marcos. To our delight, there's a rare screen appearance by Boy George himself. • Now available on DVD and VHS from Strand Releasing (www.strandreleasing.com). —TC

The Best of Primetime Glick

The ingenious Martin Short changes his voice and puts on a new face and a new body and becomes talk-show host Jiminy Glick. Hilarity ensues... seriously. Some of his guests can't keep a straight face, and neither could I while watching the delectable Glick ask ridiculous questions and accidentally fall over as he tries to re-position his 300-lb. body. • One of the best exchanges is between Glick and Bill Maher. Glick: "I'm not trying to brag or anything, but my lady and I have a very active sex life." Maher: "That's great. I always thought it was just a whole front and that you were gay." Glick: "Now isn't that interesting coming from a 44-year-old bachelor?" • Other superb interviewees include Kathy Lee Gif-

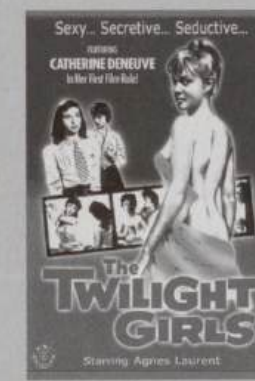


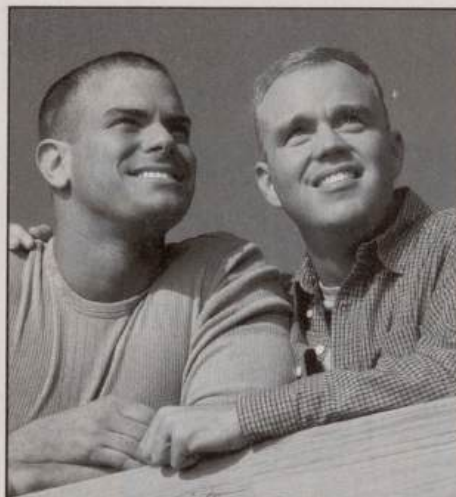
ford [very willing to make fun of herself], Janeane Garofalo (utterly enthralled with Glick's manners... or lack of), Steve Martin (wanting to make the interview as serious as possible under the circumstances), and John Salley (playing the black card to the hilt, with hilarious results). Also interviewed are Eugene Levy, Dennis Miller, Conan O'Brien, and Jerry Seinfeld. • Available from Comedy Central Home Video (www.comedycentral.com). —Blase DiStefano

The Twilight Girls

Originally banned in the U.S. for sexual content and now newly restored, the erotic classic *The Twilight Girls* features Catherine

Deneuve in her first film role at the age of 13. In the role of Adelaide, Deneuve appears under her given family name of Dorleac. In the American version, Deneuve's scenes were cut when the film was re-edited. The newly restored version includes all of the deleted scenes. • Set in an exclusive French boarding school for girls, *The Twilight Girls* follows a group of nubile young women as they discover themselves... and their classmates. They are the "twilight girls"—too young to be considered women, too old to be girls, caught in a time of confusing passions and desires. • The cast includes Georgina Spelvin, who later achieved fame as the star of





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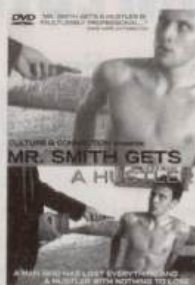


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DVD and VHS continued from previous page

The Devil in Miss Jones. • Does any of this sound like soft porn? With the insinuations of girl-on-girl sex and the politically incorrect catfights, well, yes, I guess it does. • DVD only, now available from First Run Features (www.firstrunfeatures.com). —TC

Mr. Smith Gets a Hustler



Bobby Blue (Alex Feldman) is an 18-year-old New Yorker with street smarts and an athletic body. He provides for himself and his alcoholic mom (Anna Thompson) the "old-fashioned" way—turning tricks for lonely businessmen. Mr. Smith (Larry Pine) is a married banker who engages Bobby's "services." But Mr. Smith isn't like other johns. He's a great customer who spends \$600 a night with Bobby, asking him about his hopes and dreams, but appears oblivious to Bobby's physical allure. • Bobby isn't the only one kept under the thumb of his sleazy, drug-dealing pimp. A new boy arrives on the scene, driven by desperation and a debt that must be repaid. One day, a sinister customer comes sniffing around asking the new kid questions about Mr. Smith. It isn't long before an amazing past is revealed, and the lives of both Bobby and Mr. Smith are changed forever. •

Now available from Culture Q Connection (www.cultureqconnection.com). —TC

The Gristle



The Gristle—the story of eight guys, half a mil, a hearse, a cadaver, two kidneys, a lot of cocaine, and a little mistaken identity—stars Michael Dorn (well known by Trekkies as Lieutenant Commander Worf). It chronicles two struggling black L.A. medical assistants who think their luck has changed when they are hired to deliver black-market body parts to a wealthy U.S. senator. Coincidentally, another criminal drop-off is taking place at the same location: the delivery of hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of cocaine. It really gets interesting when the homophobic fundamentalist-Christian white family shows up. • The two young heroes think they have a plan to outsmart the crooks and get all the cash for themselves, but the drug dealers, the mobsters, and the senator have more sinister plans in mind. They soon discover that they are as expendable as "the gristle" on a chicken bone. They have to think quickly and move even faster if they are going to survive the night. • DVD and VHS now available from Lightyear Entertainment/Warner Home Video (www.lightyear.com or www.dvdbw.com). —TC ■

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OutSmart invites you to a special advance screening of the new hit film *Camp* Monday, August 11, 7:30 p.m., at Angelika Film Center

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- Muscle Mechanics, 617 Richmond, 713/523-5330, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Gay/Lesbian Community Center, 3400 Montrose, Ste. 207, 713/524-3818, Noon-5 p.m.

One pass per person (each pass admits two) while supplies last. Available on a first-come, first-served basis.

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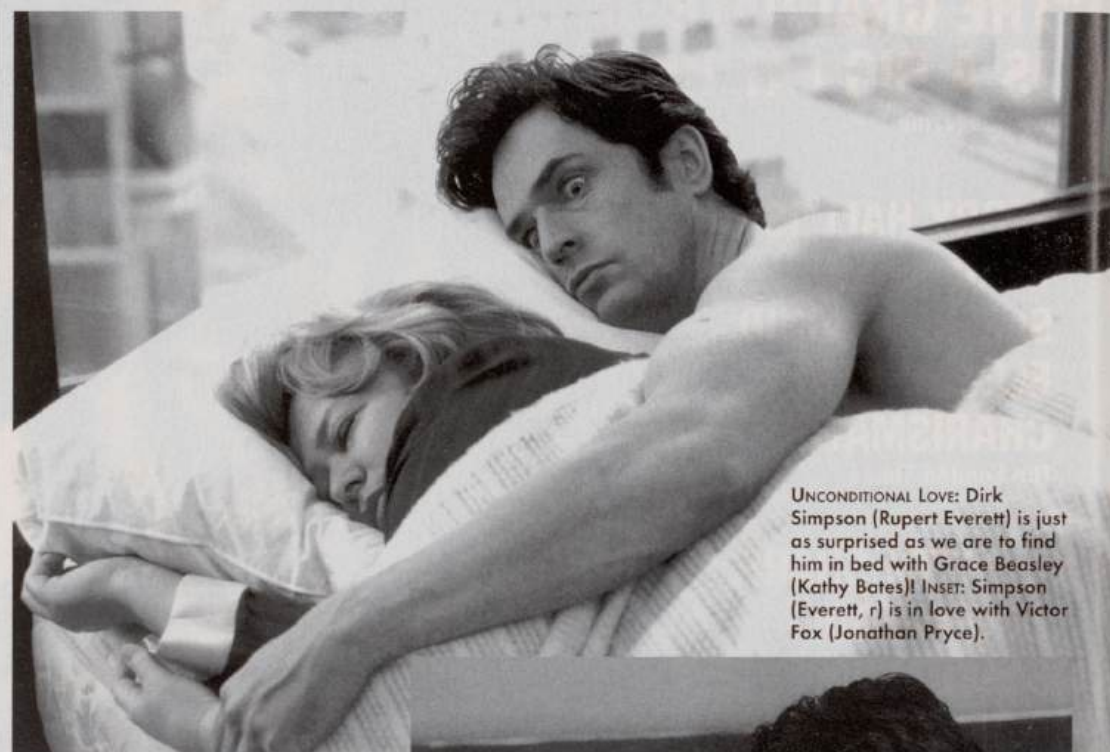


Photography: Arlyn Coates

THANK YOUR LUCKY STARZ!

Kathy Bates and Rupert Everett exude Unconditional Love

Grace Beasley (Kathy Bates) is a seemingly happy housewife, who swoons over singer Victor Fox (Jonathan Pryce). When her husband Max (Dan Aykroyd) leaves her after 25 years of marriage because he's tired of playing it safe, Grace pursues her dream of seeing Fox in person. But to her surprise and horror, Fox is murdered. The "playing-it-safe" Grace stops playing it safe. She immediately books a flight to England for Fox's funeral (on the flight, she sits next to Julie Andrews, who plays herself in a fabulously funny cameo). Once in the U.K., Grace meets Fox's "valet" Dirk Simpson (Rupert Everett) and Fox's relatives (one of whom is played to purse-lipped perfection by Lynn Redgrave). Though she is shunned by all, Grace marches on and eventually befriends Dirk, who is still grieving the loss of Fox, his lover. Grace returns, with Dirk, to her home in Chicago; and with Grace's daughter-in-law (Meredith Eaton, who steals every scene she's in), the unlikely threesome embark on a search for Fox's killer. Directed by P.J. Hogan (*My Best Friend's Wedding*), *Unconditional Love*



UNCONDITIONAL LOVE: Dirk Simpson (Rupert Everett) is just as surprised as we are to find him in bed with Grace Beasley (Kathy Bates)! INSET: Simpson (Everett, r) is in love with Victor Fox (Jonathan Pryce).

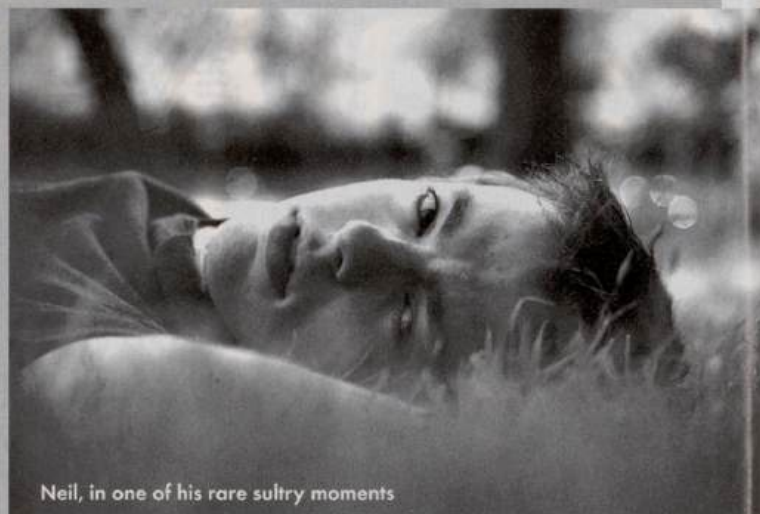
has a good script, a great cast, and massive doses of humor (and there are appearances by Sally Jessy Raphael and Barry Manilow!). • Premieres on Starz! on Saturday, **August 2**, at 8 p.m., with subsequent plays throughout the month. For a complete schedule, visit www.starzmovies.com.

—Blase DiStefano



FOLLOW THE AUSTIN GAY FRESHMAN

This 10-episode half-hour documentary Showtime Original Series follows the lives of a group of students (one of whom is gay) attending the University of Texas at Austin. Film crews follow a dozen incoming freshmen around the clock. Additionally, the freshmen are given their own video cameras so that they can record video diaries of their lives both on campus and off, thus collaborating in the process. • Neil is openly gay but confused. He considers having sex with a woman because he likes her so much and because he is very uncomfortable around gay men. It should be interesting to follow his growth. • R.J. Cutler, the Emmy Award-winning executive producer and director of *American High*, is directing and executive producing *Freshman Diaries*. • Premieres on Showtime, **August 31**, 10 p.m. —BD



Neil, in one of his rare sultry moments

DEBRA DOES DOC



Debra Winger (above) and many other actresses are interviewed by Rosanna Arquette

Searching for Debra Winger is a documentary from first-time director Rosanna Arquette, whose acting credits include *After Hours* and *Desperately Seeking Susan*. The film explores the difficult balance between motherhood and career that actresses face, as well as Hollywood's fascination with youth and image. • Debra Winger was one of the most successful actresses of her generation, following Oscar-nominated roles in *Terms of Endearment*, *An Officer and a Gentleman*, and *Shadowlands*. She astonished the film industry when she decided, at age 40, to retire at the height of her career, to spend more time with her family and not succumb to the pressures of Hollywood to maintain a youthful appearance. She was looking for balance in her life and was unwilling to fight for the very few roles that Hollywood creates for women. • Winger's story prompted Arquette, a well-known actress herself, to interview Winger and many other successful actresses about the pressures and drawbacks of working in the film industry. Among those interviewed are Sharon Stone, Meg Ryan, Holly Hunter, Jane Fonda, Vanessa Redgrave, Frances McDormand, Theresa Russell, Ally Sheedy, Teri Garr, Whoopi Goldberg, Melanie Griffith, Charlotte Rampling, Salma Hayek, Gwyneth Paltrow, Patricia Arquette, and many others. • Though there's nothing gay about this great documentary, you've gotta see all these wonderful actresses, some interviewed in groups, others individually. And seeing Debra Winger again is a joy. • Premieres on Showtime, **August 18**, 7 p.m. —BD →



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FUNDAMENTALISTS, FAMILIES, & DYSFUNCTION

Family Fundamentals airs on PBS



What happens when fundamentalist Christian parents have children who are homosexual?

Family Fundamentals, having its national broadcast premiere on public television's P.O.V. series, is filmmaker Arthur Dong's personal attempt to answer that explosive question. Armed with a digital camera, Dong takes viewers into the private and public lives of three families who have responded to gay offspring by actively opposing homosexuality. *Family Fundamentals* is a battlefield report from America's profound and disquieting culture war over gay issues.

Susan Jester is the lesbian daughter of Kathleen Bremner, a Pentecostal church leader who responded to her daughter's coming out by forming a Christian parents' ministry and organizing the San Diego Christian Trauma and Sexuality Conferences. In collaboration with such groups as Exodus and Focus on the Family, Bremner promotes faith and "reparative therapy" as a cure for homosexuality. She is not shy about expressing her views of homosexuality, and in exhorting her daughter, who is conversely outspoken in support of gay civil rights, to repent.

Brett Mathews, a former Air Force First

Clockwise from top left: Kathleen Bremner, founder of San Diego Spatula Ministries; former Congressman Bob Dornan (l) and Brian Bennett at the 1984 Republican National Convention in Dallas; and Brett Mathews, First Lieutenant, Nuclear Missileer, U.S. Air Force, 1996-1998.



Lieutenant discharged for his homosexual orientation, is the son of a Mormon bishop in rural Erda, Utah. Mathews' family reacts to his coming out by sending him a steady stream of letters calling on him to change. His grandmother's remarriage brings a

challenge and a crisis as Mathews returns to his boyhood home for the first time since declaring his homosexuality. His family, which had agreed to participate in the film, abruptly changes its mind after one day of shooting and withdraws.

Brian Bennett's story reveals a different kind of family—and an even more surprising chain of events. From 1977 to 1989, Bennett served as chief of staff, campaign manager, and legislative aide to former California Congressman Bob Dornan—one of the nation's harshest and most vocal opponents to gay rights. So close was Bennett to Dornan, with whom he shared a Catholic upbringing and political views on everything except his closeted homosexuality, that Bennett became a virtual member of the Dornan family. He lived with them for six years, calling Dornan by the family nickname, "Poppy." When Bennett came out in 1997, their close relationship was abruptly terminated and he was left to struggle with the contradictions of being a gay Republican and of still loving a father figure who rejected him for his sexual orientation.

Arthur Dong's *Family Fundamentals* makes its broadcast premiere on Tuesday, August 26 at 10 p.m. on PBS. —Troy Carrington

SUNDANCE CHANNEL ASKS, "WHY PAY TWO RENTS?"

Remy Weber's moving short documentary (*Why Pay Two Rents?*, 2001) celebrates the 40-year relationship—both in business and domestically—of Stan Selub and Paul Miller, who for many years ran a

fabled Greenwich Village antique shop. Together, as well as in revealing separate interviews, they chart their partnership and the political and cultural changes they have witnessed during the past four decades. •

Winner of Best Documentary award at the Athens International Film and Video Festival. • Aired on Sundance Channel, August 14 at 5:30 p.m. Repeat airings: 15th, 4 a.m.; 18th, 11 a.m.; and 27th, 6 a.m. ■

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Out in the Arts

by D.L. Groover

Street. This group of harpies—we only see the wives in this play's famous gimmick—never stops bitching, mostly about each other behind their backs. They gossip, caterwaul, break up homes, and spit venom with wonderful malice, using some of the wittiest dialogue to come out of the Depression. The entire ensemble eats up Luce's juicy roles as if they were iced Beluga and champagne.

All these dolls are picture-perfect, but **Celeste Roberts** as queen-bitch Sylvia steals the show. Needle sharp, she's her own amphetamine, running full tilt and fully aware she can destroy by the flick of her tongue. Hilariously funny and wicked, Roberts is unforgettable. Even the stage crew is all girl. As they arrange the set for the next scene, they bitch about the other women, too. The production has a high-gloss Art Deco style that MGM would applaud, thanks to evocative set design by **Igor Karash** and sumptuous costumes from **Rebecca Greene Udden** and **Sarajane Milligan**. This '30s comedy with its nest of female vipers is devilish fun, even if we never want to meet any of them at happy hour.

KEEP IN MIND

Tamalalia 8

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There's another doll to watch, and she's opening in her own show this month. I'm speaking about that Botticelli firework, copper-topped **Tamarie Cooper** (pictured, center) in *Infernal Bridegroom's* eighth installment of *Tamalalia*. Directed, starring, choreographed, and co-written by Miss Cooper (abetted by **Patrick Reynolds** and **Paul Locklear**), these original musical comedies—a summer



institution—have become a cult hit and eagerly anticipated. Here, we find Miss Cooper on her way to golden California, trying to break through those stubborn studio doors. There's a makeover, a TV pilot, and a stint in a women's prison before end curtain, so the wackiness is guaranteed. IBP's tilt-a-whirl musicals are four-ticket attractions: zany satire, low-rent ribaldry, and funny, funny, funny. Go for a ride. ■



Raising the stakes: The cast of the terrific production of *Guys and Dolls* at Masquerade Theatre include (in photos clockwise from top left) Luther Chakurian (c) as Nathan Detroit; Rebekah Dahl (c) as Miss Adelaide; Kaytha Coker (c) as Sarah Brown; and Ilich Guardiola (c) as Sky Masterson.



OH, YOU BEAUTIFUL DAHL.

Actress **Rebekah Dahl** should be designated a Bayou City treasure. After a superlative performance last season as wicked Mrs. Lovett in Masquerade Theatre's *Sweeney Todd*, she goes one better and gives a definite account of the "well-known fiancée" Adelaide in that Broadway classic *Guys and Dolls*, also at Masquerade (through August 2). She brings this psychosomatic chorine to jubilant life, producing goosebumps and laughter as we watch a consummate pro strut her stuff. A nebulous talent at the Hot Box nightclub, poor Adelaide has made herself sick waiting 14 years for incurable gambler Nathan Detroit to ask for her hand in marriage. This subplot gives the 1950 Frank Loesser/Jo Swerling/Abe Burrows musical its comic heart. At Masquerade, Miss Dahl supplies the red corpuscles. Wrapped in **Stephanie Bradow's** suitably tacky costumes and a peroxide wig that a condor could nest in, Miss Dahl effortlessly whips up her own unique cotton-candy fluff to flesh out this perpetually put-upon cartoon.

They're all cartoons in this Times Square Neverland, populated by the likes of Liver Lips Louie, Angie the Ox, and Rusty Charlie. Where else would a veteran huckster like Sky Masterson fall in love with a prim Save-A-Soul missionary except in this most family-friendly dreamland of a NYC where the lowlifes wear hatbands that match their shirts?

The entire ensemble has a wonderful time putting on this gleeful musical, lovingly directed and choreographed by Masquerade's artistic director **Phillip Duggins**, and their infectious high spirits are a joy to behold. **Ilich Guardiola** brings his veteran's panache to romantic Sky Masterson, while **Luther Chakurian** gives harried Nathan just the right touch of sad sack. While **Kaytha Coker** could use a touch of Aimee Semple McPherson to bring her Sarah Brown into better focus, it is **Kory Kilgore's** sensational Nicely-Nicely Johnson who shares the limelight with Miss Dahl. Another authentic Broadway baby, Kilgore lights up the small stage. His propulsive "Sit Down You're Rockin' the Boat" deservedly stops the show. His performance, like Miss Dahl's, raises the stakes. Happily, everyone in the cast rolls a 7.

VALLEY OF THE DOLLS.

Boothe Luce wrote her caustic look at domestic bliss and blisters, *The Women*, in 1936, one year after she married magazine magnate Henry Luce and moved into Manhattan society. She certainly found the upper crust unattractive. Luce was never a woman to sit still or move only to buy a little something at Saks. She skewers this world of bored, jaded elite.

It was all played with the slyest wit and accompanied by our raucous laughter in the recent incandescent rendering at Main

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

Does KALETRA cure HIV or AIDS?

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

Does KALETRA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

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

How should I take KALETRA?

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

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

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

What happens if I take too much KALETRA?

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

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

Who should not take KALETRA?

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

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

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

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

Can I take KALETRA with other medications?*

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

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA:

- Do not take the following medicines with KALETRA because they can cause serious problems or death if taken with KALETRA.
 - Dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine and methylergonovine such as Cafergot®, Migranal®, D.H.E. 45®, Ergotrate Malcate, 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: abdominal pain, abnormal stools (bowel movements), diarrhea, feeling weak/tired, headache, and nausea. Children taking KALETRA may sometimes get a skin rash.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

What should I tell my doctor before taking KALETRA?

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

How do I store KALETRA?

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

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

General advice about prescription medicines:

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

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Recent Releases

Bitch and Animal Sour Juice and Rhyme



A dynamic, gender-bending duo with a whole lot of dyke energy, the lesbian performance artists Bitch and Animal (real names unknown) blend poetry with an infectious energy on *Sour Juice and Rhyme*, their second album on Righteous Babe Records. "Secret Candy" is a response to rapper Eminem's controversial lyrics. "Feminist Housewives" is a story of two women who left their husbands for each other. They bring a feminist twist to rock and rap, using hand percussion, African djembes, steel drums, gongs, electric bass, violin, and the ukulele. More info: www.bitchandanimal.com or www.righteousbabe.com/banda/sour.

—Andrea Rodricks

Sarah-Jane Morris Love and Pain



Sarah-Jane Morris has a husky voice—more husky than some of you bears out there. That, combined with the fact that she aligned herself with the GLBT movement in England years ago in standing by her version of "Me and Mrs. Jones" with the pronouns still intact, led many in the media to believe she was a lesbian. In the media bustle that followed, she repeatedly refused to answer questions about her sexuality, further feeding the rumors. Well, sorry to disappoint, but she's just a smokin' blues singer with a likeness to Janis Joplin on several levels (long blonde hair, a voice that scrapes you like gravel) and a biography a mile long to go along with it. Her accolades in the past are almost too much to detail, but it would suffice to say that this actor, writer, singer, and mother will likely continue to reinvent herself. From *Evolver* (www.evolverentertainment.com). —Lance Walker

Various Artists Gay.com 2003 Summer CD Sampler



Owned and operated by PlanetOut Partners, Inc., Gay.com is the leading portal offering online services to the gay and lesbian community worldwide. Their first-ever music compilation *Gay.com 2003 Summer CD Sampler* features an exclusive remix of Jennifer Lopez's "I'm Glad" and 14 other pop and dance tracks by some of today's hottest performers. Country artist Rosanne Cash also makes a contribution to this soundtrack of the summer. More info: www.gay.com or www.planetoutpartners.com. —AR *continued on page 29*

GrooveOut

by Gregg Shapiro

SING A SONG

More releases from queer artists make this listener proud



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Candye Kane keeps genders intact on *Whole Lotta Love*; The Gossip dare you to sit still on *Movement*; and The Nancys' *Drag Machine* is the spice of life.

Maybe I'm still high on the fumes from the June 1 OutMusic Awards ceremony in New York, but I'd swear that the quality of music made and recorded by queer artists is simply sensational, often surpassing the work of their straight contemporaries. I'm so proud to be queer, I could just scream.

What would LGBT life be without dance music? *Party Groove-Pride 03* (Centaur) is the latest in the dance label's longstanding series of pride-themed dance compilations mixed by legendary club DJ Julian Marsh. With a selection as colorful as the cover art, Marsh has programmed a continuous mix of songs of pride and joy, many of which are dance remakes of classic pop tunes. Opening with a cover of Gladys Knight & The Pips' "You're the Best Thing" by Sleazesisters featuring Cie doing their best, Marsh continues this new retro collection with The Bee Gees' "Tragedy" stepped up by Steps, T-Zone's spin on The Four Tops' "Reach Out," openly gay Happy Charles' rendition of Jackie DeShannon's "Put a Little Love in Your Heart," Flip & Fill featuring Jo James doing what they can to fill Whitney Houston's shoes on "I Wanna Dance with Somebody," Kelly Wilde's embrace of the popular "Loving Arms," a new ring on the oft-covered "I Think We're Alone Now" by Belle Lawrence, and Kate Project's interpretation of Cyndi Lauper's timeless "Time After Time."

Omnisexual, plus-sized, blues-belting

diva Candye Kane's cover of Willie Dixon's "Whole Lotta Love," from her new album *Whole Lotta Love* (Ruf) is a perfect example of the magic that occurs when a performer leaves the original genders of the song intact. Kane bends the cock-rock of Robert Plant's Led Zepplin version into a multi-organic treat. The fact that she follows that with a cover of Squeeze's "When the Hangover Strikes" says something about her ample sense of humor. Other kick-ass covers include Kane's distinctive readings of the Etta James number "Something's Got a Hold on Me" and Carole King's "Wrap Around Joy." Kane originals such as "I've Got a Secret," "I'm Just a Sucker Who Believes in Love," and "I'm Not Getting Older" are crowd-pleasers one and all.

Music journalist and composer Will Grega won a 2003 OutMusic Award in the Outstanding New Recording-Instrumental category for his album *Stereotonic* (Pop Front Music). Subtitled *A New Lounge Mix of Urban Exotica*, the album was co-produced by Grega and his life-partner, ex-Village People cowboy Randy Jones. "Showdown" sounds like Ennio Morricone gone gay, while the drum 'n' bass tune "Dr. Galaxy from 3000 A.D." is rave-ready. "Time for Passion" is a passionate dance track, and Grega exhibits his flair for the exotic on tracks such as "Shambhala," "Nights in Istanbul," "Sorceress," and "Awakening Buddha."

On their second full-length disc,

Movement (Kill Rock Stars), The Gossip fulfills the extraordinary promise of their debut album and follow-up EP. The appropriately titled disc is all about moving and sounds like a dare to sit still. Starting slowly, with the sticky bump and grind of the musical ghost story "Nite," lead vocalist Beth Ditto belts the line "It seems like lonely is a friend of mine" with such conviction that you'll simply want to comfort her. But fear not, she's up and running by the next track, the thick punk garage beat of "Jasons Basement." Ditto and bandmates Kathy and Nathan keep the coals under our feet hot on "No, No, No," "Don't (Make Waves)," "Fire/Sign," "Confess," and "Lesson Learned," all with a sexy same-sex style.

Chris Freeman of Pansy Division produced *Never Forget* (Agitprop/Spitshine), the debut disc by Southern California-based queer quartet IAMLOVED. Lead vocalist Jimmy Jasmine has a Bob Mould quality to his voice, and the songs rock like vintage Husker Dü. "He Has a Hole" is a melodic metaphor for being out, with the lines "He has a hole in his pocket, tonight/everything he puts in/falls out falls out out out/but this is OK/and all his friends and family knows that he's gay." "Breaking Up (Is Easy to Do)" is one of the most honest gay breakup songs

I've ever heard, the improvised spoken word "Foot Transportation" is about escape from unpleasant scenes, and the title track addresses the shame, pain, and innocence of a closeted childhood.

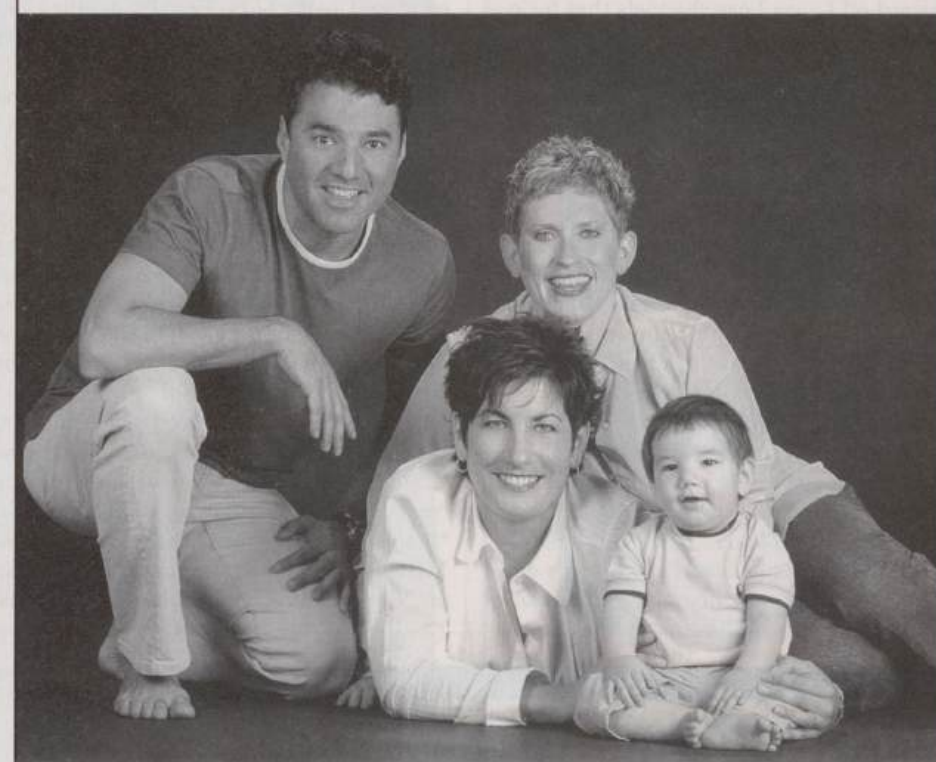
Gay male performer Deian McBryde's alter ego Mabel Dawn Davis

makes her recording debut on *Peel Me a Grape* (EvAn Media), a torchy collection of standards, including "My Funny Valentine," "Lush Life," and "Strange Fruit," to name a few. "Girls & Ladies" is a medley that includes the first down-tempo version of "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun" that I have ever heard, and Mabel Dawn Davis's interpretation is surprisingly effective. Davis also inhabits Vonda Shep-ard's "Every Now and Then" and puts a little swing and sway into McBryde's jazzy "246."

Openly gay Tony Award-winning (*Hairspray*) composer Marc Shaiman composed the retro score for the Doris Day/Rock Hudson homage *Down with Love*, starring Renee Zellweger and Ewan McGregor. *Music from and Inspired by the Motion Picture Down with Love* (Reprise/WMG Soundtracks) includes Shaiman's



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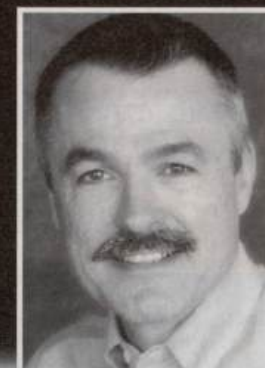
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recreations of the vintage movie music of the period, as you can hear on "Barbara Arrives," "Girls Night Out," and "Barbara Meets Zip." Shaiman's skills come to the fore on the duet "Here's to Love," performed by Zellweger and McGregor, which sounds as much of the time (the early '60s) as the period material (performed by Sinatra and Basie, Astrud Gilberto, and Xavier Cugat).

Sometimes anger can be a useful tool. A pissed-off Laura Love channels that furious energy into her powerful new album, *Welcome to Pagan Place* (Koch). Justifiably dissatisfied with the current state of the world, the musician and new foster mother tackles corporate greed and poorly performing public schools in "Trickle Down" and bad presidents and war machinery in "I Want You Gone." The Steve Miller/Beatles medley "Fly Like an Eagle/Come Together" takes on a whole new meaning in Love's version. Love demonstrates that she hasn't completely lost her sense of humor, as we can hear in the play on words in "Can I Get a Wet Nurse?"

Prospect Park (Badman) by queer "British folk balladeer" James William Hindle is a stunning acoustic effort, reminiscent of Badly Drawn Boy, which renews one's belief in the power of pleasant pop. "Come Down Slowly," with the lines "See how you can come down slowly/See how you can come back round/See



James William Hindle: He's got a handle on pop.

how you can come down slowly/That's if you get to come at all," sounds like a folksy take on circuit party boys. Equally dazzling are the songs "Leaving Trains" (which features a xylophone), the gentle bounce of "Hoboken," the warm and sunny "The Great Woodland Summer," the slight twang of "Celebration," and the city folk of "Park Slope Song."

Stompin' Ground (Daemon/SBS) is a Cajun-spiced set of original numbers, "a deep southern pocket with a 50-watt socket," by Moanin' Michelle Malone and the Low-Down Georgia Revue. Malone moves away from the more pop-oriented tunes of her last few studio discs and sings like she's been biting the heads off of crawfish for fun on "Lafayette," which sounds like a lost Little Feat tune. On the fast-shuffling same-sex girl-reunion tune "2 Horn and 2 Wings," Malone sings about a "pretty little blue-eyed angel." The powerful "Flagpole" is one of the most political tunes Malone has ever written, and the B3 organ on "Cypress Inn," played by Carol Isaacs,

nicely complements Malone's vocals.

In terms of spice, The Nancys know it is the variety of life, and their debut disc *Drag Machine* (Starbelly Studios/Red Room) reflects that notion. The Nancys rock out on "Lament" and then bring in synthetic beats that recall recent Bob Mould on "Within." They plug it in for the Gary Numan-meets-electroclash of "Instant Burning," and they do something completely different on the complex and fascinating "This Exit." "Mad" and "Away from Me" are like before-and-after photographs of love. As an added bonus, see if you can find all of the "drag machines" in the CD booklet. (The release is only available online at www.thenancys.com.)

On "Pretty Face," the opening track to his second full-length album *Gasping for Breath* (Gutter Folk), the guitar playing of Utah-based openly queer singer/songwriter Kevin Allred reminds me of Melissa Ferrick. Allred doesn't mince words, as you can hear on the very out songs such as "Eyes of Zapata" (in which he declares "my body is a revolution"), the synthetic beats of "This Is Not My Home" (which sounds like an open letter to Utah), the gorgeous breakup song "500 Times," the Matthew Shepard tribute "Maybe an Angel," the gay love song "I'm Your Man," and the disc's centerpiece, the poem "Any but Our Own Eyes."

continued on page 31

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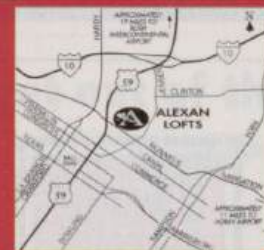
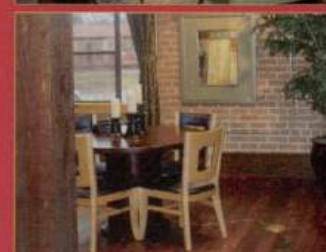
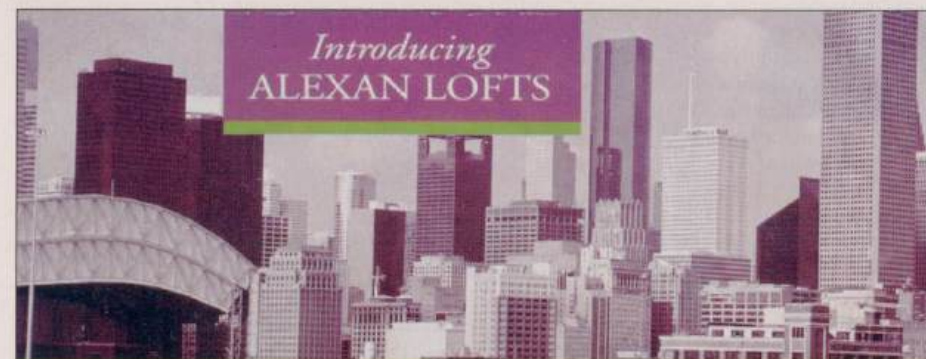


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Recent Releases

continued from page 24

Various Artists
Elegies: A Song Cycle



Elegies: A Song Cycle is a series of William Finn's poetic and deeply personal character studies about friends, family, and colleagues he has loved and lost. Finn's distinctive and idiosyncratic songs are interpreted by a cast featuring Christian Borle (*Thoroughly Modern Millie*), Betty Buckley (*Cats*, *Sunset Boulevard*), Carolee Carmello (*Urinetown*), Keith Byron Kirk (*A New Brain*), and Michael Rupert (*Falsettos*). From Buckley's heartbreaking portrayal as his terminally ill mother in "14 Dwight Ave." to Rupert's bittersweet memories of "Mark's All-Male Thanksgiving," Finn's subjects are beautifully resurrected and celebrated with inspiration, regret, and passion. From Fynsworth Alley (www.fynsworthalley.com). —Troy Carrington

Broadway Premiere Recording
Amour

Amour, recently nominated for five 2003 Tony Awards, marks the Broadway debut of composer Michel Legrand, whose lyrical and swirling Parisian melodies evoke the heyday of French pop. The show stars Malcolm Gets (TV's *Caroline*



Donnie
The Colored Section



With the somewhat choral layering of Donnie's voice in nearly all of the tracks on this record, you might be inclined to believe you were listening to gospel music. That's not far off—he grew up in Atlanta with ministers as parents and attended church regularly, but upon further listening, he carries you more into old soul than anything else. What should be immediately acknowledged about Donnie is that though he may carry the windpipes and vocal chords of an inherently musical family, that gift holds nothing to his songwriting. Never was this more evident than when his single "Do You Know" was released in 2002—many DJs automatically believed it was an old soul classic. Nope, Donnie wrote it, and he followed it up with a smattering of singles and promotional appearances that have culminated into this, his first album. From Motown Records (www.motown.com). More info: www.flylifemusic.com. —LW

Jessy Moss
Street Knuckles



An Australian woman doing hip-hop? Anyone claiming this title might come under criticism and fire, but Jessy Moss is tough. She is tough in the ways of the world and tough in the ways of roaring that back-at-you in a steadfast, torpedo-like barrage of stories from her past that deal with retribution and forgiveness (and, as she admits, far more retribution than forgiveness). Produced by Butch Vig (responsible for Nirvana's "Nevermind" as well as dozens of other brilliant recordings), these 11 tracks go back and forth within themselves between hip-hop, blues, and even sort of an R&B feel at points. Her voice is calm but not to the point of being catatonic—there is an energy buried underneath that she doesn't have to splash all over the top, and it works for her tremendously. From Dreamworks (www.dreamworks.com). —LW

Sarah Brightman
Harem

Sarah Brightman's albums have sold more than 15 million copies worldwide. A musical fantasy inspired by the Middle East of legend, *Harem* is perhaps Sarah Brightman's most unique and personal album to date, showcasing her

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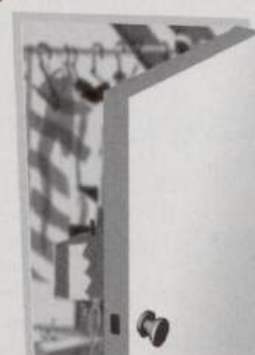
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Christine Andreas The Carlyle Set



On *The Carlyle Set*, Christine Andreas lends her shimmering soprano to a perfect balance of jazzy sophistication and throbbing theatrical drama. This CD features a su-

perior selection of great songs from the worlds of theater ("At the Ballet" from *A Chorus Line*), film (the Michel Legrand standard "What Are You Doing the Rest of Your Life?"), pop (Mary Chapin Carpenter's "What If We Went to Italy?"), and greats of the classic American songbook ("Autumn in New York"). From Fynsworth Alley (www.fynsworthalley.com). —TC

Billy Stritch Jazz Live



Jazz Live, recorded in concert at New York City's Jazz Standard, captures virtuoso pianist and singer Billy Stritch injecting a sly humor and joyous flair into both quiet ballads ("But Not for Me") and driving rhythm numbers ("Mountain Greenery"). Stritch and his trio perform jazz classics, pop standards, and theater songs. From Fynsworth Alley (www.fynsworthalley.com). —TC

Fred Avril That Horse Must Be Starving



Throughout his debut album, Fred Avril deftly merges many forms. Jump-cut edits lunge from analog electronic rhythms reminiscent of early Kraftwerk to entrancing, ethereal pop of Grandaddy to the rollicking psych-warp of Neu. His music has even roused the staunch German Musikexpress to rave, "Best beats since Kraftwerk." From Pias America. More info: www.planetarygroup.com. —TC

Various Pianists Chopin, The Romantic Pianist



Frederic Chopin was the ultimate musical original. He gave the debut of his first composition at the age of eight, entering the conservatory at 16. He was gifted with an astonishing technique augmented with a harmonic sense that

The Clash The Essential Clash DVD

For the sake of reference, I think The Clash is one of the greatest bands of all time, but the best thing about this DVD is that someone else cared enough to prove it. The only way to describe the music of The Clash is to use the word "timeless," and the imagery that the creators of this disc have implemented to carry on that legacy is some of the best work I've ever seen on a music DVD. The problem with most music DVDs in general is that they aren't typically intended to document anything and instead end up being a loosely tacked-together promo piece for the band. On top of that, the sound is usually substandard on most releases. This disc avoids both of those handicaps and beautifully captures the spirit of The Clash in an extremely well-put-together film that works like a documentary but doesn't have to play like one. It should be noted that any skeptics who might think this DVD was produced with the intent of capitalizing on the press surrounding Joe Strummer's death earlier this year should definitely rest easy. Brilliant work—plus my lesbo friend Shu loves them, and she says only real lesbians love The Clash. From Epic (www.epicrecords.com/theclash). —LW



GrooveOut continued from page 26

I'm always frustrated by EPs. I can understand an artist's desire to record something and get it into the hands of reviewers and fans, but I always feel cheated. Four songs, especially the four on *Black Box EP* (3 Frames Music) by Jann Klose, feels more like a tease than a treat. I only hope that when Klose releases a full-length disc, that the other songs are as good as "Walk Through the River."

Released in the U.K. in 2002, *Mugic* (Spoilt/Pussy Foot) by Certainly, Sir, a duo consisting of Michael Andor Brodeur and Klaus Hubben, is one of the coolest queer discs I've heard in 2003. Described as "a cross between bitstream and bloodstream," Certainly, Sir sounds like The Aluminum Group having tea with Aphex Twin. I instantly fell in love with "Sweet Time," with its "Eminence Front" echo, and female guest vocal by Vanessa Downing. The love affair continued on "Hello," a song about saying goodbye. While not my favorite phrase, "My Bad" makes a terrific song title and an equally good song about admitting when your heart isn't in it. Heartache, a predominant theme on *Mugic*, surfaces again on the lightly

funky "How You Been," "The Script" (with the terrific line "our love shouldn't come from someone else's writer's block"), the beat upbeats of "Wrong Song" (with its nod to Elton John), and the exquisite album closer "The Vacant Lot of My Heart."

Queers and klezmer (Yiddish jazz) music are an unlikely combination, but both the Klezmatics and Isle of Klezbos are proof that



such a formula works. *Greetings from... the Isle of Klezbos* (Rhythm Media Records) by the six-member all-female klezmer group Isle of Klezbos is a mix of live ("Szol a Kakas Mar," "Abi Gezunt Medley") and studio tracks ("Houdini Hora," "Goldene Khasene," "Unter Beymer") that blends traditional selections with originals such as "Abrah" and "East Hapsburg Waltz," written by IOK members Debra Kreisberg and Eve Sicular, respectively.

Also be on the lookout for August releases by queer artists Rachael Sage and Junior Senior, among others.

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).

Sarah Chang Dvorák



The Dvořák violin concerto is one of Sarah Chang's personal favorites, and she has finally recorded it for EMI Classics with familiar collaborators the London Symphony Orchestra and Sir Colin Davis. The concerto is coupled with Dvořák's beautiful Piano Quintet featuring world-renowned pianist Leif Ove Andsnes. From EMI Classics (www.emiclassics.com). —AR

Various Artists

Brahms Sonata for Two Pianos, Op 34b;
Mendelssohn Piano Trio No 1



These world-renowned instrumentalists have delivered captivating recitals to audiences for many years. For Brahms' two-piano Sonata, Martha Argerich partners with Lilya Zilberstein to bring us this complex composition. In the Mendelssohn D minor Trio, Argerich is joined by brothers Renaud Capuçon on violin and Gautier Capuçon on cello. It's not every day that one has the opportunity to listen to artists of this caliber performing together. From EMI Classics (www.emiclassics.com). —AR

Renaud Capuçon and Gautier Capuçon Face a Face



A collection of classical recordings by Halvorsen, Kodaly, Tanguy, Schulhoff, and others. Violinist Renaud and his cellist brother Gautier offer a deeply passionate and invigorating performance. Recording together or individually, the Capuçon brothers are always brilliant. *Face a Face* consists of 20th-century music written specifically for the violin and cello. Info: www.virginclassics.com. —AR

Fabio Biondi Italian Violin Sonatas

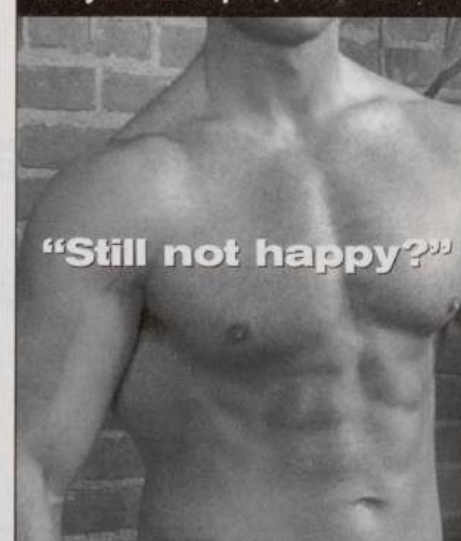


Fabio Biondi and members of his ensemble Europa Galante revive lesser-known Italian composers of the 18th century (Locatelli, Geminiani, Tartini, Veracini, Mascitti) in this new recording of violin sonatas. Info: www.virginclassics.com. —TC



MUSIC MEN. Gregg Shapiro (r) paused with JD Doyle at the OutMusic Awards in New York on June 1. Shapiro received the OutMusic Award for Outstanding Support, which honors involvement by non-musicians in furthering the work of GLBT performers. Doyle, who received the award in 2002, produces and hosts "Queer Music Heritage," which airs monthly during "Queer Voices" on KPFT-FM. He also co-produces "Audiofile," the radio review on "This Way Out," the internationally broadcast magazine show. His article "Queer Rock!" appeared in our October 2002 issue. ■

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News Briefs



DAVID LEWIS

ALLEY CATS

On August 24, the local Human Rights Campaign chapter will host Equality Disco Bowl 2003 at the Palace Lanes. Besides strikes and gutter balls, the 2-5 p.m. event will feature music by DJ Mark Goebel. For the \$35 admission, guests will also join HRC, the national political organization, which in July at last joined forces with transgender leaders in supporting a federal bill to abolish workplace discrimination that recognizes gender identity and expression. As they prepared for the fundraiser, HRC board members Tim Kollatschny (l) and Alton LaDay recently posed at Palace Lanes. For details, visit www.hrchoouston.org.

LOVE IS ALL AROUND

When we despair that the oppressive heat will never end, along comes the most cooling musical breeze to refresh our spirits. September marks the eagerly awaited annual return of Bayou City Concert Musicals (BCCM), the performing arts fundraising program for the Center for AIDS created by Alley company member Paul Hope. These staged concert productions of neglected Broadway classics—immaculately staged by Hope and David Thome, cast to perfection from Houston's best musical talent, and with 100 percent of ticket sales benefiting the center—are among the highlights of the theater season.

BCCM has already graced us with an incandescent *Follies*, a



witty and tear-filled *Falsettos*, and a glamorously bitchy *Little Night Music*. The fourth installment brings Harnick and Bock's *She Loves Me*, the 1963 musical from the creators of *Fiorello!* and *Fiddler on the Roof*. Based on a Miklos Laszlo play, this delectable European soufflé brims with whipped cream and romance as two co-workers bristle during store hours but are secret admirers in anonymous correspondence. Buoyant, witty, and thoroughly entertaining, the production stars Kevin Cooney, returning to the Houston stage after years in California, and the sparkling Chesley Santoro as the battling leads.

Tickets for the September 10-13 run at Ovation go on sale early (call 713/527-8219) and will sell out quickly, so heads up! —D.L. Groover

BISEXUALS GO WEST

Local activist Gigi Raven Wilbur will travel to San Diego later this month for the North American Conference on Bisexuality. Sponsored by the Bisexual Foundation, the August 21-24 event will include the

BiHealth Summit and other workshops. For details, visit www.bisexual.org/nach. • Wilbur can be heard the first Sunday of every month from 1 a.m.-4 a.m. on the "After Hours" program on KPFT-FM. ■

Go Straight to the Gay Market

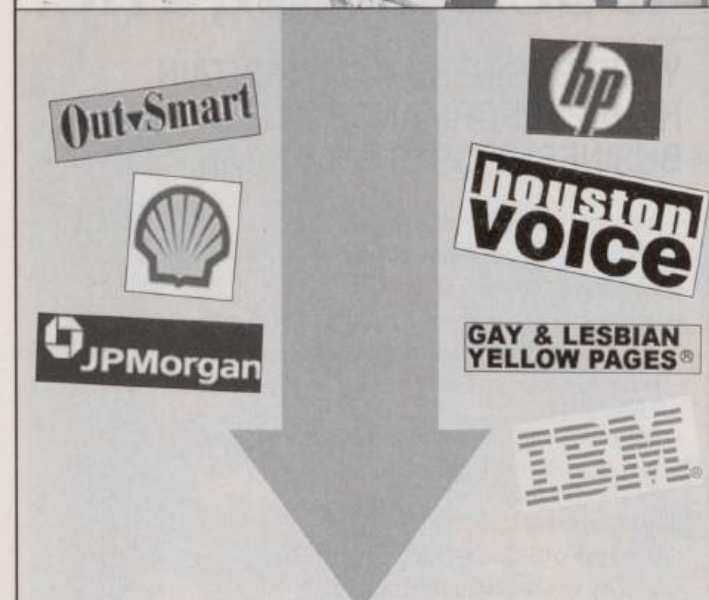
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NOW THE BACKLASH

We're not asking the government for a church wedding

The gay-rights victory in *Lawrence v. Texas* is well known by now. Same-sex sex is no longer illegal. Gays and lesbians have celebrated and are looking forward. Advocates are talking about using the Supreme Court's opinion in *Lawrence* to advance gay rights: same-sex marriage, adoptions by gays and lesbians, and eliminating the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy on gays and lesbians serving openly in the military. All these things seem possible in light of the holding in *Lawrence*.

Not so fast. In this temporary state of euphoria, many are forgetting what the *Lawrence* opinion will actually do. It will—at least in the short term—galvanize the far right. A backlash is unavoidable.

Already, the Senate majority leader, Bill Frist (R-Tennessee), has said that in light of *Lawrence* he supports a constitutional amendment banning marriage between homosexuals. Or, as he stated, "I very much

feel that marriage is a sacrament, and that sacrament should extend and can extend to that legal entity of a union between—what traditionally in our Western values has been defined—as between a man and a woman. So I would support the amendment."

A lot of people feel the same way Frist does. They feel that marriage is a sacrament, which gays and lesbians should not be able to enter into. The support for this belief is self-evident. It is reflected in Frist's choice of the term *sacrament* to define marriage. The word *sacrament* invokes religion. Indeed, it means a sacred tradition tied to a religion or a church. And therein lies the problem.

We're not talking about church-sanctioned marriages here. We're talking about same-sex civil ceremonies recognized by the state. If gays are permitted to have civil ceremonies—and the civil benefits that flow from those ceremonies—churches still will not be forced to conduct or recognize

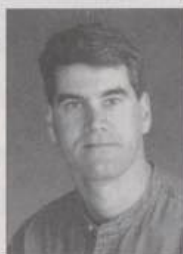
same-sex marriages within the church.

The sacrament that Senator Frist and others are so worried about will still be intact. The holy institution of church marriage will still be denied to same-sex couples. Only heterosexuals—with their 50-percent divorce rate—will be able to enter into that holy sacrament called church marriage.

Anyway, if marriage is so sacred to Frist and others like him who are calling for a constitutional amendment, why don't they propose a constitutional amendment that will really do something? Why don't they call for

continued on page 36

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



THE LIMITS OF LAWRENCE

Celebrate, but don't shut down the movement yet

Now that the initial euphoria has subsided, we can start to take stock of what we actually won. We're not criminals in America anywhere, anymore. That result all by itself merits the adjectives "historic" and "landmark" often applied to *Lawrence v. Texas*. But the rationale for the result—the right to privacy—may not get us a lot outside the bedroom. Much work remains.

First, let's recognize what *Lawrence* actually accomplished. With four Republican-appointed justices anchoring the majority, the Court declared unconstitutional the laws of 13 states that criminalized anal and oral sex. This includes the most obviously discriminatory of those laws, like the one in Texas, that by their very terms targeted only same-sex couples. Further, it also renders unenforceable the laws of the other states that formally applied to everyone but actually harmed only gays.

Ending our presumptive outlaw status is a victory so enormous I'm not sure straight Americans can fully grasp it. The stigma of criminality cast a pall over gay lives. Everything we did, everything we accomplished, everything we said, had an asterisk next to it. There was something basically illegitimate about our very existence as long as the physical manifestation of our love could be made criminal.

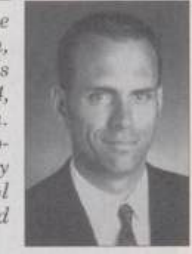
That pall affected gay people everywhere. Even in states with no sodomy law, the implication of having such laws elsewhere was that gays were free only by the sufferance of the majority in a particular jurisdiction. They tolerated us, but were at liberty to withdraw that tolerance at any time they chose.

This explains, I think, the post-*Lawrence* jubilation among gays in places like San Francisco and Chicago, where sodomy laws fell decades ago. We felt freer even in places where, legally speaking, we had been free all

along. We instinctively and correctly believed that until gay people were free everywhere in America, we weren't free anywhere.

We felt freer and somehow *justified*. The Court's rhetoric was sweeping in its insistence on the dignity and worth of gay people. Sodomy laws, Justice Kennedy's majority opinion observed, "subject homosexual persons to discrimination both in the public and the private spheres." Just as with straight people, the government "cannot demean [gays'] existence or control their destiny by making their private sexual conduct a crime."

Writing from the conservative end of the political spectrum, Dale Carpenter began his column for OutSmart in 1994, when he lived in Houston. Now residing in Minneapolis, Carpenter is a University of Minnesota Law School professor. He can be reached at OutRight@aol.com.



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LeftOut

continued from page 34

ment that recognizes marriage as a *lifetime* union between a man and a woman with no exceptions? No divorces. No annulments. And no remarriages. That would do a lot more to shore up the sacrament than a constitutional ban on same-sex unions.

Senator First and other proponents of a constitutional ban on same-sex marriages should leave the sacraments to the church and should come up with legitimate, non-religious reasons for amending the Constitution. ■

OutRight

continued from previous page

On the contrary, declared the Court, gays "are entitled to respect for their private lives."

Much of the opinion effectively apologizes to gays for the Court's nasty and error-filled treatment of the same issue 17 years ago in *Bowers v. Hardwick*. Often cited to justify discrimination in other contexts, like military service, that decision had antigay ripple effects throughout American law. *Bowers*, said the Court, with as much insight as it has ever mustered, "demeans the lives of homosexual persons." It "was not correct when it was decided, and it is not correct today."

Many of us cried the first time we read the opinion.

Now let's wipe away the tears and give clear-eyed consideration to what *Lawrence* does not do, at least not immediately. Being "not-criminals" for what we do in the privacy of our bedrooms is a bare minimum. It doesn't guarantee citizenship equal to that of straight Americans.

Inequality remains throughout state and federal law. State governments are still free to discriminate against their gay employees. State laws limiting or barring gays from adopting children, or from getting custody of them, are still in force. Gays in the military can still be discharged simply for being gay. And most important of all, as the Court twice noted, *Lawrence* does not deal with the discriminatory state and federal marriage laws that shut gay couples out of the thousand entitlements and the priceless social support formal government recognition brings.

I don't suggest the Court should have addressed all these matters in an opinion on sodomy laws. It would have been extreme overreaching for the Court to do so.

I do wonder how helpful a "right to privacy" will be in eliminating the many non-sexual forms of discrimination gays encounter when we enter the public realm. Full equality in these other areas requires a right to be public, not a right to be "private."

It demands equal treatment outside the bedroom, not just liberal tolerance of what we do in it. It necessitates recognition that gays are "entitled to respect" for their entire lives, not just "for their private lives."

No doubt *Lawrence* will be useful in addressing these other areas of discrimination. Among the justifications for laws limiting gays' contact with children, for example, has been that we are criminals or are at least immoral. Those particular kinds of justification for antigay discrimination are now illegitimate.

But other justifications for antigay policies remain, such as the argument that straight people do a better job of raising children. The military can still argue that, even assuming sodomy can no longer be prohibited under the military's own criminal code, known homosexual attraction undermines unit morale and cohesion. Many more battles will need to be fought.

In time, *Lawrence* and its pleasing phrases may grow from a rivulet of privacy into a flowing fount of full public equality. The Court itself called gay-equality arguments "tenable." That's not quite an endorsement, but it's at least an invitation for future litigants to test the waters.

So let's enjoy this liberating moment. But let's not shut down the movement just yet. ■

Jeff Vannice, PhD

Psychologist



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InsideOut at City Hall

by Annise D. Parker

PET PATROL

The city regulates animal magnetism

It would be impossible to visit my home without noticing that we love animals. We have a dog that jumped into our car at a rainy intersection years ago. We have a pond full of fat, spoiled goldfish. Also underfoot are assorted cats, one without an eye and another without a tail, with their own stories to tell. Of course, all the mammals have city tags and are spayed or neutered. (At various times in our youth Kathy and I had hamsters, guinea pigs, rabbits, squirrels, turtles, doves, and one snake.)

Soon after being elected to City Council in 1997, I was asked to help develop and sponsor an exotic animal ordinance to prohibit people from keeping dangerous wild animals, such as lions, tigers, or poisonous reptiles, in the city. (Ask me some time about how ferrets were almost included in the ordinance!) I worked with the Fund for Animals, the SPCA, and BARC, the city's Bureau of Animal Regulation and Care. It

was my first of many opportunities to work with BARC.

A division of the health department, BARC may be the most under-funded city service. After all, how many elected officials include animals or animal control anywhere in their top priorities? But animal control is a sad yet necessary public safety issue. In my six years on council, I have always included at least one BARC request in my budget amendments. I have tried to work behind the scenes to get additional funds or prevent reductions in a program that struggles to provide adequate animal control and some education in a city with far too many fertile stray cats and dogs. BARC director John Nix has a tough job working with minimal resources and abundant red tape.

Where to Turn

Both the city and the county operate pounds. Both respond to complaints of loose dogs and

will pick up dogs spotted by animal control officers, but neither routinely picks up stray cats. Stray or untagged cats are often dropped off at the shelters.

If you go to www.Petharbor.com on the web and type in your Houston ZIP code to look for a lost pet or one to adopt, you'll notice something new. BARC now has photos of its dogs and cats on the Internet. At press time, BARC was still trying to get permission from the city legal department to link to petharbor.com from the BARC website, which I hope will happen soon.

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/citygov/council/1.



When most Houstonians think of adopting an animal, the SPCA, Citizens for Animal Protection (CAP), or the Humane Society probably come to mind. The same groups would also top the checklist if you lost your four-legged friend.

If you have lost a cat or dog, you can also check for them at Petharbor.com. Since the city keeps stray animals only three days (without city tags) or six days (with tags), you will probably want to check at the city shelter. Call 713/238-9600 for hours and directions.

City Pet Adoptions

BARC may offer the cheapest cat and dog adoptions in the city—\$35 for a dog or cat that is spayed or neutered, complete with city tag and rabies shot. For more information, call BARC at 713/238-9600; check the BARC website, www.ci.houston.tx.us/departme/health/barc1-new.html; or look at the photos of adoptable animals at Petharbor.com.

The city also contributes to spaying and neutering efforts by giving \$20,000 a year to the Spay Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP) to support its low-cost and free programs. SNAP performs free spay/neuter surgeries for persons who meet certain needs-based criteria, including people with AIDS Foundation gold cards.

Dog Parks

Due to popular demand, the county approved a dog park last year at George Bush Park in the Barker Reservoir. Work has just begun on the 15-acre park (complete with three lakes and doggie showers). Two weeks ago, the Bellaire City Council approved funds for one.

Houston may soon have a dog park. I wish I could be more definite. I am dedicating the revenue from the City of Houston Birthday Gala, which I chair, for creation of a dog park. There is no money for acquisition, so we need to build on current city land, preferably centrally located. The parks department is negotiating for additional parking near one possible site. The area would be fenced and operate under special regulations. For instance, dogs would have to wear rabies tags, owners would be required to pick up after their dogs, and owners would be required to be on-site at all times.

Some Houston dog owners are unleashing their dogs in various parks, including the green space along Allen Parkway. Owners do this at their own risk, as the city does have a leash law. And we get periodic complaints from joggers and bikers accosted by unruly pets.

Pooper Scooper

I would still like to introduce a pooper-scooper ordinance. The problem is funding. While I think an ordinance would have symbolic impact, we really don't have the funds

right now to enforce one. In most cities where the ordinance has been a success, it has been introduced with fanfare—an educational program and stepped-up enforcement so that citizens understand that the ordinance will be enforced. As you may know, Houston is one of the few major cities without such an ordinance. And we get a lot of complaints. Please, bag it! ■

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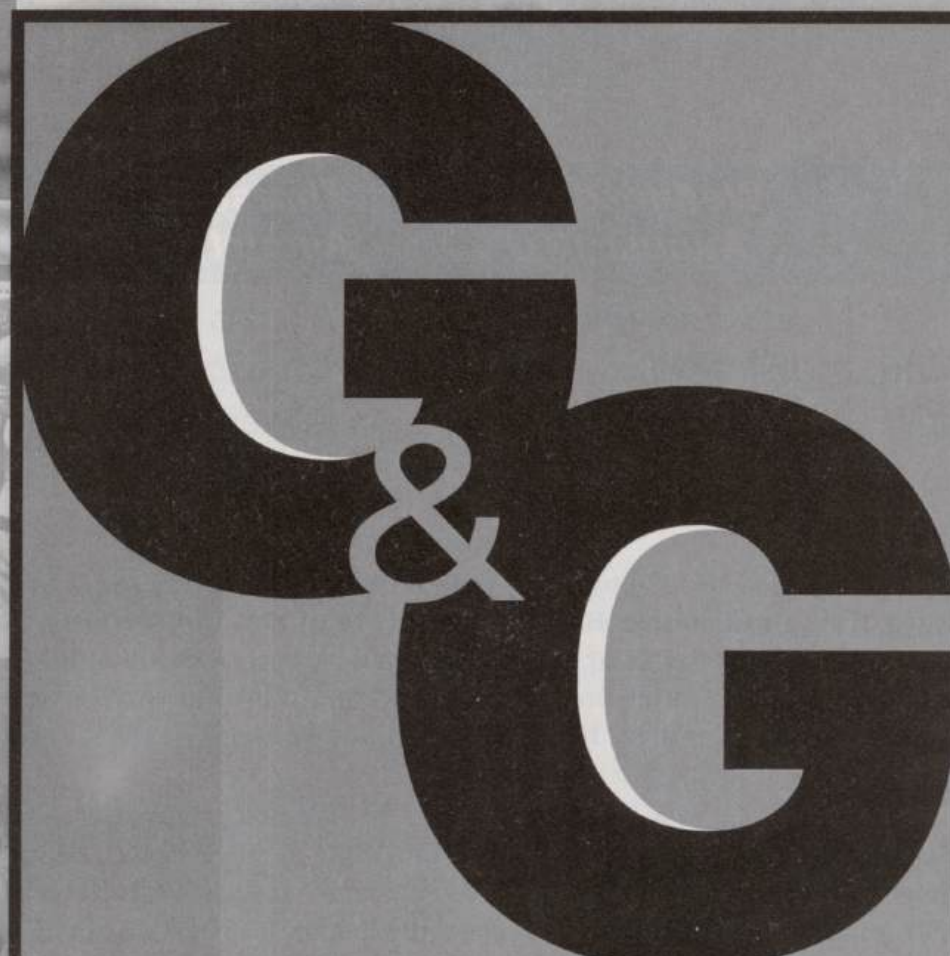
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7th ANNUAL



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Complete the whole ballot or just respond to the categories you like.
The ballot deadline is Wednesday, August 20, at 5 p.m.

Look for all the results in the October OutSmart.

7th Annual



Voting Parties

Saturday August 9	Wednesday August 13	Thursday August 14	Friday August 15
8-10 p.m. Garza's Kon Tiki 315 Tremont Galveston	9:30-11:30 p.m. JR's Bar & Grill 804 Pacific Special appearance by King Henry VIII and Texas Renaissance Festival characters. Followed at 11 p.m. by the fabulous Kofi Show.	7-10 p.m. Chances 1100 Westheimer	8-10 p.m. O Night Club 710 Pacific

At each party, the *OutSmart* gang will be distributing Gayest & Greatest ballots. Complete your ballot and hand it to one of the *OutSmart* folks. When you submit your ballot at one of the parties, you become eligible for a chance to win a prize (must be present to win), including *OutSmart* "Pink Sheep of the Family" T-shirts, Texas Renaissance Festival passes, and more.

Or drop your ballot in a Gayest & Greatest voting box located at one of these locations:
Hollywood Book & Café, 2409 Grant • JR's Bar & Grill, 804 Pacific • Meteor, 2306 Genesse •
Baba Vega, 2607 Grant • Chances, 1100 Westheimer • O Night Club, 710 Pacific •
M2M, 3400 Montrose Blvd. • Houston GLBT Community Center, 3400 Montrose Blvd., Suite 207

In Galveston: Garza's Kon Tiki, 315 Tremont • 3rd Coast, 904 Avenue M

Vote online at www.outsmartmagazine.com.

Mail your ballot to OutSmart • 3406 Audubon • Houston, TX 77006

One ballot per person, please

VOTING DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 5 p.m.



PEOPLE

Community Hero (Male) _____
Community Hero (Female) _____
Most Prominent Male GLBT Activist _____
Most Prominent Female GLBT Activist _____
Most Valuable Volunteer _____
Leading Male Fundraiser _____
Leading Female Fundraiser _____
Most Divine Drag Queen _____

Favorite Politician _____
Top Male Businessperson _____
Top Female Businessperson _____
Best Attorney _____
Best Eye Doctor _____
Best Physician _____
Best Dentist _____
Best Chiropractor _____
Best Therapist _____

Best Male Massage Therapist _____
Best Female Massage Therapist _____
Best Male Personal Trainer _____
Best Female Personal Trainer _____
Best Veterinarian _____
Best Astrologer _____
Best Interior Decorator _____
Best Male Insurance Agent _____
Best Female Insurance Agent _____
Best Male Real Estate Agent _____
Best Female Real Estate Agent _____
Best Male Hairdresser _____
Best Female Hairdresser _____
Favorite Community Photographer _____
Best DJ (and where does he or she spin?) _____

Best Male Bartender (where does he tend bar?) _____
Best Female Bartender (where does she tend bar?) _____
Favorite Radio Personality _____
Best TV Guy _____
Best TV Gal _____
Favorite Male Pro Athlete _____
Favorite Female Pro Athlete _____



COMMUNITY

Favorite Social Organization _____
Favorite Philanthropic Organization _____
Favorite Community Organization _____
Favorite Benefit Event of the Year _____



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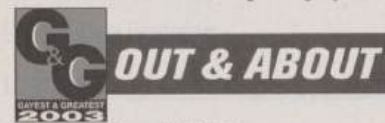
Most Supportive of the GLBT Community (Local) _____
Most Supportive of the GLBT Community (National) _____
Best Local Website _____

Best National Website _____
Best Internet Provider _____
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Best Mortgage Company _____
Best Title Company _____
Best Home Builder _____
Best Home Remodeling Contractor _____
Best Landscaping Company _____
Best Furniture Store _____
Best Furniture Store on a Budget _____
Best Grocery Store _____
Best Specialty Food Store _____
Best Catering Firm _____
Best Liquor Store _____
Best Gift & Accessories Shop _____
Best Resale Shop for Clothing _____
Best Resale Shop for Other Treasures _____
Best Place to Buy Greeting Cards _____
Best Auto Dealership _____
Best Auto Detailing Service _____
Best Place to Buy Music _____
Best Place to Buy Books _____
Best Wireless Phone Service Provider _____
Best Place to Buy Electronics _____
Best Place to Buy Erotic Playthings _____
Best Tattoo Parlor _____
Best Place to Buy Women's Clothes _____
Best Place to Buy Men's Clothes _____
Best Place to Buy Drag Essentials _____
Best Garden/Nursery Supply _____
Best Dry Cleaners _____
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 Best Chinese _____
 Best Cuban _____
 Best Greek _____
 Best Hamburger _____
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 Best Thai _____
 Best Vegetarian _____
 Best Vietnamese _____
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 Best Theatrical Production (Local) _____
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 Favorite Pro Sports Team _____
 GLBT News Event of the Year _____



Best Club for Dancing _____
 Best Club After 2 a.m. _____
 Best Women's Bar _____
 Best Piano Bar _____
 Best Drag Show Bar _____
 Best Place to Two Step _____
 Best Club If You're Under 21 _____
 Best Place to Shoot Pool _____
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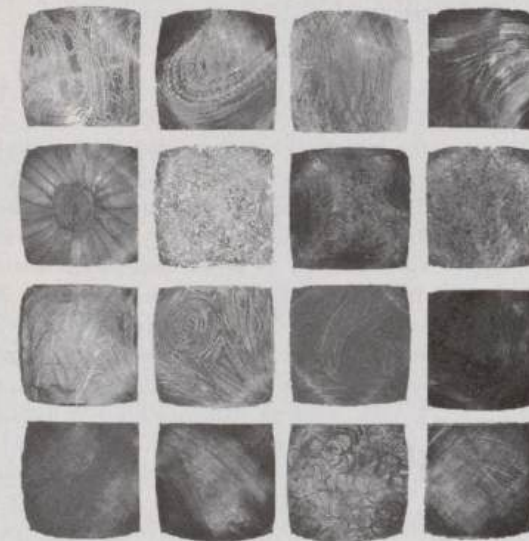
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I HAVE A DREAM

And sometimes the dream is a nightmare

Jeffrey*, age 17

Fourscore and seven years ago, our fabulous fairy forefathers were having problems in school. They were being harassed by the milkman, the paperboy, even the florist. They had no counselors to talk to who would listen and understand their problems without calling the Centers for Disease Control. They had no H.A.T.C.H. or other support group. Billy was being stoned while Angie and Lora were hauled off to jail for wearing jeans, all the while Rene was crying because he couldn't visit his friend Jose—not because of racial matters, but because Rene was "special." He wasn't like other boys. Friends and family knew not the basis for him being different, but he was to be enslaved nonetheless. It's times like these Rene and many others alike globally need support, need friends; need talks with friends, need shoulders of friends.

Fortunately for the youth of today, we have a shoulder. We have support. We have understanding counselors at our schools. Our families aren't all torn. Our walk to and from school isn't a life-or-death situation anymore. The sun is peeking from the midst of the clouds. The weatherman says we'll be seeing that condition for a while. But answer me this, reader. How often do you stay inside when he predicts rain? How many times have you canceled a hair appointment due to clouds? When's the last time you've hesitated before vacationing after 9/11? Don't worry about pulling out your journal and Palm Pilot. Even I can say it's been a while. And do you know what that says to me? That says that it's about time to pull out those shades, because from here the future's looking bright, my friend. The future's looking bright.

Justin, age 19

We have failed to hold these truths self-evident: that all men are created equal and endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights and that among those rights are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We failed when we limited the term *men* to rich, white, able-bodied landowners with penises, shaming all who did not fit their description. We failed again when we thought

that rights were inalienable. The right to life has been done away with. JFK, Martin Luther King Jr., Matthew Shepherd, Brandon Tina—their right to life was protested and successfully revoked. The right to liberty was cute but unfit for our society. The liberty to associate with whom you chose was destroyed with segregation; its effect is still seen today. Shoot me dead if I take the liberty to love and wed he with whom I want to

Fourscore and seven years ago, our fabulous fairy forefathers were having problems in school. They were being harassed by the milkman, the paperboy, even the florist.

spend the rest of my life, for I am a man. As for the pursuit of happiness, the pursuit of happiness was stabbed and left for dead in a school locker. Faggot! Queer! Spic! Jew! Nigger! These are just a few of the words jammed into the pursuit of happiness. It's time we rewrite, it's time we amend our society, the very intentions by which we live. We the people are responsible. We the people will hold these truths to be self-evident.

Andy, age 18

I have a nightmare in which I walk down a darkened alleyway fiendishly eyeing male prospects ready and willing for a buyer. In sweaty perspiration I dream of a dark hidden place where life is sought after in sparks of momentary exhilaration stricken by dollar bills. In this concrete grove our names cease to exist and newly acquainted faces fade before the moment ends. In this hellish dream people walk lethargically through the day but avenge their infertility in the night.

I have a nightmare in which my friends wear expensive clothes and play cards marked on both sides—one side with the word *vitality* and the other with choice phrases such as *whatever makes you happy,*

never taking criticism, or retaining a job. These cards are all jokers because they lost the real deck before we met. In this nightmare my hands are like putty, and I can't draw from any of the discarded piles of knowledge before me. But my fearful paralysis is quickly forgotten because now we're drinking down yet another martini. My friends whisper to me their secrets to success, their words dipped in acid. After I swallow their delinquent cocktail, my mind swirls down into pathetic compliance.

I have a nightmare in which daylight was replaced by a strobe light. In this nightmare we got to know each other's body before we got to know one another. Instead of refining our speech, we refined our bodies. Instead of listening for a heartbeat, we danced to techno. In this nightmare we created a make-believe world in which we were all beautiful and powerful. We stayed in our make-believe world knowing neither night, nor day, nor time. In this nightmare when time made itself manifest in others with age, we turned them out so they wouldn't disrupt our game.

I have a nightmare in which this dilapidated pleasure is the only vacancy in the world. Families are torn asunder by a fate of birth, and gods bring down their condemnation on us as we strive to get by. In the nightmare the erotic thrust in the dingy shadows turns into death throws, a drunken haze of cards becomes a twisted piece of Nirvana, and an enclosed dance club is our only outlet for freedom. Somehow our agony boils up in us as stupid laughter while the world looks on in disgust.

I have a nightmare that the generation of queer youth 20 years from now will live in the same world we do today.

Some of the young writers involved with H.A.T.C.H. now contribute a regular column to this magazine. The Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals phone number is 713/529-3590.

*** Because of the age of the writers and the need many have for confidentiality, OutSmart will identify most H.A.T.C.H. contributors by first names only.**

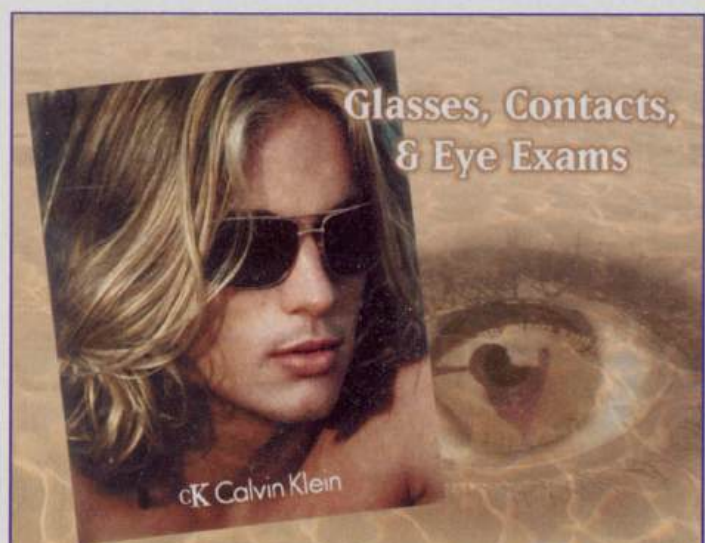
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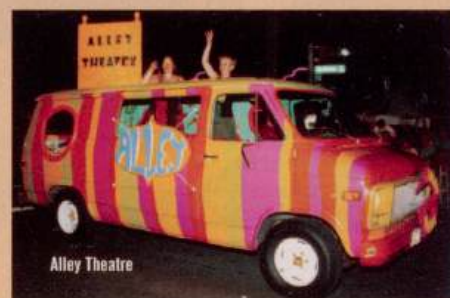
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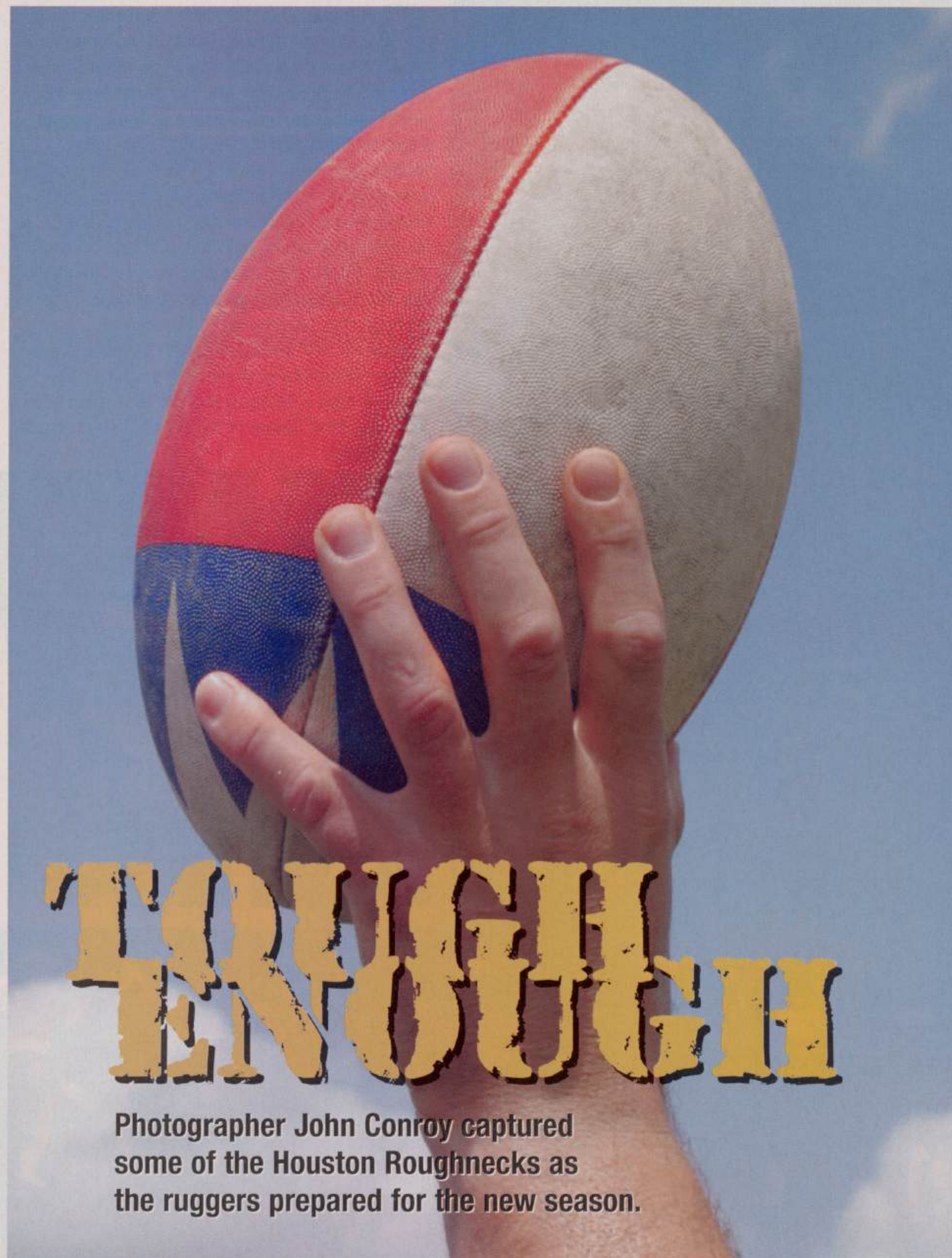
On Parade

Photos by Dalton DeHart, Yvonne Feece, and David Lewis



On the up side, the 25th-anniversary edition of the GLBT Pride Parade on June 28 went off without a trace of rain for a change. On the down side, the protestors—no doubt emboldened by outrage at the Supreme Court announcement two days prior—went mobile this year, wandering through the staging areas and along Westheimer. No matter. The drag queens still preened, the musclemen flexed, the plastic beads flew, the politicians waved. Nine groups received awards. Check out the list at www.outsmartmagazine.com.

From the Department of Shameless Promotion: We still have cotton T-shirts based on our "Pink Sheep of Family" parade entry. There is also a companion shirt that reads "I ♥ the Pink Sheep of the Family." Order from our website.



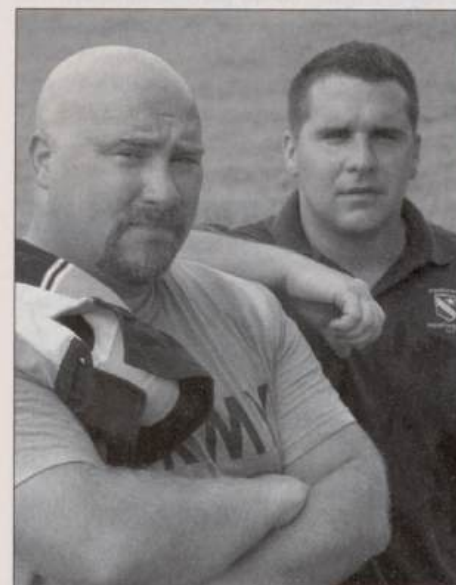
Photographer John Conroy captured some of the Houston Roughnecks as the ruggers prepared for the new season.

Steve Brady and Randy Jones, president and captain, respectively, of the predominantly gay and self-dubbed "openly diverse" Roughnecks, recently answered a few questions about the team and the season, which opens here on September 13 against the Austin Lonestars.

First, what should people know about rugby?

Randy Jones: Well, rugby is like football without all the padding and a few twists to make it a bit more interesting and fun, like scrums where 16 men ram each other and line-outs where you throw guys into the air to catch balls.

Steve Brady: In addition to Randy's comments, it's more fun for players and fans because it's continuous. It doesn't stop every minute like American football.



Roughnecks captain Randy Jones (l) and club president Steve Brady.

How did the Roughnecks form?

Brady: the Roughnecks formed back during August of 2002. Basically, a small group of guys decided to form the club, and it just grew from there by word of mouth, e-mail, et cetera.

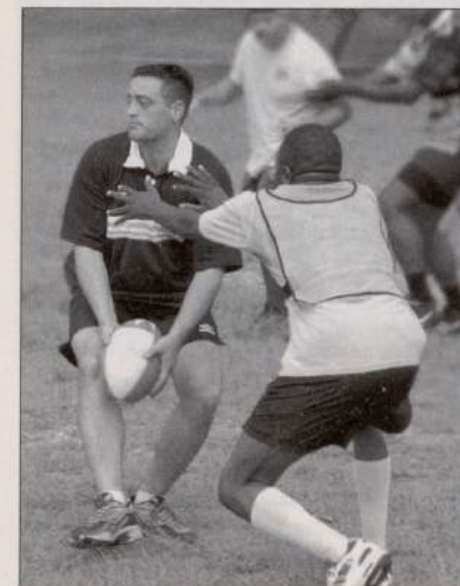
Jones: I think the Roughnecks fill a need in the community—something new, something different—and, then again, some of us just like to play contact sports.

You both played rugby before, yes? Did you play on organized teams?

Brady: I played on teams, but not rugby formally. I grew up with an older brother

who played in college, and then I played some in high school. I was taught by monks in high school who said American football was for "pussies"—and yep, that's a quote.

Jones: I have played many team sports, but never rugby. I did not realize how much fun rugby would be or how much I missed being part of a team until I joined the Roughnecks.



Dominick D'Aunno takes the ball at a recent practice.

How did the first year go?

Jones: The team has really grown over the past year. Most of the people who join the team tend to stick with it. Rugby is a bit addictive.

Brady: The first year has been amazing.



Preparing for the season opener against Austin, the Roughnecks scrimmage in White Oak Park.

We've been fortunate enough to have as our first sponsors Houston Distributing Company/Miller Beer and Poor Michael's on the Strand in Galveston. In addition, the City of Houston is building us a new pitch, and the IRS granted us favorable nonprofit organization status.

What about fans? Have rugby/sports fans been showing up for matches?

Brady: We definitely have some great fans. At our last game, the referee reported to the ref society that we had over 200 fans, and the party that night was amazing, and a blur...

Jones: Even if you do not know the rules, rugby is a blast to watch. Everyone should feel free to come out and join the fun.

What is the significance of the season that begins in September?

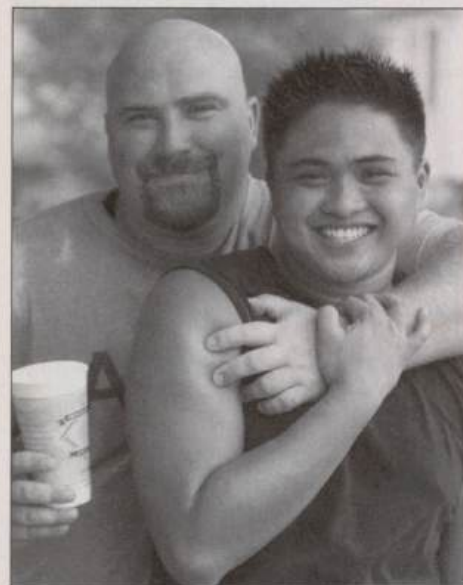
Brady: This is our first official Texas Rugby Union season. We are the first openly diverse team in Texas, so this is a big deal, and there's been a buzz throughout the Union since we formed. We will play both "cup" (official) and "friendly" (unofficial) matches. The cup matches count towards our standing in the TRU.

Jones: Although we occasionally play other predominantly gay teams, we more frequently play predominantly straight teams. Some of them have been the most helpful and supportive this past year. We have made lots of friends and have changed a lot of guys' views of what gay guys are like.

How many guys currently play for the Roughnecks? They aren't all gay, are they?

Jones: We have over 45 active Roughnecks on the roster, including players and non-players who support the team. About a quarter of them are not gay.

Brady: We really don't care about a person's sexuality (it shouldn't be relevant, anyway).



Randy Jones with Roughnecks back Patrick Cunanan.

Have you noticed how the non-gay players interact with the gay players?

Jones: I think some of the straight guys on the team have been an inspiration. They don't care what some people may say about

them playing with a bunch of gay guys. They are Roughnecks just like the rest of us. But some of them are just lesbians trapped in a man's body.

How many other gay or sexually diverse rugby teams are in Texas? Do you all play one another?

Brady: There's a Dallas team and two teams in Austin, and we'll play each other both in friendly scrimmages and cup matches. We've played Dallas twice already—and beat them both times.

What are some of the differences that you notice, if any, when two predominantly gay teams compete and when a predominantly gay team and a mainly non-gay team compete?

Jones: I think with two predominantly gay teams we party harder and longer, but on the pitch the game is the same. Once the other team, gay or straight, realizes we are there to kick ass, it is all about the rugby.

Brady: Well, the bar is definitely easier to pick if it's two diverse teams. But seriously, it's not a huge difference.

What is the percentage of guys who have joined with rugby experience as opposed to guys who showed up "green"?

Jones: We have a lot of experience to draw upon. New people catch on and are playing in no time. Some of our best players never played rugby before they joined the team.



Marouane Duboc (with ball) evades forward Paul Lawrence.



Dominick D'Aunno.

Brady: Roughly 60–40 percent inexperienced to experienced, and the latter also has a range. We have guys who played for 20 years, and we have guys who have never stepped on a pitch or any other field or court, which is great.



Thieu Brown reaches for the ball.

Do you have many returning players this season? I imagine injuries are a constant factor. How do you cope with those?

Brady: Most of our guys are returning, and although injuries are a concern as in any sport, we meet the risk on a couple of fronts: First, we train to avoid them, both on and off the pitch—conditioning, lifting weights, stretching, et cetera. And second, we have a great trainer, who is on-site to treat any injuries. We also have a couple of EMTs on the team. If someone gets injured,



Roughnecks back Pelima Ingka.

he's still a part of the team, just not playing until he heals.

Jones: We eat our wounded.

What has been the most challenging rugby skill to teach the Roughnecks players?

Jones: The Laws. There are a lot of rules in rugby. Most people learn them as they go along.

Brady: Kicking the damn ball.

What are some of the major challenges going into the season?

Jones: Finding a home bar with good beer, good food, and a big screen TV so we can watch games—and that won't kick us out if we get too noisy.

Brady: Getting up to speed for our first couple of games.

Is there a key game for the season? Is it Dallas?

Brady: Not Dallas, no, but there is one other team that I'd like us to kick the crap out of...

Jones: The goal is to win our division here in Texas, but every two years all the predominantly gay teams get together to compete for the Mark Bingham Cup. The next cup will be in London in May 2004, and we plan to bring that cup home to Houston.

For the rugby-ignorant, please give us some rugby terms so we can impress our friends at the next scrum.

Brady: You've already got *scrum*, so *ruck* and *maul* are always good ones.

Brady: We have a lot of momentum, and I'm pumped about the upcoming season.



In a crowd of Roughnecks, Albert Gamboa aims for the ball.

Jones: When player scores for the first time he strips down and runs naked around the pitch. So if you hear people start yelling "Zulu!" there will be an after-game show. And there's always *whore*, which means to play for another team.

The Roughnecks are known for traveling around the community as a group.

Jones: Besides being a rugby team, we are a social group and we like to have fun. Someone once said we were one-third rugby team, one-third fraternity, and one-third family. I thought that was a nice description.

Brady: We also try to give back to the community through community service. This past year we hit the streets with Q-Patrol, had a holiday food drive, collected supplies for the troops, and raised money for the AIDS Walk.

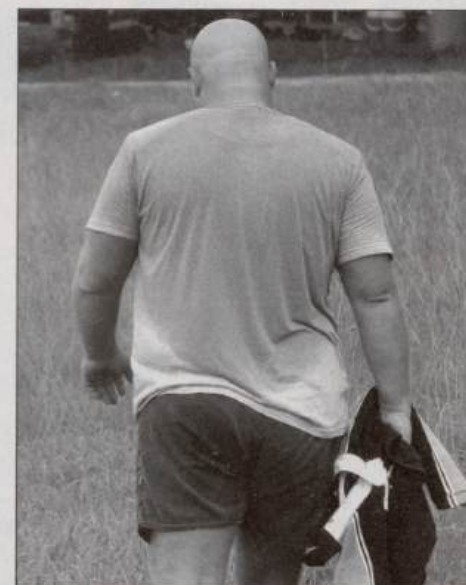
Other than yourselves, are there any life partners that play on the squad?

Brady: I can only think of one other couple, but of course many of the guys have wives, boyfriends, or girlfriends, and they are also part of the Roughneck family.

Jones: There is not as much romance on the team as people would like to imagine. But the team is a good way to meet some really great people and make friends.

How do you see the future of the Roughnecks?

Some great new guys have been coming around the casual summer events, and I'm looking forward to meeting the new members—both player and non-playing—



Practice over, Jones leaves the pitch.

that join this fall. We've built something great, and I want everyone to keep having fun while kicking some ass around the pitch!

Jones: We have an awesome group of guys. I think we are going to show a lot of people that gay men and straight men have much more in common than not.

—Interviewed by Tim Brookover

More info: www.houstonroughnecks.org.



THE

VERDICT

Photos by Todd Rainer



This is a day of independence!" proclaimed Mitchell Katine from the steps of City Hall at the afternoon rally on June 26. Still giddy over the sweeping and positive 6-3 Supreme Court decision in the sodomy-law case announced that morning, the crowd was in a supercharged mood. There was Big Roy McCarthy, whose personal tales of the 1969 Stonewall Riots are a treasure. There was Marla Dukler, the Aldine student who sued her school district when it sanctioned a gay-straight alliance at her high school (after the ACLU weighed in, the administrators caved). There were also dozens of others who have long been part of our civil-rights struggle, side by side with enthusiastic young people who will carry on the fight.

As the rally began, Katine introduced his clients John Lawrence and Tyron Garner, the couple arrested in 1998 for intimacy at home. Katine turned and stretched out his right arm. The City Hall doors swung open. Lawrence and Garner walked into the sunlight. They strode to the podium, blinking and grinning. Old and young, the crowd erupted in cheers and whoops. Many wept. →



THIS PAGE

1. Mitchell Katine welcomed the rally crowd.
2. Jubilant signs ringed City Hall plaza.
3. State representative Garnet Coleman was one of several speakers to address the rally.
4. Former state representative and community champion Debra Danburg acknowledged the crowd's enthusiastic welcome.
5. Activist Linda Morales, another speaker, challenged the state sodomy statute in a previous case that reached the Texas Supreme Court.
6. Many shared victory kisses, including Shawn McDermott (r) and friend.
7. Rainbow flag-toting Curtis Sparrer unfurled the colors beside lone protester Donald Buzbee.

OPPOSITE PAGE

8. After the rally, many in the crowd lined up to thank Tyron Garner (l) and John Lawrence.
9. Rick Hurt elicited applause with his emphatic sign.
10. A beaming Ray Hill, the long-time activist, rejoiced.
11. Janine Brunjes (r), the mayor's office GLBT liaison, read congratulations from Lee Brown. City Council member Annise Parker also spoke.

GOOD NEWS

Lawrence and Garner attorney Mitchell Katine reflects on the case that changed America and the day of the landmark decision

Photos by
Todd Rainer



Rally day: On June 26, Mitchell Katine (l, at the podium) welcomed the City Hall crowd celebrating the *Lawrence v. Texas* Supreme Court decision announced that morning. He then introduced Tyron Garner (c) and John Lawrence to applause and cheers.

On the morning of June 26, I was sitting at my desk, surrounded by television cameras and newspaper reporters as we waited for one of the most significant U.S. Supreme Court decisions in the last hundred years. Earlier that Thursday morning, I had called Lambda Legal in New York to request that they contact me as soon as they heard anything. I knew I would receive the news of the decision within a few minutes of its release, but I didn't know if it would come by e-mail, telephone, or some other means.

Almost five years before, John Lawrence and Tyron Garner contacted me after their arrest. I immediately knew that this case was unique because sheriff's deputies arrested two consenting adults for having sex in the privacy of their home on the sole charge of violating Texas Penal Code § 21.06, otherwise known as the Homosexual Conduct Law.

Since September 1998, I have had the opportunity to get to know John Lawrence and Tyron Garner on a personal level and to observe the transformation of this case from a local justice of the peace court case to a case that held extreme significance for gay and lesbian people throughout the country.

John and Tyron are extraordinary and

regular guys at the same time. Throughout the years that this case worked its way through the courts, John and Tyron allowed their lawyers to proceed with the case in the manner necessary to succeed while at the same time seeking no personal gain or attention.

Regardless of the risks of going forward, John and Tyron were willing to go all the way based on the knowledge that they were doing the right thing and based on the hope that the Supreme Court would rule likewise. Had the Supreme Court not taken the case, or if the ultimate decision was not in their favor, they both would have had this criminal conviction on their records for the rest of their lives.

I realized from the beginning that the facts of this case were compelling and the law in this case was unjust. However, there have been many important cases the Supreme Court has received but has declined to consider. This could have been that type of case. Nevertheless, we received word in early December of last year that the Court accepted the *Lawrence v. State of Texas* case and that we were all going to Washington, D.C.

The Supreme Court set March 26 as the day the case was to be heard. Oral arguments for John and Tyron's case were to be presented by Paul Smith, a gay attorney with a Washington, D.C., law firm, who had already argued several cases before the Court.

Months before the announcement, I applied for a special license and became admitted as an attorney before the Court. I obtained this license in anticipation of going to the Supreme Court and being able to sit in a special section close to the Justices reserved for attorneys licensed by the Court. Although Tyron was not able to attend oral arguments, I was privileged to travel with John.

John and I flew to Washington, D.C., together, and I think that we were in awe throughout the entire trip. Neither John nor I had ever been to the Supreme Court and did not know what to expect on our first visit.

There is limited seating at the Supreme Court, so if you want to get a seat, you must get there early and wait in line. The sun had not yet come up when I arrived at the Supreme Court building, but I was greeted by a line of law students who had slept in line for the past two days. I visited with a few who had their sleeping bags and breakfast in hand and discussed the oral arguments and issues of the case.

Later, in the courtroom, I was struck by the way in which the Justices questioned Paul Smith and Harris County District Attorney Chuck Rosenthal. Many of their questions were from a practical perspective, dealing with various items such as gay adoptions and adultery. It was clear to me

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that the Justices were expressing their opinions out of a reflection of their thinking and legal analysis. Justice Scalia's questioning made his opposition to homosexuals clear, while some of the other Justices expressed their dismay at government intrusion into the home. There were moments of laughter and astonishment based on the various questions by the Justices. At the end of the day, I think that everyone on our side of the case could not help but feel that Paul Smith had made an excellent presentation.

Nevertheless, it was difficult to try to predict the outcome of the case due to the potential misinterpretation of some of the questioning. Between March 26 and the day that the decision was rendered on June 26, I never assumed that the case was a definite win, and always held in reserve the possibility that it could have been a total loss. Had we lost this case, the impact on me personally would have been devastating.

I have been in a relationship with my partner, Walter, for almost four years, and we have adopted two babies together. My partner and I try to present a very positive, healthy, and loving atmosphere in front of the children, and it is important to us that our children learn to be honest and law-abiding citizens. However, to proceed as gay men in parenting these children, and simultaneously being considered criminals by the state of Texas would have been a very difficult challenge. If there was a law that classified us as criminals based on our relationship, how could we teach our children to respect the law?

These thoughts passed through my mind as I sat at my desk. At 9:12 a.m., the first word of the decision came from my 67-year-old mother, Loni, who lives with my father in a retirement community in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. My mother was watching MSNBC and hearing the news report, she picked up the telephone and called me. As the television cameras were rolling and the reporters hung on to every move and word that I said, I heard my mother say, "You won, son. You won."

Throughout the morning, I received additional reports as they were released to the media and soon learned that the Supreme Court had made a decision that was greater than my highest hopes. Little did I anticipate that the forthcoming decision would go much further than simply releasing John and Tyron from the wrongful conviction.

Throughout my legal career, which began in 1985, I have seen the Supreme Court case of *Bowers v. Hardwick* used over and over in

many different cases to discriminate against gay and lesbian people, as well as heterosexual people, engaged in private activities in their home. One of the three questions presented to the Supreme Court in *Lawrence v. State of Texas* was whether *Bowers v. Hardwick* should be overruled. This was the broadest and boldest action the Court could have taken, and therefore, I felt was the least likely for it to do.

There are special considerations for the Supreme Court to overrule one of its prior decisions. In this case, the Court explained that many of the historical statements used to support the prior *Bowers* opinion were wrong and provided examples of how many states have abolished their own sodomy statutes. Hence, when I learned that the Court had overruled *Bowers*, my excitement

As the television cameras were rolling and the reporters hung on to every move and word that I said, I heard my mother say, "You won, son. You won."

ment as to the future possibilities was immeasurable.

The *Lawrence* majority opinion, written by Justice Kennedy, contains many strong statements reaffirming the right to privacy and the rights of gay and lesbian people as included in the Constitution's protections.

"This, as a general rule, should counsel against attempts by the State, or a court, to define the meaning of the relationship or to set its boundaries absent injury to a person or abuse of an institution the law protects. It suffices for us to acknowledge that adults may choose to enter upon this relationship in the confines of their homes and their own private lives and still retain their dignity as free persons. When sexuality finds overt expression in intimate conduct with another person, the conduct can be but one element in a personal bond that is more enduring. The liberty protected by the Constitution allows homosexual persons the right to make this choice."

For the Supreme Court to recognize that sexual practices engaged in by persons who have adopted a "homosexual lifestyle" come under the right to liberty under the due-process clause is truly a historic moment in the development of the nation. In concluding the opinion,

Justice Kennedy makes it clear that the Constitution is evolving and that each person can invoke the principles of the Constitution in their own search for greater freedom.

Now that the case is over and *Bowers v. Hardwick* is a part of history and can no longer be used against gay and lesbian people, we must look to the future and the work that is left to be done to achieve true equality as people in America.

Public opinion needs to be the focus of our work. In order to achieve success in the end, we will need to persuade public opinion that gay and lesbian people are not seeking special rights but only equal rights. In all survey reports that I saw, the numbers confirmed that public opinion regarding gay and lesbian people have improved. The *Lawrence* decision is a step in the right direction that may be used to achieve some, if not all, of the rights that are needed. With regards to marriage, I certainly believe that gay and lesbian people should have the same right to marry as their heterosexual friends.

John and Tyron are truly the heroes in this story, and Lambda Legal is the fighting force behind the ultimate achievement. When John and Tyron called me in 1998, it was the right time for the right case. The world feels like a different place since 1998. I am certainly happy to say that it feels like a safer and friendlier place.

Personally, the response to the *Lawrence* decision has been tremendous. I have received hundreds of e-mails and calls from people I know and people I don't know. I have received bouquets of flowers congratulating me on the case. I have received telephone calls and personal greetings from people who were weeping and explained that they have been waiting for this day their entire lives. John and Tyron are thrilled by the decision and, I believe, now truly appreciate the significance of this case, which began with such unfortunate circumstances and has ended with such glory.

My children, Sebrina and Sebastian, are not yet one year old. However, I am saving the newspaper clippings and television reports for them. When they are old enough to understand what has gone on during the first few months of their lives, I will be able to show them that I had a small part in helping make Texas and the entire country a free place for them to live and love.

Mitchell Katine, an attorney with Williams, Birnberg & Anderson L.L.P., reflected on the prospects for the *Lawrence* case for our March 2002 issue ("Making History"). Josef Molnar worked with Katine on that essay and this one.

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OutLive

by Rich Arenschioldt

ACTING UP AIDS activist group again works to preserve medication funding

Fresh on the heels of its success in obtaining the largest statewide appropriation in the nation's history to provide medication to HIV-positive individuals, AIDS Coalition of Texas NOW! (ACT Now!) is ready to stir it up again.

Formed in October 2003, this patient-led grassroots advocacy organization has leapt from infancy into adulthood and is now recognized as a national player and a force to be reckoned with when issues regarding HIV and AIDS are anywhere on the legislative table.

ACT Now! initially formed in response to a projected budget shortfall in the Texas AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP). This program provides life-saving anti-retroviral medications to medically indigent men, women, and children with HIV in Texas. As part of the massive budget-cutting process that took place during the recent legislative session, the Texas ADAP program was put on the chopping block in order to balance the state budget.

Realizing that any additional limitations in accessing ADAP would place HIV-positive Texans in serious medical jeopardy, Tracy Wilson, ACT NOW! state coordinator and a Houstonian, sprang into action. As the result of intense training from five regional coordinators around the state, 293 HIV-positive Texans descended on Austin giving every legislator a visit from a group of ACT Now! members.

"The most profound success that ACT Now! has experienced so far is that we have proven that you can give people a voice in the process," Wilson says. "Our members are not lobbyists. They are just ordinary people who have extraordinary stories to tell. By letting them speak freely and giving them access to decision makers in the political process, we have been able to implement monumental change."

Not resting on its previous accomplishments, ACT Now! knows that work remains to assure continued ADAP funding. In spite of the record amount of funding recently appropriated, a \$10 million shortfall still

exists (based on current actuarial projections) forecasted for the Texas ADAP program in 2005. There is a reason for this gap, according to Wilson. "While the current amounts appropriated for ADAP will serve those HIV-positive individuals already in the system, the Texas Department of Health expects to enroll a minimum of 100 new clients per month throughout the next biennium," he says. "This projected deficit is the result of these new enrollees entering the program."

In order to contain costs resulting from the projected shortfall, the state board of health is again proposing limiting access to ADAP by medically indigent HIV-positive Texans. These restrictions include implementation of medical eligibility criteria (so that the sickest people receive care first), restricting eligibility of those individuals who may have access to federal Ryan White Title I funding, requiring medication copays of \$100 per month, raising income criteria (making only the poorest Texans eligible), or halting enrollment in ADAP in Texas entirely.

"These five options that regulators want to impose need to be examined very carefully," Wilson says. "ACT Now! believes that these rules need to be considered taking into account results from over 300 surveys from our membership regarding the restrictions. Additionally, over 900 public comments have been received by the Texas Department of Health regarding this appropriations process. These rule changes need to be as consumer-friendly as possible, taking into account the needs of present or future consumers of the program."

ACT Now! plans additional legislative lobbying (including an August 7 bus trip to Austin) as well as advocacy training for new members during the summer and fall. Individuals interested in ACT Now! may contact Wilson at 713/221-3242 or aidscoalitiontx@aol.com.

Rich Arenschioldt wrote about the prospects for AIDS funding ("Health Viewpoint") in our December 2002 issue. He is director of education and outreach at the Center for AIDS.



Still fighting: This month, ACT NOW! state coordinator Tracy Wilson again leads HIV/AIDS activists lobby legislators in Austin.



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SKIN TEST

Yow! Sally gets her first tattoo

The tattoo shop opened early for me so I could catch my mid-morning flight back to the mainland. What could commemorate a dyke's five-week Hawaiian adventure more unforgettably than multiple excruciating skin punctures? The proprietor, a living tattoo catalogue himself, scuffed across the paint-splattered floor in orange flip-flops. He set out little inkpots and plugged in his tattoo gun. Fiery skulls and bloody-fanged serpents glared from the wall. I was still tender from a recent breakup and needed to get away, assert my independence, do something for myself by myself.

With student-loan debt up to my highly educated eyeballs, my travel budget limited me to camping on the beach and foraging local produce. A tattoo would be my one splurge. I stood at the tattoo shop counter and leafed through colored drawings in a plastic notebook, no girlfriend

to help me choose. I wasn't used to making decisions on my own. The needle was buzzing.

My first day on the Big Island, a wave caught my backpack and soaked everything. My copy of Michener's *Hawaii* drenched and swollen—a sensation I longed to feel again someday—made clear this trip would be what I made it. I laid the soggy book out on the picnic table in Spencer Beach State Park, where I camped for \$2 a night. The next day I sat and read the crisp, sun-dried pages while I ate fresh strawberry papaya. Sweet thick juice flooded my mouth and dribbled down my chin. Who needed a girlfriend?

One hot night, I lay awake in my open tent, listening to the surf and wishing for a breeze. I felt a faint tickle cross my midriff and swatted at what I took for a mosquito. Something hard crunched under my palm. I flicked whatever it was off me. It

thudded against the nylon wall. In the moonlight a cockroach the size of a Snickers bar waved at me with long antennae and possibly its middle finger. I clutched my sheet around me. The injured orthopteran bumbled away.

Despite bugs and book dousing, I loved my Polynesian journey. Can life get any better than body surfing nude in warm turquoise swells so clear you can see your shadow on the sand 30 feet below? Happy, free, relaxed, independent. I wanted to capture that feeling forever.

I spent hours on the beach planning my tattoo. Could I go through with it? Was I tough enough? Would it go on my arm? Chest? Calf? I poked myself with seashell bits to find the spot that hurt the least. My shoulder had the highest pain threshold. That is where I'd permanently wear my symbol of bliss.

But bliss was not the feeling in Hono-

lulu that last morning. Alone in a bustling city, I searched for the tattoo parlor's address. The seedy neighborhood smelled of rotting garbage and stale urine—a scent nothing like the fragrant frangipani described in the travel brochure. This was Oahu's non-tourist side.

When I'd called, the guy told me not to come in drunk or stoned, so I had to change that plan. Too many drunken sailors back the next day, pissed off and full of regret. Would I be?

By the time I found the scruffy storefront, my resolve was solid. Clearheaded and resolute, I knew what I was doing. I would have my Hawaiian memories forever.

I picked a drawing of a big, red hibiscus, Hawaii's state flower. The guy sketched it onto my shoulder and handed me a mirror. The veined petals looked erotically labial. Perfect. I sat backwards in the wooden chair, shoulder exposed. This was it, no chickening out. That moment was loaded with philosophy. I was fine alone. I could make my own decisions. I could face fear and endure anything.

I stared at those orange flip-flops, and the tattoo artist went to work. I immediately noticed how much the sensation of a

rapidly plunging needle does not resemble a seashell poke. I focused on calming my screaming pain center. I breathed. I pictured myself doing tai chi on the beach. I threw up.

The radio crackled out oldies. *You Don't Own Me. Runaway. Born Free.* This tattoo was scheduled to take half an hour—10 three-minute songs, give or take a couple of Gold Bond Medicated Foot Powder commercials.

Finally it was over. Flip-flop man smeared my shoulder with tattoo-healing goop. He instructed me not to lift the bandage for 24 hours, but in the airplane lavatory somewhere over the Pacific, I did sneak a peek.

I never returned to Hawaii—never felt the need to. I love my tattoo. But it doesn't quite say it all. To anyone else it's just a flower. Compared to the extreme designs some people have, it doesn't convey toughness at all. Maybe I should have picked a cockroach.



Sally Sheklow keeps away from bugs in Eugene, Oregon, where she teaches writing and performs with WYMPROV!, the award-winning all-lesbian improv comedy troupe.

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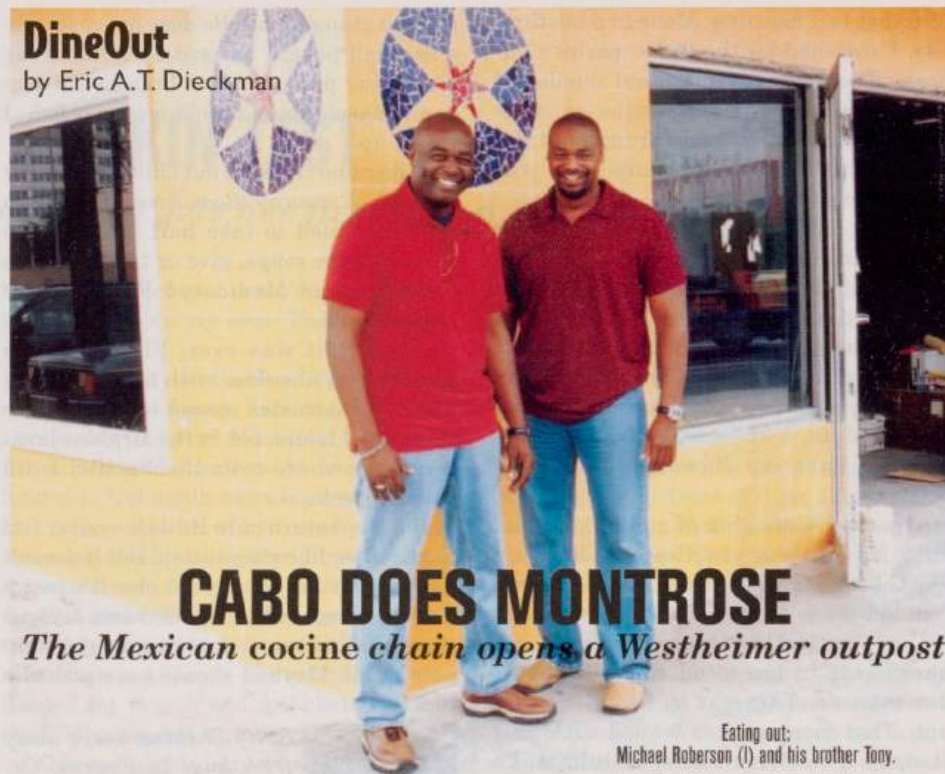
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DineOut

by Eric A.T. Dieckman



CABO DOES MONTROSE

The Mexican cocine chain opens a Westheimer outpost

Eating out:
Michael Roberson (l) and his brother Tony.

Everything that comes into Montrose becomes a part of Montrose. We want to be the spot in the Montrose area," says a hopeful Michael Roberson, co-owner of Cabo. A sign on the exterior of each of the current Cabo restaurants identifies it as Cabo, the Original Mix-Mex Grill. The sign on the soon-to-open location at Westheimer and Yoakum will read Cabo Montrose.

"I want the entire Montrose community—straight and gay—to know they are getting a Cabo. It's your Cabo, built with Montrose in mind, inspired by Montrose," he says.

Before launching Cabo, Roberson and brother (and Cabo co-owner) Tony worked as servers, bartenders, managers, and regional managers in the restaurant business, specializing in party-atmosphere spots like Landry's and Joe's Crab Shack. Now they are bringing their party to the 006 zip code.

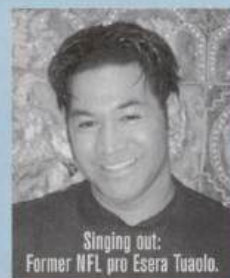
Provided the city doesn't stretch out any more red tape (there's always a mile of it when getting restaurants started), the little eatery that emphasizes fun amid the food will open in August.

Why that location? "There's a strong attachment to the entire Montrose community at that corner," explains Roberson, who has lived off and on in the neighborhood for six years. "The first time I saw it, I immediately thought Cabo—something small, intimate, perfect for Cabo. It was a no-brainer for us."

Roberson is dead set on ingratiating the place to the community. "This Cabo is going to be different from any of the other ones we've done. This is a location where we could really have some fun," he says. There will be significantly more art throughout this particular spot, from photos of the

GAY BUT NOT CHILI

Esera Tuaolo, the former nine-year pro football nose tackle who publicly came out last October—first on the HBO program *Real Sports*, then in an *Advocate* cover story—is featured in the current television ad campaign for Chili's. In these spots, individuals praise the Texas-based chain restaurant through whimsical performances. Tuaolo, who recorded a CD and appeared in musicals while playing in the NFL, strums the ukulele and croons about the Chili's



Singing out:
Former NFL pro Esera Tuaolo.

Hawaiian steak. He is identified only as "Esera, Retired Athlete." However, Chili's has not shied away from the media coverage that has ensued since Tuaolo's spot began airing.

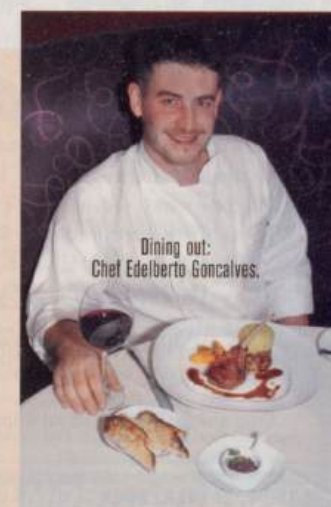
Tuaolo commended the Chili's crew in an interview with the gay website www.outsports.com: "Everybody who was involved treated me first class. They were really interested in my family. I showed them pictures of my kids and my husband." —Tim Brookover

Westheimer Street Festival on the walls to frescoes on the ceiling to an eight-foot metal palm tree rising from the floor. There will be a greater emphasis on eclecticism (if that's possible for a Cabo).

The place intends to introduce itself to the community in part with a fundraiser benefiting H.A.T.C.H., the nonprofit organization that provides a positive environment and support to gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth. "I looked into a number of different organizations. The one that hit home with me is H.A.T.C.H. because I've got teenage children," Roberson says. "I like doing things that are geared towards young people." The brothers plan to use the location for other benefits in the future.

Of course, the best way to a community's heart is through its stomach. Ergo, Sunday brunch is in order, with an abbreviated menu of breakfast tacos, migas, and so on. With talk of La Strada returning to Montrose, the Robersons say they have no intention of competing with higher-end brunches in the neighborhood ("We're fish tacos and burritos and chips and salsa," Michael Roberson simply puts it). But they know that Houstonians—and, they hope, Montrosians—will almost always welcome another reasonable Tex-Mex place.

Eric Dieckman reported on Camp Camp, the Maine getaway for GLBT adults, in our June issue.



Dining out:
Chef Edelberto Goncalves.

SEE RED

Chef Edelberto Goncalves and general manager Xavier Borkowski hold forth at Rouge, the swank lunch and dinner spot that recently opened just off the Westheimer/Montrose hub. The intimate burgundy-hued interior seats 30. Goncalves' New American Cuisine fare includes specialties like salmon confit and Maine lobster "Tagine." The fish menu changes daily. A surprisingly spacious upstairs ballroom at Rouge (812 Westheimer, 713/520-7955) accommodates up to 180. —TB ■

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Out of Town

by Victor Zorn

THE FAMILY WAY

Olivia plans a resort vacation for parents and kids



All together now: Olivia founder and president Judy Dlugacz and granddaughter Becca (c) will join the broods at the Olivia Kids and Family resort in Florida.

Prepare to pack up both the bags and the kids. Olivia, the 30-year-old provider of travel services for lesbians and friends, will welcome entire broods this fall at a new week-long getaway at the Club Med resort in Florida.

During the Olivia Kids and Family trip, October 25–November 1, grownups and young ones can sprawl out on the 331-room, 400-acre Sandpiper Club, located north of West Palm Beach. Kids activities—all part of the package—include swimming, water-skiing, and roller-blading lessons, and circus school. Their parents, whether *sans* kids or *en famille*, can enjoy swimming, wind surfing, weight training, and a variety of other sports. Of course, many moms and dads

may want to decompress while their offspring keep busy.

Despite the singles-in-sun bent of much queer-targeted travel promotion, there is a ready market for this kind of family-friendly excursion. The Olivia folks point out the more than 20 percent of households headed by lesbian couples have a child under the age of 18, according to the Population Reference Bureau, a nonprofit census-analyzing group. About six percent of households headed by gay men include children under 18.

Rates begin at \$999 per adult, based on double occupancy. The tab for tweens/teens 11–15 is \$699. Kids age 10 and under stay free (up to 2 children). Details: www.olivia.com, 800/631-6277.

SAIL AWAY

Can't bear the prospect of another Thanksgiving with the bio family or the family of choice? Gals at the end of their holiday rope might consider the November 22–29 Caribbean voyage aboard the billowing-sail Royal Clipper.



The trip begins at St. Bart's and cruises through the Leeward Islands. The ship accommodates 200 women. Prices begin at \$1,699 for an inside cabin, \$1,999 for an exterior cabin (double occupancy.)

Ship shape: Olivia's Royal Clipper.

WOMYN'S FEST TO TRANS WOMEN: STILL NO

Since the '70s, the August Michigan Womyn's Music Festival has served as a yearly icon of feminism through intense workshops and amazing music. The event has welcomed thousands of women over the years—but only biological ones (WBW, or "women born women"). Post-op MTF (male-to-female) transgender individuals are not allowed, though trans sources assert that trans women who dissembled about their status and could pass have been able to enter.

The policy has remained a point of controversy, and not just for the trans

community. Many lesbian allies protest.

Women who object to trans women most often cite the value of a completely women-only space. Others are more blunt. "I don't want to see penises on the land," a poster stated on the festival discussion board (at www.michfest.com).

A counter festival, Camp Trans, will take place at the same time, August 12–17. Details: www.camprans.strap-on.org. ■

Victor Zorn reported on Galveston lodging in our July issue.

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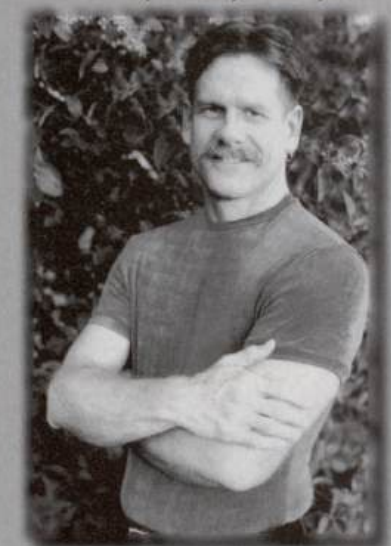
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Calendar of Events

Deadline for OutSmart's September issue is 5 p.m., Tuesday, August 12.

AUGUST

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; O, 710 Pacific, 9 pm-1 am. **Tuesday:** The 611, 611 Hyde Park, 4-8 pm; Club Houston, 2205 Fannin, 8 pm-midnight. **Wednesday:** Mary's, 1100 Westheimer, 4-8 pm; Ripcord, 715 Fairview, 9 pm-1 am; EJ's, 2517 Ralph, 10 pm-1 am; Midtowne Spa, 3100 Fannin, 10 pm-1 am. **Thursday:** All-Star News, 3415 Katy Frwy, 4-8 pm; BRB, 2400 Brazos, 8 pm-midnight; Cousins, 817 Fairview, 8 pm-

midnight. **Friday:** EJ's, 2517 Ralph, 10 pm-1 am; Midtowne Spa, 3100 Fannin, 10 pm-1 am; The Meatrack, 2915 San Jacinto, 10 pm-2 am; Rich's, 2401 San Jacinto, 10 pm-1 am. The clinic offers classes for those newly diagnosed with HIV or Hepatitis C. For more info: 713/830-3000.

6 (Wed.)

Still Crazy (Horse) After All These Years. The tireless Godfather of Grunge regroups with Crazy Horse for a night of '60s-inflected guitar rock. \$75, \$50, \$30. 7 pm at Cynthia Woods Mitchell, 2005 Lake Robbins Dr., The Woodlands. Tickets: Ticketmaster at 713/629-3700.

6 & 20 (Wed.)

HIV Testing. Through a new collaboration with Houston Area Community Services (HACS), the Houston GLBT Community Center provides free testing for HIV, Hepatitis C and chlamydia on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. A trained HACS staff member administers the

tests. Take care of your health and remember what those pamphlets at the clinic say: "Chlamydia is not a flower." For more information, call 713/524-3818 or www.houstonGLBTcenter.org. 7-9 pm at 3400 Montrose Blvd., Ste. 207.

7... (Thu.)

Open Mic. Every Thursday, local all-female rock band FO hosts an open mic at Chances, 1100 Westheimer, 9 pm-1 am. Vocalists and musicians of all styles and genres are welcome. For more info: 713/523-7217 or www.chancesbar.com.

8 (Fri.)

3 Women. Directed by Robert Altman, this moody, thought-provoking film begins with a strange girl named Pinky (Sissy Spacek) who takes a job at a convalescent home. Pinky moves in with coworker Millie (Shelley Duvall), who has pretensions on becoming a socialite. After moving in together, Pinky assumes Millie's personality and finds passage into the social circles Millie has always wished she could join. When the

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., AUG. 12.**

pregnant artist wife of a mutual friend gets her hands on the two, the real turmoil begins. \$6 (\$5 for MFAH members, seniors, and students with ID). 7 pm at the Museum of Fine Arts, 1001 Bissonnet. Info: 713/639-7515 or www.mfah.org.

9, 13-15 (Sat, Wed.-Fri.)

OutSmart's Gayest & Greatest Ballot-Voting Promotion Parties. **Saturday, Aug. 9:** 8-10 pm @ Garza's Kon Tiki, 315 Tremont at 23rd, Galveston.

WORKING WITHOUT A NET

2 shows, 3 solos

LEFT: Adam Bires is Judy's Friend. RIGHT: The Only Thing Worse You Could Have Told Me stars Steve Bullitt (center), with Marion Bryant (l) and Adam Bires.



Theatre New West announces a summer double feature on its two stages. On the Main Stage is *Judy's Friend / Marilyn's Boy* by local playwright Diana Howie and directed by guest director Roy Hamlin, artistic associate with Theatre Under The Stars. Opening August 8 on Stage... too is *The Only Thing Worse You Could Have Told Me*, a one-man play by Dan Butler (yes, that Dan Butler, "Bulldog" on TV's *Frasier*, who also originally performed the role). Directed by artistic director Joe Watts.

Judy's Friend / Marilyn's Boy is two one-act monologues, one a character who was a Munchkin in *The Wizard of Oz* and his obsession with Judy Garland, the other the alleged son of Marilyn Monroe. Howie's plays have been produced in Houston, Chicago, Edinburgh (Scotland), Vienna, and other cities. She is Playwright in Residence at Country Playhouse. Howie holds an MA in Theatre Arts from the University of Houston where she studied with Jose Quintero. She has a new musical titled *The*

Jury, which opens in February 2004 at The Country Playhouse.

The Only Thing Worse You Could Have Told Me is a whirlwind tour of the gay American landscape with 10 predominantly gay characters in 14 vignettes. Of its New York run, *The New York Post* wrote: "Butler walks through these subtly-shaded vignettes with wit, flair, and compassion. You certainly don't have to be gay to appreciate Butler's people." ■

What: *Judy's Friend / Marilyn's Boy*
When: Through September 20 (on the Main Stage)

What: *The Only Thing Worse You Could Have Told Me* *
When: August 8-October 4 (on Stage...too)

Both Plays: Fridays & Saturdays, 8 p.m. (no shows Aug. 29 & 30)
Where: Theatre New West, 1415 California **Tickets:** \$20 **Reservations/info:** 713/522-2204

* **Benefit Performance of The Only Thing Worse... for People With AIDS Coalition**
When: Thursday, August 7 **Tickets:** \$20 **Reservations:** 713/522-5428

Wednesday, Aug. 13: 9:30-11:30 pm @ JR's Bar, 804 Pacific. Special guest appearance by King Henry VIII and characters from Texas Renaissance Festival. Followed by the fabulous Kofi Show at 11 pm. **Thursday, Aug. 14:** 8-10 pm @ Chances, 1100 Westheimer. **Friday, August 15:** 7-10 pm @ O Night Club, 710 Pacific.

15 (Fri.)

Class Clowns. Summertime blues has nothing on back-to-school anxiety, but how do you heal it? Well, laughter is the best medicine. ComedySportz recommends a dose of their *Whose Line Is It Anyway?*-style improvisational games at their "Back to School Blues Buster" match. \$10, \$5 with student ID. 8 pm at Lambert Hall, 1703 Heights Blvd. For reservations and information, call 713/868-1444.

23 (Sat.)

An Orange a Day. Jeff McKissack founded The Orange Show and penned *How You Can Live 100 Years and Still Be Spry*. In his honor, The Orange Show hosts a health fair with fresh fruit and juices and nutritional information, yoga demonstrations, massage therapists, a book sale, health films from the '50s, and more. Free. 5-10 pm at 2401 Munger St. Call 713/926-6368 or visit www.orangeshow.org for more info.

PLANNING AHEAD

SEPTEMBER

September 6 & 7

Major Exposure. The 54th semi-annual Houston Camera Show and Sale brings over 150 worldwide camera and camera equipment dealers together. Camera lovers everywhere, shout a loud "Halleluiah!" and extend the limit on your credit cards. September 6 from 10 am-5 pm and September 7 from 10 am-4 pm at the Marriott Hotel (formerly the Radisson), 9100 Gulf Fwy at the Airport exit.

September 24

Several Dancers Core. Several Dancers Core and the Houston Community College Central dance department, in conjunction with The Field, a New York-based artist service organization, present the Fall 2003 session of Fieldwork, a 10-week series of dance workshops-in-progress with artist feedback sessions. Each 10-week session culminates in a performance of the work developed by the group (this one being on November 23 at HCC Central). \$50. 7-9 pm in Studio A at 3517 Austin on the Houston Community College central campus, beginning Wednesday, September 24. For

further information, call 713/862-5530 or send an e-mail to sdinfo@mindspring.com.

OCTOBER

October 10-12

Desert Hearts Women's Festival. Join more than a hundred women who gather in the woods of a beautiful and secluded women's ranch in the Texas Hill Country. Desert Hearts Cowgirl Club is located 50 miles NW of San Antonio between Kerrville and Bandera. Pick your campsite along shady creek or on the sunny ridge. It is primitive camping with clean porta-potties and fun festi-showers. Stay by your cozy campfire or come down to the stage for live entertainment, including Nancy Scott, Audio Jamz, The Gibson Sister Band, Laura Freeman, Karressa Kayous, and more. Buy and sell at the flea market or catch the action at the lesbolympics. Plus horseshoes, bocce ball, volleyball, and a fun-filled scavenger hunt are yours to enjoy. Desert Hearts Women's Festival is to be a place where you are free to be yourselves. Tickets \$45 by August 15; \$55 by September 15; \$65 cash at the gate on October 10. Four-meal ticket (in advance) \$15 good food, Fri. and Sat. evening, Sat. and Sun. morning. Mail checks along with names and addresses to: 10101 ST Hwy 173 N, Bandera, TX 78003. More info: 830/796-7001, beaux2@indian-creek.net, or <http://members.aol.com/cowgirlj>.

PERFORMING ARTS

♦ **Always... Patsy Cline.** Directed by Stages' founding artistic director Ted Swindley, this play premiered at Stages in '88. Now one of the most often-performed stage productions in the U.S., *Always...* is set in Houston and centers on the true story of Houston housewife Louise Seger and her lifelong friendship with Patsy Cline that begun when the two met while Cline was performing in Houston. The play features a live band and performances of over 20 of Cline's songs and explores through Cline's letters and Seger's commentary the humor, sadness, and mutual respect shared between the two women. \$25. Through August 17 @ Stages, 3201 Allen Pkwy at Waugh Dr. Tickets: 713/527-0123 or www.stagestheatre.com.

♦ **American Buffalo.** David Mamet's comedy-drama centers on a trio of small-time crooks whose mistrust for each other foils their plan to steal a coin

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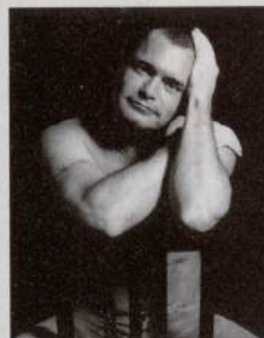
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collection. The play won the wry Mamet a '76-'77 New York Drama Circle Critics Award and a '76 Obie Award for Best American Play. Co-produced by the Outlaw Actors and Black Box Productions, the experimental wing of the Country Playhouse. \$10. August 15-September 6 at the Country Playhouse, 12802 Queensbury, in the Town and Country Village off Beltway 8. Tickets available by calling 713/467-4497.

♦ **Deadwood Dick or The Game of Gold.** Classic, campy melodrama unfolds at Theatre Suburbia with characters like Calamity Jane and Black'n Red. Audiences are encouraged to hiss at the villain, sigh for the heroine, and cheer for the hero. Thru August 23. \$10 (\$9 for students and seniors, \$8 on Sundays) at Theatre Suburbia, 1410 W. 43rd at Oak Forest. Tickets available by calling 713/682-3523. For more information, visit www.theatresuburbia.com.

♦ **The Foreigner.** Written by Larry Shue and directed by James Black, this play follows Englishmen Charlie and his friend, Froggy, on a fishing trip to the backwoods of Georgia. When Froggy has to leave his friend in the hands of a gaggle of oddballs, he protects the exceptionally shy Charlie by proclaiming he does not speak a word of English. Certain he doesn't understand them, people have no qualms spilling their secrets in his presence. Madcap hilarity reaches a pinnacle when Charlie and the absciss of abnormal lodgers confront the mean-ol' Owen Musser. Through August 10 @ The Alley Theatre Large Stage, 615 Texas Ave. Tickets: 713/228-8421 or www.alleytheatre.org.

♦ **Grandpa Hasn't Moved in Days.** The Fertle family returns home for a funeral, only to find the deceased's dying request a cause for hilarity. Written by Radio Music Theatre's Steve Farrell, *Grandpa* (like any Fertle comedy) stars a mere three actors who play countless characters, with each one as distinct as a thumbprint. \$18. Through August 30 @ Radio Music Theatre, 2623 Colquitt, near Richmond and Kirby. Showtimes vary. Tickets available at the box office or by calling 713/522-7722.

♦ **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:** Bath-tub gin isn't the only illegal thing going on in this 1920s floating speakeasy—there's a dead body lying around, and nobody can call the cops. Featuring special appearances by Mae West, Charles Lindbergh, and Abraham Lincoln. • **Killer Karaoke** plays Fridays; **Come Up and Slay Me Sometime** plays Saturdays. Both shows presented at 8 pm at Marriott West Loop, 1750 West Loop South at San Felipe. Reservations required: 713/944-2583 or www.mysterycafe.houston.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

♦ **The BIG Show.** This annual juried exhibition results from the selection of works submitted by artists living in Houston and its surrounding counties. Lawndale is dedicated to the presentation of contemporary art

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Tamarie Cooper (r) and Cary Winscott in *Tamalalia 8*.

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What: *Tamalalia 8*

When: Thru Aug. 30 (Thurs. & Fri. at 8 p.m., Sat. at 8 & 10:30 p.m.)

Where: The Axiom, 2524 McKinney

Cost: \$5.99–\$17 **Tickets:** 713/522-8443

Info: www.infernalbridegroom.com/archives/t8.html

with a penchant for local artists. Through August 23 @ Lawndale Art Center, 4912 Main St. More info: 713/528-5858.

♦ **CraftHouston 2003.** The second in a series of juried exhibitions sponsored at the Craft Center, this exhibit showcases the best craftsfolk in North America and debuts in Houston. An artists' reception takes place Friday, August 8 from 6–8 pm with curator and writer Lloyd Herman announcing Award of Merit winners prior to the opening. Free. August 8–October 12, 10 am–5 pm, Tuesday through Saturday, and noon–5 pm on Sunday at the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, 4848 Main St. More info: 713/529-4848.

♦ **James Rosenquist: A Retrospective.** Lichtenstein, Warhol, Rosenquist. All pop artists who draw from the images of advertising and mass media to create visual commentaries on life. From his early days as a billboard painter to his recent use of abstract technique, Rosenquist demonstrates an evolving mastery of color, line, texture, and shape. The retrospective of his work, organized by the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York, debuts in Houston and is divided into two exhibits; his early work (the late '50s-1970) can be viewed at the Menil Collection; his work after 1970 can be seen at the Museum of Fine Arts. Through August 17 @ the Menil Collection, 1515 Sul Ross. For more information, call 713/525-9400 or visit

www.menil.org. Free. The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston is located at 1001 Bissonnet and can be reached at 713/639-7540 or visit www.mfah.org.

♦ **One Big Red Heart.** The Jung Center's exhibit features recent works by the homeless children of ArtBridge Houston and other children who participate in Jung Center outreach programs. Free. Through August 28 at the Jung Center, 5200 Montrose. For more information, call 713/524-8253.

♦ **Sanctuaries: The Late Works of John Hejduk.** This is no typical architectural retrospective. Not at the Menil. John Hejduk is best known for his designs that remained on paper; theoretical designs that returned architecture to a level of art and spirituality. Known for elemental biomorphism (buildings that seem to have eyes, hair, beaks, legs), a preference for geometrical form and topological variation, Hejduk's work thematically explores falling from grace, passage, transformation, and architecture as sanctuary, a place of nurture. Through August 31 @ the Menil Collection, 1515 Sul Ross. For more information, call 713/525-9400 or visit www.menil.org. Free.

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Business News

Larry Broughton, home mortgage consultant with **Wells Fargo Home Mortgage**, has launched a website, www.larrybroughton.com. He has also announced that **Jennifer Perez** has joined his office. Broughton can be reached at larry.broughton@wellsfargo.com or 713/654-3085.

Southern Living magazine recognized **Murder by the Book** in the article "203 Favorite Shops" in the May issue. The Houston store was the only Texas bookseller selected. Established in 1980, *Murder by the Book* is located at 2342 Bissonnet. The phone number is 713/524-8597. The store website is www.murderbooks.com.



Okiharu Tsuchiya work

Photographer **David Lewis** will host an exhibition on Saturday, August 23, at his **Midtown Photography** studio (3400 Montrose Blvd., Suite 507). The 8 p.m.-

midnight show will feature the work of **Okiharu Tsuchiya** and other Houston artists as well as live music and poetry. Many of the works will be discounted 50 percent off. More info: 713/240-5508.

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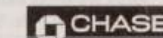
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BAR & CLUB GUIDE

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 at 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.

BUCHANAN'S

This club recently opened in southeast Houston near Hobby Airport. Buchanan's offers American and Latino dance music. Diana Jackson hosts Friday and Saturday night shows. 7731 Park Place • 832/754-4115.

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.chancesbar.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. 6305 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 boogie music, marks the end of the week. 2612 South Richey • 713/944-7663.

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.

EJ's

Located on the western front of Montrose, EJ's retains the charm of a local colorful hangout. Nightly shows, including community benefits, pack the stage. The upstairs martini bar offers a quiet retreat. 2517 Ralph • 713/527-9071.

GUAVA LAMP

Every Thursday is Cabaret Night, featuring Jerry Atwood and Kim Yvette, at this stylish Shepherd Plaza video club. Karaoke fans show up on Wednesday and Sunday nights. 2159 Portsmouth • 713/524-3359 • www.guavalamp.com.

JR's/SANTA FE

This Montrose standard offers features from pool tables, table dancers, to karaoke. Look for Carol Gifford 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 nightspot near downtown features regular performers and guest entertainers. The two-level deck provides a knockout skyline view. 817 West Dallas • 713/571-7870 • www.keyswest.com.

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 • www.meteorhouston.com.

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 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 • 713/524-6664.

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.

O

The folks who own Oz, the New Orleans French Quarter nightclub, have reopened the spot formerly known as Pacific Street. Special nights include Sunday Tea Dance and Calendar Boy Thursday. 710 Pacific • 713/523-0213 • www.ohouston.com.

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 dancefloor 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.

RIPCORN

OutSmart readers named this spot the best place to show off your leather in the Gayest & Greatest poll. Inside the bar, the Black Hawk Leather Shop sells treasures for the leather/levis/uniform crowd. 715 Fairview • 713/521-2792 • www.ripcornojournal.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 • 713/668-4892.

VIVIANA'S

This club near downtown appeals to fans of Latino music and drag alike. 5219 Washington • 713/862-0203.

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 • www.blvdaloongalveston.com.

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 the Gulf, features a private patio. 2501 Ave Q (at 25th) • 409/765-9092.

THIRD COAST

This new club has opened in the former Jimmy's on the Beach location. The wall of windows still offers a great view of the Gulf. 904 Avenue M • 409/765-6011.

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.

CROCKETT STREET

Formerly known as Mary's Place, this club recently changed hands and name. Miss Olivia Gardner 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@outsrtmagazine.com.

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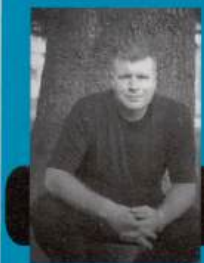
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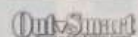
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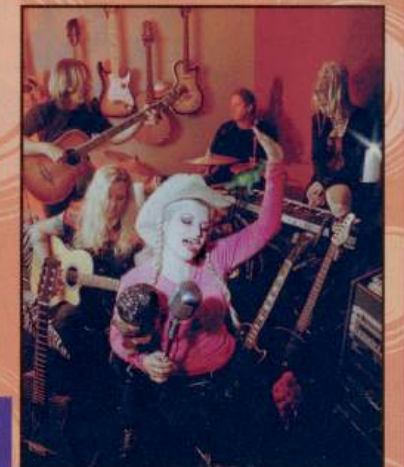
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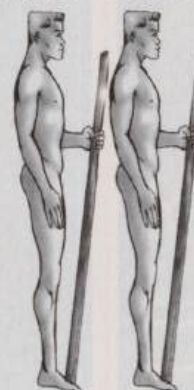


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SignOut

by Lilly Roddy

Well, let's just get this piece of information out of the way. Mercury, planet of communications, contract-signing, and automobiles, is going retrograde on August 29. So, don't start anything new or sign any documents or buy a car after August 25. Mercury will be direct on September 24, and you can get your life back to semi-normal. August is a busy month with things being very crazy during the last week. • Good days for getting out of bed are August 9, 10th, 17th, 18th, 20th, 21st, and 22nd. Days for staying in bed: August 3, 4th, 6th, 7th, 12th, 23rd, 24th, 26th, 28th, and 30th. • The sun leaves the sign of Leo and enters the sign of Virgo on the 23rd. Mercury begins the month in Virgo and remains there. Lovely Venus shines in Leo and methodically moves into Virgo on the 22nd. Mars is sloshing through Pisces retrograde. Jupiter finishes her journey through Leo and enters Virgo on the 27th for a year visit. Saturn remains in Cancer, Uranus in Pisces, Neptune in Aquarius, and Pluto in Sagittarius.



Virgo
Aug. 23–Sept. 22

ARIES (March 21–April 19). You are ready for play this month. And nothing can keep you from enjoying yourself. If you are more work-minded, this is a great time to pitch a new idea, product, or yourself. You are very easygoing, and your relationships are much easier now. Some of this is based on your increased need for security. This will be a two-year theme with you. Finding a place to settle down will increase with strength as the year progresses. At the end of the month, you are more grounded in your work and normal routines.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20). Getting in touch with your family roots and unconscious security issues are your themes for this month. Moving or redecorating is also tickling your brain. And you are more apt to spend money and make investments in these areas of your life. Old family tapes are on, and the volume is turned up full. You will certainly be struggling with what you want to do and what is best for you. Life is easier, and solutions are more easily found as we get closer to the end of the month. Watch what you say. People are listening.

GEMINI (May 21–June 21). As the month opens, you are moving along well in getting your projects completed. You are in a communicative mode. And you are ready to listen as well as give information to others. Relationships are tense by mid-month, and you may feel as though you are pushing just to get the simplest task complete. Your ruler, Mercury, will have reviewed your past by

the end of the month. Bosses and clients are pushy and testy. Avoid sending them the map to hell, even if they need to go.

CANCER (June 22–July 22). The crabs are very serious this year and are making their lists and checking them twice. Normally, they just bury their hurts in the subconscious to be revealed later in therapy. This year they are writing them down and judging everyone and everything in their lives. They will have two columns on these lists: "Save This" and "Rubbish." You are more money-driven this month than usual. Be careful that you don't overspend. Some sanity enters by the end of the month, but it will only be a brief stay.

LEO (July 23–August 22). Birthday parties, laughter, and gaiety are the themes for you this month. You are so much more upbeat than you have been. Yes, there are a few of you who are trying to find the next flight off the planet, but stick around for your kudos. Take a look at where you have been and where you are headed. The future has more possibilities than ever. Work is better, and there are some possible promotions for you this year. Relationships could be better, but where will you ever find the right person to worship royalty?

VIRGO (August 23–September 22). No, you are not having TMJ—you are just gritting your teeth that tightly. Life is a challenge right now, and your tolerance and patience is at an all-time low. Romantic relationships are especially testy. You are not satisfied with your routines, and neither is your partner. If you are looking for a time to seek new directions and life paths, this is it. Just make sure you make the decision before the end of August. Otherwise, you will have to just stew in your own juices.

LIBRA (September 23–October 23). This is a great month to spend with friends or business or community associations. Your charm is just oozing, and people are only too happy to oil their joints. Your serious side is there. You are doing what is important. It must help to build your career or create a greater job security. Someone can aid you in that process, but you may not have much time for him or her. Make a list of your priorities and stick to it.

SCORPIO (October 24–November 21). Career consciousness is your mantra for this month. Personal recognition for the things you do is very important. If you aren't getting this, you may seek other places to work or possibly even change your

current career path. Relationships are not so important this year as you are really seeking an inner partnership with yourself. You can have people around you and even be romantically connected. But, you are more self-focused than usual. That means you have to come first.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22–December 21). The first half of this month is a good time for you to take off and keep a light work schedule. The second half of the month, you will be busy and you may even feel over-committed. Some parts of your business life are in a time of completion and ending. It may be best for you to just let that part go. Romance is in the air, but if it interferes with your work agenda, you won't put it in your day planner. There is an urge to remodel or redecorate your home. You do need a newer environment. Visit your parents.

CAPRICORN (December 22–January 19). Relationships are unmistakably on the menu this month. This is a time of testing and upgrading for you in this area. You are being given the gift of greater vision. And with this improved vision, you can see just where all the relationship problems are. Counseling would help to bring about a clearer picture of who is responsible for what. Some relationships will be strengthened, and some people will be seeking other partners. Your inner secrets must be revealed.

AQUARIUS (January 20–February 18). This is a time of social opportunity and improved relationships for you. In the past, you were not so aware of how much time alone you needed. And you chose partners who were too possessive or too detached. You are able to get these needs met internally, and your own boundary system is working better. Money and shared security values are also big topics for you and your partner this month.

PISCES (February 19–March 20). Mars, planet of action, temper, and forcefulness is spending six months in your sign this year—from June 2003 until December 2003. You are less patient, tolerant, passive, understanding, selfless, calm, composed, compassionate, gentle, forgiving, and nonchalant. Some may think aliens inhabit your body. You may even think that. So if you need courage and energy to do the thing you always wanted to do and just didn't, this is the time to do it.

A professional astrologer for nearly 20 years, Lilly Roddy counsels on an individual basis and teaches classes. Her website is www.hermesfoot.com.



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SceneOut



OUT IN HOUSTON

1 Lisa Keonitzer (l), Michele Cobb (c), and Christina Rodriguez paused during a recent Thursday night at Chances.

2 On April 26, American Coaster Enthusiasts members Brian Peters (l-r), Jon Richius, Alan Shick, Donald Daniel Jr., and Jeffrey L. Seifert previewed new Six Flags AstroWorld rides.

3 Jungle 11 Tribal Heat at Verizon Wireless Theater on April 19 included this buff quartet.

4 Another muscle man from Jungle 11.

5 Lawndale Art Center executive director Chelby King (l) and Sarah Balinskas attended Lawndale's 20th Century Modern Market May 2 preview party.

6 Kofi whipped up the JR's Bar & Grill crowd to promote OutSmart's sponsorship of the Houston engagement of the musical Aida.

7 Models Shasta (l) and Jackie (r) flanked M2M Fashions owner Michael Malik at a June 5 fashion show the clothier presented at South Beach.

8 Many of the entries in the May 10 Art Car Parade offered worthy messages like this one.

9 Tiffany & Co. Houston director Mike McClure (far r) greeted Gary Teixeira and Amy Blumrosen at the May 15 Human Rights Campaign reception at the store.

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