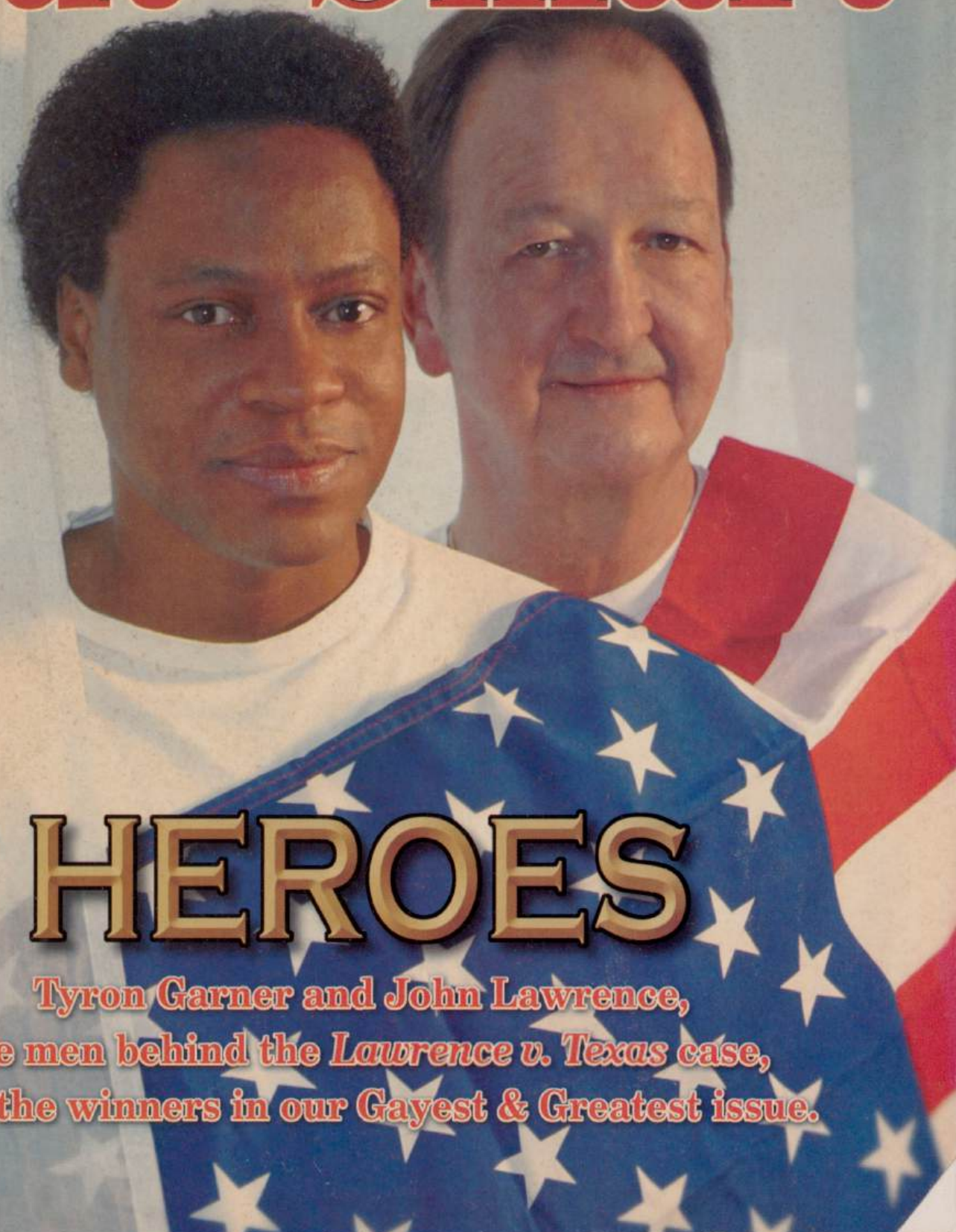


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About the cover:

Tyron Garner (l) and John Lawrence lead our Gayest & Greatest winners. Photographed for *OutSmart* by John Conroy. Cover designed by Terry Klumpp.



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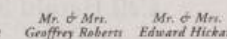
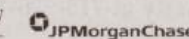
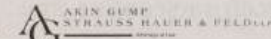
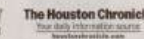
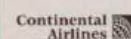
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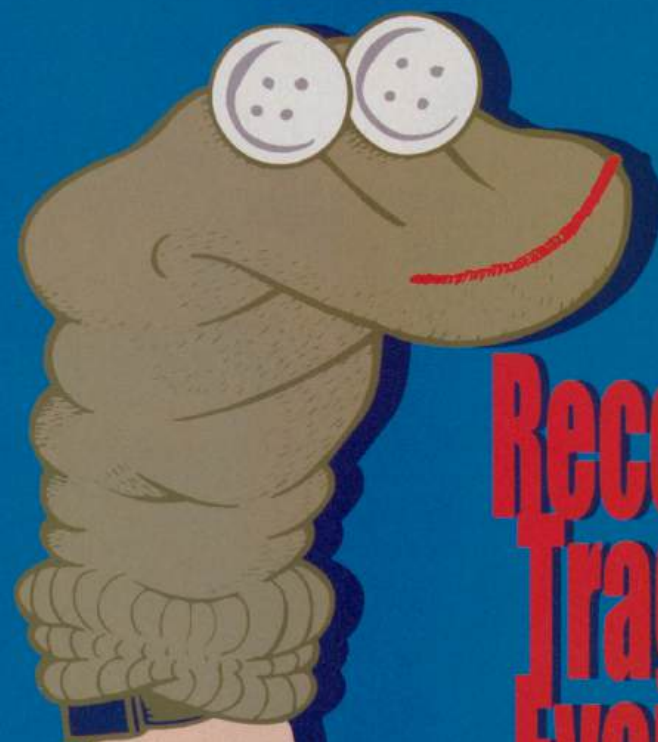
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By Craig Wright

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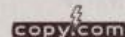
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OUT OF AFRICA. Adrain Bowie returns this month from a six-week sojourn in South Africa. Bowie, along with Jerry Rietz and Jim Winslett, traveled there for Excel International, a laity-led movement affiliated with the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. "This is groundbreaking work for us because we want to have a spiritual-renewal weekend for all the South African cultures together," Bowie said before she left. "What we are saying to them is that now that apartheid is over, let's all come together."

Photographed at Resurrection MCC by Holly Glen Gearhart





READY FOR PRIME TIME. Beginning on October 30, the Houston chapter of Prime Timers hosts a four-day convention for the international group of seasoned gay and bisexual men. Jim Friend (l-r), Perrie Dolph, Robert Brooks, and John Kellett—pictured on the deck at Keys West, home bar during the convention—lead the organizing for the event. Activities include tours of Houston and NASA, a Halloween bar trek, and Saturday-afternoon workshops and lectures at the downtown Crowne Plaza, the host hotel.

Photographed at Keys West by Todd Rainer

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GO FOR THE GREEN. Jackie Golden (l) and Tracey Alston co-chair the October 25 golf tournament benefiting An Uncommon Legacy Foundation, which awards scholarships to lesbian students and grants to lesbian causes. The fifth annual tourney, played on the Hermann Park course, will begin at 8 a.m. On October 23, the golfers will have a 6:30 p.m. team-wagering event, called a Calcutta, at the Ninfa's on Westheimer near Fountainview. "Basically it's another excuse to party and raise more money," quips Alston.

Photographed in Hermann Park by John Conroy



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STEEL AWAY. When the annual Grey Party sputtered out last year, the community lost a major fundraiser for nonprofit groups. Several of the hosts from that event decided to pick up the slack and engineered Steel Weekend. John Benevides (l-r), Mike Klare, Ron Foster, Ralph Taylor (on plank), Thomas Urban, and Brian Kinney (along with Bryan Williams, not pictured) have organized the October 10-12 series of parties at M Bar, Rich's Houston, and Numbers. Milam House and four other health-related beneficiaries will split the proceeds.

Photographed on a Tuam Avenue construction site by Todd Rainer

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DATEBOOK

• Ray Hill will present the world premiere of his new play *Indictment Returned* on October 12 at the Holiday Inn Select. In the drama, the audience members compose a grand jury, which considers whether five U.S. Supreme Court justices should be indicted for their decisions in the 2000 presidential election controversy. More info: 713/867-3476 or electionreform@aol.com.

• In Galveston, the University of Texas Medical Branch AIDS Clinical Trials Unit will observe the first **National Latino AIDS Awareness Day** on October 15 with a 10 a.m.-2 p.m. program at St. Vincent's House, 2817 Postoffice. Activities will include health screenings, and panels from the AIDS Memorial Quilt will be displayed.

• **American Veterans for Equal Rights** will host a regional conference October 17-19 at the Houston GLBT Community Center.

• October is **National Domestic Violence Awareness Month**. Montrose Counseling Center provides counseling services and advocates who can help individuals leave abusive situations. Call the center's Gay & Lesbian Switchboard at 713/529-3211.

• The **National Transgender Advocacy Coalition**, chaired by Houstonian Vanessa Edwards Foster, has called on the international community to aid Honduran trans activist China (born Ellyn) Suárez Mejía, who has challenged her government to investigate a rash of murders among the GLBT population in Honduras. Suárez's life has been threatened. The Latino/a Lesbian Gay Organization (LLEGÓ) has established a fund to provide safe passage for Suárez to another country. Online donations: <https://secure.ga3.org/02/suarez>.



HRC's Michael Crawford

HRC HOSTS LEGAL ISSUES FORUM

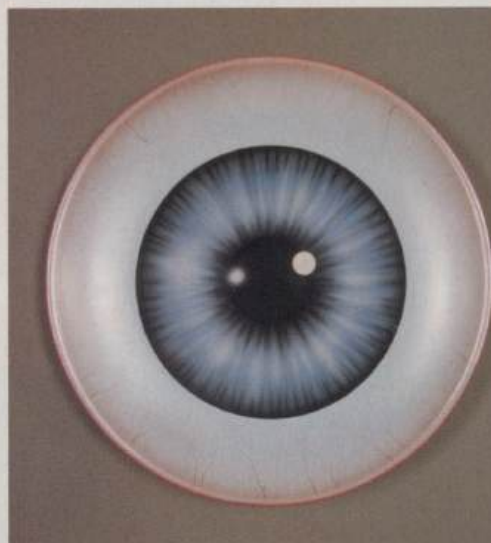
With the public dialogue of GLBT civil rights heating up across the nation, the local chapter of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) will host a town hall forum on community issues on October 14.

With the theme "Families & Fairness," the 7-9 p.m. event will take place at Stages Repertory Theatre. Topics will include estate planning for GLBT families, adoption, and the fight for same-gender marriage.

Michael Crawford, associate field director of the HRC national office, will moderate. Panelists will include:

- Bobbie Bayless and Dalia Stokes, activists and lesbian parents
- Randall Ellis, Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas executive director
- Praveen Fernandes, HRC national public policy advocate
- Rev. Helen Havens, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church rector
- Connie Moore and Debbie Hunt, attorneys and lesbian parents

OutSmart is a presenting sponsor of the forum, along with LGRL Texas and Stages. Based in Washington, D.C., HRC is the largest national lesbian-and-gay political organization.



PHILANTHROPIC PLATE.

Rachel Hecker ("Sad and Pissed," February 2002 *OutSmart*) created a dish (pictured) for Pink Platter 2003, one of the fundraising programs of the Pink Ribbons Project/Dancers in Motion Against Breast Cancer. Hecker's platter, on view at Brasil, and those of 20 other local artists will be auctioned off throughout October, which is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Proceeds will fund breast-cancer screenings and follow-up care for under-served women in Houston. ■

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JUST SAY NO

George Bush needs some economic tough love

You can tell George Bush never had an allowance growing up. When he needed money, he just asked for it. And he got whatever he asked for.

That explains a lot about the American economy. Whenever Dubya has wanted something for the past few years, he has asked for it. And Congress has given it to him.

In 2001, Bush wanted a tax cut that gave more than half of its benefits to the richest one percent of Americans. The poorest 20 percent got \$10 a year. The wealthiest one percent got more than \$50,000 year. Congress approved it.

In 2003, Bush wanted a new round of tax cuts. Thirty-seven percent of the new cuts went to the wealthiest one percent. Fifty million American families—36 percent of all households—got no tax cut. Congress approved it.

In 2003, Bush sought more than \$74 billion in a supplemental budget request for

the war on Iraq. Congress authorized it.

Everyone knew that all of these tax cuts (reduced income) and war spending (increased expenses) would result in an exploding federal deficit. Still, Congress approved them because Bush's approval ratings were sky high and everyone was afraid to tell him no.

This summer, fresh off a victory in Iraq and with even higher approval ratings, Bush staged a fighter-jet landing on an aircraft carrier off the coast of California for a photo-op. GI George's fighter jet landed. George stepped out of the cockpit wearing a flight suit. Standing in front of a huge "Mission Accomplished" sign, George gave a victory speech and declared that the war-game was over.

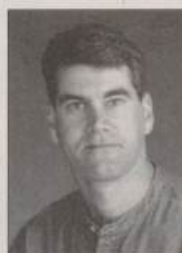
Not so fast. Last month, George appeared on television and told us he needs an additional \$87 billion for post-"Mission Accomplished" money in Iraq—\$67 billion to

keep 127,000 American soldiers in Iraq to press forward with Operation Iraqi Freedom and \$20 billion to rebuild Iraq's infrastructure (electricity, schools, and stuff).

Bush will get the \$87 billion because no one wants to underfund our troops and leave them in a place they did not choose to go without the protection they need to survive. And almost everyone understands that now that we're in Iraq, we can't just pack up and leave and let the terrorists take over a country that was never really tied to terrorism (or at least not

continued on page 22

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



THE HARVEY MILK MUDDLE

Public funding for this school for gay kids is not the solution

What to do about New York City's Harvey Milk School for gay students? Now that a lawsuit has been filed against public funding for the high school, it's time to ask anew whether it's a good way to combat the pervasive problem of antigay harassment in public schools.

The Harvey Milk School (HMS) was started in 1984 by the Hetrick-Martin Institute, a private nonprofit organization devoted to helping gay youth. HMS is now a four-year, fully accredited high school created, in the words of its website, "to offer an alternative educational program for LGBTQ youth that often find it difficult or impossible to attend their home schools due to continuous abuse and harassment."

HMS boasts a 90 percent graduation rate and a 60 percent college acceptance rate, both far higher than the numbers for public high schools. This is probably because of its low student-teacher ratio and the numerous ways

it offers special help to its students, like tutoring, employment training and placement, and after-school activities.

It now has only about 50 kids. But a recent \$3.2 million grant from the city will allow HMS to expand and accommodate three times that number. This means substantial public money will go to a school organized around sexual identity.

From the social right come the usual and false charges of pedophilia and "indoc-trination." More plausibly, social conservatives have criticized HMS as another example of special rights for gays. Culture and Family Institute director Bob Knight derides it as "an elite institution."

The exceptional performance of HMS students and the special services they get, a source of great pride to the school, do indeed sharply contrast with the attention given 1 million poorer-performing students in New York's public schools. The public money spent

on HMS could go to other needs, like getting better schoolteachers.

Yet special problems call for special solutions. Social conservatives never seem to acknowledge the hard fact that gay kids are subjected to exceptional amounts of taunting and bullying from their peers. That environment can make it very difficult—under extreme circumstances impossible—to learn. HMS was understandably created as a response to this reality. The question is whether it is the right response.

Then there's the objection that HMS

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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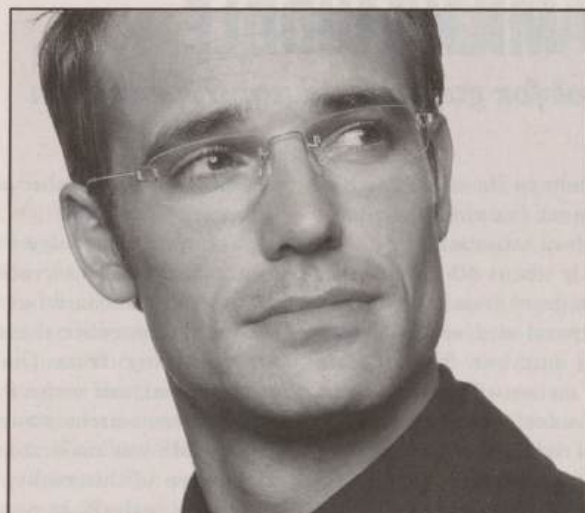
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LeftOut

continued from page 22

tied to it in a way our "ally" Saudi Arabia was).

But \$20 billion for infrastructure rebuilding in Iraq is a hard pill to swallow just months after a third of America suffered a blackout because of our own antiquated power infrastructure.

Twenty billion dollars sounds like a lot of money to me. What would \$20 billion buy, anyway? It would take care of one of these:

- Cover half the budget of the Department of Homeland Security
- Hire 11 million new teachers
- Nearly match the annual budget for the National Institutes of Health
- Hire 11 million new police officers
- More than double the EPA's budget
- Or fully fund the president's No Child Left Behind Act, match his promise to provide \$3 billion to Africa for AIDS treatment, and leave \$10 billion in the government kitty.

But to George, \$87 billion is not that much. To him, it's only two-thirds of a budget surplus that Clinton left George to play with when he took office. To George, it's only one-fifth of the federal budget deficit that he is set to run in fiscal year 2003.

Somebody needs to cut George off. Take away his credit cards and his club membership. George needs tough love. And a Republican Congress and U.S. Senate aren't in the habit of saying no.

Is there a general in the house? ■

OutRight

continued from previous page

segregates, effectively discriminating against straight minority youths who attend lesser public schools. Democratic State Senator Ruben Diaz has filed a lawsuit claiming just that. "I am opposing segregation in any shape, type, or form," Diaz told *The New York Times*.

This criticism is overwrought. *Segregation* is a loaded word, conjuring up images of water cannons, attack dogs, and separate schools for black people. The word just doesn't apply here.

HMS responds to the discrimination charge by saying it doesn't bar straight kids. That's disingenuous. Even HMS acknowledges its purpose is to help gay kids. The exclusion of straights may not be a formal policy, but it is a fact. Is it wrong?

To queer separatists, this may not seem like much of a criticism. But separating gay students from straight students may do both groups more harm than good, teaching them that the way to deal with the tension arising from diversity in a plural society is to avoid it.

Most fundamentally, HMS is simply not an effective response to antigay abuse. Hetrick-Martin estimates there are about 100,000 gay students in New York. Shipping 150 of them off somewhere is no solution. School system administrators may feel better, but they have done nothing to fight the problem. We've just let them off the hook.

The problem needs to be addressed systematically within the schools, perhaps by greater pedagogical emphasis on sensitivity, awareness, and tolerance, and perhaps by greater levels of security. And if anyone should be sent away, it's the bullies.

It's also likely the 150 or so who attend HMS will be among the most self-motivated and self-aware of the gay students, with supportive parents or guardians who, after all, must sign off on their kids' attendance. The worst abuse will be visited on those thousands of gay kids left behind who have nobody to support them, not even their parents, and can't speak to anyone about the harassment, much less apply to attend an explicitly gay school. These invisible kids need the most help, but they get nothing from the existence of HMS.

If public funding for HMS were part of a general effort to foster healthy competition with public schools, as through a voucher program, these concerns about it might be offset by some gain. But HMS is not that, since liberal school system bureaucrats would never support such a reform.

Public funding would also be justifiable to support a temporary learning shelter for kids who are truly in psychological or physical danger that cannot be controlled by other means. But an HMS applicant can be admitted even if she has suffered no harassment and simply wants the special attention she will get at the school. There's no principled way to use tax dollars to subsidize her desire for a superior education but leave out other similarly ambitious students.

HMS has a right to exist as a private high school, like any other private high school. But, except as a temporary refuge for gay kids in immediate danger, it isn't an answer. And as well intentioned as the school is, public money would be better spent on the harassment problem within the public schools themselves. ■

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by Annise D. Parker

VOTE IN ADVANCE

Make your voice heard early in city elections

Friday, October 31 is: (a) Halloween, (b) full moon, or (c) the last day of early voting for the November 4 city elections.

For those who jumped on the first choice, I applaud your enthusiasm. If you selected "(c) early voting," join the select ranks of Houstonians whose calendars change with political seasons.

The early-voting crowd has almost doubled in four years. The last governor's race saw more than 150,000 Harris County voters early-vote, up from 85,000 in the 1998 governor's race.

Houstonians can begin early voting Monday, October 20, for the November 4 city elections at 30 locations throughout the city.

Any registered voter can vote at any early-voting location. Why wait? One friend who always votes, and always votes early, didn't vote absentee one year, got sick, and spent election day in the hospital. I always

try to vote early, just not on the first or last day. Last year, several friends hosted week-end early-voting parties and brunches so everyone could go ahead and vote together.

With 2 million residents, Houston has slightly more than 1 million registered voters. The last mayoral election prompted just 28 percent of them to go to the polls. This is an average turnout for city elections.

Here's a scary thought: City elections are supposed to be nonpartisan. Some voters are surprised when they look at a city ballot and don't see little R's, D's or I's. These days, however, most voters know who is an R or D because they are inundated with campaign ads. It's unfortunate. After all, there's no such thing as a Republican or Democratic pothole. In county and statewide elections, where parties are listed, Republicans always do a better job than Democrats of getting out their early voters (54 to 46 percent in 2002) and getting in their mail ballots (64 to 36 percent).

The county has been quite aggressive in tracking down voters who have moved in the past two years. In August, the county tax office mailed out more than 350,000 notices to voters after checking post office and driver's license records against the voter roll and discovering that 359,105 registered voters now have different forwarding addresses or driver's license addresses. A second notice went out if people didn't respond to the first notice. So this may be the most accurate voter registration list in the history of the county.

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 or call 713/247-2014. Her website is www.ci.houston.tx.us/citygov/council/1.



Then again, people (and the postal service) make mistakes. You may be registered and may have even voted in the past year at your same old precinct. But when you go to your polling place, you may not be on the rolls. If that happens, polling place officials must offer you an affidavit allowing you to challenge the rejection. An ounce of prevention: You can check your voter registration status by calling 713/368-2200 or by visiting the Harris County Tax Office website at www.hcvoter.net to verify the status of your voter registration. For early voting information, see www.harrisvotes.org.

Mail-in Ballots

Eligible voters still have time to request a ballot by mail as long as the county clerk receives the application seven days before the election—Tuesday, October 28. Mail ballots may be used by voters:

- who will be out of town during early voting and on election day;
- 65 or older;
- with disabilities which prevent them from visiting the polls;
- in a hospital or nursing facility.

Applications can be printed out at www.harrisvotes.org/docs/app4ballotbymail.pdf.

Register for Runoffs

As most of you know, voting requires that you register 30 days before an election, which means October 5. If you don't read this column until after October 5, go ahead and register. There will be important runoff elections about a month after the November 4 election.

I leave you with these inspiring thoughts about voting.

"Bad politicians are sent to Washington by good people who don't vote."

—William E. Simon,
former secretary of the treasury

"Vote for the man who promises least."

—Bernard Baruch,
financier and presidential adviser

"The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls which imprison men because they are different from other men."

—Lyndon Johnson, U.S. president

THE 2003 VOTE

Turn to page 50 for more pre-election coverage, including interviews with the mayoral candidates and the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus endorsements.

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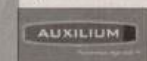
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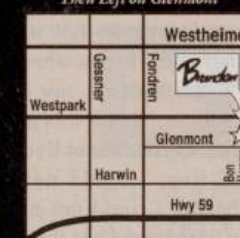
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TWO WOMEN

One looks back on military life, one anticipates

Andy,* age 18

I find Anna sitting in the coffee shop, silent and attentive. Her modest clothing does little to hide that she has been searching for something, too. There is an honesty about her persona that lets people know that she is just as welcoming as the next person. Yet something else in her eyes communicates a rougher life lived.

After talking with her for a while, I learn about her former employment. "I had eight years of service in the army," she tells me. I have to ask her why she chose the military. I'm curious why a woman, a lesbian, would choose to enter such an atmosphere. "I decided to go to pay my medical bills," she says. While I am dismayed at first by this comment—devoid of the feminism that I am looking for—I later become encouraged by it. For Anna is just like the rest of us, after all.

Miss Anna, as she is called around here, always wanted to go into the military. "From '85 to '89 I was in high school ROTC . . . so I was brought up basically in the military." She thinks back for a moment before going on. "I never thought [about] what the military was going to be like. I thought it was going to be . . . just like high school."

She tells me about the fears she had of being outed, and how the military didn't change at all during the Clinton administration. She tells me about the bad relationships she had with most of the military personnel; how women were cautious of her and men were wanting of her; and how she could find no special connection with other lesbian or gay soldiers. She also tells me of the few good relationships she had with high-ranking officers and how accomplished she felt when she was able to put her skills to use where they were needed.

"I left because my time was up," Miss Anna says. "And I was already depressed as it was. . . I could not live like straight people could live. I could not get married to a girlfriend. I could not have a woman in my room without people thinking that something was going on. I felt watched, constantly."

I ask if the military had fulfilled any of

her searching in life. "Oh, no. Not at all." She adds: "I don't know what I was looking for when I went into the military. I just wanted to get away from my home at the time . . . I'm looking for love actually."



Don't ask: "I could not have a woman in my room without people thinking that something was going on. I felt watched, constantly."

Trish [not her actual name] is dressed in her usual attire. She has on a dark tank top and multi-pocketed khakis. I don't have to ask what she intends to do in the future, but I do anyway for formality. "Four years active duty in the military," she says. "I'm actually going there for the education and so I can save up for the college of my choice afterwards." She also relates that she is going for the challenge.

Trish is 18 and very much the tomboy. I ask her if she was out growing up or not. "I was not out until I was 16." She tells me of how she came out to her mother by letting her read a slip of paper explaining it. "Only

the close family knows. . . Basically everyone at school knew. They knew before I had a word for it. I knew what gay was, but I was never really connecting with the word."

I wonder if she feels set apart from her peers because of her decision to join the military. "Nope," she replies. "[It's] just one of those casual 'What are you going to do' jobs."

I wonder a little about a person who sees the military as a casual occupation. Trish has a personality that reminds me of a butched-up version of Chris Tucker. And yet just below her veneer is another 18-year-old who is seriously thinking about how to sail off into the world.

"How do you feel about combat?" I ask.

"Well, they train you for combat, meaning anything can happen. They tell you that women don't fight, but your job may mean that. . . If I had no choice, I would fight."

I ask Trish about the fears she has about the military, and we talk about the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy. Although she's eager for the possibility of meeting other lesbian or gay personnel in the military, the fear of a dishonorable discharge lingers in her mind. As we talk about her future, I discover that a lot of her fears aren't so different from those of our peers. The fear of failure, mostly.

"So what are you looking for in life?" I end with.

"I don't know. . . What I like in life. I know I'm a lesbian and all, but . . . I feel like I'm searching for who I am."

I ask Trish if she thinks she'll find it in the military. "Probably not." We share a laugh. "It's one of those 'You can't turn back now' things."

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

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

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For more information, contact Bo Shuff, HRC, at bo.shuff@hrc.org or Randall Ellis, LGRL, at randall@lgrl.org.





SO GAY, SO GREAT

The readers speak again

For the seventh year, we asked what you like and you told us.

Many perennial favorites return (Ray Hill, Riva's, Sheryl Swoopes). Other names appear for the first time (the Brazilian personal trainer Eduardo Costa, the sparkling new Hollywood restaurant). All represent what you like best in our community.

On the following pages, we feature your choices in categories that range

from auto dealership to tattoo studio. There are also winners from Galveston. Check out www.outsmartmagazine.com for the full list with more detailed information on all the winners and runners up.

We also present portraits of some of the individual winners, including favorite politician Annise Parker, a candidate for city controller on November 4.

OutSmart proudly opens Gayest & Greatest this year with community heroes John Lawrence and Tyron

Garner. Beginning in 1998, these two very private men took the stand that their arrest for an intimate act in a home was wrong. Their courage to stand up for their rights—along with the dedication of their attorney Mitchell Katine and the Lambda Legal lawyers—resulted in the Supreme Court decision to overturn the antigay sodomy law. With their actions, Lawrence and Garner changed our lives for the better. They truly are great. →

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PEOPLE

COMMUNITY HEROES (MALE)

**John Lawrence and
Tyron Garner**

Runners Up:
Mitchell Katine, Ray Hill

COMMUNITY HERO (FEMALE)

Annise Parker

Runners Up:
Phyllis Randolph Frye, Nancy Ford

TOP GLBT MALE ACTIVIST

Ray Hill

Runners Up:
Mitchell Katine, Clarence Burton Bagby

TOP GLBT FEMALE & TRANSGENDER ACTIVIST

Phyllis Randolph Frye

Top GLBT Female Activist
Runners Up:
Annise Parker, Linda Morales

MOST VALUABLE VOLUNTEER

Sean Carter

Runners Up:
SoFonda St. John, Stella Link Seville

TOP FUNDRAISER (MALE)

Don Gill

Runners Up:
Gary Texiera, Ronnie Siebert

TOP FUNDRAISER (FEMALE)

Barbara Walker

Runners Up:
Sonna Alton, Nora Ackerley

FAVORITE DRAG QUEEN

Kofi

Runners Up:
Ima Cummin, SoFonda St. John

FAVORITE POLITICIAN

Annise Parker

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Runners Up:
Chris Bell, Howard Dean and Sheila
Jackson Lee (tie)

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TOP FEMALE BUSINESSPERSON**Marion Coleman**

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Runners Up:
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Lea Bogle, Premier Paging & Wireless

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Runners Up:
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Law Firm
Jim Walker, Walker & Hunter P.C.

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Ron Frazier, M.D.

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Runners Up:
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Max Greenfield, D.D.S., ImageMax

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Diagnostic Eye Center Bellaire
Marc Sanders, M.D., F.A.C.S.,
Diagnostic Eye Center

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Runners Up:
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Jackie Doval, M.S., D.C., C.A.C.

BEST THERAPIST**Tony Carroll, L.M.S.W.-A.C.P.**

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Runners Up:
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Laura Gillis, R.M.T.

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Tom Zeppelin, R.M.T.,
Zeppelin Massage

BEST FEMALE MASSAGE THERAPIST**Patricia Held**

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Runners Up:
Selena Gray, Berta Pollard

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Runners Up:
Charlie Finch Jr., Ph.D., Eduardo Costa

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Runners Up:
Karen Peden, Patricia Held

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Runner Up: Jill Dearman

BEST VETERINARIAN**Kristin Olson, D.V.M.**

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Robin Robinette, D.V.M. (tie)
Valerie McDaniel, D.V.M.,
Montrose Veterinary Clinic (tie)

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John Conroy, Varsity Productions

BEST DJ**Michael Tank**

South Beach
810 Pacific • 713/529-7623
www.SouthBeachTheNightclub.com

Runners Up:
John Simms, Montrose Mining Co.
J.D. Arnold, Rich's Houston

BEST MALE BARTENDER**George Konar**

JR's Bar & Grill
808/804 Pacific • 713/521-2519

Runners Up:
Nick Gray, Meteor (tie)
Stephen Watson, Keys West (tie)
David Duguay, O →

BARBARA WALKER AND DON GILL**Top Fundraisers**

Photo by David Lewis



SEAN CARTER
Most Valuable Volunteer
Photo by John Taton





PHYLLIS RANDOLPH FRYE
AND RAY HILL
Top GLBT Activists
Photo by David Lewis

BEST FEMALE BARTENDER
Suzy Riley
EJ's
2517 Ralph • 713/527-8071

Runners Up:
Crystal Murley, JR's Bar & Grill
Raci Ferris, Chances

FAVORITE RADIO PERSONALITY
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KRBE-FM 104.1

Runners Up:
Jimmy Carper, KPFT-FM 90.1
Sam Malone, KRBE-FM 104.1

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KPRC Channel 2

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Ernie Manouse, KUHT Channel 8
Chris Wragge, KPRC Channel 2

BEST TV GAL
Debra Duncan
KHOU Channel 11

Runners Up:
Gina Gaston, KHOU Channel 11
Dominique Sachse, KPRC Channel 2

FAVORITE MALE PRO ATHLETE
David Carr
Houston Texans • 832/667-2000
www.houstontexans.com

Runners Up:
Lance Armstrong, David Beckham

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Houston Comets
713/627-WNBA
www.wnba.com/comets

Runners Up:
Tina Thompson, Houston Comets
Liz Jackson, Houston Comets

COMMUNITY

FAVORITE SOCIAL ORGANIZATION
Bayou City Boys Club
www.bayoucityboysclub.org

Runners Up:
Lonestar Boys of Leather
Executive and Professional Association
of Houston and Royal Sovereign &
Imperial Court of the Single Star of
Houston (tie)

FAVORITE PHILANTHROPIC ORGANIZATION
Colt 45's
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Runners Up:
Bayou City Boys Club
The Assistance Fund and
AssistHers (tie)

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Runners Up:
PFLAG Houston
Human Rights Campaign and
Pride Committee of Houston (tie)

FAVORITE BENEFIT EVENT OF THE YEAR
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www.bayoucityboysclub.org

Runners Up:
Houston Black Tie Dinner
Pride Parade

BUSINESSES/ SERVICES

MOST SUPPORTIVE OF THE GLBT COMMUNITY (LOCAL)
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www.chase.com

Runners Up:
Budweiser, Hollywood Center

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www.chase.com

Runners Up:
Budweiser, Shell

BEST LOCAL WEBSITE
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Runners Up:
www.OutSmartmagazine.com
www.pridehouston.org

BEST NATIONAL WEBSITE
www.gay.com

Runners Up:
www.planetout.com, www.out.com

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AOL
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Runners Up:
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Neider Mortgage (tie)
EZ Mortgage Services of Texas (tie)

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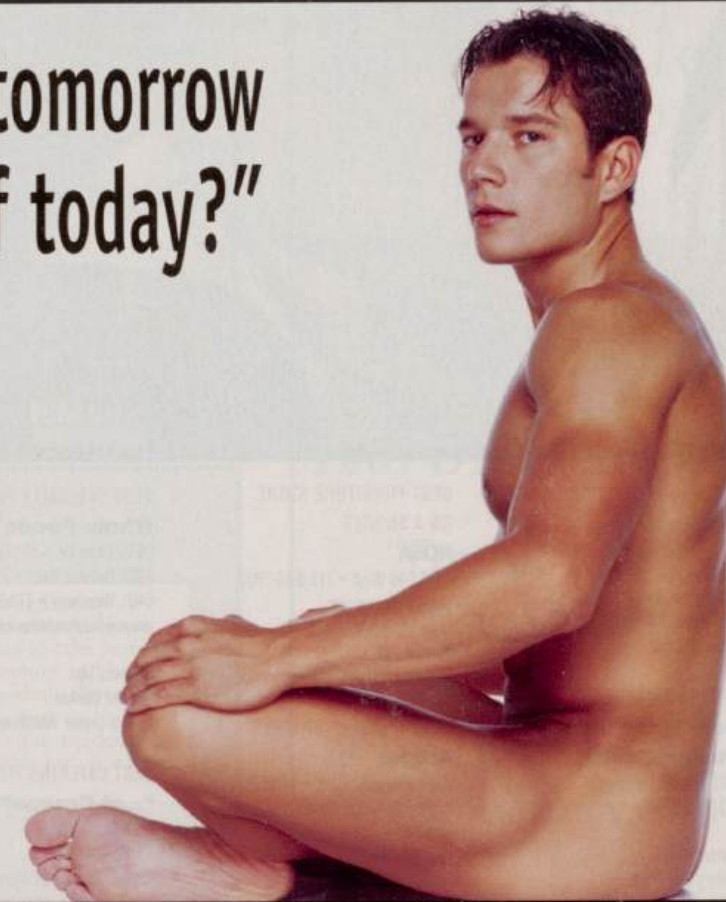
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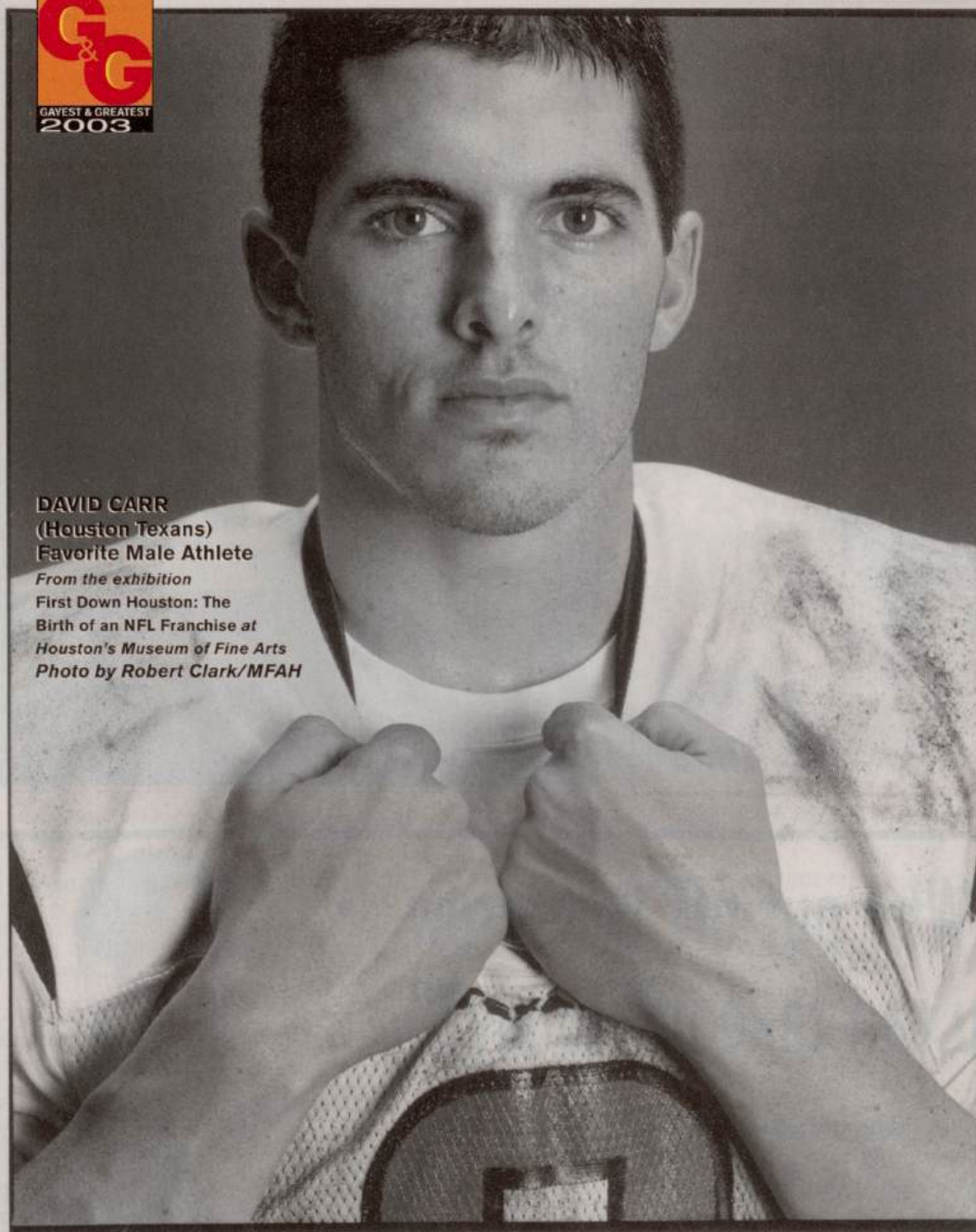
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Photo by Robert Clark/MFAH

BEST LANDSCAPING COMPANY
cont. from page 34

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Landscape Architects
Texas Blooms

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713/874-5200

Runners Up:
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IKEA

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Runners Up:
Gallery Furniture, Z Gallery

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Runners Up:
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Spec's Liquor Warehouse & Deli

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Runners Up:
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Runners Up:
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Vinos Liquors & Wines

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www.eventsgifts.com

Runners Up:
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Cities and Escarpa (tie)

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Runners Up:
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BEST RESALE SHOP FOR OTHER
TREASURES
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2009 Dunlavy • 713/528-5095

Runners Up:
Bluebird Circle, Reed's

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& Café
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Runners Up:
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Runners Up:
Momentum BMW (tie)
Mercedes Benz of Houston (tie)
Fred Haas Toyota

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Runners Up:
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Runners Up:
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cont. from page 36

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Runners Up:
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Runners Up:
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Runners Up:
GAP, Erotic Cabaret

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Runners Up:
Dillard's, Nordstrom

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Runners Up:
Erotic Cabaret, Monica's

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Runners Up:
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Runners Up:
PETSMART, Urban Tails

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Runners Up:
Plant House, In Bloom

BEST ANTIQUES STORE

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Runners Up:
Antiques on 19th, The Market

BEST JEWELRY STORE

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Runners Up:
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Runners Up:
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Runners Up:
Southwest Airlines, American Airlines

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Runners Up:
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Runners Up:
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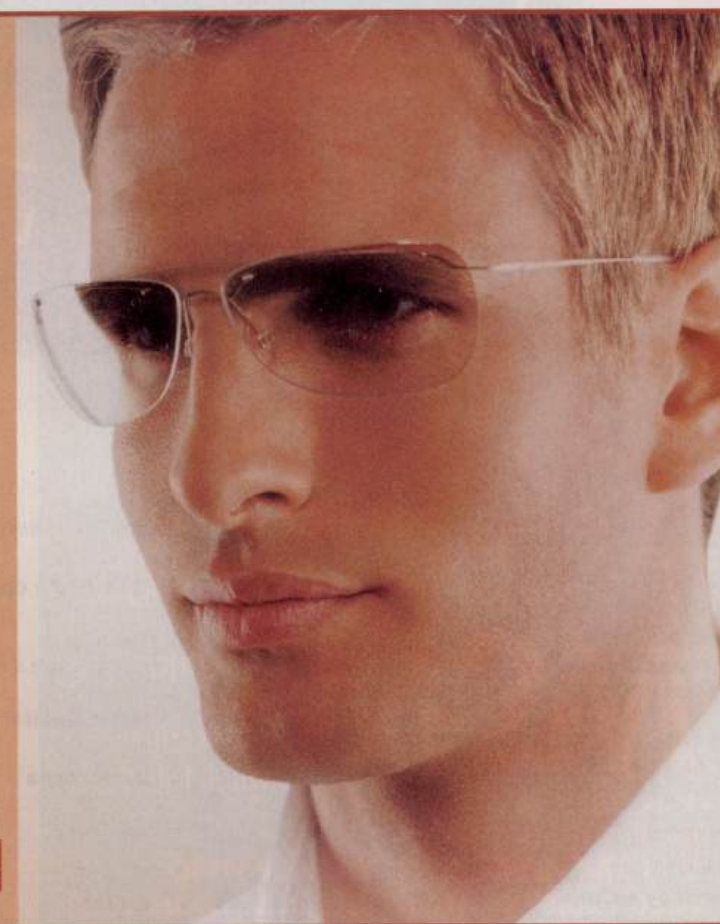
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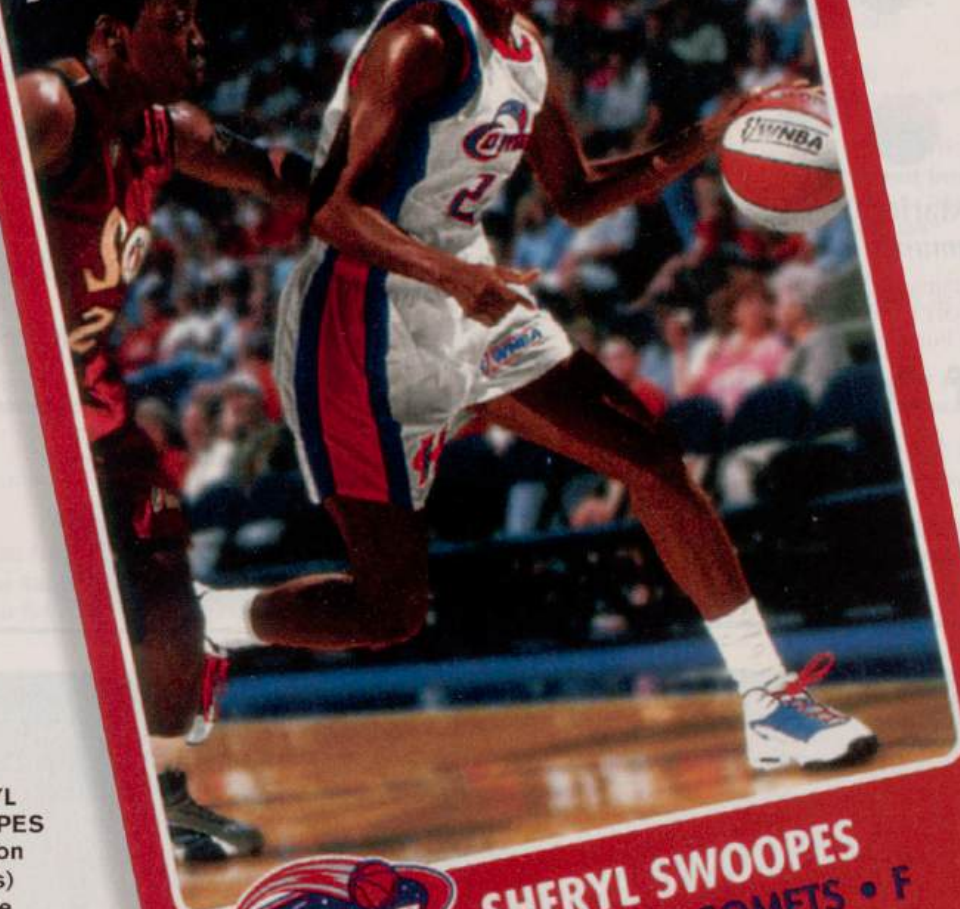
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Runners Up: Miyako, Nippon

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850 West FM 1960 • 281/444-7650
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Runners Up:
Thai Pepper, Golden Room

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Runners Up:
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Runners Up:
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OUT AND ABOUT

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Runners Up:
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(LOCAL)**
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(Theatre Lab Houston)

Runners Up:
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Runners Up:
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GLBT NEWS EVENT OF THE YEAR
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Sodomy Law**

Runners Up:
Gay Pride, Marriage in Canada

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www.SouthBeachTheNightclub.com

Runners Up:
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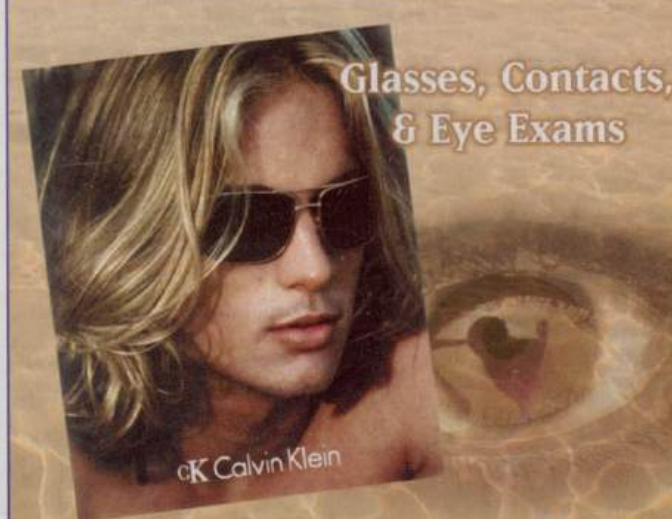
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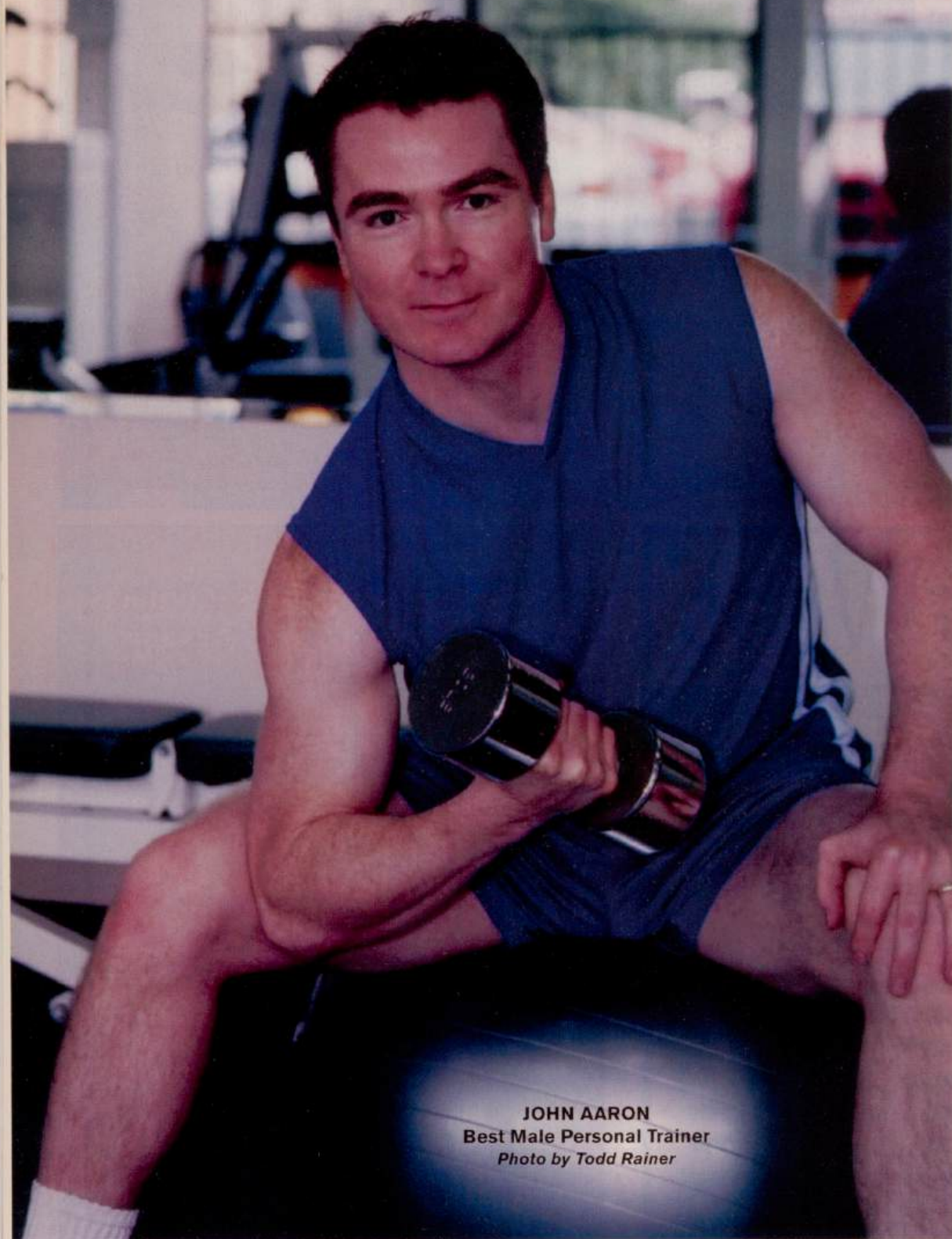
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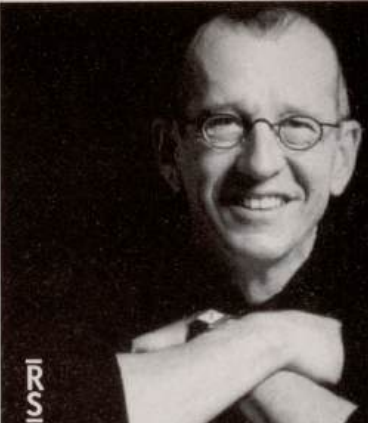
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Worth the Waite

Openly gay actor Todd Waite stars this month in *Sherlock Holmes* at the Alley

R

eflecting on his native Canada, Houston actor Todd Waite seizes on "the big difference" with laser-like precision.

"Americans are the strongest critics of America, which is kind of why America revitalizes itself and stays optimistic," he observes. "I love Canada's government and its social structure, but I love America's individual side. My experience is that America supports dreamers and people with a plan, and Canada tends to say, 'Oh, I hope you've got something on the side in case that doesn't work out, ay?'"

The 43-year-old actor from Vancouver (he expects to receive his dual citizenship within the next year) says being openly gay has never been an obstacle in a career that has included starring roles in Canadian soap operas, a part in the Canadian premiere of *Les Misérables* (performed in a Toronto sports arena with 52,000 audience members), lots of guest appearances on American TV shows like *21 Jump Street* and *Millennium*, and endless stage credits, including the lead in this year's Houston production of Edward Albee's *The Goat, Or Who Is Sylvia?*

"Because I'm not famous, being out is not a big risk for me," he says. "Although I *was* out when I was doing a lot of TV. . . . It has never been an issue. I just sort of discovered myself at 14 and came out, and I never heard the words gay, queer, fag . . . I've never had a single negative experience in my life with being gay."

Waite came to Houston three and a half years ago, drawn in part by Albee's association with the Alley. The 6'4" thespian is one of 11 full-time company members at the theater, and stars in *Sherlock Holmes*, which opens October 10 and continues through November 2.

OutSmart: What do you think about the recent development with the legalization of gay marriage in Canada?

Todd Waite: Yeah, Canada has always been pretty cool. One of our most popular members of Parliament was openly gay 15 years ago and was re-elected in a conservative [district] with an increased majority after he came out. Here's the big difference: I almost don't know any strongly religious people in Canada. There's a spiritualism and kind of a metaphysical thing, or at least a strong philosophy, but there is not this kind of strong fundamentalist, I would

By
Bradley
David
Williams

Photo by
Jim Caldwell

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almost say *evil*, that is so influential in America. I think that's what's fun about being gay in Texas, because it re-politicizes your sexuality. In a way, it's kind of fun to be in an environment where kissing a man on the street is kind of saying, "F--k you!" to irritating fundamentalists. I really kind of like that again. You know, where the act of sodomy itself is a little bit dirty. I say that tongue-in-cheek. I don't *really* want it to be unaccepted and dirty, but it's a little bit fun being in Texas for that reason.

So how did you end up in Houston?

The way I got to know the Alley is that my ex, who I'm still best friends with, did *Jekyll and Hyde* here in 1995, and I came down for a month and asked this guy, Greg Boyd [the Alley artistic director], who was directing, if I could watch. He was so generous and nice about saying, "Yes, come in, watch." Edward Albee's *Three Tall Women* was playing then, and Greg invited me to the opening. I went back and worked with the Shaw Festival in Canada, which is an ensemble dedicated to the works of Bernard Shaw and playwrights that wrote in his lifetime. Albee and Greg Boyd would come up often to the Shaw and see shows. Albee is very good about seeing theater around the world. He's always going off to New York and London to see current shows. They said, "Come on down and join us in Houston," and I said, "I'd love to." I moved down here and my first role was a gay character in *As Bees in Honey Drown*.

What has it been like to work with Albee?

I was a little bit nervous at first. I was a big, big fan, so I thought, "Oh my God, I'd better try and do a good job of this." And it was this really tough play. But he was so charming—irascibly charming, acerbically helpful, but with a coy mischievousness... He is absolutely clear in his thinking and uncompromising in his clarity, but he's still delightful. He made us laugh a lot.

Tell me about your upcoming role as Sherlock Holmes.

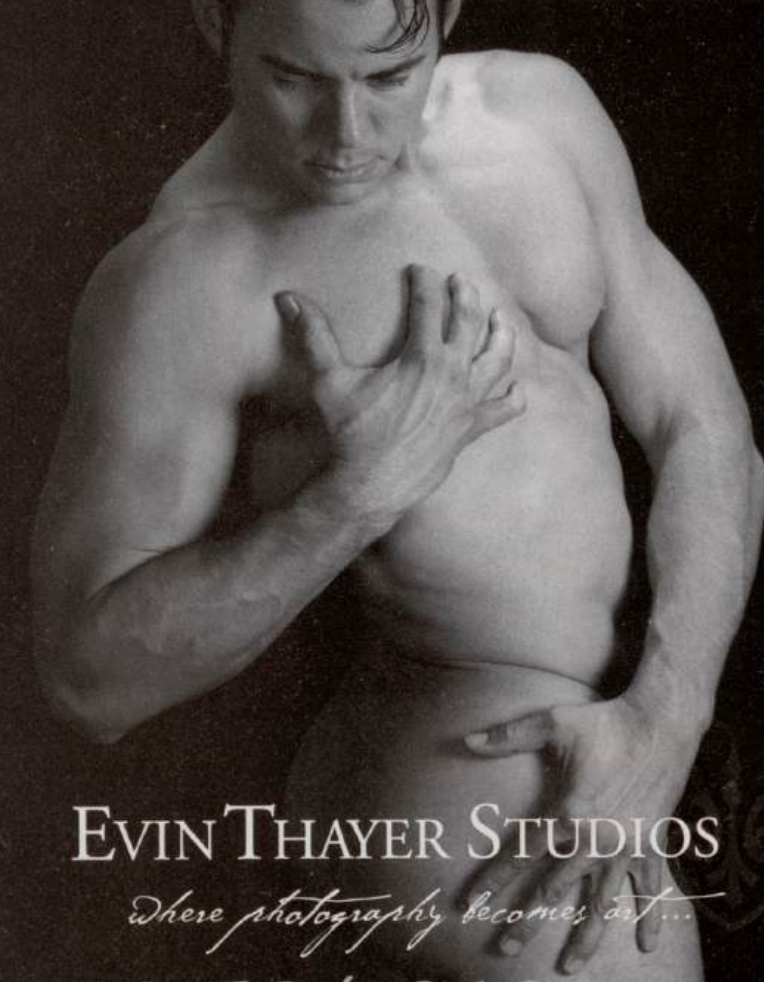
It's a really wonderful script. In fact, it's the only play script that Arthur Conan Doyle, the writer of the original short story, collaborated on. It has a lot of the darker qualities. For example, a lot of people don't realize that Sherlock Holmes, in the original story, is a cocaine and morphine addict.

You could've done some interesting research for this role.

I could have. I might have in my youth. No, I never particularly did morphine. I did do the odd raving in my time though.

Bradley David Williams interviewed actress Jerry Hall for the September OutSmart.

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The Men Who Would Be Mayor

Sylvester Turner and Bill White answer questions from *OutSmart*

by Josef Molnar

Mayoral candidates Sylvester Turner and Bill White both scored well and nearly identically after screening with the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus. Only hundredths of a percentage point separated the men—White being slightly ahead—in the caucus's numerical ranking system (see the full endorsement list, page 53).

OutSmart contacted all of the candidates for mayor and requested interviews—including Michael Berry, Laverne Crump Smith, and Ray Rodriguez, who later left the race. We submitted questions by e-mail to the campaigns and conducted telephone interviews with the candidates. After initially expressing interest, the Orlando Sanchez campaign did not respond to later inquiries.

Election day is Tuesday, November 4.

Sylvester Turner

Sylvester Turner (obviously the more loquacious of the two candidates) is a former associate with Houston's Fulbright and Jaworski law firm, later a partner in the Barnes, Morse and Turner law firm, and a member of the Texas House of Representatives for District 139 since 1988. After a previous mayoral bid in which he was accused in a KTRK television report of participating in a multi-million dollar insurance scam while a partner at Barnes, Morse and Turner that he said negatively affected the race, Turner sued the television station and won. He has received a number of awards from local and state groups for his legislative efforts in education, crime reform, and environmental issues. In this year's legislative session, the Republican speaker of the house named Turner the speaker pro tempore. The position is the second most powerful in the Texas House.

OutSmart: You were the only mayoral candidate in the Pride parade.
Sylvester Turner: The LGBT community

is being defined as a wedge issue in campaigns through the efforts of some in the Republican Party. I thought that now, more than ever, candidates for public office need to be clear about where they stand. To me, riding in the parade was the easiest thing I could have done.

What are your plans to campaign in traditionally gay areas of Houston? I have been actively campaigning in traditionally gay areas like Montrose and others. I have been actively working in the Heights, Garden Oaks, Oak Forest, and areas like Westbury. Gay and lesbian voters are spread out through the city, but we are certainly campaigning in areas where there are larger concentrations. I am also the only candidate in this race that has developed campaign literature that specifically answers the issues of gay and lesbian voters. I also have no doubt that I have attended more gay and lesbian events and had my staff at those events than any other candidate for mayor.

What is your commitment to the GLBT community?
As your friend in the legislature since

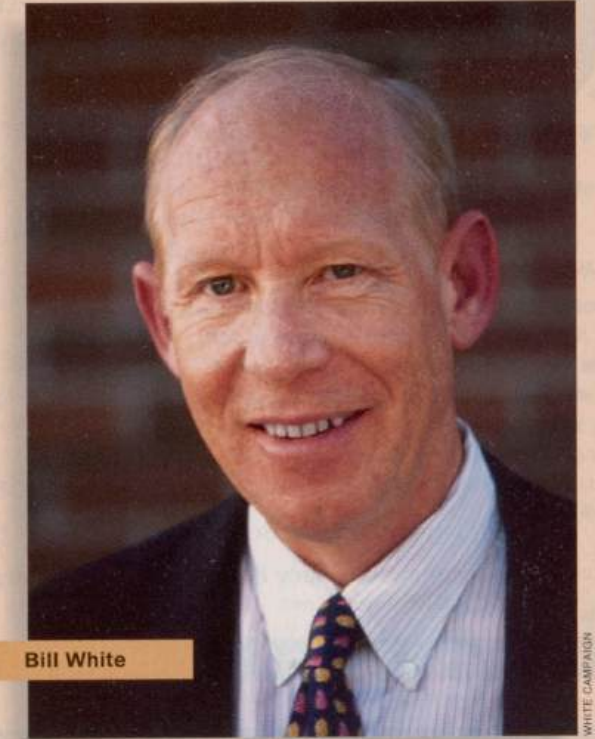
1988, I have a record of service and accomplishment that is unparalleled in this race. I am proud of my work on behalf of my district and, frankly, for all people regardless of sexual orientation in this state. As a former vice chair of both the powerful state affairs and calendars committees, I have worked hard to support legislation that would have provided nondiscrimination protections for Texans based on their sexual orientation at both the workplace and in our schools. I am most proud of my work as a co-author of the James Byrd Hate Crimes Act to set a higher standard in punishment for biased acts of violence. I have fought for hate-crimes protections and nondiscrimination legislation as hard as I have fought against bills like the divisive Defense of Marriage Act and the antigay foster care bill. I support providing health-care benefits to all city employees and their families, regardless of sexual orientation.

What do you see as the top three issues in the gay community?
Politically, I think the Supreme Court's ruling on the Texas sodomy law sent a

The Men Who Would Be Mayor



Sylvester Turner



Bill White

huge ripple effect throughout your enemy's base. Again, they are using your community as a tool to fundraise and support their extremist groups and will try to make you the Willie Hortons of the 2004 campaign. That is going to be the greatest challenge for you in the coming year.

Secondly, I think the response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic needs to be reassessed. The increase in new HIV cases is astounding and signals to us the need to go back to the drawing board. Our education efforts need to be tailored to the hardest-hit communities in a culturally appropriate way. The advent of effective drugs to combat HIV has given many people a false sense of security that we cannot afford. During the past two years, Houston has lost many legendary advocates for HIV efforts like Gene Harrington that would be greatly disappointed at the new increases. We owe it to their legacy to refocus our efforts.

Finally, we are going to have to defend the progress we have made. I think that in the legislature we will have to work to keep the James Byrd Hate Crimes and other progressive legislation we have successfully passed.

How will you support efforts to widen HIV-prevention efforts by the city or obtain additional funding for existing programs?

Because of my work, despite a budget deficit and cuts in spending for social services, I was able to secure increased funding for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program. As mayor, I will also work aggressively to pull down more federal dollars for HIV-prevention efforts in Houston.

If you are elected, will you appoint a liaison to the GLBT community, as Lee Brown did?

My first chief of staff was Hispanic, and my campaign itself includes women in management positions and a Hispanic deputy campaign manager, not to mention gay staff members in key roles. I would certainly look at the possibility of appointing an LGBT liaison, but I am campaigning on a new direction in how we do business at City Hall. I do not count on one person to advise me on LGBT issues, and I am not sure that's where we want to go. There are numerous very active and high-profile members in your community

that have constant access to me and provide me with very good counsel on general concerns as well. Make no mistake: The LGBT community will have a place at the table, and I think you should be looking for a candidate who believes there is room for more than one person to represent your interests when I serve you as mayor.

Bill White

Bill White is a San Antonio native who graduated magna cum laude from Harvard University with a degree in economics, from the University of Texas law school, and then served as the editor-in-chief of the school's law review. He later joined the Susman Godfrey law firm, where he stayed until 1993. He has served on a number of local and regional civic advisory boards and committees, and now serves on the Baylor College of Medicine board. During the Clinton administration, he served as the deputy secretary of energy, on the president's management council, and with national delegations. He has also advocated on behalf of consumers



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in the U.S. Congress, and has involved himself with minority projects. He currently heads WEDGE Group, Inc., an oil and gas services group.

OutSmart: What are your plans to campaign in traditionally gay areas of Houston?

Bill White: We're out block-walking all the time in the community. People want a well-managed, tolerant community. Another issue is my lifelong support for increasing the quality of life in our community, in the arts, and other aspects of the city, which create a vital urban community.

What is your commitment to the GLBT community?

I was one of the leaders in fighting Proposition 2 [which denied domestic partner benefits to city workers]. The lack of partner benefits has affected a close relative of mine, and I've always stood up against stereotyping that holds people down.

What do you see as the top three issues in the gay community?

Generally speaking, they are the same as confront many other Houstonians. We need new mass transportation alternatives in the city. I want to improve the quality of life in the neighborhood, include better safety and quality of life,

CAUCUS ENDORSEMENTS
 The Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus PAC (www.hglpc.org) has endorsed candidates in the following races:

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City Council At Large #1: Brian Wozniak
City Council At Large #2: Gordon Quan
City Council At Large #3: Jolanda Jones
City Council At Large #4: Sue Lovell
City Council At Large #5: Dwight Boykins
City Council District C: Malaki Sims
City Council District D: Ada Edwards
City Council District E: Vickie Keller
City Council District F: Derrick Wesley
HISD #3: Michael Gomez
HISD #4: Dr. G. San Miguel
HISD #8: Joseph Rodriguez

and remove the billboards. We need a mayor who can celebrate the diversity of the city and tolerance that leads to growth and prosperity.

How will you support efforts to widen HIV-prevention efforts by the city or obtain additional funding for existing programs?

Houston historically has not been as aggressive in seeking federal grants and assistance. I want to make sure we get every penny and dollar available through grants.

If you are elected, will you appoint a liaison to the GLBT community, as Lee Brown did?

It would be good to have a liaison and figure out a way to get periodic feedback from the community.

Sylvester Turner was the only Houston candidate to ride in the Pride parade in June. Why didn't you campaign that way as well?

I had committed to attend the Urban League dinner as the guest of the people who were chairing it. I will support the parade as mayor. I will ride in the parade.

Josef Molnar, a frequent OutSmart contributor, collaborated with attorney

Mitchell Katine on his essay on the Lawrence v. Texas decision in our August issue.

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Coming Out on Campus



Kick it: Keith Haring's famous image is the emblem for the Human Rights Campaign's National Coming Out Project.

Some students share light-hearted closet-busting tales

By Waseem Shaikh

Once again it's that time of the year when an all-new batch of homosexuals get confession-happy for National Coming Out Month. (Yeah, there is actually an entire month just for you to say, "Hey everybody—I'm gay" . . . as if they don't already know.) But think about the last time you heard a coming-out story. Chances are it probably had a morose narrative with a whole lot of weeping and psychological torment, and, eventually, if it was a good coming-out story, a noble acceptance of the gay person and all happily-ever-afters.

But Coming Out Month is about cheering on those struggling to find their

deserved acceptance, not intimidating them with the dilemmas that could arise by just being themselves. Hence, I decided to write about all the fun coming-out stories I could get. Er, not the really *fun* stories that start with, "It was just me and Josh in the room"—but more like stories that the subjects recall with a nostalgic smirk. (Sorry, guys, maybe we'll get to the other stories in another issue.)

Take Andy's story, for example. "My mom told me I was gay," the 38-year-old resident of Baytown says. "I went to the military and did everything I could to be 'normal.' Eventually, she got tired of me and asked me when I was going to meet

Mr. Right." Apparently, it wasn't long before Andy *did* find Mr. Right. "In my first month of coming out, I met the man who I've now been with for nine years." Some people have all the luck.

Others have just as much cheek. When 21-year-old Bradley's sister teased him, asking him how his sex life was, he couldn't resist the urge to step out of the closet in style. He said, "Why don't you ask the boy next door? He's the one who's been bending over for me." Now that's how I like my coming-out stories—witty and ballsy.

Of course, then there are the folks who

continued on page 57

Coming Out on DVD

On the *Coming Out Party* DVD, seven of America's very out gay and lesbian comedians get on stage and share their intimate and funny memories of that moment when they just couldn't keep it a secret any longer. Recounting that one defining moment when they risked the status quo so that they could openly be who they truly are, these comedians vividly describe the dramatic, scary, and even uplifting tales of how they announced this core aspect of their being to everyone they knew—and how their news was received by their small and sometimes very large audiences.

Coming Out Party features (clockwise from top center):

• **Bob Smith** has the distinction of appearing on *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno* as the first openly gay comedian. The author of the best-selling book *Openly Bob*, Smith discusses what it was like growing up gay.

• **Daniel Renzi**, who is best known for being himself on the Miami edition of MTV's *The Real World*, talks about growing up gay in the Midwest as he battled against his family, society, and even himself to find out what the label "gay" means to him.

• **John Riggi** discusses his "off the boat" Italian



mama, who didn't know what to think of his sexuality until his boyfriend told her his parents don't talk to him anymore. Riggi retells the touching memory of his mother realizing her own acceptance of her son.

• **Jackie Beat**, best known for his "Fashion Police" criticisms in *US Magazine*, appears as himself (without makeup!), talking about his life on the road as a drag queen and how his parents knew he was gay before he did.

• **Sabrina Matthews** is an openly lesbian comic who relates the absurd in everyday life in a witty anecdotal style. Offering her stream of criticisms, witticisms, and comic observations, Matthews discusses being gay and proud of it.

• **Terry Sweeney**, best known for his dead-on impressions of Nancy Reagan on TV's *Saturday Night Live*, was the first openly gay comedian to perform on national television. Sweeney describes his experiences with his boyfriend's mother and her Alzheimer's disease—instead of spoiling the joke, let's just say she has something to do with his coming out.

• **Rene Hicks** (center), one of the top black female comedienne, talks about growing up under the strict, watchful eye of her father, a Pentecostal preacher—and how he received the news about her sexual orientation.

Party comes out on October 14 from Creative Light Entertainment. For more info: www.comingoutpartydvd.com. →

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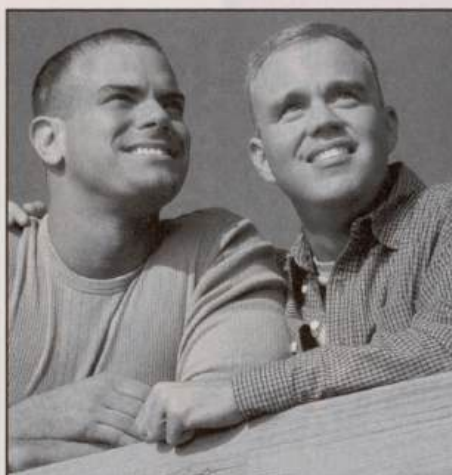
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Coming Out on TV



Coming out
on Sundance
Channel:
Marc Hill

Prom Fight: The Marc Hill Story and Don't You Worry, It Will Probably Pass

Sundance Channel celebrates National Coming Out Day for the sixth consecutive year with a double bill of acclaimed documentaries about coming out and coming-of-age. Making its television premiere is Larry Pelosi's *Prom Fight: The Marc Hill Story*, which follows the court battle and media frenzy that ensued when a Canadian teenager sought

to bring his boyfriend to his high school prom. Swedish filmmaker Cecilia Neant-Falk delivers an honest, uplifting portrait of three lesbian teens in *Don't You Worry, It Will Probably Pass* (*Du Ska Nog se att Det Gar Over*), which airs on Sundance Channel (www.sundancechannel.com) on October 11 at 4 p.m.; *Prom Fight: The Marc Hill Story* follows at 5:30 p.m.

Far from Heaven

Julianne Moore stars as the perfect '50s housewife who discovers that her husband (Dennis Quaid) is gay (not always the best way to come out). Although she tries to make the marriage work, she finds herself drawn to her black gardener (Dennis



Coming out on Starz!: Dennis Quaid

Haysbert), much to the dismay of the town. The film, directed by openly gay Todd Haynes (see interview in *OutSmart's* December 2002 issue), is a homage to director Douglas Sirk's '50s tearjerkers. Premieres on Starz! (www.starzsuperpak.com) on October 11 at 8 p.m.

BACK TO SCHOOL

GLOBAL, the University of Houston GLBT student organization, will present a moderated panel discussion and coming-out forum on October 7. Panelists for the 7-8:30 p.m. event, in the University Center Houston Room, include Brenda Thomas and *OutSmart* editor Tim Brookover. James Hall will moderate.

A LITTLE SUPPORT

The Lesbian Coming-Out Group meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Houston GLBT Community Center (3400 Montrose Blvd., Suite 207, 713/524-3818).

Though not currently in session, the Men's Support Group frequently meets at the Montrose Counseling Center (701 Richmond Ave., 713/529-0037).



Coming Out on Campus

continued from page 54

are just a little *too* eager about the new gay member in their family. "When I told my aunt and her partner that I was gay," says 19-year-old Kenneth from Spring, "they said, 'Oh, we knew. Why do you think we always made you watch movies like *To Wong Foo* and put Nanna's necklaces on you all the time?'" Uh, gee, thanks, Auntie.

Forty-two-year-old Rusty's mom was equally excited by the news. "She promised me not to tell anyone, then told me to run along as she called up the whole family and told them I was gay."

When it comes to friends, though, coming out is a lot more entertaining. My personal favorite is still the time I told my high school friends that I was gay. "Oh, my God! Dude, we were joking when we called you gay," said one. I told them I knew that, but I was still gay, to which another responded, "Oh, my God, we made him believe he's gay!" Of course, I owe my homosexuality to my high school chums.

Chris, from Texas City, had perhaps the most blatant approach to coming out. He went to high school with three words printed on his arm, suggesting what he did with, er, male genitalia. "He was a pretty tough guy," narrates his ex, "so no one really messed with him." Sorry, boys, if I had his phone number, I would be putting it to good use.

So c'mon, guys. Brace yourself, take a deep breath, and say, "I am a homosexual." It's not as bad as you think it is. Who knows? You might not be the only one benefiting from the experience. That was the case for 20-year-old Stan. "When I told my friend Sarah that I was gay," Stan smirks, "she turned around and told her friend Megan, 'Megan! I owe you 20 bucks!'"

Waseem Shaikh is a communications student at the University of Houston.

The Human Rights Campaign National Coming Out Project offers advice and resources (www.hrc.org/ncop).

Kudos to all those men and women who have had the courage to live up to the daunting challenges of coming out, and kudos to all those friends and families who ever so warmly accepted these men and women. ■

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Media support courtesy of OUTSMART Magazine



MAGIC TIME. Shana Ross (l) and Greg Stephens star in *Aquanet, The Montrose Hairspray*, the 15th edition of the rollicking Halloween Magic musical. As always, the show uses a popular Broadway hit or movie—this year it's the Tony-winning musical—as a springboard for show tunes, jokes on public figures, and general high jinks. Performances on October 18 and 19 take place at the Edwin Hornberger Conference Center (tickets: 713/226-2342). Proceeds benefit seven HIV/AIDS service organizations, including the Assistance Fund. Since 1988, Halloween Magic has raised more than \$800,000 for local AIDS charities.

Photographed by Jann Whaley



Boo!

BEST OF THE FEST. Ever since we first tripped across the Texas Renaissance Festival grounds as high schoolers, we have suspected that a goodly number of the costumed characters were full- or part-time queers. After all, just think of all that showmanship (and womanship), the certain *je ne sais quoi* abounding, and all those men in hose. Check out your own gaydar and the more than 3,000 performers—including Manny Gutierrez (r) and his partner, Bill—on weekends through November 16. Any powers of observation have to work outside the urban jungle. The festival is located near Plantersville about 50 miles north of Houston.

Photographed in the festival King's Arms Feast Hall by Todd Rainer



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ON THE MOVE. "Forget all your troubles, forget all your cares—and go downtown," **Petula Clark** once warbled. Perhaps with that advice in mind, **Shirley Knight** and the other organizers of the Houston Women's Festival have moved the ninth annual event to Jones Plaza, the urban square surrounded by Jones Hall, the Alley, and Bayou Place.

Performers at the October 25 fest include Houston blues belter **Tracy Conover** and **Ginger Leigh** of Austin as well as the Florida-based duo **Halcyon**. Among the vendors are local painter/multimedia designer **Nicole A. Bent** and Denver-based **Tomboy Tools**. Chances will host the after-party.

IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD. In 1979, the new Montrose Marching Band practiced for the first time in the Cherryhurst Park service building. Founding members included **Rufus Chaney**, **Clint Moncrief**, and **Rue Star**. On October 25, Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church will host the 25th-anniversary concert of the Houston Pride Band (so renamed in 1995). **Scott Ashcraft** is band director.

Also turning 25 this year, Gay Men's Chorus of Houston celebrates the release of *Grateful*, the singers' first holiday recording, with an October 9 party at Lovett Inn. Helmed by artistic director **James Knapp**, the group launches its silver-anniversary season with October 24 and 26 concerts at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church.

For its inaugural event, a new GLBT bike club will ride in the October 12 Houston Moonlight Bicycle Ramble. Organized by **John Hubert**, the group was considering the name Chain Gang at press time. Peddling off at the wee hour of 2 a.m., the Ramble supports the League of American Bicyclists and the Texas Bicycle Coalition.



Party on the plaza: The Houston Women's Festival heads downtown, featuring the duo Halcyon (above) and other performers.

Some local jocks are already prepping for the 2006 Gay Games in Montreal. These plan-ahead athletes who make up Team Houston—spearheaded by **David Fagan**—will next meet on October 12 at the Houston GLBT Community Center.

Through October 31, **Okiharu Tsuchiya** presents an exhibition of his paintings at Tropioka. Oki recently returned from a trip to his native Japan, where he had a sold-out exhibition at a Tokyo gallery.

Remember *Roller Boogie*? Stop it. You do so. Relive those days with the return of OutSkate, a night for gay skaters. The Wednesday event spins at The "Z" Zenith

Roller Rink. **Randy Foster** is the organizing mastermind behind the OutSkate Roller Skate Club.

GOOD WORKS. Amigo Volunteers in Education and Services, Inc. (AVES) is one of the beneficiaries of Macy's Community Shopping Day on October 30. You can purchase a ticket to the all-day event from AVES and help raise funds for the nonprofit organization and enjoy 10–20 percent savings. **Terrence O'Neill** is AVES CEO.

Leisure and Arts Promoting Healing, Lesbian Health Initiative, and the Healing Power of Art Workshop at the Art League will benefit from the second annual Bewitched Ball on October 31 at Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites Galleria.

The Houston Black Tie Dinner crew, including board members **Chris Lewis**, **John Parker**, and **Robert Walters**, is preparing for the November 15 event at the Doubletree. AssistHers, Bering Omega Community Services, Montrose Counseling Center, PFLAG/H.A.T.C.H. Youth Scholarship Fund, People With AIDS Coalition, and An Uncommon Legacy Foundation are the beneficiaries. Actress **Kathy Najimy**, a steadfast supporter of our community, will entertain.

ON THE AIR. Houston MediaSource now seeks individuals and groups interested in providing content for World AIDS Day, when the community access channel will air 24 hours of continuous programming dealing with HIV/AIDS. More info: **Marshall Parker** at Houston MediaSource, 713/524-7700, extension 12. OutSmart and KPFT 90.1FM Pacifica will sponsor the December 1 programming. ■

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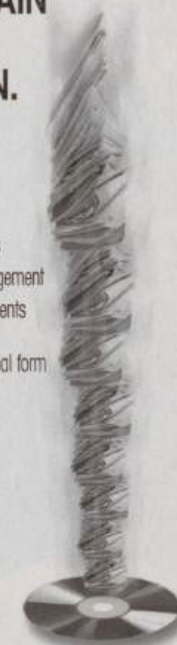
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Jason Priestley

(Out, 10/03, Jeffrey Epstein)

[Jason Priestley] has always defied expectations, taking the road less traveled in making career decisions, like playing [*Die Mommie Die!*]'s Tony Parker, an actor-gigolo who is carrying on an affair with washed-up singer and screen actress [Angela Arden, played by Charles Busch]—and with her grown daughter and son as well [Natasha Lyonne and Stark Sands].

"They sent me the script for *Die Mommie Die!* and I laughed my ass off," remembers Priestley. ... "He's fearless," the film's openly gay director Mark Rucko says of Priestley. "He'll do anything." Like coaching Busch for his first on-screen kiss (Busch got it on with Thomas Gibson in *Psycho Beach Party*, but the pair never kissed). "I talked him through it," admits Priestley. ... "Needless to say, I've done quite a few in my time," notes Priestley. He says Tony, who shares one of the hottest scenes in the film with Angela's son ... , wouldn't consider himself bisexual. "But I think Tony was pretty much up for anything."

John Rechy

(author)

(The Advocate, 9/30/03, Anne Stockwell)

That f--king thing [*Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*] is being celebrated. I don't mind them for being stereotypes. What I mind is five gay men dedicating themselves to transforming a so-called heterosexual guy into an object of desire. Those five little queens, the Fabulous Five, have no desire toward each other. They desire that so-called straight man, and they are fussily working to produce the best type for the woman who'll then turn up to claim him. To me that is humiliating.

Kate Clinton on Dubya

(The Advocate, 9/30/03, Kate Clinton)

"[George Bush] called for lawyers to look into codifying the definition of marriage: one man, one woman. Then he was going to look up *codify*."



Kevin James

(actor, The King of Queens)
(Entertainment Weekly, 9/03)

If [*The King of Queens*] hits trouble opposite *The Bachelor* and *The West Wing*, could a ratings gimmick (like, say, a baby) be on the way? "We'll sell out quicker than you can imagine," says James. "I'll be gay and have a talking dog."



Ellen DeGeneres

(Entertainment Weekly, Summer '02, Jim Mullen)

Ellen Will her new weekday talk show be all gay all the time? No, she'll leave that to Jerry Springer, Jenny Jones, Montel Williams, Maury Povich, and Ricki Lake.

FYI: The Ellen DeGeneres Show airs Monday-Friday, 5-6 p.m., on KNWS, channel 51 (channel 2 on Warner Cable). The show is repeated a week later, 10-11 p.m., on the Oxygen network (channel 327 on Warner Cable).

(The 55th Annual Emmy Awards, 9/21/03, Fox)

Garry Shandling in his opening monologue on the Emmy Awards on Fox: "Even these award shows are hoping for some sensationalistic moment like when Madonna kissed Britney Spears [on the MTV awards show], and that's all anyone talked about. First of all, I had no trouble with the age difference, it's just I don't work that way. ... There's no way that I fit in if that's the way it's gonna work."

At this point Brad Garrett (of CBS's *Everybody Loves Raymond*) walked onto the stage, grabbed Shandling, and kissed him on the mouth. After the kiss, Shandling appeared to look overcome, and Garrett gave a look that said, "not bad."

Acknowledging Garrett's recent salary fracas with CBS, Shandling ended by saying, "I wanna say to CBS, 'He's worth every nickel!'"



Garry Shandling
& Brad Garrett

1 Year Ago
This Month

John Ritter

(Entertainment Weekly, 10/18/02)

What better way to remember John Ritter—who died September 12, 2003—than with an example of his wit. One year ago this month, he was joking about who might be his parents on ABC's *8 Simple Rules for Dating My Teenage Daughter*:

"I'm thinking Mary Tyler Moore and Carol Burnett as my lesbian moms. Why not?"

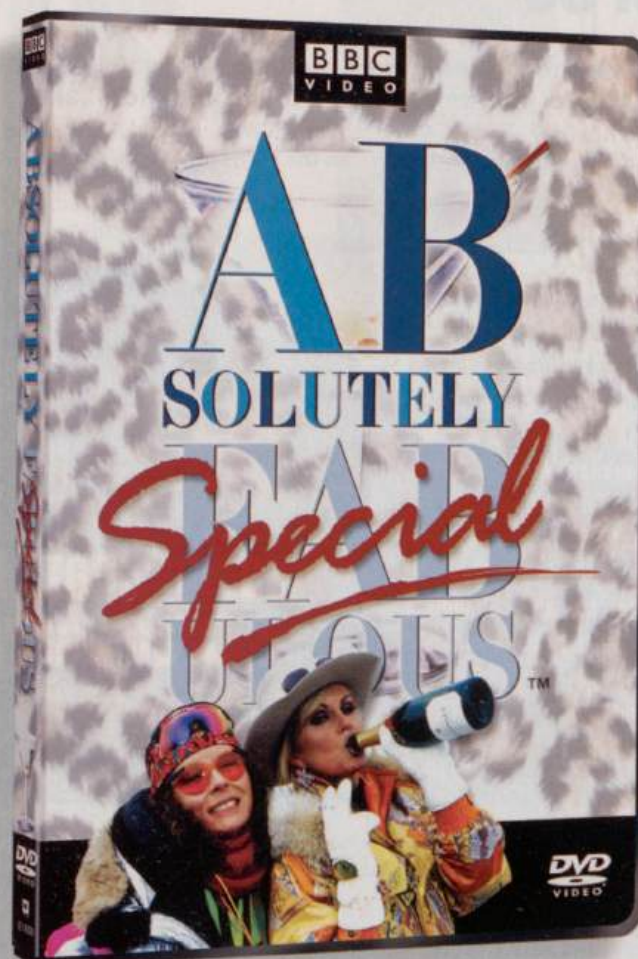


ELLEN - WARNER BROS.; SHANDLING/GARRETT - RAY MICKSHAW/FOX; RITTER - ABC/ROBERT TRACHTENBERG; MOORE/BURNETT - COMPUTER COMPOSITE BY BLASE DISTEFANO; JAMES - CBS

by Troy Carrington

THE DEGENERATE DUO'S DVD DUO

Absolutely Fabulous comes to DVD with two specials



Did you miss them, sweetie darling? Well, Britain's grand dames of decadence are back on DVD with two absolutely fabulous specials.

Reuniting Jennifer Saunders and Joanna Lumley as the world's foremost fashion femme fatales, *Absolutely Fabulous: New York* premiered on Comedy Central in February 2003 to high ratings and huge acclaim, with *Entertainment Weekly* referring to it as "the most fun you can have sober."

When Edina (Saunders) discovers that her long lost son Serge (Josh Hamilton) is shacking up in the city that never sleeps, the derelict duo head to the Big Apple for a shocking reunion. Don't worry, Eddy's not upset with Serge because he's gay—it's just that he's not gay enough!

Whoopi Goldberg costars as a gay relationship counselor who immediately starts planning Patsy's (Lumley) wedding... to Edina! Other guest stars include Rufus Wainwright, Debbie Harry, and Graham Norton.

Back in London in *Absolutely Fabulous: The Last Shout*, a more conventional, but no-less-surprising union unfolds when Saffy (Julia Sawalha) finds herself engaged to the suave and wealthy Paolo Carlo (*Gosford Park*'s Tom Hollander). From fittings at Christian Lacroix's boutique to Edina's near-death experience starring Marianne Faithfull as God, the fashion fanatics and their hapless hangers-on are as outrageous as ever in this *Absolutely Special* event.

From BBC Video.

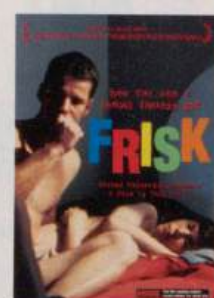
The Ballad of Little Jo



Josephine Monaghan (Suzy Amis) is a young woman of the mid-19th century who is thrown out of her parents' home after being seduced by the family portrait photographer (Sam Robards) and giving birth to an illegitimate child. She quickly learns that young, female, pretty, and alone are a bad combination for life in the Wild West. In her desperation to survive, Josephine disguises herself as "Jo," a young man, and struggles to make a life for herself in a dingy frontier-mining town. When she takes in a Chinese man (David Chung) as her worker, the traditional roles of what defines a man and a woman are reversed, as she struggles

to live her life on her own terms. Also stars Ian McKellen. • From New Line Home Entertainment (www.newline.com).

Frisk



Sensual and suggestive, yet dark and shocking, *Frisk* is the story of a young man who increasingly imagines himself a serial killer who murders the men he has sex with. Based on the novel of the same name by Dennis Cooper, the film, directed by Todd Verow, follows the sexual trajectory of Dennis (Michael Gunther) from a pornography-obsessed teenager to a practicing sadomasochist and finally an accomplice to a heterosexual couple's

thrill-killing spree. The film intimates nearly every kind of disturbing sadomasochistic activity but discreetly shows on screen just enough to allow viewers to complete the most terrifying images in their own imagination. The *Los Angeles Times*'s Kevin Thomas wrote: "It is a serious and discreet work of considerable dark impact—and no little humor." The film also stars Craig Chester (*Swoon*, *Kiss Me Guido*), Parker Posey (*A Mighty Wind* and the upcoming *The Event*), and Alexis Arquette (*I Think I Do*, *The Trip*, *Killer Drag Queens on Dope*). • From Strand Releasing (www.strandreleasing.com).

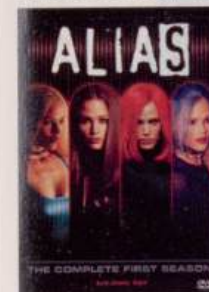
Friends and Family

In Kristen Coury's *Friends and Family*, Stephen (Greg Lauren, *A Friend of Dorothy*) and Danny (Christopher Gartin, *Johns*) are a hip Manhattan gay couple who have it all, until a surprise visit from Stephen's parents (Tony Lo Bianco, *The*



French Connection, and Beth Fowler, *Sister Act*) threatens to blow the boys' big secret. The secret? No, not that they're gay, but that they are hit men for the Mafia. Since Stephen's dad is an FBI agent, the boys are frantic to keep him in the dark. They enlist their fellow mobsters to pose as gay waiters at the faux catering company Stephen "owns" so they can host a party for Dad. Also stars Tovah Feldshuh (*Kissing Jessica Stein*) and Tony Award-winning actress/singer Anna Maria Alberghetti. • Available October 21 from Wolfe Video (www.wolfevideo.com or 1-800-GET-WOLFE).

Alias: Season One



Packed with action, adventure, and nonstop thrills, *Alias* is a classic TV espionage series starring Jennifer Garner. As a diligent-student-cum-bad-ass-yet-oh-so-sexy spy, Garner's Sydney Bristow represents a new breed of gay icon... strong, independent, willing to fight the fight, all the while looking drop-dead gorgeous. If you are not already a fan, you will be by the end of the first episode. • *Alias: Season One* is a sizzling six-disc box set that includes all 22 first-season episodes and a host of bonus features: *Alias* pilot production diary, inside stunts, deleted scenes, gag reel, audio commentaries with cast and crew, special season-two preview, and animated menus. • From Buena Vista Home Entertainment. For more *Alias* info: www.abc.go.com/primetime/alias.

Run Ronnie Run!



Run Ronnie Run! tells the story of an unemployed, mullet-haired slacker (David Cross) who spends his days drinking beer with his buddies and terrorizing the local residents in his small town of Doraville. His one talent—he can't seem to keep himself from getting arrested. In fact, he's been arrested so many times and under such colorful circumstances that he has become a scene-stealing regular on *Fuzz*, a national reality-based police TV show. He heads to Hollywood, where he becomes a national TV star and slowly learns that fame and fortune aren't exactly what he thought they would be. Cameos include Scott Thompson (as a gay recruiter), Matt Stone and Trey Parker, Dave Foley, Kathy Griffin, Andy Richter, Rebecca Romijn-Stamos, John Stamos, and Garry Shandling. • From New Line Home Entertainment (www.newline.com). ■



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They're all relatives (l-r): Chris Sieber, John Benjamin Hickey, Maggie Lawson, Reid Scott, Harriet Harris, Lenny Clarke, Paige Moss.

ALL IN THE GAY FAMILY

ABC's new fall sitcom *It's All Relative* breaks the next TV barrier—gays as parents

by Christopher Lisotta

For the past few years, Will Truman and Jack McFarland have been the cutting edge when it comes to gay sensibility on television. No longer psycho killers or tragic victims, *Will & Grace* proved that gay characters could be the central figures on a well-regarded and, more importantly for the networks, profitable situation comedy without bringing about widespread criticism or right-wing boycotts.

But in the TV business, what is innovative a few seasons ago can quickly become mainstream, and network executives are always looking for new areas to explore. So it shouldn't be a surprise that Craig Zadan and Neil Meron, the openly gay team who executive-produced the Academy Award-winning *Chicago* and the Emmy-winning biopic *Life With Judy Garland: Me and My Shadows*, were tapped by ABC to come up with a new kind of gay sitcom. But this time, the network wasn't just

looking for a couple of carefree gay characters vamping it up with their straight gal pals. Instead, ABC wanted to show gays taking on the ultimate responsibility, a child. The result, *It's All Relative*, premieres Wednesday, October 1 at 7:30 p.m.

"It was just a general idea," says Zadan about the request from ABC Entertainment

families, one gay and one straight, are thrown together when their kids announce they are getting married.

"It's a way of embracing the form while pushing the boundary in a way that's not self-conscious, and that's why we love the show," says Meron, who explains he and Zadan were excited to finally be in the TV series business,

after success in both films and movies of the week. But as any seasoned TV exec can tell you, the only thing more important than coming up with a good concept is proper execution, and Zadan and Meron took their time in finding the right writers for the project—so much time that the network started to get antsy. "A lot of the

writers were talking about the dads as the characters in *The Birdcage*," Meron explains. "We wanted the characters to be more real."

Zadan and Meron kept meeting potential writers before sitting down with Chuck Ranberg and Anne Flett-Giordano, writing

partners who spent several seasons on *Frasier* and other well-received sitcoms. Although Zadan is quick to point out *It's All Relative* is its own show, the sensibility Ranberg and Flett-Giordano showed on *Frasier* struck them as the perfect fit for coming up with the right dynamic. "Imagine *Frasier* and *Niles*, not as brothers, but lovers," he says.

Ranberg and Flett-Giordano started with college student Liz and South Boston working-class Bobby, who get engaged after a whirlwind romance. Liz is afraid to break the news to her cultured and sophisticated parents, a long-term, monogamous gay couple in a stable relationship. Philip, an art dealer, and Simon, a third grade teacher, are living the yuppie dream of having a child attend Harvard and don't see marriage for Liz for several years to come—and certainly not with Bobby.

"For me, what's exciting about the show is the gay couple are not treated any differently in their everyday life," says Ranberg, who is openly gay and in an 11-year relationship. But one of the criticisms already being thrown at *It's All Relative* is, once again, gay men on TV are being portrayed as wealthy cosmopolitans who know how to dress and cook. Ranberg shakes off the criticism, arguing that when writing sitcoms you have to stick to basic themes in order to get your story across.

"We really think there's an up side to that and we can use it to our advantage," Ranberg says of the fabulous gay male stereotype. "Particularly in a comedy, it helps you to start out at least with characters who are clearly recognized archetypes."

Christopher Sieber, who plays Simon, notes that there is plenty to delineate this gay couple in terms of character. "We're not heroes by any means," Sieber says of himself and his on-screen husband, John Benjamin Hickey. "The gay parents and the straight parents have the same opinions, they are just on opposite sides. We are just as bad as they are, and the people in the middle are our poor children. It's just two families trying to get along."

Hickey agrees with Sieber. "These people are not being written as role models," he explains. "I think the show, if I can be so bold, compares to *All in the Family*. It's like the Bunkers and the Jeffersons. It's as much, if not more, about class than about sexual identity."

Balancing out Philip and Simon are the O'Neils, an Irish Catholic Boston couple who run a blue-collar bar. You know Bobby is in trouble early when his parents are shocked that he's marrying not only outside their faith, but also outside the neighborhood. When the O'Neils find out their son's future

The sensibility [two writers] showed on *Frasier* struck [the executive producers of *It's All Relative*] as the perfect fit for coming up with the right dynamic. "Imagine *Frasier* and *Niles*, not as brothers, but lovers."

Television chairman Lloyd Braun. "Then [ABC Entertainment president] Susan Lyne said, 'The center of the show is a young couple.'" From there the concept developed into something that begins with a classic TV convention, but takes on a new twist: Two

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Television

in-laws are gay, they are shocked, but stage veteran Harriet Sansom Harris, who plays Audrey O'Neil, notes that her character's reaction comes from a different place than some audiences might suspect.

"They are not the enemy, they are just the unknown," Harris says of her character's reaction to Philip and Simon and their long-term relationship. "It's so not a part of her world. She's got a great life, loves her family, and just never thought about it."

Harris, who won a Tony for *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and is known to TV audiences as Frasier's hardcore agent Bebe, sees a difference between the gaggle of gay-themed shows currently on the air and what's being covered in *It's All Relative*. "Sometimes you see it on TV, and you think 'OK, part of what makes this palatable is they will grow up,'" she says, noting that Simon and Philip are breaking new broadcast ground in terms of the nature of their relationship. "This is a mature relationship. That doesn't mean flat or static. They look like people I know."

Although it was first conceived almost two years ago, *It's All Relative*

comes on the heels of some major cultural shifts in terms of gay imagery on TV. This past summer, TV viewers flocked to watch *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* and *Boy Meets Boy*, while the editorial pages were filled with opinions on the Supreme Court sodomy case and the gay marriage decision in Canada. Does this mean there is a gay "trend" on TV, and can *It's All Relative* ride it to the top of the Nielsen ratings?

"We can't depend on that to be successful," Zadan warns. "Also, what if there's a backlash? Just the moment we air, people might say, 'All right, enough with all this gay stuff.' Hopefully, we'll be judged on our merits."

"I hope it's not a trend that self-destructs," Meron adds. "That's the real danger—you don't want to be 15 minutes ago. We've got to go beyond the gayness."

At the end of the day, the creative team behind *It's All Relative* believes their success comes down to the one truism in sitcom production—success only comes when you make your audience laugh and present them with beloved characters.

"We're really just trying to tell a funny story in 21 minutes," Ranberg explains, but notes if they are all successful he can still push the envelope. In one episode, Ranberg has Simon kiss Philip goodbye. "It's a very normal moment," he says, noting that it's the first male-to-male sitcom kiss "that isn't a punch line. It's just considered an everyday occurrence, and that's the most subversive thing we can do." ■



Mark Badgley and
James Mischka

Barbra
Streisand
in *Funny Girl*



FILM FASHION ON TCM

Turner Classic Movies (TCM) has invited six fashion designers to discuss how classic films have influenced their careers and their designs on *Style in Motion*, airing every Monday night in October. Each designer will host an evening of four films that they have enjoyed repeatedly over the years and will discuss various details including fashion, direction, and production

design. • **Kate and Andy Spade** kick off the festival with *Bonnie and Clyde* ('67) on **October 6** at 7 p.m. The night continues with *The Swimmer* ('68), *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* ('67), and *To Kill a Mockingbird* ('62). • On **October 13**, **Isaac Mizrahi** hosts his selection of films beginning with *The Women* ('38), followed by *Darling* ('65), *Roberta* ('35), and *Blowup* ('66). • On **October 20**, **Mark Badgley and James Mischka** introduce their evening with *High Society* ('56), followed by *Funny Girl* ('68), *The V.I.P.s* ('63), and *Dinner at Eight* ('33). • **Michael Kors** begins his evening on **October 27** with *The Thomas Crown Affair* ('68), followed by *Pillow Talk* ('59), *Pocketful of Miracles* ('61), and *Butterfield 8* ('60). ■

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Out in the Arts

by D.L. Groover



The ladies who act: *The Box Office of the Damned* cast includes (clockwise from lower l) Mary Hooper, Greg Gorden, Joanne Bonasso, and Jimmy Phillips.

WE LOVE THEM. Superlatives come easy when praising Bayou City Concert Musicals, whose annual production is never less than ideal. This year's beauty was Harnick and Bock's glittering *She Loves Me*. In Ovation's performance space, not much larger than the head of a pin, this jewel-box of a musical, hinting of gypsy airs, full of European sophistication and Broadway moxie, expanded to the size of Madison Square Garden. It had beauty and brains, thanks to **Paul Hope** and **David Thome**'s perfect-pitch direction and a sublime cast that boasted **Chesley Santoro**, **Kevin Cooney**, **Jenny Welch**, **Larry Dachslager**, **Charles Krohn**, and Mr. Hope. If you missed the uplifting September weekend performances, catch BCCM's encore presentation at the Hobby Center on January 26. These concert versions are the pinnacle of musical-comedy theater.

A LIVE AND KICKING. In the '70s there was a notorious doctor in NYC who, for any ailment, would give you a shot of B-12. There were more than vitamins in his injections, and he ended up in prison, but his speedy cocktail was all the rage—instant pep. Houston Ballet has been inoculated—witness the verve, dash, and plain ol' joy in their dancing.

The fall mixed-rep was a buoyant contemporary trio: new artistic director **Stanton Welch**'s structurally elegant *A Dance*

in the Garden of Mirth, **Trey McIntyre**'s handsomely theatrical world premiere *The Shadow*, and **William Forsythe**'s bracing techno slap-in-the-face masterpiece in the middle, somewhat elevated. Danced with dazzle and attack, these hard-edged contemporary ballets ushered in HB's new era with refreshed clarity. Star turns were rampant throughout: **Dominic Walsh**'s amoral shadow, **Sara Webb**'s weightless Thumbelina, **Ilya Kozadaye**'s playful soaring Cupid, and **Julie Gumbinner**'s grieving mother in *Shadow*; new principal dancer **Simon Ball** and **Barbara Bears**' cool purity in Welch's neo-medieval *Dance*; and **Lisa Kaczmarek**, **Ian Casady**, and **Laura Richards**, generating considerable sexy heat in the middle.

The following rep, **Ben Stevenson**'s sumptuous staging of *Sleeping Beauty*, a classic of classics, was no less radiant. **Mireille Hassenboehler** lit up the Wortham with her dewy and pliant, confident and secure Beauty, partnered with masculine grace by Ball as her Prince Charming. Kozadaye and **Leticia Oliveira**, as Bluebird and his Princess, with their virtuosity and flair exemplified the invigoration of the entire company. What a magnificent start to HB's new season and the next chapter in its distinctive history.

DAMN, THEY GIVE GOOD BOX OFFICE. If all you want is to laugh yourself sick, then Theater LaB Houston is the place to be, where their 10th-anniversary production of **Michael Ogborn**'s musical panic, *Box Office of the Damned*, is raising the roof. Over the top and screamingly funny, this inside look at show biz through the workings of the box office skewers all things Theater. It's a loving roast, and the sextet of loonies who enact this spoof (through October 11) throw themselves into it with abandon. They sing and dance up a storm, mugging like mad, chewing the scenery. Under **Jimmy Phillips**' crack direction, this is a good thing. The musical lunatics are **Joanne Bonasso**, **Phillips**, **Greg Gorden**, **Tye Blue**, **Mary Hooper**, and **Bethany Daniels**.

I'M READY FOR MY CLOSE-UP, MR. GRIFFITH. The movie's first great artist, **David Wark Griffith**, receives a mini-tribute at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston with a one-night-only October 26 showing of five of his seminal one-reelers. Everything the movies became—everything we think of as a movie—is there in these works from 1909–1913.

Alone among the pioneers during cinema's prehistoric age, Griffith created the grammar of film. But whoever wrote the MFAH preview brochure needs to return to film school. It states, "a rare selection by D.W. Griffith—who made only a few short films." Before he made his first feature, *Judith of Bethulia* in 1913 (an hour in length), all Griffith's movies were shorts—455 of them, to be exact.

RECOMMENDED OUTING

The Wild Party

Through October 11
Masquerade Theatre

Andrew Lipka's adult musical, based on J.M. March's 1928 rhymed verse narrative, is part Nathaniel West, part Faulkner, part Frankie and Johnny. The roaring '20s screech to a halt as the "party to end all parties" whirls out of focus in the Broadway apartment of two washed-out, washed-over show-biz lowlifes. The show features Masquerade veterans **Ilich Guardiola**, **Luther Chakurian**, **Allison Sumrall**, **Rebekah Dahl**, and **Kory Kilgore**. Merrily, we go to hell.

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

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GrooveOut

by Gregg Shapiro

COMING OUT SINGING

Celebrate our history month with queer music

Happy Gay and Lesbian History Month! The latest crop of releases by queer artists, from the lesbian, gay, and bisexual communities, should get you through the end of the year with no trouble.

Peaches sings "I don't have to make the choice/I like girls and I like boys" on "I U She," a kinky bisexuality mantra from her new album *Fatherf**ker* (Kitty-Yo/ XL/Beggars Group), the eagerly anticipated follow-up to *The Teaches of Peaches*. Expertly straddling the worlds of punk, hip-hop, and electroclash (in, I would imagine, thigh-high platform boots), Peaches is even riper on this album than she was before. Stomping in on opening track "I Don't Give A . . .," Peaches spits a pit in our eyes as she rants "I don't give a f--k" over Joan Jett's "Bad Reputation." She raps about her labia majora ("soft as angora") and knocking us out "like Rocky Balboa." She goes head to head with Iggy Pop on "Kick It," on which they quote each other like old friends. Once again, Peaches sends it out to the men, boys, girls,



Peaches: bearded and smooth.

women, and ladies on "Shake Yer Dix." She duets with Taylor Savvy on "Stuff Me Up," on which they encourage the listener to "eat a cookie/eat a big d--k every day" and "eat a cookie/eat a big clit every day," and sings the praises of anal sex for men on "Back It Up, Boys."

Bisexuality is also the focus of *Bi The People: A Compilation of Bisexual Artists & Friends* (Violent Yodel). Compiled by Skott Freedman, who also contributed the track

"The Price You Paid," the various artists' disc benefits the nonprofit Bisexual Foundation. Other contributors include Jill Sobule (the sexy and funny "Saw a Cop," about being pulled over by a female officer), Laura Love ("If You Leave Me"), Melissa Ferrick ("Fighting Chance"), Bitch And Animal (the Eminem-slamming "Secret Candy"), notorious bisexual Tom Robinson ("Boy Girl"), Jewel tour opening act Anne Heaton ("Black Notebook"), Pansy Division (the oldie "Luv Luv Luv"), Carol Burnett's daughter and bi disco diva Erin Hamilton (a dance cover of Kiki Dee's "I've Got the Music in Me"), queer Celtic artist Ashley MacIsaac ("Sleepy Maggie," with vocals by Mary Jane Lamond), openly gay *American Idol* contestant Jim Verraros ("I Want You") and the ubiquitous Rachael Sage ("What If"), among others.

The Pie-Love Sky (Big Head) by openly bisexual singer/songwriter Jodi Shaw was produced by Steve Addabbo, who co-produced Suzanne Vega's first two albums. It's hard not to draw comparisons between Shaw and Vega (even to Natalie Merchant, whom Shaw sounds like on "The Forger" and "Kristine's Lullaby"), but Shaw does emerge her own person throughout. From her acoustic interpretation of Yaz's "Only You" (Ms. Shaw, you have excellent taste in cover material) to original folk tracks such as "The President Knows," "In Cabrini-Green," and "Is," to the drum loops of anti-folk tunes such as "Dumbo's Feather" and "Out of Love," the *Pie-Love Sky*'s the limit.

Creative and life partners Drew Daniel and Martin Schmidt return with the latest effort from their group Matmos, *The Civil War* (Matador). After working with some other "high profile" artists and the release of Drew's wonderful *The Soft Pink Truth* side project, the electronic sound collagists once again set a higher standard for the genre with this album that touches on the Ameri-

The majority of *Want's* tunes were written in a two-month burst of creativity. Thirty songs were recorded, and those that didn't make *Want One* will be on a follow-up to be released by DreamWorks sometime in 2004 and tentatively titled *Want Two*. From DreamWorks Records (www2.dreamworksrecords.com/flash). For more info: www.rufuswainwright.com. —Troy Carrington

Hamell on Trial Tough Love



New York singer-songwriter Ed Hamell, who performs under the name Hamell on Trial, has built a following as a high-intensity performer with his punk rock-influenced acoustic music. This time around, on his first release for Ani Difranco's

Righteous Babe Records, Hamell, known for defying all musical categories, incorporates stories and unbridled rants. "Hail" is an emotionally charged track drawing attention to Tina Brandon, Brian Deneke, and Matthew Shepard, who all meet in heaven to celebrate their new home, where "we can be who we want to be." Hamell's trademark of pushing the envelope on modern music is alive and kicking on his latest release. From Righteous Babe Records (www.righteousbabe.com). For more info: www.hamellontrial.com.

—Andrea Rodricks

Soundtrack Party Monster

This 19-track collection is a mix of electro-dance music celebrating the period of the film *Party Monster* as well as classic '80s dance music from the era. *Party Monster* is the story of the rise →

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GrooveOut Shorts

Rufus Wainwright Want One



Want One, produced by Marius deVries (Madonna, Bjork), is Rufus Wainwright's most expansive record to date. Moments move from the bombastic pomp of Gershwin and Ravel on

"Oh What a World" to the tender "Natascha" to the sadly beautiful "Dinner at 8." Thematically, the album is regretful but ultimately optimistic. *Poses*, Wainwright's previous album, was largely made up of songs the openly gay singer/songwriter had discarded for his debut album and songs he had worked out on the road.

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GrooveOut continued from previous page

can Civil War, the 1660 English Civil War, and civil wars closer to home. Those are bagpipes and a tin whistle on "Z.O.C.K.," but I bet you never thought you'd hear them in this setting. "Reconstruction" is more like a deconstruction, and "Y.T.T.E." finally gives those waiting for a chance to dance to get up and do so. Matmos's interpretation of "The Stars and Stripes Forever" has the potential to inspire flag-waving in even the most unpatriotic listener, or marching at the very least.

Openly gay JS Adams of Blk W/Bear collaborated with Mark Beazley of Rothko on *Wish for a World Without Hurt* (Trace). Like the Matmos album, the eight songs on *Wish* are cut-and-paste recordings. The subject matter of the album addresses the events of September 11, 2001, and serves as an in-remembrance of that day. Experimental and difficult, this fun-

real disc may not be the most accessible piece of music that you have heard, but it is hard not to have some sort of response to this music.

Sounds from the Bedroom (Spitshine) by \$3 Puta is the sound of electroclash clashing with itself—beat-box rhythms, synthesized melodies, and buzzing guitar. In songs such as "WEHO," "Dyke Magnet," "Yoda," and "Punk Rock for Fashion Fag," Raquel Contreras and Rodolfo Garcia share their concerns with images, identity, and socialization in the LGBT community with a hint of humor and more than a touch of truth. They

also raise the issues of being in the queer performance world on songs such as "Fan or Friend," and "Hard Hat," as well as more personal experiences on "Gender Bender" and "The Rape Song."

Speaking of accessibility, Preacher Gone To Texas, an Iowa-based hardcore "scremo" band has the potential to reach both straight and gay fans of this polyp-producing style of

emo rock with their album *Choice Vs. Chance* (Sinister Label). Musically, Preacher Gone To Texas ought to appeal to fans of Thursday and The Blood Brothers, among others. Add to that the bonus of a couple of openly gay band members, including totally cute guitar player Matt Moody, and everyone will be happy. A reprieve arrives in the piano-only closing track "One Scream: Motive for Movement." Although I don't have a mothering bone in my body, all I want to

do is offer vocalist Matt Johnson a thermos full of hot tea with lemon and honey.

A queer punk revival is in full effect with new releases by Super 8 Cum Shot (*Super 8 Cum Shot, Volume II*) and Pansy Division (*Total Entertainment*). *Burn Your Rainbow* (Spitshine) by Skinjobs also deserves a place at the table. From songs about non-conformity (the title track), queer love ("Peep Show Love," "Might as Well Be You"), queer recruitment ("Recruiting," which ends with the declaration "We're queer and we're recruiting—now!"), and how queer history and rock and

roll are on the same plateau ("Hands in the Air"), Skinjobs get their point across, loud and clear. Five of the hidden tracks are spoon-word bonuses, and the fifth is a song about "the lesbians of the Skinjobs." These genuine punks put hetero poseurs such as Good Charlotte, Sum 41, and Something Corporate to shame. In fact, I strongly recommend that the members of the above-mentioned bands check out Skinjobs (and Super 8 Cum Shot and Pansy Division) to find out precisely what is lacking in their own songs.

On a much mellower note, *Remember Who I Am* (Clever Shark) is the memorable debut disc by queer trio Girlyman. Imagine a bent Nickel Creek and you have only scratched the surface of Girlyman's lush three-part harmonies and modern bluegrass/folk sound. A truly cooperative effort, all three members of Girlyman (Nate Borofsky, Tammy Greenstein, and Doris Muramatsu) contribute to the songwriting process, and they alternate taking the lead vocals on the tunes. Standouts include "Say Goodbye," "Fall Stories," "Even If," "Postcards from Mexico," "Amaze Me," and a praiseworthy cover of "My Sweet Lord."

A great poet once said "make it new," and that appears to be the challenge before lesbian singer/songwriters. With so many women who came before them and so many more trying to do the same thing, making it new may be easier said than done. On her fifth album *Birthmark* (Egasage), Aerin Tedesco does her part by ornamenting her folk-pop songs with an electric guitar here ("Downside Up") and a cello there ("Fuel") and even a didgeridoo ("London"). Some Cajun percussion spices up "Crush," and the banjo on "Cowboy" give it, well, its pluck.

On her fourth album *Single Bullet Theory* (Wirl), queer biracial singer/songwriter Pamela Means sounds like what I imagine Rachael Sage would sound like if she stepped

Fame, Glamour," is performed by Felix Da Housecat vs. The Pop Tarts, featuring Culkin, Green, and Chloe Sevigny on vocals. Also included is "The La La Song" by Marilyn Manson, who plays transsexual club star Christina in the film. From TVT Soundtrax (www.tvrecords.com). —TC

Aretha Franklin So Damn Happy



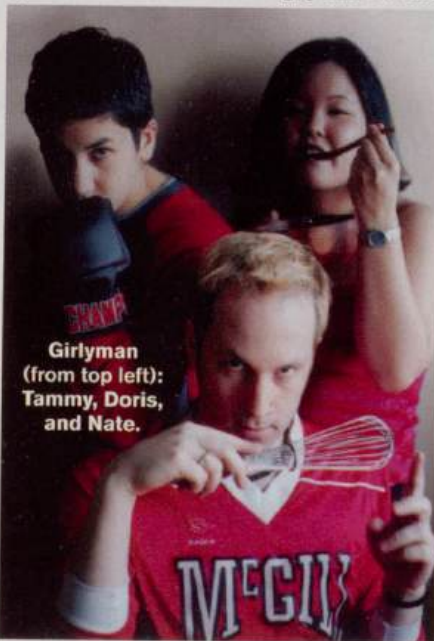
why her reign continues through ever-changing musical times. The collection of songs Queen Aretha personally chose for this album contain messages

The voice is instantly recognizable, for there is truly no other voice like it. A national treasure, she is the undisputed Queen of Soul, and one listen to Aretha Franklin's *So Damn Happy* leaves no doubt

of hope ("Holdin' On"), empowerment ("Good News"), and happiness ("Wonderful," "So Damn Happy"). Of course, there are those songs that address the ups and downs of love. "Everybody's Somebody's Fool" addresses the everyday ins and outs, down-to-earth realities of relationships. "Ain't No Way" is a personal Franklin statement on her own stance in dealing with matters of the heart, while the classic pop-flavored ballad "Falling Out of Love" (produced and co-written by Burt Bacharach) deals with the end of a love affair. Mary J. Blige is featured on two songs. From Arista Records (www.arista.com). More info: www.sodamnhappy.com. —TC

Brother Love Canal I Wanna F--k

The cover precedes the record with the public service announcement: "WARNING: OBSCENE PROPOSAL INSIDE." Of course, that →



Girlyman
(from top left):
Tammy, Doris,
and Nate.

GrooveOut Shorts continued from previous page



and murderous fall of club promoter Michael Alig (played by Macaulay Culkin), and based on the documentary of the same name and on *Bloodbath*, the book by James St. James (portrayed by Seth Green). The film's openly gay directors, Fenton Bailey and Randy Barbato, are no strangers to the material, being the same team who created the award-winning documentary. Essential to the film, the soundtrack includes such current electronic cuts as Ladytron's "Seventeen," "Frank Sinatra" from Miss Kittin & the Hacker, and "Crash" from Keoki, who is played in the film by Wilmer Valderrama of *That '70s Show*. The film's anthem, "Money, Success,

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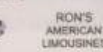
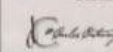
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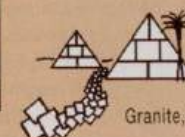
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GrooveOut continued from page 76

out from behind her electric piano and picked up a guitar. Cocked and loaded, Means fires off what is easily one of the best musical summations of the current political situation on the song "O.D." (which stands for "oleaginous diplomacy: government initiatives made on behalf of oil companies"). She also addresses racial and queer issues on "Two Halves," "Augusta," and "The Devil's Henchmen," with equal directness.

The anti-folk songs on Andrea Bunch's distinguished debut album *Numinous* find a common place for acoustic instrumentation and clear and powerful vocals to be enhanced by unusual samples and synthesizer sounds. "Earthworms," for instance, features a machine-like grinding under the surface. A babbling brook and bird calls interwoven with synthetic crunches and a beautiful piano give "Colorloc" its unique hue. A debate about art and insecurity introduces the bittersweet "Sugar." Electronic beats and flutters give "Species" its life force, and "Coil" winds itself around a more traditional folk sound. "Deosil" uses vocal samples to conjure a Middle Eastern feel, while the piano and vocal "Cottonwood" show Bunch in another light.

Paving the way for Girlyman, Pamela Means, Andrea Bunch, and just about every other queer singer/songwriter from the last 30 years is Janis Ian. *Working Without a Net* (Rude Girl/Oh Boy) is a double-disc live set that features songs from Ian's 35-plus-year career. From "Society's Child" to "Days Like These" to "Boots Like Emmy Lou's," the recordings (from various venues and a multitude of countries) span the years 1990 to 2003, and offer an impressive, if incomplete, overview of Ian's work. Some of Ian's best-known tunes, including "At Seventeen," "Jesse" (a hit for Roberta Flack), and "Fly Too High" (co-written by Giorgio Moroder!), are



Janis Ian: impressive 35-plus-year career.

also present. A new studio disc by Ian is forthcoming in early 2004, and I look forward to seeing how she follows up her excellent 2000 studio album *God & the FBI*.

Calico (MP3.com) by queer Chicago-based performer Scott Montgomery includes songs from his deservedly acclaimed *Elaine Place and Roscoe* album, such as "A Spank of Happy," "Drama Lives in Lincoln Park," and "blo." It also features new songs, including the well-timed "Baghdaddy," "Cali" (about a Calico cat, who "doesn't break the skin when she chews," and her owner), the funky folk of "Better Days," and the crazy rhythms of "Scooty Boo."

Finally, you must know that a queer music column would be incomplete without a few

CDs by dance artists. Kevin Aviance follows up his 1999 *Box of Chocolates* full-length album with *Entity* (Emerge). Aviance gets dipped, flipped, and licked on "Give It Up," co-written by gay DJ, songwriter, and record producer Tony Moran, in which he compares himself to both a drug that will make you go crazy and to cotton candy. His smash hit dance single "Alive," also a Moran co-composition, which features his trademark stuttered vocals, certainly deserved its lively reception. "Power," co-written by Aviance, is a hand- and roof-raising number. "Freak It (Live Out Loud)," is Aviance's most retro recording, reminiscent of the '80s sound of The Gap Band, and is a standout track. Equally surprising is the queer blues of "Seattle," which illuminates yet another side of the multi-faceted artist.

Houston Bernard manages to be more graphic than the aforementioned Kevin Aviance (and that's no easy feat) on his electroclash EP *I Love Houston* (houstonbernard@yahoo.com). Beginning with the "I've never been on a horse before" confession of "Ride It Cowboy," he then asks the musical question, "Do you really want the dick?" and follows it up with very explicit directions. Rocking a little harder on the new-wave edge, "Str8 Acting" begins with street cruising and features the chorus "I'm a straight-acting, huge-d-ked faggot/I'll f-k you in the mouth." Openly bisexual, Bernard turns his attention to the opposite sex on the tracks "U Smell So Nice" and "Oh Boy Relax."

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

probably most important, the mistakes. It makes for a delicate tribute to an artist whose untimely death in 1997 shook the music world, and shows us that even at his most raw, delicate, and vulnerable, he was always learning, creating, and honing in on something great. From Columbia Records (www.legacyrecordings.com). —LW

Saeed & Palash—Addictive Beats Various Artists—hear.



Star 69 Entertainment of New York has put together two massive compilations of artists from all over in these concurrent releases. • *Addictive Beats*: Immigrant DJs Saeed (Iraq) and Palash (Bangladesh) each fill up an entire

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obscene proposal would be tied in to the title of this single, and this coed trio of Canucks makes no bones about it. In the same tradition as 2 Live Crew's "Me So Horny," which made the rounds

some 14 years earlier, "I Wanna F-k" is destined to become a club hit, perhaps most popular late in the evening when boys and girls are heading to their cars to oblige Brother Love Canal in their obscene proposal. Self-released. For more info: www.brotherlovecanal.com. —Lance Walker

Jeff Buckley Live at Sin-é

Posthumous releases are always a bit scraped



isn't so much the case here, in this collection of live solo performances by Jeff Buckley from the Sin-é Café in New York—these were very well-planned and thought out as a set of recordings for Columbia Records. At the time of these performances in 1993, his career was just beginning and his only full-length album, *Grace*, had yet to be recorded. That is the beauty of this collection for a true Buckley fan—the songs are raw, spastic, and provide a snapshot of his developing songwriting talents. It's all there—the banter in between songs, the repeated attempts at nailing down cover song riffs (sometimes with help from the audience), and,

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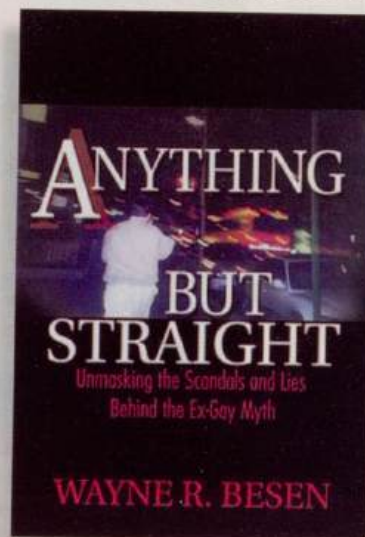
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ReadOut

by Wayne Besen

LOOKING FOR MR. PAULK

*In an excerpt from his new book
 Anything But Straight, the author tracks down
 America's most famous ex-gay*



I was readying myself for bed late one Tuesday evening when my phone rang. Exhausted from the long, busy day, I barely had enough energy to answer it by the third ring. But what I heard immediately jolted me out of my pre-bedtime trance and electrified my imagination with excitement and disbelief. My colleague at the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), Daryl Herrschaft, frantically yelled into the receiver: "Wayne, get down here now. NOW! I'm not 100 percent sure, but I think John Paulk is in Mr. P's," a well-known gay bar in Washington's heavily gay DuPont Circle area.

"No way, you've got to be joking!" I exclaimed.

It must be a case of mistaken identity, I thought. Why would the undisputed crown jewel of the so-called "ex-gay" movement be foolish enough to frequent a gay dive in Washington, D.C., home to nearly every national gay organization in the country? If there were any city in America where he might be recognized, this was it. As head of

HRC's efforts to unmask the "ex-gay" ministries, I was intrigued, to say the least.

If it really were Paulk, it would be a gargantuan discovery that would rock the "ex-gay" ministries and their religious-right sponsors to the core. In 1998, a coalition of 15 religious-right organizations launched the "Truth in Love" ad campaign featuring "ex-gays" with headlines like "We're Standing for the Truth that Homosexuals Can Change." The full-page ads appeared in major daily newspapers such as the *New York Times*, *USA Today*, and the *Wall Street Journal*. Paulk and his wife Anne, a self-described "ex-lesbian," were prominently featured in these ads, which gave them a platform to launch their full-time careers as America's most prominent professional heterosexuals.

For a time, they had become ubiquitous figures on the talk-show circuit, appearing on *60 Minutes*, ABC's *World News Tonight*, *Good Morning America*, and *Oprah*. The pinnacle of Anne and John's success came when they graced the cover of *Newsweek*

Besen in Houston. Wayne Besen will appear twice in Houston this month on his national book tour for *Anything But Straight*. On Thursday, October 23, he will give a public reading from his book at the Houston GLBT Community Center. The center and PFLAG Houston will host the 7 p.m. event, followed by a question-and-answer session. Besen will also have a book signing at Lobo Bookshop & Cafe on October 22 at 7 p.m.



magazine under the bold headline: "GAY FOR LIFE?"

Later that year, Paulk published his first book, *Not Afraid to Change: The Remarkable Story of How One Man Overcame Homosexuality*. The autobiography vividly explains how he transformed himself from an alcoholic, acid-dropping, sex-addicted, transvestite prostitute named Candi into a married fundamentalist Christian, through the power of Jesus Christ.

Rev. D. James Kennedy of Coral Ridge Ministries said of the book, "John Paulk has the most hopeful and promising message for gay men that I have ever read."

Conservative syndicated columnist Cal Thomas raved, "In his book you will find blessing and hope, especially if you are one who has been living in darkness, but longing to find the way to light."

After the book was published, rabidly antigay Colorado Springs-based Focus on the Family hired Paulk to head their newly formed Homosexuality and Gender Department for Public Policy. Additionally, he was chair of Exodus International, the largest "ex-gay" support group, which serves as a worldwide umbrella organization for the "ex-gay" ministries.

Riding high with his new book and blossoming career, Paulk was a celebrity in fundamentalist circles and was clearly going places with the religious right. He kicked off the new millennium for Focus by launching the nationwide "Love Won Out" tour, which was a traveling road show to enlighten conservative audiences on the secrets of "leaving homosexuality behind"—as Paulk boasted he had done in 1987.

No matter where he offered his testimony [on "leaving homosexuality behind"], he received thunderous applause. Although he was no longer a drag queen, he still hadn't lost his touch as a performer.

"We say God did not intend anyone to be this way—to be gay or lesbian," Paulk bellowed at North Heights Lutheran Church while on the Minneapolis leg of his "Love Won Out" tour. "I accepted Christ into my life and realized I could leave homosexuality. I learned that homosexuality was reversible. Through faith in Christ and counseling and support, over a four-year period, my homosexuality greatly subsided."

Like a rock star, no matter where he offered his heart-wrenching testimony, he

received thunderous applause. Although he was no longer a drag queen, he still hadn't lost his touch as a performer—albeit his audience had definitely changed.

I knew I only had a small window of opportunity to catch the alleged Paulk, so I grabbed my camera, threw on my baggy jeans, and sprinted to Mr. P's, about a half mile from my DuPont condo.

Meanwhile, Herrschaft engaged the suspected Paulk in casual conversation. Herrschaft asked the man questions that should have made him gallop toward the exit like a 100-meter Olympic sprinter, if he were indeed Paulk. But apparently 20 minutes was not enough time for this man to enjoy his gay-bar experience, so he talked to his pushy inquisitor.

"What is your name and where are you from?" asked Herrschaft.

"John, from Colorado Springs," the gentleman calmly replied.

"What is your last name?"

"Clint, John Clint is my name."

"Are you sure it is not Paulk?"

"Yes, I'm sure," he unflappably replied.

Fortunately, Herrschaft bought me valuable time because the robust man in question began to fancy him. →



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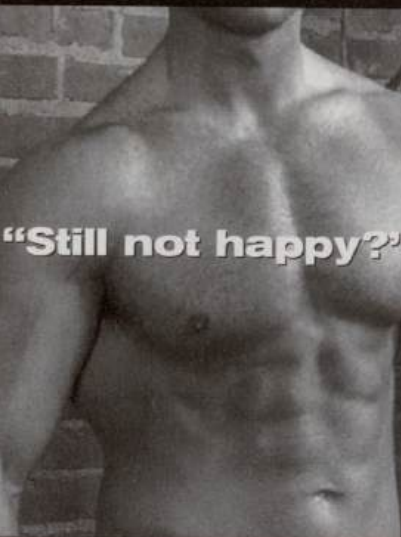
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ReadOut continued from previous page

"Would you like a drink, it's on me?" he asked Herrschaft with a flirtatious twinkle in his eyes.

Herrschaft persisted with his cross-examination. "Are you gay?"

"Yes," the man serenely responded.

Herrschaft continued to engage the man in conversation, revealing among other things, that Paulk was a Democrat.

Panting and drenched with perspiration, I continued my full-out dash down New Hampshire Avenue toward the dark, dingy bar. As I reached the intersection of Dupont Circle and Massachusetts Avenue, I had to stop briefly after a speeding taxi almost flattened me. The fuming driver rolled down his window and called me what I suspected was the Arabic equivalent of "asshole" as he peeled off.

The adrenaline was kicking and I could hear my heart thumping as I reached P Street, only a few blocks from my final destination. I stopped momentarily, catching my breath, before putting my head down and rumbling toward the hole-in-the-wall bar, which was now within my sight.

Standing at the shabby entrance of Mr. P's, I briefly rehashed my plan. I would furtively enter the joint, look for the alleged Paulk, and if it were he, I would slip outside and call gay press reporters on my cell phone. Then hopefully they would race down to break a major story by photographing Paulk flirting and imbibing. Of course, breaking it in the mainstream press would have been optimum, but it was highly unlikely a *Washington Post* or *New York Times* reporter would have bolted to a third-rate gay bar in the middle of the night to take paparazzi-style photographs of an "ex-gay" leader.

Mr. P's was the oldest standing gay bar in Washington, having been around since the mid-'70s. The foreboding gray exterior, punctuated by pitch-black tinted windows, made the bar an intimidating place to those not acquainted with it. And those who were acquainted with it were probably too drunk to notice. The bar was known for its drag shows and cheap booze. Around the corner was the "P Street Beach," a heavily wooded area known as Washington's most notorious gay cruising spot. If Paulk was looking for a clandestine sexual liaison or for a place where he could quietly find mischief, he was in the right spot.

Imbued with curiosity, I slowly opened the creaky, paint-chipped door and gingerly sauntered into the bar trying to go undetected. Within five feet from the entrance, I saw the back of a man who looked like John Paulk.

He was wearing khaki pants and a long-sleeved shirt covered by a sleeveless crème-colored sweater. His love handles were protruding over his pant line and his hair was neatly coifed.

The gentleman, whoever he was, seemed to be having a gay old time, laughing it up with several inebriated patrons while expertly nursing his half-empty cocktail. This

"One night, I had an overwhelming urge to go to a gay bar and pick up someone. I almost experienced real physical pain as I resisted. Finally, I got down on the tile floor in my bathroom and cried, 'God, I beg you, keep me from going to a bar! I can hardly resist...' Somehow I found the strength to stay home."

man looked extraordinarily comfortable, like he had been born and raised in a gay bar. In the adjacent room, a raucous drag show raged as female impersonators delighted the roaring crowd.

A tall, scrawny, prune-faced drag queen with a Camel dangling out of an empty slot in her mouth where a tooth used to reside, sashayed right in front of the potential Paulk. If the man in question were not completely at ease in his surroundings, the sight of this drag queen would have sent him running for the nearest exit. But he had no intention of leaving the scene anytime soon. He was clearly in his element, just another man with bad taste in gay bars who was enjoying a big night out on the town.

With my head down, I stealthily angled to get a clear frontal view of the man, positioning myself where I could positively identify him. I had met the man personally on two occasions, once at a press conference in Washington and once in 1999 when I went undercover for an HRC intelligence-gathering mission at the Reclaiming America for Christ conference in Ft. Lauderdale. While sleuthing, I even had my picture taken with my arm around his wife Anne. So if it were actually the world's most notorious "ex-gay," I was more than qualified to recognize him.

Standing nearly three feet away and directly in front of him, I gradually lifted my head and peered up.

It WAS Paulk!

My heart stopped. I could no longer hear the pulsating music, and the world moved in slow motion. There he stood, his carefully crafted 15-year lie about to be uncovered. I was absolutely floored, in a total state of shock. If he tried this risky stunt in Washington, I thought, how many other times in his travels had he gone straight from an antigay conference to a gay establishment? The scene reminded me of a passage I had once read in his book:

"One night, I had an overwhelming urge to go to a gay bar and pick up someone. I almost experienced real physical pain as I resisted. Finally, I got down on the tile floor in my bathroom and cried, 'God, I beg you, keep me from going to a bar! I can hardly resist...' Somehow I found the strength to stay home."

Unfortunately for Paulk, tonight God wasn't on "ex-gay" patrol and was probably working on less pressing issues like ending world hunger or Mid-East peace.

At this point I was desperately afraid I would be recognized. With HRC I had done several national television shows on the "ex-gay" topic including NBC's *The Roseanne Show*. I also had conceived and edited a report only three months earlier titled *Finally Free, How Love and Self-Acceptance*

Saved Us from the "Ex-Gay" Ministries, where people who had been through the ministries spoke out about their negative experiences. Only two weeks before this unlikely encounter, Paulk had personally called me to request a copy of this report for Focus. During our brief telephone conversation I said, "I will send you a report and hopefully it will help you come out of the closet."

"Been there, done that, I don't think so," he said.

Well, he may have been there and done that, but on this night he was "there" and doing "that" once again.

Then he saw me, put two and two together, and pandemonium consumed the smoky dive. Raw terror filled Paulk's widening, panic-stricken eyes as he gasped in horror. My careful plan now foiled, I had no choice but to photograph him. With nothing to lose, I blurted out, "John Paulk, is that you?"

Reprinted by permission from *Anything But Straight: Unmasking the Scandals and Lies Behind the Ex-Gay Myth*, by Wayne R. Besen (Harrington Park Press, Binghamton, New York, 2003). Copies can be ordered from the publisher by calling Haworth Press at 1-800-HAWORTH or logging on to www.HaworthPress.com.

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FAMILY SECRETS

Lesbian moms, hetero teen daughters, and parental denial

Tess is what they call a hottie." My friend Deb updated me on her teenage daughter when we met in the produce aisle last week. Karen, Tess's other mom, tossed a jicama into their cart and chimed in, "And she is totally boy crazy."

One of the first A.I. babies in our lesbian community, Tess has hit the surly, uncommunicative stage, which according to Doctor Spock typically lasts from ages 12 to 40. She is driving her poor parents nuts. Karen and Deb, whose Pope-unsanctified wedding I attended 20 years ago, naturally want what's best for their child. They are in a dither over the 15-year-old vamp's heterosexual tendencies.

I am one of Tess's concerned aunties, the circle of friends who attended her birth and provided childcare when she was little. Now I am another old lesbian dinosaur. She would

sooner die than acknowledge me in public. I grabbed a sack of organic russets and asked, "What kind of birth control is she using?"

"Oh, she isn't having sex yet," Karen assured me.

I expressed my budding sexuality in frequent lovemaking with my boyfriend. Looking back on those days, I realize he was the closest thing to a butch dyke I could lay my hands on.

In response to my raised eyebrow, Deb added, "We would know."

Yeah, right. Like when we were 15, we told our parents our personal business.

What is it about lesbian moms? Is the next Homosexual Agenda item going to be

equal access to parental amnesia? Weren't they ever young and full of hormones? Don't they remember anything?

I kept all kinds of secrets from my parents when I was 15. We rarely talked—the original Don't Ask, Don't Tell. Mom and Dad didn't know squat about my life. I sneaked out my bedroom window at night and returned undetected before dawn. Not yet aware becoming a lesbian was even an option, I expressed my budding sexuality in frequent and exuberant lovemaking with my boyfriend, a soft-spoken, attentive kid with a big motorcycle. Looking back on those days, I realize he was the closest thing to a butch dyke I could lay my hands on.

The guy who sat behind me in summer school civics lived in a luxurious country-club home right on the golf course. His wealthy parents were away for the weekend, and their

son was supposed to be staying with a buddy, which in teenspeak means "Party!" I like to think my behavior contributed in some small way to current popular wisdom—when kids say they're going to an adult-supervised party, their word is worth bupkes.

What a party! We ransacked the liquor cabinet, abused the beds, and desecrated the swimming pool. We drove their golf cart into the lake. High on mescaline, my boyfriend and I had sex on the fairway and then dug the word *LOVE* into the neatly groomed sand traps.

By the time the host offered me a ride home, I was sure I had come down enough to make my curfew appearance and slink off into my bedroom unscrutinized. Safely inside the gate, I stopped at the swimming pool steps. I reeked of smoke and spilled tequila and sex. If my parents busted me, I'd be under heavy surveillance for the rest of the summer. I splashed my face, rinsed the sand off my arms, and sluiced out my mouth. But I was hot and sticky all over. The turquoise green water, shimmering under the night sky, beckoned me. The pool looked too good to pass up. I peeled off my clothes and plunged in.

I swam a full, languid underwater lap. A quick pop up for air and another lap, during which I noticed an odd screeching sound. I disregarded it and resumed my mermaid glide. I heard it again, the distant, high-pitched whine. The last time I came up for air, the sound was unmistakable. My mother, in full screaming rage, towered over me, the whites of her eyes huge and menacing. Her neck veins bulged. Her mouth contorted as she yelled my name. She shoved a beach towel at me and demanded I get out of the pool and into the house that instant. Not until I turned toward the door did I notice my father, and a patio full of guests, sitting poolside, fully clothed, in stunned silence.

After that I became seriously surly and uncommunicative. Exposing myself had exposed my parents' lack of control over me, a huge embarrassment in front of their friends. Their response was to crack down and make my life miserable.

I gently set a carton of crimini mushrooms into my grocery cart's empty child seat. Mental note: Get condoms and foam for Tess—and some clit info. She is entitled to her private pleasures, and her parents are entitled to their denial. I hugged my friends goodbye. "You're probably right," I said, "I'm sure Tess is doing fine."



Thank God(dess) they don't have a swimming pool . . . or a golf cart.

Writer Sally Sheklow grew up in Palm Springs, California. She lives in Oregon with her wife and no kids.

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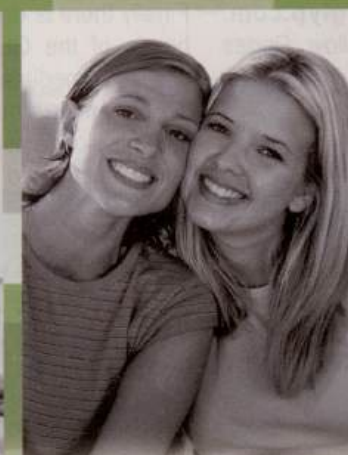
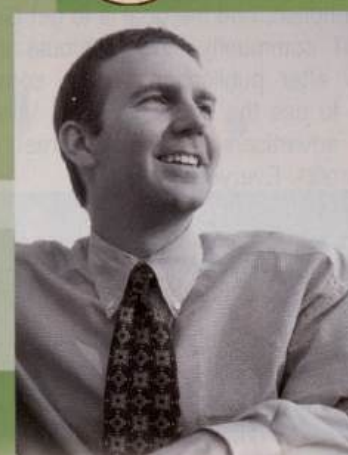
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Known for its unique size and cover artwork, GLYP [glip] is a trusted name in Houston. Leading a staff of 10, Publisher Laura Villagran now prints annual telephone books for 7 cities and serves the global community through its website at glyph.com. GLYP has been a member of the National Yellow Pages Publishers Association since 2000 (YPPA).

The 2004-05 GLYP marks its 13th year in print and with that comes its share of challenges and rewards. Customer loyalty is the result of providing excellent customer service and directory assistance to the GLBT community by the dedicated employees at GLYP.

The main key to GLYP's success is the quality of its advertisers which are upscale and gay-friendly. They know the company standard will never allow ads promoting sex, tobacco or alcohol.

Also featured are dozens of non-profits in the Organizations & Resources Guide – all dedicated to the GLBT community. The Guide is also a great resource for those looking to volunteer.

To advertise in the print or online editions, or to receive more information, please contact Ruby Hamilton at 713-942-0084 or log onto the website at glyph.com.



GLYP is an exceptional marketing value in Houston with annual rates starting at just \$110 per year for a standard listing ad.

Finally there is distribution, and the goal is to get GLYP into the hands of the GLBT community. "We distribute the directory immediately after publication so the community has ample time to use the book", explains Villagran. "This allows our advertisers to achieve great results and increased profits. Everyone wins!"

Future plans include expansion of both print and online editions, and full color printing is now available in the printed books. The website will soon feature a virtual community with complete local information for each city. "Adding talented and committed individuals to the staff is as important as the marketing plan we use in making GLYP a brand name", says Villagran. "At GLYP we feel blessed to be able to serve our community; to get to do a job we really love."



MaryLou's Offers A Complete Ceramic & Wood Resource

"I started and named MaryLou's Ceramics & Wood Art in memory of my mother, MaryLou Sheehan," says proprietor Robin Spigner. "After her passing, I wanted to keep her memory alive, so I created something that we enjoyed together for many years."



Spigner is a member of the Texas Gulf Coast Ceramic Society with certification in both Gare and Duncan, prominent names in ceramics. She is also a wholesaler for Doc Holiday, another highly esteemed name in ceramics.

"MaryLou's is different from other ceramic shops because I provide everything from beginning to end," says Spigner. "I've got everything from slip to green ware, from

bisque to firing kilns. I can finish the product for you in stains, glazes or even airbrushing."

Spigner also offers wooden yard art, another popular craft. "The wood art is particularly popular around the holidays," she says. "I've expanded the concept to include the other 11 months of the year, too."

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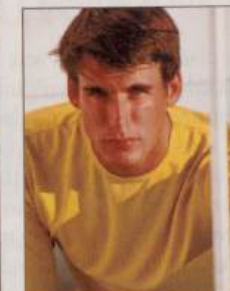
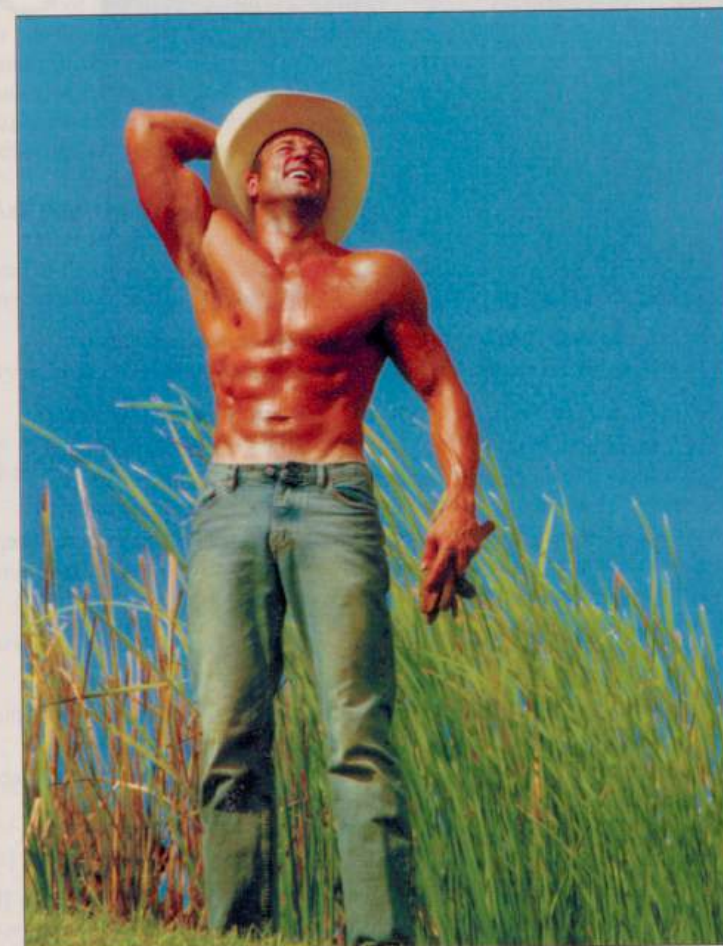


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The Lovett Inn Celebrates 15 Year Anniversary

Tom Fricke finds it hard to believe that only 15 years ago he opened the Lovett Inn. Even though time has flown by and so much has changed in the Montrose and Museum District since then, it still seems like it was merely days ago when he was surveying the property on Lovett Boulevard.

The place was a mess way back then, a boarded-up vacant building with collapsing columns and dangling shutters. The trees had grown out of control, trash was strewn all about the property. The idea of a bed and breakfast in the Montrose seemed insane to most. But Fricke knew otherwise and he began to develop the place. These days, the Montrose is as vital a community as ever. And the little inn on Lovett Boulevard stands as one of its crowning jewels, a well-groomed space housing 13 rooms and hosting receptions that hold up to 200 people at a time.

Fricke's mission was simple: provide comfortable, gay-friendly lodging in the Montrose area and create an alternative for visitors tired of unpleasant hotel rooms and unpleasant treatment. Knowing the community would be the source of his success, he made sure he'd be able to return the favor. With over a thousand paid functions under his belt, Fricke also provides his nonprofit compatriots with meeting space, lodging and donations for organizations such as: Houston Black Tie, Bayou City Boys Club, Omega House, Spaulding for Children, Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, St. Stephens Church, Houston Gay Men's Chorus, H.A.T.C.H., and many others.

Reflecting the heart of an open community, the Lovett Inn discriminates against no one and is straight-friendly. The Lovett Inn has become a common choice of gay people for lodging for their visiting straight family members. It's also particularly popular among female business travelers, who feel safer in a



Close to downtown, nestled in the heart of the Montrose and Museum District, there's no debating the Lovett Inn is in an excellent location for both business and leisure travelers.

smaller lodging facility. The main secret to people feeling so comfortable here? The ratio of approximately one employee to every two guestrooms. Their one-on-one rapport with customers is hard to beat in a larger hotel. Another secret to their success are the amenities, better than most downtown hotels. In-room irons, hair dryers, coffee, answering machines. Even wireless Internet connections.

Business travelers fill the Lovett Inn during the week. Leisure travelers love the comfort there and convenience to so many locations and events on the weekend. As a matter of fact, the Lovett Inn handles around 100 events each year and keeps its guests safe, sound, and well-rested in the process. Birthday parties, corporate meetings, weddings, anniversaries, and all sorts of receptions come alive in Lovett's ample space. In the last two years, Lovett has totally renovated its public space, adding an additional 600 square-foot patio poolside with a 400 square-foot canopy.

The Lovett Inn's 13 guestrooms are moderately priced from \$75-\$175 per night. Pictures of the rooms, descriptions, and pricing can be viewed

on www.LovettInn.com. Because each room and suite is so individual, guests often like to stay in a different room each time they stay. Some rooms are more economical than others due to size, location, and amenities. Other rooms have king-size beds with whirlpool tubs. Some are two-room suites. All but two have a private bath.

Close to downtown, nestled in the heart of the Montrose and Museum District, there's no debating the Lovett Inn is in an excellent location. Guests are merely moments away from the best restaurants, pubs, bars, nightclubs, shops, salons, museums, movie houses, theaters, and nightlife that Houston has to offer. Add to that how close the Lovett Inn is to the Galleria, downtown, the Greenway Plaza, and the Texas Medical Center and you start to realize just how perfect and convenient its location is.

The next time you're looking for a cozy place to house your out-of-town guests, clients, or coworkers, or if you need a charming and unique space for that special event, call the Lovett Inn. As Tom Fricke says, "You'll Love It at The Lovett Inn!"

The Lovett Inn

501 Lovett Boulevard, Houston, Texas 77006
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The Therapist Thinking Out Loud:

HAPPINESS- the antithesis of self-defeating behavior

Given my belief that "happy" is the natural state of human beings, my interest is in what interrupts the natural flow of happiness. Although none of us sets out consciously or intentionally to be unhappy, way back in the shadows of the quiet, private, personal parts of our minds are beliefs which cause us to get in our own way. We undermine pleasurable experiences, get into situations or relationships which create suffering, and we keep others from helping us.

Ask yourself "Do I..."

- (1) get involved with people or situations which lead to disappointment, failure, or mistreatment while overlooking better choices?
- (2) sometimes reject, overlook, or misinterpret people who try to be helpful?
- (3) respond to nice things with depression, guilt, suspicion, or a behavior that produces pain or negates the good things that happen?
- (4) incite angry or rejecting responses from others and then feel hurt, defeated, or humiliated (nag partner until s/he is angry and then feel devastated)?
- (5) reject opportunities for pleasure, or am I reluctant to acknowledge enjoying myself?
- (6) fail to complete tasks crucial to my personal objectives although the tasks are within my ability?
- (7) lose interest in or reject people who consistently treat me well? (I'm not attracted to the good ones!)
- (8) engage in excessive self-sacrifice which is unsolicited by the intended recipient of the sacrifice?

If you said yes to five or more questions, self-defeating behavior may be getting in your way. You may have a new lead for getting the life you want, and you might even find it helpful to talk with a therapist who can help.

Psychotherapist, Tony Carroll, LMSW-ACP, has worked with Houston's LGBT community since 1981. He is a member of the Clinical Social Work Federation, the National Membership Committee on Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work, the board of directors of the Texas Society for Clinical Social Work, and is a Certified Imago Relationship Therapist. He is available by appointment for individual, couple, and group psychotherapy and consultation.

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DineOut

by Eric A.T. Dieckman

IN THE BAG

The Barnaby's guys open a smart new sandwich shop



As you enter Brown Bag Deli, grab a paper bag. One side is printed with food options (bread, meat, cheese, toppings, sides, drink, and dessert) and check boxes. Indicate the selections to build the lunch you're craving. The order bag was Gale's idea, Kanakidis says.

As with Gale and Luna's other eateries, quality is high. They use Boar's Head meats and only Cabot cheese (no preservatives), and they make the tuna, chicken, potato, and egg salads. They also make their own waffle cones to go with Dreyer's Dreamery ice cream. "The peppermint is awesome," Kanakidis says.

A few selections are off the menu: garden burgers for vegetarians, Boca burgers for vegans, lo-cal multi-grain

bread, lo-cal Swiss, hummus, and fresh fruit for the health conscious. Kids can opt for grilled cheese or PB&J. Every sandwich is \$3. Every dessert is \$2, including the pecan tarts made for Brown Bag by a local woman. Every side dish is a buck, including the delicious creamy red potato salad made onsite.

For the caffeine-o-phile, there's a Starbucks coffee dispenser. Free Internet access and wi-fi is available for those seeking wireless Internet access for their laptops and palm pilots. It's all very casual. "You can sit and lounge over a cup of coffee," assures Kanakidis. "We don't mind."

Eric Dieckman reported on Cabo Montrose in our August issue.

Bag man: Eric Soate (above) makes a Brown Bag sandwich. The deli staff also includes (below, l-r) general manager George Kanakidis, Sarai Salazar, and Jenny Castillo.



On Westheimer at South Shepherd, across from Randall's and next to the Good-year tire store, there's a new little eatery. From Jeff Gale and Bob Luna, owners of Barnaby's comfort food restaurants, comes a custom sandwich shop, Brown Bag Deli (2036 Westheimer, 713/807-9191).

Gale hired George Kanakidis, who has restaurants in his blood, as general manager. His godfather owns a barbecue place in Sugar Land. His father has owned a number of restaurants and the family-owned Janco Food Services. Kanakidis has worked at a few different places on his own. A few years ago, Kanakidis took to painting murals, and he decorated the bathrooms for some of the Barnaby's locations.

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FOOTBALL HERO

*One of the few pro jocks to leave the closet,
Dave Kopay visits Houston to huddle with Rice students*



BOTH PHOTOS - DAVID LEWIS

In 1975, Dave Kopay, the former NFL running back, became the first pro athlete to publicly discuss his homosexuality. Two years later, his autobiography recounted his struggle as an athlete who is also gay in a homophobic world. *The Dave Kopay Story* remains on the required-reading list. Still one of the few members of the out athlete fraternity, Kopay recently visited the Rice University campus to talk to students about his experiences. University administrators brought Kopay to Houston in April as penance for homophobic remarks that football coach Ken Hatfield made last fall to the media. Before he spoke, Kopay (left and above, center) posed with the Rice group: (l-r) Pride @ Rice faculty advisor Lynne Huffer, Uri McMillan, Tomi Fatunde, Max Starkenburg, Nancy Elliott, Kopay, Natalie Nardecchia, Matt Oertli, Hanna Garth, Eddie Leza, Matt Prater, Daniel Lenhoff, and Lauren Shockley. ■



Houston Gay Couple Welcomes Twins to the Family!

ON MAY 15TH, 2003, FRANK AND BOB's life changed forever as they welcomed their children, Lucas and Leah, to their family.

The Houston couple achieved their dreams of becoming parents through the assistance of Growing Generations, the nation's oldest and largest surrogacy and egg donation agency serving the gay community.

"We had been trying for years to start a family," said Frank. "With the help of Growing Generations, our dream has finally come true!"

Growing Generations was founded in 1996 and has helped more than 500 members of the gay community create families through surrogacy and egg donation. A full-service agency with comprehensive case management services, Growing Generations is a gay and lesbian owned company and helps clients from across the United States and the world. ■



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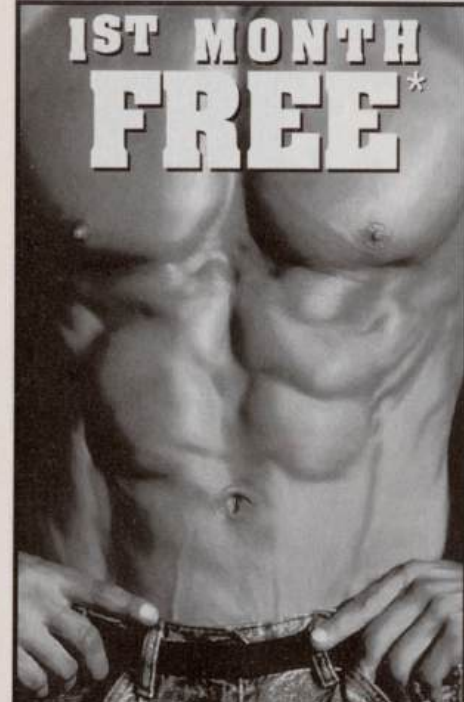
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Out of Town

by Tim Brookover

WARHOL AND PHARAOHS

Centuries separate two hot shows
in Austin and New Orleans

A pair of exhibitions—one opening this month in New Orleans and the other about to close in Austin—represents extreme points along the timeline of art. In the Big Easy, ancient Egyptian treasures reveal the power of religion and confidence about the afterlife in that culture. In the Texas capital, an impressive show of work by Pop diva Andy Warhol illuminates the allure of celebrity and the potency of media images in our own culture.

A LITTLE EGYPT

Beginning October 19, the New Orleans Museum of Art will present the first exhibition from the Egyptian national collection to tour this country since the Tutankhamen show captured so much frenzied attention 20 years ago (cue Steve Martin's "King Tut").

Many of the objects in *The Quest for Immortality: Treasures of Ancient Egypt* have never been on public view and others have never left home. Among the many highlights are gold and jeweled items from the royal tombs at Tanis, considered the most significant royal burial site to be found since the discovery of Tut's tomb in 1922. The final room of the exhibition is a reconstruction of the tomb of Thutmose III, the 15th-century B.C. ruler.

The exhibition (which will travel to Houston in 2007) closes on February 25. More info: www.noma.org.

AUSTIN GOES POP

Were he still with us, Andy Warhol would turn 75 this year. He checked out in 1987, but his 15 minutes of fame (which he once famously predicted for everyone) are definitely not up. Through November 9, the



Those lips, those eyes: Warhol's Liz at the Austin Museum of Art

Austin Museum of Art demonstrates the vitality of Warhol's gaze on popular culture and, yes, our society's quasi-religious fervor about fame with an exhibition of the artist's paintings and prints from the Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh.



Immortal Egypt: Coffin lid of Isis-em-akhbit (959-945 BC) at the New Orleans Museum of Art

The show, which opened in August, offers a rare chance to see so much Waholia at once. Check out the portraits of pop icons (Liz, Marilyn, et al.) as well as the portraits of everyday objects as icons (the Campbell's soup can, the Coca-Cola bottle) and much more, including one of his dramatic, eerie electric-chair images. The museum is also showing 20 of the four-minute "screen tests" that Warhol filmed of personalities that gathered at the Factory, his New York studio. And always the sensibility is very, very gay.

More info: www.amoa.org. (Small-world department: Dana Friis-Hansen, once the senior curator at the Contemporary Arts Museum here, is now executive director of the Austin Museum of Art.)

Tim Brookover is editor of this magazine.

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Calendar of Events

Deadline for OutSmart's November issue is 5 p.m., Monday, October 13.

OCTOBER

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; Q, 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'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'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.

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 more information: 1-800-458-3435 or www.texrenfest.com.

9 (Thurs.)

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, 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.

10 (Fri.)

Great Caesar's Ghost! The 19th annual Caesar salad competition promises to bring elation to lettuce-lovers far and wide. With four categories (Best Classic Caesar, Most Creative Caesar, Consumer's Choice, and Best Presentation), the salad we all know and love is sure to reach crazy-delicious new heights. \$25 (includes food and wine). 5-8 pm at Doubletree Hotel Allen Center, 400 Dallas St.

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.

11 (Sat.)

Symphonic Spooktacular II. Costumes are encouraged at this pre-Halloween Eve event. Other musical characters join in the masquerade madness. 10 am and 11:30 am at Jones Hall. For tickets: 713/224-7575 or www.houstonsymphony.org.

11 (Sat.)

Mark Johnson Memorial Scholarship Benefit Concert. This benefit includes members of the Houston Grand Opera, Houston Symphony, Houston Ballet Orchestra, the Moores School of Music Brass Quintet, and Ambient Brass Quintet. 7 pm at Trinity Episcopal Church, 1015 Holman St. at Main St. For more information: 713/528-4100, ext. 17.

11 & 12 (Sat. & Sun.)

Art Attack. The Bayou City Art Festival Downtown brings 300 artists comprising 17 categories of artwork to the public. Starving artists—and festival goers in general—will be happy to find restaurants, beer taverns, and wine cafés represented alongside the Creative Zone for kids. All proceeds benefit local Houston charities. \$7, free for children 12 and under. 10 am-6 pm at Tranquility Park and Hermann Square in front of City Hall downtown. Info: 713/521-0133 or www.bayoucityartfestival.com.

INFO NEEDED FOR YOUR EVENT LISTING: a few lines of info about your event; date/time; cost; location/address; organization name; AND two phone numbers—one for OutSmart to reach you for questions and one for OutSmart readers to get more info on your event. **Mail info to:** OutSmart Magazine, 3406 Audubon Place, Houston 77006. **Fax info to:** 713/522-3275. **E-mail info to:** calendar@outsmartmagazine.com. **NO LISTINGS CAN BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE DEADLINE DATE—MON., OCT. 13.**

12 (Sun.)

Blue Ball. DJ Alyson Calagna celebrates the release of her new CD, *The Blue Ball* (Centaur). Insert dirty joke here. At South Beach, 810 Pacific St. For more information: 713/529-7623 or www.southbeachthenightclub.com.

12 (Sun.)

All My Friends, They are Low Riders. The Classic Car Club meets at South Beach with all the tasty rides a car lover could ask to see. 1-6 pm at South Beach, 810 Pacific St. Info: 713/529-7623 or www.southbeachthenightclub.com.

15 (Wed.)

National Latino AIDS Awareness Day. In 2001, over 150,000 Latino AIDS cases were reported, accounting for 20% of people living with the disease. The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, AIDS Clinical Trials Unit sponsors a health screening, an exhibit of the AIDS quilt, food, refreshments, and

music as Mayor Roger Quiroga proclaims the day as National Latino AIDS Awareness Day. 10 am-2 pm at St. Vincent's House, 2817 Post Office, Galveston.

16, 20, 22, 27 (Thu., Mon., Wed., Mon.)

A Taste of Tosca with a side of Caesar. Maybe you're curious about Puccini and Handel's operas opening at the Houston Grand Opera but cannot commit. Ann Thompson previews them both with *Let's Go to the Opera*. 7 pm at Freeman Library, Spring Branch/Memorial Library and Kingwood Library. Information: 713/465-0755 or awthompson@mindspring.com.

17 (Fri.)

Life and Rhythm: From Mozart to Matisse. Da

Camera presents a rare performance of Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* in its two-piano version paired with Stravinsky's favorite composer, Mozart. Featured violists Hsin-Yun Huang and Nokuthula Ngwenyama perform Mozart's *String Quartet in C Major*, K. 515 with Matisse's famed mural *Dance* projected on stage. \$20-\$35. 8 pm at Cullen Theater, 500 Texas at Smith St. For tickets, call 713/524-5050 or log on to www.dacamera.com.

18 (Sat.)

Whole Health Expo. A wide variety of alternative healthcare physicians and providers gather to provide live demonstrations, aromatherapy, aura photography, massage, snacks, and more. This is one of the few places where "Does my aura look fat in these pants?" will be answered without a snicker. \$2. At CenterPoint, 1920 Hollister. For information: 713/932-7224.

20 (Mon.)

Monday Night Football. DiverseWorks begins a new series and returns to the old concept of serving as a lab to local artists and their works in progress. Each of these evenings offers three artists 20-30 minutes to work on their craft (dance, performance, theater, music) and benefit from audience feedback. \$5. 8 pm at DiverseWorks, 1117 East Fwy, off N. Main at Naylor. For more information, call 713/335-3445 or log on to www.diverseworks.org.

20 (Mon.)

StoryTime. One of the most highly regarded literary programs in the country, Inprint brings two accomplished writers to the Alley to read from their latest works. Charles Baxter reads from *Saul and Patsy*, Jane Smiley reads from *Good Faith*. \$5 (free for students and seniors). 7:30 pm (doors open at 6:45 pm) at the Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave. For tickets: 713/521-2026 or www.inprint-inc.org.

25 (Sat.)

The Cosmic Cowboy. Michael Martin Murphey returns for the third consecutive year to Galveston's Grand 1894 Opera House for *A Cowboy West*. Murphey

Beach, 810 Pacific St. For more information: 713/529-7623 or www.southbeachthenightclub.com.

28 (Tues.)

Opera Night Live. Learn about history and music simultaneously! Houston Grand Opera's education/community outreach committee offers all you'd ever want to know about the opera *Julius Caesar* with a speaker from the production and live musical performances as well. Free. 7:30 pm at Junior League, 1811 Briar Oaks Ln. For tickets/info: 713/546-0269, d-mcdowell@msn.com or www.houstongrandopera.org.

28 (Tues.)

If It Ain't Baroque. Da Camera presents *Russian Spirituality: Chant, Baroque and Beyond*, a performance of the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir; the music of the Russian Orthodox Church, the Russian Baroque, and more recent works in the tradition of Russian spiritual music. The a cappella performance is paired with projections of Russian artist Kazimir Malevich, whose work was intended to inspire a higher state of spiritual consciousness. His work

can be found at the Menil Collection's exhibition, *Kazimir Malevich: Suprematism*. For tickets, call 713/524-5050 or log on to www.dacamera.com.

28 (Tues.)

B.B. King and Bobby Blue Bland perform their popular brands of the blues. There's little that can be said about B.B. King that hasn't already been said a zillion times. Bobby Bland is considered by many to be America's greatest blues singers and blues ballad interpreters. Blues shows like this only come around once every blue moon. \$39-\$93. 7:30 pm at the Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Post Office St., Galveston. For tickets: 409/765-1894, 1-800-821-1894 or www.thegrand.com.

31 (Fri.)

Die Laughing at ComedySportz for their night of "Hysterical Horrors" improvisational comedy set to a Halloween theme. Arranged like a competitive game

GUESS WHO CAME TO DINNER?

Bob Morgan's caustic "domestic abuse comedy" *Where's My Dinner, Bitch?* fits the grunge Helios like a rusty carving knife plunged into the back. Premiered last March by dos chicas theater commune, this blackest of satires has returned by popular demand. It's easy to see why. Trailer trash put-upon wives take matters into their own grisly hands as they dispatch their dirty T-shirt husbands, still leaving plenty of time to learn the fine art of selling makeup. Anne Zimmerman is particularly effective as a neo-feminist you wouldn't want to meet in a dark alley, let alone marry. The play contains violence, strong language, nudity, drag, and cereal munching straight from the box. Therefore, it is not suitable for puritans. Let's go! —D.L. Groover



Is that a gun in her hand, or is she just happy he's dead? Patricia Duran (the one with the gun) and Anne L. Zimmerman star in *Where's My Dinner, Bitch?*

What: *Where's My Dinner, Bitch?*
When: October 3-25
(Fridays & Saturdays at 8 p.m.)
Where: Helios, 411 Westheimer
Cost: \$10 (\$6 seniors/students)
Reservations/info: 713/201-0193

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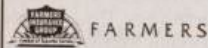
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31, Nov. 1 & 2 (Fri.-Sun.)

Stayin' Alive. The Broadway musical version of the '77 film *Saturday Night Fever* features a dozen of the Top Ten hits from the original soundtrack. How deep is your love for the story of the Brooklyn dancer who wants to make it big as a dancer in Manhattan? If you really love the film and want to see it live, now's the time for action, not jive talkin'. \$18.50-\$72. 8 pm with 3 pm Saturday matinee at the Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Post Office St., Galveston. For tickets: 409/765-1894, 1-800-821-1894 or www.thegrand.com.

31, Nov. 1 & 2 (Fri.-Sun.)

My Big Fat Greek Festival. The festival of all-things-Greek returns for the 21st time. More than just gyros and baklava, the Greek Festival also offers folk dancing from the Hellenic Dance Troupe and tours of the Greek Orthodox Church with discussions on the significance of iconography in the orthodox religion. \$2 or \$10 for dinner and admission. Friday: 11 am-3 pm, 5-11 pm; Saturday: 11 am-11 pm; Sunday: noon-7 pm at the Greek Community Center, 19th and Ball St., Galveston.

PLANNING AHEAD

NOVEMBER

November 4-16

I Believe in Miracles. where ya from ya sexy thing? Downtown's theater district bears it all with the staged version of the record-breaking Academy Award-winning film, *The Full Monty*. Directed by Jack O'Brien and choreographed by Jerry Mithcell, the theatrical version features new music and lyrics by pop composer David Yazbek. Take it all off, November 4-16 @ The Hobby Center. For tickets, call Ticketmaster 713/629-3700 or www.ticketmaster.com.

November 7-9

The Triumph of Gilbert and Sullivan. Visit Round Top for a weekend of entertainment and illumination full of performance, discussion, film, and lecture, all exploring the rich theatrical world of W.S. Gilbert and Sir Arthur Sullivan's Victorian England. Tours, accommodations, and meals prepared by chef Gwen Barclay are included in the package. \$90-290 (subject to change). For information: 979/249-3129 or e-mail at jolenew@festivalhill.org.



MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, HOUSTON

November 8

Joshua Redman Elastic Band. Da Camera kicks off its jazz series with saxophonist/composer Joshua Redman. Redman's talents have been recognized with a variety of awards, including the Thelonious Monk International Jazz Saxophone Competition and the DownBeat Critics Poll. Joining Redman are his band, Sam Yahel on keyboards and Jeff Ballard on the skins. \$25-\$40. 8 pm @ Cullen Theater, 500 Texas at Smith St. For tickets: 713/524-5050 or www.dacamera.com.

PERFORMING ARTS

◆ **Ancestral Films.** The Strand Theatre in Galveston presents its first annual Galveston Island International Film Festival, with a mix of international, independent, and classic films and videos. Additionally, seminars on funding independent films and acting for film and television are offered. October 30-November 2 @ The Strand Theatre, 2317 Ship's Mechanic Row, Galveston. For more information: 409/763-4591 or www.ancestralfilms.org.

◆ **Doc Moore and More.** The comically unintelligible Doc Moore from Dumpster Texas, emcees this evening of music, comedy, sketch, and improv. If you haven't seen Radio Music Theatre's Rich Mills, Vicki Farrell, and Steve Farrell switch back and forth flawlessly among countless characters, you're missing out on some amazing comic talent. \$18. Through November 22 @ Radio Music Theatre, 2623 Colquitt. For tickets: 713/522-7722.

SUDDENLY

Marcia, a bored Buenos Aires shop clerk, encounters two punk girls who call themselves Mao and Lenin. They abduct Marcia in a stolen taxi, and the serious circumstances quickly give way to a frequently funny road movie with plenty of quirky characters. *Suddenly*, a spirited example of the New Wave in Argentinean cinema, plays in Museum of Fine Arts's Brown Auditorium on Friday and Saturday, October 17 and 18, at 7 p.m. MFAH information line: 713/639-7515.

◆ **Fully Committed.** A play about restaurant culture for the fattest city in the country with the most restaurants in the country. It just makes sense. This Off Broadway comedy hit follows a day in the life of an out-of-work actor who answers the fiery reservation line at Mahattan's number one eatery. Caller after caller stops at nothing—bribes, hysterics, threats—to get a reservation or a good table. October 17-November 16 at The Alley Theatre. Tickets and information: 713-228-8421 or www.alleytheatre.org.

◆ **Itzhak Perlman.** Fifteen-time Grammy Award-winner Itzhak Perlman returns to Houston, violin in one hand and his phenomenal ability to move and entertain in the other. The classical superstar began his career in the spotlight at age 13 on *The Ed Sullivan Show* and has continued with highlights such as violin soloist for the soundtrack to *Schindler's List*. \$20 and up. Saturday, October 18, 8 pm, at Jones Hall. For tickets: 713/227-45PA or www.spahouston.org.

◆ **It's the Word.** Teen idol/heartthrob Frankie Avalon steals the stage in *Grease*. Avalon reprises his original film role of Teen Angel in the now 30-year-old story. Blending the stage and film versions of the musical, the song list includes every tune used, from "You're the One That I Want" to "Summer Lovin'" to the classic "Greased Lightnin'." \$25-\$68. October 14-November 2 @ the Hobby Center. For tickets: 713/558-8887 or www.tuts.com.

◆ **Jerry's World.** Infernal Bridegroom Productions' new associate artistic director Troy Schulze adapted radio programs from cult icon Joe Frank for this provocative

new play. The story begins with phone conversations between Jerry and a cast of oddballs, 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 just gets stranger from there. \$10 on Thursday, \$12 on Friday, \$15 on Saturday. Through October 18, 8 pm, at The Axiom, 2524 McKinney. Tickets/info: 713/522-8443 or www.infernalbridegroom.com.

◆ **Julius Caesar.** Handel's rendition of this classic tale of love, lust, and deceit is performed by the stunning cast of Laura Claycomb as Cleopatra, Brian Asawa as Ptolemy, and David Daniels as the infamous Roman dictator. \$9 and up. October 30-November 16 @ Cullen Theater. For tickets: 713/228-OPERA or www.houstongrandopera.org.

◆ **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.

◆ **The Miss Firecracker Contest.** The Strand Theatre opens its 26th season with Beth Henley's spoof of beauty pageants. In the small Mississippi town of Brookhaven, Carnelle Scott plans to win the Miss Firecracker Contest to salvage her tarnished reputation (she's known as Miss Hot Tamale) and leave town in a blaze of glory. Through October 12 @ The Strand Theatre, 2317 Ship's Mechanic Row, Galveston. For information: 409/763-8569, 1-877-STRAND9 or www.galveston-thestrand.org.

◆ **Murder Most Fouled-Up.** Theatre Suburbia presents the Houston premiere of this comic whodunit by Nikki Harmon. Will the heirs find their hidden fortune in the haunted mansion? Or will they find murder? \$8-\$10. Through October 11 @ Theatre Suburbia, 1410 W 43rd St. For tickets: 713/682-3525 or www.theatresuburbia.com.

◆ **New York Values.** Written and performed by

performance artist Penny Arcade, this piece attacks the marketing and commodification—and therefore weakening—of rebellion and youth culture. The suburbanization of NYC, bourgeois bohems, post-modernism, and *The Vagina Monologues* all fall under Arcade's disdainful microscope. October 21-26 @ Theater LaB Houston, 1706 Alamo. For information: 713/868-7516.

◆ **Paul Taylor Dance Company.** Time magazine calls him "the reigning master of modern dance." The *San Francisco Examiner* calls him "the greatest living American choreographer." Houston dance lovers will call themselves fools if they miss this performance, which includes *Airs*, *Dream Girls*, and *Promethean Fire*. \$15 and up. Friday, October 17, 8 pm, at Jones Hall. For tickets: 713/227-45PA or www.spahouston.org.

◆ **Recent Tragic Events.** Craig Wright's sublime and surprisingly funny play centers on a number of people—one of them represented by a sock puppet—in Minneapolis and their response to the 9/11 attacks. Both hilarious and unsettling, this is a one-of-a-kind performance. \$20-\$35. October 1-26 @ Stages, 3201 Allen Pkwy at Vaughn Dr. For tickets: 713/527-0123 or www.stagestheatre.com.

◆ **Relatively Speaking.** By Alan Ayckbourn, this story combines one country house, six boxes of chocolates, sixteen floral bouquets, one pair of bedroom slippers and a thousand hilarious misunderstandings. October 10-November 15 @ The Company OnStage, 536 Westbury Sq. For tickets: 713/726-1219.

◆ **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 (*Jekyll & Hyde*), there's plenty of visual allure as well. October 10-November 2 (two Spanish-translated shows October 26 at 2:30 and 7:30 pm) at The Alley Theatre. Tickets and information: 713/228-8421 or www.alleytheatre.org. See interview with openly gay star Todd Waite (who plays Holmes) on page 46.

◆ **The Texas Renaissance Festival** brings together families, history buffs, theater geeks, and lovers of turkey legs and sausages on sticks for outdoor revelry. If the chivalrous men with their spirited jousting or the unwieldy cleavage prove not to rouse ye well enough, keep thine eyes bare-strip't for the occasional wandering Ren-Fest tranny. They're an elusive lot. Free

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♦ **Tosca.** Kicking off its '03-'04 season, Houston Grand Opera presents Puccini's *Tosca*, the story of Floria Tosca who attempts to save her lover from execution by offering her affections to the police chief, then stabbing him to death the moment he succumbs. Floria is played by renowned Russian soprano Maria Guleghina, police chief Scarpia by German baritone Franz Grundheber, and Floria's lover, the painter Mario Cavaradossi, by Mexican tenor Alfredo Portillo. \$14 and up. October 24-November 9 @ Cullen Theater. For tickets, call 713/228-OPERA or log on to www.houstongrandopera.org.

PERFORMING ARTS

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♦ **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. Through November 8, 11 am and 1:30 pm on Saturdays at The Company OnStage, 536 Westbury Square. For tickets: 713/726-1219.

♦ **The Great Gilly Hopkins.** The '79 Newbery Honor Award-winning story focuses on Gilly, a fiery 11-year-old who's spent much of her life in and out of foster homes. When she is sent to live with the Trotters, she schemes a reunion with her biological mother. After the plan fails, she realizes life with the Trotters is a good life after all. \$8 for children, students, and seniors; \$10 for adults. October 28-November 20 @ Main Street Theater, Chelsea Market, 4617 Montrose Blvd. For tickets: 713/524-6706 or www.mainstreettheater.com or www.ticketweb.com.

♦ **The Purple Dinosaur Strikes Again!** The dinosaur every kid loves and every parent loves to hate sings and prances his way into town with the live kids' show *Barney's Colorful World*. In Barney's third stage show, Baby Bop and BJ join in with all the classic songs and an array of elaborate and colorful sets. The gang travel from the rainforest to the Arctic and everywhere in between. Be sure to have your blood-glucose level checked afterward. If you think the TV show is syrupy, sugary and sappy, you ain't seen nuthin' yet. \$11.25-\$24.75. Friday, October 10-Sunday the 12th @ the Compaq Center. For tickets: 713/629-3700 or www.ticketmaster.com.

RADIO

♦ **After Hours.** Saturdays, midnight to 3 am. Featuring the QM2 (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

♦ **34th Annual Watercolor Art Society-Houston Membership Show.** This show features world-class water-media paintings and is juried by nationally known watercolor artist Doug Lew. October 13-31 during business hours (with reception October 16 from 6-8 pm) @ the Continental Airlines Center, 1600 Smith St. For more info: 713/942-9966 or www.watercolorhouston.org.



HE TALK PRETTY THIS MONTH

David Sedaris, National Public Radio commentator and author of three best-selling books, *Barrel Fever*, *Naked*, and *Me Talk Pretty One Day*, spent a number of years early in his career cleaning homes in Manhattan during the day and writing at night. His reading of his *SantaLand Diaries*—an account of his days as a Macy's Christmas elf—on NPR put him on the map and left listeners across the country in stitches. Now with homes in Paris, Normandy, and Manhattan, Sedaris is far too busy to clean even his own homes. Living mainly in France with his partner, Hugh Hamrick, he jokingly claims he actually paired up with Hamrick as a ruse to improve his living conditions. "I tricked him into being my boyfriend so I could live in his house in France," explained Sedaris to *The Advocate*. "I got him over to my house under false pretenses. Then I got invited to his house and hid notes in his fridge and freezer and his shoes telling him to be in love with me." Named Humorist of the Year by *Time Magazine* in 2001, this retired Macy's elf has an irreverent style of humor that delights audiences everywhere. • Friday, October 24, at 8 p.m. in Jones Hall. Tickets are \$15 and up. Info: 713/227-4SPA or www.spahouston.org.

—Eric A.T. Dieckman

♦ **CraftHouston 2003.** The second in a series of joined exhibitions sponsored at the Craft Center, this exhibit showcases the best craftsfolk in North America and debuts in Houston. 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.

♦ **Eye on Third Ward: Yates High School Photography.** This 9th annual exhibit features 25 photographs by student photographers from Yates Magnet School of Communication, many of which are accompanied by creative writings that reveal how the students developed their own sense of self in the

process of discovering the Third Ward community. Through December 29 @ the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, 1001 Bissonnet. For information: 713/639-7300 or www.mfah.org.

♦ **Found Images.** Featuring recent works by Travis Broesche, *Found Images: A Personal Aesthetic* explores the world with an open heart and a curious eye. Free. October 3-30 @ the Jung Center, 5200 Montrose Blvd. For information: 713/524-8253.

♦ **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). Through January 4 at The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, 1001 Bissonnet. For information: 713/639-7300 or 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. *Molas: Quilted Treasures of the Kuna Indians* is of interest to those keen on quilting, fashion, art, and the Caribbean landscape. Through January 4 @ the Houston Museum of Natural Science, One Hermann Circle Dr. More info: 713-639-4629 or www.hmns.org.

♦ **In Pursuit of the Absolute.** Monochrome and non-objective works of greats such as Lucio Fontana, Yves Klein, Barnett Newman, and Mark Rothko are featured in this exploration of abstract art of the 20th century. The focus of these artists is on an art free from the constraints of narrative and recognizable imagery, or as the quote in Jackson Pollock's biographical film goes, "Paint is paint and surface is surface." Through February 29, 2004, @ the Menil Collection, 1515 Sul Ross. For information: 713/524-9400 or www.menil.org.

♦ **Kazimir Malevich: Suprematism.** Long celebrated as one of the founders of non-objective art in the 20th century, Malevich developed a system of abstract painting called Suprematism, pure of form with the intention of crossing cultural and ethnic boundaries. Comprised of 90 works, some have never been shown in the West. October 3, 2003-January 11, 2004 @ the Menil Collection, 1515 Sul Ross. For information: 713/524-9400 or www.menil.org.

♦ **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. Through Nov. 15 at DiverseWorks, 1117 East Fwy off N. main at Naylor. Info: 713-223-8346 or www.diverseworks.org.

♦ **Perspectives 139: Abraham Cruzvillegas.** The first solo museum show for Mexican artist Abraham Cruzvillegas, *Perspectives 139* looks at his three-dimensional, assemblage-based work. An active and influential member of a new generation of contemporary artists in Mexico City, his curious and playful compositions of found objects include items as unrelated as feathers, seashells, photography studio props, bowling balls, and otherwise. October 24, 2003-January 4, 2004, @ the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, 5216 Montrose Blvd. For information: 713/284-8250 or www.camh.org.

♦ **Points of Intervention, Collected Moments & Artifacts.** Three exhibits, one location. In the Main

Gallery, Jerry N. Uelsmann and Maggie Taylor's manipulated imagery fills the walls with *Points of Intervention*. In Gallery X, Kiriko Shirobayashi's visual diary, *Collected Moments*, demonstrates the Japanese philosophy of finding perfect existence though an imperfect existence. Gallery Y exhibits Burton Pritzker's *Artifacts* supports his belief that "everything is something else." Through October 26 @ Houston Center for Photography, 1441 West Alabama. Wednesday-Friday, 11 am-6 pm; Saturday-Sunday, noon-5 pm. For information: 713/529-4755 or www.hcponline.org.

♦ **Shirin Neshat.** With her first major solo exhibition in the U.S., Iranian-born video artist/photographer Shirin Neshat examines the woman's experience in traditional Islamic society. Her poetic style offers an unsettling aesthetic journey into a world of divided social roles between men and women. Look for the video trilogy, *Turbulent* (1998), *Rapture* (1999), and *Fervor* (2000) which explore the difficulty of being a woman in Islam and the problems it brings to sexuality and desire. October 4-November 30 @ the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, 5216 Montrose Blvd. For information: 713/284-8250 or www.camh.org.

♦ **Tabletki: Russian Icons from the Menil Collection.** Home to one of the world's most significant collections of Byzantine and Medieval art, the Menil presents approximately 15 major examples of icon painting from the 13th through the 19th centuries. Among these are several "bilateral tabletki," icons painted on both front and back, which were used in processions and religious ceremony. October 3, 2003-January 25, 2004 @ the Menil Collection, 1515 Sul Ross. For information: 713/524-9400 or 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. Through November 15 at DiverseWorks, 1117 East Fwy off N. main at Naylor. Info: 713-223-8346 or www.diverseworks.org.

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GrooveOut Shorts

continued from
page 78

CD's worth of space remixing and compiling to the end of a continuous string of beats that carry throughout each of these full-length discs.



• **Hear.:** CAFETERIA is an eatery in Miami, Florida, that has been known for years for the innovative and rare chill/lounge music piped through its speakers. A sister/brother restaurant has now opened in the Chelsea area of New York and, in response to the patrons of the original restaurant, a CD has been released featuring the music that patrons have so long adored. *Hear.* is a 15-track excursion highlighted by Yoko Ono's brilliant piece "Walking on Thin Ice," remixed by Peter Rauhofer in a tizzy of 1970s-era synthesizers and the gorgeous spoken-word atonal female voice that takes you through its lesson plan. From Star 69 Records (www.star69records.com). —LW

Shelby Lynne Identity Crisis



Grammy Award-winning artist Shelby Lynne returns with an amazing new album. This fiercely independent female vocalist wrote, tracked, and produced her latest release *Identity Crisis*. It encompasses several genres of music, all held together by her soulful voice, beautiful guitar, and an irresistibly unique blend of country. Her creativity and versatility have led her to expand her sound incorporating elements of blues, soul, gospel, rock, and even big-band jazz. From Capitol Records (www.hollywoodandvine.com). For more info: www.shelbylynn.com. —AR

Original Cast Recording Hank Williams: Lost Highway



Hank Williams: Lost Highway is a musical celebrating the legacy of the uncrowned king of country music. Raised on honky-tonk and moonshine, Hank Williams grew up to be the world's most famous cowboy crooner. He poured heartache into his songs which, ingeniously fusing blues and Southern folk, touched millions through their spare poetry. The hit musical had an acclaimed and sold-out run at the Manhattan Ensemble Theater before its off-Broadway commercial transfer to the Little Shubert Theater. The show received an Obie Award, two Lucille Lortel Award nominations, three Outer Critics Circle Award nominations, a Drama Desk Award nomination, and an honor from the Drama League. From Fynsworth Alley (www.fynsworthalley.com). —TC ■

Business News

Performance Saab, the first local dealership devoted exclusively to the Swedish-made automobile, has opened in



Houston. The 20,000-square-foot facility (10505 Southwest Frwy., 713/981-4400) is the second-largest Saab dealership in the nation. A second Performance Saab dealership is set to open in Humble/Kingwood in late December. During November, Performance Saab will donate \$20 for every test drive to CanCare, a nonprofit organization that works to improve the quality of life for cancer survivors and their families. More info: www.performancecarco.com.

On November 7, **Randy Mitchmore**, D.D.S., of **LifeSmiles** will support diversity education by donating all proceeds from tooth-whitening procedures on that day to the nonprofit organization Smile for Diversity. **Ultradent Products, Inc.** will contribute to the effort by providing materials. Smiles for Diversity presents education materials to Houston-area children about preventing hate crimes and promoting multicultural understanding. LifeSmiles is located at 2617 W. Holcombe, Suite E. The phone number is 713/592-9300, and the website is www.lifesmiles.us.

Chiropractor **Jackie Doval**, M.S., D.C., C.A.C., will compete in the November 1 Lackland Classic Bodybuilding Fitness & Figure Competition at the Bob Hope Theater on Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio. Doval's office is located at 404 Westheimer. Her phone number is 713/627-9355, and her website is www.docjackie.com.

Through October, **Daniel Garces**, M.S., L.P.C., L.M.F.T., and other local psychotherapists will continue to offer free relationship workshops at the Houston GLBT Community Center (3400 Montrose Blvd.). Presented on Wednesdays, the 7-8:30 p.m. workshops, "Back on Track: Relationship Success Training," focus on common issues that hinder GLBT relationships.

The six-workshop series concludes this month with two events:

- "Dating and Relating: Starting Over Again—A Better Way," with **Brenda Sprinkle**, Ph.D., on October 8
- "Legal Partnerships in Texas: Getting into Them, Getting Out of Them," with attorneys **Connie Moore** and **Debra Hunt**, on October 15.

Other mental-health professionals who have participated in the series have included **Lisa Wannemacher**, M.Ed., L.P.C., N.C.C., and **Lisa Pearson**, M.Ed., L.P.C.

Seating is limited for each workshop. More info: Daniel Garces at 713/526-8390. ■

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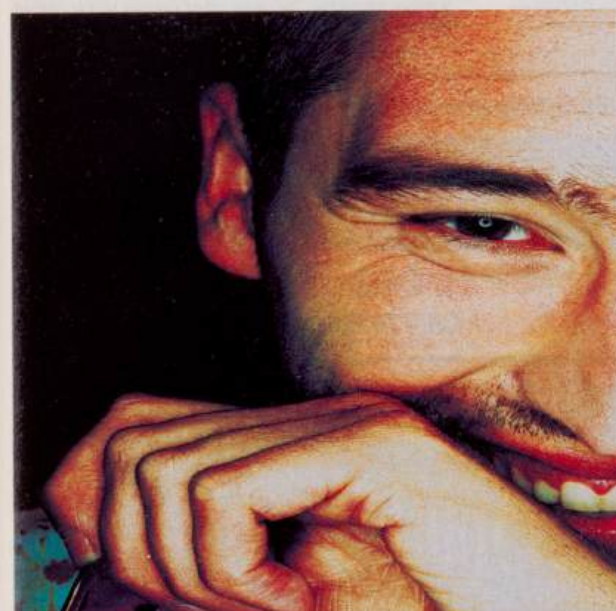
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BAR & CLUB GUIDE

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 • 713/686-7310 • 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 bottle music, marks the end of the week. 2612 South Richey • 713/944-7663.

COUSIN'S

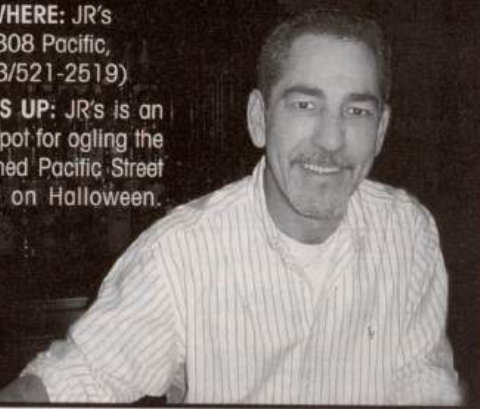
Drag fans pack this club in the heart of Montrose for its campy shows on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. 817 Fairview • 713/528-9204.

BEHIND THE BAR

WHO: Bill Kopecky

WHERE: JR's
(808 Pacific,
713/521-2519)

WHAT'S UP: JR's is an ideal spot for ogling the costumed Pacific Street throng on Halloween.



THOMAS CHILKINA

DECADES

Celebrating its fourth year in business, this casual neighborhood bar packs lots of local color. Decades regularly hosts pool tournaments and benefit events. 1205 Richmond • 713/521-2224.

EJ's

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

GUAVA LAMP

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

JR's/SANTA FE

This Montrose standard offers features from pool tables, table dancers, to karaoke. Look for Carol Gifford and George Konar, named best

bartenders in the 2002 Gayest & Greatest OutSmart reader poll. 808 Pacific • 713/521-2519.

KEYS WEST

Selected best piano bar in the Gayest & Greatest poll, this nightclub 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 nightclub. 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.

PRIVÉ

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.ripcojournal.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 • 713/688-4892.

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) • 409/785-9092.

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.

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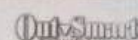
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After the last two months, October is going to be a lot calmer. The general pace of things will quicken. And you will not find many blocks in your path. We do have Neptune going direct on the 22nd. This should help negotiations with foreign countries. And Saturn goes retrograde on the 25th. This will push Americans to take a deeper look at who and what we are. The polarity between opposing groups will get stronger. Some days to stay in bed are the 5th, 6th, 13th, 14th, and the 30th. Days to get up and play are the 3rd, 8th-12th, 18th, 20th, 22nd, 25th, and the 27th. • The Sun enters Scorpio on the morning of the 23rd. Mercury is whizzing along beginning the month in Virgo, entering Libra on the 6th, and Scorpio on the 24th. Venus is in her own sign of Libra as the month opens and slithers into Scorpio on the 9th. Mars is still in Pisces. Jupiter is in Virgo, Saturn in Cancer, Uranus in Aquarius, Neptune in Aquarius, and Pluto in Sagittarius.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Relationships and home life need balancing this month. Both are demanding a lot of your attention, and you will feel that you are being ignored. Some of your discussions will be centered on money and power sharing. The core of this is about your nest and how comfortable you both feel there. Work is busy, but you are not totally present. Money and joint resources remain an issue well into next month.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You are more upbeat than usual, and this is a growing trend for you. Work and health routines take the spotlight this month. You are ready to be the problem solver at work. Be careful if personalities clash and you are asked to take sides. Your diplomacy arts will be put to the test. Relationships are more interesting after the 9th. And you will want to get closer to your partner. If there are problems, they don't linger.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Keep your head up, eyes open, and ears alert in the career area this month. You will have a hard time finding common ground with co-workers and bosses. You may be right, but you will have to give some to make sure that people are working with you and not against you. Your fears are driven by money concerns. Don't let them stand in your way, or they will block your creativity. Relationships are still testy, so don't look for happy endings yet.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Poor little moon kids. They are trying so hard to please, and no matter what they do, they still get kicked in the teeth. Well, time to ask yourself the question, "Who is in charge of my life?" If your name isn't at the top of your list, then you may need to be kicked again. Choose your judges carefully this month. You are vulnerable and easily hurt. And don't go off sulking. They won't notice.

LEO (July 23-August 22). You are ready to talk this month. You want to share all the things that are going on with you. You will need a good friend to share this with since your romantic partner does not understand you.

Money conditions are improving and will improve as long as you don't spend more than you are making. However, investments are favored this month and next. Home and family take center stage as the month ends. Get ready for the holiday entertaining.

VIRGO (August 23-September 22). Relationships are still difficult during this month. You are clearing the air with everyone. You are not willing for partnerships to remain the same without some conscious work by your partner. Money and resources are still high on the list as you push to get a foothold on that part of your life. Money is not as bad as you think. You are just overreacting to the situation. Opportunities abound. Take some risk and change your routines.

LIBRA (September 23-October 23). This is your birthday month, and you are reflecting on what you have completed over the last year. You are ready to get on with life and plan ahead for the future. You are feeling very restless this year, with an emphasis on freedom and career planning. And you are certainly cleaning out the past. If things don't have a place in your future, you don't have a place for them. The end of the month brings you a time to focus on your talents and how best to use them.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 21). Introspective, you are seeking a connection to a spiritual center that pulls on past lives and dreams. Friends and groups are more important than they have been in a while. You are preparing to take

on more of a leadership role. Romantic relationships are easier since you feel that you have more in common with those around you. Expect them to welcome you with open arms.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22-December 21). Well, the bumpy ride is almost over. You have been restless, insatiable, and bored. Travel would certainly be the best thing for you. You are ready to explore new boundaries as you did 12 years ago. Your mind is open for new experiences. Your routines must change, or you will stagnate. Personal relationships are just beyond your grasp. Friends, on the other hand, are plentiful. Next month, you will need some rest and retreat.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 19). You are so much in your element this month. You are more than ready to take the lead and make something of your life. You have been more decisive since June. But with the fall, you are not wasting any time. Your diplomatic skills are called upon this month. You have to find a path that two different people can walk at the same time. And the good news is that you will do just that. Relationships are more demanding and may even feel oppressive.

AQUARIUS (January 20-February 18). On the trail for the Golden Fleece, you are searching for that hidden gold that lives inside of you. The alchemical view of turning lead into gold is your quest for this year. And your mind is open and ripe for the planting. Teachers, books, and educational experiences will have great impact on you. Pay attention to your health and don't overwork yourself, even if it is for a great cause. Seek harmony in your relationships. The way of the way is to not work so hard at it.

PISCES (February 19-March 20). So Mars makes its last pass through your sign this month and next. It has been an active, confrontational, and self-oriented time. You will continue to not ignore yourself through the rest of this month. Your career is finally opening up, and there are new things on the horizon. You may have to let go of what you thought was the original goal. Expect relationships to be better in general for the entire next year. Toward the end of the month, you are more focused on getting out and seeing the world with your new set of tools. Explore the pyramids, Chaco Canyon, or the beach.

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



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OUT IN HOUSTON

1 Chree Boydston (far l) and Janine Brunjes (far r) chaired the Aug. 3 Extra Mile Awards brunch, hosted by Uncommon Legacy, at the Warwick. The event honored (l-r) Linda Morales, Iris Sizemore, Mitchell Katine, Marla Duckler, and Dr. Joyce Gayles.

2 Marsha Carlton played to the crowd at the Aug. 10 benefit show at JR's, which raised funds for the singer's medical expenses.

3 (L-r): Randy McKinney, Nancy Rocha, and Meridyth Garcia attended the Aug. 1 Chicago fashion show presented by Theatre Under The Stars and the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts.

4 Also spotted in the Chicago crush at Collins Gallery: David Kent (l) and Steven Sofia.

5 On Aug. 7, Alec Soto (r), who was chairman of NAMES Project Houston, which folded last year, presented a check for remaining chapter funds to Bruce Reeves (l) and Judy Reeves of the Gulf Coast Archive and Museum of GLBT History.

6 Earrings dangling in unexpected places, Boy Robert performed at the Aug. 17 Miss Garbage Bag 2003 contest at EJ's.

7 Working his miter, Al Cave also performed.

8 Fitness Exchange owner Mary Ann McBee (r), with staff member James Rivera, hosted the gym's health-and-fitness fair on June 7.

9 Bobbie Manhari was crowned Miss Mint Julep at an Aug. 17 Montrose Clinic fundraiser at Rich's Houston.

10 The Lady Chablis—best known from *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*—greeted fans at the June 6 Pride Week kickoff event at Heritage Hall.



1: YVONNE FEECE; 2, 5, 9: DALTON DEHART; 3, 4: 6-8, 10: DAVID LEWIS



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