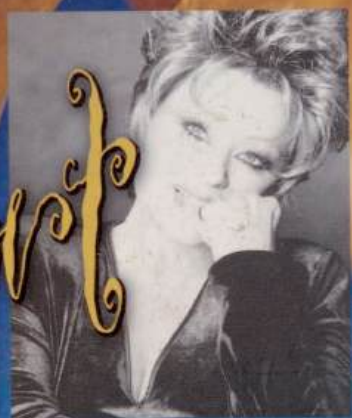


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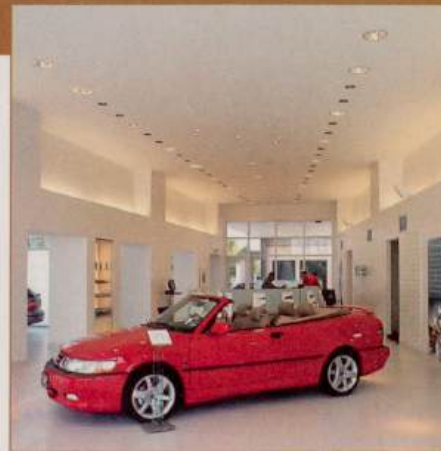


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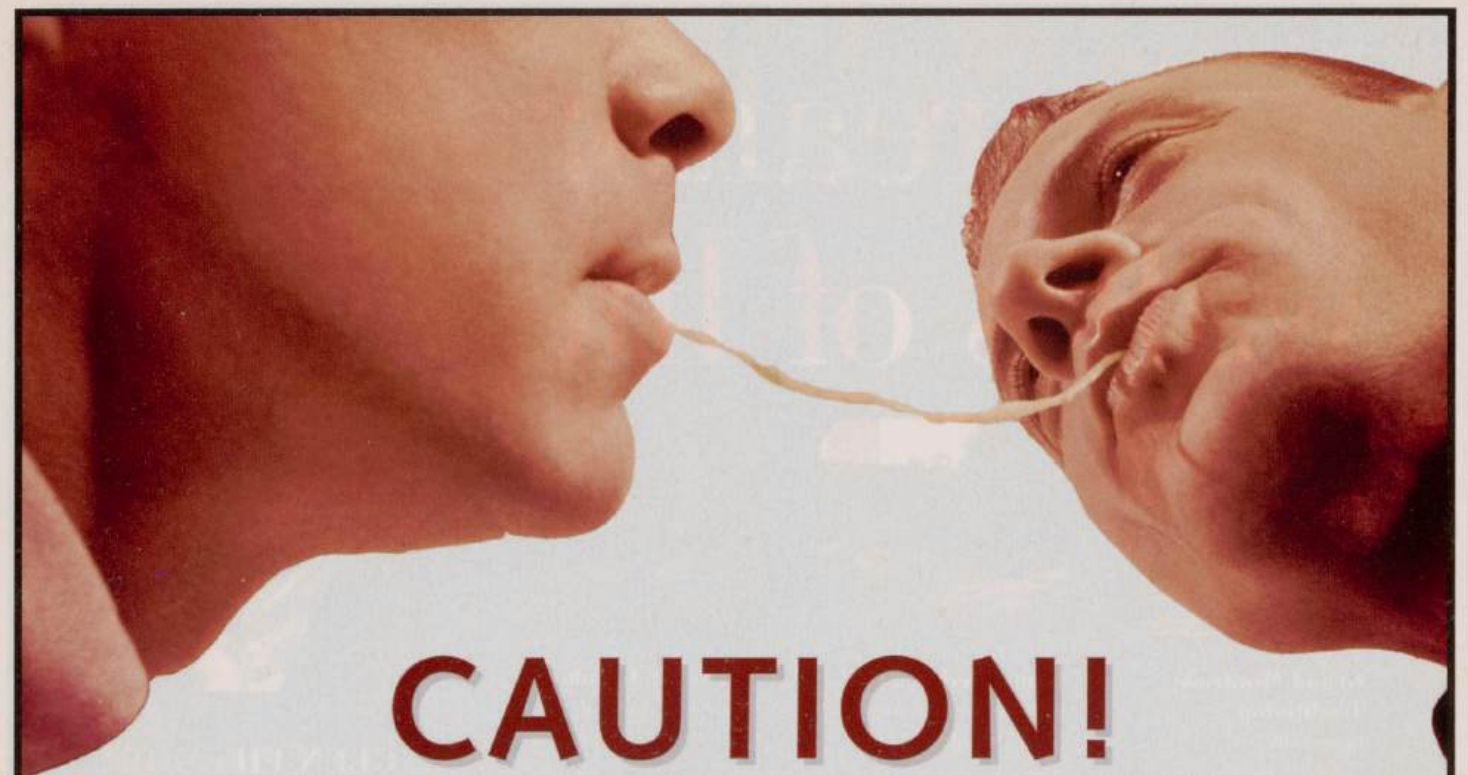
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#### About the cover:

Space City Idol hopeful Tiffany Penn spotlights our arts coverage, along with Jerry Hall, Tammy Faye Messner, and Todd Gresley.

Penn and Gresley photographed for OutSmart by John Conroy. Messner photo from Penguin Books. Hall photo from Broadway Across America. Cover designed by Terry Klumpp.



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## Letters

### WHERE WERE THE CANDIDATES?

Where are all the Democrats? I watched the 25th-anniversary Pride Parade in amazement that only one Houston candidate for mayor showed up and participated.

Sylvester Turner was the only candidate who actually rode in the parade. Is he our local version of Howard Dean?

Are Democrats afraid to show their true colors? Our community deserves better than that. In fact, we must make sure that we get better than that.

Yes, we lost the governor's race last year and the domestic benefits-related Proposition 2 the year before that, but certainly our candidates aren't running scared from what and who they are. Or are they?

Elijah Kabalka  
Houston

### GIVE HER MORE DARYL MOORE

I'm an irregular reader in many respects (ask my friends, my irregularities are multi-layered and variously realmed). I read your publication online only to see what Daryl Moore is up to now—how well his synapses are firing and if he's been on a rant in front of the late news or just in a private trance (alleging that someone is starting a fight with him in his own head). . . . I did want to write in to say that I particularly liked his piece on the terror alert system [LeftOut, May]. . . .

Marie Metcalf  
Louisville, Kentucky

### KUDOS

Thank you very much for a super, super, super article regarding the adventure club [LookOut, July]. Your write-up was the first time the club/me made print, and I am elated about it. This being my first trip, I am a little nervous and hope it all turns out well. I hope I didn't forget anything important! Thank you very much again.

Scott Craig  
Houston

Craig is the founder of the Scotland Yard Adventure Club.

Thank you for the great spread ["Capitol Day," July]. I love it.

Randall Ellis  
Executive Director, Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby  
Austin

The Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby organized the March 16 "Rally for Our Youth/Rally for Our Families," photographed by Yvonne Feece.

Just wanted you to know that we have received many compliments on the OutSmart article ["True Colors," June] and just wanted to thank you again for a job well done. David [Lewis] sure is good at his photography. Tell him that we just tell everyone it was in the eye of the photographer that captured that!

Scott Ashcraft & Charlton Ragan  
Houston

### CORRECTIONS

We printed an incorrect web address regarding the Houston Roughnecks site in "Tough Enough" in our August issue. The URL for the rugby team is [www.roughnecksrugby.org](http://www.roughnecksrugby.org).

**LOVE LETTERS? HATE MAIL?** Tell us what you think about OutSmart. Send to Letters, 3406 Audubon Place, Houston, TX 77006, or e-mail to [letters@outsmartmagazine.com](mailto:letters@outsmartmagazine.com).



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**PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST.** Ryan Fugate re-launches the Positive Art Workshop, the art-class program for individuals with HIV/AIDS, on September 12 at the Houston GLBT Community Center. Patrick Palmer, the much-admired artist and teacher, established the workshop in 1991. Fugate—a Glassell School of Art student and massage therapist—and the center worked with Palmer in taking up the program. Fugate will offer the free classes on alternating Fridays, increasing frequency to weekly as participation grows. (Contact him at [Zeroattack@aol.com](mailto:Zeroattack@aol.com) to register).

Photographed by David Lewis

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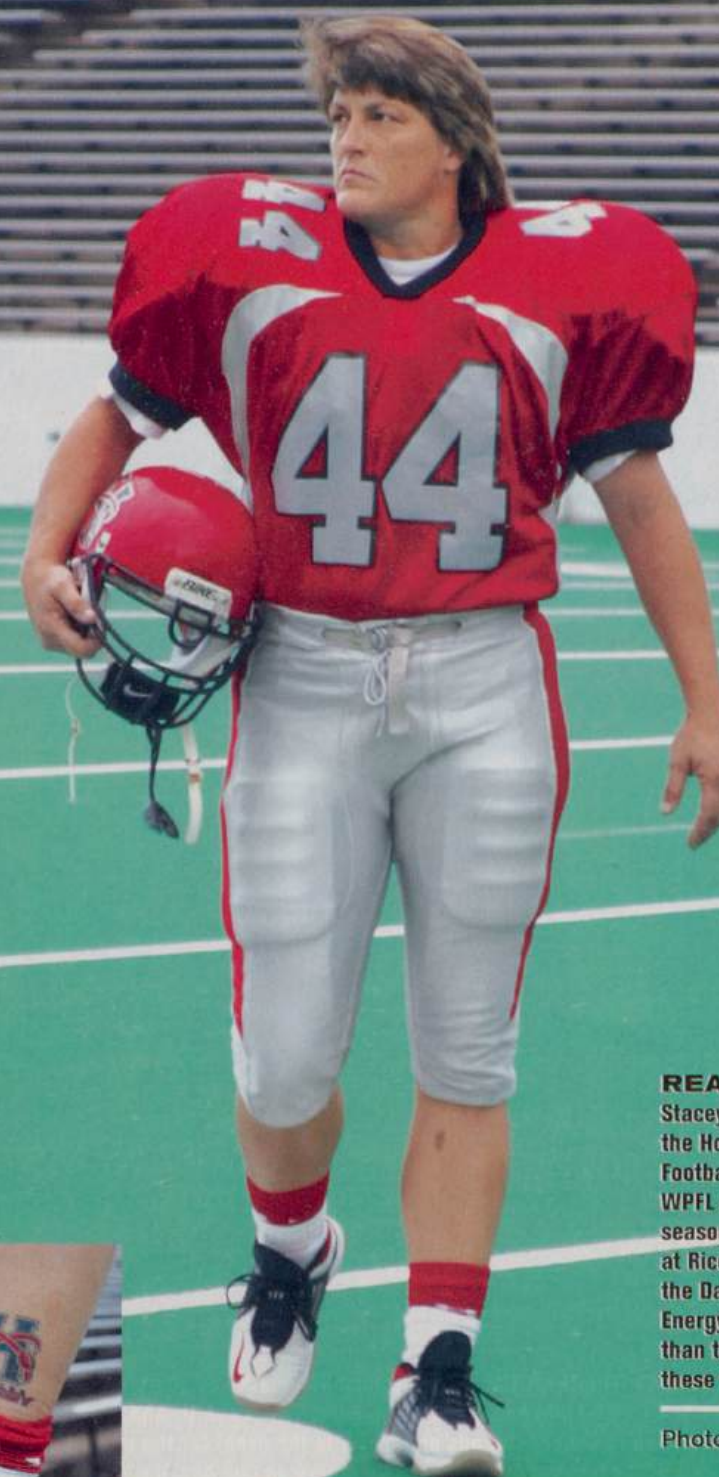
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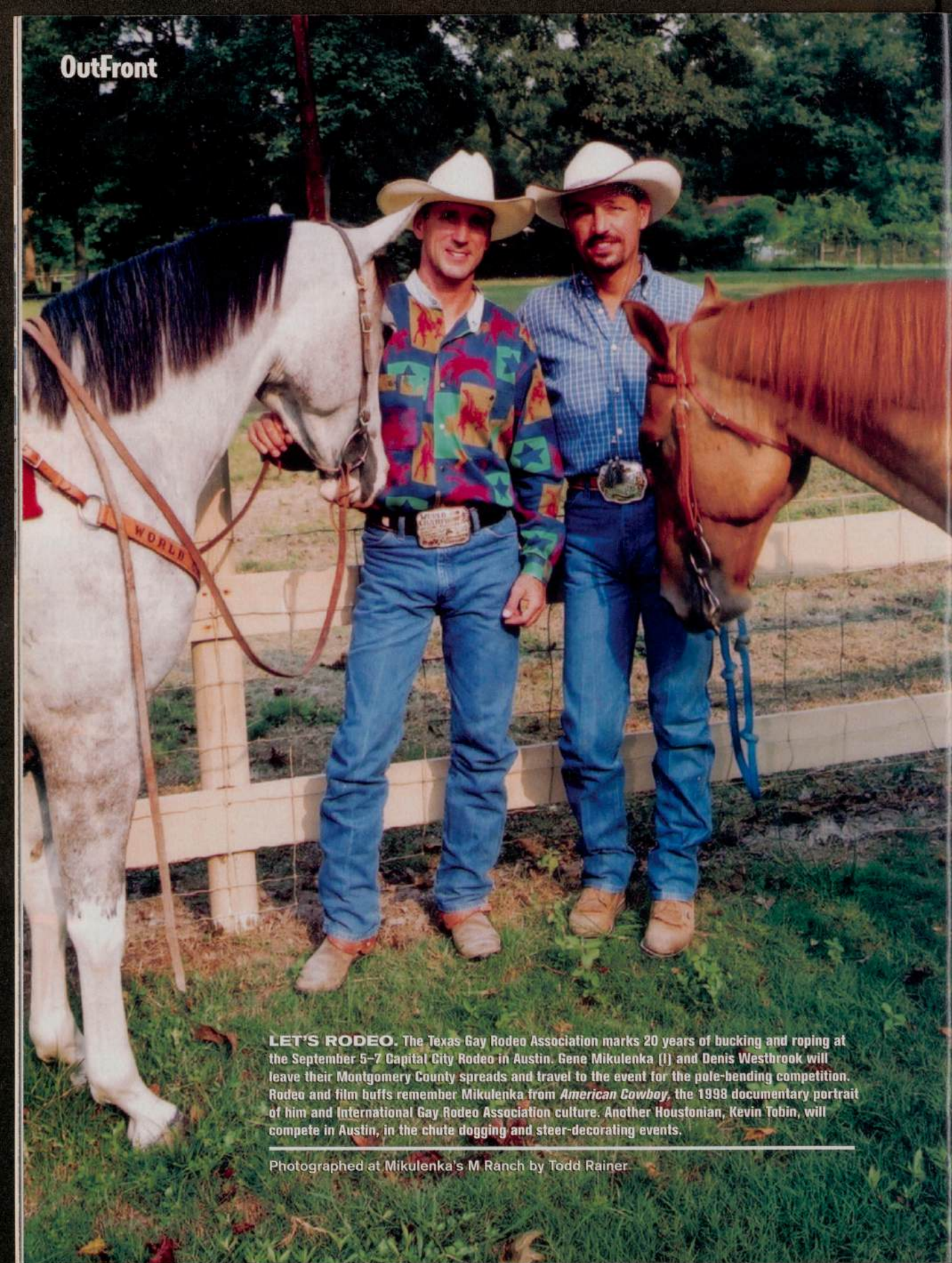
### READY FOR SOME FOOTBALL.

Stacey Raven plays defensive end/linebacker for the Houston Energy of the Women's Professional Football League. On September 6, the defending WPFL champs face the San Diego Sunfire in the season home opener. Three more games this month at Rice Stadium include a September 27 match with the Dallas Diamonds. Coached by Robin Henry, the Energy players make far less and enjoy fewer perks than their male counterparts on the Texans. But these women show up to play.

Photographed in Rice Stadium by John Conroy







**LET'S RODEO.** The Texas Gay Rodeo Association marks 20 years of bucking and roping at the September 5-7 Capital City Rodeo in Austin. Gene Mikulanka (l) and Denis Westbrook will leave their Montgomery County spreads and travel to the event for the pole-bending competition. Rodeo and film buffs remember Mikulanka from *American Cowboy*, the 1998 documentary portrait of him and International Gay Rodeo Association culture. Another Houstonian, Kevin Tobin, will compete in Austin, in the chute dogging and steer-decorating events.

Photographed at Mikulanka's M Ranch by Todd Rainer

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Photographed by David Lewis

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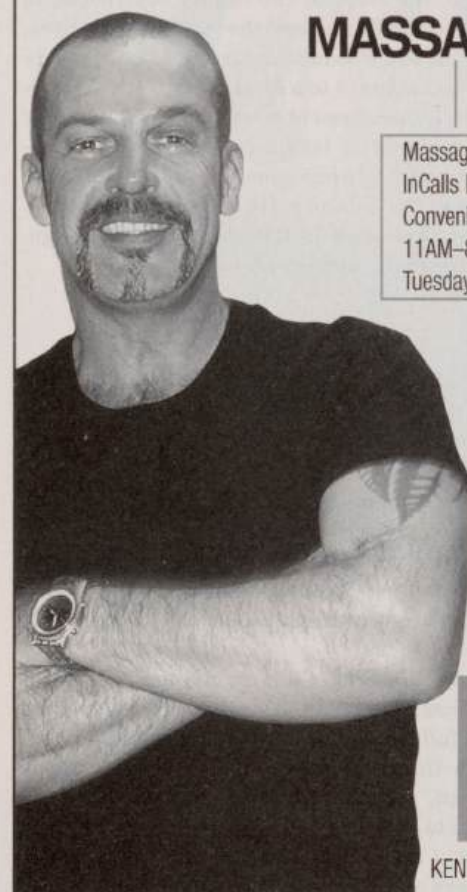
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## AFTER THE VERDICT

**I**mmediately after the announcement of the Supreme Court's sweeping decision in the *Lawrence v. Texas* case, we contacted a number of individuals about their reactions and responses. Even as some conservative backlash—predicted by many pundits, including our Daryl Moore ["Left Out," August]—tempers the initial euphoria, we share these observations of both optimism and caution:

**T**he expansion of our national understanding of privacy benefits GLBT folks and everyone else as well. It makes *Roe v. Wade* more secure and eliminates laws against heterosexual acts in those states where specific acts were considered criminal. We are no longer criminals, and that was immediately persuasive for Wal-Mart to end a policy of discrimination. It dismissed seven cases in Missouri and opened cases in Kansas and California, likely reducing prison time of those involved.

**Ray Hill**  
Activist

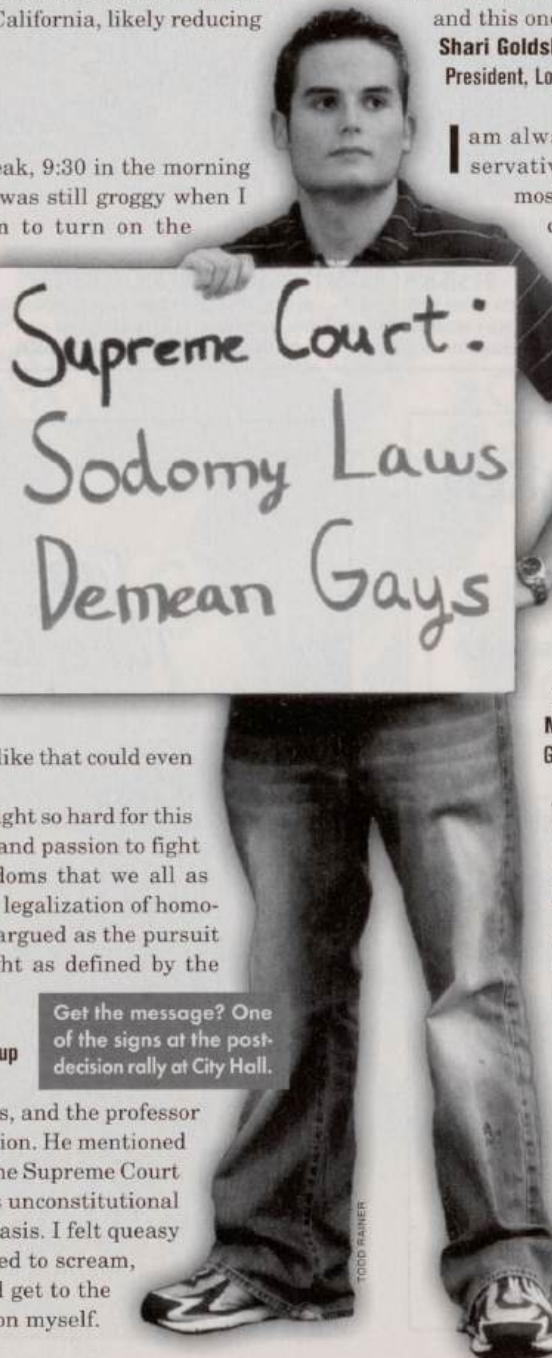
**B**eing a student on summer break, 9:30 in the morning of June 26 came very early. I was still groggy when I stumbled into the living room to turn on the television. I curled up on the Lazy Boy and started to bite at my fingernails as I surfed the news channels. The quote I remember the most was from a CNN reporter, who said, "The Supreme Court has decided to strike down the sodomy laws..." As corny as it sounds, I made my hand into a fist, flexed my arm, and shouted "YES!"

The news anchor continued, "Time for your opinion. Should the U.S. government be able to make laws limiting the freedom of homosexuals?" The fact that a question like that could even be posed made my heart hurt.

Like those who worked and fought so hard for this day to come, I feel the same urge and passion to fight further and work for other freedoms that we all as Americans deserve, including the legalization of homosexual marriage, which could be argued as the pursuit of happiness, an unalienable right as defined by the Declaration of Independence.

**Kenny Sargent**  
President of GLOBAL, the UH student group

**I** was in a constitutional law class, and the professor was talking about equal protection. He mentioned in the lecture that very morning the Supreme Court had held the sodomy law in Texas unconstitutional partially on an equal protection basis. I felt queasy with happiness at first and wanted to scream, but kept it all inside until I could get to the Internet to read the entire decision myself.



Get the message? One of the signs at the post-decision rally at City Hall.

After the initial glow of happiness wore off, I felt a dread about the coming backlash and political ramifications to come. Those supporting the fundamentalist agenda will not take this laying down. And we've seen recently loud talk of an antigay amendment to the constitution barring gay marriage. How ridiculous. How typical of social conservatives. We've seen their naked power grabs before, and this one trumps all.

**Shari Goldsberry**  
President, Log Cabin Republicans-Houston

**I** am always struck by the hypocrisy of self-labeled "conservatives" who advocate government interference in the most intimate adult conduct. And I am pleased when true conservatives recognize that government has no place in the bedrooms of consenting adults.

**Matthew X. Kiernan**  
Matthew Travis Gallery

**O**urs was a tiny rally compared to others, but three of us did appear at the steps of the county courthouse to proudly welcome the legality of our lives. It was a beautifully steamy day. My fliers had referred to a Monday rally (the Thursday announcement wasn't too anticipated by the majority of Islanders), the getting-off-of-work-to-celebrate phenomenon was limited to the bars, and the Island's GLBT population was comfortably welcomed in this community long ago. But we were there, and we celebrated.

**Mike Rogers**  
Galveston

**W**e have just witnessed one of the more historic U.S. Supreme Court cases handed down in the *Lawrence v. Texas* decision, striking down sodomy laws. As with the *Griswold* case in 1965 (the right to access to contraception) that began the first serious right to privacy decision leading to the historic *Roe v. Wade* decision, *Lawrence* will become the legal decision that will eventually lead to the LGBT community's future acceptance as full citizens of this country.

To be a full citizen of this country has been called the "radical gay agenda." Yet, all we simply request is to be full and active members of our society. An agenda that includes a right to marry, adopt children, join the military, not be fired, have access to housing, and even join the Boy Scouts is not a radical agenda. It is the fundamental privilege of straight America denied to the LGBT

# Still undetectable

**Yes!**

**KALETRA** (lopinavir/ritonavir) Still undetectable. Still in control.

**The virus is under control. My HIV therapy is still working. And KALETRA is helping to make a difference.**

**Individual results may vary.**

**KALETRA is indicated for the treatment of HIV infection in combination with other antiretroviral agents.**

**Safety Information**  
Taking KALETRA with certain drugs could create potential for serious and/or life-threatening side effects. KALETRA should not be taken with Halcion®, Hismanal®, Orap®, Propulsid®, Rhythmol®, Seldane®, Tambocon®, Vered®, Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, Rifamate®, Mevacor®, Zocor®, ergot derivatives or products containing St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*). Discuss all medicines, including those without a

therapy. Some patients receiving KALETRA have had large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol. In clinical trials, the most commonly reported side effects of moderate or severe intensity were: abdominal pain, abnormal bowel movements, diarrhea, feeling weak or tired, headache and nausea. This is not a complete list of reported side effects. KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol. **KALETRA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS and does not reduce the risk of passing of HIV to others.**

Please see adjacent page for Patient Information.

**1-800-KALETRA (625-3872)**

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From Research to Reality

**Printed in USA**

**June 2003**

**03E-036-8294-1**



**KALETRA®**  
(lopinavir/ritonavir) capsules  
(lopinavir/ritonavir) oral solution

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

**Patient Information**

**KALETRA®**  
(kuh-LEE-tra)  
Generic Name: lopinavir/ritonavir  
(lop-in-uh-veer/rit-ON-uh-veer)

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

**What is KALETRA and how does it work?**

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

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

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

**Does KALETRA cure HIV or AIDS?**

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

**Does KALETRA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?**

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

**How should I take KALETRA?**

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

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

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

**What happens if I take too much KALETRA?**

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

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

**Who should not take KALETRA?**

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

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

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

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

**Can I take KALETRA with other medications?**

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

**MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA:**

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

**Medicines that require dosage adjustments:**

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

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

- If you are taking oral contraceptives ("the pill") to prevent pregnancy, you should use an additional or different type of contraception since KALETRA may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.
- Efavirenz (Sustiva™) or nevirapine (Viramune®) may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood. Your doctor may increase your dose of KALETRA if you are also taking efavirenz or nevirapine.
- If you are taking Mycobutin® (rifabutin), your doctor will lower the dose of Mycobutin.

- **A change in therapy should be considered if you are taking KALETRA with:**
  - Phenobarbital
  - Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
  - Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

These medicines may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.

**Other Special Considerations:**

- KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take metronidazole or disulfiram. Severe nausea and vomiting can occur.
- If you are taking both didanosine (Videx®) and KALETRA: Didanosine (Videx®) should be taken one hour before or two hours after KALETRA.

**What are the possible side effects of KALETRA?**

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

- The most commonly reported side effects of moderate severity that are thought to be drug related are: 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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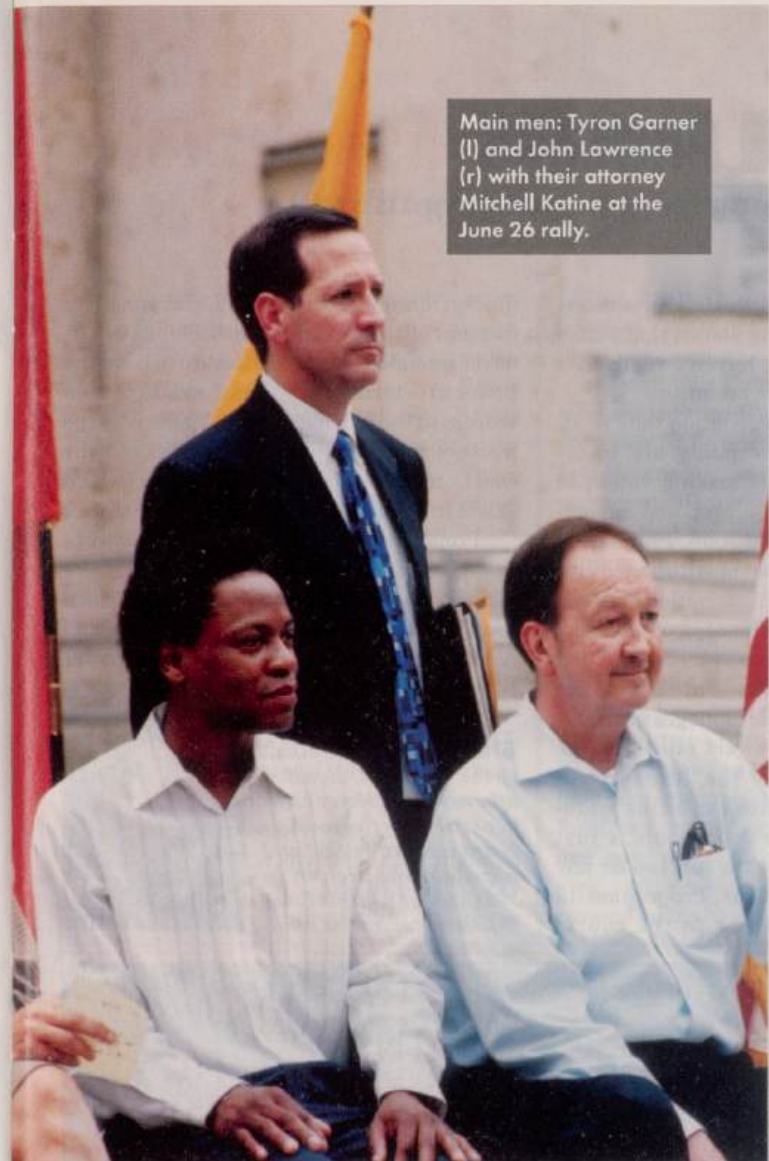
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Main men: Tyron Garner (l) and John Lawrence (r) with their attorney Mitchell Katine at the June 26 rally.

community. The Lawrence decision has begun the process to address discrimination against the LGBT community.

**Dr. Maria C. Gonzalez**  
Department of English  
University of Houston

This is a huge victory that opens many doors for us. That's why social conservatives are so freaked out. All of the legal and advocacy work that's been done in recent years will now have a solid foundation to build on. And courts will be more empowered to rule in favor of GLBT fairness. We win from now on. It may take time, but we will win.

With the presidential election next year, social conservatives will try their best to use the decision against us—especially if we win more of the pending court

cases. But 10 years, 20 years from now, the decision will expedite every piece of legislation we're promoting today—marriage, tax fairness, immigration rights, adoption, military service, and more.

**David Muck**  
Board of Directors  
Human Rights Campaign

While this decision has certainly lit a fire under the butts of those who are against us, I don't really think that this will have a negative domino affect on the gay community. I think there may be more who believe that gays should be allowed to have some sort of marriage in support of equal rights. It may not be called marriage, but what we call it doesn't matter. What counts is the right, not the label. But while

I think the efforts of those right-wing Republicans will be increasing in this area, I don't believe that those efforts will actually turn into anything.

**Jen Meklenburg**  
Hewlett-Packard Company

I heard the news on Lawrence v. Texas on June 26 during the annual general assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association in Boston. Association president Rev. William Sinkford announced the decision from the podium, and the thousands of delegates burst into applause. I felt this liberating news was particularly wonderful in this sea of supportive fellow church members.

**John Kellett**  
First Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston

I don't believe this one decision will lead anywhere. However, I believe the culmination of Stonewall, the AIDS epidemic, the media coverage surrounding AIDS and the gay community, Ellen's first kiss, *Will and Grace*, and this historic decision all lead to increased awareness about the stupidity of some of the laws on our books today. Historically, our country takes 50–75 years to move forward on important issues. Stonewall started the gay rights movement in the '60s, and it took 40 years for us to "legally" be allowed to have sex.

The good news is that the momentum for our rights is building, and I believe we will have the same rights and the same protections as every other American within the next 10–20 years.

**Lea Bogle**  
Owner, Premier Paging & Wireless

My first reaction was *It's about time*. The sexual activity between consenting adults in the privacy of our homes is simply not the government's business, regardless of sexuality. Even though most of us have not had police banging down our doors, it's been an affront to me personally that they could legally do so.

**Jeff Roeske**

I had just entered the house from my morning walk with my Trish and the two dogs. Turned on CNN. I had expected a 5–4 win on equal protection. I was really surprised and pleased by the 6–3 win on right to privacy.

As a 6–3 win on right to privacy, and the complete overturning of all other states' similar laws, it will have a tremendous impact. Heretofore, the rationale for the little-to-minimum protections for LGBTs in jobs, in housing, in adoption, in don't-ask-don't-tell, and in marriage was that we were law breakers. That is, we were listed in the criminal law. With the 6–3 right to privacy removal of those criminal statutes, we can now fight in the courts and legislatures without having one hand tied behind our backs.

There is always a backlash by the haters. Let us call them what they are. They are haters.

**Phyllis Randolph Frye**  
Activist and The Phyllabuster  
www.transgenderlegal.com

As I've gotten older, the desire to live life confined to the gay ghetto has become less important due to the fact that gays and lesbians are less stigmatized on television, in movies, and around our city. This recent decision by the Supreme Court is, in my opinion, long overdue for our entire social movement, and has the support of many of the nation's youth today, regardless of whether we may experience resistance by the older right-wing zealots.

**Jeff Shell**  
Director, Neal Hamil Agency

When the ruling was announced, I was at Mitchell Katine's office with other attorneys and many from the press. Overjoyed, we were all running frantically from office to office to see who had the latest news. Happiness turned to exuberance as the breadth of the decision became clearer. I was in Washington for the Supreme

continued on page 29



## PROTECT THE PROCESS

Vote No on Proposition 12 on September 13

As part of its business this year, the Texas legislature capped non-economic damages in medical malpractice cases. Now Texans who are wrongfully and negligently injured by their doctors can receive a maximum of \$250,000 for pain, suffering, and disfigurement resulting from medical negligence. In other words, if your doctor accidentally cuts off the wrong leg, your pain and suffering is worth \$250,000. Period.

Parents who had lost children to medical negligence, women who had undergone unnecessary mastectomies, and men who had their prostates removed after erroneous lab results testified against the legislation. Opponents pointed out that if juries are competent to impose death sentences on individuals in criminal cases, they are smart enough to assess monetary damages against doctors and hospitals in civil cases.

Still, the doctors and hospitals won. The caps passed as part of a tort-reform package

aimed at reducing malpractice premiums even though studies have shown that states that passed such caps haven't realized a reduction in malpractice premiums.

Unhappy with the legislation they've already gotten, doctors, hospitals, and insurance companies are now asking voters to support Proposition 12, a proposed amendment to the Texas constitution. Proposition 12 would amend the state constitution to give the legislature unfettered discretion in deciding whether to expand the caps on non-economic damages to all types of cases—not just medical malpractice cases—or to banish the recovery of non-economic damages outright.

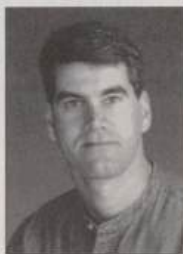
Proposition 12 is a direct attack on the open-courts provision of the Texas constitution, which guarantees citizens unrestricted access to the courts and a just remedy—determined by the courts—for any harm done to such citizens. Proposition 12 makes guaranteed access to the courts

discretionary with the legislature. The framers of the Texas constitution, however, never intended for the legislature to have the power to determine who has the right to seek redress in the judicial system. That's why the framers included guaranteed access to the courts in the open-courts provision, which exists in the constitutions of 40 other states.

Proposition 12 is the legislature's attempt to erode the separation of powers that are inherent in the Texas constitution, and which recognize that the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government share power equally. Indeed, Proposition 12

continued on page 24

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.



## MEND IT, DON'T END IT

Traditional marriage for all retains a place in our society

Opponents of gay marriage often warn that gays want to destroy marriage. This is preposterous and alarmist.

However, in a recent *Washington Blade* column, openly gay law professor Nancy Polikoff indeed argues for "abolishing the legal status of marriage for everyone." There are multiple problems with her radical proposal, which boil down to: It shouldn't happen, it ain't gonna happen, and it needlessly fuels the opposition to gay marriage.

Since the 1970s, there has been an undercurrent of opposition to marriage on the gay left. Lesbian feminists have criticized its sexist roots, including long-discarded laws subordinating wives to husbands. Gay male sexual liberationists have seen it as stultifying, directing people into dreary, traditional patterns of living.

When the idea of gay marriage caught on in the early 1990s, thanks in part to gay conservatives like Andrew Sullivan, these

critics initially dismissed it as "assimilationist." We're not "just like straights," they like to say, and we don't want to be.

The argument for gay marriage depends, however, on the idea that gays are "just like straights" in every important respect. Gay couples are just as capable of love, commitment, mutual caretaking, and raising children.

Polikoff acknowledges that marriage confers important advantages to married couples in everything from health benefits to taxation. Gay couples, she agrees, should get these benefits.

But, Polikoff argues, everyone else should get them, too. "A legal system that gives benefits to married couples but withholds those benefits from other types of relationships that help people flourish and fulfill critical social functions harms many people, both straight and gay," she writes. A man caring for his sick mother should be able to have her covered on his health insurance, for example.

A woman should not lose her home to pay estate taxes when her cohabiting sister dies.

The main problem, according to Polikoff and other critics, is that marriage privileges some relationships over others. If gay marriage is allowed, it will still favor married couples over unmarried couples and other relationships. Indeed, under Polikoff's argument, it's hard to see why legal recognition should be limited to couples. Why not recognize relationships of three, four, or more people?

There are good reasons to reject Polikoff's idea. The institution of marriage represents

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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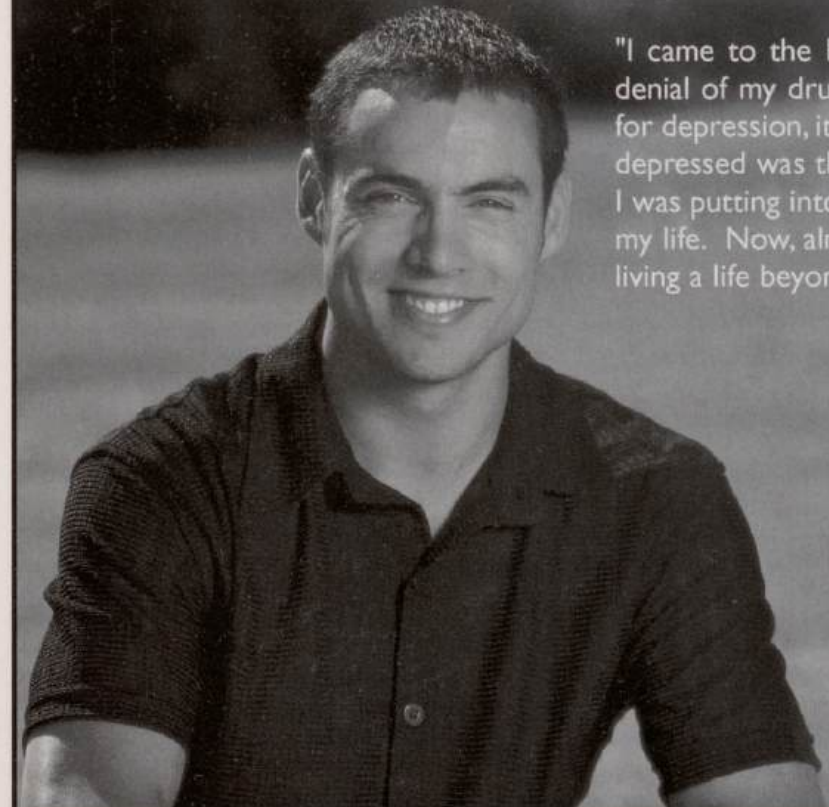
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**DAWN NELSON, LMSW-ACP**  
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### LeftOut continued from page 22

tion 12 is nothing more than a self-serving attempt by the legislature to increase its own power at the expense of the judicial branch.

In an attempt to shore up its chances of obtaining passage of the ill-conceived proposal, the legislature set the vote on Proposition 12 for September 13, a Saturday on which no other elections are scheduled. The legislature could have scheduled a vote on the amendment at the same time Houston is holding its election for city offices. That would have been significantly cheaper. The legislature chose not to do so, however, because it feared that a high minority voter turnout would decrease the likelihood of the amendment's passage.

So, the legislature picked a day when nothing will be on the ballot except proposed constitutional amendments with the hope that doctors, hospitals, insurance companies, and other big-business interests will turn out in sufficient numbers to pass the amendment.

What the legislature did not anticipate is that a broad array of groups would recognize the legislature's attempt to steal constitutional power from the judiciary and would lobby to defeat the proposal. Organizations including the American Association of Retired Persons, the GI Forum of Texas, the Older Women's League, Texas Advocates of Nursing Home Residents, and the United Farm Workers have coalesced to condemn Proposition 12's ridiculous rewriting of the Texas democratic process.

Gay, lesbian, and transgender persons should join these groups and voice their opposition to Proposition 12 by voting no on September 13. The Texas legislature does not need to have the constitutional ability to increase its power at the expense of the Texas judiciary or Texas citizens. ■

### OutRight continued from previous page

an enormous social investment, both in the couple and in the children they often raise. Every single one of the more than 1,000 marital benefits granted at the state and federal levels costs us money, whether it's in the form of a Social Security death benefit or tax breaks on transfers of wealth between spouses.

There are many reasons we make that huge investment in marriage but not in other relationships. Marriage adds to social stability, including by curbing promiscuity. It furnishes caretakers to individuals who would otherwise rely on the state. Married people are healthier and wealthier than single people or unmarried cohabitants. Marriage affords a secure environment for children, who do better in married households. Even with today's high divorce

rates, marital relationships are also more enduring, which makes our investment in them all the wiser.

Why do they last longer? Partly because of the benefits they get. But mostly, I think, because of the tremendous social support they receive. This support comes out of our history and tradition, not mere laws. The powerful social expectation of marriage becomes equally powerful encouragement and assistance from family and friends for the couple to stay together.

Marriage is important for the social affirmation it offers gay relationships, not just for the legal benefits. Not even a landmark Supreme Court decision can offer that deep affirmation, contrary to what Polikoff suggests. No "civil union" or "domestic partnership" can offer it either.

By marrying, couples signal to society in a culturally and historically unique way the strength of their commitment. No other relationship can quite replicate that signal. Society understandably rewards the married couple's public commitment, but cannot be as confident about the durability or depth of other arrangements.

There is nothing inherently wrong with extending some benefits to other caring relationships. Maybe a son should be able to secure health benefits for his ailing mother. But every extension of benefits entails financial costs. Each of these proposed benefits should be weighed on its own merits, applied to those relationships that seem more than transient.

Polikoff probably assumes that abolishing marriage means everyone would get its goodies. At last, health care for all! Don't bet on it. The more likely outcome is that standard marital benefits would be eliminated to help pay for benefits accorded the newly recognized relationships. The social investment in former marriages would decrease, diminishing the return we all get from that bygone institution.

Marriage, with its culturally and historically rich meaning, and its critical role in children's upbringing, deserves its privileged position. There's just too much at stake to abolish it.

Because of its special place in our culture, and because of its reach far back into our history, marriage isn't going anywhere any time soon. So proposals to end marriage are a nice parlor game for academics, but nothing more.

In this case, though, the game has political consequences. Already a leading opponent of gay marriage, Stanley Kurtz has cited Polikoff's and others' work as proof that gays are out to destroy marriage.

Polikoff and Kurtz are wrong. We aren't fighting for the right to marry only to see our marriages abolished. ■

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## VOICES FROM THE GRAVE

Two late activists would despair at the HIV/AIDS resurgence

Earlier this month I was horrified, but not surprised, to read that new HIV cases among gay and bisexual men jumped for the third year in a row, up more than 17 percent in three years after declining each year since the early '90s. Has HIV/AIDS come full circle in this country? Propelled by "miracle" drugs, message burnout, the Internet, and too many younger, still healthy, risk-loving men, has the epidemic outflanked our best efforts?

What pain the numbers would have caused Lou Vanech and Gene Harrington. After devoting decades to the struggle for equal rights and HIV/AIDS causes, Lou and Gene would have thrown down the newspaper and yelled at the top of their weakened lungs: "How did we let this happen? Why do they care so little about themselves and others?"



Lou Vanech

*Don't they see how this recklessness revives old stereotypes and hurts the HIV/AIDS struggle?"*

As you may know, Lou Vanech died July 11 at 51 from heart-related AIDS complications just a few weeks before this latest AIDS report hit the news. His good friend Gene Harrington died at 62 just after Christmas. The two activists died knowing they would have to pass on this new challenge to others.

Lou had been one of the most active members of the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus. He was also active in the Stone Soup Pantry and ACT Up. For the last two



Gene Harrington

years of his life, Lou chaired the Ryan White Planning Council, which oversees the local use of federal funds for HIV/AIDS treatment. Gene, a widely respected Texas Southern University law professor, had been quite active in the caucus; the Houston AIDS Equity League, which he founded; and the Texas Human Rights Foundation.

On the surface, the two friends seemed so different—the sophisticated, witty Gene Harrington, at home in a tux or Scottish kilt, the consummate party host and fundraiser; Lou, the down-to-earth geologist-turned-furniture restorer who carried himself with a gracious humility. How dedicated they both were, almost to their dying day. Both gave hundreds and hundreds of hours of unpaid

volunteer work for the community. The loss of two such stalwarts and friends in seven short months leaves a hole in the heart of the community. Others will step up to take their place. They knew that, too. And that provides some comfort to those whose worlds will be forever quieter without them.

To those who, for whatever reason, knowingly risk infection, I suggest you attend the next AIDS memorial. You'll have many opportunities. Or spend 30 minutes reading panels of the AIDS quilt. Note how many of our finest young men, women, and children died in the early '80s, long before drug cocktails. Lou and Gene may not have had the chance to say this to you, but allow me: Take advantage and heed the lessons of their lives and sacrifices. They would have given anything to be young and healthy again, knowing everything about HIV/AIDS that we know today. They gave everything.

Give yourself a second chance at life.



Annise Parker is serving her third term in Houston City Council At-large Position 1 and is a candidate for city controller. To receive her bi-monthly e-mail newsletter, contact [annise.parker@cityofhouston.net](mailto:annise.parker@cityofhouston.net) or call 713/247-2014. Her website is [www.ci.houston.tx.us/citygov/council/1](http://www.ci.houston.tx.us/citygov/council/1).

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# TO BETTER HEALTH

Medicos urge candor for all and complete exams for women

Originally, for this article my editor gave me the angle "What medical professionals wish their GLBT patients would tell them." In interviewing some local medical people, however, I found some good news on that front and some cause for awareness.

The good news: There's nothing a GLBT patient need tell a physician to better suit medical treatment. No dentists we talked to claimed gay teeth require treatment unique from that of straight teeth, no pun intended (though in July a New Hampshire dentist lost his state license for refusing to treat a lesbian patient). No ophthalmologist claimed gay eyes are any different from straight eyes (except maybe they have a little more sparkle). One chiropractor commented that he likes to know where his GLBT patients learned about him, so he knows where to advertise, but that's hardly a medical issue, is it Dr. Down-to-Business?

A few psychotherapists remarked that some patients wrestle with sexual identity crises, which of course is not limited to the GLBT community. If you're among that group, consider counseling.

But the major noteworthy input came from obstetrician/gynecologists. Apparently, some lesbians believe they do not require regular Pap smears if they have never had intercourse with a man. Regardless of sexual activity, Pap smears—tests for female genital cancer—are necessary. The OB/GYNs we talked to have noticed a large number of lesbians who do not have regular mammograms (of course, lack of insurance can more frequently be a health-care impediment for women than for men). As the son of a breast cancer survivor, this writer



Carolyn Gardiner, M.D., P.A.

urges you to perform regular self-checks and take the time for an annual checkup. The price of negligence is way too costly, on you, your partner, your family, and friends.

Here's what some of the medical people we talked to had to say.

**Barbara Levinson, Ph.D., RN, LMFT**  
**Center for Healthy Sexuality**

"I don't think gays, lesbians, and bisexuals have the market on any particular problem. When someone comes to see me, it might be for sexually compulsive behavior, intimacy problems in a relationship, lack of sexual desire or arousal. These are problems that people—no matter what their sexual orientation—have. I might have to take a look at the situation if they have some internalized homophobia, as you would for anyone who was having problems with their own self-esteem and not liking themselves. Some people have identity issues or are not comfortable with their sexual preferences and want to explore that."

## FOR MORE HELP

The nonprofit **Lesbian Health Initiative (LHI)** promotes women's health in the GLBT community. LHI will have an information booth at the October 25 Houston Women's Festival at Jones Plaza downtown. The next LHI Health Fair at Montrose Clinic is set for June 14, 2004. The website [www.lhihouston.org](http://www.lhihouston.org) provides details and links to other useful health sites, including [www.thebreastcancersite.com](http://www.thebreastcancersite.com), [www.womenalive.org](http://www.womenalive.org), and [www.mamm.com](http://www.mamm.com).

Though not specifically targeted to lesbians, the October 18 health fair sponsored by the **Houston Gynecological & Ob-**



**stetrical Society** will serve all women through a range of no-cost tests and screenings. Offered on a first-come, first-served basis, these include exams for bone density/osteoporosis, cancer awareness, hormone replacement therapy, and pulmonary function. The health fair will be held at the Joseph P. McGovern Museum of Health & Medical Science (1515 Hermann Dr.). More info: [www.hgos.org](http://www.hgos.org), 713/661-1839.

**Carolyn L. Gardiner, M.D.**  
**Women's Health**

"I've had heterosexual people who I wish would be more forthcoming with information rather than me having to try to pry things out of them. And I can say that's equally found with folks who are homosexual as well. I don't really see any difference. The only difference I can see with regard to gay and lesbian issues, especially lesbian issues, has to do with misconceptions regarding what ladies need with regard to preventative health care. A lot of ladies think that if they've never been sexually active with a gentleman, they don't need a Pap smear, which is completely untrue. I just find in my own practice that heterosexual women are a lot more apt to come in and have a routine mammogram on a yearly or every-other-year basis than, say, a lesbian would. I'm not sure why that is."

**Sterling H. Weaver II, M.D.**  
**Gynecologist** (who will soon offer free, regular healthy-women exams at the Houston GLBT Community Center)

"One of the things that I often find is with my lesbian patients—they are often reticent to tell me that they actually have male sexual partners. I ask all patients whether they have males, females, or both as their sexual partners in a nonjudgmental way so I have a better idea as to how to treat them. It is indeed very helpful for me as part of their screening and risk assessment to know that they have other sexual partners and partners that are male. I can then counsel them a little bit differently regarding their risk for sexually transmitted diseases and that sort of thing."

"For whatever reason, many [lesbians] limit their access to health care until they absolutely need it. A lot of female patients who don't have male sexual partners feel as if their risk for sexually transmitted diseases is less than a woman's who has male sexual partners. New literature is stating that is not true. Many sexually transmitted diseases can be passed from woman to woman, especially HPV (human papilloma virus). I've been urging my patients that not only do they need to be tested but they need to have their partner tested as well, especially if their partner has a history of sexual relationships with men."

Eric Dieckman reported on the new Cabo Montrose in the August issue.

Court oral argument on the *Lawrence* case and knew we were witnesses to history that day, and I cried as I read the glorious words of Justice Kennedy. Though we have a long way to go, on June 26, 2003, America took a mammoth step towards once again being a global civil rights leader, and a GLBT-equal rights juggernaut was unleashed.

**John A. Nechman**  
**Attorney**

On Friday night, June 27, the day after the decision, in my opening curtain speech at a performance of *Jerker*, which, bizarrely enough, deals with having phone sex in the privacy of your home, I started off with "What fabulous news from the U.S. Supreme Court. Now with yesterday's decision, you won't have to have sex outside anymore."

**Joe Watts**  
**Artistic Director, Theatre New West**

I am very concerned [about a backlash]—not about the decision, but about how we react to it. 1. I have heard too many people refer to the fact that now we are legal. This is not the case. Our actions behind closed doors are not illegal. That does not validate our existence or our rights. It is very comparable

to the Don't Ask, Don't Tell philosophy. We as a group, society, and community have still not been validated in a public light. 2. I fear that in order to smooth waters after this decision we will suffer a refusal on other very important cases, such as same-gender marriages, that could go before the courts. This is not to invalidate the magnitude of this decision but rather to put into perspective what we could possibly be denied in the future.

**Jason Cryer**  
**Assistant Director of Development, The Assistance Fund a.k.a SoFonda St. John**  
**Empress, Royal Sovereign & Imperial Court of the Single Star of Houston**

Having been "out and about" since before Stonewall, I was and still am ecstatic about the decision. As soon as I heard the decision, I called or e-mailed the great news to friends. One straight friend cried with joy, and everyone almost shouted their happiness.

I believe that this decision will make it easier for persons who are GLBT to accept that it's OK to be who we are and at the same time will make it easier for us to come out and live as the persons we really are.

Sure, I'm concerned about the backlash from the religious and political right extremists. We've already seen evidence of that in very high levels in government and churches, but this decision has removed the power and cover of respectability they had of a law that prohibited us from legally engaging in private, consensual sex with each other. I very much wish that same-gender unions would be given all of the legal rights and privileges of unions between persons of opposite genders. I am not, however, as concerned as many people are that such unions must be called marriages, but certainly don't see any sound theological reason why they shouldn't be. A marriage is a legal contract between two people, which may or may not be blessed by a church. By insisting that same-gender unions be called marriages, I fear that we could be giving ammunition to the religious right to drag out for years the granting to same-gender couples the same legal rights and privileges given to opposite-gender couples.

**Rev. Ralph Lasher**  
**Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church**

For more reactions, check out our website at [www.outsmartmagazine.com](http://www.outsmartmagazine.com)

## CHAMBER HOSTS GAY AD EXPERT, PREPARES FOR EMPOWER

Michael Wilke of the Commercial Closet Association, which tracks advertising that depicts GLBT people, will present his video compilation of good and bad TV spots at the Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce monthly dinner meeting on September 9.

Sponsored by IBM, the 6:30 event at the Holiday Inn Select is open to the public. The cost is \$25 for chamber members, \$35 for nonmembers.

Wilke, a business journalist, is executive director of the New York-based nonprofit Commercial Closet organization. He writes a syndicated bimonthly advertising column that appears on Gay.com, AdForum.com, and in gay newspapers nationwide.

### Empower

Highlights of the September 20-21 Empower business and community expo include the following:

- Justin Nelson, co-founder of the



Mike Wilke of the Commercial Closet

National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, will speak at a Saturday-morning event.

- Marla Duckler, the Klein High School student who battled administration opposition to establish a gay/straight alliance at her school, will offer advice about starting similar groups during a forum.

- Service technicians from Randall Reed Ford will give a car-buying seminar.

Other features of the two-day event at the George R. Brown Convention Center will include an artists' venue and musical performances. The chamber expects to top the 150 business and nonprofit group vendors that participated last year, according to executive director Coy Tow.

"We're trying to make it more and more of a consumer show," Tow said.

The \$5 admission includes entry in a raffle of a seven-day Crystal Cruise sponsored by Aquafest. ■





## ***The new arts season promises plenty of electric moments***

by D.L. Groover

If we could just harness all the electricity that gets produced here on/in our Bayou City stages,

museums, and performance art spaces and transmit it to the northeast quadrant, New York City would never go dark again.

Here is but a sampling of the power and excitement that our Houston arts generate (check [www.outsmartmagazine.com](http://www.outsmartmagazine.com)

for even more information on events throughout the season). Don't be left in the dark. Go see something. →





## A.D. PLAYERS

2710 Alabama • 713/526-2721  
www.adplayers.org

### • Anastasia

April 30-June 6, 2004

Respected for its Christian family values, Jeannette Clift George's theater company isn't usually the first venue our GLBT community would think to attend, but after last season's superlative production of Tim Slover's George F. Handel-inspired *Joyful Noise*, we look forward to their late-season *Anastasia*. This is the same tele-drama by Marcelle Maurette that transferred so successfully to Broadway and Hollywood (winning Ingrid Bergman a second Oscar). An amnesiac found on the Paris streets by a Russian con man is passed off by him as the long-dead daughter of Russia's last czar. The recognition scene between the wary, icy grandmother and the young woman is one of theater's magic moments. This big, suspenseful romantic drama is the kind they don't write any more.

## ALLEY THEATRE

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www.alleytheatre.org

### • Fully Committed

October 17-November 16, 2003

Restaurant haute culture gets skewed oh-so-nicely in Becky Mode's hilarious satire. In a tour de force role, Jamison Stern gets to be the power broker from hell as he mans the phone reservations for Manhattan's hottest new eatery. He also gets to be about 39 other characters from harried maitre d' to Naomi Campbell whining for the best table. Next time you're at Tony's or Café Annie, you'll realize why this play is so damned on target. Savory and delicious.

### • Proof

January 9-February 1, 2004

For his second full-length play, author David Auburn hit solid gold. Not only did his mathematical mystery play snatch the Tony away from Tom Stoppard's *Invention of Love*, but it garnered the Drama Desk Award and the Pulitzer Prize, too. Not bad for a drama that weaves together mental illness, genius, mathematical theorems, romance, handwriting analysis, and ghosts. Not nearly so worldly wise as it would like us



FULL MONTY: CAROL ROSEGG; URINETOWN: JOAN MARCUS



The casts of *The Full Monty* (above) and *Urinetown* (left) light up the Hobby Center.

to believe, Auburn's conventions (especially the old canard of "genius=madness") entertain and make us think nevertheless. John Tyson, Elizabeth Heflin, Elizabeth Bunch, and Ty Mayberry portray the dysfunctional quartet.

### • A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum

May 14-June 6, 2004

Stephen Sondheim's first solo foray into music and lyrics, with a book by Burt Shevelove and Larry Gelbart, produced his best show. A combo platter of Plautus, vaudeville schtick, and burlesque groaners, this witty musical comedy is a pleasure from overture to curtain call. Sexy and silly, it plants a big wet kiss while squirting you with seltzer. This is a rare Alley foray into Broadway musical territory, and they will have a ball. So will you.

## BAYOU CITY CONCERT MUSICALS

Ovations (2536 Times Blvd.)  
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### • She Loves Me

September 10-13, 2003

Alley resident company member Paul Hope continues his string of ab-fab concert re-stagings of Broadway musicals with this delectable soufflé from Harnick and Bock (creators of *Fiorello!*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and *The Apple Tree*). Based on a play by Miklos Laszlo, this musical delight brims with whipped cream and romance as two co-workers bristle during store hours but are secret admirers in anonymous correspondence. Co-directed by David Thome with musical direction by Stephen Jamail, this buoyant and witty musical stars Kevin Cooney, returning to the Houston stage after years in California, and the sparkling Chesley Santoro. An encore staging is set for January 26 at the Hobby Center.

## BROADWAY IN HOUSTON

Hobby Center  
• 713/622-SHOW  
www.broadwayacrossamerica.com

Yes, the big news is the February 3-24 arrival of the Mel Brooks romp *The Producers*, but there is more to the season. Texas girl Jerry Hall seduces in *The Graduate* (September 23-October 5). See page 40 for our interview with Hall. The men of *The Full Monty* strip down (November 4-16). Citizens rise up against a private-toilet monopoly in the wicked *Urinetown* (March 30-April 11). Two show-biz classics, *42nd Street* (May 12-23) and *Oklahoma* (July 6-18), complete the season.

—Victor Zorn

S.P.A.

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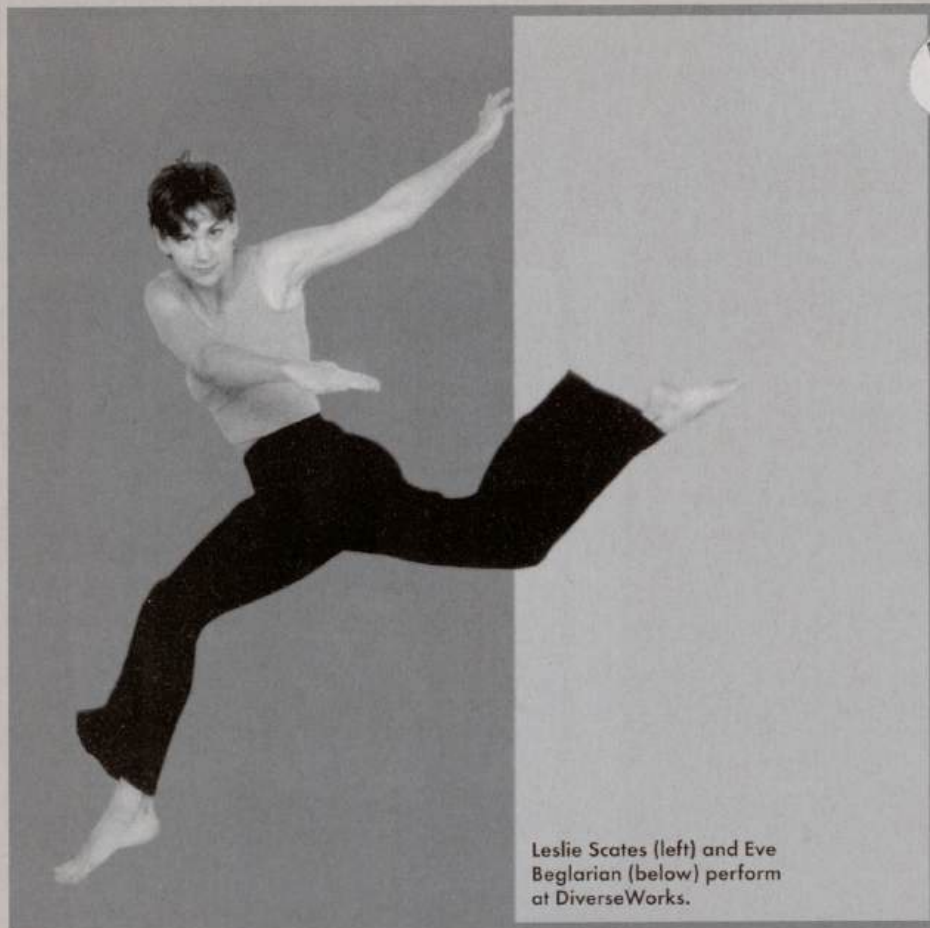
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Leslie Scates (left) and Eve Beglarian (below) perform at DiverseWorks.



THIS PAGE - DIVERSEWORKS



## COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE

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www.countryplayhouse.org

### • *The Lion in Winter*

September 12-October 4, 2003

What family doesn't have its little ups and downs," muses she-wolf Eleanor of Aquitaine as her family implodes during their plots against dad/husband Henry II. Christmas with the royals takes on a whole new meaning in James Goldman's 1966 award-winning play, best known for the 1968 film adaptation with Peter O'Toole and Katharine Hepburn. This earthy and gleefully corrupt family is replete with betrayals, murderous machinations, homoeroticism, and dysfunction. Just like home.

### • *A Chorus Line*

January 16-February 7, 2004

To some Broadway babies, this 1975 Michael Bennett/James Kirkwood/Marvin Hamlisch show is the ultimate Broadway musical. It is a classic and hit the Great White Way with a revolutionizing big bang. The 18 "gypsies," desperately auditioning for eight anonymous places in the chorus, reveal their inner selves in vignettes that are heart-breaking, sentimental, sappy, humiliating, yet uplifting in a masochistic way. After collective hearts get stomped on, you feel jubilant that the remaining eight finally get to be in a show, even one as mundane as the final number seems to indicate.

## DA CAMERA OF HOUSTON

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www.dacamera.com

It's an art-and-music combo all season long with Houston's own chamber music presenter. Opening night (October 4, Wortham Center) pairs musical jewels with masterpieces from NYC's Museum of Modern Art: Picasso's *Three Musicians* with a Haydn trio and *Pulcinella Suite*; Gauguin's *The Seed of the Areoi* with Ravel's *Chansons madécasses*; Matisse's *Goldfish with Palette* with Debussy's *Poissons d'or*. October 28 brings the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir with music from the Russian Orthodox Church (Wortham Center). On November 8 (Wortham Theater), jazz superstar saxophonist Joshua Redman makes his Houston debut. On December 9,

Now that food had replaced sex in Jake's life, he couldn't even get into his own pants.

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DaCamera showcases Lucy Shelton, soprano, and Sarah Rothenberg, piano, in Russian avant-garde music of the revolution. The younger musical generation exemplified by the Miro Quartet gets down with Charles Ives and George Crumb. Bach's *Well-Tempered Clavier* and Shostakovich's *24 Preludes and Fugues* will be alternately played on harpsichord and piano on April 26 (Menil Collection) by Sarah Rothenberg and John Gibbons.

## DIVERSEWORKS

1117 East Freewa/N. Main @ Naylor  
• 713/223-8346  
[www.diverseworks.org](http://www.diverseworks.org)

Houston's premiere cutting-edge performance and visual arts facility celebrates its 20th anniversary, and, rest assured, they won't be giving us china. Choreographer Sarah Irwin returns for the opening program on October 3 and 4 in her world premiere *Vanish. Abundance*

arrives December 11-13. Co-commissioned by DiverseWorks and created by Obie-winner Marty Pottenger, this multi-media show asks How much money is too much? DiverseWorks favorites Eve Beglarian and Phil Kline make a timely Valentine's arrival on February 13-14 with their homoerotic song cycle based on Pierre Louys's paean to Bilitis. And watch the skies between March 16 and 23 when Jennifer Monson flies in for her *Bird Brain—Ducks and Geese Tour*, a "multi-year navigational dance project" performed at various outdoor locations. Birds of a different feather will flock March 13-May 1 to Janet Biggs and Barbara Pollack's *PG-13 / Male Adolescent Identity in the Age of Video Culture*, a video exploration of young male gender and the influence of pop culture. To celebrate gay pride, gay artists will be represented by *shOUT!* and *Queer Poetry Slam*, May 14-June 26.

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November 6, 2003

Blessed with a superabundance of Houston Ballet dancers, DWDT can dance the hell out of anything. Its second season showcases choreographer/founder Walsh's narrative *Miller's Daughter*, set to Schubert's nature-loving, boy-meets-girl/boy-loses-girl 1823 song cycle *Die Schöne Müllerin*. Also on the program: Ayman Harper's *Bed Fears*, *Dream Piles*. On December 1, Walsh co-presents the Illumination Project at DiverseWorks in collaboration with DiverseWorks and Hope Stone, Inc. The performance benefits the Pediatric AIDS Initiative of Baylor College of Medicine and A Caring Safe Place, Inc.

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Specific dates were not available at press time, so here are tentative times from the gals who brought you the greasy yet tasty *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom*, *Porn Stars Gone Bad*, and *Zastrozzi, the Master of Discipline*.

continued on page 50

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## Space City Idol

**IDOLIZED.** Only a few more weeks remain to cheer on and vote for fave contestants in the Space City Idol competition. Inspired by that little program on Fox and launched in August, the weekly show presented by the Imperial Court of Houston-Space City Empire features local talents performing on Thursday nights at Michael's Outpost. Online balloting and tips earned (proceeds benefit AssistHers and Camp Hope) determine the winners and the booted-off. The final Idol will receive a cash prize and will perform at the court's October 4 coronation ball. At press time, comic Tiffany Penn (this page) and singer Brad Olson remained in the hunt.

—Tim Brookover

Photographed by John Conroy







And Here's to

# You, Mrs. Hall

On the eve of her run in *The Graduate*, Jerry Hall talks about the play, her Houston ties, and her famous ex

by Bradley David Williams

**OutSmart:** You grew up in the Dallas area [Mesquite]. Do you have any connections to Houston?

Jerry Hall: Yeah, I've known [socialite] Lynn Wyatt a long time. And Neil Hammil, who's been my agent at Ford Models for years—he's from there, so he's got some people giving us a party. There's a woman—I can't remember her name, but she is called in the papers "the new Lynn Wyatt." I'm sure Lynn Wyatt doesn't appreciate that too much . . .

**Maybe Carolyn Farb?**

That's her, yeah, she's giving us a party.

**Then there's that famous movie filmed here a while back that you're in.**

Yeah, I did *Urban Cowboy*. That was fun. My sister Cyndy was in it with me—we're in bed with John Travolta.

**How did you get the part of Mrs. Robinson?**

I had gone to see it. I saw Kathleen Turner in it, and I was laughing my head off. The producers sort of saw me there and thought, "Hey, what about her?"

**Do you remember the first time you saw the movie with Anne Bancroft?**

I saw it ages ago, and I loved it. It's a fantastic movie because it's about an older woman who's sexually empowered, and she's considered attractive. And the movie is one of the funniest movies of all time.

**I'm sure you're sick of being asked about the nude scene in the play, but . . .**

I'm not *completely* nude—I have on high heels [laughs]. It's quite daunting the first time, but I did it for six months, so I sort of got used to it.

**There was talk about you doing an American version of *Absolutely Fabulous*.**

I would've loved to have done that, but Mick kind of put his foot down about that. He didn't want me to sign this long contract where I'd have to be in L.A. for years with the children and all that.

**Are you and Mick in regular contact?**

Yeah, we talk on the phone about the kids every day, and we're very, very friendly. We

Hall is also in two soon-to-be-released movies, including the Ismail Merchant film *Merci, Docteur Ray*, which stars Vanessa Redgrave and was the closing night feature at this summer's New York International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival.

With her one-of-a-kind accent—an exaggerated Texas drawl punctuated by frequent British phrasings and pronunciations—Hall recently talked to *OutSmart* about everything from playing Mrs. Robinson to coming home to Texas.

get along really, really well. We love each other dearly, and we're very committed to being good parents.

**Do you think you might get back together down the road and grow old together?**

Well, I don't know. I mean, he's a big womanizer. That's kind of tiring.

**Being a supermodel, you must have been around gay people your whole life.**

I went off to Paris when I was almost 16 and lived with three gay guys for two years. One was Antonio López, the fashion illustrator—he started me. Antonio and Juan have passed away, but Paul is a painter and I just saw him—he came up and saw me in rehearsals. Yeah, we had some great times in Paris in those days [giggles].

*Appetite whetted? To read this interview in its entirety, log onto the OutSmart website at [www.outsmartmagazine.com](http://www.outsmartmagazine.com).*

*Bradley David Williams reported on the U.S. Clay Court Championships in our July issue.*



# God 'n' Gays 'n' Tammy Faye

**T**erry Falwell, Pat Robertson, Oral Roberts, Jimmy Swaggart, James Robison, Lou Sheldon. Does it ever seem to

**Tammy Faye Messner talks about gays, religion, spirituality, and Jerry Falwell**

by Blase DiStefano • Photo opposite page by Greg Gorman

you that the words *compassionate* and *Christian* are incompatible? Yeah, me too. We can now rejoice, because the two C words can be joined together under the name Tammy Faye Messner.

You may remember her as Tammy Faye Bakker, the wife of televangelist Jim Bakker. In 1988, they lost their PTL (Praise the Lord) empire to Jerry Falwell, who did not put (and will probably *never* put) the fun back in fundamentalist.

Tammy Faye was vilified, ostracized, and crucified. You would have thought she was Jesus Christ—or at least gay—for Christ's sake. She had been put through the wringer, what with her husband's one-nighter with Jessica Hahn, his imprisonment, their divorce, her son

Jamie's drug problem, and her daughter Tammy Sue's estrangement.

But two gay guys, Randy Barbato and Fenton Bailey, resurrected her career with *The Eyes of Tammy Faye*, a great documentary narrated by none other than RuPaul, who told *OutSmart* in August 2000: "Tammy Faye Bakker is a joy and I've always loved her. She's basically the Christian Judy Garland."

Tammy Faye is now happily married to Roe Messner, her son is sober, and her daughter is now her best friend. She's touring with her one-woman cabaret show, which opens this month for a limited off-Broadway engagement, and, to top

it off, she has written *I Will Survive . . . And You Will Too!* (Penguin Books), a book in which she shares her views on everything from marriage to makeup, parenting to purses, faith to fashion, grief to gays. To put it in the words of Tammy Faye: "It's really cute, because we had a lady here in Charlotte do a synopsis of my book, and she said something so interesting, that reading the book is like alternating snacks—sweet then salty, gooey then solid. She said it's a pick-it-up-at-any-page book, comfort snacking at its finest. And I thought that was such a neat thing, just a neat way to put it."

As you'll see, Tammy Faye also has a neat way of "putting it." →





**OutSmart: I know this is your first interview for the day, so I'm assuming you've put on your makeup.**

Tammy Faye Messner: Yes, I have my make-up on.

**In your book, I think you said it takes from five to 20 minutes . . .**

That's right, depending on if I have an eyelash crash down. Because my eyes aren't as good as they used to be, I had a little eyelash accident today, and so I had to take a little longer today. I'm all together now.

**Great. I'd like to start off by saying that when I was growing up I always avoided all the Christian-type shows. I assumed everyone involved was . . .**

A little crazy.

**No, not crazy, but judgmental.**

Oh, I see.

**I felt like my being gay, they weren't going to like me, so I didn't want to watch them.**

Oh, bless your heart. And I totally understand that.

**I never even saw your show, because my assumption was that every Christian was basically the same.**

Judgmental and mean.

**Yeah. But I've read that gay people watched it, and I heard about the time you interviewed a gay man who had AIDS, and I thought, That's really something. I think you were probably**

**the first Christian on TV to do such a thing.**

Everybody said to me, "Well, didn't the Christian world come down on you for that?" I said that it didn't make any difference if they were going to or not, because I felt it was the right thing to do. I felt that's what Jesus would have done, and if we're going to be like Jesus, then we cannot be judgmental, and we've got to love those that are hurting.

**I had never thought the words *compassionate* and *Christian* could be used together.**

Oh, that is so sad to me, because Jesus is all about compassion.

**I grew up a Catholic, which is all about guilt and judgment. So I became an atheist, then I became an agnostic, and then I finally found spirituality, but not religion.**

Religion and spirituality are two totally different things. And I'll tell you, I would rather have spirituality, because religion is not a good thing. Religion starts wars. I'm glad they call it religion, because salvation doesn't start wars. A true experience of God does not start wars. That changes you. That's where religion and salvation are all messed up—they're two totally different things.

**Let's go back. About how old were you when you met Jim?**

I was 18. We were married when I had just

turned 19. And after about a couple of weeks of being with Jim, I realized that he had a problem, which he had been able to hide from me which I did not know. It was the fact that he had very bad times of depression. I didn't know anything about depression, because I had always been such a happy person. I knew sadness in my life, but I didn't know depression. And so I didn't know how to deal with Jim's depression. I was literally just shocked by it.

**How long did it go on?**

Oh, it was ongoing through our whole 30-year marriage. And I had spent the 30 years trying to help Jim out of bouts of depression, which just totally wore me out as a person. I was always the one telling him it was going to be OK, *Don't give up, hang in there, Jim, you can do it.*

**About how long would they last?**

Sometimes they would last four or five days. I kept thinking a person could snap out of depression, that it must be a psychological thing, but it's also a chemical imbalance,

but they wouldn't let me put his name in, which it was in my other book, so I don't understand that. I had it in there, and then they just deleted it. But what you saw in the book was, *I still think that Jerry Falwell was a crook.* I don't feel he's an honorable man. And I feel that he is a man who will take advantage of anyone that is down, and I think he will lie to people, and that is not a Christ-like spirit.

The Bible talks about wolves in sheep's clothing. And a little lamb is gentle and precious, and if a little lamb came to you, you would trust him. And he came to us as a lamb, but he was really a wolf in sheep's clothing. And I would tell that to his face. I have wanted to talk to Jerry Falwell, but he won't get within a thousand miles of me.

**I recently watched the documentary *The Eyes of Tammy Faye*, which was excellent. I had no idea that when you made out that list of things that Jerry Falwell had asked . . .**

He told us what to write down, and I just copied his list [Falwell gave the Bakkers a list of benefits that the board of directors voted for them to receive and said he would let those benefits continue for a year]. That's all I did.

**When he received the list, Falwell went to the press and read that list like it was something that you were . . .**

That we were demanding. And Jim and I have never demanded anything. In fact, at the end of the list, Jim put, "P.S. I want nothing from this ministry."

**He didn't read that part of it.**

He didn't read that part on the air, no, he didn't.

**So, he was showing his true colors.**

Yes, he did show his true colors, and I think people pretty well got him pegged now.

**Not then though. And I'll be honest with you, I was one of the people who believed him.**

Well, of course, why wouldn't you? People didn't know. I was trying to look at it objectively like it wasn't us, and I thought, *I wouldn't like those people either if they'd done most of those things.* I would think they deserve what they got if they'd done those things. But we didn't do those things.

**He even said that Jim was homosexual.**

Yeah, because he knew that was something that the Christian world would not forgive.

**Jim had a one-night stand with Jessica Hahn, but that had been a long time ago. And didn't all this start by Falwell saying it was going to be printed in the newspaper?**

Yeah, it all started with him threatening Jim that he was going to the news, but that he could keep it out of the news. This had happened 13 years before that. Jim was still

**Religion and spirituality are two totally different things. And I'll tell you, I would rather have spirituality, because religion is not a good thing. Religion starts wars.**

which I didn't know about. And so I spent so many years thinking it was a psychological thing, and he had everything going for him, he just needed to snap out of it. Jim really was an optimist, but when he'd get into a depression, he would become a severe pessimist. He was either real, real high, or he was very, very low and depressed. There wasn't a lot of in-between time.

**During those bad times when the ministry was being taken over, did the depression get worse?**

He was depressed constantly. I finally got to where I was able to cope with it, but I still did not understand it. I wanted him to go back and fight, but he was too depressed to fight to get back PTL [Praise The Lord]. So that was very sad, and that's something that I think Jim still has a problem with today. But there are a lot of people who live in depression. It's so widespread in this world we live in, and those who don't understand it are also widespread, because one would think that people should be able to snap out of it by positive thinking.

**It's just not that simple.**

It just must not be that simple.

**No, wish it was.**

I wish it were, yes.

**Let's talk about Jerry Falwell.**

I talk about Jerry a little bit in the book,



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embarrassed by that, of course, and he didn't want it going to the newspaper because he had a reputation. Jim had such a wonderful reputation. I kept telling Jim, *What you don't realize, Jim, if you would just go back and face your people and tell them what happened, they would forgive you.* They wouldn't have cared. I begged Jim to go back, but depression set into him so bad that he couldn't do it. And I felt very sad for Jim. Jim is a wonderful man, he's a very kind man, and he's a good man, and I hope he succeeds. He's back on television again in Branson, Missouri, and I just hope that he succeeds and makes it, because he didn't deserve what happened to him.

**I was talking with a friend of mine at lunch yesterday, and I asked him if he had any questions that he might want me to ask you. He said that he had a lot of faith a long time ago, but that he doesn't have that now...**

When we pray, we always believe God's going to say yes. *God, I want a Cadillac or God, heal my mother or God, do this or God, do that,* and when it doesn't happen, then we say, "Well, God just didn't answer." Yes, he answered. He just said no. That sometimes has a destructive force on our faith, especially new Christians, because they feel God isn't answering any of their prayers.

And so in order to keep your faith from being smashed all the time, you've got to read God's words. You have got to read the Bible.

And so to build his faith again, he just needs to know that God does say no, and he needs to thank God when God says no, too. Consider that every prayer he prays, God hears, and that God answers every prayer he prays. Now maybe not in timing—God's timing is not ours at all, which is very frustrating.

Faith is something that we all have. To go in an elevator, you have got to have faith. When we get in an airplane, we have faith we're not going to crash. That's a type of faith. We get in our car, and we have faith

## Excerpts from Tammy Faye's book

**I**t was a bitter cold winter day, and snow was falling in Portsmouth, Virginia. We got a call from Pat Robertson saying no one could make it to the TV station. Since we lived so close, could we do the show? We headed out to the frozen parking lot to get in the car. We no sooner stepped out than a gust of wind sent my wig flying across the parking lot and under another car. I was mortified. I got on my hands and knees in the snow and ice and slithered on my stomach under that car to retrieve my wig. When I finally got to my feet, I looked down—my stockings were torn to shreds and blood was running down my legs. But we made it to the TV station in time, and although I looked a bit worse for the wear, did the show. The show must go on!

TAMMY FAYE MESSNER



thing around us. Without God there would be nothing.

**When I was growing up, the Catholic Church taught that God is everything. For some reason, that has stayed with me. In other words, God is the pen that I am writing with, God is the book that I am reading, God literally is everything.**

To me, God made this world and God is all around us, he's in us. I do believe God is

that our car's going to start up and it's going to take us to our destination. That's faith. That is put in its simplest form.

Faith in God is simply believing that when we talk to God, when we live for God, that he will lead us, that he will guide us, and he will direct our lives and that he will take care of us. And we have to have unwavering faith. Doubt destroys faith. And so he needs to get rid of the doubt in his life and he needs to just totally fill his body up with faith, so that there isn't room for doubt to come in. No matter what happens, he needs to just say, "Thank you, God, this is your will concerning me."

**OK, I know that this is really putting it in its basic form, but you're saying to try to keep a positive attitude.**

Yeah. Faith is really a very positive attitude and an unfailing trust in God. You just have to have trust in God that does not waver.

**And when it does waver?**

When it does waver, say, "Forgive me, Lord, and help me to trust you." The Bible says that without faith it is impossible to

please God. He created this world and he created every-

thing around us. Without God there would be nothing.

**I** think makeup did as much to hurt my self-esteem as it did to build it. Does that seem like a contradiction? Maybe. On one hand, I felt that I looked so much better wearing makeup, and therefore my self-esteem grew in leaps and bounds when I began wearing it. On the other hand, people began to make fun of me when I started to wear makeup. They would cruelly put me down, calling me a clown, saying that I applied it with a paintbrush. Of course they blew everything out of proportion by drawing cartoons of me with eyelashes blowing in the wind, or me holding a trowel or paint can filled with makeup. I have been made fun of by the best that Hollywood has to offer, plus the general public of know-it-alls. But I have held up despite their cruel taunts. I feel I look better with it than without it, and, after all, it's my right to make that call.

*Both excerpts from I Will Survive... And You Will, Too! (Tarcher/Penguin, New York City, New York, 2003).*

everything. He's in the flowers, in the trees, he's everything beautiful.

**But he's also everything that's not beautiful.**

Well, there's a lot of devil that comes around, too.

**If someone or something is not beautiful, that doesn't mean...**

That he isn't God. He's still God. God is God is God is God.

**So there's a man who has just murdered someone else—he's also part of God, and there's a reason that that's happened.**

Well, we have to just trust God. That's where our faith comes in. That's where trust comes in. I believe that you know that there are things the devil makes happen, but God could stop them. You understand what I'm saying? God allowed Job to be tested.

**I wish I could talk to you more about the Bible, but I haven't read the Bible since I was a kid.**

It's all right. I understand that. What you need to do, you need to get yourself a living Bible, because that explains it very clearly. Just start from Matthew. And you'll be so excited, because the more you read it, the more you want to read it. It's really an exciting book.

**That's what I've heard, but I don't want to read anything that says I'm going to hell.**

Aha, but don't be afraid of that.

**I'm not afraid of it, I just don't want to read it, and I don't want to be involved with people who say I'm going to hell.**

Right, right. Well, I understand that totally. **Why do I want to put myself in that position?** But reading the Bible isn't going to do that for you.

**Well, aren't there passages that say...**

If those passages convict you, then you need to rethink it. And if there's something in there that the Bible says and you feel, *Oh, my gosh, there's something wrong here,* that's what's called conviction, honey.

**But if it says I'm going to hell...**

Then all you do is say, "Jesus, forgive me of my sins, come into my heart, and be my savior." Then you know you're not going to hell.

**I'm not sure I get that, because if it's...**

If the Lord has come into our heart and our life and we are living for him and serving

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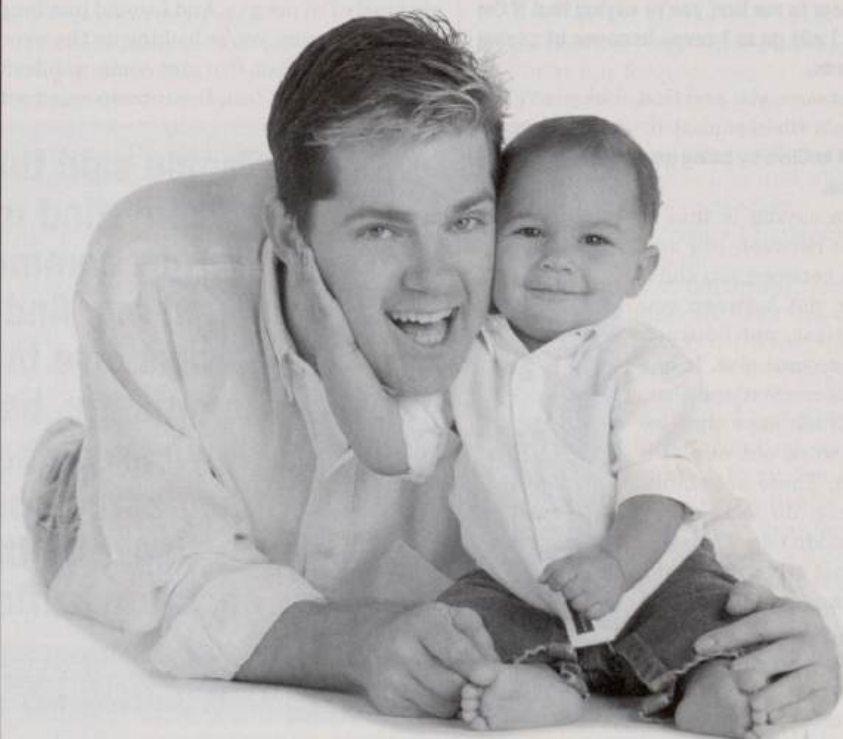
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him, we are not going to hell. We'll stumble, we'll fall, we'll have to get up again.

We get mad at somebody, we'll say something we shouldn't, we'll do things we shouldn't, but that isn't going to send us to hell just because we slip and fall. All we gotta do is get back up again and start over. The same thing with God. You can always start over and say, "Forgive me of my sins, and Lord help me to live a life that is pleasing unto you."

**It's not clear to me that you're saying that if I'm gay, then I will go to heaven because of saying those words.**

That's between you and God, and you've got to believe it when you say it.

**But I don't believe by being gay I've sinned.**

What I'm saying is that it has to be between you and God. Not between you and a preacher, not between you and a priest, not between you and anyone else. It has to be between you and God.

The Bible says that we have to work out our own salvation. There are things that I can do that other people couldn't do. There are things that other people do, like drink and smoke, that I couldn't do. I feel very wrong about drinking, I feel very wrong about putting a cigarette in my mouth; I would never do that, because I don't want to hurt my body. I would not go out and have an affair. There are certain things I couldn't do because of my walk with God. But now some people, they think differently. They have worked out their salvation in a different way. And so we need to work out our own salvation, and it's a personal experience with God. Only you and God can figure out what's right for you.

**OK. I can deal with that. Is there anybody in your family who is gay that you know of?**

No. Not that I know of.

**If you son or daughter were to come to you and say "I'm gay..."**

Oh, I'd love them just as much. I'd take them in and I'd take their partners in. That would not bother me at all.

I have worked with the gay community now for years. I do things for the gay community all the time. I'm getting ready to do a speaking engagement for a teaching thing for one of my gay friends, and I'm also getting ready to do a big AIDS benefit. When my gay friends come to town, they stay here at my house. They're no different.

**Yes, I understand. I know that now. But only by watching *The Eyes of Tammy Faye* did I see the**

**variety of people involved in the PTL.**

We had everybody on. Catholics and Jews and Gentiles and black and white and yellow, they were all on PTL. That was what was so great about PTL.

**But I guess we wouldn't have known if there were any lesbians. Have women ever put the make on you?**

No, they never have.

**Would it bother you?**

I'd just laugh. I would really laugh, because obviously I'm not gay. And I would just laugh and say, "Honey, you're looking up the wrong person here." But I've met some wonderful lesbian ladies. In fact, I've corresponded with



Peek-a-boo: Then known as Tammy Faye Bakker-Messner, she gave us a look at those eyes in this production still from *The Eyes of Tammy Faye* (2000, Lions Gate Films).

**People said they couldn't find me. Well, the gay community found me. And I will always love the gay community, because they cared about me. They cared about my hurting, and they cared about my suffering.**

one girl for a long time because she was having a problem, had a lost relationship, and she was really suffering. I wrote back and forth to her on the computer for a long, long time trying to help her, and I think eventually I did help her. I have a lot more gay friends than I do lesbian friends. I don't know why lesbians stay away from me, but what they don't realize is I could be a good friend to them.

**Because you can be a good friend to anybody?**

I'm just a people person. I love people, and, you know, God does not categorize sin. And God does not categorize people. It's we humans that do that.

**However, the more we label ourselves as gay, the more people will realize how many gay people there are.**

Oh, what I've said so many times is that what I'm trying to do is put my arms around the gay community and the straight community and hug them together. I'm trying to let the church know that there's a large gay population out there that we are not loving and caring about. And I think that's sad. I go to gay churches. I minister in gay churches.

**Your book actually says...**

That we're all OK.

**Yeah, and that we're gonna survive.**

Yes, it's about survival and that any of us can survive. I don't care where you're starting from, you can survive, you can make it. If I've gone through all the things I've gone through in my life, then anybody can do it. I thought I was a wimp, but I found out through this that I guess I'm not. I must have been a lot stronger than I thought. God will allow us to go through adversity to show us how strong we really are as human beings. That which doesn't kill you makes you stronger. And I truly believe in that.

I was always taken care of and never had to worry about anything, and then when I came to the point where I had nothing and no one, I found out that I was a person, I wasn't just Jim Bakker's arm or his... you know, I was a person. I was a person that could make it, that was capable of making decisions, that was capable of getting out there and making my life happen. And I never dreamed that. I didn't dream I could do anything without Jim.

**I also liked the chapter on the gay community. It was interesting that a gay man sent you \$10,000.**

Yes, he did. We didn't have hospitalization, we had

nothing. Here I was with Jamie, Jim was in prison, I was by myself. I had a little church that I'd started, that's all I knew to do. And this man who had watched PTL, a gay man who had watched PTL, sent me that money. I kept it in the bank the whole time Jim was in prison. And Jamie had to have braces, and things did happen. And that money just literally saved my life. And I still love him today. He's still a dear friend today.

So it was the gay community that found me. People said they couldn't find me. Well, the gay community found me. And I will always love the gay community, because they cared about me. They cared about my hurting, and they cared about my suffering, and I think the reason they did is because they've suffered and they've hurt and they've gone through feelings of rejection and feelings of just downright hate from people. And that's what I felt after we lost PTL. I feel like I went through almost everything the gay community has gone through. And I believe that's why we have such a love for each other, even though they know that I'm not gay.

*Blase DiStefano, creative director of this magazine, interviewed B.D. Wong for the June issue.*

## Houston Clergyman Supports Controversial Decision

*On Tuesday, August 5, the election of the Rev. Gene Robinson as Bishop Coadjutor of New Hampshire was confirmed by the Episcopal Church's General Convention. He will be the first openly gay bishop in the denomination's history. The following Sunday, the Rev. Joe D. Reynolds, dean of Houston's Christ Church Cathedral (Episcopal), commented on the situation in his sermon.*

I have said publicly that I give thanks that Gene Robinson's election in New Hampshire was confirmed. And I do. I don't say that lightly. I know the cost is high. There is personal cost and cost to the Church.

I haven't come to that place easily or quickly. I have been in close relationships with gay Christians who are in monogamous, committed relationships for close to 15 years. For almost 10 years Elizabeth and I met monthly for supper and conversation with a group consisting of couples mostly, both gay and straight. I have known some for whom their faith didn't seem so important; I have known others for whom their faith is at the center of their lives.

My life was changed by those relationships. I can only say that I believe God touched me through their witness. We attended the 40th anniversary of a relationship shared by two men. I believe they have since marked their 50th. If not, it will be soon. They believe that their relationship was possible—especially beginning in the '50s when things were very different—because of prayer and God's love in their lives.

I chaired a study in the Diocese of Atlanta called "Common Ground." It was a committee of people from all over the diocese. Some were committed to the full life of gay people in all aspects of the Church. Some thought homosexuality itself to be a sin. There were straight people, and there were gay people. There were priests and laypeople.

We met for about 18 months and did in-depth Bible study and theological reflection. We read all that we could.

It was tough sledding, to say the least. There were times when names were called and insults were exchanged. Not everyone stayed the course, some just left. And in the end, no one's mind was changed. But some stayed in the community we were trying to form. We broke bread together. We prayed together. We celebrated Eucharist together.

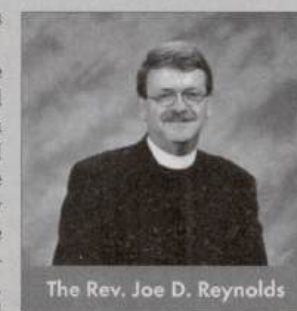
The real issue isn't inclusion. People on both sides believe in the full inclusion of God's love. All serious-minded Christians believe that the arms of our community are open to all comers. All of us believe that we are called by God and the sacrifice of Jesus to a life of love. We aren't talking about

mean, close-minded people or libertarians who believe anything goes.

The real issue is how we live our lives faithfully, or striving to be faithful, knowing ourselves to be sinners searching for forgiveness and reconciliation with a God who cares what we do. The real issue is how we love God, and in loving God, love others.

There are those who believe it is sinful for gay people to be in intimate relationships no matter what the bonds and boundaries of that relationship may be. There are others who believe it is sinful not to affirm and support those relationships when they are within the bounds of what Christians have always believed to be holy. It isn't that some people believe the Bible and others don't; it is that serious, prayerful, and committed Christians struggle with the Bible and come to different conclusions.

The Church has been openly debating this issue for some 25 years or so. Many people wish we could have just gone on talking about it forever, living within the tension of our differences. We've managed to sort of hold it together so far.



The Rev. Joe D. Reynolds

But things just don't work that way, not really. In any debate there eventually come points of decision. They are never final decisions because one decision always leads to another.

When the people of the Diocese of New Hampshire elected Gene Robinson to be their bishop, a point of decision was created. I don't

believe they meant to do that. I believe they prayed and voted what was in their hearts. They used the processes that the Episcopal Church always uses for such choices, a process in which we believe God to be present and active. They believed they were being led by the Holy Spirit.

But there it is anyway. Once the election took place, a decision had to be made. There is pain in it, real pain. Decisions are like that. When you reach those places, the pain is inevitable. Had the decision gone the other way, there would have been just as much pain, just as much separation, just as much rejection.

It is remarkable how often the appointed readings of Scripture speak to the issues of the day. It is the *living* Word of God, after all. The reading from Paul's Epistle to the Church in Ephesus this morning says: "Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and

anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you."

The real question—the issue for the Church now—is how do we do that. The real test for this community and for each of us is yet to come. It begins now and will be lived out in how we love each other.

I have three things to suggest—three things that we can do.

First and most important, pray. If you remember nothing else I say this morning, remember that. Pray. I believe in the profound power of prayer. Whatever your opinions or convictions, pray for Gene Robinson; the burden he will carry will be immense. Pray for the Church that God may choose to heal its wounds. Pray for individuals. Pray for those whose hearts are in a different place from yours. Pray for them by face and by name whenever you can.

Second, reach out to each other. With neither condescension nor contempt, reach out to each other with love. Try to understand what those who are different from you are saying, really understand. Understanding doesn't mean you have to agree. Begin by listening. That would be a novel approach in a debate. Try to open your heart so that you can hear the feelings of another heart.

And finally, recommit yourself to this community and to this altar. The world will be watching the Episcopal Church in the months to come. Will people leave? What will we do? There is perhaps not a lot we can do to impact global decisions and the actions of others. But we can do much to impact the life of this community called Christ Church Cathedral.

It is the sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood that feeds us and holds us together. It is here that we gather finding that love really does overcome the things that separate us. Jesus said, "By this the world will know that you are my disciples, that you love one another."

I didn't read the last line of today's epistle, because I wanted to save it for the end. "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

The days to come will require sacrifice. Real love always does. It is a sacrifice to which we are called.

To read more about Christ Church Cathedral, visit [www.christchurchcathedral.org](http://www.christchurchcathedral.org).





continued from page 36

# • Where's My Dinner, Bitch?

October 2003

This world premiere "not suitable for children" satire by Bob Morgan was such a hit last March that dos chicas is reviving it for their season opener. Abusive trailer-trash husbands die while their put-upon wives put on better lipstick. There's a lot on this platter to savor, but it's bitter and black like the sneering mouth to hell.

# • Private Lives

June 2004

Can't wait to see what the folks at dos chicas have in store for this Noel Coward bonbon.

Zdenek Konvalina, Barbara Bears, and Houston Ballet artists in George Balanchine's *Apollo*. Inset: Trey McIntyre rehearses for *The Shadow*.



MCINTYRE: PAUL SWEN; APOLLO: DREW DONOVAN/HOUSTON BALLET

# HALLOWEEN MAGIC

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[www.halloweenmagic.org](http://www.halloweenmagic.org)

# • Aquanet: The Montrose Hairspray

October 18-19, 2003

Here they come, those mad equal-opportunity offenders with tongues firmly planted in cheek and armed with barbs wickedly hurled at all who need to be skewered. This year's production, the 15th in a string of Halloween Magic hits,



is *Aquanet*, written by Gary Rod, Shana Ross, Barry Mandel, John Cichon, John Tucker, and Gilbert Perez, so who knows what's going to happen. But guaranteed, the wicked satire of these zanies will leave you limp from laughing and feeling oh-so-happy knowing that your well-spent money benefits AIDS Foundation Houston, The Assistance Fund, Bering Omega, Center for AIDS, Montrose Clinic, Montrose Counseling Center, and the PWA Coalition. Saturday night's performance includes one of Houston's best silent auctions and our favorite—an open bar. See you there.

# GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF HOUSTON

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What sound is more exhilarating and powerful than a men's chorus? Our favorite singing group of the all-male kind is the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston, celebrating its 25th anniversary. *Life Lines Silver*

*Edition* is the chorus's opening concert, a chamber musicale featuring solos, duets, and trios (October 24, Bering Memorial United Methodist Church). December heralds the annual festive Christmas concert, *Silver Bells, Holidays in the City* (December 5, The Grand 1894 Opera House, Galveston; and December 8, 12, 14, Wortham Center). *Pure Sterling: The Music of Cole Porter* brings a sophisticated kick to spring with the GMCH small ensemble, *VocalEase* (March 20, 21, 23, Hobby Center). Pride month sings out with greatest hits from the chorus archives (June 13, 15, 18, Wortham Center).

# HOUSTON BALLET

Wortham Center (500 Texas)  
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Houston Ballet has a new artistic director, Australian choreographer Stanton Welch, and the company is pumped. Its press releases herald "a new chapter in its history" and an "exciting journey ahead—as HB moves boldly into the future." We believe it, and all the excitement will be self-evident when the curtain goes up.

# • Fall Rep

September 4-14, 2003

Following last season's magical *Peter Pan*, HB's choreographic associate Trey McIntyre returns with his world premiere

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one-acter, *The Shadow*, based on five Hans Christian Andersen tales and set to Antonin Dvorák's elegant *8th Symphony*. Stanton Welch is represented by the company premiere of his *A Dance in the Garden of Mirth*, an animated abstract ballet derived from medieval life. Modern master William Forsythe, with his spikey techno ballet in the middle, somewhat elevated, sears the retinas with classical steps gone grunge.

#### • A Balanchine Celebration

May 27-June 6, 2004

The greatest choreographer of the 20th century receives stunning tribute with a trio of his most brilliant shorter works: *Apollo* (Stravinsky), *La Valse* (Ravel), and *Theme and Variations* (Tchaikovsky). Ballet was never the same after Balanchine. Once you see these, you won't be either.

#### HOUSTON GRAND OPERA

Wortham Center (500 Texas)

• 713/546-0246

[www.houstongrandopera.org](http://www.houstongrandopera.org)

#### • Julius Caesar

October 30-November 16, 2003

As history, G.F. Handel's 1724 masterpiece is bunk, but as opera, it's sublime,

full of that glorious Saxon's soaring arias and Baroque flights of melody. Reigning countertenor David Daniels, an openly gay opera star, makes his HGO debut singing Caesar. Another openly gay singer, baritone Joshua Winograde, a Houston Opera Studio product, is featured in his first major role. Coloratura deluxe Laura Claycomb, who wowed Houston audiences in *Rigoletto* and *Lucia di Lammermoor*, croons the Queen of the Nile.

#### • Jenufa

January 23-February 7, 2004

Czech composer Leos Janáček was nearly 60 years old before he became an overnight success with the 1916 Prague premiere of this opera, completed in 1904. The folk-style melodies and naturalistic vocal lines give this work a distinct style that perfectly serves the psychologically dense drama. The verismo plot with its unwanted pregnancy, infanticide, mutilation, and redemption, is elevated by Janáček's mastery into the stuff of universal truth. All his operas are great blasts of fresh air, allowing his immense humanity to blaze forth. The amazing Patricia Racette (Jenufa) and the compelling Catherine Malfitano (stepmother Kolstelnicka) bring their own blasts of talent to these two great opera roles.

#### • The End of the Affair

March 4-21, 2004

With the international success of *Dead Man Walking* still ringing in his ears, Jake Heggie adapts Graham Greene's novel for this 29th HGO world premiere. During the London blitz of 1939, a writer has a torrid affair with a married woman who mysteriously calls it off. Years later, the lover hires a detective to find out why. Cheryl Barker, the original Mimi in Baz Luhrmann's pop *La Bohème*, and Teddy Tahu Rhodes, the only lasting memory from last season's *Little Prince*, play the guilty lovers.

#### HOUSTON SYMPHONY

Jones Hall (615 Louisiana)

• 713/224-7575

[www.houstonsymphony.org](http://www.houstonsymphony.org)

While music director Hans Graf has not scheduled any specific "gay series," there is always Tchaikovsky (September 27-29); Modern Broadway (October 10-12); Handel (October 16-17) and his *Messiah* (December 19-21); Samuel Barber (October 25-27); Patti LuPone (November 7-9); Benjamin Britten (November 15-17); Musorgsky (January 10-12 and May 15-17); Leonard Bernstein (March 27-29); Michael Feinstein (April 8-10); Maurice Ravel (April 24-26); and k.d. lang (April 30-May 1).

continued on page 76

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## LookOut

by Tim Brookover



Guys and dogs: SNAP gala honorary chairs Neil Sackheim (l) with his pooch Cooley and David Smith with his dog Boudreaux.

the gala. Sean Hawkins is SNAP executive director.

As you read this, the team of John Cichon, Barry Mandel, Gilbert Perez, Gary Rod, Shana Ross, and John Tucker are no doubt refining the script for *Aquanet: The Montrose Hairspray*, the October 18-19 Halloween Magic HIV/AIDS benefit show.

Also making final preparations are the hosts of the October 10-12 Steel

Weekend 2003, the brand-new successor event to the Grey Party. Thomas Urban leads the host group, which also includes John Benevides, Ron Foster, Brian Kinney, Mike Klare, Ralph Taylor, and Bryan Williams. Proceeds from the three days of parties will benefit five community health-related causes.

**GOOD WORKS.** The crowd that savored the May 17 AssistHers/An Uncommon Legacy progressive dinner made stops at the homes of a generous group of hosts: Barbara Baldero and Donece Knudsen; Alex Martinez and David Arpin; Glen Dickson; Frank Billingsley and Kevin Gilliard; Sherri Oldham, Lauri Laufman, Melody Page, and Laurel Keith; Tony Carroll and Bruce Smith; and Gregg Farris.

Now AssistHers is prepping for the annual Decadent Dessert Extraganza. See page 96 for details.

Planned Parenthood, a longtime community ally on the HIV and women's health fronts, will toss its Crystal Ball Gala on September 19 at the Warwick. Beverly Robinson and Sally Russ chair the event, which honors activist Burdine Clayton Johnson.

Neil Sackheim and David Smith are honorary chairmen of the September 27 Paws & Claws on Parade benefit for the Spay-Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP). The event at the George R. Brown Convention Center will raise funds for SNAP clinics in Houston; San Antonio; Los Angeles; Monterrey, Mexico; and on Native American lands. KHOU anchor Lisa Foronda, who co-emceed the Pride parade, will preside over

**CAMP IT UP.** The memory of the late, great drag diva and fundraiser deluxe Lady Victoria Lust lives on in the twice-yearly LVL PWA Campouts. On September 26, campers from around the state who live with HIV/AIDS—along with friends, family, and caregivers—will converge on Buzzard's Peak, 30 acres of woodlands near Temple, for the fall event. The Texas Conference of Clubs, which includes the local Colt 45's and Houston Area Bears, owns the spread and donates the use of the facilities. John Szweczyk coordinates the two-day campout. Camper attendance ranges from 30 to more than 70.

PWA Holiday Charities in Houston, the charity founded by Lady Victoria (Marvin Davis), handles campout costs. The weekend fee to campers is only \$25. The fee is waived for individuals who cannot afford that amount. The camp offers make-your-own sandwiches on Friday night, three hot meals on Saturday, and a Sunday continental breakfast.

The National Leather Association Houston recently donated \$1,200 to the campout effort, Szweczyk says. Other local support has come from Mary's and Bricks, among other groups and businesses. To make a donation or to register for camp, contact Szweczyk at tex4ever@hotmail.com.

"Usually on Saturday night some of the guys present a camp drag show," Szweczyk reports. And if that prospect isn't incentive

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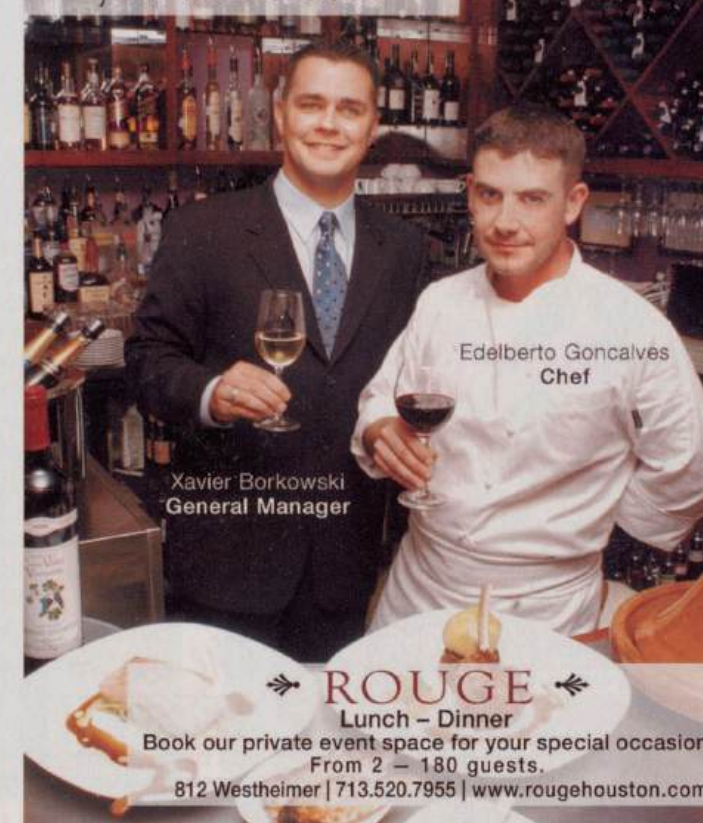
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(Girlfriends, 9/03, Lydia Marcus)

[In the new film *Prey for Rock and Roll*, screenwriter Cheri Lovedog] was committed to creating realism in the one sex scene that [Gina Gershon's character Jacki has with Shakara Ledard's character Jessica], making it clear to everyone involved that "these people are f--king, they're not making love, this is not a love scene . . . I also thought it was important to see Jacki in a sexual situation to see that she's not touchy, feely, soft—that's not where her vulnerabilities are." [Director Alex] Steyermark adds, "We all wanted it to be pretty much about raw sex and at one point Gina said, 'Well I'm not even going to kiss her, it's just about f--king her.' Then when she saw how beautiful [Ledard] was, she said, 'I have to kiss her.'"

Gina Gershon (seen here in 1996's *Bound*): another same-sex lip-lock?



**Gina Gershon**

1 Year Ago  
This Month

## Chris Kattan

(Live from New York by Tom Shales and James Andrew Miller via *Vanity Fair*, 9/02)

I know some people do think I'm gay. I've had people ask me if I'm bi more than gay. And I'm O.K. with it, and I like it, because I'm not gay, so actually for women it means I'm not threatening. It doesn't bother me too much.

I think there's femininity, something feminine in my characters that's easy for me. The way I move my body and my rhythm—it comes out a little gayish.

Ellen DeGeneres (I) as herself finds a new love . . . Mango (Chris Kattan) on *Saturday Night Live* (aired Dec. 15, 2001).



## Bill Maher

(*Real Time with Bill Maher*, 8/1/03, HBO)

"... President Bush finally had a press conference. . . . He's had so few press conferences, it was very unexpected. I turned on the TV for a second, I thought that *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* had just picked a really unfixable stiff. . . . He used his press conference to come out very strongly against gay marriage. . . .

"Yes, the president, while talking about this, also tempered his remarks with some of his usual bulls--t compassions about how we're all sinners. And he quoted Jesus, saying, 'I caution those who may try to take a speck out of their neighbor's eye, when they've got a log in their own.' To which gay groups responded today by saying, 'If you're putting the log in your eye, you're doing it wrong.'"

"Now, this week the Vatican also came out against gay marriage, calling it 'gravely immoral,' which struck some people as hypocritical considering how many priests have spent the last hundred years f--king everything in the church except the 'o' in Bingo."



Bill Maher: logging on?



Compiled by Blase DiStefano



**Jon Stewart**

Jon Stewart: logging on, too?

(*The Daily Show*, 8/03, Comedy Central)

"The president also tackled the hot-button issue of gay marriage. It turns out he's against it . . . who knew? But that's not to say he's not compassionate toward people afflicted with 'the gayness.'"

Cut to film clip:

Reporter: . . . What's your view on homosexuality?

President Bush: I am mindful that we're all sinners. And I caution those who may try to take the speck out of the neighbor's eye when they got a log in their own.

Cut to Stewart:

"Mr. President, I know that you don't hang out necessarily with gay people all that much, but, uh . . . the log doesn't go in the eye."

(*Genre*, 8/03, Darren Frei)

Darren Frei: Were you afraid of perpetuating gay stereotypes by participating in [Bravo's *Boy Meets Boy*]?

James: I was never afraid of [that]. I know straight men who are more feminine than any gay man I know. I also know gay men who are more masculine than any straight man. If anything, I was hoping the show would break the stereotypes down. . . .

What have you learned . . . about gay men vs. straight men?

Given an honest chance, straight men and gay men together act no differently,



**James**

except with whom they are romantically involved. You will see on the show how the straight men and gay men bond very intimately. Our societal construct segregates the two groups and places expectations on them with regard to each other that do not need to be there. Men are men. That was proven on the show. There is a broad spectrum of interests for both straight and gay men, and nothing is exclusive to either sexual orientation.

## Lady Bunny

Lady Bunny nabbed a cameo role as the Lemcee at the transgender prom that Carrie Bradshaw (Sarah Jessica Parker) and Stanford Blatch (Willie Garson) attended in the August 24 episode

of HBO's *Sex and the City*. Regarding the party scene, which took 12 hours to shoot, Lady Bunny said, "By the time they shot my close-up, I'd been in drag for 11 hours and had a full beard sprouting through my foundation!"



Lady Bunny (pictured here in a recent episode of *Sex and the City*): five o'clock shadow?





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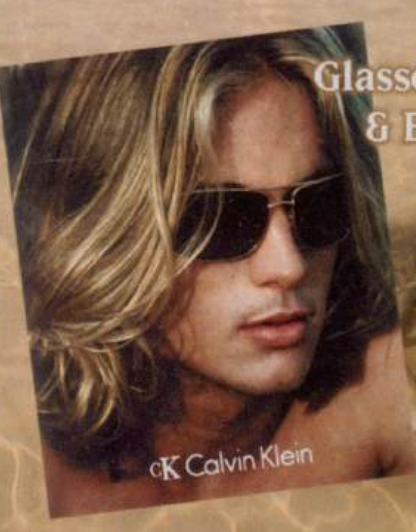
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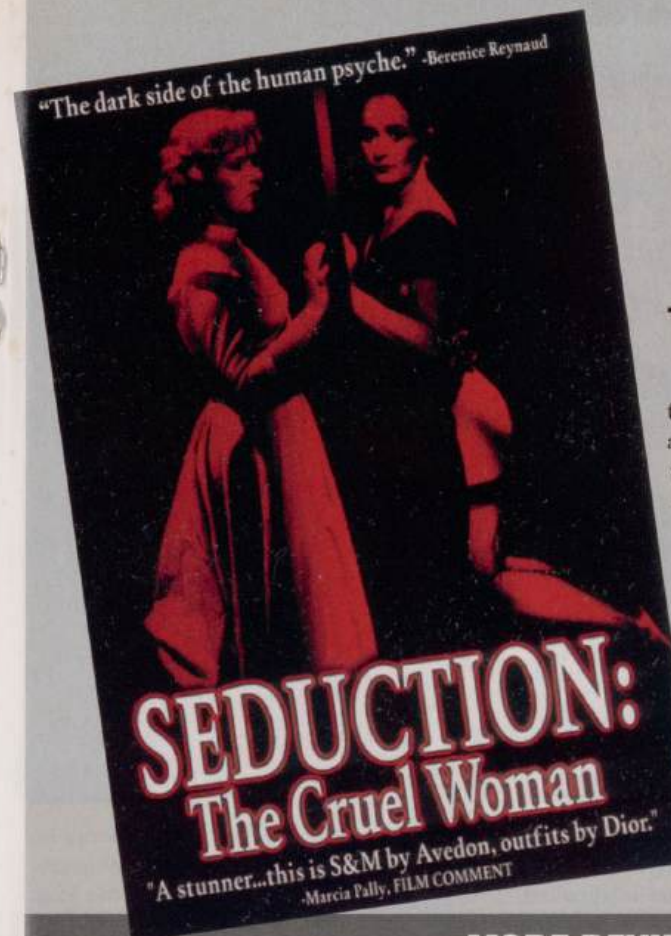
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## Movies on DVD/VHS

### "THIS IS S&M BY AVEDON, OUTFITS BY DIOR"

Seduction: The Cruel Woman comes to DVD



**W**anda (Mechthilde Grossmann) is a dominatrix who runs a "gallery" on the Hamburg waterfront, where audiences pay for the privilege of watching her humiliate her slaves. After Wanda leaves her German lesbian lover (a shoe fetishist) for a beautiful American trainee—and then rejects a male performer who has broken the rules of the master/slave relationship by falling in love with her—she must confront her own desires and fears. • More than just the ritual and performance of S&M, this groundbreaking 1985 film explores the psychological

aspects of power and submission, and the shifting roles in S&M relationships. • From *The Village Voice*: "This is the most sophisticated lesbian film I've ever seen, carefully stylized in the mode of the late Fassbinder. Or like Helmut Newton photography come to life." From *Film Comment*: "A stunner! This is S&M by Avedon, outfits by Dior." • This newly remastered DVD features an interview with director Monika Treut, a director profile, photo gallery, and trailer gallery. In German with English subtitles. • From First Run Features (www.firstrunfeatures.com).

—Troy Carrington

## MORE REVIEWS AND PREVIEWS

### Chicago

*Chicago* is a gay nongay film. Screenwriter Bill Condon (Oscar-winning writer of *Gods and Monsters*), director/choreographer Rob Marshall, and executive producers Neil Meron and Craig Zadan are all openly gay. And though it's not a "gay" movie, Condon says, "It's a musical. It's already got [queerness]. Mama Morton's



[Queen Latifah] obviously in the long line of proud lesbian prison matrons in the movies." The Best Picture winner at this year's

Academy Awards, *Chicago* stars Renée Zellweger, Catherine Zeta-Jones (Oscar winner for Best Supporting Actress), and Richard Gere. Zellweger is good, Gere is adequate, but Zeta-Jones and Latifah are outstanding. And, lucky for us, the DVD includes "Class," a deleted musical number performed by Zeta-Jones and Latifah. There's also an

interesting behind-the-scenes featurette. From Buena Vista Home Entertainment (www.bventertainment.com). —Blase DiStefano

### God, Sex & Apple Pie

Here's the recipe: Combine three days, nine friends, and one pair of handcuffs. Mix in humor, neurosis, and scandal. Add a great script. After blending, you've got *God, Sex & Apple Pie*, which is the story of nine friends who rendezvous at a resort town for a holiday weekend of partying and fun, but not



any "gaiety"—these guys are straight (but not narrow). With crimes and misdemeanors lurking in the background, they've come to escape everything. But as they cool off and kick back, all hell breaks loose. • *God, Sex & Apple Pie* was directed by Paul Leaf, who is best known for his success with Broadway shows, including *The Subject Was Roses*

and *The Caretaker*. He has directed Shirley Maclaine, among others. • From Lightyear Entertainment (www.lightyear.com). —TC

### Ordinary Sinner

*Ordinary Sinner* is an intriguing coming-of-age drama with romance, action, and social commentary. • Peter (Brendan P. Hines), a former divinity student, comes to rural Vermont to sort out his life after a crisis of faith. There, he gets involved in a complex triangle with his boyhood pal Alex (Kris Park) and the



beautiful coed Rachel (Elizabeth Banks). Later, Peter finds the country is not the quiet refuge he thought when he uncovers a possible murder involving his former mentor Father Ed (A Martinez), who is gay. • The DVD features an interview with the writer and director. Available September 23 from Wolfe Video (1-800-642-5247 or www.wolfevideo.com). —TC

### The Good Old Naughty Days

This astonishing, scintillating collection of short "blue movies" from the silent era, most of which are from the 1920s, are genuine, legitimate, and, by today's hardcore standards, amazingly charming, pornographic short films that leave nothing to the imagination. From predictable fantasy scenarios—monk spies on, then joins naughty nuns; teacher



must spank naughty schoolgirls—to more esoteric fare (homosexuality and animal ecstasy, to name just two), vintage porn has never been more accessible. • The 12 adults-only shorts in *The Good Old Naughty Days* reveal production standards far in advance of comparable films being made elsewhere at the time, as well as an inventive and often humorous array of diverse couplings. • From Strand Releasing (www.strandreleasing.com). —TC



## Out in the Arts

by D.L. Groover



Great in Worse: Steve Bullitt is a one-man show at Theatre New West.

JOE WATTS

**B**RAVOS FOR BUTLER AND BULLITT. Run, don't walk, to Theatre New West to see the most compelling show now playing in town through October 4. Dan Butler's *The Only Thing Worse You Could Have Told Me* is theater at its best.

Ever since Mart Crowley's revolutionary 1968 *Boys in the Band* wove GLBT culture and issues squarely into the social fabric, a whole subgenre in drama has arisen. This is the "gay play," and it has as many facets as our community flies rainbow flags. It can be caustic and inflammatory (Larry Kramer), winsome and sentimental (Terrence McNally), intellectual and windy (Tony Kushner), cute and cuddly (Harvey Fierstein). It can masquerade as straight (Tennessee Williams), bizarre and psychotic (Harry Kondoleon), or gayer than gay (Robert Chesley). *The Only Thing* has all the positives—wit, charm, intellect, power—and none of the negatives—pomp, cynicism, depression. And it's all gay: a romp through phases of many lives that affirms, needles, enlivens, and makes you think.

Best known for playing the ultra-hetero, skirt-chasing sports DJ Bulldog on *Fraser*, Butler wrote his one-man show to return to his first love, live theater, and to exercise his drama muscles, which he realized would soon atrophy on a TV sitcom. The play was a huge success off-Broadway and in various incarnations in regional theaters across the country. At the same time, his one-man show also marked Butler's public coming out.

The play is a beauty: a gay panorama of

14 characters whose incisive vignettes cover a wide swath of our community:

- a swishy opera queen who is "appalled, insulted, and pissed" that his best friend thinks he acts flamboyantly gay;
- a straight barfly who's more upset that his friend who has just come out to him might not find him suitably attractive;
- a discriminating ACT UP crazy who doesn't want to share "our disease" with "blacks, Hispanics, or dykes";
- a shallow Chelsea clone who boasts of his recent bedding of a gorgeous gymnast but ponders if he should ask the sleeping beauty next to him for a second date;
- a snooty cynic who lectures us on the inappropriateness of our rainbow flag and AIDS quilt to embody our strength and masculinity;
- a pre-adolescent Dan whose wrestling matches with buddy Tommy give him a tantalizing taste of what lies ahead;
- a Mardi Gras mask-wearing Pan who cheerleads us through the best and brightest of our GLBT heritage.

These playlets, some no longer than an insightful paragraph, channel aspects of Butler himself into a vivid multi-faceted mosaic that includes all of us. It's this universal humanity so apparent in Butler's work that raises his play to the next level.

In a word, actor **Steve Bullitt** is superb in Butler's tour de force. Graced with effortless charm and quiet masculinity, when needed, he generates a powerful electricity that crackles through all Butler's characters and

lights them up like a Pride float. There's not a false note in the lot. Directed with sure craft by **Joe Watts**, Bullitt bounds onto the stage and commands our attention. Inhabiting these diverse scenes to perfection, he brings these people to amazing life. I urge you to see Bullitt's magical, truthful performance in Butler's magical, truthful play.

### RECOMMENDED OUTINGS

#### *Always, Patsy Cline*

Through September 28  
Stages Repertory Theatre  
Ted Swindley's two-woman musical, premiered by Stages in 1988, is a country-fried homage to the great singer through her friendship with a Houston groupie. "Sing, laugh, and cry"—just like in the 27 songs peppered throughout.

#### *The Graduate*

September 23–October 5  
Hobby Center  
"Plastics, Benjamin, plastics!" Mike Nichols' hit movie. Anne Bancroft's Mrs. Robinson. Simon and Garfunkle's soundtrack. Dustin Hoffman's star-making turn. Now, all this has been turned into one big bad Broadway show. In case you've missed her sterling performances in *Bejeweled* and *Princess Caraboo*, Jerry Hall, super model and the former Mrs. Jagger, plays the adulterous Mrs. Robinson (read interview, page 40).

D.L. Groover writes monthly on the arts for OutSmart magazine.

"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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## SUNDANCE RULES

Sundance Channel gives us *The Slaughter Rule* with Ryan Gosling, *Swimming with Lauren Ambrose*, Fassbinder's *The Bitter Tears of Petra von Kant*, and a peek at Charles Busch in *Die Mommie Die!*



This extraordinary film, *The Slaughter Rule*, begins with Roy Chutney (Ryan Gosling) walking beside his horse in the snow. When he comes upon a deer impaled on a barbed-wire fence, he goes to the deer and gently pets its forehead. When the deer moves, Chutney is taken aback. Because the deer is alive and suffering, he knows he should "slaughter" it, so he picks up a sizable rock, raises it over his head, and . . . no, he can't do it. Rather than putting the wounded animal out of its misery, he takes a different, more compassionate route—he apologizes to the deer, lies on the snow next to it, and keeps vigil with the deer.

This sensitive scene is followed by Chutney playing football, his only outlet (other than alcohol) in a small town in Montana, only to immediately be kicked off the team. When a different coach cajoles Chutney into playing on a new team, a story of trust begins.

This new coach, Gideon Ferguson (David Morse), is rumored to be queer, and he certainly doesn't do much to dispel the rumors; one really can't tell if his interest in the young, straight Chutney is fatherly or sexual. It seems to boil down to same-sex love without the sex, a drive for affection. And since Ferguson has no intercourse with women (figuratively and literally), his present relationships are exclusively with men (and in this case, very young men).

But *The Slaughter Rule* seems to be less about whether Ferguson is gay than it is about trust. Will Chutney trust the coach after he hugs the youthful athlete, a hug that this queer thought bordered on lust?

The "slaughter rule" in football is a forced end to the game before the point of humiliation, something Ferguson wants to avoid at all cost. Will Chutney be as compassionate with the coach as he was with the deer?

Morse and Gosling give superb performances, and Clea Duvall as Chutney's girlfriend is a gem. Added treats are the exquisite cinematography and great country music. (This was Gosling's first film after his gifted performance in *The Believer*, which appeared at the 2001 Sundance Film Festival.)

*The Slaughter Rule* was an official selection in the 2002 Sundance Film Festival.

*The Slaughter Rule's* airdates on Sundance Channel (*The Believer's* airdates are in parentheses):

- Mon., Sept. 8, midnight
- Sat., Sept. 13, 8 p.m. (followed by *The Believer* at 10)
- Tues., Sept. 16, 1:30 & 10 p.m. (*The Believer* airs at 8; and *The Believer's* last airing is Sun., Sept. 21, at 8 p.m.)
- Sun., Sept. 28, 3 p.m.

To confirm schedule: [www.sundancechannel.com](http://www.sundancechannel.com). —Blase DiStefano

## ANATOMY OF A SCENE: DIE MOMMIE DIE!

Taking a crucial moment from Mark Rucker's new comedy, "Anatomy of a Scene" examines how the director/actor/writer Charles Busch (*Psycho Beach Party*) and other key collaborators brought to the screen this high-camp parody of melodramas of the 1950s and '60s. For his performance, Busch was awarded the Special Jury Prize at the 2003 Sundance Film Festival. The film costars Natasha Lyonne, Jason Priestley, and Frances Conroy. *Die Mommie Die!* will be one of a select group of films exhibited as part of Sundance Channel's new theatrical film series, which travels to 10 cities this fall. Sundance Channel airdates: Sun., Sept. 21, 6 p.m.; Mon., Sept. 22, 11 a.m. & 11 p.m.; Thurs., Sept. 25, 10:30 a.m. & 7 p.m.; Tues., Sept. 30, 8:30 a.m. & 7:30 p.m. —Troy Carrington

Charles Busch (center) with the film crew on the set of *Die Mommie Die!*

## LESBIAN LOVE



Lauren Ambrose

Prior to garnering universal acclaim in *Six Feet Under*, Lauren Ambrose won plaudits for her performance as a tomboyish teen in *Swimming*, a refreshing coming-of-age story. While working at her family's restaurant, shy Frankie (Ambrose) finds that her relationship with her extroverted best friend (Jennifer Dundas Lowe) is endangered when two summer visitors (Joelle Carter, Jamie Harrold) begin giving Frankie some unexpected amorous attention. Sundance Channel airdates: Sat., Sept. 20, 8 p.m.; Sun., Sept. 21, 4 a.m.; Tues., Sept. 23, 11:30 a.m. & 10 p.m.; Fri., Sept. 26, 8 a.m. & 6:25 p.m.; Sun., Sept. 28, 12:30 p.m.; Mon. Sept. 29, 11:30 a.m. To confirm schedule: [www.sundancechannel.com](http://www.sundancechannel.com). —TC



Hanna Schygulla

Emotional manipulation, claustrophobia, and dependency—recurrent themes in the plays and films of Germany's Rainer Werner Fassbinder—are front and center in *The Bitter Tears of Petra von Kant*, a 1971 film about a wealthy, divorced fashion designer (Margit Carstensen) who falls for a working-class beauty (Hanna Schygulla). Enacted on one set (with props playing critically important supporting roles), this haunting chamber drama masterfully covers a range of universal emotional interactions, from infatuation, jealousy, and silent longing to possession and coercion. Sundance Channel airdates: Wed., Sept. 10, 8 p.m.; Tues., Sept. 16, 12:45 a.m.; Fri., Sept. 26, 11:55 p.m. To confirm schedule: [www.sundancechannel.com](http://www.sundancechannel.com). —TC →

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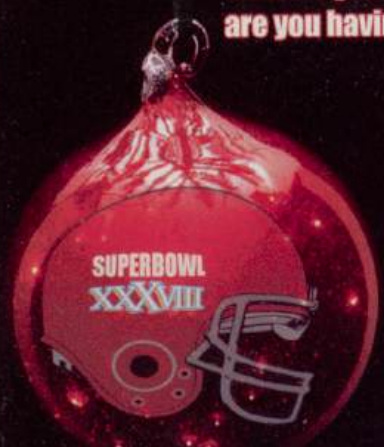
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**Television**  
continued from  
previous page



**ADULTS ONLY**

*Striperella* is a 30-minute animated series featuring Pamela Anderson as an exotic dancer by night and a super hero by later night. The creator is Stan Lee, best known to millions as the man whose super heroes propelled Marvel Comics to its preeminent position in the comic book industry. Among his co-creations are *Spider-Man*, *The Incredible Hulk*, and *X-Men*.

*Striperella* is not for everyone, but if you're looking for a little fun and aren't concerned about political correctness, this gay-friendly cartoon is good for a few laughs. Aired on Spike TV at 10 p.m. on Thursdays.



*The Ren & Stimpy Adult Party Cartoon* is a half-hour cartoon featuring Ren, an ornery asthma-hound Chihuahua, and Stimpy, his trusting feline sidekick. In the first episode, they're a gay couple. It updates the anarchic physical comedy of the great Warner Brothers cartoons of the '40s and '50s and is a contemporary (read: adult) rendition of classic-style cartoons chock full of mayhem and madness from famed creator John Kricfalusi (*The Jetsons*, *The New Adventures of Mighty Mouse*). These cartoons are not for everyone, not because of the gay subtext, but because they can be downright disgusting; at least that was the case in the first episode. If you want to give it a go, tune in to Spike TV at 9 p.m. on Thursdays.



The *Simpsons* episode "Three Gays of the Condo," in which Homer (pictured) rooms with two gay guys, is nominated for outstanding animated program for less than one hour.

▲ *Six Feet Under* leads with 16 Emmy nominations, including outstanding casting for a drama series. The cast includes (l-r): Lili Taylor, Peter Krause, Rachel Griffiths, Frances Conroy, Michael C. Hall, Mathew St. Patrick, Lauren Ambrose, and Freddy Rodriguez.

Also of interest to the queer eye: Showtime's *Soldier's Girl* received two nominations. HBO's *Sex and the City* and *Normal* garnered 13 and six nominations, respectively. And *The Daily Show* with Jon Stewart received three nominations.

**GAIETY AT THE EMMYS**



*Will & Grace* is a heavy contender with 12 nominations, including outstanding comedy series. Each of the Fab Four (l-r: Sean Hayes, Debra Messing, Eric McCormack, and Megan Mullally) is nominated in the acting categories.

The 55th Annual Emmy Awards airs at 7 p.m., Sunday, September 21 on Fox. Ellen DeGeneres is one of many cohosts.



These are only five of the reasons *Cher—The Farewell Tour* is nominated for outstanding costumes and outstanding hairstyling.



Cher's NBC special is also nominated for lighting direction, technical direction, music direction, and outstanding music special.





## GrooveOut Shorts

Pansy Division  
Total Entertainment



I first saw Pansy Division when my band opened for them years ago. I didn't know much about them back then, and when they took the stage after we played, the first thing I noticed was the picture of a huge schlong on the bass player's shirt. No, I still didn't quite get it—and it was only near the end of their set, after having scanned the audience, that I figured it out. When my band opened for them again the following year, I think the audience had to start wondering about us. • Pansy Division makes punk rock from the waist down. They've been on hiatus for five years but don't seem to have lost a step at all in their pursuit of the perfect queer punk rock song. The distinction of being the first all-gay rock band has had no small part in the responsibility that they shoulder, and even having suffered countless comparisons to their peers over the span of their career, they still chip away at it. Song titles like "He whipped my ass in tennis (then I f-ked his ass in bed)" and "Alpine Skiing" might be full of innuendoes (or not), but "No Protection" should become the new gay anthem for safe sex—and lots of it. From Alternative Tentacles ([www.alternativetentacles.com](http://www.alternativetentacles.com)).

—Lance Walker

Bitesize  
Sophomore Slump



The music of this indie-pop rock band is up-front and often throws you off with unexpected lyrics by Julia Serano (formerly Tom Serano). Not surprisingly, they include a few songs about transgenders. The off-key vocals of Leslie Harrison and Serano engage the listener in a unique perspective on subject matter like sex toys and gender bending. Bitesize never fails to entertain with songs that tell stories that empower and celebrate differences. *Sophomore Slump* captures the frenzied energy of a punk band. Fronted by Julia Serano, a lesbian transsexual, Bitesize is a charming gender-queer rock band. From Bitesize/Packing Heat Music ([www.bitesize.net](http://www.bitesize.net)). For more info: [www.daniland.com](http://www.daniland.com) or [www.switchhitter.net](http://www.switchhitter.net). —Andrea Rodricks

Original London Cast Recording  
Sail Away

*Sail Away* features music and lyrics by Noel Coward and stars Elaine Stritch as a madcap cruise director who finds love on a cross-continental journey aboard a luxury liner. Stritch confirmed her status as a Broadway icon when her landmark one-woman show *Elaine*

continued on page 69

GrooveOut  
by Gregg Shapiro

## KILT COMPLEX

Gay, punk, and Celtic, Ashley MacIsaac fiddles



Ashley MacIsaac: What's under his kilt?

Put on a kilt and kick it with gay, punk, Celtic fiddler Ashley MacIsaac. The Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, native has returned with his first new album in a few years. Anyone who was swept away by the musical greeting of his 1995 album *Hi, How Are You Today?* will probably feel the same way about this raucous self-titled album (on Decca/Universal Classics). From the stylishly pumped-up dance-friendly interpretation of Nick Drake's "Cello Song" to the more traditional love sentiments of "Lay Me Down" to the Celtic rock of "I Don't Need This" and the unexpected cover of Paul McCartney's "Mull of Kintyre," there is practically something for everyone on this album.

**Gregg Shapiro:** How do you think your sound has changed in the years since your 1992 debut disc and subsequent 1995 breakthrough album and your new self-titled album?

**Ashley MacIsaac:** This is much more adult contemporary. Furthermore, this is more radio friendly, where my first album was

more Celtic. I'm trying to get at all the audiences that are out there. I know I have a huge gay audience, a lot of gay fans who have been there. And it's not just because I play the fiddle. It's because I wear a kilt, and I show my nuts. I have no interest in not trying to sell to them, so I made songs for them to try and get played on the radio for everybody.

**I think that you succeed. You open the disc with a cover of Nick Drake's "Cello Song" . . .**

Well, there's a lot of traditional Celtic folk sounds on there, like the Nick Drake cult-sort-of-figure that he is. That sort of stuff is cool. But there's also "I Don't Need This" and "Lay Me Down," and other new songs.

**Was Drake someone that you would consider to be an influence or an inspiration?**

I don't know anything about him. Never did. They just brought me the song.

**There are times when an artist sings a love song, and the listener is left unconvinced . . .**

I sang love songs on this record to everybody that I've ever loved.

Your performance on "Lay Me Down" had me convinced that you are singing the song to a loved one. Is there someone to whom this song is being directed?

There is only one true love in my life. I'm with him right now.

**How long have you been together?**

How long have we been together? Not long enough. I hope to spend the next 50 years with him.

**And is he a musician as well?**

He is a musician as well. And since I'm not looking to leave things up to hope, I don't imagine 50 years. I imagine 60 or 70 years. And by that time, he'll be a good musician [laughs].

**Roger Greenwalt, who produced your new album, also wrote or co-wrote some of the tracks.**

Roger Greenwalt is a great guy. He had a lot to do with it.

**The song "Captain America" sounds like something of a political statement. What was the inspiration for that song?**

I started writing that song in Atlanta, when the guy [Eric Rudolph] who was recently arrested for the abortion [clinic] bombings, set off a bomb in Atlanta for the first time. I was also, the day before 9/11, in New York, sitting and looking at the World Trade [Center] towers. I took the vibe from that day and wrote a patriotic American song.

**Of all the songs on the album, "I Don't Need This," which you referred to earlier . . .**

That's exactly how the whole thing started out.

**In what way?**

I definitely didn't need to do this. But I did it because I needed to think that one more stab at the American market was worth it. But, on the other hand, it's a big market, and this is my last stab at it. "I Don't Need This" is sort of a take on how this record was an idea, with music, how this is my last big record.

**It's a great song, and it sounds like it has the potential to become a hit single.**

I want to shoot a video on Laguna Beach with boys.

**I think you should definitely do that.**

I hope so.

**Are there plans for a U.S. tour?**

I don't know. That might springboard me to my next big plan, which is to get a tour next summer of all kinds of typically Celtic punks, but there could be gay punks involved in it, too. Just people like myself, together on a stage in a big summer concert tour. That's what I want to have happen. I want to become the Sarah McLachlan of gay Celts.

*At the 2003 OutMusic Awards in June, Gregg Shapiro received the annual honor for Outstanding Support, which recognizes involvement by non-musicians in furthering the work of GLBT performers.*

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## GrooveOut Shorts

cont. from page 66



Stritch at Liberty took New York by storm and won the 2002 Tony Award for Special Theatrical Event. Her other Broadway credits include Pal Joey, Bus Stop, Company, Show Boat, and Edward Albee's A Delicate Balance. From Fynsworth Alley (www.fynsworthalley.com).

—Troy Carrington

## Deborah Cox Remixed



Deborah Cox has embraced dance music and recognizes her club-music fans by engaging remixers to rework her singles. Her soulful voice sounds as incredible on a house remix as it does when she sings R&B. Most of the remixes chosen for the compilation are by Hex Hector, whose remixes of "Things Just Ain't the Same" and "Nobody's Supposed to Be Here" established Deborah as a clubland diva. This continuous-mix album features her Billboard dance hits as well as unreleased tracks. From J Records (www.jrecords.com). For more info: www.deborahcox.com or www.flylifemusic.com. —AR

## Various Artists Remembering Patsy Cline



In celebration of what would have been Patsy Cline's 71st birthday (September 8, 1932), MCA Nashville releases this all-star tribute. Twelve versatile singers, including k.d. lang, Natalie Cole, and Amy Grant, interpret the classic songs from Cline's massively popular *Greatest Hits*, which is now nearing sales of 10 million copies and has been on the *Billboard Country Catalog* charts for 15 years. Available September 9 from MCA Nashville. —TC

## Tamia Still



After toughing it out through the '90s as a backup singer and studio vocalist, Tamia has released her second full album of sexy-dripping slow songs. This time it is with the assistance of producers Babyface, Mario Winans, and Shep Crawford, who produced her hit "Stranger in My House." Outside of the songs themselves, Tamia's voice is like silk. It's a silk chocolate curtain wearing itself over the stage and ruffling itself about when the song calls for it. Her backing tracks, composed of multiple

layers of her own voice creating a criss-cross pattern of melodies superimposed over each other, are what really bring out her voice. If this record is a ride, she's driving, but the backup vocals are riding shotgun. From Elektra (www.elektra.com). —LW

## Kate McGarry Show Me



Kate McGarry is old school. Listening to her croon and play piano reminds me of Vince Guaraldi's score for the *Peanuts Christmas Special*. Maybe Guaraldi was playing in a lounge somewhere, and Kate McGarry crawled up onto his piano and started whispering softly in his ear. The crowd of onlookers quietly stirred their vodka tonics and puffed on their cigars, trying their best to ignore the steamy scene on top of the piano. Then McGarry bursts into full song, with Guaraldi's flawless tickling of the ivories providing a wall of tonal warmth behind her, leaving room for her to belt it out or bring it down. Everyone in the room eventually gets up, conceding to the sexiness of the scene and therefore becoming a part of it. They finish the number and McGarry struts out of the room without so much as waving goodbye. No one

continued on page 71

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## GrooveOut Shorts

cont. from page 69  
even applauds—it's just as if they've been given a gift. From Palmetto (www.palmetto-records.com). —LW

### Various Artists Verve/Remixed<sup>2</sup>



The Verve Remixed project gives us another selection of vocal classics laid over tracks by some of the most talented producers in electronic music today. It features tunes by Sarah Vaughan, Ella Fitzgerald, and Nina Simone, all of whom were represented on the first CD. The Gotan Project, with their trademark bandoneon, gives Sarah Vaughan's "Whatever Lola Wants" a Parisian flair. Miguel "Petalpusher" Migs mixes Ella's incomparable vocals into house music. The beauty of the Verve Remixed project is that it invites new audiences to appreciate the classic sounds that influence many of today's dance music artists and producers. From Verve Records (www.vervemusicgroup.com). —AR

### Nigel Kennedy/The Kroke Band East Meets East



Britain's bad boy of classical music offers a superb collection of music from Eastern Europe and North Africa with *East Meets East*. Nigel Kennedy's album is a continuation of the long tradition of classical music and musicians influenced by Romani music. With a passion for musical diversity, Nigel teams up with the Kroke Band from Poland to bring us an album of works influenced by Klezmer, Arabic, and gypsy music. From EMI Classics (www.emiclassics.com). —AR

### Laura Turner Soul Deep



*Soul Deep* is more than a showcase for a great voice. An accomplished songwriter, dancer, and poet, as well as classically trained singer, Laura Turner has crafted an unmistakable sound that artfully unites her operatic training with the

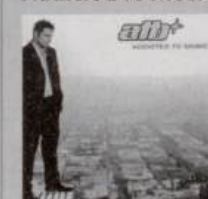
smoldering sensuality and emotional immediacy of the best songwriting. Her musical explorations of love and longing are driven by hypnotic rhythms and a deep, sensual spirituality that will have fans of Sarah Brightman, Enya, Kate Bush, and Secret Garden clamoring for more. From Curb Records (www.curb.com). —TC

### Siedah Garrett Siedah



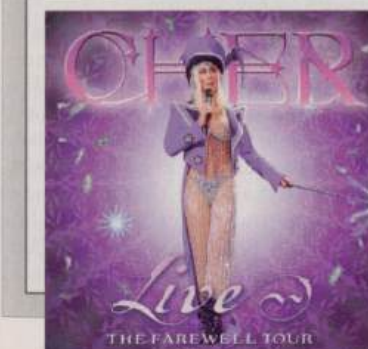
This lady has been around the world a dozen times over, and her record shows it. She first took to the road, ocean, and skies with Sergio Mendes some years back, singing her heart out in Portuguese and visiting places she surely never thought she'd get a chance to see. That experience led to her introduction to Quincy Jones, whom she subsequently worked with, then on to working with Michael Jackson, for whom she co-wrote the hit "Man in the Mirror." Beyond that she began working on her own material and eventually became a member of British soul-funk-pop sensation the Brand New Heavies. She has now returned home to Southern California and has stripped down her music quite a bit—opting for somewhat scarce production in the face of what she's been involved with in the past. Now that she's taken care of everyone else, she can pursue her own career, hopefully doing so hit-by-hit. From Omtown (www.omtown.com). —LW

### ATB Addicted to Music



German DJ/remixer/producer André Tanneberger, aka ATB, is a versatile musician. His self-produced album *Addicted to Music* is influenced by a wide range of music made up of dance and relaxed club tracks. Canadian vocalist Roberta Carter breathes life into the tracks with her amazing voice. You can also see ATB for the first time on DVD. Set for release in conjunction with his new album, this new DVD is a must-have for all ATB fans. In addition to all of his videos, the DVD includes a feature on ATB's U.S. tour, an interview, a photo gallery, and more. *Addicted to Music* is one-part upbeat dance/techno tracks and one-part slower progressive trance tracks. From Radikal Records (www.radikal.com). For more info: www.atb-music.com. —AR

### Cher Cher Live: The Farewell Tour



The colors of Cher's *Farewell Tour* CD cover are pink, lavender, and purple—what else do you need to know? Oh, maybe that this single-disc version is also available on a two-CD set with *The Very Best of Cher*, which features her studio hits. Oh, and then there's the *Farewell Tour* DVD. If that doesn't soothe your Cher fix, there's her tour, which makes an encore landing in Houston on September 26. Still not enough? There's more Cher on page 65. —Blase DiStefano ■

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## ReadOut Shorts

### Keeping You a Secret

Julie Anne Peters  
Little, Brown and Company  
Megan Tingly Books



High school senior Holland Jaeger is in a slump. There are endless rounds of boring classes, a mounting pile of college rejection letters, and a boyfriend who has gotten "good at fast and soundless sex."

Her mother and school counselor are busy planning Holland's life without bothering to ask her what she wants, and her Goth-freak stepsister is slowly encroaching on Holland's half of their dingy basement bedroom. Things look bleak.

Then an out-and-proud lesbian student named Cece shows up at school, and suddenly senior year isn't boring anymore. Holland is fascinated by the confident, self-assured Cece, even if most of her friends are put off by having a "lesbian fanatic" in their midst.

As Holland discovers her growing feelings of attraction for her new friend, she also discovers just how homophobic her friends and family really are. The two girls start dating and Holland is blissfully happy, but when Holland takes a few timid steps out of the closet, Cece pushes her back in. It's too dangerous, she tells Holland. And when someone paints "Die Dyke" on Cece's locker, Holland starts to believe her.

Author Julie Anne Peters has written a tender, touching portrayal of a young woman's awakening sexuality and the sometimes-devastating consequences of living an openly gay life. Peters' previous release *Define Normal* won the ALA Best Book for Young Adults, and in *Keeping You a Secret* she again gives readers a moving and realistic story. —Olivia Flores Alavarez

### She's Not There: A Life in Two Genders

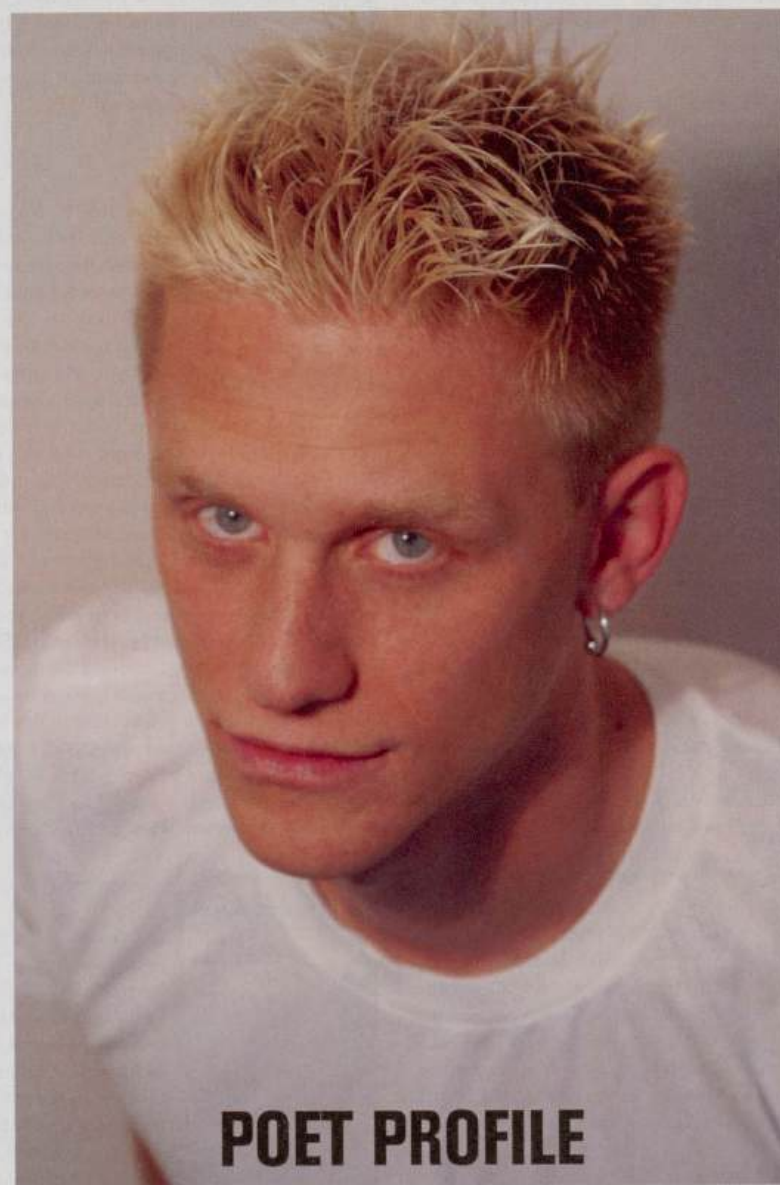
Jennifer Finney Boylan  
Broadway Books



It's an unconventional story, but then again, Jennifer Finney Boylan has had an unconventional life. Born James Boylan, he spent his childhood playing "Girl Planet," a magical place where everyone automatically turned into a girl. Growing up he tried to act normal. He dated women. True, he spent much of his time imagining what he looked like in his girlfriends' clothes, but he tried. In an effort to "straighten out," he got married and as a

## ReadOut

by Tim Brookover



## POET PROFILE

**Name:** Todd (Toddicus) Alan Helvey  
Gresley

**Age:** Older than I look

**Birthplace:** Anderson, Indiana

**Occupation:** Art director at Retro Gallery

**Current endeavor:** Author of the just-published poetry collection *Indiana the Island* (Atahualpa Press).

**Next ambition:** To release new material and work on new music.

**Inspirations:** Siouxsie and The Banshees, Kate Bush, Morrissey, Anne Sexton

**I am most proud of:** Telling people how I feel no matter what—and my Siouxsie collection, of course.

**What's next?** More books . . . poetry readings. . . and dating perhaps??

On September 24, Gresley will read from *Indiana the Island*, his first published work, at Helios at 8 p.m. Gresley's book is available for sale through his website, [www.toddicus.com](http://www.toddicus.com) as well as [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and select local bookstores ("No corporate bookstores! Rahhrr!" he wrote in a recent e-mail). Visitors to the site can also order artwork from the book by local illustrator Brandon Hancock, whose spare, offbeat drawings recall Edward Gorey.

Gresley also wrote us about his site: "I was in a rock band for 10 years, and a popular thing to do is to release an EP of work or a single with extra tracks—or B sides. As the website says, there will be a keyword in the book that will give you access on the website to the poems that never made it into the book and poems that correlate with 'the single' poems as well—'B Side Poems,' if you will. A first in the poetry world." ■

wedding present to himself threw out all his women's clothing. He built a normal life. He had a loving wife, two lively sons. He was a respected, popular university professor. His attempt at convention worked, but it didn't work for long. Soon those old feelings surfaced again and Boylan started inching toward a grown-up version of "Girl Planet" and sexual reassignment.

A tender look at a woman who dares to be herself, *She's Not There* is both poignant and bitter-sweet. Although Boylan has amazing success in transforming herself, it comes at a price. Each triumph moves Boylan closer to being Jennifer but further away from James—and from those who loved him.

James's sons, students, and coworkers seem to take the change in stride, but James's wife Grace isn't as nonchalant. Jennifer's transformation is also a transformation of the marriage as well. Both partners will now be women. Is Jennifer's reassignment surgery also a divorce? Or just a change to hers and hers towels? This wasn't covered in the wedding vows.

Ultimately, *She's Not There* is a story of the love between Jennifer and Grace. Although no longer sexual, the relationship between the two is intact if a bit in flux.

At each point before his sex change, James Boylan would ask himself, "Why am I doing this?" and always he'd answer, "Because I can't not." Thankfully, with Grace's love and her own courage, Jennifer Finney Boylan no longer has to question her life. —OFA ■

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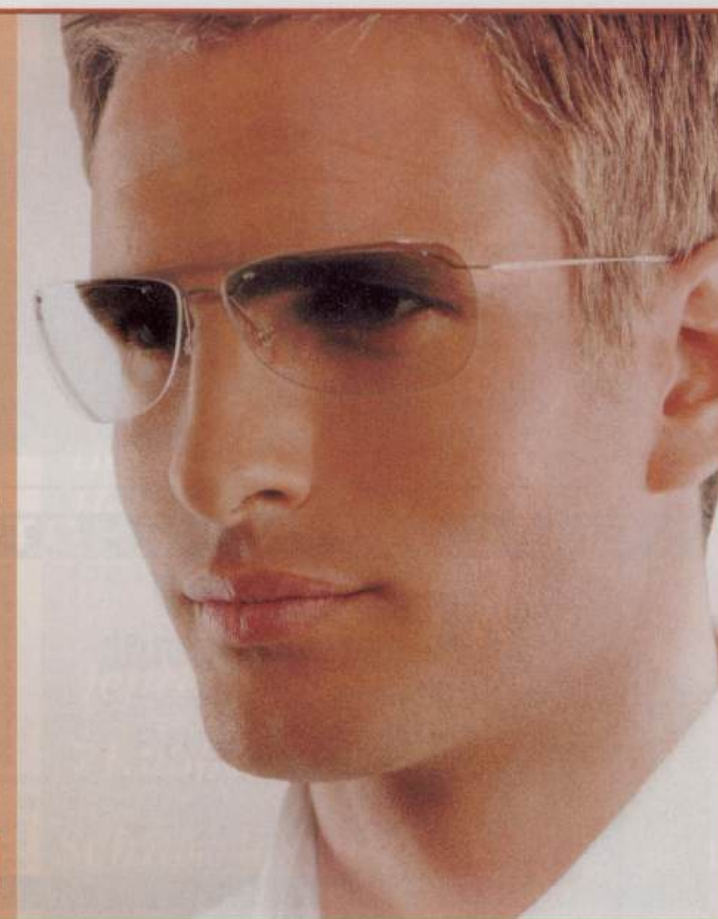
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## STRANGER IN THE NIGHT

*What's that noise?*

The worst thing about the times I've been single is not having a girlfriend around to confront intruders. Not that I'm a wuss. I brave spiders, bats, snakes, and door-to-door proselytizers. But there's something about a strange noise in the night that makes you want to nudge your cuddle buddy and tell her it's her turn to go see what it is.

One sweltering summer night, my independence was put to the test. My apartment was so stifling that I left the back door open, a habit I got into when my trusty guard dog was still alive. She would bark at the approach of so much as a pill bug, which in my small town was about all that came around after lights out. But now that I was really alone—unless you count my cat, who occasionally deigned to come in and sleep on the vacant pillow—I had no one to play Dagwood to my Blondie.

I lay down sans pajamas and sprawled

across the mattress for maximum airage. Eventually, the night cooled. I pulled up the cotton sheet and fell into a deep sleep.

About three in the morning, I felt the cat's weight on the foot of the bed. I instinctively reached over to her pillow and petted her. My hand nestled into pussy fur (the only kind available that summer), and I drifted back to sleep. Paw steps pressed up my legs. The pressure inched its way up my torso. I stroked the cat on the pillow next to me. Something wasn't right, but my sleepy brain was Bullwinkle slow. Let's see, if my cat's on the pillow and something's walking on me... that something must not be the cat. A moist snuffling sound approached my face. Warm, foul breath rocketed my synapses into action.

I jerked the sheet taut and snapped whatever it was off the bed. I heard a loud thud, then the scritch of claws scuttled across the wood floor. I jumped upright. The bedside lamp crashed down. The cat hissed

and ran off, leaving me alone in the dark with whatever it was. I stood on the pillows stark naked in fierce Barbarella pose.

My heart raced. I couldn't see a thing. The light switch was unreachable, unless I dared cross the floor, upon which waited god-knows-what. I held steady at the head of the bed, hoping whatever it was wouldn't spring up and rip out my jugular.

I fumbled for the nightstand drawer, twisted my mini maglite on and scanned the room. What was that dark lump staggering between my dresser and the closet? Beady little pink-rimmed eyes glowed in the light, which cast an unmistakable shadow on the closet wall—a big, hairy possum. The creature twitched its long, scaly tail, let out a wet hiss, and flashed me a Jack Nicholson grin.

That hideous stare locked onto my flashlight beam, freeing me to back off the bed and into the kitchen. I grabbed the broom and a grocery bag. Armed for battle,

I switched on the bedroom light.

Nobody there. Silence. Just the creepy feeling of not knowing. Where is Sigourney Weaver when you need her? Where was anybody? I couldn't exactly call 911. What was I going to say? *I'd like to report an uninvited possum?* I wanted to cry, to call for Popeye or Tarzan or Carol Mosely Braun.

There was no one to rescue me, no one else to rely on. I had to deal. *Look, this thing is smaller and slower than you are,* I told myself. *It also has claws and teeth, and you are stark raving naked,* my self replied. Being an independent woman means being brave enough to... what? Wander around naked with a broom and a paper bag and a wild beast loose in my house? Yes, exactly that.

I needed a drink of water. I'd cool down and get ready for the alien to reappear. Back in the kitchen but still on code red alert, I reached for a clean glass. That's when I noticed the possum on the counter, lurking

behind the dish drainer. I'm pretty sure it said, "Hello, Clarice." There it sat, with that horrible smiling face, ready to eviscerate me, or eat my eyeballs, or do whatever it is possums do to their prey.

I lost a few dinner plates in the scuffle, but I finally bagged the little bugger, taped the top of the paper bag shut, and set it out on the front steps—all on my own. The next morning, I made sure it hadn't escaped and called the animal rescue team. A nice, dykey-sounding woman said possums could be relocated outside of town, and they would come pick it up right away. I reminded myself to put some clothes on before they got here.



Sally Sheklow's current girlfriend keeps the doors of their Eugene, Oregon, home closed at night. They both perform with WYMPROV! the award-winning all-lesbian improv comedy troupe.

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continued from page 52

## INFERNAL BRIDEGROOM PRODUCTIONS

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### • Jerry's World

September 25–October 18, 2003

If you're a radio junkie whose tastes in programming are more adventuresome than Garrison Keillor, you're probably aware of Joe Frank and his bizarre shows. A cult personality from years of on-again/off-again scheduling and his own personal demons in producing these intense broadcasts, Frank has garnered awards for his psychotic talents and a loyal audience. His shows can be rants, monologues, fake discussion panels, and

original plays usually edited from actual conversations over the phone, or all of the above. Playwright Troy Schulze (*Actual Air*, *Roberto Zucco*) adapted this strange worldview from Frank's actual programs.

### • A Symphony of Rats

February 19–March 13, 2004

Richard Foreman, artistic director of NYC's Ontological-Hysteric Theater, is an acolyte of Ionesco, and his plays are like Baroque mystery dreams. In this one, a bizarre political satire, a U.S. president, deaf and dumb, gets marching orders from outer space. Outside of IBP, Foreman's quirky and challenging works are not often performed. In Foreman's own words, "I would like to think that the perceptual exercising that my plays demand make your mental apparatus, and your emotional apparatus, feel attuned, feel awake. It's very difficult—a glass of water in the face." Go, but be warned.

Patti LuPone sings with the Houston Symphony.



## MAIN STREET THEATER

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### • Oh, Boy!

December 31, 2003–January 17, 2004

This musical rarity with music by Jerome Kern and book and lyrics by Guy Bolton and P. G. Wodehouse was one of the earliest Broadway blockbusters. George returns home to Long Island after eloping with Lou. She wants time to explain the marriage to her parents, and of course this gives everyone the necessary excuse to have mistaken identities and marital mixups. When madcap actress Jackie climbs into George's bedroom window, this tilt-a-whirl plot goes into overdrive. A charming, delightful dinosaur from the age of the Ziegfeld Follies, Eddie Cantor, and *Maytime*.

### • Copenhagen

January 15–February 14, 2004

With perfect scheduling, Michael Frayn's Tony-winning intellectual drama plays at the same time as *Proof* at the Alley. This one, though, is not so funny. Coming from the author of the screamingly funny *Noises Off*, this turn to the serious is no cause for panic. Although nuclear physics gets more stage time than in any other play on earth, Frayn knows enough about stagecraft not to give us dry quantum mechanics. Set in a celestial court, we now have a battle between Danish scientist Niels Bohr, his wife Margrethe, and his prize pupil, German physicist Werner Heisenberg, over politics, war guilt, and personal responsibility.

## MASQUERADE THEATRE

1537 N. Shepherd • 713/861-7045

www.masqueradetheatre.com

### • The Wild Party

September 18–October 11, 2003

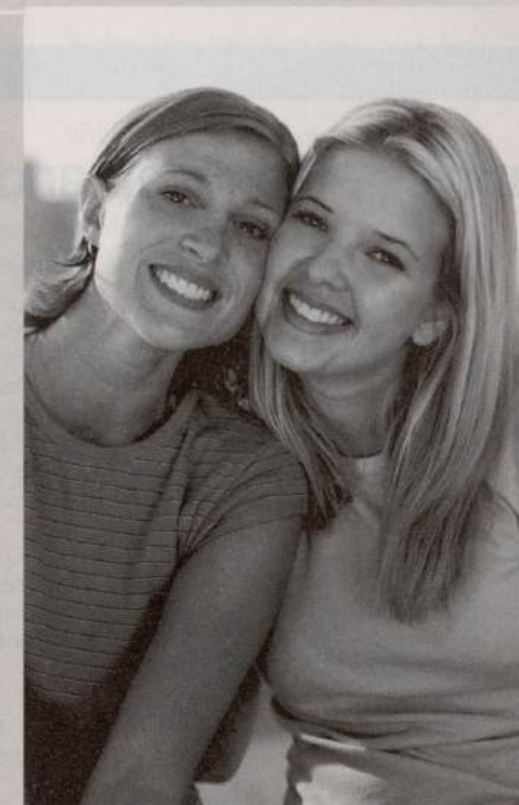
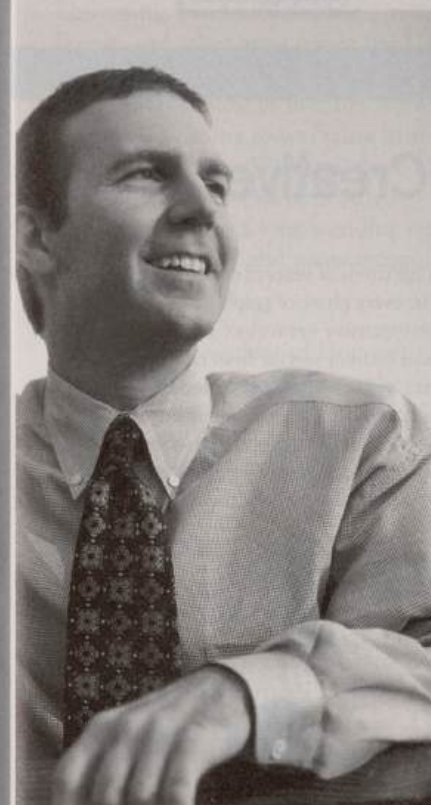
Queenie, a vaudeville dancer during the roaring '20s, lives with her abusive lover, Burrs, a vaudeville clown. To embarrass him publicly for the continual beatings, she convinces him to throw "a party to end all parties." The scheme goes horribly awry in Andrew Lippa's adult musical based on Joseph Moncure March's 1928 rhymed verse narrative that is part Nathaniel West, part Faulkner. These high-living lowlives revel in the debauchery, inspired no doubt by Fatty Arbuckle's infamous San Francisco party

continued on page 91

# OutSmart

## FEATURES

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## Maureen Patton Receives Prestigious Award

Maureen Patton, executive director of The Grand 1894 Opera House, was the recipient of the prestigious "Award for Outstanding Individual Contribution" presented during the recent 27th Annual Conference of the League of Historic American Theatres' awards ceremony in Miami, Florida.

Patton, honored for her "commitment...passion...professional expertise...charity and generosity" was also recognized for her "remarkable efforts, meritorious service, and professional expertise brought to bear on an historic theater project." Selected for this special honor by a distinguished awards jury, the judges included a nationally-recognized architect, a co-founder of the American Repertory Theatre and director of the Drama Center at Harvard University, and a company



Maureen Patton, executive director of The Grand 1894 Opera House

president of a major economic development consulting firm for the entertainment/recreation industry.

Since first serving as a volunteer board member on the Galveston Arts Council in 1973, Patton has worked over three decades to ensure the growth and development of The Grand. In 1981, she served as the theater's first executive director and coordinated the massive restoration effort that was completed in 1986.

Patton served on the board of trustees of the League of Historic American Theatres from 1986-2000 and is a past president; she also served for several years as conference committee chairman. Additionally, she serves as a member of the International Society of Arts Presenters, the Association of Arts Presenters, the governing board of the Southwest Presenters, and as a member of the Arts Review Panels for both the

Mid-America Arts Alliance and the Texas Commission on the Arts, whose executive director, Ricardo Hernandez, considers Patton one of "Texas' Cultural Treasures."

Locally, Patton has served on the boards of directors of the Galveston Rotary Club, Railroad Museum, the Island's Outdoor Musicals, and the Historic Downtown/Strand Partnership organization. She has been honored by the Historic Downtown Strand Partnership, the Rotary Club of Galveston, and the Galveston Historical Foundation. Last year, she was elected to the Downtown Renaissance Hall of Fame and, most recently, was honored—along with her husband Larry—as a recipient of the 2003 Community Enrichment Award.

For more information about The Grand 1894 Opera House, its programming, and on-going projects, call 800/821-1894, 409/763-7173, or visit The Grand's website at [www.thegrand.com](http://www.thegrand.com). The theater is located at 2020 Postoffice in historic downtown Galveston.



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## Starfall Graphics – Focused and Creative!

Starfall Graphics opened for business in October 1999, but the seed from which this unconventional graphic-design business sprouted was planted a dozen years earlier.

"My friends and I griped for years about bosses who treated us like machines and employers who looked at a client and saw a check-book," says Ed Gumnick, a partner in Starfall. "We promised one another that some day we'd be the bosses, and our business would be different. Creativity would carry more weight than profitability; trust and respect would be our stock in trade; satisfying work would be the bottom line."

Four years ago, Gumnick and his partner Mark Herrera decided to put those lofty ambitions to work. They began offering graphic design and typesetting from their Heights-area home to a short client list of friends, vendors, and colleagues.

"It's tempting to make many compromises in the day-to-day challenges of running a business," says Gumnick, "but we've tried to stay focused on ideals by which a creative business can not only survive, but thrive. Good communication is at the heart of design work. To create a beautiful printed piece or an effective ad, you must understand what motivates your client; to maintain high standards of quality and service, you have to care about what your client cares about."

It's no surprise that many of Starfall's clients are nonprofits, small businesses, and self-employed people. "We're proud of the number of clients who have become our friends, as well as the number of friends who are part of our business."

Today Starfall Graphics includes nine employees and many freelance specialists (including three of those friends from a dozen years ago!).

With hundreds of years of collective experience in every phase of graphic-arts production and an extensive network of suppliers, Starfall provides turnkey service from concept to delivery with an approach customized to your unique project. Besides design and typesetting, this versatile company offers proofreading, editorial services, corporate identity development, website design/construction, and more.

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## Bryan Williams, Inner-Loop Real Estate Specialist

Taking his first real estate course while attending Northwestern State University, Bryan Williams subsequently put his real estate career on hold while working offshore and becoming involved in the restaurant industry. However, he could not escape his dream of becoming a Realtor and obtained his Texas real estate license in 1997. Williams currently works as a top-producing sales associate for Coldwell Banker Swilley-Hudson, located in the Houston Heights.



Bryan Williams, ABR Realtor

In his real estate practice, Williams primarily focuses on the Houston Heights, Museum District, Afton Oaks, West University, Garden Oaks, Montrose, Oak Forest, and other areas inside the Loop. He has also been successful in master-planned communities in other areas of Houston. Wishing to specialize in these areas is the reason Williams chose to work at Coldwell Banker Swilley-Hudson, who has a long-standing reputation of excellence and name recognition in the city.

Williams is a resident of Houston Heights and loves promoting the Heights and other nearby neighborhoods for their diversity of homes and similarities of small-town living.

In the six years Williams has been a Realtor, he has won many top producer awards, including Coldwell Banker's International Diamond Society Award and the President's Circle Award. Most recently he earned the "Previews Property Specialists Designation." Less than five percent of the 90,000 Coldwell

Williams says the most important aspect of working with buyers is to determine their individual needs in a home. "Next you have to find the area with homes that fit these needs in the prescribed price range of the buyer." Williams also emphasizes that he does not believe in being pushy when it comes to a buyer making a decision on which home to purchase. The buyer has to feel comfortable with his choice, and the Realtor's over-recommending a specific property could ultimately result in an unhappy buyer. He also considers it his responsibility to ensure that the buyer purchases the new home at a fair price.

When dealing with out-of-town buyers, Williams makes sure to send them weekly newspapers including the real estate sections, to familiarize them with the market in Houston. He will also send out brochures, copies of magazine articles, and other pertinent information concerning Houston and its communities.

Williams says, "Happy buyers and happy sellers are what it is all about. If your clients are happy, you are happy. The combination results in a successful and rewarding career. Real estate has given me numerous opportunities including meeting lots of nice people, often resulting in long-term personal and/or business relationships. Most important is the sense of pride I feel from people coming to me asking for my services and advice. They put their trust in me. That means more to me than anything else, and as a result I ensure that needs of my clients are met and they get the best service possible."

**Bryan Williams, Realtor**

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## images-by david lewis



In the past, our community has had few choices when it comes to event photos, couple photos, and other photographic needs. I want to change that.

In my work, I try to make people feel special and safe so I can capture on film the best of them—in their portraits or the important events in their life.

As our community becomes more comfortable with who we are, I want to capture it in my photographs. Be proud of who you are! Of your relationship! Of your ceremony! And show that pride in your photos.

We work so hard to embrace who we are and who we will become ... why not document that journey now so we can keep those memories forever?

— David W. Lewis

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## Karen Derr Realty— Keeping It in the Family

Known for lifestyle marketing and personalized service, Karen Derr & Associates Realty has become a trusted sign in yards all over the greater Houston area. Now, with 40 agents and three offices, will the boutique agency lose touch with the people and values that have made them a success?

We're betting not! In an industry where buyouts and mergers are common, and huge offices are the norm, owners Karen and Robert Derr are committed to making sure quality and service only increase as their family-owned business grows. They're doing this by bringing on only top quality Realtors and by continuing to list excellent properties, expertly priced. "Each agent who works here is trained to add value to a client's home buying or selling experience," explains Derr. "The Realtors you see month after month in our ads are with us for a reason—they are the best in the business."

The company associates itself with some top builders, too. Marketing new construction by Allegro, Alan Kight, Rob Sanders, Pinnacle Homes, Premier Victorian, Karina, and Croix Custom Homes, Karen Derr & Associates presents quality new homes in some of Houston's best neighborhoods. Now, add to this impressive lineup Tricon Builders, which has listed five brand-new Heights homes with the agency this summer. Represented by Robert Derr, the Tricon homes are priced \$289,900-\$319,000 and are selling in record time. Tricon has built more new homes in the Heights than any other builder, and Derr cites their formula of offering well-built homes and great designs, always priced right, as the key



Karen Derr

to their success. And Robert Derr has introduced Tricon Builders to a whole new market of inner-Loop buyers by advertising them in OutSmart and presenting flash video tours, floor plans, and printable PDF flyers online at [www.TheTownHouseAlternative.com](http://www.TheTownHouseAlternative.com).

Brothers Jose and Tristan Berlanga own Tricon Builders. Like Karen Derr & Associates Realty, the Berlangas have a great family-owned business that refuses to sacrifice quality with growth.

To reach Karen Derr & Associates Realty or to view a Tricon home, call 713/862-1600 or go online to [www.TownHouseAlternative.com](http://www.TownHouseAlternative.com) or [PeopleLovePorches.com](http://PeopleLovePorches.com).

### Boutique Agency Adds Concierge Services

Karen Derr & Associates Realty has touted their personalized service and white-glove treatment for both buyers and sellers for a decade now. "We're famous for going the extra mile for our clients," explains broker Karen Derr, owner of three offices in Houston and Galveston. Now, Derr has finalized a program that adds valuable services and discounts for buyers of their listed homes in great neighborhoods all over Houston and in Galveston. These services and discounts include complimentary interior design consulting, furniture discounts, and private club trials and referrals. The talented staff at Karen Derr & Associates will also help with personal shopping and event planning, including your very own housewarming party hosted by your Karen Derr buyer's agent.

In an age where buyers and sellers want a brokerage firm to add value to their real estate transaction, Karen Derr believes her concierge program does just that. "We offer the best listings, expertly priced, and now wonderful benefits that a buyer will treasure long after the sale," she says. Sellers benefit, too, by having their homes included in the unique program when they list with Karen Derr & Associates Realty.

To receive a list of all the Karen Derr & Associates services and benefits provided, call 713/862-1600 or visit [www.PeopleLovePorches.com](http://www.PeopleLovePorches.com).



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The Alexandria Group is a real estate investment and management firm that specializes in educating and mentoring real estate investors. Each of our partners has 30+ years of experience in construction, purchase, finance, and management of single-family and multi-family homes.

We love to teach and empower!

We'd like to share with others, especially women like ourselves, how they can acquire, operate and profit from residential properties in the Houston area. We can help you tailor a real estate investment program to your comfort level and degree of "hands-on" that you want in managing your investment dollars.

Typically, our clients are part-time or novice real estate investors who want to know if one of the many ways of successful real estate investing is right for them. They are people who have money invested in other investment vehicles and are intrigued with the returns and tax benefits of real estate.



An example of an actual property currently available in Montrose is this 8-unit apartment building listed for sale at \$495,000. Once purchased, you could profit from the sale of each unit individually as condos. Want to live rent-free? Purchase the property with a zero-down, owner-occupied mortgage, live in one unit while the rental proceeds from the remaining units pay your monthly mortgage. Another option is a non-owner-occupied purchase, using all units as rental property.

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## Dr. Marc Sanders of Diagnostic Eye Center Introduces Custom LASIK

Dr. Marc Sanders of Diagnostic Eye Center has been committed to providing top quality eye care to the gay and lesbian community since he started practicing in Houston ten years ago. Dr. Marc Sanders feels he is in the ideal practice—that of surgically correcting or enhancing his patients' vision. "What I love about ophthalmology is the kind of impact this practice may have on a patient's life," says Dr. Sanders when asked why he chose his specific field. The immediate results, which often add so much to the quality of life of his clientele, are what drew him to the field while he was still performing rotations in medical school at Baylor. Those same results have given Dr. Sanders the professional satisfaction and reputation as one of Houston's top ophthalmologic surgeons during the last ten years of his practice. Just this month he has been named one of the top doctors in Houston by HTexas Magazine.

While keeping in tune with the advances in techniques and technologies, Dr. Sanders is very conscientious about the quality of care his patients receive. To him, striving to provide an atmosphere of comfort around state-of-the-art equipment far outweighs achieving a high turnover in the number of appointments he may schedule. Not only has he created an office environment in which visitors feel at ease, Dr. Sanders actually takes an empathetic approach in his treatment—so much so that he had LASIK performed on himself. Dr. Sanders has performed over 1,200 LASIK procedures and was named one of the top 100 LASIK surgeons in the country by Laservision 2002.

Two of the newest technologies, which Dr. Sanders is pleased to offer, have had a tremendous impact on people seeking vision improvements. The first is a refined LASIK procedure for nearsightedness called Wavefront Technology. Taking LASIK to a new level, Wavefront Technology uses an individually customized laser during the surgery as opposed to setting the laser for a standard prescription improvement. Secondly, Conductive Keratoplasty is geared more towards those seeking correction for farsightedness and reading difficulties. Instead of using a laser to perform the technique, less invasive radiowaves are used to reshape the cornea.

Dr. Sanders conveys a conservative approach to new technologies and only offers those



proven to have safe and successful results. He relies heavily on colleagues, research and development studies and his Baylor mentors to remain abreast of advances in his field, while constantly monitoring his patients' responses to the treatments. This kind of personal attention is what makes his practice a success and is what will keep Dr. Sanders one of the leading surgeons the Texas Medical Center has to offer.

A member of the clinical faculty of Baylor College of Medicine, Dr. Sanders is committed to educating doctors in training. He is board certified by the American Board of Ophthalmology and is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

Dr. Marc Sanders is named one of the top doctors in Houston by HTexas Magazine.



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## Stewart Zuckerbrod: Caring for the Community

Stewart Zuckerbrod, M.D., originally from New York, came to Houston over 20 years ago to attend Baylor College of Medicine. Practicing ophthalmology for 16 years, Dr. Zuckerbrod is now in solo practice at Diagnostic Eye Center-Bellaire, supported by a small and loyal staff.



Dr. Zuckerbrod and Staff

A comprehensive ophthalmologist, Zuckerbrod treats eye conditions ranging from providing glasses and contact lenses to performing surgery for cataracts and glaucoma, cosmetic eyelid procedures and LASIK surgery.

As part of UT Medical School-Houston and Baylor's teaching faculty, he has trained many practicing Houston ophthalmologists and optometrists.

Dr. Zuckerbrod's excellent clinical judgment and personal rapport with patients have earned him a stellar reputation. He is a caring doctor for the GLBT community, and he takes special interest in patients with HIV. Dr. Zuckerbrod's involvement with organizations in the Houston gay community includes the GLBT Chamber of Commerce, Montrose Counseling Center, Body Positive, and The Gay Men's Chorus of Houston.

He is the proud father of beautiful twin daughters.

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I.W. Marks' policy of inclusion and acceptance toward his employees and his customers has contributed to the store's growth and success. This inclusiveness carries through to the company's charitable contributions, many of which are directed to the GLBT community.

"I joined the staff of I.W. Marks four years ago and have been impressed by their outreach to

the GLBT community, their willingness to donate to its charities and organizations and to the community at large," said sales associate Cass.

"Respect doesn't need an occasion, but sometimes a jewelry purchase does," he added. I.W. Marks features engagement bracelets and matching Holy Union band sets in platinum, yellow and white gold, and titanium designs, many adorned with bezel-set diamonds. For those desiring one-of-a-kind jewelry pieces, I.W. Marks will custom-create whatever you have envisioned for you or your partner. For whatever purchase you have in mind, I.W. Marks and his associates will show you and your occasion the greatest respect.



Holy Union bands by Jeff Cooper

I.W. Marks' couture salon is home to such premier lines as Gucci, Versace, Lagos, Mikimoto, Charriol, Judith Leiber, and Hidalgo. It features Rolex, Raymond Weil, Baume & Mercier, Omega, and Tag Heuer watches, as well as the Michelle and unisex Philip Stein Teslar collection. For gift items, try Links of London silver goods or Jay Strongwater multi-jeweled and enameled mirror compacts.

I.W. Marks Jewelers is a five-time winner of the Better Business Bureau Award for excellence, four-time recipient of the Business Committee for the Arts, Inc., and FORBES magazine's national Business in the Arts Award and the 2001 Jefferson Award for community service. The store is located at 3841 Bellaire Blvd. For more information, call (713) 668-5000 or visit [www.iwmarks.com](http://www.iwmarks.com).

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## Resurrection MCC: Gay or Straight Is Not an Issue

One of the continuing top media stories of 2003 is the debate over whether churches should accept LGBT persons as full members. The election of Rev. Gene Robinson as an Episcopal Bishop threatens to split the Episcopal church. The "gay" issue promises to be a hot topic in upcoming political races, both locally and nationally.

However, the debate is not raging at Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church.

"We settled these issues over 30 years ago," said Rev. Dwayne Johnson, pastor. "We are moving on. We are doing humanitarian work in our neighborhood. We are looking for new ways to build people up rather than tear people down. We've moved past dividing people to connecting people. We've moved past excluding people to involving people."



Rev. Dwayne Johnson, Pastor

GLBT clergy are fully accepted at Resurrection MCC. "There are some churches that still refuse to ordain women. That is certainly not an issue here," said Rev. Johnson. "There are no walls around our altar and no glass ceiling above our heads. In fact, we'll even ordain straight people without a debate."

Resurrection MCC offers weddings, holy unions, and rites of blessings, regardless of sexual orientation. "We usually have several holy unions on the calendar all the time," said Rev. Johnson. "And requests from straight couples are increasing. They choose to get married here because they believe in our message and what we stand for. Or, they have friends or family that attend here, and they've gotten to know us and feel more comfortable here than in a more traditional church."

Resurrection MCC has four worship services. The Wednesday Night Uplift service (7 p.m.) is relaxed and informal and is led by Rev. Carolyn Mobley, associate pastor. Noche Espiritual is our Spanish Language service (Saturdays, 7 p.m.). Sunday worship is at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

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## Shell Supports the GLBT Community of Houston!



SEA Shell  
GLBT Employee Network

"As a Shell employee of 27 years, I never imagined my work life would feel so comfortable," says Jani Lopez, co-chair of Shell's GLBT employee network, SEA Shell. This says it all and echoes the sentiment of many other employees within Shell!

Since 1997, when SEA Shell was formally organized, Shell has supported its GLBT employees internally through issue awareness, the addition of sexual orientation to the EEO policy, the inclusion of Domestic Partnership benefits, and continued employee education.

Externally, Shell supports this community through donations

to local and national organizations, such as the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), EMPOWER, and local institutions, such as the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston, participation on the GLBT Chamber of Commerce, and volunteerism within the community. Our employee network continues to grow in numbers and active supporters, and is helping Shell realize its vision to provide a safe and open work environment where everyone has an opportunity to achieve his or her full potential.

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601-D One Shell Plaza • 713.241.8225

## Robin Hardwicke Joins Patrick J. McNamara, M.D.

Patrick J. McNamara, M.D., is excited to welcome Robin Hardwicke to the practice as a family nurse practitioner.

Most recently, Hardwicke has been providing care for HIV+ youth for the Harris County Hospital District and mentoring



Robin Hardwicke

Hardwicke received her nursing degree from the University of Texas-Tyler and moved to Houston to pursue a career as an intensive-care registered nurse at the Methodist Hospital. She completed her master's degree as a family nurse practitioner at UTMB-Galveston and began her nurse practitioner career in the ER at Memorial Hermann Hospital.

student nurse practitioners in obstetrics, well-women care, and HIV. She is also pursuing a doctorate degree at Texas Women's University.

Hardwicke was recently awarded the NurseWeek Nursing Excellence Award for her contributions in

community service. The Texas Nurses Association District 9 also has recognized her as one of 20 outstanding professional nurses in Houston.

Patrick J. McNamara, M.D.  
4101 Greenbriar • Suite 355 • Houston TX 77098 • 713/52-HIVDR

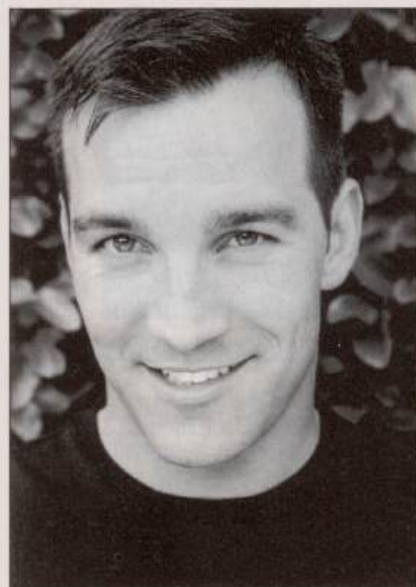


## Dr. Kenneth Lester – Empowering a Healthy Lifestyle

Dr. Kenneth Lester, a native Texan, is owner of Kirby Health and Wellness. A graduate of the University of Texas and the Texas Chiropractic College, he has adopted the goal of providing quality Chiropractic care in a friendly and convenient manner.

"Listening to the patient is as valuable a tool as the examination," Dr. Lester says of his practice. This philosophy better enables him to find an individualized, practical solution to the patient's medical needs. He addresses the patient's posture, exercise routine, nutrition, workplace, stressors in life, and medical history when mapping a therapy protocol. An individual treatment plan will be made specifically for each patient and will likely involve physical rehabilitation, myofascial release, chiropractic manipulations, and a home exercise routine geared to empower a healthy lifestyle.

Whether you have had a recent injury such as a fall or an auto accident, a chronic ache that just



Dr. Kenneth Lester of  
Kirby Health and Wellness

won't go away, or would like to maintain your current well-being to prevent future injury, Kirby Health and Wellness can keep you on the road to health.

Concentrating on the treatment of athletes, such as runners with knee pain, tennis players and golfers with elbow pain, and other injuries due to an active lifestyle, Dr. Lester's expertise is not limited to the care of accident patients or backaches. An avid runner, biker, weight lifter, and swimmer, Dr. Lester understands the needs of the physically fit. "If you work the same muscles over and over again, they are going to become injured unless you find a way to maintain the health of those muscles, ligaments, and tendons."

"If you do not feel well today, how do you think you will feel around the time of your retirement?" reasons Dr. Lester. "What is the point of saving all that money and working so many hours if you're not well enough to enjoy it?"

Kirby Health and Wellness • 2727 Kirby Drive, Suite 324 • Houston TX 77098 • 713.526.5252

## Going Places with Concierge Travel

In 1996 Concierge Travel, Inc. opened its doors. Joakim (Kim) Gustavsson, involved from the beginning, today operates the agency with his business partner Carey Battle. Kim, a native of Sweden, serves as the manager of operations as well as VP of Sales and Marketing.



Joakim (Kim) Gustavsson

For the first four years Concierge Travel operated as a subcontractor for other agencies and did not carry its own agency license. In 2000 RSVP Vacations booked a cruise out of Galveston, and the opportunity to expand into the gay market with its own travel license was a natural step for the agency.

Facing a changing industry and new challenges post September 11, the staff went to work on the future of the agency. Kim, who is also a business consultant with Carolyn Fine and

Associates, applied himself and the staff using distinctions in leadership, team, productivity, and customer service. The results were astonishing. Today Concierge Travel is not only the largest RSVP Vacation supplier in Texas, but also one of the three top agencies with RSVP in the world.

Last year sales increased 46%, and this year the agency is on target for a similar increase. "We are VERY proud and excited about this kind of growth," says Kim, "particularly as it has been accomplished in a slowing economy in which many agencies have not survived."

This year a main focus has been to expand Concierge Travel presence on the web. Conciergetravel.cc now has links where our clients can make their own air, hotel, and car reservations. In the latter part of last year an

alliance was formed with Hotels.com, and those discounted hotel rates are available through Concierge's website. The newest partnership—an alliance with Aqua Fest—is also one of the most exciting. This alliance allows anyone to book Aqua Fest's Gay and Lesbian Group Cruises through Concierge Travel.

In the 2000 and 2002 Gayest and Greatest Readers' Poll in *OutSmart* magazine, Concierge Travel was voted the Gayest and Greatest travel agency in Houston. (The 2001 survey did not include a Travel Agent category).

"Our continued growth and recognition allows us to contribute to the community that supports us," Kim says. "In 2003 we will give over 15% of our net revenue to different organizations in the community in the form of vacation packages for fundraising events."

For more information, visit [www.conciergetravel.cc](http://www.conciergetravel.cc).



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### Living Our Principles – Every Day

The first principle of Unitarian Universalism is to "affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person." First Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston, 5200 Fannin, in the Museum District, lives that principle every day.



First Unitarian Universalist Church

The church, which has served the Houston community since 1899, proudly carries the designation "Welcoming Congregation" from the Unitarian Universalist Association for including gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people at every level of congregational life.

First Church facilities are available for office, conference, and special-event rentals. The sanctuary, with its wood and

brick accents, has a concert grand piano and a 40-rank pipe organ, and is widely recognized in the Houston musical community for its outstanding acoustics.

The church provides a beautiful and supportive setting for commitment and marriage ceremonies for all couples. Just call the church at 713/526-5200. The staff will be happy to work with you and your partner to plan your special day.

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### UNIKA DECO Has Home Fashions for Modern Living

This tiny, but tony, jewel-box of a space is the premier resource for a lush collection of home accessories picked straight from the pages of British *Elle Décor*, French *Elle Decoration* and *ID* magazines.

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shops in her favorite international cities, most of her inventory is exclusive to Unika Deco in Houston and, in many cases, Texas, too.



Unika Deco is located at 4412 Morningside Drive, between Bissonnet and South Blvd. Store hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m.–6 p.m. Phone: 713/522-2216.

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## TERRY PETERSON INTERIOR DESIGN

Having been an interior designer for over 30 years, Terry Peterson says, "I am totally amazed at what passes for good interior design. My focus has always been to discover what the client will respond to and reflect their style or desires. The results are more about giving the customer a satisfying environment, without making it look as though a 'decorator' has been there. Most designers have a signature look. I avoid that look like the plague."

Peterson's joy is taking any space of the client and investing it with their personality. "That can involve everything from major remodeling to something as simple as accessories and everything in between. Beauty is a given, but without the high priorities of comfort and function, the most attractive room is a failure. With the smaller homes

many of us live in today, space planning along with proper lighting is an absolute necessity."



Terry Peterson

Peterson believes one of the most important elements of interior design is the level of trust that he develops with his clients. "They know they will not be overwhelmed or negated by a designer, and can voice their opinions at any point in the process. My success is measured by those people who have worked with me over long periods of time."

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## Frank Teeter, Hairstylist Extraordinaire

Frank Teeter is the ambitious long-time proprietor of the ROMAN Hair Studio in the Montrose. Before coming to Houston he had worked in a hotel beauty salon which, because of its diverse trade, made him acutely aware, he says, of the varying demands and needs of the public. He has become an exceptional expert in hair coloring for both men and women. He points out that he does his own blending of shades to achieve a very natural look.

Teeter also always keeps in mind the importance of having the style look attractive from whatever angle it is seen. "People don't just look at you from the front," he

points out. "A man's age and occupation are also determining factors in how you style his hair."

Teeter is originally from Mansfield, Ohio. When he prepared to make a change in his artistic direction, he first visited California. It is there he made plans to move to a large city. He thought about Cleveland, Ohio, but he always wanted to live in the Southwest, so he chose Houston. As Teeter says, "Moving to Houston was the beginning of everything!"



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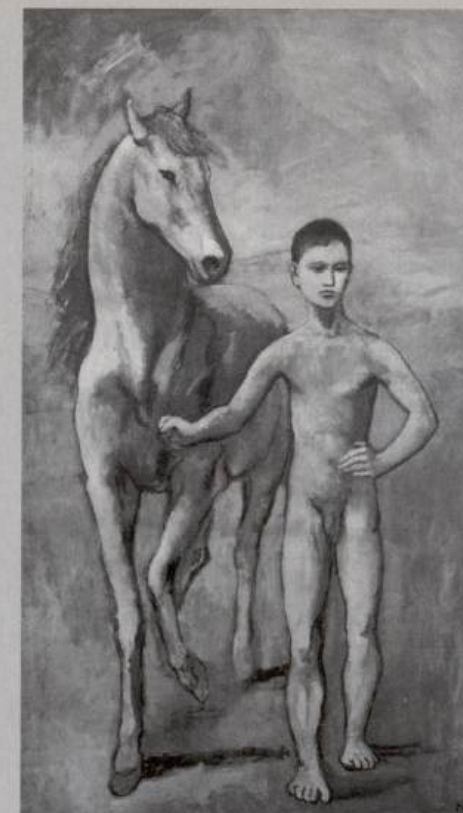

continued from page 76

that destroyed his career. One pair who show up for the evening are the Brothers d'Armano: "They were powdered, rouged, sleek of hair: They must have worn pink silk underwear."

#### • A New Brain

February 19–March 13, 2004

Two weeks after the phenomenal opening of his gay-themed musical *Falsettos*, which would later garner him a Tony, composer/lyricist William Finn was diagnosed with an arteriovenous malformation of his brain. He thought he was about to die. Miraculously, he survived and turned his misfortune into song: the operatic *A New Brain*. Taking a page from Dennis Potter and his caustic television musical *The Singing Detective*, Finn created, with frequent Sondheim collaborator James Lapine, a phantasmagoric romp through the brain of musician Gordon Schwinn as he undergoes the grueling hospital stay, operation, and recovery. While he lies partially comatose, or entombed in the



Picasso's *Boy Leading a Horse* (above) and Matisse's *Dance (First Version)* at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

MRI, the people in his life swirl through his fevered brain. For all its deadly subtext, this Broadway opera (completely sung throughout) is amazingly sweet and gentle.

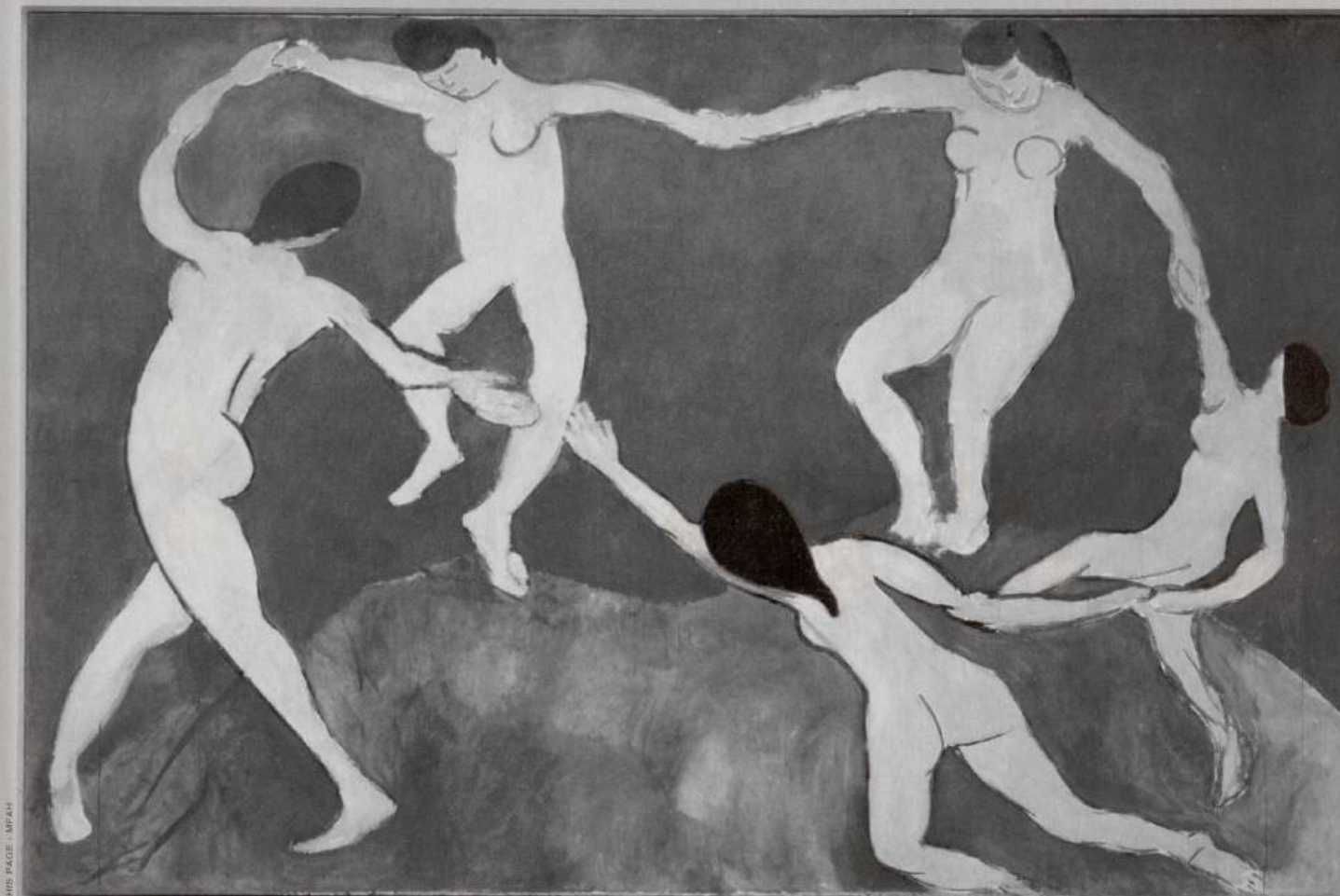
#### THE MENIL COLLECTION

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#### • Kazimir Malevich: Suprematism

October 3, 2003–January 11, 2004

Russian abstract artist Malevich (1878–1935) eschewed literalism in all forms, especially in art. He created a movement he called Suprematism to showcase his belief that the ultimate reality in the world is pure feeling and that only pure geometric shapes could convey meaning. "The suprematist does not observe and does not touch—he feels," Malevich commanded. He loved the square, and in one of his most famous works, *Black Square*, painted a black one against a white background. Yet many of his works are full of primary colors, with constructionist flat overlays of shapes that represent a running man, an aviator, or a figure in a yellow shirt. He was overjoyed when the Russian revolution happened,



THIS PAGE: MENIL

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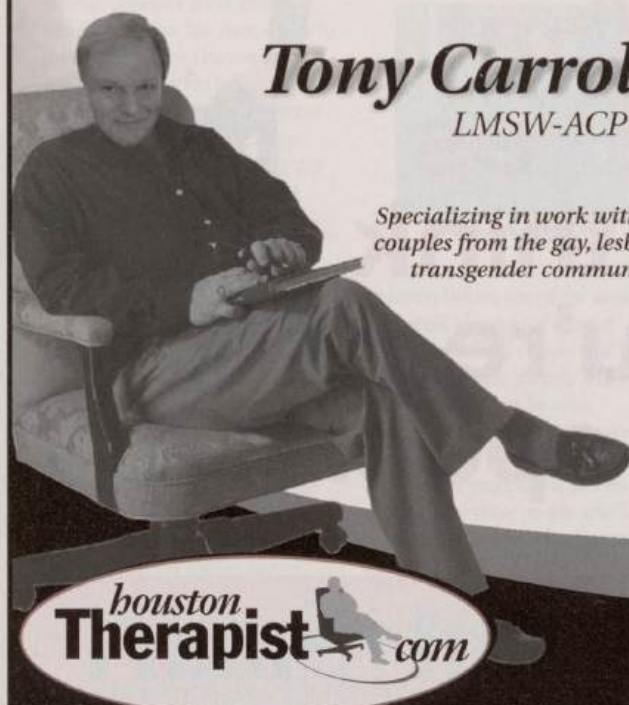
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thinking that old art would be swept away. When the socialist powers wanted art to sway people and represent greater good, he was horrified that his "true art" had to conform. Depressed, he stopped painting and turned to mathematics.

## MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, HOUSTON

1001 Bissonnet • 713/639-7300  
www.mfah.org

### • The Heroic Century: The Museum of Modern Art Masterpieces

September 21, 2003-January 4, 2004

Now that you've learned everything there is to learn about the Impressionists after MFAH's last four incredible shows, see where all that pastel fuzzy art led. In a historic loan-out, NYC's Museum of Modern Art has sent 209 works that continue our travels through the history of art. Marvel at the hyper colors of the Fauvists. Wonder at the meaning of the Symbolists. Gasp at down-and-dirty Expressionism. Ponder the Cubists. Give your laughing heart to Dada. See the photographic Figuratives. Scratch your head over the Abstracts. Say

to yourself, I can do that, after viewing the Pop Artists and Conceptualists. The works on view include Monet's *Water Lilies*, Van Gogh's *Starry Night*, Picasso's *Three Musicians*, Fernand Leger's *Three Women*, Marcel Duchamp's *Bicycle Wheel*, Dali's *The Persistence of Memory*, Robert Rauschenberg's *First Landing Jump*. It's Jansen's *History of Art* right in front of our eyes.

## OPERA IN THE HEIGHTS

Lambert Hall (1703 Heights Blvd.)  
• 713/861-5303  
www.operaintheheights.org

### • Il Barbiere di Siviglia

September 18-27, 2003

Rossini's comic love story launches the eighth season of the regional opera company in the historic hall in the Heights. Also on the schedule: *Faust*, *Manon Lescaut*, and *Lucia de Lammermoor*. —VZ

## RADIO MUSIC THEATRE

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In the immensely funny hands of Steve Farrell, Vicki Farrell, and Rich Mills,

the loony Fertle family of Dumpster, Texas, is alive and well, although old man Fertle died in their last outing, *Grandpa Hasn't Moved in Days*. If you want to laugh yourself unconscious, go see this trio of wonder. Pick any of the following shows to have an unforgettable time in the theater. Better yet, see them all. *Doc Moore and More* opens September 4; their Christmas classic, *A Fertle Holiday*, opens November 28; and *Birthday From Hell* begins January 15.

## SOCIETY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Various venues • 713/227-4SPA  
www.spahouston.org

Satirist David Sedaris, one of the funniest gay men alive, regales Jones Hall on October 24. See him first, then the Theater LaB production of his *Santaland Diaries* and *Season's Greetings* (see below). Other season highlights: 20th-anniversary screenings of the movie *Koyaanisqatsi: Life Out of Balance*, accompanied by the ensemble directed by Philip Glass, who composed the film score (September 25-26); Seán Curran Company (January 16); and MOMIX (March 25-26). —VZ

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### • Bat Boy: The Musical

December 3, 2003-January 11, 2004

What other show can boast as inspiration that super-market icon of journalistic integrity, the *Weekly World News*? In 1992, and continuing in wacky installments ever since, the WWN published the story of the half-boy/half-bat discovered living in a cave near Hope Falls, West Virginia. This is his story, told in a splashy witty musical. Like all misunderstood monsters, even with his pointy ears, bug eyes, razor-sharp fangs, and fondness for blood, Bat Boy just wants love and acceptance. You may die laughing.

### • Convenience

May 12-June 20, 2004

Young man Vince wants to move in with his boyfriend, but he's got conflicts with his mom, his dead father, and with himself. He's still in the closet; it's convenient. The resolution to this timely family story unfolds in Gregg Coffin's recent musical.

## THEATRE LAB HOUSTON

1706 Alamo • 713/868-7516  
www.theatrelabhouston.com

### • Box Office of the Damned

September 3-October 11, 2003

Theatre LaB opens its 10th-anniversary season with a revival of its most requested show, Michael Ogborn's hilarious send-up of all things show biz, as seen from inside the box office. From a singing ticket to whiny theater patrons, from Sunday matinee blue hairs to a sexy refund policy ballad, this delicious satire is designed to delight. And delight it does. Under the crack direction of Jimmy Phillips, the all-singing, all-dancing cast boasts Joanne Bonasso, Mary Hooper, Greg Gorden, Tye Blue,

Bethany Daniels, and Mr. Phillips. Musical direction by Steven Jones.

### • New York Values

October 21-26, 2003

Legendary NYC performance artist Penny Arcade, a.k.a. Suzanna Ventura, creator of *Bitch! Dyke! Faghag! Whore!*, who has worked with Warhol, Ludlam, and Jack Smith, is a must-see, whatever she does. In this show, she takes on the death of bohemianism, 9/11, celebrity culture, sex, and western civilization. I hope she brings her Jon Benet Ramsey Memorial Dancers, who traveled to London when she appeared there with this eye-and-brain-opening experience.

### • Santaland Diaries and Season's Greetings

November 22-December 20, 2003

Except maybe a puppy, what could be a more perfect Christmas gift than these two subversive comic takes by gay humorist David Sedaris? Adapted by Joe Mantello, these two monologues pummel our favorite holiday with wicked observations and subversive humor, all done in a voice that reassures while it kicks you in the pants. *Santaland* relates the wry tale of a bored yuletide Macy's elf who takes out his frustrations on the innocent kids until a most unusual Santa starts work. The much darker *Season's Greetings* spoofs the cheery annual holiday newsletter from the Dunbar family. The picture-perfect suburban world at 714 Tiffany Circle takes a nosedive with a crack-addicted grandchild and a visit by a Vietnamese prostitute who claims her father is Mr. Dunbar.

## THEATRE NEW WEST

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### • Slap & Tickle

October 17-December 13, 2003

David Parr's new play is set in a NYC bathhouse. Six actors portray all the myriad

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The cast of *Naked Boys Singing* at The Venue includes (l-r) Damien Dane, Michael Backes, Aubry Vance, Cameron Wyont, and Alvin Rodgers.







characters that inhabit, glorify, or despise the experience. None of them are there to get clean.

#### • The Stops

October 24–December 20, 2003

Stage... 100

Eric Lane Barnes, whose musical revues *Fairy Tales* and *Fruit Cocktail*, have been bright highlights for TNW, has a new cabaret musical about church ladies. Three lady organists, all members of the Organists Guild, are touring the hinterlands to offer support for their mentor who has recently come out. They don't quite believe their own revival meeting, even as they boogie to a

"Bossa Nova for Jehovah" or urge everyone to have a "Faith Lift." Needless to say, the three good women are played in drag.

#### • Martin Yesterday

March 26–May 15, 2004

Gay Canadian Brad Fraser, who wrote the screenplay for *Unidentified Remains*, turns dark and mordant in this thick drama with its patina of AIDS, unfaithful lovers, and serious dysfunction. When cartoonist Matt decides to look for stability, he finds Martin, a gay politician who seems to have it all together. However, Martin keeps dropping bombshells until the damage—and Matt—are irreparable.

### THEATRE UNDER THE STARS

Hobby Center (800 Bagby)  
• 713/558-2600 • www.tuts.com

Extending that 15 minutes of fame for another year, one-time teen idol Frankie Avalon appears in a new production of *Grease* (October 14–November 2). On Broadway, the musical version of *Thoroughly Modern Millie* gave toothsome diva-in-training Sutton Foster her big break. She won't appear in Houston, but expect a similar leggy belter. David Henry Hwang's acclaimed reworking of *Flower Drum Song* (January 15–February 1) still includes the anthem "I Enjoy Being a Girl." Haven't seen *Brigadoon* since you appeared as the fourth Scotsman in your senior-class musical? Here's your chance (March 11–28). In 1995, TUTS and the Alley Theatre spawned *Jekyll & Hyde*, which returns (April 22–May 9) in a new but sure-to-be-noisy production. We remember the knockout lighting design. —VZ

### UNHINGED PRODUCTIONS

Location pending • 713/547-0440

One of our favorite venues for gay theater, Chris Jimmerson's Unhinged moves to a temporary new home this season. At press time, Jimmerson reported that he is negotiating for space with another local theater company. Pending the securing of rights, Unhinged plans to mount *The House of Yes* by Wendy MacLeod in February and the Nicky Silver comedy *Free Will and Wanton Lust* in April, both in 2004. In 2003, a yet-unnamed show will bow in December. In October and November, the company will present staged readings of three scripts by local writers. —VZ

### THE VENUE

4040 Milam • 713/426-2626, 713/526-2626

#### • Naked Boys Singing

Opens September 19, 2003

When Christian DeVries had his Bienvenue Theatre on Washington, this in-the-buff revue was a long-running hit. Now with a different cast, *Naked Boys* will open his new space. (Yes, The Venue was known as Stargaze Theater when we wrote about it last month.) DeVries reports that he will soon announce the rest of the inaugural season. —VZ

D.L. Groover writes on the arts for OutSmart. Victor Zorn also contributed to this article.

More arts at [www.outsmartmagazine.com](http://www.outsmartmagazine.com).

Adam Traylor as Richard (I) and Philip Hays as Philip in *The Lion in Winter* at The Country Playhouse.



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## DineOut

by Victor Zorn



Sweet trio: At Morgan's on Montrose, executive chef Shelly Drought (c) shows off a plate of bread pudding, flanked by AssistHers volunteer Ann Reid (l) and Morgan's general manager Wally Swart.

## THE SWEETEST THING

Shelly Drought, executive chef at Morgan's on Montrose—the re-named, casualized Redwood Grill—will tempt the crowd at the October 5 AssistHers Decadent Dessert Extravaganza with bourbon-laced bread pudding. In Drought's rendition of the Southern classic, flaky croissants serve as the foundation, so the result is unexpectedly light (which is not to imply low-cal, you weight-watching readers) and less starchy than dear Aunt Ida's dense dish baked with stale loaf heels. At a tasting after our photo shoot, even confirmed bread pudding-shunner Ann Reed of AssistHers gave a forks-up sign after a bite.

In addition to Morgan's, 12 other restaurants and caterers will serve desserts at the third annual benefit for AssistHers, the volunteer group that provides non-medical in-home care for lesbians coping with critical illness. The contributors: The Acadian Bakers, Bocados, Boca Chica, Carter & Cooley, Crostini, DaCapo's, Don Carlos Catering, Fabio's Italian Bar & Grill, Java Java Café, Jim Benton Catering, Mo Mong, and Rainbow Lodge.

For a \$25 tab (\$20 in advance), you can graze to your sweet tooth's content at the 4-7 p.m. fundraiser at Meteor. Marsha Carlton and Jerry Atwood will perform, which is always a treat. ■

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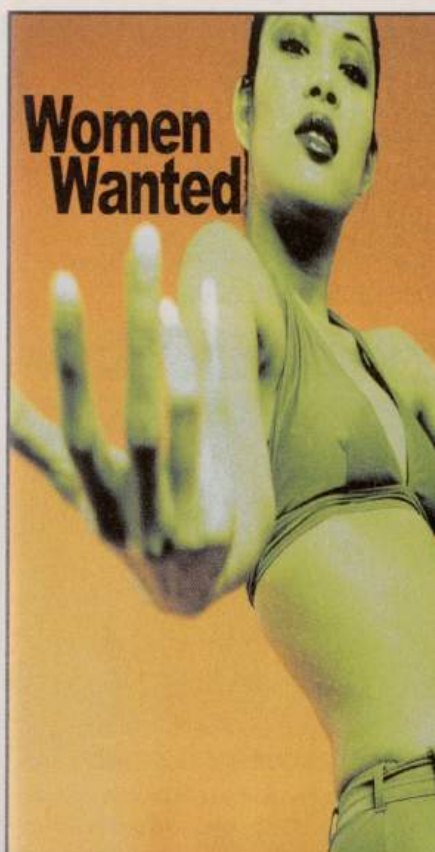
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## Out of Town

by Tim Brookover

### FAIR ENOUGH

*The Folsom Street extravaganza in San Francisco marks 20 years of leather and charity*

Once his marriage ended in the late '80s, my friend Bill (not his actual name, of course) packed up and fled Texas to return to his beloved California. He settled in San Francisco to become a playwright. One late September evening, Bill called to report, in an amazed tone, that on one of his first strolls around the city he wandered into a sprawling event called the Folsom Street Fair. There he spied men and women in leather, and some in barely anything at all. He gawked at people spanking and whipping other people—an area of keen interest for my non-gay chum, I later learned. Bill was enchanted.

On September 28, the pansexual Folsom Street Fair will mark 20 years of impressing San Francisco residents and travelers. While no doubt the 300,000 or so folks who attend the annual "leather and alternative lifestyle" event are not all members of the GLBT clan, certainly most qualify as queer in the best sense. The fun takes place in the South of Market District on Folsom Street between 7th and 12th streets.

A part of Leather Pride Week in San Francisco, the fair raises funds for community organizations, which in 2003 include the Positive Resource Center, Project Open Hand, Black Coalition on AIDS, Bay Area



Holy cow! Barely-clad leather lads.

Youth Positives, Stop AIDS Project, and the marvelous Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. Last year, nine organizations shared the nearly \$300,000 raised through gate donations and beverage sales.

You probably won't run into Bill at the Folsom Street Fair ([www.folsomstreetfair.com](http://www.folsomstreetfair.com)). He long ago settled into the life of a prosperous Northern California citizen with his second wife and their youngsters. But when Bill reads the reports in the *Modesto Bee* every fall, I expect he smiles.

Tim Brookover, editor of this magazine, interviewed the founders of the Houston Roughnecks for our August issue.

### IF YOU GO

**United Airlines**, the official carrier of the Folsom Street Fair, offers a 10-percent discount on tickets purchased at least seven days in advance. **Avis** offers special discounts for fair visitors. Three hotels offer event rates: **Crowne Plaza-Union Square**, **Holiday Inn-Civic Center**, and **Holiday Inn-Fisherman's**. Check [www.folsomstreetfair.com](http://www.folsomstreetfair.com) for details.

Once you arrive in the city, the **San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Center** is a great source of information. Housed in an impressive new complex funded by a \$1-million legacy from Falcon Studios founder Chuck Holmes, the center is located at 1800 Market Street (415/865-5555). The website is [www.sfgaycenter.org](http://www.sfgaycenter.org).



The house Falcon built: the SF Center.

**SF Gate**, the website affiliated with the *San Francisco Chronicle*, also provides up-to-date news on GLBT spaces, places, and events. Check out [www.sfgate.com/eguide/gay](http://www.sfgate.com/eguide/gay). ■

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# Calendar of Events

Deadline for OutSmart's October issue is 5 p.m., Friday, September 12.

## SEPTEMBER

**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; E.J.'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:** E.J.'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.

**5-7** (Fri.-Sun.)

**Tibetan Medicine.** Dr. Barry Clark studied under Dr. Yeshe Donden, personal physician to the Dalai Lama, and

is the only Westerner to master the complete Tibetan medical system. On Friday he speaks on Tibetan medicine; Saturday and Sunday is his diet and nutrition workshop. Free. At the Shaolin Boxing Academy, 901 Richmond Ave., Suite 100. More info: 713/526-0044 or [www.drbarryclark.com](http://www.drbarryclark.com).

**10** (Wed.)

**Stomp.** DiverseWorks kicks off the downtown visual arts season with its 5th annual Downtown Stomp Around, a see-and-be-seen tour of six downtown art galleries. With free transportation and parking available at every stop, the junkie includes visits to Vine Street Studios, ArtScan/Rudolph Projects, O'Kane Gallery, Inman Gallery, Joan Wich & Co., and, of course, DiverseWorks. 6-9 pm at DiverseWorks, 1117 East Fwy off N. Main at Naylor. For info: 713-223-8346 or [www.diverseworks.org](http://www.diverseworks.org).

**12-14** (Fri.-Sun.)

**If Ever So Humble.** The Houston Home Show offers thousands of products, services, and ideas for the home and garden. How-to seminars, cooking shows from local restaurants including Sambuca and McCormick & Schmick's, appearances from local radio personalities, and gobs of discounts make the Home Show a good value for your DIY dollar. \$7.50 adults (children under 12 free), buy-one-get-one-free for senior citizens on Friday only. Fri. 2-8 pm, Sat. 10 am-8 pm, Sun. 11 am-6 pm

at the George R. Brown Convention Center, Hall A. Info: 1-800-654-1480 or [www.HoustonHomeShow.com](http://www.HoustonHomeShow.com).

**13** (Sat.)

**Toxic Waste.** Are toxins impairing your health? Well, we do live in Houston. While there's little we can do immediately to fight pollution, we can make healthy food, drink, and life choices to improve and detoxify our health. This seminar led by Nellie Grose, MD, Richard Boye, CND, and Eric Grose, Lac, can show you how. \$25. 9:30 am-noon (registration 9 am), at the Aegis Building, 230 Wescott. Info: 713/660-6620.

**13** (Sat.)

**A Little Italy.** Let the Houston Symphony take you on a trip through sonic Italian wonderment, from Ottorino Respighi's *Fountains of Rome* and *Roman Festivals* to the sounds of Bottesini played by violinist Robert McDuffie and bassist Timothy Pitts. 7:30 pm at Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana. For info: 713-344-5617 or [www.houstonsymphony.org](http://www.houstonsymphony.org).

**19** (Fri.)

**Real Funny.** Improvisational comedy troupe ComedySportz presents its tribute to reality TV. In this audience-interactive match between two teams of improv comics, no one knows who will be the Last Comic Standing. \$10. 8 pm at Lambert Hall, 1703 Heights Blvd. @ 17th St. For tickets: 713/868-1444.

**20** (Sat.)

**Serve's Up.** Pack your sunscreen and

**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](mailto:calendar@outsmartmagazine.com). **NO LISTINGS CAN BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE DEADLINE DATE—FRI., SEPT. 12.**

inflate those balls. The Lone Star Volleyball Association hosts its next annual beach party in Galveston at Pirate's Cove. For more information: [beachparty@lsva.org](mailto:beachparty@lsva.org).

**22** (Mon.)

**Story Time.** Being a kid has its benefits. People read to you and give you candy. But what about when you're a grown-up? One of the most highly regarded literary programs in the country, Inprint brings Pulitzer Prize-winner Jhumpa Lahiri to the Alley Theatre to read from her new novel, *The Namesake*, a multi-generational story of a Bengali family in the U.S. An on-stage interview and book sale and signing follows the reading. Now if only she had some candy... \$5 (free for students and seniors). 7:30 pm (doors open at 6:45 pm) at the Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave. For tickets and information, call 713/521-2026 or visit [www.inprint-inc.org](http://www.inprint-inc.org).

24...

**Several Dancers Core.** Several Dancers Core and 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 works-in-progress with artist feedback sessions. Each 10-week session culminates in a performance of the work developed by the group (this one being Nov. 23 at HCC Central). \$50. 7-9 pm in Studio A at 3517 Austin on the Houston Community College central campus, beginning Sept. 24. For info, call 713/862-5530 or send an e-mail to [sdinfo@mindspring.com](mailto:sdinfo@mindspring.com).

**26-28** (Fri.-Sun.)

**L'shanah Tovah.** A year of strength and belonging, is something we all pray for, whether we're observing Rosh Hashanah or not. Join Cantor Diane Dorf and Houston Reconstructionist Havurah (HRH) for High Holy Services. HRH is an 18-year-old Jewish community that blends Old World traditions with progressive ideas. Join them also for Kol Nidre and Yom Kippur, October 5 & 6, with a vegetarian break-fast on the 6th. \$125. At the JCC Merfish Center, 9000 South Rice Blvd. For tickets: 713/728-5050.

**27** (Sat.)

**Screen Tests.** From New York's Museum of Modern Art comes this collection of "portrait films" shot by Andy Warhol at his studio, The Factory. Warhol shot visitors to his studio, both famous and lesser-known, with a stationary camera, manipulating light and shadow and then stipulated they be projected at a slow speed, causing an unusual fluidity of pace. Portraits include Salvador Dali, Dennis Hopper, and Houston's own Francois de Menil. 7 pm at the Museum of Fine Arts. For information: 713/639-7515 or [www.mfah.org](http://www.mfah.org).

## PLANNING AHEAD

OCTOBER

October 3 & 4 (Fri. & Sat.)

**Sarah Irwin.** An Austin-based choreographer, premieres her works *All the Best*, *Conversation with Dog*, and *Vanish* to the world at D-Werx, creating a sensuous world inhabited by a nomadic community whose movements reveal passion, puzzlement, and pleasure. \$15 (\$10 for members). 8 pm at DiverseWorks Theater and Docks at 1117 East Fwy off N. Main at Naylor. Tickets/info: 713/223-8346 or [www.diverseworks.org](http://www.diverseworks.org).

October 4 (Sat.)

**A Day in Mexico, 1764.** The Mercury Baroque Ensemble continues its aural tour through time and space with this festival of 18th-century vocal and instrumental music played in Mexico City's churches, streets, taverns, and homes. 7:30 pm at the Hobby Center's Zilkha Hall. For tickets and information: 713/315-2525 or [www.MercuryBaroqueEnsemble.org](http://www.MercuryBaroqueEnsemble.org).

October 4 (Sat.)

**Meet the Masters** celebrates encounters between music and art. Visually, works on display at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, are projected on stage. Artists include Picasso, Gauguin, and Matisse. Sonically, the masterpieces of Haydn, Ravel, and Joan Towers performed by a stellar ensemble of chamber musicians. \$20, \$30, and \$35 (50% off for seniors and students with valid ID). 7:30 pm at Cullen Theater in the Wortham Theater Center, 500 Texas at Smith. For tickets: 713/524-5050 or [www.dacamera.com](http://www.dacamera.com).

October 4 & 5 (Sat. & Sun.)

**Paul Anka.** the "Sultan of Schmaltz" as some critics have proclaimed him, kicks off the Grand 1894 Opera House's 2003-2004 season with such famous croons as "Put Your Head on My Shoulder," and "Puppy Love." 8 pm Saturday and 3 pm Sunday at Galveston's Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Postoffice St. For tickets: 409/763-7173 or 1-800-821-1894 or [www.thegrand.com](http://www.thegrand.com).

October 4-November 16

**Ren Fest.** The 29th annual Texas Annual Renaissance Festival is a celebrated way to enjoy turkey legs and sausage-on-a-stick, drink pricey domestic beer, ogle explosive cleavage, and learn a smidgeon about life during the Age of Enlightenment. \$21 for adults, \$10 for children, free for children 4 and under. Tickets and information: 1-800-458-3435 or [www.texrenfest.com](http://www.texrenfest.com).

October 5 (Sun.)

**Heights Festival.** Themed "Art in the Heights," this year's festival offers multiple entertainment stages, over 200 booths selling antiques, arts, crafts, food, and more, and a children's area with games and events. Free. Noon-6 pm on Heights Blvd. between 14th and 20th streets. For more information: 713/861-4002 or [www.houstonheights.org](http://www.houstonheights.org).

October 9 (Thu.)

**Menopause.** Such a scary word, but it doesn't have to be. Nellie Grose, MD, teaches how to move through menopause and maintain a healthy meaningful life. \$40 (\$35 if paid by Sept. 26). 6-9 pm, with registration at 5:30 pm at T-Salta...At Last An Urban Spa at 34 S. Wynden Ln. For more information: 713/660-6620.

October 10 (Fri.)

**Sherlock Holmes.** Elementary, dear theater-goer: The only stage version of the famed detective/morphine addict authorized by his creator, Sherlock Holmes was first produced in 1899. This classic pits Holmes and Dr. Watson against their greatest adversary of all, Professor Moriarty. With sets designed by Vince Mountain (Jeckyll & Hyde), there's plenty of visual allure as well. Runs through November 2 at The Alley Theatre. Tickets and information: 713-228-8421 or [www.alleytheatre.org](http://www.alleytheatre.org).

October 10 & 11 (Fri. & Sat.)

**The Beach Is Alive** with *The Sound of Music*. The beloved musical with its famed melodies "Do Re Mi," "My Favorite Things," and others hit the Gulf Coast for two days only. 8 pm Friday and Saturday and 3 pm Saturday matinee at the Grand 1894 Opera House, Galveston, 2020 Postoffice St. For tickets: 409/763-7173 or 1-800-821-1894 or [www.thegrand.com](http://www.thegrand.com).

October 10-12

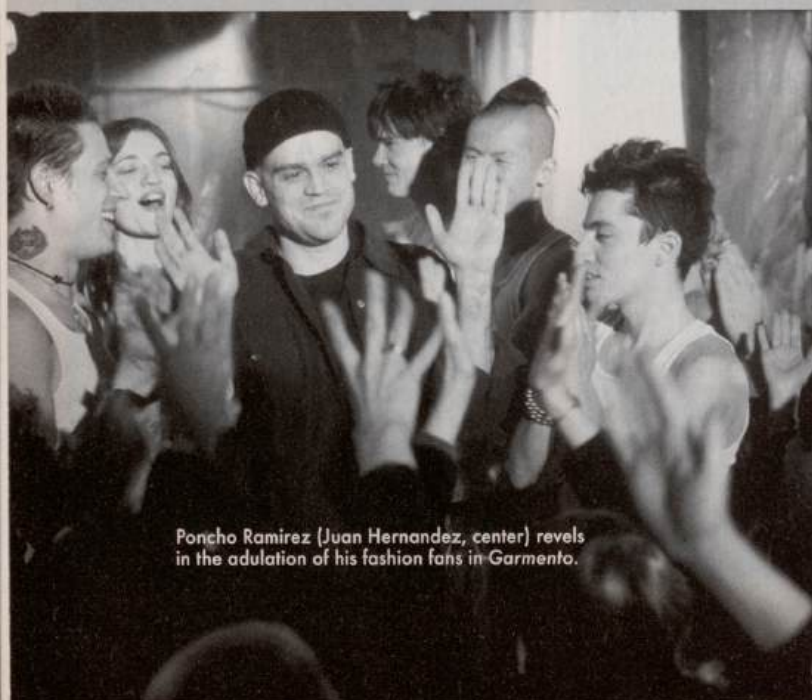
**Desert Hearts Women's Festival.** Join more than a hundred women who gather in the woods of a beautiful and secluded women's ranch in the Texas Hill Country. Desert Hearts Cowgirl Club is located 50 miles NW of San Antonio between Kerrville and Bandera. Pick your campsite along shady creek or on the 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 \$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@indiancreek.net](mailto:beaux2@indiancreek.net), or <http://members.aol.com/cowgirlj>.

## PERFORMING ARTS

♦ **Anti-Logical Pedagogical.** DiverseWorks resident Christa Forster portrays a teacher, the students, and administrators in a so-called normal day. In this one-woman show, Forster draws from her 15 years of teaching experience to suggest that there's a link between traditional methods of teaching in the U.S. and learning disabilities such as Attention Deficit

## GARMENTO IS IN FASHION

A film about fashion finds it way to Houston



Poncho Ramirez (Juan Hernandez, center) revels in the adulation of his fashion fans in *Garmento*.

A young woman (Katie MacNichol) with childhood memories of idolizing Poncho Ramirez designer jeans, moves to New York City and gets her big break, the chance to work at fashion house Poncho Ramirez, Inc. But the formerly high-flying company from the '70s is now near bankruptcy due to a failed product line of padded-crotch underwear for men (the padding is ridiculously large). • Rival company Romeo Jeans proposes a joint feature, and the result is PR Jeans, which is introduced with a risque advertising campaign, stimulating controversy in the media and a buying frenzy among teenagers. Sales skyrocket, launching the company into overnight success and its executives on a mission to take the company public. But that takes lying, counterfeiting, backstabbing, and foul play, which are not lacking in *Garmento*. —Troy Carrington

**What:** *Garmento*

**When:** Starts Sept. 12

**Where:** Angelika Film Center, 510 Texas Ave. @ Smith

**Info:** 713/225-5232 or

[www.angelikafilmcenter.com/houston](http://www.angelikafilmcenter.com/houston)

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Disorder. \$15, \$10 for members. Friday, September 12 & Saturday, September 13, 8 pm at DiverseWorks, 1117 East Fwy, off N. Main at Naylor. For tickets: 713/223-8346 or [www.diverseworks.org](http://www.diverseworks.org).

♦ **Cantinflas!** Directed by Max Ferra, Herbert Siguenza's story is a tribute to the late Mario Moreno, known to adoring fans as the "Charlie Chaplin of Mexico." A hilarious physical comic, Cantinflas performed in over 50 films. Performed in both Spanish and English, the play incorporates interviews conducted by the Spanish-language press to illustrate the depth of his genius of this treasured cultural icon. \$25. September 23–October 5, 7:30 pm (select weekend matinees at 2:30 pm) at the Alley Theatre's Neuhaus Stage, 615 Texas Ave. Tickets: 713/228-8421 or [www.alleytheatre.org](http://www.alleytheatre.org).

♦ **The Graduate.** Mrs. Hall, are you trying to seduce us? Jerry Hall plays Mrs. Robinson in this staged version of the cult novel that became a Hollywood film that set the stage for a generation. September 23–October 5 @ The Hobby Center. For tickets, call Ticketmaster 713/629-3700 or [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

♦ **Jerry's World.** Infernal Bridgroom Productions' new associate artistic director Troy Schulze adapts radio programs from cult icon Joe Frank for this provocative new play. The story begins with phone conversations between Jerry and a slew of folk, including a lover who spends time in and out of halfway houses, a brother who may have cancer (he's been ejaculating blood), and a control-freak father. It ends with satire and even more outrageous topics of discussion. \$10 on Thursday, \$12 on Friday, \$15 on Saturday. September 25–October 18, 8 pm, at The Axiom, 2524 McKinney. Tickets/info: 713/522-8443 or [www.infernalbridgroom.com](http://www.infernalbridgroom.com).

♦ **Killer Karaoke** and **Marriage Can Be Murder.** Mystery Café serves up dinner theater with a giggle. • **Killer Karaoke:** Who will win this karaoke competition of half-wits and crummy crooners? Moreover, who will survive the devious plots of the contest's mysterious serial killer? • **Marriage Can Be Murder:** Millions of dollars in the legume industry are at stake as Phil Hocker and Stephanie Belcher (the children of two warring baked-bean magnates) await their wedding day, unless somebody kills them off to get the money. • **Killer Karaoke** plays Fridays, **Marriage Can Be Murder** plays Saturdays. Both shows presented at 8 pm at Marriott West Loop, 1750 West Loop South at San Felipe. Reservations required: call 713/944-2583 or visit [www.mysterycafehouston.com](http://www.mysterycafehouston.com).

♦ **Koyaanisqatsi.** This stunning film that matches the whirl and redundancy of modern human life is perfectly matched to modern composer Philip Glass's relentless spinning soundtrack. Glass creates his signature style here, taking minimal themes, then building upon them using repetition and slight variation. The effect can be cathartic, ethereal, dizzying, but it's always both cerebral and transcendent. In this particular revival of the early '80s film, the soundtrack is performed live. September 25 & 26, 8 pm @ the Wortham Center's Cullen Theater. Tickets and more information: 713/227-4772 or [www.spahouston.org](http://www.spahouston.org).

## PERFORMING ARTS

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

♦ **Charlotte's Web** is a classic that has brought generation after generation to laughter and tears. The story of Wilbur the humble pig and the nurturing spider Charlotte teaches us all the meaning of friendship. \$7. September 27–November 8, 11 am and 1:30 pm on Saturdays at The Company OnStage, 536 Westbury Square. For tickets: 713/726-1219.

♦ **If You Take a Mouse to School**, something extraordinary is probably going to happen. This tale for kids pre-k through 3rd grade demonstrates how we can handle the mundane in creative ways. Pack a lunch with plenty of cheese sandwiches. \$10, \$8 for children, students, and seniors. September 19 (7:30 pm), 20 (1, 3, & 5 pm) and October 4 (1, 3, & 5 pm) at Main Street Theater–Chelsea Market, 4617 Montrose Blvd. For tickets: [www.mainstreettheater.com](http://www.mainstreettheater.com), [www.ticketweb.com](http://www.ticketweb.com), or 713/524-6706.

♦ **Kids on Stage.** Main Street Theater's Fall performing arts classes for kids runs from September 5–November 15 for kindergartners through high schoolers. Classes are at Main Street Theater in the Chelsea Market, 4617 Montrose Blvd. Registration: call Angela Harris, director of education, at 713/524-9196, or e-mail Harris at [aharris@mainstreettheater.com](mailto:aharris@mainstreettheater.com).

## RADIO

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

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

## ART/PHOTOGRAPHY

♦ **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. Through 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.

♦ **Don Flavin: Monuments for V. Tatlin.** One of the most innovative artists of the latter half of the 20th century, Don Flavin (1933–1996) installed what became the final commission of Dominique de Menil. Using Flavin's signature medium of fluorescent lighting, the work plays fascinating games with the eyes. Your peepers will be enchanted. The Menil Collection, 1515 Sul Ross. Info: 713/525-9400 or [www.menil.org](http://www.menil.org).

♦ **The Heroic Century.** Houston is the exclusive town to exhibit 208 of the best examples of the giants of modern art, including works by Dali, Picasso, van Gogh, Lichtenstein, and Matisse. Normally, to see such an exhaustive collection you'd have to travel the globe. The MFA will even throw in some Warhol. Now how much would you pay? All the giants, one big collection, one great museum, all for under fifteen bucks. \$12.50 (\$7.50 for seniors, students with valid ID, and children 6–18; \$5 for members). Opens September 21 and runs through January 4 at The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, 1001 Bissonnet. For information: 713/639-7300 or [www.mfah.org](http://www.mfah.org).

♦ **Holy Mola.** Every society strives to immortalize its heritage. For the Kuna Indians, this is done through the mola, a method of quilting that incorporates reverse appliqué technique. Often worn by the Kuna women as blouses, the vibrant panels display rich scenes of the animal and plant life of the Caribbean. *Quilted Treasures of the Kuna Indians* is of interest to those keen on quilting, fashion, art, and the Caribbean landscape. September 27–January 4 @ the Houston Museum of Natural Science, One Hermann Circle Dr. More info: 713-639-4629 or [www.hmns.org](http://www.hmns.org).

♦ **Life, Africa Style.** Houston is one of only six cities in North America to see this exhibit. With 150 photographs taken by nearly a hundred of the world's most renowned photojournalists, *A Day in the Life of*

## IT'S A PEARL WORLD, AFTER ALL



Pearly Gates could be made from all the beautiful pearls on display here. With over 600 objects and nearly 500,000 pearls, this pearl exhibit is the largest and most comprehensive collection of its kind. In addition to learning all about pearls, You'll view a fabulous array of celebrities' pearls. Among them are the prototype of the faux pearl necklace worn by Audrey Hepburn in *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, the cultured pearl necklace (pictured) bought by Joe DiMaggio for his bride Marilyn Monroe, and a breathtaking brooch made of freshwater pearls that belonged to comic opera star Lillian Russell.

—Eric A.T. Dieckman

**What:** Pearls: A Natural History

**When:** Sept. 27–Jan. 18

**Where:** Houston Museum of Natural Science, One Hermann Circle Dr.

**Tickets:** \$8–\$12.50

**Info:** 713/639-4629 or [www.hmns.org](http://www.hmns.org)

Africa captures the life, landscape, and beauty of the continent during a 24-hour period. The collection dispels the stereotypical notion that Africa is home to nothing but famine and war. September 3–22 at The Galleria, Foley's/Nordstrom wing (between Foley's and Nordstrom), 5135 West Alabama. More information: [www.DITLAfrica.com](http://www.DITLAfrica.com).

♦ **Paintings and Monotypes** features recent color-filled works by Sandi Seltzer at the Jung Center. Free. 9 am–8 pm Mondays through Thursdays, 9 am–5 pm Fridays, 10 am–4 pm Saturdays, September 2–30 at the Jung Center, 5200 Montrose Blvd. For more information: 713/524-8253.

♦ **The Paper Sculpture Show** is an exceptionally unique and fun exploration of the nature of art, how it is envisioned, and how it is created. Each of the more than 30 contributing artists (including the Art Guys) lists the components of the sculpture, like a set of directions. With the help of a gallery assistant, you build the sculpture. How often do you get to go to a gallery and make the art yourself? Free. Sept. 10–Nov. 15 (opening reception Wednesday, Sept. 10, 6–9 pm) at DiverseWorks, 1117 East Fwy off N. Main at Naylor. Info: 713-223-8346 or [www.diverseworks.org](http://www.diverseworks.org).

♦ **Tony Smith.** Trained as an architect, Tony Smith (1912–1980) began making abstract, reductive paintings and sculptures of a Minimalist nature in the early '60s. Profoundly influenced by Jackson Pollock and Barnett Newman, Smith created deeply spiritual and enigmatic works. Beginning this month, three of his sculptures will be installed in the Menil's Loretto Street Park, The Elevens Are Up (1963), Wall (1964), and New Piece (1966). 1515 Sul Ross. For more information: 713/525-9400 or [www.menil.org](http://www.menil.org).

♦ **Trim.** Native Texan Andy Coolquit begins DiverseWorks' visual arts season with his exhibit, *Trim*, in conjunction with *The Paper Sculpture Show*. This notorious artist (his cool part house got him dismissed from his UT grad program) includes funky sculptural furniture, text paintings, and odd collections like a collection of found cigarette lighters. Runs Sept. 10–Nov. 15 (opening Sept. 10 from 6–9 pm) at DiverseWorks, 1117 East Fwy off N. Main at Naylor. Info: 713-223-8346 or [www.diverseworks.org](http://www.diverseworks.org).

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for OutSmart's Oct. issue:  
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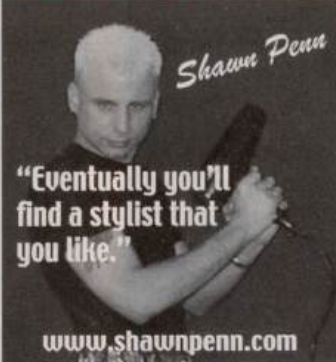
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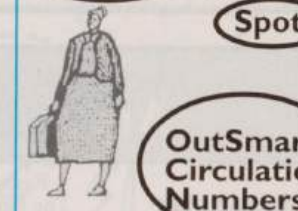
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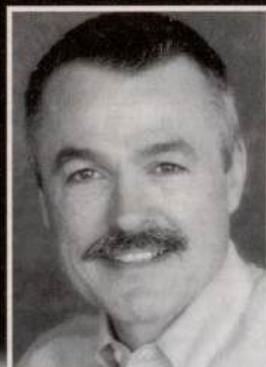
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## Business News

**Concierge Travel, Inc.** has joined **Hotels.com** as an affiliate. This new partnership allows Concierge Travel clients to book hotels worldwide at the special negotiated rates of Hotels.com. The rates are available at [www.conciergetravel.cc](http://www.conciergetravel.cc). **Kim Gustavsson** is Concierge Travel owner. Contact him at 713/661-2117.

**Crazy Coil**, a new store that sells pain-relieving shoes, has opened in Mapewood Mall Shopping Center (5653 Beechnut at Hillcroft). Crazy Coil offers shoes designed for people who are on their feet a great deal, such as runners, walkers, hairstylists, teachers, retail workers, and delivery drivers. The telephone number is 713/779-4500, and the website is [www.crazycoil.com](http://www.crazycoil.com).

**General Electric Co.**, one of the nation's largest and oldest manufacturing and financial services companies and the owner of the NBC television network, has announced that the company's new union contracts include health-care coverage for employees' same-sex domestic partners. The new policy, in contracts with the International Union of Electrical Workers and the Communications Workers of America approved on June 25, brings the number of Fortune 100 companies with domestic partner benefits to 64, according to the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's WorkNet project.

The benefits extend to all GE employees in the United States, a company spokesperson told the Human Rights Campaign. GE, based in Fairfield, Connecticut, is fifth on the Fortune 500 list.

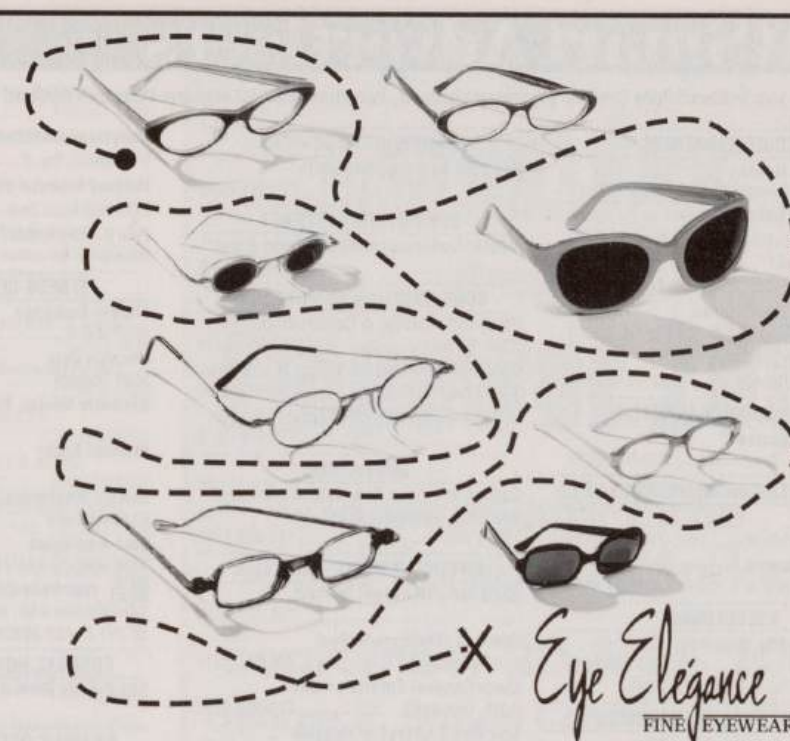
GE has a major presence in Houston with offices related to its energy services, financial services, industrial systems, and medical systems divisions, among others.

"GE's step forward leaves only three holdouts—Wal-Mart, ExxonMobil, and AIG—in the top 10 of the Fortune list without such coverage," said **Daryl Herrschaft**, who manages HRC WorkNet. "Almost 40 percent of the Fortune 500 now offers these benefits, up from just 17 percent at the beginning of 2000."

A complete list of Fortune companies with domestic partner benefits is available at [www.hrc.org/worknet](http://www.hrc.org/worknet). HRC WorkNet has collaborated for several years with employees inside NBC and CNBC to obtain these benefits. NBC has been the only one of the major television networks without domestic partner benefits.

**Pride At Work**, the GLBT constituency group of the **AFL-CIO** (American Federation of Labor & Congress of Industrial Organizations), will host its September 18-21 biennial national convention in the metropolitan Washington, D.C., community of Tyson's Corner, Virginia.

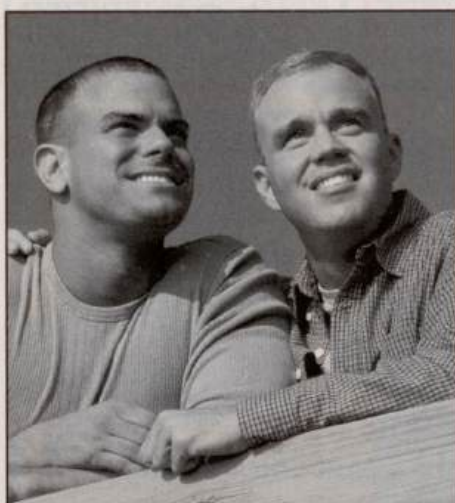
"The purpose of Pride At Work is to mobilize mutual support between the organized Labor Movement and the LGBT Community around organizing for social and economic justice," according to the organization website, [www.prideatwork.org](http://www.prideatwork.org). The telephone number is 202/637-5085. ■



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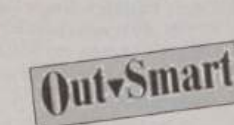
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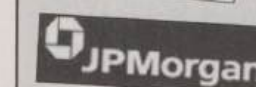
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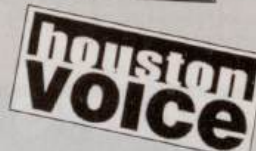
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## BAR & CLUB GUIDE

### 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

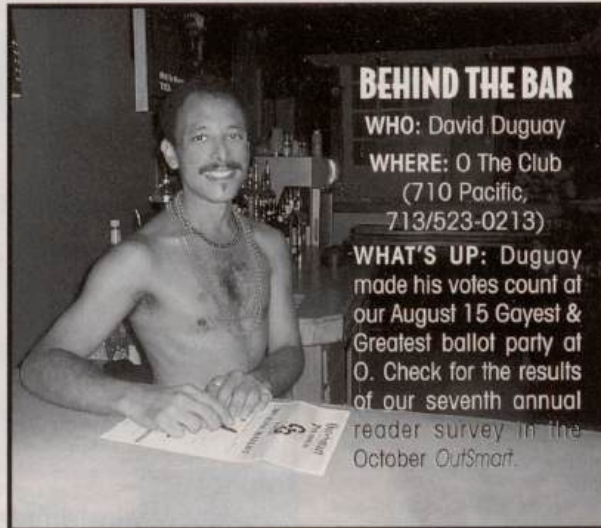
Welcoming a mixed lesbian crowd, this bar is located on the Westheimer curve in Montrose. The Glow Girl dancers perform on Sunday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday nights. 1417-B Westheimer • 713/522-5166.

#### 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 bootie 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.



### BEHIND THE BAR

WHO: David Duguay

WHERE: O The Club  
(710 Pacific,  
713/523-0213)

WHAT'S UP: Duguay made his votes count at our August 15 Gayest & Greatest ballot party at O. Check for the results of our seventh annual reader survey in the October OutSmart.

THOMAS CHELSEA

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.

#### MANGO VIDEO LOUNGE

Located next to Club Inergy, this new Wednesday-Saturday spot has a 15-foot video screen, dance floor, and pool tables. DJ Kenny Jammz hosts karaoke night on Wednesday. 5742 Chimney Rock • 713/666-7472.

#### MARY'S

One of the oldest clubs in Houston, Mary's shuttered briefly this past 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 • 713/524-5664.

#### MONTROSE MINING COMPANY

Great-looking male dancers bump and grind every night at this leather/denim spot. The two-tier back patio bar provides a perch for viewing the Pacific Street scenery. 805 Pacific • 713/529-7488.

#### O

Two outdoor balconies allow patrons to watch the passing parade on Pacific. A sleek interior and multiple plasma screens distinguish this spot, which stays open after hours on weekends. 710 Pacific • 713/523-0213.

#### 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 dancehall still draws an energetic crowd. Techno light and laser shows enhance the pumped-up music. 2401 San Jacinto • 713-759-9606 • www.richs-houston.com.

#### RIPCORD

OutSmart readers named this spot the best place to show off your leather in the Gayest & Greatest poll. Inside the bar, the Black Hawk Leather Shop sells treasures for the leather/levis/uniform crowd. 715 Fairview • 713/521-2792 • www.ripcordanjournal.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 • 409/765-6911.

### 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 Gardener hosts Talent Night on Tuesday. On Sunday, Latino Night includes Latin music and an all-Latino illusionist show. 485 Crockett • 409/832-4944.

#### HOOLIGAN'S

Though primarily a women's bar, this just-opened club is open to all. Features include karaoke night on Wed. & frequent live music, especially on Fridays & Saturdays. 6025 Martin Luther King • 409/832-0808.

Have bar or club news?

Send it to clubguide@outsmartmagazine.com.



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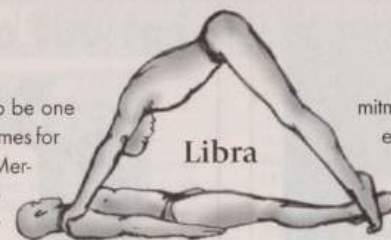
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## SignOut

by Lilly Roddy

September is going to be one of the more difficult times for this year. Not only is Mercury retrograde, but we are also having some very troublesome planetary alignments. And the first two



Sept. 23–Oct. 23

commitments in relationships and career avenues. You will not have any patience for authority figures. Be careful that you don't set yourself up. You don't want to be in a power struggle that has you choosing between the frying pan and a bigger frying pan.

Before you take any life-altering action, you will want to wait until your ruling planet Mercury is direct after the 22nd. At that point, it may be a good time to look for fresher air.

**CANCER** (June 22–July 22). Wipe that serious grimace off your face! Go ahead. Just try. You will be living up to your animal reputation as the Crab. Your tolerance factor for BS is at an all-time low. This month, you are reviewing your thoughts and ideas and just how to get your point across. You may be trying to solve too many problems at one time. You don't have to find the perfect solution—just a resolution that will get you through December 2003. At the end of the month, you are shifting that glare to your family and your home and getting them in order.

**LEO** (July 23–August 22). Your mind is definitely concentrating on financial matters. You are counting your money and considering what you are going to do with your finances. You may be experiencing some problems with your partner in the area. You may want to save, and your partner may want to spend. Issues will come to a head this month. Either you come up with a compromise, or you will be separating. This same energy will affect your salary and fees that you charge your clients.

**ARIES** (March 21–April 19). September is your month to organize your office, files, health, and past karmic issues with your partner. You can expect to find problems in these areas of your life. And this is the month to do something about them. Don't let the breaking awareness bring you down but energize you into action. You are very aware of your emotional and family security. And you feel like you are in charge of making the decisions. But are you? You are more interested in others and relationships by month's end.

**TAURUS** (April 20–May 20). You are certainly not in a mood to be pushed or pulled. Things have to fit your notion of ease and comfort and play. You are in a very creative period, but only if you are having fun. You are still questioning your career path as you are seeking something that really makes you feel complete about your work. You can find help or support from friends or business associations. They can introduce you to brand-new ideas. The best time to approach these groups are after the 22nd. By the end of the month, you are ready to get back on track.

**GEMINI** (May 21–June 21). Family and emotional reorganization are on your agenda this month. Your nest is messy, and you need to get it cleaned up. Emotionally, you are questioning your previous com-

mitments in relationships and career avenues. You will not have any patience for authority figures. Be careful that you don't set yourself up. You don't want to be in a power struggle that has you choosing between the frying pan and a bigger frying pan.

**VIRGO** (August 23–September 22). What a birth-day time for you! Your ruling planet, Mercury, is retrograde, and you can't get your head out of the past to see what good things might be out there. You want everything right now. Your composure is a thing of the past. And Goddess forbid anyone would be late to a meeting that you are attending. You will be speaking your mind. In fact, you will be more than happy to share what you think with any and everyone you encounter. Personal relationships may seem to take the brunt of this incendiary vigor.

**LIBRA** (September 23–October 23). You are taking a break from all the action and should be relaxing in your spa with a glass of your favorite beverage. Just what is the meaning of the Universe? You are fully ready to answer that question. And you are more sensitive than usual and cannot be around all your admirers this month. If you have to work, then be careful, because this is where your irritation might rear up and punch someone in the headlines. You awaken from this deep sleep by the end of the month ready to embrace the world.

**SCORPIO** (October 24–November 21). This is a great month to review your progress in your business life. You are more objective and ready to cor-

rect your mistakes rather than beat yourself up over them. If you belong to business or community organizations, you are reviewing their effectiveness. If they don't live up to your standards of necessary productivity, you are marking them off your day planner. By the end of the month, you are ready for a break.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22–December 21). I hope you are ready to join the circus and become that juggler that you always wanted to be. Otherwise, you are going to be pulled in several different directions at the same time. Work is taking 100 percent of your time. Home and family are taking 100 percent of your time. And personal maintenance is taking 100 percent of your time. Seems as if you are a bit over-committed. You may be headed for a breakdown if you don't get a handle on what is best for you rather than all those great things you do for others. You will be ready for a big breath by the time the Sun enters Libra.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22–January 19). Mostly this is a good month for you. You are productive, and your efforts seem to bring positive results without you having to try too hard. You are a bit impatient, especially when driving your car, and you get bored easily by anything that doesn't get to the point quickly. It would be wonderful if you could take some time away from your routines with some pleasant mental stimulation. Reading or watching favorite movies could do this for you. At the end of the month, you get back on the treadmill ready for action and results.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20–February 18). You are feeling challenged this month by your desires for the things that you want and your sense of feeling trapped by these desires. You can be so irrefutable about your ideals, and even that can make you feel trapped. Just whose values are running your spaceship? A romantic partner or good friend may be able to help you mirror back your feelings so that you can understand that you made up the rules to begin with. You just have to do what pleases you, and you will live up to your ideals.

**PISCES** (February 19–March 20). What a crazy last couple of months for you with this month as the culmination. You have been immersed in self-inspection, searching for the way out of the maze of self-chosen denial. When will it be OK to put you at the top of your list? Answer: September 2003. Relationships of all sorts may seem too demanding even if they are just being the same. You are not. You may want to look up *boundaries* in the dictionary so you will know what you have to do. It eases up by month's end.

A professional astrologer for nearly 20 years, Lilly Roddy counsels on an individual basis and teaches classes. Her website is [www.hermesfoot.com](http://www.hermesfoot.com).



## Interview with Lea Bogle, President of Premier Paging & Wireless

**Lea, it seems as if there are so many cell phone companies in the Houston area today, and they all seem to carry the same products. What is it that makes Premier stand out? Why should someone go out of their way to choose Premier?**

**Lea:** You're right. There are a lot of wireless companies in Houston today. However, Premier is different for a lot of reasons. First, we will have our 10th year anniversary this November, and the benefit of dealing with a company like ours that has been around for 10 years is the extra value we provide. My operations manager Betsy Kutach, has been with me over six years. When our clients call or come in, we generally have the answers to their questions, and most importantly we have the industry knowledge to help people make good decisions and good choices. There are so many options available today and unless you spend an enormous amount of time reading all of the fine print and studying the various options, the average consumer usually ends up happier with their service when they choose a professional like us.

**What cell phone do you think is best for parents and families with teens?**

**Lea:** I think there are two really good options that make a lot of sense for most families today. The first thing, though, is the family needs to decide what they are buying a phone for. Is it as a second line for their teenager, or is it for emergency purposes? If it is a second line for a teenager, then my recommendation is to choose a plan with a lot of minutes, especially nights and weekends! The kids live on their phones in the evening an all day Saturday and Sunday. Unlike their parents, they spend very little time on the phone during the week.

**I remember during Allison, a lot of the cell phones didn't work at all. Is that a common problem?**

**Lea:** That's a yes and no kind of question. Yes, it is always possible for your cell phone, or your electric or virtually any other utility service, to be lost during extreme weather conditions, including a cell phone. However, Nextel's service provides an added level of security access via the walkie-talkie. The walkie-talkie or the two-way radio feature operates outside of the

public utility switch, and this adds an added level of dependability and reliability not found in any other wireless service.

**How far can I go and still use the walkie-talkie feature?**

**Lea:** Starting July 9, you can use the walkie-talkie, the two-way radio, nationwide! This means when I am at the WNBA game in New York the weekend of the 10th, I can push the button and you will be able to communicate with me instantly! It's fast, it's clear, it's affordable! For only \$10 extra per month, you can communicate with virtually anyone on a Nextel phone, coast to coast.

**Where are your offices located and how can someone get in touch with you?**

**Lea:** We have two offices. Betsy, our operations manager, is generally in our Stafford office, which is located at 12220 Murphy Road, and I am usually at our Beltway location just north of Town & Country Mall. Or, if you would prefer, give us a call at 713/465-8883 and we will come out to you.

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## SceneOut

## OUT IN HOUSTON

**1** New York drag diva **The Lady Bunny** struck a prayerful pose during her June 27 Pride show at Rich's Houston.

**2** **Sarah Golden** performed at the June 27 GoGirlsRocks! Houston Pride show at the Rhythm Room.

**3** At the May 4 benefit for the Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby at Boca Chica, organization executive director **Randall Ellis** (r) chatted with City Council candidate **Sue Lovell**.

**4** **Franky Saenz** performed the song "Mr. Cellophane" at the June 27 Pride Cabaret at the Alley.

**5** **Keith Raskin** (l-r), **Laura Regan**, **Barbara Huskey**, and **Traci Swisher** attended the June 27 Pride Cabaret show at the Alley.

**6** **Martin Heyn** (l) and **Drew Brown** also attended the Pride Cabaret show.

**7** **Jerry Atwood** (l) and **Kim Yvette** paused at a regular Tuesday night gig at the Briar Patch.

**8** **Todd Farrich** (center front in gray T-shirt) recently posed with friends in front of his 3rd Coast Beach Bar in Galveston.

**9** Spotted in the June 27 GoGirlsRocks crowd: **Sean Wiggins** (l-r), **Krystal Ferguson**, and **Melissa McClaskey**.

**10** **Bill Walters** (l) and **Ben Johnson** celebrated their 25th anniversary on May 25.



1, 2, 4-7, 9 YVONNE FEECE; 3, 10 DALTON DEHART; 8 THOMAS CHELENA



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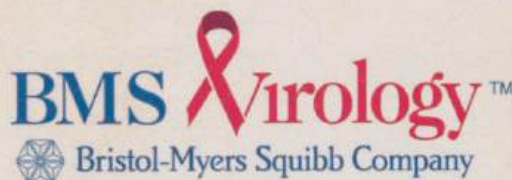
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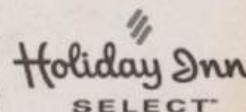
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