

MARCH 2004

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

OutSmart

OUTSMART AT HOME

One couple's house remembered



PLUS: How the Dems can win | Queer Sundance film report | A chat with Janis Ian

10 YEARS

www.outsmartmagazine.com

1994-2004

It's not just a turbocharged engine that puts a Saab in front of a Volvo.

When comparing the Saab 9-3 Linear Sport Sedan to the Volvo S60 2.4 and the Saab 9-5 Arc Sedan to the Volvo S80 2.9, you'll find the Saab has more horsepower and cargo room yet costs less!

The Saab Sign and Drive Event

TURBOCHARGED ENGINE

SAAB ACTIVE HEAD RESTRAINT†

NO CHARGE SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE**

LEATHER-APPOINTED SEATS

Saab 9-3 Linear Sport Sedan



2004 SAAB 9-3
LINEAR SPORT SEDAN
SIGN AND DRIVE

\$0 **\$339**

DOWN PAYMENT MO./ 35 MO.*

Taxes, insurance, title, license, dealer fees and registration fees extra. No sec. dep. required. In 36th month: Turn in vehicle and pay \$250 disposition fee OR \$14,720.75 36th month pmt. 5.9% APR. NOT A LEASE

2004 SAAB 9-5
ARC SEDAN
SIGN AND DRIVE

\$0 **\$409**

DOWN PAYMENT MO./ 47 MO.**

Taxes, insurance, title, license, dealer fees and registration fees extra. No sec. dep. required. In 48th month: Turn in vehicle and pay \$250 disposition fee OR \$14,393.05 48th month pmt. 5.9% APR. NOT A LEASE



The Saab 9-5. More thrilling than ever.

Welcome to the
state of independence



PERFORMANCE SAAB

2 LOCATIONS:

10505 SW Freeway • Houston TX 77074 • 713.981.4400 | 18855 Highway 59 N. • Humble TX 77338 • 281.964.4660

Bill Gamel – Sales Manager

www.PerformanceCarCo.com

John Kiernan – Sales Manager

www.saabusa.com
1 800 SAAB USA

Subject to credit approval. Delivery must be taken out of participating dealer inventory by April 1, 2004. Dealer financial participation may affect consumer cost. *Comparison of base 2004 models. Source: manufacturer's Web site. **Terms apply to a new 2004 Saab 9-3 Linear Sport Sedan based on MSRP of \$26,765.00. At the end of the term, buyer may refinance the final payment or sell the vehicle to creditor for the final payment less a \$250 disposition fee plus any excess mileage and wear charges. If the vehicle is sold to the creditor, customer is liable for a mileage charge of \$20 per mile over 30,000 miles. Not to be combined with any other program offer. ***Terms apply to a new 2004 Saab 9-5 Arc Sedan based on MSRP of \$35,105.00. At the end of the term, buyer may refinance the final payment or sell the vehicle to creditor for the final payment less a \$250 disposition fee plus any excess mileage and wear charges. If the vehicle is sold to the creditor, customer is liable for a mileage charge of \$20 per mile over 40,000 miles. Not to be combined with any other program offer. Not available with other program offers. Call 1 800 SAAB USA for important details and limitations. SEE YOUR PARTICIPATING SAAB DEALER FOR COMPLETE DETAILS ON THIS AND OTHER FINANCE PROGRAMS. ©2004 SAAB CARS USA, INC.

The GARDEN of EVEN

HOUSTON HRC GALA



With Special Guests from ABC's "It's All Relative"



John Benjamin Hickay & Christopher Sieber



and
Cheryl Jacques
Executive Director,
Human Rights Campaign

SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 2004
INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL



HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN™

For more information and tickets,
visit the HRC Houston website
at www.hrchoouston.org

Sponsors



Continental
Airlines

Prudential
Financial

TIFFANY & CO.

GREMILLION & CO.
FINE ART, INC.

HOTEL DEREK

jacques
Antiques & Fine Interiors

Don't pass up Performance for Price!

Choose from over 30 Saab Certified Vehicles!



1995 Saab 900 SE

5 DR Hatchback, V6, Auto, Leather Interior, 84K Miles.



2003 SAAB 93 Convertible

5 speed, Laser Red, Tan Leather Interior. Sport Package, Certified 72/10,000 Warranty. Low Miles.



1996 Volvo 850

Red/Gray/Leather Interior, MT 49K, Low Miles.



2001 Volvo C70 Convertible

SL/TN/Leather Interior, 52K miles, Very Clean. Must See!



2003 Ford Focus ZX3

MT, CD, 15" Alum. Wheels. 27K Miles.

I'm James Vanya, General Manager at Performance Saab of Houston. I'm proud to be part of the GLBT community and a member of the Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce. Performance Saab of Houston embraces diversity and is eager to support our community.

When you test drive a new Saab during the month of March, mention this ad and Performance Saab of Houston will donate \$25 to the Human Rights Campaign. I look forward to working with you.

James R. Vanya
General Manager

713.981.4400

jvanya@PerformanceCarCo.com

www.PerformanceCarCo.com



PERFORMANCE SAAB

10505 SW Freeway • Houston TX 77074
(59 South, inside Beltway 8)

Credit Problems? We can help!
Don't let past credit problems stop you from trying Performance!

CUSTOM POOL SOLUTIONS

We do everything we can to make building your pool a pleasant and satisfying experience!

Call us today and we'll be happy to help find your solution for the entire backyard needs.

Richard's Total Backyard Solutions™ is Houston's premier custom pool builder and a member of the Better Business Bureau as well as the National Spa & Pool Institute.

Discover the many ways we can take your imagination as far as you want to go.

Let us add you to our list of over 4,000 satisfied customers.

ASK ABOUT OUR
PRE-SEASON DISCOUNTS!

SINCE 1987

RICHARD'S
TOTAL BACKYARD
SOLUTIONS™
SPAS • POOLS • DECKS • FURNISHINGS

WEST HOUSTON

713.777.7665

1701 HIGHWAY 6 S
HOUSTON, TX 77077

CLEAR LAKE

281.486.1404

15120 GALVESTON RD.
WEBSTER, TX 77598



CONTENTS

Vol. 11 • No. 2 • MARCH 2004

News & Comment

- 8 Letters
- 16 **News Briefs** HRC director Cheryl Jacques visits Houston.
- 20 **LeftOut**/Daryl Moore The Bush administration frets over bosomgate.
- 21 **OutRight**/Dale Carpenter A conservative pundit makes false claims.
- 24 **InsideOut at City Hall**/Annise D. Parker The controller faces new challenges.

Features

- 10 **OutFront** The Texas Memorial AIDS Garden, The Assistance Fund's diamond mask, and the Houston Big Men's Club.
Photographs by Gavyn Aaron and John Taton
- 26 **House Proud** After a relationship ends, the designer remembers a home crafted over four years. By Troy Broussard. Photographs by Bob Jackson
- 34 **Check Up: Connie Moore** Ten years after her first *OutSmart* column, the attorney still defends our families. By Thomas Blanton. Photographs by Gavyn Aaron
- 38 **Kind Eye for the Slovenly Guy** A new series reaches out to the less stylish among us. By Thomas Blanton
- 42 **How the Dems Can Win** Community activists and allies opine on ways to regain the White House. By Christopher Curtis

Arts & Entertainment

- 44 **LookOut**/Tim Brookover Stockard Channing comes to town.
- 46 **Queer Quotes**/Blase DiStefano Charlize Theron, Bill Maher, more.
- 48 **Movies** A report on queer films from Sundance by Lawrence Ferber; plus festival winner *Latter Days* opens in Houston by Blase DiStefano.
- 52 **DVD/VHS** *Camp, Gone, But Not Forgotten*, more. By Troy Carrington and Suzie Lynde
- 54 **Television** Sci-Fi Channel features a sexually confused robot and more; Showtime renews *The L Word*; *In the Life* spotlights youth; much more. By Troy Carrington, Blase DiStefano, and Suzie Lynde
- 60 **Out in the Arts**/D.L. Groover Gay dad Jake Heggie composed the opera *End of the Affair*.
- 62 **GrooveOut**/Gregg Shapiro Janis Ian, in Houston this month, talks about *Billie's Bones*; plus reviews of CDs from Alicia Keys, Nellie McKay, José Luis Encinas, Kylie Minogue, more by Olivia Flores Alvarez, Suzie Lynde, and Lance Walker.
- 66 **ReadOut**/Blase DiStefano John Stossel discusses his new book, with a little gay talk thrown in; plus reviews of *Mommy's Little Girl*, *The Trouble Boy*, *The Summer Book 2004*, and *Fabulous!* by Olivia Flores Alvarez and Troy Carrington

Out & About

- 70 **OutLoud**/Sally Sheklow Sally flees Mexico.
- 72 **DineOut**/Eric A.T. Dieckman Al fresco dining.
- 74 **Calendar** What's up in March.
- 82 **Bar/Club Guide** Featuring Jim Garza of the 611 Club in "Behind the Bar."
- 88 **SignOut**/Lilly Roddy
- 90 **SceneOut**

Advertisers' Index

- 80 Business News
- 84 Classifieds
- 86 OutSmart Advertisers



About the cover:
Bob Jackson photographed this bedroom for "OutSmart at Home."
Cover designed by Terry Klumpp.

From the composers of "My Fair Lady" and "Camelot"



Lerner and Loewe's

Brigadoon

Relive the magic that happens
only once every 100 years...

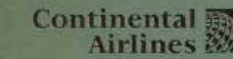
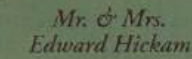
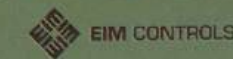
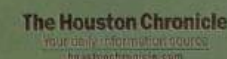


March 11-28

713.558.TUTS www.tuts.com

Group discounts of 15 or more call 713.558.8888

Hobby Center for the Performing Arts



We have Peter Schuyff art pieces for a limited time



Lighting



Wall Art



Art Glass



Art Paper



Ceramics



Bedroom



Cards



Leather Goods



Armoire



Dining



Rock. Paper. Scissors.

Home furnishing decisions should be so simple.



321-B West 19th Street Houston, TX 77008
713.880.5100 www.tansustyle.com

NOW PUBLISHING IN OUR 11TH YEAR!

OutSmart

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

Publisher Greg Jeu

Associate Publisher James T. Hurst

Editor Tim Brookover

Creative Director/Entertainment Editor

Blase DiStefano

Graphic Artists Teresa Anderson, Terry Klumpp

Contributing Writers Olivia Flores Alvarez,

Thomas Blanton, Dale Carpenter, Troy

Carrington, Eric A.T. Dieckman, Lawrence Ferber,

D.L. Groover, Suzie Lynde, Daryl Moore, Annise

D. Parker, Lilly Roddy, Gregg Shapiro, Sally

Sheklow, Lance Walker

Photographers/Illustrators Gavyn Aaron,

Dalton DeHart, Yvonne Feece, David Eduardo

Flores Perez

Account Executives Thomas Chelena, Greg Jeu,

Jack Richardson III, Tony Yarbrough

National Advertising Representative

Rivendell Media - 212/242-6863



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

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

E-mail address: letters@outsmartmagazine.com

Website address: www.outsmartmagazine.com

OutSmart is published monthly. Estimated readership in Houston and surrounding areas is 60,000. Up&Out Communications is not responsible for claims and practices of advertisers. The opinions and views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the staff or management of OutSmart. Inclusion in OutSmart does not imply sexual orientation. ©2004 by Up&Out Communications. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or part without permission of the publisher is strictly prohibited. Unsolicited material is accepted. No manuscript returned without SASE.

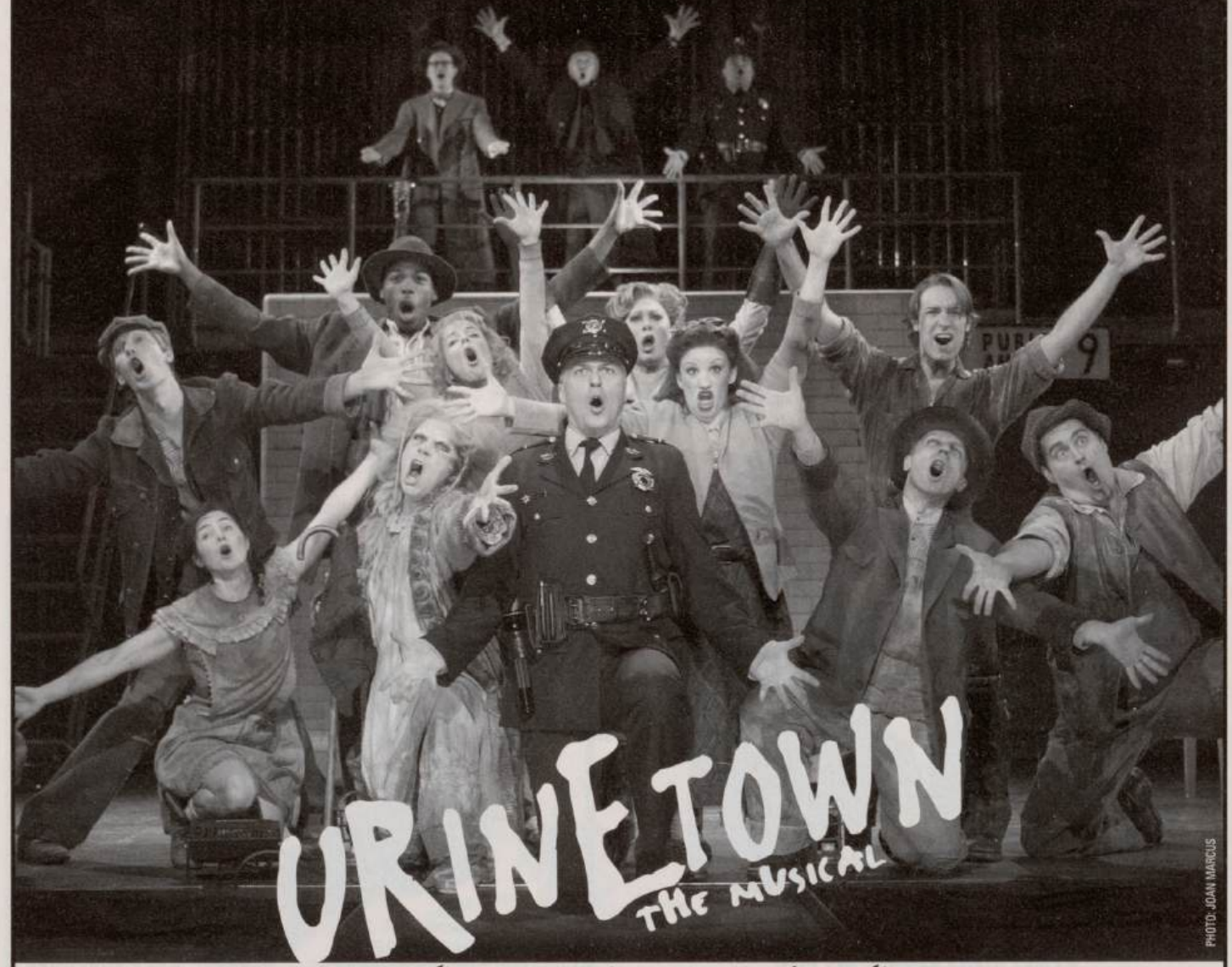


A FOUNDING MEMBER OF
GREATER HOUSTON
GAY & LESBIAN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

A revolution in musical comedy!

Meet the singing, dancing cast of
America's happiest musical surprise.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution says it's
"an irrepressibly inventive, laugh-a-minute surprise!"



"Hilarious!" -The New York Times "Hysterically Funny!" -Denver Post
Winner! 2002 Tony Awards® Triple Crown

ON SALE NOW! • MARCH 30 - APRIL 11
HOBBY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
BroadwayAcrossAmerica.com or call 713-629-3700

Groups of 20 or more: 713-693-2692

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



EXPERIENCE THE BEST!
broadwayacrossamerica.com



REMEMBERING PAUL

I recently read your article about Paul Broussard ["Autopsy of Hate," July 2001], and it touches me that his story is still as powerful today as the day it happened. I went to school with all 10 of the guys [the Woodlands high school students involved with the 1991 murder of Broussard] (except Chance Dillon, who was older than us), and I remember the following Monday after it happened. Ralph [Raphael Gonzalez], one of the guys charged in the case, was in my theater arts class and was talking about what had happened like it was no big deal. The whole thing was shocking to everyone because nobody knew Paul had been killed until the news reported it.

Years later I ended up living on Hyde Park [in Montrose] to take care of my ex-brother-in-law who died of AIDS, and I saw how it affected the whole community there, even five years after. I just wanted you to know there are still people who care, and the more the story is told, the more people learn that there is still hate, that hate is not tolerated, and as long as the story of Paul is told, people will not forget.

Tonya Lohr
The Woodlands

Lohr, who had read John Aston's article on our website, wrote this letter on February 6, when authorities continued to search for Paul Chance Dillon, one of the 10 assailants convicted in connection with the Broussard murder in Montrose. On February 7,

authorities arrested Dillon at a Telephone Road motel. Dillon, now 34, had violated the terms of his parole after failing to report to his parole officer on November 25. Before his mandatory parole in 2000, Dillon had served six years of a 20-year sentence for attempted murder. At press time, he remained held without bond in Harris County jail, awaiting a hearing to determine whether his parole will be revoked and he will be sent back to prison.

Raphael Gonzalez was one of the five Broussard assailants sentenced to 10 years' probation and 3 months in county boot camp.

MUSICAL TRIBUTE

As a self-proclaimed urban hipster, I do not read fag rags, but when I heard about a writer ["GrooveOut" contributor Gregg Shapiro] who was covering bands like the Unicorns and Frustrated Housewives, I had to check it out. You have converted me into an avid reader of OutSmart, and I wanted to thank you for shining the light on some excellent gay artists. I will check the archives, but I am interested in supporting local gay bands that are of the rock/pop genre.

Also, I am an avid listener of the Unicorns, but had been unable to confirm Alden's sexuality. Thanks for ending my quest ["Groove Out," January 2004]. Thanks again for exposing the Houston boys to something besides faggoty synth pop.

Lukas Gray
Houston

NOTED

Thank you for including Rice Gallery in your Calendar section for January 2004. This is the first time we have seen our events posted and we wanted you to know we really appreciate it and we are on board!

Susan Van Scoy
Houston

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

OutSmart astrologer Lilly Roddy has acquired a new URL for her website: www.lillyroddy.com.

CLARIFICATION

After the publication of our February issue, Society for the Performing Arts announced a new cast for the February 27 and 28 engagements of *Three Men on a Boat*, covered in our "Calendar" section. The new singers were Ramone Diggs, Kenneth Gayle, and Marvin Scott.

LOVE LETTERS?
HATE MAIL?

Tell us what you think about OutSmart.
Send to Letters, 3406 Audubon Place,
Houston, TX 77006,
or e-mail to letters@outsmartmagazine.com.



An Official Resurrection MCC
31st Anniversary Event!

Saturday, May 1st, 2004

7 a.m. Registration

8 a.m. Shotgun Start

Hermann Park Golf Course

To Sponsor or Play call

Tammi @ 713-894-4321 or Penny @ 713-952-2617

Resurrection MCC

2025 W. 11st, Houston TX 77008 ~ 713-861-9149

JR You're ALWAYS LUCKY in your Ford Explorer
JACK ROACH Ford
6445 SOUTHWEST FREEWAY • HOUSTON, TX 77074

Serving our customers with dignity and respect since 1921.
A long time OutSmart Advertiser.

2004 EXPLORER

Thank you OutSmart Readers!

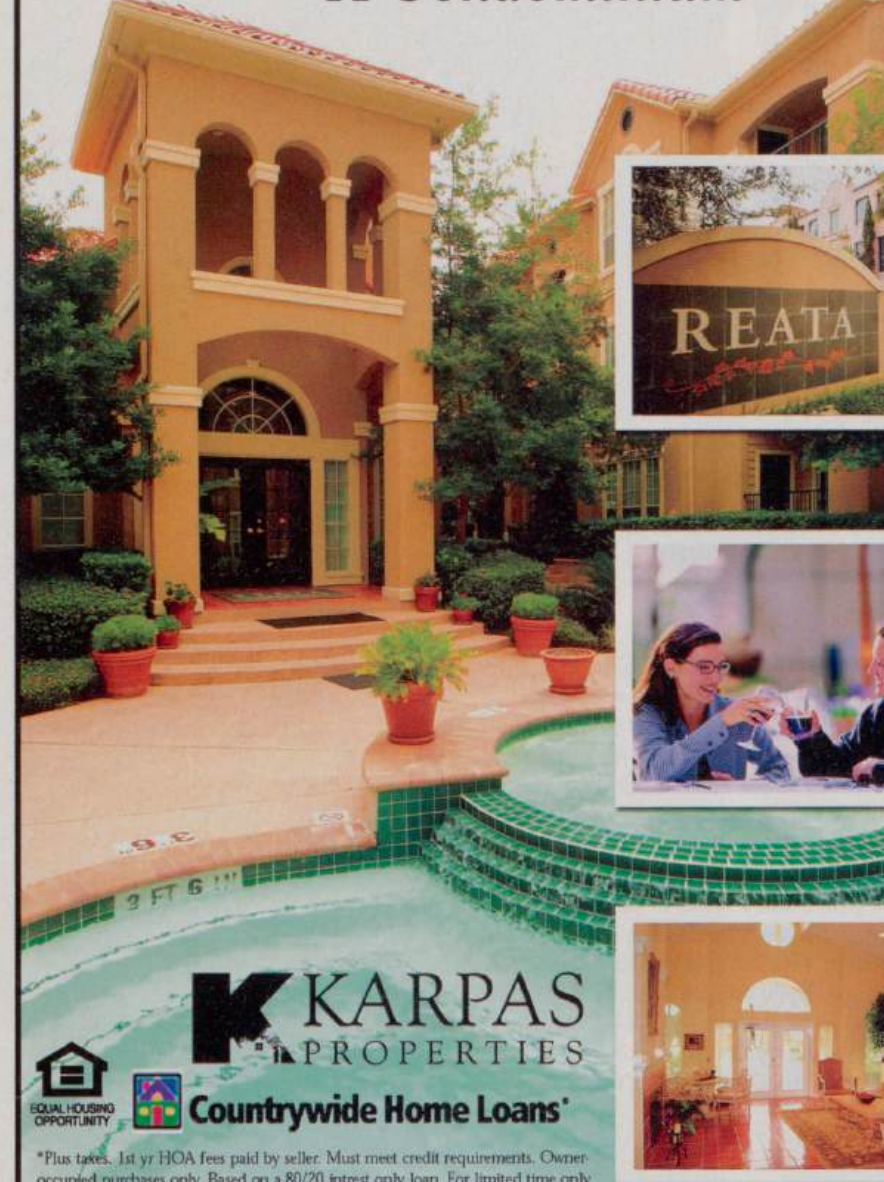
Jack Roach Ford - Voted one of the Best Auto Dealers in the Readers Choice Awards

Stephen Rubin
Certified Sales & Leasing
Main Number: 281-588-5000
Direct: 281-588-5036
59 at Hillcroft • Houston, TX
E-mail: srubin@jackroach.com
www.jackroach.com

Life

at your convenience
Reata at River Oaks

A Condominium

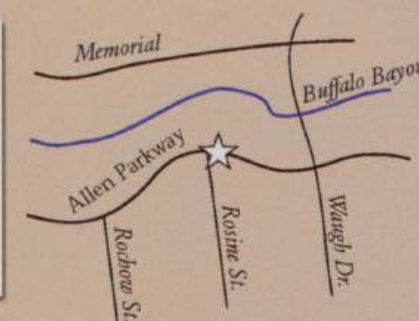


You can own a home
in the heart of River Oaks
for just **\$743/mo. and**
no money down!*

3231 Allen Parkway
713-807-9444

1 Bedrooms from the \$100's
2 Bedrooms from the \$160's

- Spacious one & two bedroom homes
- Hardwood floors
- Granite countertops
- Ceramic tile floors in the kitchen & bath
- Sparkling swimming pool
- Fitness center
- Multi-level parking garage



On-site Sales Center open:
Mon. - Fri. 10am - 6pm
Sat. 10am - 5pm
Sun. 12pm - 5pm
Evenings by appointment
713-807-9444

www.ReataAtRiverOaks.com



A Choice Condominium Community



HALLOWED GROUND. On March 12, the Garden and Yard Society (GAYS) will dedicate a verdant urban retreat cultivated to remember friends lost to AIDS. Society member R. Michael Lee and his partner Chuck Gulick began work on the garden in 1985 on land behind their house off South MacGregor Way. Several hardy GAYS stalwarts gathered on a chilly February morning in the Texas AIDS Memorial Garden: (front row, l-r) Jason Cabot, Jillian Lewis, Kiki Neumann; (standing, l-r) Jeffery Heilers, Vicki McClanahan, Lori Clark, Laurie Jones, Janice Ives, R. Michael Lee, Clyde Williams, and Scottie Scott.

Photographed by Gavyn Aaron
in the Texas AIDS Memorial Garden

Ten Reasons To Love Your Karen Derr Realtor!

- 1) KarenDerr.com, award winning website, 1st agency on-line in Houston - since 1995.
- 2) The best listings, expertly priced!
- 3) Three offices & nearly 40 agents serving Houston and Galveston too!
- 4) Trained real estate negotiators.
- 5) On-call attitude, phones answered for extended business hours.
- 6) Our referral network of "friends in the business" offer discounts & even \$\$\$ for closing.
- 7) Karen Derr's Concierge services for buyers and sellers to treasure long after the sale.
- 8) Beautiful printable PDF flyers on-line with interior photos and detailed information.
- 9) Because we cater to buyers, we're the best choice for sellers too!
- 10) Each agent is personally chosen & trained by Karen Derr & backed by her 26 years of experience - she stakes her name on it!

You're Gonna Love Us!

Karen Derr Realty - KarenDerr.com
713.862.1600



Margot Perez
Top Producer
281.932.7764



New construction by Glen Weather Development.

This unique Shady Acres home will stand out with its custom design - spacious rooms and closets, special computer nook and port-e-cochere - all on a beautiful lot!! Wired for sound, high speed internet and security system. Come watch the development and call for plans at 281-932-7764. \$324,900

Bayland beauty renovated by T&W Construction. Semi-attached garage with covered walkway, security, architectural landscaping and yard big enough for pool. \$629,900 Call Margot Perez 281-932-7764.

Wonderful newer construction in the Heights is a freestanding loft with a huge yard! Stained concrete, stainless, and iron. Walk to the best of shopping and dining. Almost 2000 s.f. \$264,900 Call Margot at 281-932-7764



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



**Richard
Buentello**
281.222.9311
Realtorrichard@aol.com



Gas light and stained glass accent this Heights home extensively remodeled with close attention to detail. Pine flrs, 10 ft ceilings, new roof, electrical and plumbing, central a/c & heating, \$235,000 Call Richard at 281-222-9311.



Heights charmer with income, too! This renovated Heights home has wood floors, granite counters, potential to build out large attic space. Garage apartment, too. \$235,000 Call Richard at 281-222-9311.

Walk to the marina or Kemah Boardwalk. Charming stucco townhomes are perfectly located for enjoying all Clear Lake has to offer. Over 2300 s.f. for \$255,310—Pre-construction pricing! Call Richard 281-222-9311.



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

ALL THAT GLITTERS. The 936-stone, 136-carat Lachrymosa Diamond Mask designed by jeweler Henry Dunay will sparkle at the March 12 benefit for The Assistance Fund. During the event at The Corinthian downtown, guests can have their photo taken with the bejeweled piece, with proceeds directly supporting the HIV service organization's medication program. At the kickoff party last November at Neiman Marcus Galleria, Assistance Fund board vice president Barbara Seymour modeled the mask—originally crafted by Dunay in 1991 for Elizabeth Taylor to wear to an American Foundation for AIDS Research gala.

Photographed by John Taton at Neiman Marcus Galleria



Bunnies
25

BUNNIES25

Celebrating Bunnies
25th Anniversary

Bunnies
25

BUNNIES ON THE BAYOU PRESENTS

Sunday Afternoon Fever

Easter Sunday, April 11, 2004 • 2-7PM

WORTHAM CENTER

Fish Plaza • 500 Texas Ave. • Houston, TX

21 AND UP
[I.D. please]

OutSmart

To volunteer or for more information hit the website:

www.bunnies.org



BIG TIME. Members of the Houston Big Men's Club, including (l-r) Chris Arasin, Dominic Barciagalupia, and Claude Lovell, will welcome guys from across the nation for the March 19-21 East Coast Conference of the Affiliated Big Men's Clubs. Based at the Renaissance Houston in Greenway Plaza, the weekend will include seminars, sightseeing tours, and a Saturday-night show and dance. At 12:30 a.m. on March 21, conference participants will chat on "After Hours" on KPFT-FM. The Big Men's Club holds a social on the third Saturday night of every month at the Houston GLBT Community Center.

Photographed by Gavyn Aaron at the Renaissance Houston

Follow The Rainbow to

Call & schedule a service appointment



Rudy Gonzalez
888-251-9135



Rose Corbitt
888-251-9135

Members of our Award Winning Service Department



Call Fleet Sales and ask for



Linda Boze
281.719.3728



Will Boze
281.719.3716

Triple Crown winner
Ford Motor Company's Highest Honors
• Blue Oval Certified • Presidents Award
• Partners in Quality

Congratulations to Linda
as a newly elected GLBT Chamber of
Commerce Board Member!

Sales & Service that respect every guest as one of our family

Proud Member
GLBT Chamber of
Commerce 2004

SERVICE - PARTS - COLLISION CENTER - SALES
20403 Interstate 45 North
Monday-Friday 6:30am to 7:00pm Saturday 6:30am to 5:30pm
TOLL FREE SERVICE LINE: (888)-251-9135

Proud Sponsor
Pride 2004
Empower
AIDS Walk

MARK B. LEVIN

Board-Certified Personal Injury Trial Law

- ★ AUTO ACCIDENTS
- ★ DWI
- ★ CRIMINAL
- ★ IMMIGRATION
- ★ ON-THE-JOB INJURIES
- ★ WORKMAN'S COMP.
- ★ WRONGFUL DEATH
- ★ MEDICAL MALPRACTICE



Mark Summer, Administrator and John Wald, Legal Assistant

Call Mark Summer or John Wald
for your Free Consultation



281.355.7936 Se Habla Español

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

DATEBOOK

• **Men of All Colors Together-Houston** meets every Thursday, 7 p.m., at the Houston GLBT Community Center. Details: 713/524-3818.

• **Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby** will conduct March 6-9 volunteer training at the Houston GLBT Community Center for the Equality Knocks door-to-door campaign. Register: 713/521-1000.

• **Texas Democratic Presidential Primary** takes place March 9, 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Voter help: www.harrisvotes.org.

• On March 20, **Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce** offers the 1-4 p.m. workshop "You Built Your Business, Now What Do You Do?" at the Houston GLBT Community Center. Details: Michael Plaks, 713/721-3321, plaks@ev1.net.

• **Houston Gay & Lesbian Parents** will hold a March 20-21 garage sale fundraiser at a member family's home. Details: Chris Togni, 281/681-0697, hglpinc@yahoo.com.

• **Montrose Softball League** spring season opens March 28 at Slo-Pitch City softball complex. U.S. Rep. Chris Bell will deliver the first pitch. Details: www.montrosetsoftballleague.com.

• A new **Support Group for HIV-Positive Women** meets Wednesdays, 1:45-3:15 p.m. at Montrose Counseling Center. Register: Rufina Basu, LMSW, at 713.529.0037, ext. 312.

• **Doctor's Hospital Parkway + Tidwell**, in conjunction with People With AIDS Coalition Houston, now offers an HIV/AIDS support group on the first Wednesday of the month, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Register: Craig Overstreet, 281/765-7313. ■

NEW HRC EXEC: "WE'VE ONLY BEGUN TO FIGHT"

By assuming the leadership of the Human Rights Campaign, Cheryl Jacques not only illustrates the power of coming out, but she also pays homage to the organization that convinced her to live her life openly and honestly.

Nearly four years ago, the HRC hosted the Millennium March on Washington, D.C., rallying thousands of members from the GLBT community to celebrate their accomplishments and energize activists to fight for change. Amid those out and proud activists stood Cheryl Jacques, a state senator from a conservative Massachusetts district, who until that moment had been decidedly in the closet.

"It was absolutely the match that lit the fuse that set off the explosion in me," Jacques recalled in a recent phone interview.

Jacques was already public about her support for gay rights. When she first ran for the office at the relatively young age of 29, she debated an incumbent who had held the position three years longer than she had been alive. "We were asked our position on gay rights," she recalled. "And my opponent's response was that if he was in a burning building and a gay fire fighter came to rescue him, he'd burn. And my response was I fully supported gay rights and I would have hugged that fire fighter so tight, he'd never get my arms off his neck!"

"But that's the kind of district I had. They had been listening to that for 32 years. So I didn't believe I could continue to serve in office and be out."

But the Millennium March changed her mind. "The power of that weekend helped me see another way."

After helping win a battle to save the Safe Schools Program, which was designed in part to stem the high incidence of suicide among GLBT students, Jacques came out in a column for the *Boston Globe*. "I said in the op-ed that I understood the tremendous pressure and burden these kids were under because I too was gay."

Jacques credits the HRC for helping her find the courage to not only come out, but to run for re-election after she broke the news. "A fellow ran against me, who ran solely on the campaign that I was unfit to serve in office because I was gay."

That plan backfired. "I won re-election by my largest margin ever after I



HRC's Cheryl Jacques: "Civil unions are not the same as marriage. It's not even close."

came out in the same conservative district that had accepted gay bashing for years."

Now after becoming president of the nation's largest GLBT advocacy organization in January, Jacques, 41, is leading the fight against the latest forms of gay bashing: the Federal Marriage Amendment (FMA). If passed, the FMA would force states to deny recognition of same-sex marital relationships and would require any state that recognized such relationships to amend its constitution.

Much of the momentum behind the FMA has been fueled by the developments on same-sex marriage in Jacques' home state, where the state's highest court ruled that same-couples are legally entitled to full marriage benefits.

Jacques vowed, "We've only begun to fight."

"One of the core missions of the Human Rights Campaign this year is to help everybody understand that marriage is our moment in history. We have now had a court opinion in this country saying we are equal."

In an effort to appeal to conservatives, Jacques directed that HRC team up with the Log Cabin Republicans to →

JACQUES FACTS:

LAST NAME: Jacques is pronounced "Jakes"
SPOUSE: Jennifer Chrisler
CHILDREN: Timmy and Tommy
FAVORITE MUSIC: Garth Brooks, Trisha Yearwood, Melissa Etheridge, Barry Manilow
FAVORITE FOOD: Seafood
PETS: "No pets. I'm a people person."
SPORTS: "I'm a Patriots fan!"

3,000 REASONS
TO VISIT YOUR
STATE FARM AGENT
BEFORE
APRIL 15TH.

WE LIVE WHERE YOU LIVE.™



Like investing \$3,000 in a State Farm IRA. I'll be happy to explain the possible tax benefits and funding options.

Jan Stomel, Agent
4900 Bissonnet Suite 202
Bellaire, TX 77401
713-660-0990
Ranked Top 3 Insurance Agent in 2003 OutSmart Reader Poll



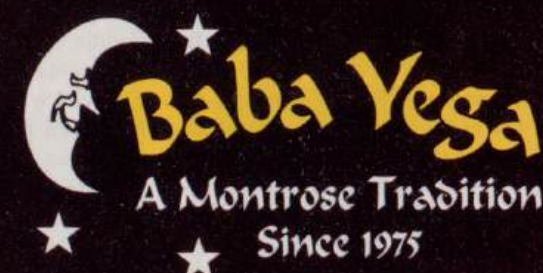
LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

STATE FARM IS THERE.™

Providing Insurance and Financial Services

Consult your tax or legal advisor for specific advice.

PO0611 02/03 State Farm • Home Offices: Bloomington, Illinois • statefarm.com



Open Early for Easter Brunch

All-you-can-enjoy buffet from 10 - 3

- Fresh Fruits and Salads
- Custom Omelet Bar
- Crispy Waffles
- Sliced Ham
- Grilled Chicken
- Grilled Salmon
- Vegetable Frittata
- Roasted Rosemary Potatoes
- Bacon & Sausage
- ...and lots more

\$2 Mimosas
\$2.75 Bloody Marys
\$3.50 Bellinis
Excellent Wine List
Domestic & Imported Beer

14⁹⁵

Easter is April 11

Arrive early for best seating

2607 Grant Street www.BabaYega.com 713.522.0042

Nicole
After



Town & Country
Plastic Surgery

R. Scott Yarish, M.D.

10565 Katy Fwy, Suite 100 • 713/467-0146

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

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

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

-Nicole

Visit our website at www.transformingyou.com

Transgender Feminization



Debra Keller, Patient Counselor
dkeller@yarishmd.com

launch an ad campaign in Massachusetts decrying an effort by lawmakers to stop same-sex marriages from taking place.

Other lawmakers in Massachusetts are trying to get the GLBT community to accept civil unions—similar to what happened in Vermont. Jacques said she will never sanction such a move.

"To accept anything less, I couldn't do that as a leader of this organization. To me, that would be selling out our community because it is in fact less. Civil unions are not the same as marriage. It's not even close. It's not even separate and equal. It's separate and unequal.

"I've always said to people, Imagine how history would have changed for the worse had Rosa Parks settled for going for the

middle of the bus. We cannot retreat from this moment in time."

Even with the challenges that face the HRC and the GLBT community, Jacques also stressed recent milestones.

From the Houston-based *Lawrence v. Texas* decision that outlawed sodomy laws across the country to the consecration of an openly gay Episcopalian bishop, Jacques remains enthusiastic about accomplishments made by the GLBT community. "These are extraordinary victories," she said.

"It is important for the gay community to understand that all their hard work is changing public opinion every single day. You know when we look at polls that show that the nation is almost equally divided over the question of gay marriage, there is good news in those numbers.

There's good news in those numbers when you consider what those numbers would have looked like 10 years ago. We're making tremendous, tremendous progress."

When it comes to Texas, Jacques sees the Lone Star State as a key player in the fight for GLBT rights.

"Some of our most wonderful activists and hardest-working steering committee and board members come out of Texas," she revealed.

Jacques is set to visit here on March 20 for HRC Houston's "Garden of Eden" dinner at the InterContinental Houston.

Jacques said she looks forward to her visit. "I'll be disappointed if I don't see a lot of big hair," she joked.

—Interviewed by Christopher Curtis

RELATIVE-LY SPEAKING: THE PRODUCERS SPEAK

If you haven't yet seen it, you should consider tuning into the ABC sitcom *It's All Relative*. Charged with "redefining the concept of the modern family in prime time," the producers have created a show that takes the cultural shifts of recent years, in regard to the portrayal of gay and lesbian characters and themes on television, and makes them family friendly. Not as bawdy as *Will & Grace*, *It's All Relative* nevertheless cashes in on the same audience while reaching out to others with a hygienic and manicured hand. Depending on which characters you relate to (the gay couple whose daughter is a young woman of marrying age or the conservative straight family whose son is in love with the daughter), there are laughs aplenty.

I recently spoke with executive producer and writer Chuck Ranberg and Academy Award-winning executive producers Craig Zadan and Neil Meron about the series.

Gregg Shapiro: ... Would there be anything wrong with having a gay sitcom for a primarily straight audience?

Chuck Ranberg: Isn't that what *Will & Grace* is? [Laughs] In the business we're in, we have to think about what's going to appeal to the widest audience. We have to try to find something that's going to hook everyone. Most of America can identify with the O'Neil family [parents played by Lenny Clarke and Harriet Sansom Harris], more than with [gay fathers] Simon [Christopher Sieber] and Phillip [John Benjamin Hickey]. We sort of needed the heterosexual family element to be the hook. Basically, we're doing a family show. ...

Craig Zadan: True to the intention. When we started the show, Susan Line, who is the president of ABC, said, "I think it's very important that [for] the gay couple who are raising the daughter, that's the way life is." [To] not make a big deal or fuss over it. We're picking up their lives where they're living it. I think we've been successful at that. When you watch the show, there is no issue about two guys raising a daughter. I think people are responding to the normalcy of that in their lives. And I think that's a good thing.

WEB EXTRA: Read the remainder of this interview at www.outsmartmagazine.com. ■



GOOD RELATIONS. Christopher Sieber (l) and John Benjamin Hickey, the openly gay stars of the ABC comedy *It's All Relative*, will speak at the March 20 Human Rights Campaign dinner. Sieber and Hickey play gay dads on the sitcom. HRC executive director Cheryl Jacques will also speak at the event at InterContinental Houston, along with U.S. Rep. Chris Bell, city controller Annise Parker, and attorney Mitchell Katine.

Please join us for Montrose Counseling Center's 16th Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration

BRINGIN' IN THE Green

Friday, March 12, 2004 • 5:30 – 8:00pm
3618 Burlington Street • Houston

Donation at the Door - \$35 per person
Entertainment by Jerry Atwood, featuring Julie Link
Refreshments, Hors D'oeuvres
Silent Auction • Complimentary Valet Parking

Resident Leprechaun: Jack G. Jackson
Guest Bartenders: Four Seasons Club

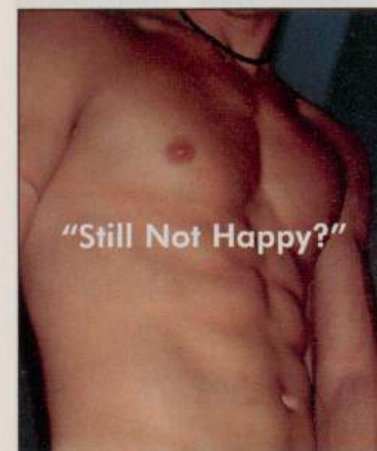
Host: John Danielson

Emerald Sponsor: Stephen Tarry

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

Triangle

HOUSTON VOICE



"Still Not Happy?"

Daniel Garces
Counselor/Consultant

Voted "Best Therapist"
OutSmart Magazine 2000, 2001 and 2002
Readers Choice Awards

Free Phone Consultation
713.526.8390

www.dansmnd.net
Dan77006@yahoo.com

**Congratulations
And
Thank You**

Alan Mundy
for becoming our
Top Producer,
selling Millions of Dollars
of real estate,



and turning all of
your customers into
lifetime clients with your
professionalism, amazing
results, and successes.

Sales Excellence.
Service Excellence.

P
PARTRIDGE
PROPERTIES

Find your Realtor and
every listing in Houston at
toddparridge.com

713.528.1184

BREAST CHECK

The Bush administration promises a probe—of the Super Bowl bosomgate

Finally, we're going to get a "swift and thorough investigation" from the Bush administration. Of course, it's not going to be about the administration's lie that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction. The president gave that presidential commission until 2005—well after the November election—to discover and disclose what went wrong with American intelligence about Iraq's purported possession of WMDs.

It's not going to be about which two senior administration officials disclosed to neo-conservative columnist Robert Novak the identity of Valerie Plame as a CIA covert agent to retaliate against her husband, Joseph Wilson. Wilson is the former ambassador who criticized the White House for lying about Iraq's effort to acquire nuclear materials from Africa. After Wilson criticized the White House, it outed Wilson's wife as a covert CIA agent,

putting the lives of her and her husband and their three-year-old twins at risk. That disclosure is being investigated by department of justice officials, who report to Attorney General John Ashcroft, who serves at the pleasure of the White House, which disclosed Plame's identity.

It's certainly not going to be about the perpetual raping of U.S. taxpayers by Halliburton, which overcharged the department of defense \$24 million for meals in Iraq; which charged \$2.64 cents/gallon (twice the going rate) for importing gas from Kuwait into Iraq; and which is being investigated by France for allegedly paying \$180 million in bribes to win a natural gas project in Nigeria while vice president Cheney was still heading up Halliburton.

And, it's certainly not going to be about Enron. That investigation has already been going on for years without a single conviction—much less an indictment of Ken

Lay ("Kenny boy," as called by Bush).

No, it's going to be about Janet Jackson revealing her right breast at half time during the Super Bowl. Immediately after that incident, Michael Powell—FCC chairman and Colin's son—promised a "swift and thorough investigation" of the egregious split-second long-shot showing of Janet's right boob.

That nano-nipple shot during the family hour sent the administration into hyper-drive. Powell threatened to fine each of the 200 CBS affiliates \$27,500 for letting Jackson show her breast. He also threatened to pursue an investigation against Jackson, Justin Timberlake, and MTV.

A swift and thorough investigation by the Bush administration. What a concept. If anything calls for such an investigation, Janet's nipple surely does. After all, as Chairman Powell explained, "My family and

continued on page 22

PHONY ARGUMENTS

One conservative pundit makes false claims

Gays have been blamed for just about every bad thing that's ever happened in human history from the fall of the Roman Empire to the rise of Nazi Germany to earthquakes in California. How was homosexuality responsible for these events? Well, they happened and there were homosexuals around. That was the correlation.

Enter Stanley Kurtz, a research fellow at the Hoover Institution, who is making a career out of predicting catastrophe if gay marriage is recognized in the United States. In his latest article, published in the conservative *Weekly Standard*, he argues we have something to learn from the Scandinavia experience. "Marriage is slowly dying in Scandinavia," Kurtz begins ominously. "A majority of children in Sweden and Norway are born out of wedlock. Sixty percent of first-born children in Denmark have unmarried parents. Not coincidentally,

these countries have had something close to full gay marriage for a decade or more."

Gay marriage will undermine the institution of marriage, Kurtz concludes, and Scandinavia proves it. There's one major problem at the outset for Kurtz's argument. There is not one gay marriage in any country he cites. In 1989, Denmark adopted a registered partnership law that granted most of the benefits and obligations of marriage to same-sex couples, with the notable exception of adoption rights. Norway adopted a similar law in 1993, and Sweden expanded its cohabitation law along the same lines in 1994. (Not until 2001 did a European country—the Netherlands—recognize gay marriages that are legally identical to traditional heterosexual marriages.) Thus, Kurtz blames "gay marriage" for worsening a host of social ills before it even existed.

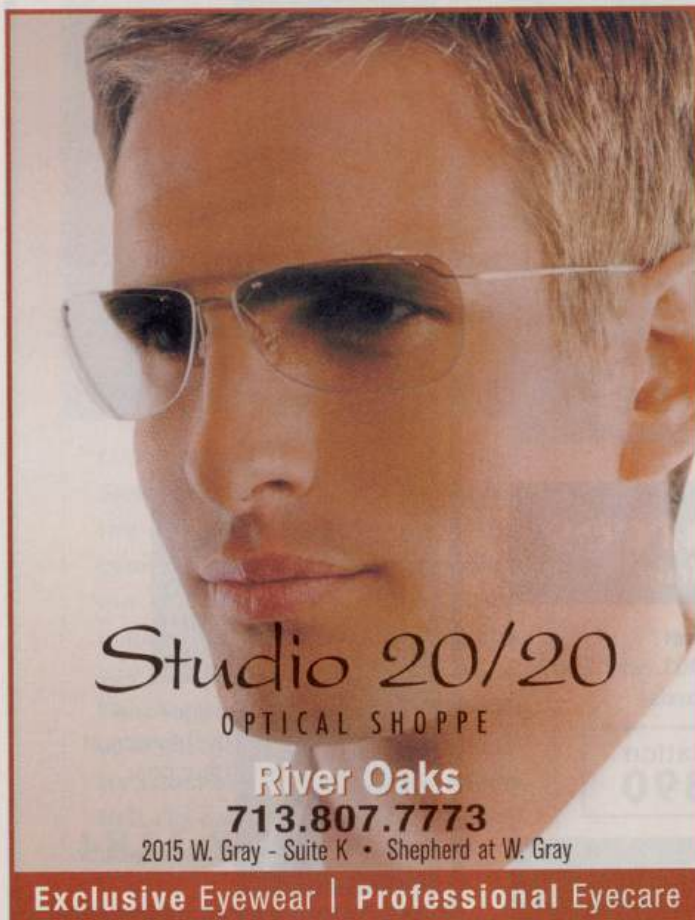
Second, even if these Scandinavian gay partnerships could be called marriages,

Kurtz shows only a correlation between them and marital decline. For example, after Kurtz notes that marital problems are highest in European countries where gay "marriage" has a foothold, and lowest where it does not, he writes: "This suggests that gay marriage is both a cause and effect of the increasing separation between marriage and parenthood." But this is a correlation; it does not show causation.

There are also correlations between marital decline and nongay marriage phenomena, such as rising women's equality (in employment and elsewhere); no-fault divorce; rising incomes and prosperity; a generous welfare state that serves a caretaker role; longer life and better health; contraception; abortion; less religiosity; and so on. Any of these is a more likely culprit than gay marriage.

Does Kurtz conclude we should return

continued on page 23

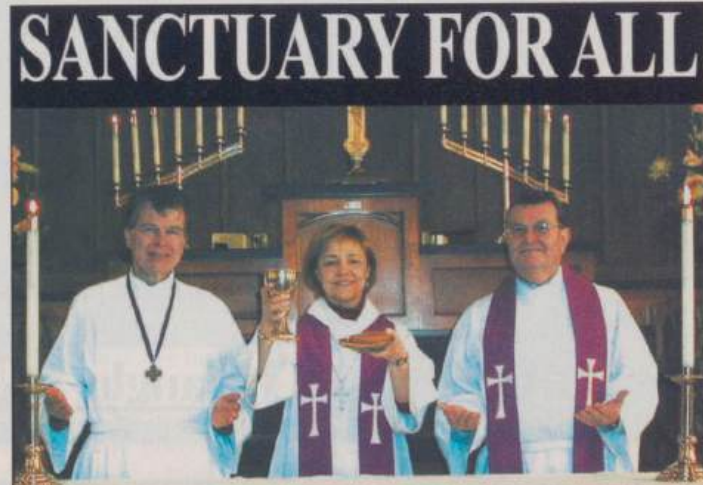


Studio 20/20
OPTICAL SHOPPE

River Oaks
713.807.7773
2015 W. Gray - Suite K • Shepherd at W. Gray

Exclusive Eyewear | Professional Eyecare

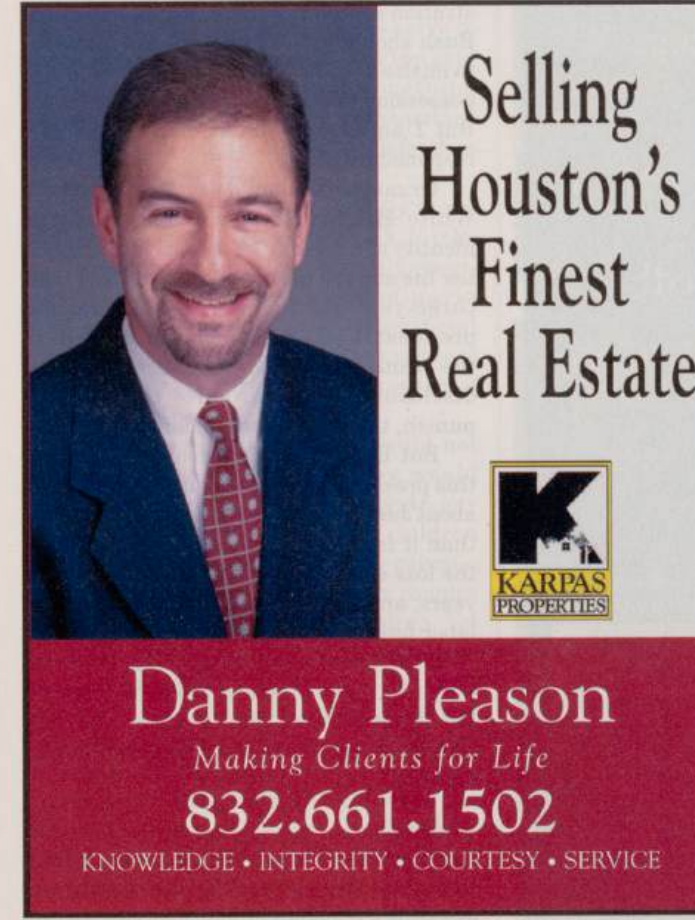
SANCTUARY FOR ALL



A Sanctuary for Soul & Spirit
Join Us For Holy Week Services

Apr 04 - Palm / Passion Sunday: 8:30 & 10:50 a.m.
Apr 08 - Maundy Thursday: 7:00 p.m.
Apr 09 - Good Friday: Noon & 7:00 p.m.
Apr 10 - Holy Saturday Vigil: 7:00 p.m.
Apr 11 - Easter Sunday: 6:00, 8:30 & 10:50 a.m.

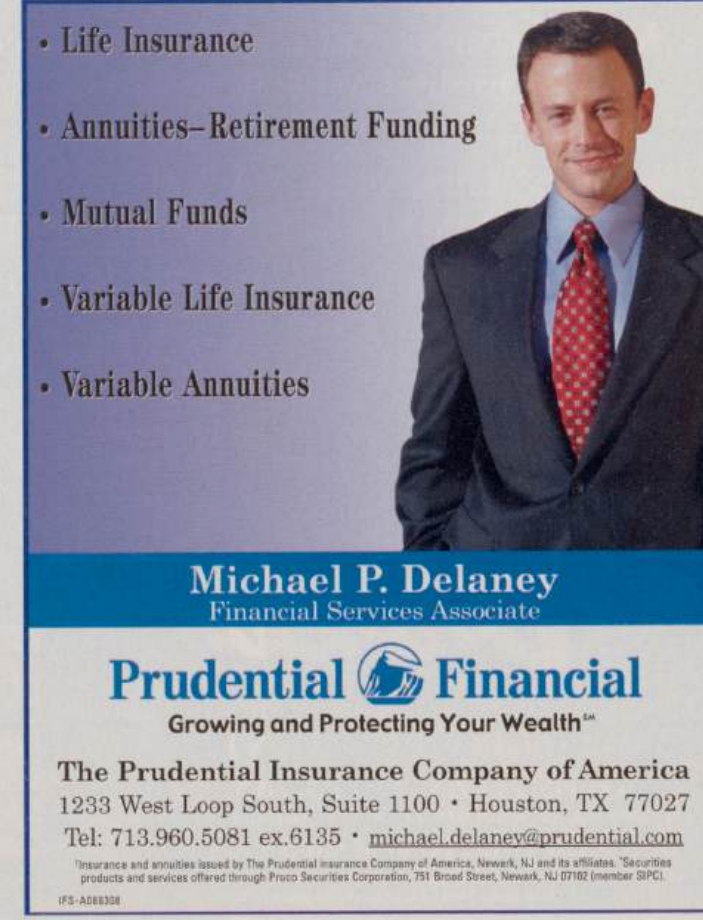
**BERING MEMORIAL
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
(L to R) Mike Underhill, Minister for Programs; Rev. Marilyn Meeker-Williams,
Senior Pastor; Rev. Jerry Goree, Minister for Pastoral Care
1440 Harold Street at Mulberry • Houston, TX 77006 713.526.1017 • www.beringumc.org



**Selling
Houston's
Finest
Real Estate**

**KARPAS
PROPERTIES**

Danny Pleason
Making Clients for Life
832.661.1502
KNOWLEDGE • INTEGRITY • COURTESY • SERVICE



- Life Insurance
- Annuities-Retirement Funding
- Mutual Funds
- Variable Life Insurance
- Variable Annuities

Michael P. Delaney
Financial Services Associate

Prudential Financial
Growing and Protecting Your Wealth™

The Prudential Insurance Company of America
1233 West Loop South, Suite 1100 • Houston, TX 77027
Tel: 713.960.5081 ex.6135 • michael.delaney@prudential.com

*Insurance and annuities issued by The Prudential Insurance Company of America, Newark, NJ and its affiliates. *Securities products and services offered through Pruco Securities Corporation, 751 Broad Street, Newark, NJ 07102 (member SIPC).

IFS-A080308

120,000 SQ. FT. EXPANSION SALE IN PROGRESS!



AT BRANDON, IT'S ALL UNDER ONE ROOF!
Over 200 Of America's Top Furniture & Accessories
Manufacturers *Plus* The Largest Collections Of
Original Art & Rugs In The U.S.

Remember, There's Never A Wait! **EVERYTHING** Is
IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE
Take It Home Now or Have It Delivered!



With Our New Credit Program, Pick From The Best The
Furniture World Has To Offer, And Enjoy 12 Months
No Interest Financing*

*with approved credit

Brandon®

FINE FURNITURE, ACCESSORIES, ART AND RUGS

8648 GLENMONT

HOUSTON • 713.785.7888

120,000 SQ. FT. WAREHOUSE OF FINE HOME FURNISHINGS

SUNDAYS 11AM TO 6PM • M-S 9 AM TO 5 PM

LOCATIONS NATIONWIDE: Arizona • Colorado • Connecticut • Florida • Georgia • Illinois • Missouri • Nevada • New Jersey
New York • North Carolina • Pennsylvania • Texas • www.brandonhomefurnishings.com

Just East Of Fondren Between
Harwin & Westpark



LeftOut continued from page 20

I gathered around the television for a celebration. Instead, that celebration was tainted by a classless, crass, and deplorable stunt. Our nation's children, parents, and citizens deserve better."

What was the chairman celebrating before the nipple shot? The pharmaceutical ads for drugs that treat erectile dysfunction? The warning that after ingesting a magic pecker pill, a once-limp user might experience a four-hour erection and, if so, should consult a doctor? Or was the chairman celebrating the Budweiser ad in which a redneck's trained mutt commandeers a Budweiser by latching onto its holder's crotch until he drops the Bud?

Whatever. The chairman is right. Americans deserve better. We deserve an acknowledgment of responsibility from the administration like the one Janet Jackson gave. The day after the Super Bowl, Jackson stated: "It was not my intention that it go as far as it did. I apologize to anyone offended—including the audience, MTV, CBS, and the NFL." Jackson also refused to blame anyone else. Instead, she took sole responsibility, explaining that Timberlake, MTV, and CBS knew nothing in advance about the stunt. Jackson stated the stunt was her idea, and hers alone.

Maybe the outraged Bush administration should take note. Maybe President Bush should say, "It was not my intention to mislead the American public about Iraq's possession of weapons of mass destruction. But I am the president, and I take sole responsibility."

Or maybe he should say, "It was not the White House's intention to reveal the identity of a covert CIA operative and to put her life and the life of her husband and their three-year-old twins at risk. I am the president. I take responsibility for those in the White House who made such a reckless disclosure. And I promise to find, and punish, the persons who made it."

But Bush won't. Because it's easier for this president and this White House to talk about Janet's right breast and gay marriage than it is to talk about the soaring deficit, the loss of 2.2 million jobs in the last three years, and the outsourcing of the American labor force.

Chairman Powell is right. Our children, parents, and citizens deserve better. We deserve better than a Bush. After all, a Bush is more crass and deplorable than a breast.

Writing from the liberal side, Houston attorney Daryl Moore has a general practice and is board certified in civil and appellate law.

OutRight continued from page 21

women to barefoot-and-pregnant legal status, ban divorce, tamp down on incomes, lower the quality of medical care, ban the use of contraceptives, and erase the distinction between church and state? All of these things would probably have a positive effect on marriage rates, divorce rates, and illegitimacy—but at a very high and unacceptable cost to people like him. Yet Kurtz wants to ban gay marriages, which would have negligible or no effect on pre-existing social problems, at very high cost to the lives of gay people.

In an effort to demonstrate gays really don't want marriage, Kurtz notes that only 2,372 gay couples had registered after nine years of the Danish cohabitation law, only 674 after four years in Norway, and only 749 after four years in Sweden. These are tiny numbers in countries of 5.1 million, 4.2 million, and 8.5 million people, respectively, in the 1990s. They seriously undercut Kurtz's claim that registered partnerships are destroying marriage in those countries.

Even if Kurtz could demonstrate that these Scandinavian gay partnerships have contributed to the erosion of marriage as an institution, he only reaches a conclusion long ago pressed by gay conservatives. It is the opposition to gay marriage that has led to the proliferation of alternatives to marriage itself. These alternatives serve to knock marriage off its pedestal as the gold standard for relationships, something feminist and libertarian critics of marriage might applaud, but traditionalist defenders of marriage should abhor.

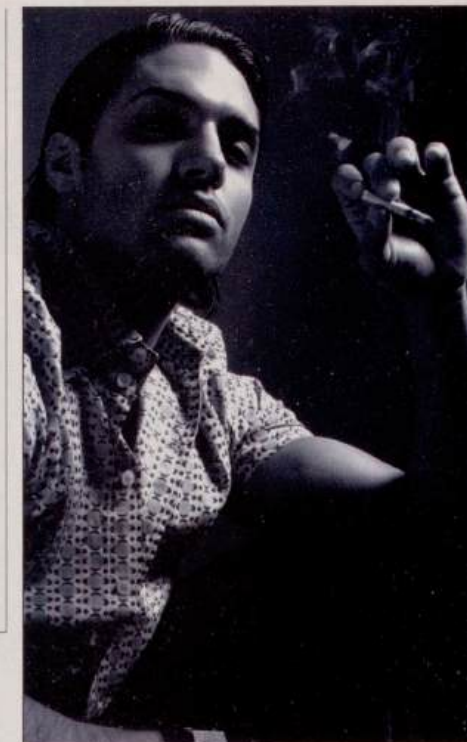
Traditionalists like Kurtz rightly worry about the rise in out-of-wedlock births in Europe and America. Notably, registered partnerships in Scandinavia restrict or forbid adoptions or artificial insemination by gay couples. That is, these partnerships encourage the separation of wedlock from parenthood.

Full-fledged gay marriages would not encourage that separation; they would encourage the opposite. In two respects, gay marriage would result in fewer children being raised by single or cohabiting parents. First, there are about 150,000 gay couples in the U.S. right now raising children. Yet these couples cannot be married. Current law guarantees these children will be raised in unmarried households. Second, most gay parents get their children from prior heterosexual marriages or relationships that many of them entered because of the pressures created by antigay social stigma. To the extent gay marriage increases social acceptance, and provides models of married gay couples, we should expect these people

to be channeled earlier into gay relationships and away from doomed heterosexual relationships that produce children.

Most telling, perhaps, is Kurtz's resistance to changing no-fault divorce laws. Of all the legal changes to marriage over the past 40 years, no-fault divorce has had the greatest impact on the institution. Next to it, gay marriage as a legal reform is trivial. This shows, I think, that Kurtz isn't really serious about defending marriage. Like the many doomsayers before him, his goal is to keep gays down.

Writing from the conservative side, 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.



m

method



REMODELING

Specializing in:

- Kitchens/Baths
- Room/Roof Enlargements
- Built-in Cabinets
- Entertainment Centers
- Door Replacements
- Patio Extensions/Covers
- Siding & More

SEE OUR
Newsletter at
www.kjmconst.com

KJM Construction
30+Years Experience
Ken: 281.924.1136

Free Estimates

PATRICK J. VACHON
L.M.S.W., A.C.P.

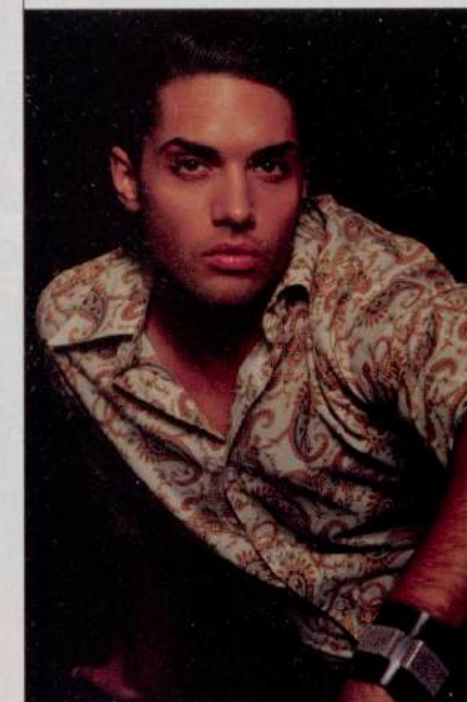


Certified IMAGO
Relationship
Therapist &
Workshop
Presenter

Certified Sexual
Addiction
Therapist

Phone: 713.524.1771
Email: VachonPJ@aol.com

1712 Fairview
Houston, Texas 77006-1711
www.imagohealing.com



2437 UNIVERSITY BLVD
HOUSTON, TX 77005
713.807.0003

by Annise D. Parker

TAKING OFFICE

New challenges include a looming budget shortfall and a monthly TV show

Several weeks ago, I joined a small group of city officials who brainstormed with Mayor Bill White about Topic 1—the budget. More precisely, the looming \$75–\$150 million budget shortfall and how to pay for a billion dollars in storm drainage improvements. These were two of the most intense hours I've ever spent as an elected official.

As a new at-large City Council member six years ago, I had to assimilate vast amounts of new information as fast as I could. But the city budget was not as tight, and no one could have predicted this uncertain post-9/11 world. More things seemed possible. This new intensity/anxiety challenges us to think far outside the box so we can continue to provide city services at current levels.

Controller's Staff

In my six years on council, I developed an excellent understanding of the city

controller's office and a good relationship with the deputy controllers. That is never the same as doing the job, though. This has been a busy two months as the new city controller. Meeting everyone on the 80-member staff and trying to learn exactly what role each plays. Getting updated in great detail on the work of the city's fiscal watchdogs. Even updating the controller's website. I'm fortunate to have an experienced and dedicated staff.

Mayoral Liaison

There will be no volunteer community liaisons—including one from the GLBT community—for this busy, hands-on mayor. That's the word from the administration. I think it might be a good decision. Mayor White is confident he can reach out. He's confident that if anyone has problems, they will let him know. He and his staff are fairly open and accessible.

I would like to take this opportunity to once again applaud the work of community liaison Janine Brunjes. She did an outstanding job as the GLBT community representative to the office of Mayor Lee P. Brown. Could there be a political office in her future?

The mayor's deputy chief of staff, Richard Lapin, is openly gay. And, as many of you know, the mayor has an openly gay brother, Robert Avalon, a pianist-composer who has discussed his brother's openness and commitment to diversity in the GLBT press. Houston's diverse communities are well represented in this administration and on this diverse city council. The mayor also has made an impressive effort to bring private citizens into City Hall, assigning them to investigate a range of issues.

TV Show

Money Matters, my monthly Municipal Channel show, was scheduled to debut

Monday, February 23, at 2 and 8 p.m. Our first show explores the history of the controller's office and introduces you to dedicated employees who take city finances very seriously.

Money Matters will try to simplify complex financial topics. We will go to work early with the city's investment specialists and find out where the city gets money besides property taxes. We'll look at how stadiums and the new Hilton were financed (not with local property tax dollars). We'll also explore topics like debt, the CIP, and more general topics.

Money Matters can be seen on the Municipal Channel, broadcast on TimeWarner Cable 16, Kingwood Cable 14, TCI 16, Phonoscope 2, and TvMax 20. The monthly show is repeated throughout the month.

Budget/CIP Meetings

By this time every year we usually have a schedule for the City Council district budget/CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) hearings. At press time, we were still waiting. As you may recall, council (including me) passed a drainage fee and took other measures to pay for much-needed drainage work. Council rescinded the fee at the last meeting of the year. That scuttled much of the existing CIP, several months of operations and maintenance, and the proposed drainage enhancement projects.

When the budget/CIP hearings are announced in your council district, please try to attend. Given the budget and drainage challenges, this year's meetings should be interesting. It's also a great way to meet people who care about your neighborhood. You'll find out what improvement projects (street reconstruction, new facilities) are planned in your area and have a chance to present your ideas or requests for city capital projects.

Fraud Hotline

One of the easiest ways for Houston taxpayers to help the city is to use the Fraud Hotline.

The controller's office is committed to eliminating fraud and waste in city government. If you're aware of fraudulent activities being committed by government employees or officials, or by citizens or businesses defrauding the city, you can help save taxpayer money by contacting my office. Just call the Fraud Hotline at 713/437-6254 or visit the city website, www.cityofhouston.gov, and follow the links to the city controller's website: www.ci.houston.tx.us/citygovt/controller/.

Annise Parker is city controller and the highest-ranking openly GLBT elected official in any of the 10 largest U.S. cities. She has contributed a monthly column to the magazine since June 2002. To receive her newsletter, send an email to controllers@cityofhouston.net.

the Bridge

STEAK & SEAFOOD



Dine in the serene atmosphere of water flowing from the fountain @ soft sounds of the piano.

Located in the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites Galleria
7787 Katy Freeway (between Silber & Antoine)
713 681-5000

Buy one lunch or dinner entree at regular price
receive a second entree free with this ad.

Mardi Gras Seafood Buffet

From Shrimp to Crab Legs we have it all!
5 – 10 pm Friday \$19.95 per person

Sunday Brunch New Orleans Style

Bottomless Mimosa's & Great Food!
11 – 2 pm Sunday \$19.95 per person

Good for the month of March 2004 only, also valid for Friday Seafood Buffet and Sunday Brunch!

sippora

a design/art gallery featuring original artwork from local printers, sculptors, photographers, jewelry and furniture makers ... **Sippora** also offers interior design services

Artist Opening Receptions:

March 13 • Saturday • 6-9pm • "Blue"

April 17 • Saturday • 6-9pm • "In The Mind's Eye"

Gallery Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10am - 6pm • Saturday 10am - 3pm
713.520.1085 | www.sippora.com | 234 west gray

FRED HAAS
TOYOTA WORLD

"We Know Price Sells Cars"

**OUR GOAL IS TO BEAT
Any Deal by \$2,000**

See Fleet Director
JIMMY JONES
281.296.5352 Direct
fredhaasfleet1@email.com

20400 I-45 NORTH
281.297.7000
2 MILES NORTH OF 1960
@ LOUETTA AND I-45

FM 1960
BELTWAY 8
LOOP 610
I-10

LOUETTA

FRED HAAS
SCION WORLD

281-297-7000
fredhaasSCIONworld.com

I-45 NORTH @
LOUETTA
2 MILES NORTH OF 1960

House Proud

After a relationship ends,
the designer remembers a home crafted over four years

by Troy Broussard • Photos by Bob Jackson

Colors in the living room subtly alternate between green and white. The leather-top coffee table was once a library step in the reading room of the original Petroleum Club of Houston. The green glazed leather sofa is from Lewis & Maese. →

K
a
r
e
n

D
e
r
r

**People Do Business
With People
They Like!**

**You're
Gonna
Love
Us!** SM

**Karen Derr Realty
KarenDerr.com
713.862.1600**

Interior design can be one of the most expensive and time-consuming tasks one can undertake. Whether by hiring a professional designer or accumulating furniture over time, creating an interior is an important expression of individuality. An interior is a unique reflection of taste, a record of experiences, and a backdrop for entertaining. They are ever changing, evolving with time, necessity, and fashion. They are a labor of love. But unless you are Ima Hogg or Elvis Presley, design is an art form that is not preserved. Unlike quality furniture that can be passed down through the ages or architecture that will change ownership, interiors do not last. This is an especially poignant and personal topic for me. After five and a half years, my partner and I are separating. We have sold our house. This month, I have decided to feature the home that we created together.

We bought the 1970s townhouse four years ago. The place had an ordinary apartment look, with white walls and plain carpet. But wooden accents, architectural elements, eclectic furnishings, and sensible ingenuity transformed it into a comfortable New Orleans-style environment.

I did not approach this project in the same way that I would for a client, but rather as a partner who knew the ins and outs of putting a house together. We created this interior not as a showplace, but as a place we loved. And it was an adventure.

When we first got together, his idea of design was a Pottery Barn catalogue. So my role was as an educator, showing him how to look at art and how to appreciate furniture of a more unique nature. We arrived at joint decisions on what acquisitions to make based on what would both enhance our lives and would compliment the style of the home. We would go out shopping, scouring antique stores and art galleries for the perfect items wherever we went.

Charity auctions, such the one that accompanies the Human Rights Campaign dinner, are great places to buy art at a good price. Hart Galleries' auctions were also a good source of treasures. On many a Sunday, we found ourselves sipping mimosas and waving a bidding paddle. I recommend a thorough preview and inspection of the offered items, however. Furniture always looks better on the block—and after a few mimosas.

After a "pet accident" on the new white carpet, the wall-to-wall had to go. I did it myself. He came downstairs one Sunday morning, and I had half of the living room ripped out. "What in the world are you doing?" he laughed with disbelief.

The process of patching, grinding, and stripping the foundation slab began. I rented a sander from Home Depot and bought a transparent stain from Bering's Hardware. Warning: This is an extremely dusty endeavor. The procedure took a week and cost \$250. The result is a functional stained cement floor.

To soften the floor, we spread antique area rugs throughout the residence, adding depth, richness, and color. The two main rugs on the first floor were purchased from Denton Jones, Inc. (If you plan to visit, bring your decorator. Jones sells only to the trade.) →

ENJOYING
YOUR

MAKING THE M

In the television area, chairs from IKEA mix with French, English, and Asian antiques to create a cozy and comfortable spot. The oil painting above the television set is by Texas artist Denny Pickett.



In the bedroom, hangings that mimic the window treatments give extra presence to the designer's diminutive bed from childhood. All fabrics are by Brunschwig & Fils. Charlie Glover of Charles Glover Interiors did all the sewing on the bedspread, dust skirt, and wall hangings.



The wallpaper in the kitchen and breakfast room is a Brunswick & Fils document print called "Gallier Diamond." This paper design was originally installed in 1857 in the French Quarter home of architect James Gallier Jr., which is now a museum run by Tulane University.

Given the myriad of patterned rugs, I did all upholstery on the first floor in leather—predominantly black. I chose leather for ease of care and to unify the eclectic periods and styles of furniture. Leather additionally transformed antique pieces that might typically be misconstrued as fussy into comfortable and masculine furnishings. (The decision to upholster everything in black leather no doubt saved us from arguments over fabric selections, too!)

The Rococo fauteuils (open armchairs) that flanked the fireplace are a good example of how leather can change the perception of a style. Characterized by curvilinear shapes, Louis XV is a style typically considered feminine and formal. Traditionally, these chairs would sport brocade or tapestry. Upholstered in black leather, they took on a more masculine quality, have more of an edge, and were more inviting. We always lounged on them with our guests.

A 19th-century center table combined with a set of four McGuire armchairs for formal dining. Again, black leather grounded the chairs and gave the rattan weight against the strength of the heavily grained rosewood table. A pair of Louis XV side chairs rested near the columns in the dining room to pull up to the table when we entertained a group of six.

Shopping for architectural antiques to plug into an existing space is extremely difficult. The shopping list must be precise, with proper measurements in case a find is stumbled upon. Searching for months for the right mantel, we discovered the perfect specimen at Antiques on 19th in the Heights. It was the perfect width and character for the interior. After a carpenter cut it down and installed it, the mantel looked as if it had always belonged in the house.

We found the antique pine columns—rustic, yet at the same time elegant—that divided the living room and dining room at the Emporium. Somewhere in time, two young lovers carved their initials into them. →

ENJOYING YOUR NEW HOME IS YOUR PLEASURE.



Sharon Neider, President

Mention this ad and take \$100.00 off your appraisal!

MAKING THE MORTGAGE PROCESS EASY IS OURS.

When purchasing it's good to know someone who's been around the block. With Neider Mortgage, you benefit from professionals with the experience and the range of loan programs to meet your needs. We work with the top lenders in the industry and get within pennies for the final estimate. We'll show you the shortest path to the perfect loan. Call 713-355-4288 or www.neidermortgage.com

NEIDER MORTGAGE
Mortgages made easy
Tx #678 Equal Opportunity Lender

If we can create granite bowls like this, imagine what we can do for your kitchen countertops!

Granite, Marble, Slate & Limestone Fabrication and Installation

Residential • Commercial • Countertops • Vanities • Tub Surrounds • Fireplace Mantles



Absolute Black and Bordeaux Granite Bowl

Queen of the Tile
Granite, Marble, Slate & Limestone Fabrication and Installation

Tel: 713.983.6200 • Fax: 713.983.6208

Member of Greater Houston Builders Association





The dining room represents the eclectic blend of furnishings in the house, with its French bibliothèque, McGuire chairs, Victorian center table, Burmese Buddha statue, and antique Turkish rug. Katie Scarlett always camped near the dining table waiting for a handout.

RESOURCES

- French open armchairs
- CARL MOORE ANTIQUES**, 1610 Bissonnet
713/524-2502
- Architectural columns
- EMPORIUM**, 1800 Westheimer
713/528-3808
- McGuire armchairs
- ELUISE ABBOTT SHOWROOM**, Decorative Center Houston, 5120 Woodway, Suite 3010
713/626-5915
- Sarah Lamb painting
- MEREDITH LONG GALLERY**, 2323 San Felipe
713/523-6671
- Rugs
- DENTON JONES, INC.**, Resource Center, 7026 Old Katy Rd., Suite 167
713/961-1183

When we first met, my partner was less familiar with art than I. But touring galleries and having discussions about art opened the door for his interpretations and a newfound appreciation. He has an excellent eye for art, and we share a voracious passion for collecting. Remember, art is what the viewer makes of it, not what he is told to think.

Our collection of paintings ranged from classical to contemporary and from fine art to folk. An inordinate amount of our income went toward the purchase of artwork, and we loved the pursuit as much as the collection. Meredith Long Gallery showcases some of our favorite artists, such as Sarah Lamb. Every time we acquired a new piece, a lively discussion would occur about where to hang it, and the walls were rearranged. Art is food for the soul, and collecting art was a feast that we shared.

We will always love each other and cherish the four years that we spent in this home. But the time came to divide our acquisitions. We divvied up the furniture, the artwork, the china, and the odds and ends. I got custody of the dog, a birthday gift from him.

The home we created was beautiful, and moving on was bittersweet. Though sad to be apart, we are both excited to create separate interiors, ones that will cultivate our growth as individual men, rather than as a couple. But, you know, an interior is a lot like a relationship. Once it is over, there are little more than photographs to convey its magic and articulate to others how wonderful it once was.

Troy Broussard covers interior design for the magazine. The OutSmart readers named Broussard best interior designer in the most recent Gayest & Greatest reader survey ("So Gay, So Great," October 2003).

IT'S ALL AT THE CENTER!

IN MARCH:

YOGA!
Every Monday night
EQUALITY KNOCKS!
Volunteer training
BUSINESS WORKSHOP!
"You Built Your Business, Now What Do You Do?"
MOVIES!
Bi-Net Houston Social & Lesbian Film Night

For details on all March events, check out our web site:

www.HoustonGLBTCommunityCenter.org



Houston GLBT Community Center
3400 Montrose Blvd. Suite 207 | 713.524.3818

www.HoustonGLBTCommunityCenter.org

Ad underwritten by Daniel K. Edwards

Mid-Century Pavilion

2215 Washington Avenue
Houston, TX 77007

- Mid-Century Modern
- Art Deco
- Arts & Crafts

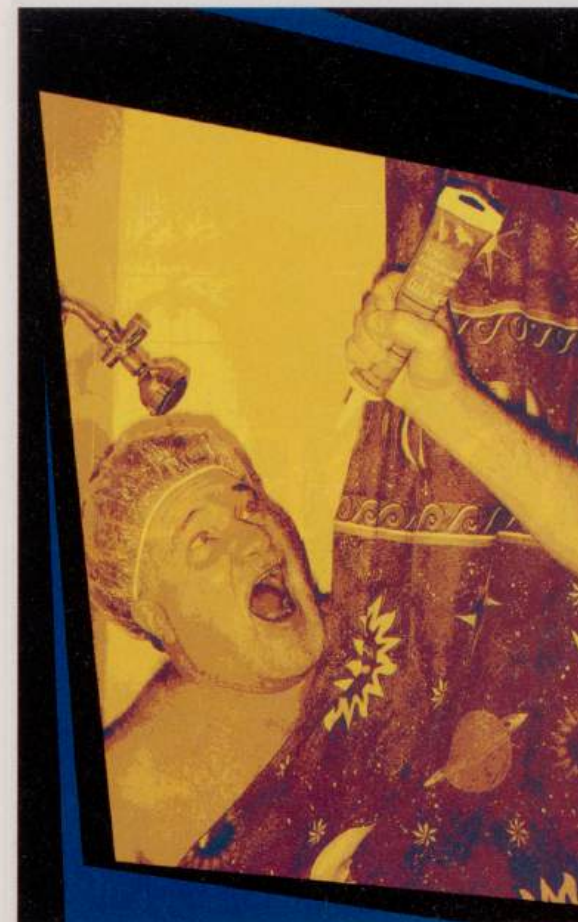


Furniture Lighting
Paintings • Sculpture

Buy • Sell • Consign
Dealer space available

Now Open Sundays!

A collection of dealers
Hours: Tuesday through Saturday: Noon to 7pm
Sunday: Noon to 4pm
713-863-1986 email: info@mid-century-pavilion.com



DOES YOUR BATHROOM
MAKE YOU

PSYCHO?

U-PLUMB-IT

1424 MONTROSE 77019
713.942.2277

FEATURING
SHOWER SYSTEMS
TOTO TOILETS
KITCHEN FIXTURES
BATHROOM FIXTURES
WATER HEATERS
PARTS & PIPES





Legal eagle: "LGBT people have begun to feel as entitled to protection from our court system as anyone else," Connie Moore says.

Check Up CONNIE MOORE

Ten years later, an attorney
and her partner still strive
to protect our families

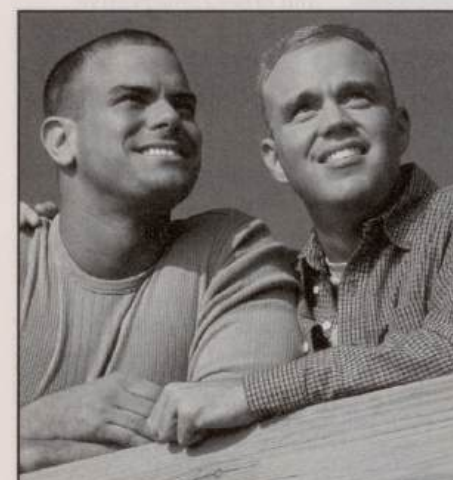
by Thomas Blanton
Photos by Gavyn Aaron

Every month during our 10-year celebration, we revisit an individual we interviewed or who played a significant role in the issue published a decade ago. →

There is still a
Wonderful Gay
Guesthouse
on Galveston
Island.

Paradise
GUESTHOUSE

2317 Avenue P, Galveston Island, Near Texas
1-877-919-6677 • 409-762-6677
Voted "The Best" by OutSmart Readers
HAPPY MARDI GRAS



Helping Gays/Lesbians with
Business & Tax Problems
& Inheritance Tax Issues
Serving Houston & Galveston

PRW
CPA



Paul R. Wasserloos
Certified Public Accountant
Business Consultant
713.526.4760 Houston
409.939.6922 Galveston

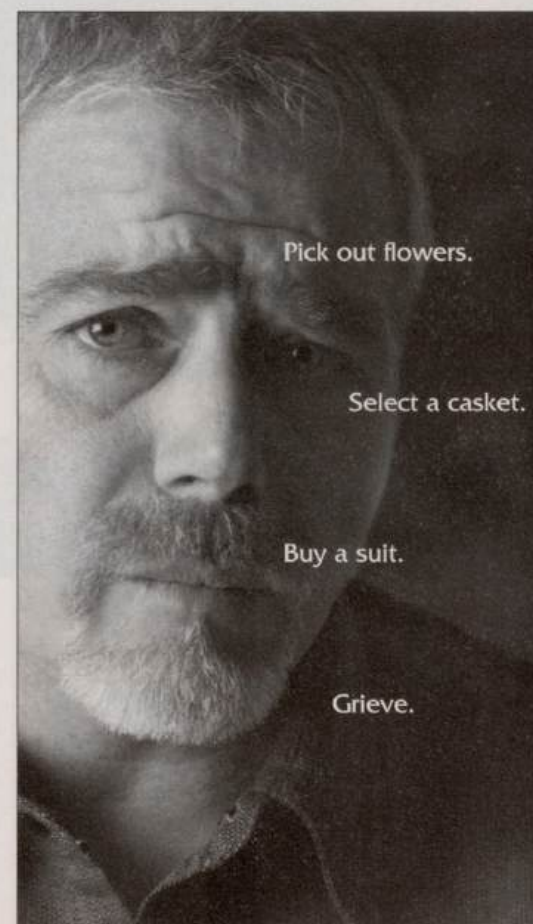
IT'S WHERE YOU FIND YOUR LOOK



LINDBERG®

Eye Elegance
FINE EYEWEAR

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



Pick out flowers.

Select a casket.

Buy a suit.

Grieve.

Let us take care of the details, so you can take care of yourself. Your local Dignity Memorial® funeral provider offers step-by-step assistance through the entire funeral planning process – offering added amenities like a pre-paid calling card and even special travel fares that can often be much lower than airline bereavement rates. For a Dignity Memorial provider near you or to request your free Funeral Reference Guide, please call 1.800.DIGNITY or visit DignityMemorial.com.

The Settegast – Kopf Co.
3320 Kirby Drive
Geo. H. Lewis & Sons
Funeral Directors
1010 Bering Drive



When Connie Moore and her partner Deborah Hunt opened their lesbian/feminist law practice in the middle of the Montrose back in 1987, they found a significant lack of information regarding the legal rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons.

"One of our goals was to provide as much information as we could," Moore says. She remembers that when *OutSmart* asked them to write a monthly legal column, "We jumped at the chance."

Moore and Hunt's "OutLaw" column—launched a decade ago this month with a Moore-written piece—brought in overwhelming feedback from both readers and those seeking legal counsel. Over the several years the column ran, the two lawyers (who penned columns in alternate months) utilized the opportunity to discuss a wide range of topics, everything from family law to landlord/tenant issues. "We covered a lot of ground," Moore recalls.

Looking back over her 17 years of law practice, especially the last 10 years since she wrote that first column, Moore says that the community has become a group of more educated consumers when it comes to the law.

"Originally, we worked with people who assumed they would not be treated appropriately," she explains. "Now, LGBT people have begun to feel as entitled to protection from our court system as anyone else."

According to Moore, the types of legal issues facing the gay community have evolved significantly. For example, her first "OutLaw" column concerned co-parenting rights, because many LGBT people were beginning to plan families at that time. Now, many are opting for second-parent adoptions. However, not all relationships or family units are able to

remain intact, and Moore now sees new problems looming.

"In the last few years, a number of LGBT couples have decided to have children, but decide not to stay together as a family," she says. "It's the same issues that heterosexual couples face, but there's no easy vehicle for divorce, because there's no marriage in the first place."

One tactic Moore condemns in such

In order to combat this reinforcement of prejudices, Moore and Hunt train their team of lawyers to "do no harm" and to vigorously represent their clients within the ethical confines of their own belief systems. Additionally, Moore and Hunt continue to work with families on an educational level. "Families are permanent," Moore says. "If you want to leave the relationship, do so with both parents intact."

As to significant changes and advances in the law that affect the gay community, Moore points out the U.S. Supreme Court's striking down of anti-sodomy laws as well as the current legal and non-secular controversies surrounding gay marriage. "The issue is coming to a head," she says, noting that she believes opponents of gay marriage are working against themselves by calling so much attention to the situation. "It has become such an issue because the religious right and other conservative groups have pushed it into the forefront."

Additionally, Moore asserts that the loudest arguments against gay marriage are the same used in a 1967 court case involving interracial marriage. "If you were to read that case now and substitute *homosexual* for *interracial*, it would read as identical," she says, adding, "There will be setbacks before it gets here, but gay marriage is on the horizon. This is a battle we will definitely win."

Possibly the most noteworthy accomplishment

of Moore and Hunt and their practice is that they have been able to consistently and successfully offer her services to the entire community for nearly two decades. "It's 2004, and for us, nothing's really changed," Moore says. "We're still here, doing the same things we've always done. That's a good thing."

Thomas Blanton also offers his take on queer eyes and straight guys in this issue.



It takes two: Connie Moore and partner Debra Hunt (l) traded writing duties for "OutLaw," their column for *OutSmart* magazine.

REFLEXOLOGY

touch therapies
803 w. gray | houston

albert woo
ITEC Qualified
experience the power to heal,
for an appointment call:
713.446.6473

PARTNER & ESTATE PROTECTION FOR GAY/LESBIAN COUPLES

Medical Power of Attorney
Appointment of Agent for Disposition of Remains
Durable Power of Attorney
Wills
Criminal & Juvenile Defense
Probate
Special Education
Cohabitation Agreements

Monica Vaughan
Attorney & Counselor at Law

4203 Yoakum • Suite 330
Houston TX 77006

Office: 713.630.1010
Cell: 713.306.0020
Fax: 713.630.1023
Email: monica@lawvaughan.com
Web: www.lawvaughan.com

**Not certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization

For Spring Fun... Just Add Water!

Seawall Jog

Family Activities

Beach Play

Spring is in the Air!
One Bedroom Condos,
Sun-Thur rates per night, from
\$79*

Beach Fun for the Family,
Island wide Activities.

THE VICTORIAN
CONDO-HOTEL
& CONFERENCE CENTER
A Suite for the Price of a Room
6300 Seawall Boulevard • Galveston
800-231-6363 • 409-740-3555 • www.VictorianCondo.com
*plus HOA fee and tax. Rate valid through April 30, 2004. Not valid holidays or special event weekends. Based on availability. Subject to increase.

Easter Weekend 2004!
April 9 & 10, Egg Hunt, rates from \$109*/night, 2 night minimum.

Diagnostic Eye Center
Your Full-Service Eye Care Professionals

LASIK and CK SPECIALIST
CATARACTS • GLAUCOMA
DIABETIC • HIV EXAMS • BOTOX
PERMANENT MAKE-UP and LID SURGERY

Dr. Sanders is proud to have been named one of the *LaserVision* 2002 Top 100 Surgeons for achieving excellence in refractive surgery, and has been named one of *Houston's Super Docs* by *H-Texas Magazine* for 2003.

Visit our Office and Optical Shop
ROUTINE EXAMS FOR GLASSES & CONTACTS
6500 Fannin, Suite 1108
713.797.1500
www.DiagnosticEyeCenter.com

2 New LOCATIONS COMING IN 2004
3405 Edloe, Suite 300 and 1213 Hermann, Suite 110

Dr. Pape, M.D.

Kind Eye for the Slovenly Guy

A modest proposal for a series that reaches out to the less-stylish among us

by Thomas Blanton



The Queer Eye guys (l-r): Ted Allen, Thom Filicia, Carson Kressley, Jai Rodriguez, and Kyan Douglas

I have been betrayed. Coming home from work one afternoon, I heard voices and giggles emanating from the bedroom. I tiptoed in silently, then threw open the door, revealing Jack, my beloved and allegedly trustworthy boyfriend, and Brook, our handsome and flirtatious mutual chum, digging through my closet. Jack was holding up various articles of clothing, and Brook was in turn laughing, gagging, or staring in mute horror, depending upon the cut, color, or age of the garment.

In most situations where a gay man catches his significant other in the boudoir with an attractive, single acquaintance, apologies and restitution would be in order. Said boyfriend might beg for forgiveness, say, or at least hold still long enough for a

few well-placed slaps to rain down. Instead, Jack and Brook held a wardrobe intervention.

"Brook says you have to throw this away," Jack said, gesturing to a multicolored denim shirt that I'd found on a discount rack in 1993. Brook then proceeded to banish my green-with-leather-trim ankle-length duster overcoat, all the bowling shirts I'd picked up for cheap when the Super K-Mart in Victoria closed, and a plaid, button-down top with lots of handy zippered pockets. I'd always thought the last little number was pretty chic. Jack and Brook informed me that it was the most visually abrasive textile ever stitched by sweatshop orphans.

I don't really remember what happened next, although I believe the phrases "you just don't understand my style" and "get

away from my clothes, you home wrecker" were bandied about. My temper tantrum was futile. Turns out, I have the worst fashion sense in the entire gay world. Next to me, Bruce Vilanch looks like an evening-wear model for *International Male*.

Normally, a lack of fashion etiquette is nothing to worry about. No matter how badly you dress, there's always someone out there to make better choices for you: That's why God gave us J. Crew sales associates. However, in my case, the situation is compounded by the fact that I'm a total slob. Laundry festers in moldering piles across my bedroom. Dishes, stacked to frightening heights and spackled together with week-old ranch dressing, threaten to topple off the kitchen counter and maim the cats. Most mornings, I'd rather just pick the urine-soaked →

KUNTIE CHANG'S
DUMPLING HOUSE
Chinese Restaurant
A Full Service Restaurant—Nice Dining View

"...the best dumpling's in town..."
—Houston Chronicle

OutSmart Card
complimentary soup
with entree

Lunch Specials
7 days a week until 4:00PM

FREE DELIVERY
(Minimum \$12.00 - Tipping is appreciated)

2621 Shepherd #290 • Houston, TX 77098
P: 713.524.8410 • F: 713.524.4134
(at corner of Randall's Supermarket upstairs with elevator)

ORDER ONLINE AT WWW.AUNTIECHANGS.COM

THE 611
20th Anniversary Party

Monday - March 15th
6 to 11 pm

Buffet and Giveaways
Drink Specials and Surprises
Door Prizes

611 Hyde Park **713.526.7070**

Jungle 12

**Gather The Tribe...
The Gods Have Been Summoned!**

DJ: MANNY LEHMAN
HOUSTON: EASTER WEEKEND
All tickets purchased separately. Weekend Passes available online.

Thursday Night: KICKOFF PARTY Meteor 9:00pm-2:00am No Cover Friday Night: GATHER THE TRIBE Rich's Nightclub 9:00pm-4:00am Tickets: \$15 D.J. Mark Tarbox Los Angeles Saturday Night: TRIBAL HEAT Verizon Wireless Theater 10:00pm-4:00am Tickets Advance: \$45 At the door: \$55 D.J. Producer Manny Lehman NYC - Miami Sunday Morning: Afters TRIBAL COMMUNION- PHOENIX RISING Boaka Bar/ Mercury Room 3:30am-10:00am Tickets: \$25 D.J. Dawna Montel Los Angeles Sunday Evening: TRIBAL LUST South Beach The Nightclub 9:00pm-4:00am Tickets: \$10 D.J. Roland Belmares Los Angeles	BCBC BarreraDesign.com Model: CMZ South Beach Afters BCBC BCBC is a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization.
---	---

junglehouston.com

towels off the bathroom floor than deal with the stinking cesspool that I'm told was, at one time, a litter box.

Jack, bless his heart, tries to clean our apartment around me, but to no avail. You see, my inherent slob nature is like the runoff from a Superfund waste site: It slowly seeps into my environment, eventually making the area completely inhospitable to most life forms. If I didn't shower so often, I'd look just like Pig Pen from *Peanuts*—permanently stained with dirt and surrounded by a personal dust cloud.

No fashion sense, no innate fear of the untidy—and those aren't the only gay stereotypes that don't apply to me. I have never successfully decorated my apartment, nor do I have any clue as to how to select a proper wine. While there was a brief period when I considered myself a chef, Jack finally broke the sad news to me that it doesn't count as cooking if all the ingredients come out of the same box. I do have an abnormal affection for musical theater, but my tastes run a little askew of the norm. In the shower or stuck in traffic, I'm much more likely to be wailing along to "The Ballad of John Wilkes Booth" from *Assassins* or "The Butthole Duet" from *Zero Patience* than anything featuring the vocal stylings of Bernadette Peters.

For a long time, my deficiencies in the traditional homosexual arts worked in my favor. All through college and into adulthood, straight people were always surprised when I came out to them. Whenever I told someone, he or she would usually say something like, "But you're so wrinkled and unshaven." This would lead into a discussion about the oppressive nature of stereotypes and on into friendship and mutual respect. One of my proudest moments occurred during a keg party, when a drunken good ol' boy fresh from A&M told me, "I used to be really homophobic, but then I met you."

So what if whenever I met actual queers they thought I was a genetic aberration. I was, in my own way, spreading the word that gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgenders were first and foremost people who deserved as much dignity and validation as everyone else.

But then *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* premiered, demeaning homosexual stereotypes became badges of honor, and my gay card got revoked.

Don't get me wrong. I'm happy that we have as much media exposure as we do, and

that we're moving away from being portrayed solely as wacky neighbors and serial killers (but go see *Monster* anyway—I hear Charlize Theron is brilliant). What bothers me about *Queer Eye*, though, is that the stereotypes we've rallied against for so long are not only being encouraged, but adopted by the heterosexual majority. At a recent get-together, a straight buddy of mine berated my choice of outfit (torn-up jeans, work boots, and a crumpled flannel shirt—pretty much exactly what I've been wearing every day since we first met in college), then asked me if his eyeliner was too visible. A few minutes later, another straight friend actually made the comment, "Of course, I was metrosexual before it got trendy." Apparently, in order to continue fitting in with the straight people who've been my closest friends for the past decade, I have to start acting as gay as they do.

What a lot of people don't realize, though, is that there's another group out there (aside from gay men who think Dolce

At a recent get-together, a straight buddy of mine berated my choice of outfit, then asked me if his eyeliner was too visible. . . . Apparently, in order to continue fitting in with the straight people who've been my closest friends for the past decade, I have to start acting as gay as they do.

and Gabbana are drag queens) debased by the *Queer Eye* phenomenon: straight men who are happy with themselves and who don't see the need to reconstruct their lifestyles to suit pop culture. I feel bad for these guys. They're sitting in their cluttered living rooms, munching on cold pizza and guzzling beer, blissfully unaware that their girlfriends and wives are watching Bravo and thinking, *If only he could be as gay as those pretty television people.*

With that in mind, I'm going to start my own show.

I don't have a title yet, or a catchy theme song, but I've got the treatment worked out. Once a week, my best friend Mike (a similarly minded gay guy whose wardrobe consists of faded jeans, old T-shirts, and dirty baseball caps and whose résumé lists "capable of driving an M1 tank" under "special skills") and I burst in on some unsuspecting straight guy and encourage him to keep on living however he damn well pleases.

In the first episode, Mike and I kick open the door to a studio apartment, and find "Bob," an average, heterosexual male, sitting on a ratty corduroy sofa amid

drifts of take-out containers and old issues of *Maxim*.

"What seems to be the problem?" we ask. "Dude, my girlfriend says she's totally going to dump me unless I clean up this place and start using a pore-refining moisturizer," Bob moans.

"Well, it sounds like you're dating a controlling bitch," Mike says. "I'm thinking that's your main problem."

"Mike's right," I say. "Wouldn't you rather spend your time with someone who likes you the way you are?"

Bob brightens. "Yeah . . . yeah, I would! Screw her!"

Mike and I smile beatifically. "Why don't you let Mike take you to a sports bar?" I ask. "I'll stay here and see if I can't make this place a little more comfortable. How does that sound?"

Bob resists, until Mike points out that sports bars are where all the fun-loving, open-minded girls hang out. Once they're out the door, I get to work on the apartment. Several hours pass, represented by a musical interlude and some nifty camera angles.

Mike and a happily intoxicated Bob return, along with Bob's new girlfriend Candi, a dental hygienist with a penchant for surgical augmentation who hopes to one day "You know, model and stuff."

"Wow!" Bob exclaims, surveying his home. "It looks exactly the same!"

"Not quite," I say, barely suppressing my pride. "Look, I covered all the piles of dirty laundry in your living room with bed sheets, see? If anyone asks, just say they're beanbag chairs. Oh, and I put all the empty pizza boxes over here, kind of near the trashcan. You can throw them out later. If you get around to it. No pressure."

Bob starts to tear up, and then he and Candi embrace. And then fall down, because they're both pretty drunk by now.

Mike and I dust off our hands and congratulate one another on a job well done. We start to leave, and Bob lifts his head, looks up at us with puppy dog eyes and says, "Hey, guys? I just want you to know that I used to be really homophobic, but then I met you."

"Gee, thanks, Bob," we say. "And you know what? We also accept you for who and what you are."

If that doesn't get me an Emmy, I just don't know what will.

Thomas Blanton suggested alternative Valentine's Day celebrations in the February 2004 issue ("No Cupid Allowed").



PEGGY S. BITTICK

Attorney & Mediator

Compassionate... Thorough... Assertive

- Employment Discrimination
- Co-Parenting Agreements
- Estate Planning
- Child Custody Modification
- Child Support Modification & Enforcement
- Adoption
- General Civil Litigation
- Real Estate
- School Law
- Family Law
- Divorce
- Alternate Lifestyle Issues



Law Offices Of Peggy S. Bittick

281-485-3500
Pearland

281-333-2223
Clear Lake Branch Office (by appointment only)

www.bitticklaw.com Not Certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization

TREAT YOURSELF & SOMEONE SPECIAL

bellissima

salon & spa

Pumpkin Enzyme Peel for Men



This alternative to AHA's, Pumpkin Enzyme Peel, is a fruit acid/enzyme, an exfoliation accelerator, a powerful anti-oxidant, and a mild retinoic acid substitute. It has beta carotene and ascorbic acid as topicals to combat oxidative, fine radical damage.

- Deep exfoliation
- Reduces fine/deep lines
- Lightens pigmentation/sun damage
- Minimizes pores and acne scars
- Refreshes skin
- Nourishes skin
- Increases elasticity

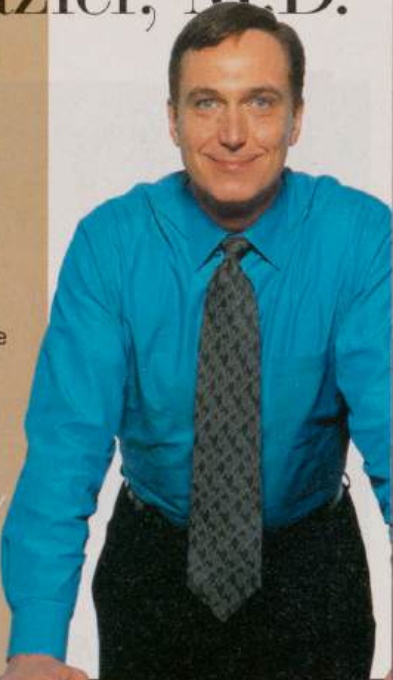
Full Service Salon | Call for FREE Consultation | Gift Certificates Available

2615 Kipling • Houston, TX 77098 • 713.533.1858

Rod Frazier, M.D.

General Medicine
HIV Medicine
Hormonal Therapies
including Growth Hormone & Testosterone

Dr. Frazier is a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians and the American Academy of Anti-Aging Medicine



Park Plaza Professional Building
1213 Hermann Drive
Suite 845
Houston, Texas 77004

713.521.0340

BUYERS Club

HOUSTON

LOW COST
vitamins and nutritional supplements for health and fitness.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

houstonbuyersclub.com • 3224 Yoakum Blvd • 713.520.5288
Mon-Fri 10am-8pm • Sat 10am-6pm • Sun Noon-6pm

How the Dems Can Win

With an eye on the state Democratic presidential primary this month, we asked community activists and allies to opine on ways to regain the White House

by Christopher Curtis

With the death toll in Iraq exceeding 500 American lives, with no weapons of mass destruction found, and an economy that has seen 2.2 million payroll jobs disappear since 2000, Democrats believe they have a strong chance of beating a president whose job approval numbers were once some of the highest in American history.

In fact some polls at press time showed voters more likely to vote for either Democratic front-runner and Massachusetts senator John Kerry or number two-running candidate and North Carolina senator John Edwards over incumbent George W. Bush.

But then the highest court in Kerry's home state ruled that same-sex couples deserved marriage rights, causing several Democratic analysts and leaders to worry that the latest battle over gay and lesbian rights will hijack their chance of winning the White House in 2004.

"Dems will have to walk a tight rope on the marriage issue," admitted Randall Ellis, executive director of the Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, in a recent interview. "It

appears that the Republicans want this issue to be at the forefront of the campaign so as to activate the religious right so that they will vote and give money to the Republican Party.

"The Democrats would do best by taking the conservative route and stand firm that this is an issue left up to the states and that it should remain that way."

Clarence Burton Bagby, a former president of the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus, said he believes Democrats can win this election if they stick to the middle ground. "Democrats must continue to frame the discussions about gay marriage in terms of civil rights. Senator Kerry has been doing an excellent job of this so far."

But while Kerry is on record for supporting GLBT civil rights, he does not support same-sex marriage. After Massachusetts' highest court ruled that same-sex couples deserved to be married, Kerry said he felt differently. "I believe the right answer is civil unions," Kerry said in a February 4 statement. "I oppose gay marriage."

Dag Vega, a spokesperson for Kerry, talked to *OutSmart* about Kerry's position. "I think the gay/lesbian community is aware

that there's no comparison between John Kerry and George Bush. Kerry will fight for gay and lesbian couples to get the same rights—from hospital visitation to inheritance—that heterosexual couples have. That's why he's a firm believer in civil unions."

Eric Stern, director of GLBT outreach for the Democratic National Committee, asserted that if the Republicans lean too far to the right, their efforts to turn out the vote could backfire. "At the 1992 RNC convention, presidential candidate Pat Buchanan railed against Americans whose views differed from those of social conservatives, saying there was a cultural war to be waged for the soul of America," Stern recalled. "The speech tarred Republicans as the party of intolerance and was a factor in Clinton's victory that year."

"With a cohesive, clear message of opposition to this constitutional amendment and support for extending federal rights to gay and lesbian voters, we will not only hold on to the 4.2 million gays who voted for Gore in 2000, but will win a significant share of the more than 1.1 million gay voters who voted for Bush in 2000," Stern said. "Gay conservative leaders have already come very



Senator John Kerry



Senator John Edwards

close to indicating that they will not support Bush in 2004 if he explicitly supports the amendment."

Shari Goldsberry, president of the Houston chapter of the Log Cabin Republicans, concedes that the GOP has shifted too far to the right. "The president should remember that although the religious right is important for votes, the core of the party are fiscal conservatives and small-business owners," Goldsberry said. "Without somehow speaking to those of us less interested in government intervention into social issues, I doubt the president will be in the Oval Office next year."

But Goldsberry asserted that the Democrats won't be able to win "if their only message centers upon the perceived failures of the current administration and the state of the nation."

"They must articulate a message which promotes their specific vision of how they will lead in the future on issues most important to all Americans and what they expect to accomplish. This is a real problem with the current batch of Democratic candidates. They seem to be a group of professional naysayers bereft of ideas and vision."

No matter who runs against Bush, former state representative Glen Maxey, who was the first openly gay Texas legislator and who served as state coordinator for the now-scuttled Howard Dean campaign, scoffed at the idea of any homosexual supporting Bush for re-election.

"Give me a friggin' break," Maxey wrote in an e-mail. "Any GLBT person who would vote for George Bush over any of the possible Democratic nominees is an idiot, in my opinion. Years ago, people would joke that a gay person voting for a Republican presidential candidate was like a Jew voting for Hitler. A decade ago I thought that was over the top. In 2004, I now agree."

Even if GLBT voters turn out to support the leading Democratic candidate, the current president of the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus, Kenneth N Jones, M.D., isn't sure it will make much of a difference. "In light of the Electoral College, I do not believe that we can have much impact on the presidential election. However, we can have a great effect locally. If every GLBT person in Houston would vote for their local GLBT-friendly candidates, the resulting legislature would be much less

willing to amend the federal or state constitution."

Community activist Ray Hill seems to agree that GLBT voters won't have much impact by themselves when it comes to deciding between Kerry and Bush. "Nonetheless, as a voting population, GLBT voters have one strength no other group enjoys. We can multiply our voting strength anytime we wish. All we have to do is ask our neighbors and relatives to please vote for candidates supportive of our issues. It is kind of a stealth capacity, rarely used but always there."

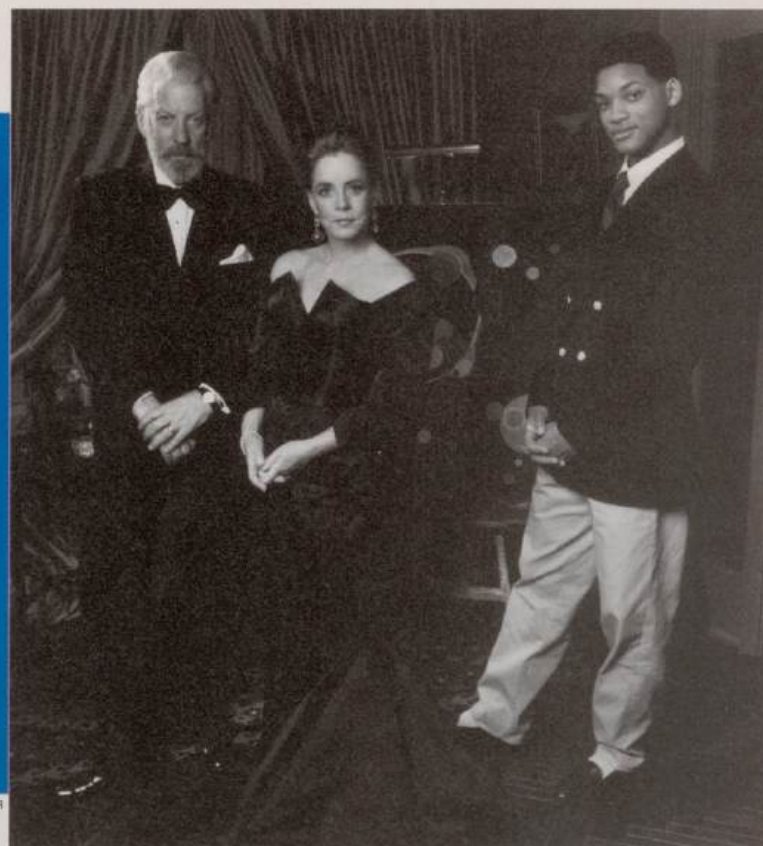
Former state representative Debra Danburg, who fought to have the Homosexual Conduct Law thrown out while she served in the legislature, agrees voter turnout is important, but also believes something else is key to winning a race against a Republican.

"Since there are more of us than there are of them," she said, "all we have to do is: 1) get our voters to the polls in the same high percentages that they do, and 2) make sure they don't cheat."

Christopher Curtis, who contributes regularly to Gay.com, also interviewed Human Rights Campaign executive director Cheryl Jacques for this issue.

SUDDENLY STOCKARD. Even before she portrayed the acerbic, powerhouse Abby Bartlett on *The West Wing*, we loved **Stockard Channing** for *The Girl Most Likely To...*, *Lily Dale*, *The Matthew Shepard Story*, *To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything! Julie Newmar*, and more. We even watch *Grease* on AMC until she belts "There Are Worse Things I Could Do." Channing has long been an ally through her support of GLBT and HIV/AIDS organizations and with her choice of roles. On March 15, she flies into town for a screening of *Six Degrees of Separation*, a benefit for the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston film department. We still admire the 1993 drama, even though **Will Smith** made such a fuss over not really kissing a man on screen to protect his image (hello, the character was a *gay hustler*). After the closing credits, Channing and Alley Theatre artistic director **Gregory Boyd** will chat in the museum's Brown Auditorium. Go see Stockard (in a still from *Six Degrees* with **Donald Sutherland** and Smith, right). There are much worse things you could do.

MYLES ARONOWITZ/METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER



GOOD WORKS. On March 12, **John Danielson** will host Bringin' in the Green, the annual Montrose Counseling Center benefit. Stalwart fundraiser **Jack Jackson** is listed as Resident Leprechaun for the event, and **Jerry Atwood** and **Julie Link** will perform. The guys from the Four Seasons Club will pour drinks.

Marion Coleman will preside over the annual party in honor of her late, great bar Kindred Spirits on March 13. The evening at the Hornberger Center will again raise funds for Houston Buyer's Club, Lesbian Health Initiative, and Montrose Clinic/Montrose Counseling Center women's programs. Bocados and Boca Chica owner **Terry Flores** will provide tunes for dancing.

A performance by the cast of the touring production of *Rent* will kick off AIDS Walk Houston on March 14 in Sam Houston Park. The 15th annual event benefits the foundation and 18 other local HIV/AIDS service organizations.

Throughout 2004, agent **Tom Tinsley** of Beth Wolff Realtors will donate \$100 to AIDS Foundation Houston for every sale he closes (when the buyer refers to this offer). In conjunction with the AIDS walk, Tinsley will give \$200 for every sale closed in March. Additionally, **Robert M. Spiegel** of RMC Vanguard Mortgage Corporation will match Tinsley's donations for every referred loan he closes this year. Details: Tinsley, 281/610-0454.

Tom Downing, Sheri Heyen, and Steven

Wagner are co-chairing the March 20 Human Rights Campaign dinner (more info, page 16).

On March 28, **Camille Waters** will toss her annual garden party and picnic in the West End. The afternoon, including a festive-hat contest, will benefit Urban Harvest and Chefs' Collaborative.

IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

Beginning this month, **Bryan Lari** teaches a Monday yoga class at the Houston GLBT Community Center. Lari also plans to teach a class for the HIV-affected clients at Thomas Street Clinic.

At **Joe Watts's** Theatre New West, **Leigh Anne Patterson** and **Shannon Woelk** (pictured)



star in *Parallel Lives: The Kathy & Mo Show* through March 13. **John Mitsakis** directs the women, who play more than 24 characters in the sketch comedy favorite (reservations: 281/224-3170 or 713/522-2204).

Also through March 13, Masquerade Theatre presents the Tony-winning musical

A New Brain, by openly gay composer/lyricist **William Finn**.

On March 18, Chances celebrates a year of Thursday open-mike nights at the bar with a performance by **Michelle Malone**, the singer/songwriter. **Cindy Pruitt** wrangles the weekly tune-up.

Oklahoma City émigré **James B. Hughes** has taken the helm of Gay Men's Chorus of Houston as executive director. The singers croon the songs of Cole Porter, the big queen, in March 20, 21, and 23 concerts at Hobby Center.

Judy Reeves, Gulf Coast Archive & Museum of GLBT History maven, directs *The Illustrated Woman* at Theatre Suburbia through March 27. Speaking of the museum, super fundraiser **Don Gill** speaks at the March 28 Fourth Sunday program.

CLOSE THE BOOK. As we prepared to go to press, Lobo Bookshop & Café shuttered. We will have more coverage in a future issue on the death of the community institution owned by **Larry Lingle**. In the meantime, Lobo habitué **Al Almado** contacted us about plans to keep up with "the displaced Lobo regulars—customers and employees." He has slated a March 13, 10 a.m., gathering at Diedrich's Coffee on Westheimer. "I like the idea of getting the old kibitzers from Lobo together," Almado e-mailed. "I want to try to do this once a month, if there is interest." Intrigued? Contact him at al@alamado.com. ■

MAKE HISTORY

Honor a friend. Appreciate a hero. Remember a loved one. Place a Commemorative Tribute in OutSmart's 10th ANNIVERSARY BOOK.

Special rates are available for commemorative tributes. Reserve your space today. To order a memorial or enter your organization's salute to the GLBT community, call an OutSmart rep at 713.520.7237



This hardbound book is a first-ever compilation of interviews with nationally known newsmakers and personalities who helped shape our community over the past decade. Featuring celebrities like **Sean Hayes**, **Debbie Reynolds**, **Harvey Fierstein**, **Margaret Cho**, **RuPaul**, **Chastity Bono**, **Cyndi Lauper**, and **Sandra Bernhard**, this glossy coffee table-style book is a truly special OutSmart edition.

This full-color hardbound book will be a keepsake that readers will enjoy for years, which means that your tribute will have real long-lasting value. Be part of history in the making with our 10th Anniversary Special Edition.

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

3406 Audubon Place | Houston, Texas 77006 | 713.520.7237 | 713.522.3275 Fax

New Homeowners Insurance Markets!

Experience.

Professionalism.

Courteous Service!

For Auto,
Home &
Health

Jeffrey Bules

713.661.7700

Schmerler Insurance Agency

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

hot·diamonds·man

STERLING SILVER AND DIAMONDS

The Diamond Jewelry Factory
6463 Westheimer Road
Houston, TX 77057
713-789-0111
www.diamondjewelryfactory.com

The Community's Best Grocery Store, OutSmart Gayest & Greatest Readers' Choice Awards 2003.

Your Kroger Signature store on Montrose offers one-stop shopping convenience.

- ✓ MEAL CENTER
- ✓ NUTRITION CENTER
- ✓ ORGANIC PRODUCE
- ✓ WINE CHILLER
- ✓ FLORAL SHOPPE
- ✓ FTD WORLDWIDE FLORAL DELIVERY
- ✓ PHARMACY
- ✓ DELI/PASTRY SHOPPE
- ✓ SELF SERVICE SEAFOOD
- ✓ SARA LEE SANDWICH SHOPPE
- ✓ ROTISSERIE CHICKEN
- ✓ FLAME GRILLING

3300 Montrose Blvd.
713.526.7865

Pharmacy: 713.526.1239



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

Marion E. Coleman
Your Community Image Inker!

Thank You OutSmart readers for voting
Marion Coleman
"Top Female Gay Business Person." AGAIN!

House of Coleman
Fine Printing & Graphics

901 WEST ALABAMA
HOUSTON, TX 77006-4693
713.523.2521 • FAX 713.524.2643
www.HouseofColeman.com

PSYCHIC & TAROT CARD READING

Morgan Peters

You've seen her on TV and you've heard her on radio
Now experience this truly gifted psychic in person.
All readings are done with pinpoint accuracy.
A psychic reading will answer these questions and more!

- What is blocking my success, happiness and personal fulfillment?
- Where is my love relationship going?
- What must I do to remove my obstacles?
- What is stopping my from having a lasting relationship?



Services Available:

Psychic Reading - Tarot Card Reading - Spiritual Cleansing

Available for parties.

20 Year experience.

Specializing in reuniting loved ones.

\$25 off Full Life
Reading

713.952.4523

Clint Eastwood

(US Weekly, 1/04)

On same-sex marriages: "You have to believe in total equality. People should be able to be what they want to be and do what they want as long as they're not harming people."

Bill Maher

(Real Time with Bill Maher, 2/13/04, HBO)

New Rule—Special Valentine's Day Edition: You can't claim you're the party of smaller government and then make laws about love.

On this occasion of this Valentine's Day, let's stop and ask ourselves, "What business is it of the state how consenting adults choose to pair off, share expenses, and eventually stop having sex with each other?" (Applause, cheers) And why does the Bush administration want a constitutional amendment about weddings? Hey, why stop at weddings? Birthdays are important—let's put them in the great document. Let's make a law that gay people can have birthdays, but straight people get more cake (applause, cheers) . . . you know, to send the right message to kids.

Republicans are always saying we should privatize things like schools, prison, social security. Hey, how about we privatize privacy (applause, cheers), because if the government forbids gay men from tying the knot, what is their alternative? They can't all marry Liza Minnelli. (Laughter, applause)

You know, Republicans used to be the party that opposed social engineering, but now they push programs to outlaw marriage for some people and encourage it for others. If you're straight, there's a billion five in the budget to promote marriage, but gay marriage is opposed because it threatens or mocks or does something to the "sanctity" of marriage . . . as if anything you can do in Vegas drunk off your ass in front of an Elvis impersonator could be considered sacred. (Laughter, applause) Half the people who pledge eternal love are doing it because one of them is either knocked up, rich, or desperate. But in George Bush's mind, marriage is only a beautiful lifetime bond of love and sharing . . . kind of like what his dad has with the Saudis. (Applause, cheers)

But at least the right wing aren't hypocrites on this issue. They really believe that homosexuality is an abomination and a dysfunction that's curable. They believe that if a gay man just devotes his life to Jesus, he'll stop being gay . . . because that theory worked out so well with the Catholic priests. (Laughter, applause)

I have to tell you the greater shame to this story goes to the Democrats, because they don't believe homosexuality is an abomination, and, therefore, their refusal to endorse gay marriage is hypocrisy. (Applause) Their position doesn't come from the Bible—it's ripped right from the latest poll, which says most Americans are against gay marriage. Well, you know what? Sometimes most Americans are just wrong. And where is the Democrat who will stand up and go beyond the half measures of "civil union" and "hate the sin, love the sinner" and say loud and clear, "There is no sin. It's not an abomination, and no one can control how Cupid aims his arrows." And the ones who pretend they can, usually turn out to be the biggest freaks. (Applause, cheers)

The law in this country should reflect that some people are just born one-hundred-percent outrageously, fabulously, undeniably, Fire Island gay! (Applause, cheers) And they do not need reprogramming . . . they need a man with a slow hand. (Applause, cheers)

Charlize Theron

(The Advocate, 3/2/04, Bruce C. Steele)

Bruce C. Steele: . . . Did you know gay people [growing up in South Africa]?

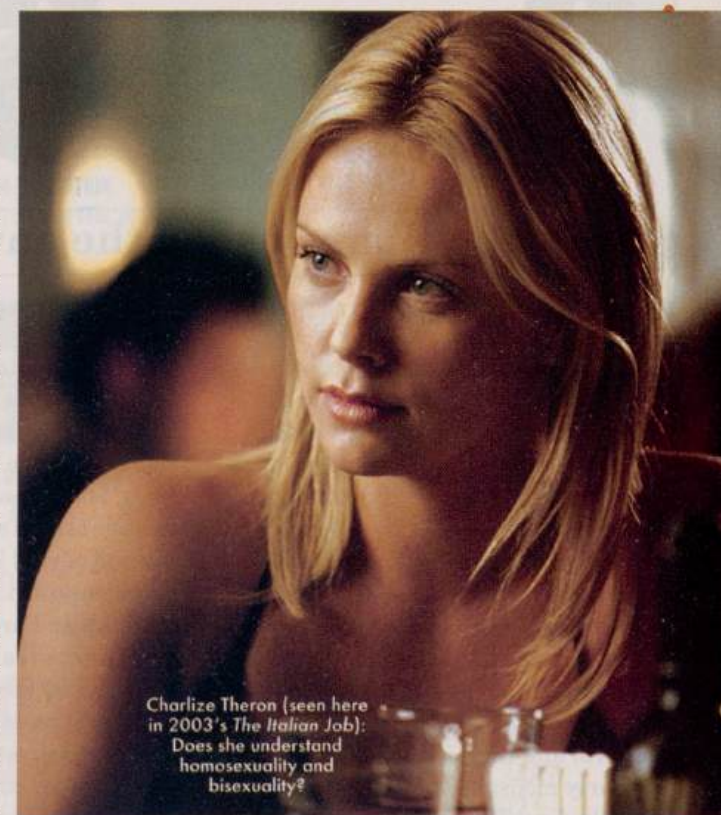
Charlize Theron: Yeah, my neighbor was gay. . . . Or is gay, still. He was about maybe 12 or 13 years older than me. I grew up with it. I don't even remember my mom explaining it to me or anything like that. I remember going and having dinner at their house three times a week and having a barbecue, and he would be there with his boyfriend. . . . It was never an issue. And then for some reason, through my mom there was quite a big community of friends that we had that were either bisexual or gay. I guess I just understood it. I just got it.

And then you went into ballet and fashion!

[Laughs] Exactly! Yeah, you can't go through an art school and not experience all of that. . . .

You've said that the notion that gay marriage is still up for debate seems prehistoric to you.

Very prehistoric. I just don't understand that at all. . . . I am surrounded by so many beautiful relationships just in my life, I can't tell you—just so inspirational. And the fact that what the sex is [of someone you love] is an issue is just unbelievable to me. I mean, love is such a hard f--king thing—to find somebody who's willing to love you and accept you and have patience with you and is willing to go through anything with you and stand by you—that, on its own, is so hard to find. The fact that people want to complicate it even more just absolutely baffles me. If it happens, cherish it! What does it matter if you're sharing it with a man or with a woman?



Charlize Theron (seen here in 2003's *The Italian Job*): Does she understand homosexuality and bisexuality?



Compiled by Blase DiStefano

Brendan Fraser

(Late Night with Conan O'Brien, 1/26/04, NBC)

Re: Hugh Jackman in *The Boy from Oz*, now playing on Broadway.

"I'm the most hetero guy I know, but by the end of the show, I wanted to jump his bones."



Leisha Hailey

(The Advocate, 2/17/04, Dennis Hensley)

"*The L Word* is one of the top five things I'm most proud of in my life. I feel so honored to be a part of this movement," says the 32-year-old actress. . . . "I feel like I'm part of something really big, something that can help millions of people understand what it's like to be gay, curious, bisexual, transgendered." . . .

[Hailey was in the alternative band the Murmurs for 12 years and] was open about her sexuality from the get-go. "I feel like being out of the closet has done nothing but reward me in my life," she maintains, adding that she never felt pressure from the music industry to be anything other than what she was. "I feel like if you're comfortable with it yourself, then the way you're perceived in the world is very open." . . .

Was it ever difficult for Hailey to be involved with a sex symbol [k.d. lang, with whom she had an almost-five-year relationship that ended three years ago], to be Jennifer Aniston to the lesbian Brad Pitt?

"That's funny, the lesbian Brad Pitt," she says with a laugh, "but no, I never felt threatened. We were very close and connected, and I suppose that aspect of it didn't really affect the two of us. A relationship with any two people comes down to trust and security, and if you have that, nothing else really matters."



Leisha Hailey (seen here in Showtime's *The L Word*): Is she the lesbian Brad Pitt?

Queer Sundance

Sixteen films pushed the envelope at the annual film festival

by Lawrence Ferber

According to accounts both public and private, there's always a share of audacious, barrier-breaking queer antics going down at the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah. In recent years, a gay movie director managed to lure a gaggle of Mormon high school boys to his condo's Jacuzzi. A party for the film *Party Monster* made legendary status last year when a young local was stripped naked atop a platform and revelers (including real-life party monster James St. James) literally dipped their fingers into the honeypot. And the Sundance press

office—populated by its share of homos—bestows an annual "Golden Toothbrush" award to the staffer who sleeps with the most people.

In 2004, however, most of the Sundance Festival's queer boundary pushing and sexual indulgence was relegated onscreen via a spate of assured, original, and provocative gay works.

"They're really taking chances, super pushing the boundaries," says openly lesbian Sundance programmer Shari Frilot. "Last year the gay films were starting to become more continuous with other films—stories about the human experience that happened to be

gay. The politics of queerness were not as in the front seat. This year's films are harkening back to New Queer Cinema's [heyday] in terms of really pushing the boundaries creatively, formally, and content wise—like [the incest-themed] *Harry and Max*, a film that's even angering gay programmers! And it's exciting, a serious sign of health in cinema."

Here's a rundown with the scoop on each of the queer offerings, including the distributor (if announced) and when you might see them playing near you. Of course, many of these flicks will pop up at upcoming gay film festivals.

Bright Young Things

Directed by Stephen Fry

Openly gay UK actor/writer Fry (*Wilde*) makes his directorial debut with this satirical tale of a young novelist caught up in the decadence, dandies, and very naughty parties of 1930s London. "I was just totally charmed," Shari Frilot says. "I didn't know there was an English version of Weimar Germany, so I was really excited to see that onscreen." Acquired by THINKfilm.

Brother to Brother

Directed by Rodney Evans

Evans sublimely interweaves the tales of two black men—elderly Bruce Nugent, who co-founded the literary journal *Fire!* with Langston Hughes, and young gay painter Perry Williams—during the



Brother to Brother

Harlem Renaissance and today. Gorgeous cinematography, performances, and important revelations about gay black history and the present made this one of the fest's most praised queer works—and winner of the special jury prize for dramatic feature.

Carandiru



Carandiru

Directed by Hector Babenco

Kiss of the Spider Woman/Pixote director Babenco returns to prison. Sao Paulo's Carandiru prison is the setting for a story of the real-life 1992 massacre of over 100 prisoners, including drag queens and gay men. *Madame Sata* star Lazaro Ramos plays a jailed surfer, and heartthrob Rodrigo Santoro (seen in *Charlie's Angels Full Throttle*) plays the transvestite Lady Di. Sony Classics will unspool the film in Los Angeles and New York in May.

D.E.B.S.

Directed by Angela Robinson

Finally, the female super agent genre receives a dyked-up overhaul. A clan of young female operatives (who dress in schoolgirl outfits) track down the legendary villainess Lucy Diamond—but one of the D.E.B.S. realizes that she would rather love Lucy than arrest her. *D.E.B.S.* began as a short film screened at Sundance 2003. After it received a tremendous response, Sony's Screen Gems division backed the feature version.

Eulogy

Directed by Michael Clancy

Kelly Preston and Famke Janssen play a lesbian couple in this knee-slapping comedy-of-bad-manners about a dysfunctional →



Eulogy



2004 F150 CREW CAB
\$499.99 w/10% plus TT&L down*



2004 MUSTANG
\$399.99 w/10% plus TT&L down*



2004 EXPEDITION
\$399.99 w/10% plus TT&L down*



2003 NEW F150 SuperCab
\$7500 off
*with approved credit



2004 USED Chrysler Sebring



2003 USED Mustang
\$14,900

PROUD SPONSORS of AIDS Walk Houston 3/14



Your Community Dealer

1.866.FORDSON59 • 19000 Highway 59 • Humble, TX

www.teamfordtexas.com

CALL FOR DETAILS & PRICING
CREDIT PROBLEMS?
- OK! We can help! -

Member GLBT Chamber

Service Mon-Sat.
Call for current specials.

Just 20 minutes from
Downtown, Heights &
Montrose, off 59 North.



Paul Unerfusser
cell: 281.802.3487
1.800.760.5921

Absolutely Flat for the Summer!

Looking to uncover washboard abs for the summer?
We've laid out the plans to get you the body of your dreams!
We can even teach you the secrets that can get your belly
from bulging to beautiful!

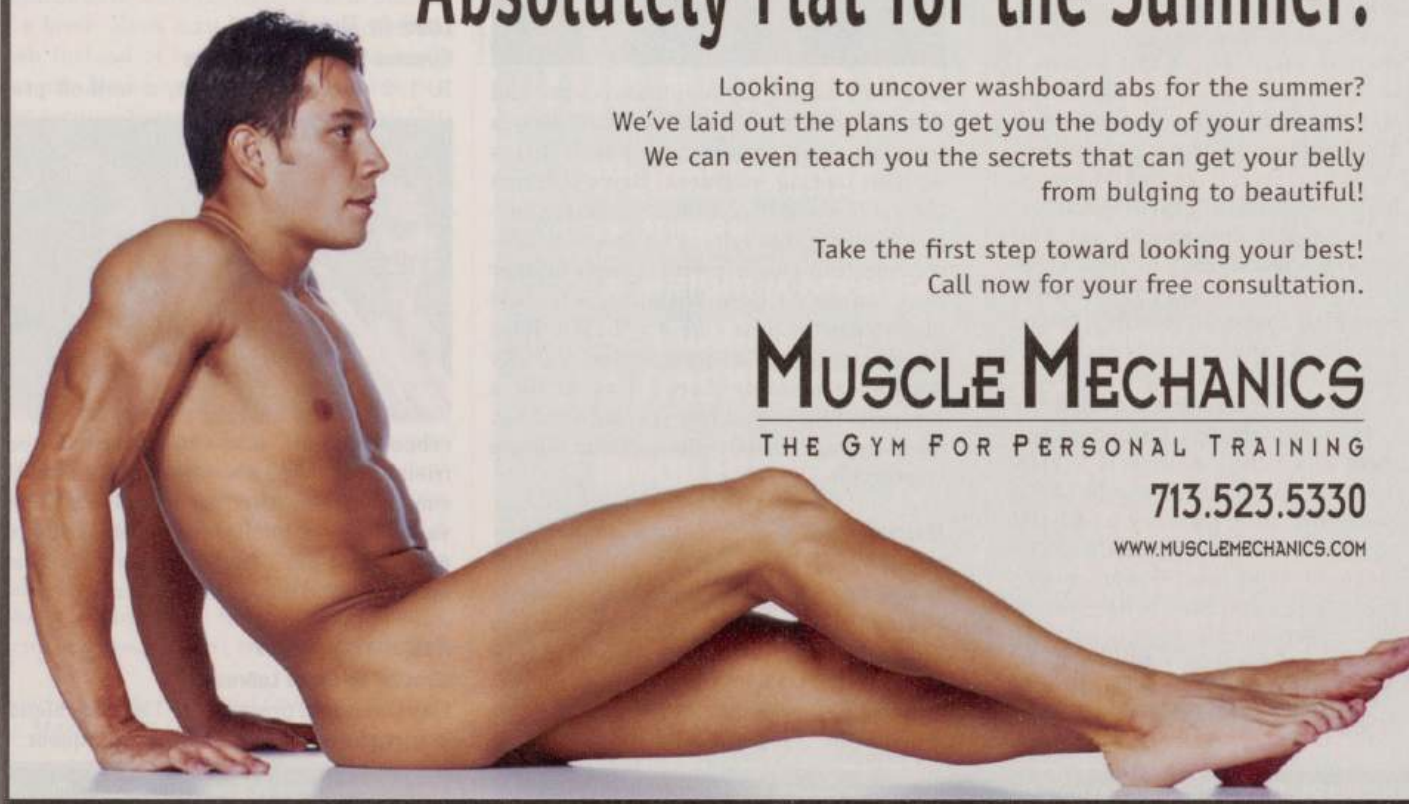
Take the first step toward looking your best!
Call now for your free consultation.

MUSCLE MECHANICS

THE GYM FOR PERSONAL TRAINING

713.523.5330

WWW.MUSCLEMECHANICS.COM



**Festival Award-Winner
Latter Days in Houston**



Steve Sandvoss (l) and Wes Ramsey

The tagline reads, "Aaron prays. Christian plays. . . Opposites attract." • Aaron (Steve Sandvoss) is a Mormon missionary who is sweet, kind, naive, and sexually confused. Christian (Wes Ramsey) is a pretty party boy who is sweet (with a twist of sour) and kind (with a twist of spite), but he is neither naive nor sexually confused. • Director C. Jay Cox (screenwriter of *Sweet Home Alabama*) brings their worlds together in the laundryroom of the apartment complex in which they both live. Their connection is their love of movies and their mutual physical attraction. • Christian has a bet going with friends that he can bed Aaron, but when the time comes, Aaron rejects him because of Christian's frivolous response to the situation. Aaron tells him he's shallow, which Christian takes to heart. Christian's spiritual growth soon becomes evident, and the two make love. • Cut to Aaron with his parents (Mary Kay Place and Jim Orlieb), who are mortified after hearing of their son's homosexuality. Cox, a gay ex-Mormon, handles this crisis with care, and we are witness to the damage caused by ignorance and rigidity. • Though this film (winner of many film fest awards) is romantic, touching, funny, and sad, it can sometimes seem contrived and border on melodrama. But, on the whole, for a "gay film," it is top-notch. The performances are good, and Sandvoss gives a superb performance in his first role. (FYI: Sandvoss and Ramsey are both straight.) There's an extra treat in store: Jacqueline Bisset plays Christian's boss. And, by the way, if you're the type who cries at movies, have a hankie handy. • At press time, it was scheduled to start March 5 at Angelika Film Center. —Blase DiStefano

Queer Sundance *continued from page 48*

family from hell convening after their patriarch kicks the bucket. There are even more queers hidden in the haystack, though. Comeback lady Debra Winger provides a hysterical, memorable performance. Acquired by Lions Gate Films for 2004 release.

Garden

Directed by Adi Barash and Ruthie Shatz

A somber documentary following two teenage Tel Aviv hustlers—illegal Palestinian Nino and Israeli-Arab pal Dudu—as they turn tricks, survive beatings by militia (scenes where they reveal gunshot scars from interrogations send shivers up the spine), and alternately cling to/fight with each other. This garden's occupants are a universe away from the suicide bombers and soldiers so often seen in media.

Harry and Max

Directed by Christopher Munch

What if former Backstreet Boy Nick Carter



Harry and Max director Munch (l) and star Williams at Sundance Film Festival.

and his younger brother, teenybopper idol Aaron Carter, were having an affair? Munch imagines the provocative possibilities without casting judgment. Bryce Johnson (also of *Home of Phobia*) stars as Harry, boy-band star gone solo, who takes a life-changing camping trip with younger brother Max (adorable Cole Williams, who last played gay in *Boys Life 4's* "LTR"). Rain Phoenix co-stars. Curiously, Williams briefly worked alongside Aaron Carter on a scrapped film project last year called *Camp Summerstage*. Distribution negotiations are in progress.

Haute Tension

Directed by Alexandre Aja

Hot on the tail of the '70s-style horror movie revival (*Wrong Turn*, *Texas Chainsaw Massacre*) comes this jolting, super-gory French effort about a young lesbian who must save her best friend—and biggest crush—from a razor-wielding killer. GLAAD



members might emerge from the theater with ruffled feathers, but this is one gleefully gruesome thrill ride. Due in 2004 from Lions Gate Films.

Home of Phobia

Directed by Ryan Shiraki

When Clay, a college freshman, is mistaken as gay, he decides to keep up the ruse to seduce a sorority girl—with sometimes havoc-wreaking effects. Un-PC and playfully facetious about identity politics, *Home* co-stars John Goodman as a nelly bartender who helps induct Clay in the art of faggotry.

In the Company of Women

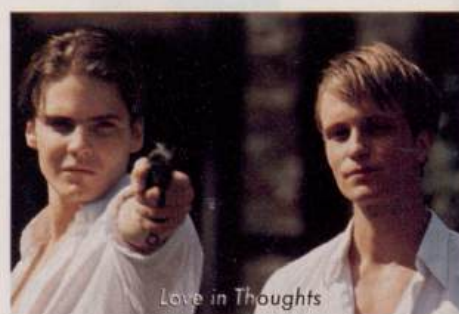
Directed by Leslie Klainberg and Gini Reticker

Sundance programmer Frilot appears in this Independent Film Channel original documentary celebrating female filmmakers and their impact on Hollywood and indie cinema and culture. Subjects include B. Ruby Rich, Kimberly Peirce, Patricia Clarkson, Jodie Foster, Parker Posey, Mary Harron, Tilda Swinton, and Lili Taylor. Debuts March 18 on IFC.

Love in Thoughts

Directed by Achim von Borries

In 1927 Berlin, Guenther, a well-off prep



school student, and working-class poet friend Paul spend a weekend at Guenther's summerhouse with frisky sister Hilde. Their vacation soon swells into an explosion of polysexual sex, drugs, booze, confused emotions, and bloody consequences.

Raspberry Reich

Directed by Bruce LaBruce

Gay Canadian provocateur LaBruce blends art, porn, and politics in an überqueer →

film about left-wing German terrorists whose leader forces straight male members to have sex with each other to "prove their mettle as authentic revolutionaries." Frilot credits *Raspberry* with boasting the most cumshots ever seen in a Sundance movie. From Strand Releasing.

Saved

Directed by Brian Dannelly

When Mary's boyfriend Dean proclaims that he is gay, a life-changing chain reaction is set off in their religious high school. This zingy comedy stars Mandy Moore as bitchy star student Hilary Faye. The film's premiere was deluged with Moore's sycophants. United Artists will release *Saved* beginning this month.

Tarnation

Directed by Jonathan Caouette

Caouette's experimental feature about his queer life and troubled family incorporates video footage he has accumulated since childhood. "The great thing about *Tarnation* is this guy cut it on iMovie on an old Mac computer," Frilot observes. "He says it cost \$218. Of course, he's been shooting it 20 years and the accounting is kind of slippery, but it's undeniable that it's a statement for super, super low-budget filmmaking."

A Thousand Peace Clouds Encircle the Sky

Directed by Julian Hernandez

Shot in beautiful black and white, the poetic *Clouds* follows Mexico City teenager Gerardo as he wanders the streets in pursuit of a lover. Each man he encounters offers cash instead of love or connection, until Gerardo hooks up with—and loses—a guy who seems different. Can he track down this man again? Fun fact: Hernandez's films often have lengthier titles than dialogue. *Clouds*'s original title is 13 words long. Acquired by Strand Releasing.

Touch of Pink

Directed by Ian Iqbal Rashid

Jimi Mistry stars as Alim, a gay Indian-Canadian living in London with the two men he loves: his boyfriend Giles (Kristen Holden-Ried) and Cary Grant's apparition (Kyle MacLachlan). When Alim's traditionalist mother, unaware of her son's sexuality, visits, all sorts of antics transpire à la *The Wedding Banquet* (The Wedding Banghra?). *Hollywood Reporter* raved: "Touch of Pink has a touch of magic." Sony Pictures Classics agreed, snatching up the film.

Lawrence Ferber reported from Sundance in the March 2003 OutSmart.



SPECTACLES ON MONTROSE

4317 MONTROSE BLVD • 713.529.3937
EYE EXAMS • CONTACTS • EYEWEAR



The Health Club For Montrose

Weight Training

- Cybex
- Hammer Strength
- Nautilus
- Free Weights

Cardio Equipment

- Precor
- Life Fitness
- Cybex
- Life Cycle

Group Fitness

- Yoga
- Step Aerobics
- Boot Camp

Personal Training

- Weight Loss
- Strength Training
- Flexibility

4040 Milam St. Houston

713 524-9932 www.FitnessExchange.cc
Located between Richmond & Alabama in Montrose

FEST FLIPS TO FALL. After seven years as a summer event, the Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival has moved to the fall. The dates are September 9-19. Info: www.hglff.org.

CAMPY CAMP

It may be a little early for summer camp, but it's not too early for this Camp.



The Camp cast (clockwise from left): Joanna Chilcoat, Alana Allen, Sasha Allen, Robin de Jesus, Anna Kendrick, and Daniel Letterle.

Captivating and moving performances steal the show in the "funny, touching, and vital" (*Rolling Stone*) musical comedy *Camp*. Featuring a young cast who were selected from a nationwide talent search, *Camp* was shot at the real-life drama camp Stagedoor Manor, whose alumni include Natalie Portman, Mandy Moore, and Robert Downey Jr. Nominated for the Grand Jury Prize at the 2003 Sundance Film Festival, this exuberant and hilarious film follows the unique interactions of young aspiring performers at the well-known drama camp. *The New York Times* said, "A delirious musical-comedy romp. You have to love it!" • The *Camp* DVD features deleted and extended scenes, "The Making of *Camp*" featurette, a live cast performance of "How Shall I See You Through My Tears," a soundtrack spot, and the original theatrical trailer. • Available from MGM Home Entertainment (www.mgmhomevideo.com). —Troy Carrington

MORE DVD/VHS PREVIEWS

Gone, But Not Forgotten



When director/producer Michael D. Akers was growing up in the 1980s in rural Pennsylvania, Queer Cinema generally meant an edgy movie about AIDS or coming out. A gay love story during that time usually involved a gay guy falling for a straight guy he could never have. For his first movie, Akers wanted to make something that he would have wanted to see as a kid in Amish country: a squishy gay love story where the boy gets the boy—not to ruin the ending for you. Fourteen film festivals and numerous applauding, sold-out audiences later, it the filmmaker's reward to know that a lot of gay people feel the same way. • It's wonderful to know that it doesn't require Hollywood production values to tell a simple love story. Akers' credit card-size budget afforded him a first-time cast and crew—six actors, six crew. • Imagine his surprise when in only two months, *Gone, but Not Forgotten* became one of TLA Video's top-selling movies of 2003. Akers says, "I hope you enjoy my 'little move that could' for all it has to offer: a drama that doesn't take itself too seriously—a sweet love story about two hot guys who, in this crazy upside-down world, find each other one dark

night, on the side of a mountain, in the middle of a rainstorm." • From TLA Video (www.tlavideo.com). For more information, visit the film's website at www.gonebutnotforgotten-themovie.com. —TC

Blue Gate Crossing



The second film from acclaimed Taiwanese writer and director Chih-Yen Lee (*The Lonely Hearts Club*), *Blue Gate Crossing* is the story of the tomboyish and sometimes serious Meng Kerou, whose schoolgirl silliness unleashes itself when she's with her close girlfriend Lin Yuezheng. Meng, however, has the hots for Zhang Shihao, the sexy boy on the swim team. One evening when Zhang sneaks into the pool to do laps, he confronts Meng who tells him that her friend likes him. He thinks "the friend" is imaginary and that Meng is actually coming on to him. Little does he realize she actually has increasing desires on her own best friend. • "Disarming performances," wrote the *Village Voice*. "Discreetly handled," said the *New York Post*, while *The New York Times* noted the film is successful because "it depends on the truthfulness of its performances to carry it." • Available from Strand Releasing (www.strandreleasing.com). —Suzie Lynde

Porn Theatre



In *Porn Theatre*, writer/director Jacques Nolot has created an intimate world of sex and peril, explicitness and heartlessness, and humor and melancholy. The theater attracts men (and a few women) of all kinds, of varying races, ages, and appearance—all on the lookout for hopeful cruising and brief encounters, though any sort of human interaction is usually welcomed. The audience includes transvestites, gay men, and straight men, all of whom can free their frustrations and their impulses. There are also lonely and older people with their own fantasies. The ensemble drama that is *Porn Theatre* shrewdly and boldly shows how the patrons and employees interact, through both conversation and sex. An illuminating and nonjudgmental quest for affection and anonymous sex, *Porn Theatre* is a fascinating peek at the sexual comings and goings at an adult movie house in Paris. • The film was named by the *Los Angeles Times*, *News-Times* newspapers, the *New York Press*, and the *New York Blade* as one of the best films of 2003. • From Strand Releasing Home Video (www.strandreleasing.com). —TC

MORE DVD/VHS PREVIEWS

Somewhere in the City



Somewhere in the City deftly threads the overlapping stories of six eccentric residents of a Lower Eastside building in New York City. These cramped apartments can barely contain the big dreams of their inhabitants: Betty (Sandra Bernhard) is a self-absorbed and self-appointed "food therapist," desperately seeking the right guy. Yet she acts as romantic coach to Lu Lu (Bai Ling), a young Chinese exchange student looking for a green-card marriage. There's also Marta (Ornella Muti), who endures the caresses of the overweight super of the apartments, but dreams of running away with Frankie (Robert John Burke), the incompetent crook who lives upstairs. Down the hall is Graham (Peter Stormare), the gifted Shakespearean actor who also dreams of finding Mr. Right and his big break while subsisting on demeaning commercial work. All these hopes and dreams will prove irrelevant if the revolution being planned in the basement by Che (Paul Anthony Stewart) succeeds. • From First Run Features (www.firstrunfeatures.com). —SL

Unshackled



Unshackled is based on the best-selling novel *Twice Pardoned* by Harold Morris. It's the real-life story of Morris (Burgess Jenkins, *Remember the Titans*), a white sharecropper's son from South Carolina, and Marcus "Doc" Odomes (James Black, *Love and a Bullet*, *Godzilla*), a black man raised by his mother in the inner city of New York. Both were poisoned by racism and sentenced to life in the Georgia State Penitentiary. Their lives collide when the prison is forced to integrate under federal mandate. After a violent riot, the warden threw Morris and Odomes into an eight-by-ten cell, and the door was slammed shut. • The film was written by Morris and stars Stacey Keach and Morgan Fairchild. • From MTI Home Video (www.mtvideo.com). —TC

Other Voices, Other Rooms



Thirteen-year-old Joel Sansom has been summoned to the deep South to meet the father he has not seen since he was a baby. Upon his arrival, he meets a variety of eccentrics including Amy Scully, the mistress of the house, and Randolph, her debauched and unpredictable cousin, but Joel's father is nowhere to be found. It is not until he discovers a man lying paralyzed in the forgotten attic of the crumbling mansion that Joel begins to unravel the mysterious secrets that surround him. • *Other Voices, Other Rooms* is based on the semi-autobiographical novel by Truman Capote. • From Culture Q Connection (www.cultureqconnection.com). —SL

RUSSELL & SMITH Ford

Come Meet the Russell & Smith Ford "Family"

John Connie Africa Carlos

3440 South Loop West (713) 663-4111
One Mile West of Reliant Stadium A Proud Supporter of Our Community

Victorian Cottages in a Gay Resort on Galveston Island



1301 Ave. M
Galveston Island
409.762.2117
toll free
1.866.735.2749

We Have:

A great deal for two
Four is an awesome deal
Six is a magnificent deal

"Victorian Cottages
beautifully placed in
an award winning
garden setting"

We offer services for all types of parties: reunions, weddings, organization gatherings, etc. Party Room now available.

POOL JACUZZI PRIVATE GARDEN FURNISHED

TWISTED THURSDAY TRILOGY

Sci-Fi Channel's Mad Mad House, Scare Tactics, and Tripping the Rift



Freaky Five: Mad Mad House occupants include Art, the modern primitive; Don, the vampire; Iya Ta'shia, the voodoo priestess; Avocado, the naturist; and Fiona, the witch. TOP LEFT: Shannen Doherty (r) is about to be scared out of her wits in Scare Tactics. BOTTOM LEFT: Chode (c) is surrounded by his colorful group of misfit shipmates, including his sexually confused robot slave Gus (r) in Tripping the Rift.

If you're not the "Must-See TV Thursdays" kind of guy or gal, the alternative is here, albeit a somewhat twisted alternative. And you can thank the Sci-Fi Channel.

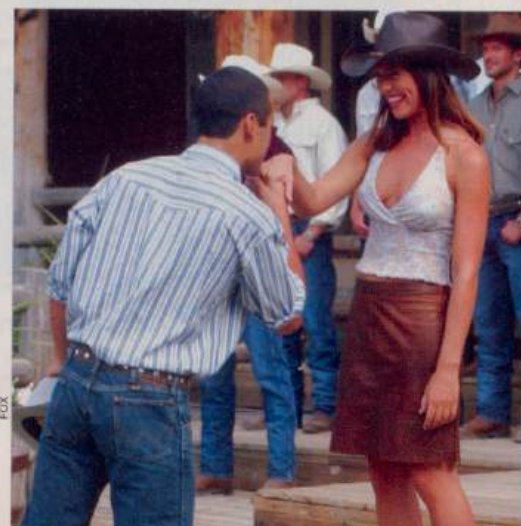
For starters, there's the reality series *Mad Mad House*. (I use the word "reality" because, well, that's what these types of shows are called, even though they are far removed from any reality I've ever witnessed.) *Mad Mad House* follows the breakdown of 10 everyday people who move into a house run by five odd-but-optimistic occupants, all with very alternative lifestyles: a vampire, a wiccan, a naturist, a voodoo priestess, and a modern primitive. This fab five (well, maybe the vampire is not so fab—he seems to be the only negative "feeder" in the bunch) determine which of their guests will be banished in the weekly elimination ceremony and which one will eventually walk away with the \$100,000 prize. *Mad Mad House* airs at 8 p.m., followed at 9 by *Scare Tactics*, which is hosted by Shannen Doherty.

Scare Tactics is what *Punk'd* might be if it took place on Halloween. Unsuspected

victims are set up by their friends and family in twisted sci-fi and horror movie scenes—from a battle with a circus freak to a terrifying encounter with a reincarnated serial killer. Not for the weak at heart. Thank God it's only a half-hour.

Then at 9:30 comes *Tripping the Rift*, Sci-Fi Channel's first animated series. This last show in the twisted Thursday trilogy follows the adventures of The Free Enterprise, a smuggling vessel led by a stumpy

purple alien named Chode, who has a sexually confused robot slave named Gus and a sexy cyborg named Six (who is voiced by Gina Gershon). One episode is written by openly gay comedian Jackie Beat, and several of the episodes are written by openly gay comedian Terry Sweeney, who is also a creative consultant. Now we know why it's twisted. The three original series premiere Thursday, March 4, on the Sci-Fi Channel (www.scifi.com). —Blase DiStefano

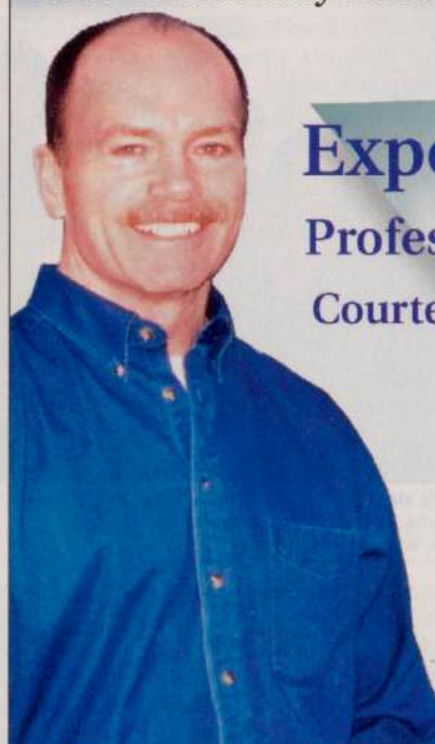


Playing It Straight

One beautiful bachelorette. Fourteen hunky bachelors. A million-dollar prize. If you haven't heard about this new Fox show, you might think, "Oh, God, here we go again. Enough already." But, no, this bachelorette/bachelors spectacle has a twist: Our bachelorette (Jackie, pictured) has to choose one of these guys, knowing that some of them are gay but playing it straight. If she picks a gay dude, he pockets the million dollars and she walks away with nothing. (If she picks a straight guy, the couple splits the million bucks.) Tune in to Fox (www.fox.com) on Friday, March 12, at 7 p.m. not only to see if Jackie's got her gaydar going but to see if you've got your gaydar going. —BD More TV →

Rob Schmerler & Staff

Your Community Insurance Agency!



Experience.
Professionalism.
Courteous Service!

For Home,
Health
and Auto
Insurance

SchmerlerAgency.com

713.661.7700 • 6575 W. Loop South, Suite 185 Bellaire, TX 77401

Because being Alive is more than just an Act,
its a Journey...



- * Jewelry
- * Unique Gifts
- * Secret Opening Boxes

- * Fountains
- * Salt Crystal Lamps
- * And So Much More

Visit our cart at Memorial City Mall

Visit our web site and enter OUT at checkout for 10% off

WWW.PAMPEREDSPIRIT.COM

PROMO EXPIRES 04/05/04

Working
to
Bring
You
Home

**KELLER
WILLIAMS**
REALTY



Jim Manen
281.748.2279

www.jimmanen.com
jimanen@aol.com

FORCE THE STATE TO RECOGNIZE YOUR UNION



Enjoy rights
that married
heterosexual
couples enjoy
including:

- Inheritance Rights
- Hospital Visitation
- Retirement Benefits

... And the state will
be bound to uphold
and recognize it.

TYLER A. FLOOD
Attorney at Law

713.224.5529

Primary office in Houston, Texas • Not certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization
Licensed by the Supreme Court of Texas • Licensed by the United States District Court - Southern District

Showtime Renews The L Word



Laurel Holloman (l) and Jennifer Beals

On the heels of the launch of its critically acclaimed new series *The L Word*, Showtime has given the drama a 13-episode second-season renewal, it was announced on January 29. The pickup represents the fastest renewal in the premium network's history, following the show's debut on January 18. Production on season two is slated to begin in June for the series, which airs on Sundays at 9 p.m. • The first two episodes generated four times the Showtime primetime average rating, pulling in a strong audience in spite of the fact that the second installment aired opposite the Golden Globes telecast. From its unprecedented *New York Magazine* cover photo before the show had even debuted to the full-page color cartoon of the cast in the *New Yorker* to references in the *New York Times* Op-Ed pages, this show seems to be on everyone's lips. Even Gen. Wesley Clark has mentioned "the l word" in interviews, and he wasn't only referring to the word "liberal." • *The L Word* was hailed by Tom Shales in *The Washington Post* as "wickedly provocative...undeniably seductive TV." *TV Guide* called the series "a dynamic new drama." *New York Magazine* labeled the show "a powerful, wildly sexy new television series," while *US Weekly* called the concept "groundbreaking" and proclaimed: "Let the Emmy hype begin." • The drama is about a group of young women (almost all lesbian) in Los Angeles, and follows their lives, careers, and romantic relationships. The one-hour drama's cast includes Jennifer Beals, Erin Daniels, Leisha Hailey, Laurel Holloman, Mia Kirshner, Katherine Moennig, and Pam Grier. • *The L Word* is executive-produced by Ilene Chaiken through her production company Posse Productions Inc. For more on *The L Word*, see the interview with Chaiken in *OutSmart's* January 2004 issue. —SL

GAY AROUND THE EDGES

Fox premieres *Wonderfalls*

Set against the backdrop of Niagara Falls, *Wonderfalls* is a quirky one-hour family dramedy about underachieving 20-something souvenir shop worker Jaye Tyler (Caroline Dhavernas). Her life is forever changed when inanimate figures begin to talk to her. In each episode, the creatures' cryptic messages set into motion a chain of unpredictable events that invariably lead Jaye into the lives of others in need.

Created by Bryan Fuller and openly gay Todd Holland, *Wonderfalls* focuses on Jaye as she meddles in, muddles up, and ultimately betters the lives of herself and the eclectic variety of strangers that cross her path.

As Jaye tries to make sense of her newfound abilities, she soon discovers that the inanimate animal figures tend to become especially vocal when she interacts with her eccentric family of overachievers. From her high-maintenance mother (Diana Scarwid) and outspoken father (William Sadler) to her seemingly straight-laced (read: lesbian) sister (Katie Finneran) and her sarcastic brother (Lee Pace, who played the transsexual in Showtime's *A Soldier's Girl*), each episode finds Jaye pulled in several directions...to resolve the family matter at hand or suffer the consequences of her little "friends."



Wonderfalls stars (l-r): William Sadler, Diana Scarwid, Tracie Thoms, Tyron Leitso, Katie Finneran, Caroline Dhavernas, and Lee Pace.

Throughout the series' bizarre situations and madcap adventures, Jaye seeks advice from her best buddy (Tracie Thoms) and befriends a local bartender (Tyron Leitso) who tries to help answer her unrequited questions. Is the universe conspiring against her? Is this real or just her imagination? Should she struggle with fate or surrender to destiny? Whatever the outcome, one thing is for certain—Jaye will discover that the world around her is a magical place and that the seemingly random events in her life are actually all part of something much greater.

Premieres on Fox (www.fox.com) on Friday, March 12, at 8 p.m. —Suzie Lynde



Majandra Delfino (c) gets a makeover from (l-r): Geoffrey Pounsett, Jamie Robinson, Nicholas Brendon, and Deborah Gibson.

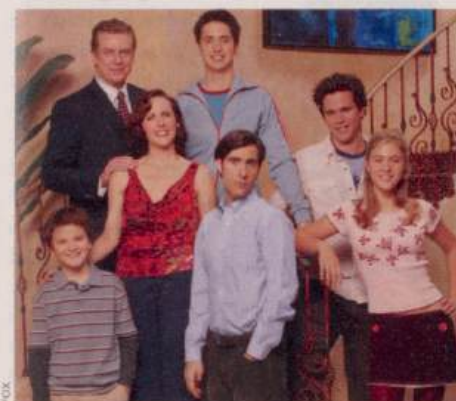
Celeste in the City

When Celeste Blodgett (Majandra Delfino) makes the big move from Maine to New York City for her first job after college at the city's top newspaper, she is in for a rude awakening: Not only is she a fact checker instead of an editorial assistant, but she's also lacking the confidence and wardrobe to make it in the Big Apple. All of that is about to change when her gay cousin Dana

(Nicholas Brendon) and a group of his best friends decide to make Celeste look as smart and sophisticated on the outside as she is on the inside. However, her transformation soon distances her from the ones who loved her just the way she was. This original TV movie airs on ABC Family (www.abcfamily.com) on Sunday, March 14, at 7 p.m. —Troy Carrington

Cracking Up

Ben (Jason Schwartzman), an idealistic psychology graduate student, gets more than he bargained for when he moves into the guesthouse of the Shackletons, a wealthy Beverly Hills family. Although they may look like the picture-perfect clan living the American dream in a gorgeous mansion, on closer inspection each member of the family proves to be more eccentric than the next. Before he even gets a chance to unpack, Ben finds himself playing in-house therapist to a brood of textbook case studies. Lesley Shackleton (Molly Shannon) is a happy homemaker, but she also shows some bipolar alcoholic tendencies with severe mood swings. Her husband Ted (Christopher McDonald) is a successful pharmaceutical executive—but underneath his charismatic persona may lurk an unstable sociopath. Their three children are seemingly just as unhinged: Chloe (Caitlin Wachs), a pretty cheerleader, suffers from delusions of



Cracking Up stars (l-r): Bret Loeher, Christopher McDonald, Molly Shannon, Jake Sandvig, Jason Schwartzman, David Walton, and Caitlin Wachs.

grandeur; Preston (Jake Sandvig), an all-American athlete, is obsessive-compulsive; only their youngest son, Tanner (Bret Loeher), whom Ben was originally asked to counsel, seems to be well-adjusted. The Shackleton household is the perfect training ground for a budding therapist and, although Ben is shocked by some of their more erratic behavior, he is determined to help "fix" this family. They may be "cracking up," but they're also fascinating, lovable, and a whole lot of fun. Created, written, and executive-produced by openly gay Mike White, the award-winning writer and star of *School of Rock*, *The Good Girl*, and *Chuck & Buck*, *Cracking Up* premieres on Fox (www.fox.com) with an advance two-night preview on Tuesday, March 9, and Wednesday, March 10, at 8:30 p.m. The premiere continues when *Cracking Up* settles into its regular time period with an original episode on Monday, March 22, at 7:30 p.m. —TC

More TV →



At Chase, we welcome every family
into our neighborhood.

Flexible Mortgage Programs

When you find your dream home and it's time for financing, let Chase be your guide.

Whether you're buying alone or with a partner, you can feel comfortable.

A mortgage specialist will work with you to meet your needs every step of the way, from application to closing.

Call Chase today for all your home financing needs.

Doug Luza or Revis Bell 281-893-9396
douglas.r.luz@chase.com or revis.l.bell@chase.com

Chase Home Finance
Simply the best way home.

©JP Morgan Chase and Co. All Rights Reserved. Equal Housing Mortgage Lender

JP Morgan Chase
is honored to receive
3 awards from
OutSmart Magazine's
Gayest & Greatest
Readers' Choice Survey:

Best bank

Business Most supportive
of the GLBT (national)

Business Most supportive
of the GLBT (local)

Thank you
OutSmart Readers!



Out and Out Fabulous.

Treat your buds to the very best with *of course catering*. Whether your needs are box lunches for the office, a seated dinner for seventy or cocktails and num-nums or a holiday gala, we'll will turn the occasion into an event that will be remarkable and remarked about...of course.

"...of course!"

CATERING

713-526-1800 www.ofcourseonline.com

Sundance Airts Carrington and Karmen Gei

• **Karmen Gei:** Touted as the first movie musical produced in Africa, filmmaker Joseph Gaï Ramaka's reinvention of Prosper Mérimée's *Carmen*, set in contemporary Senegal, abandons the music of Georges Bizet for a fiery score by jazz musician David Murray, featuring contributions from many African performers. Holding center stage is a new Amazonian interpretation of the world's most famous femme fatale, a peppery, bisexual force of nature played by Djeinaba Diop Gaï in an unforgettably beguiling performance. Airts on Sundance Channel on Sunday, March 14, at 8:30 p.m., with repeats on 18th at 1:30 p.m., the 27th at noon, and the 31st at 7 p.m. To confirm schedule: www.sundancechannel.com.

• **Carrington:** Love among the eccentrics of Britain's literary Bloomsbury group was never conventional. For painter Dora Carrington (Emma Thompson) and homosexual wit Lytton Strachey (Jonathan Pryce), their 17-year domestic relationship was suffused with devotion and passion, yet remained largely platonic. Smart conversation, an idyllic country house,



Emma Thompson (l) and Jonathan Pryce

and a series of lovers—some shared—prominently feature in playwright Christopher Hampton's award-winning directorial debut, which won the Special Jury Prize at the 1995 Cannes Film Festival. Airts on Sundance Channel on Saturday, March 20, at 8 p.m., with repeats on the 25th at midnight and the 30th at 8:30 p.m. To confirm schedule: www.sundancechannel.com. —TC

BULLIES & MORE

In the Life spotlights challenges facing gay and lesbian youth



Cherry Jones (above) hosts the March episode of *In the Life*, which includes a visit to Harlem's Black Gay & Lesbian Archive, which houses photos such as the one of Freddie Hamilton (l), and the *Let's Get Real* doc, a new video on bullying, which features eighth-grader Stephen (below).



proposed creation of a GSA met unexpected resistance from both students and faculty.

• **Murder of Lesbian Teen Spurs Action.** *ITL* revisits the 2003 murder of Sakia Gunn, a 15-year-old lesbian from Newark, New Jersey, who was murdered on her way home from Greenwich Village and reveals what happens when LGBT youth have "no place to go."

• **Out & About in New York City.** Gays and lesbians have become a top target market, particularly for the travel industry. In the first of a new recurring segment highlighting gay and lesbian hot spots, *ITL* checks out what the Big Apple has to offer the queer traveler.

• **Campaign 2004—Dennis Kucinich.** In the second installment of "Campaign 2004," Congressman and Democratic presidential candidate Dennis Kucinich reveals his vision for gay and lesbian Americans.

• **Black Gay & Lesbian History.** *ITL* visits the Black Gay & Lesbian Archive in Harlem and finds a rich and colorful history that is missing from schoolbooks and museums.

• **Bear Culture.** *ITL* delves into the gay "bear" culture, a community that challenges the stereotypical image of the waxed and toned muscle boy by celebrating men of all shapes and sizes.

• **Harvey Fierstein's Out Takes.** Reflecting on the furor over his appearance as Mrs. Claus in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, *ITL* commentator Harvey Fierstein takes the media to task for ignoring the real issue at hand: the right to gay marriage.

Airts Monday, March 22, at midnight on Houston's PBS Channel 8. For more information, visit www.inthelife.tv.org. —SL

Black Sheep

Director Louise Glover grew up in Western Australia repeating the same homophobic and racist taunts she heard around her. Though she was raised in a white family, she was dark-haired and dark-eyed and was often asked if she was Aboriginal—a suggestion she vehemently denied. It wasn't until she came out as a lesbian and left the racist and homophobic environment in which she was raised that she began to explore her ancestry. And that's when she uncovered the secret that her father's family had been

hiding for three generations. In this upbeat film from Australia, Lou Glover tells her own story as lesbian, one-time police officer, and recently discovered Aboriginal woman. *Black Sheep* (1999), Glover's first documentary, is part of PBS's *The Territory* series, which showcases new directions in film, video, and digital media and is produced by Houston's Southwest Alternate Media Project. Airts Tuesday, March 23, at 10 p.m. on Houston's PBS Channel 8 (www.houstonpbs.org). —SL ■

DISTINGUISHED LIVING FOR THE MODERN HOUSTONIAN



Redeveloping Houston's Inner Loop into soft-contemporary living.

High \$200's to Mid \$300's

RICE MILITARY, MONTROSE
& THE MEDICAL CENTER

for information call:
TONY VALADEZ
(281) 898-1020

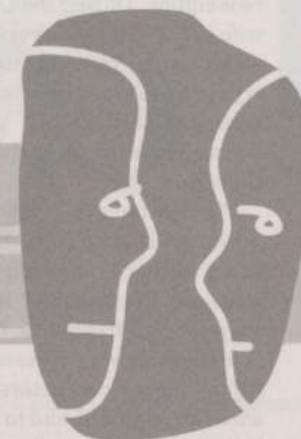
THE WATERHILL COMPANY
real estate development

www.waterhillcompany.com

1717 St. James Place, Ste 360 - Houston, TX 77056

FACE TO FACE

Relationship Institute



individual counseling • parent child conflict • same gender adoptions
youth / teen gender issues • same gender relationship counseling

JACQUELINE L. FALLS, M. ED., LPC

2626 South Loop West, Suite 650-Z • Houston, TX 77054
office: 713.667.4977 • fax: 713.667.4942 • jacquelinefalls@aol.com

E.A.P. Provider

Countrywide can show you the way home.



At Countrywide Home Loans, we streamline the home loan process so you can close faster and easier than you ever thought possible. In fact, we close often in 10 days or less.

- Fast up-front approval.
- Rate protection while you shop.
- No down and low down payment options.
- Local decision makers with the power to say "yes".

We've already helped over 2 million Americans move into a house of their own. We would like to help you next.

Countrywide®
HOME LOANS
Easy. Really.®



Home Mortgage and Refinancing
Scott Pelzer
713.703.7299
scott_pelzer@countrywide.com



©2000 Countrywide Home Loans, Inc. Trademark service marks are the property of Countrywide Credit Industries, Inc. and/or its subsidiaries. Georgia Residential Mortgage Licensure, 6465 East Johns Crossing, Suite 400, Duluth, GA 30097. Up-front approval subject to satisfactory property review and no change in financial condition. Rate protection subject to time limits. Some restrictions apply. 000819

10 miles for less than \$20!

Your time is valuable. So don't waste it hunting for a parking space (and paying exorbitant downtown parking fees) during a night on the town.

Designate United Cab as your driver.

You'll get door-to-door no-hassle service at a very reasonable price.

United Cab



- 24 hour service 7 days a week
- advance reservations accepted
- all major credit cards honored

Next time your mom needs a ride to the doctor, or your teenager needs a ride home from school, call United Cab.

See why thousands of Houstonians trust us with their "precious cargo!"

(713) 699-0000

Out in the Arts

by D.L. Groover

AN AFFAIR TO REMEMBER. Understandably excited and anxious over his March 4 Houston Grand Opera world premiere *End of the Affair*, openly gay composer **Jake Heggie** points out that he would much rather be in his hometown of San Francisco getting married.

"I'm aching that I'm not there. I'm so bummed," he says. "I had no idea that city hall was going to allow gay people to get married in San Francisco this weekend [February 13-16]. I would've run down in a heartbeat because I know on Tuesday it'll be over. I'm so glad that so many hundreds of people are rushing there. I'm so proud of our mayor [Gavin Newsom]. It's tremendous. What an amazing environment. They're going to have to deal with it head on.

"A lot of states have passed amendments that said marriage is only between a man and a woman. Fine. You can have your word. I don't need your word. I just want my civil rights. You don't have to be any religion to get married. Just go down to city hall and all of a sudden you're guaranteed all these rights. Well, I'm a taxpayer. I have a loving committed relationship. We have a child. I would like to give those same protections to my child and my partner."

Heggie happily describes his domestic relationship as a "very wonderful San Francisco 21st-century family." Partner **Curt Branom**, now appearing in the West Coast cult hit *Beach Blanket Babylon*, is the biological dad of an eight-year-old son; mom is Branom's best friend who wanted a child. All three have a shared stake in their child's future.

"We're going to see more and more of this kind of family," Heggie predicts. "It seems like a natural step. What's interesting is that it's happening much more quickly than I ever thought. You know, when you get into a Constitutional argument, it's pretty hard to defend any kind of discrimination. Even if they amend it, great, keep your word. I don't need to call it marriage. I just want the right."



Love Affair: Opera composer and gay dad Jake Heggie.

Heggie apologizes for his unintentional passion over gay marriage, and explains that his real passion is music.

"My father committed suicide when I was 10, and music became my refuge and church, and I started composing from that moment wholeheartedly. I've always known that I needed to be in music somehow. I'm lucky to have known that from an early age. I can't imagine not having passion about a career."

Heggie's burgeoning career stopped dead, though, during his late 20s, when he developed focal dystonia, a debilitating muscular degeneration that causes the fingers to curl. Known as "pianist's cramps," it abruptly ends all dreams of a career in music. Severely depressed, Heggie stopped composing and didn't play the piano for over a year. By luck, he fell into a public-relations job at San Francisco Opera. For five years he underwent extensive rehab.

When he showed some of his early songs to famed mezzo **Frederica von Stade**, who had no idea Heggie was a composer, her positive response and request for a joint recital inspired him to compose again. Soon he was

besieged for his music by the same singers he would chauffeur to interviews. The clamor led to the post of SFO resident composer and to *Dead Man Walking*, adapted from **Sister Helen Prejean's** book about capital punishment. The rapturous critical acclaim given that opera after its 2000 premiere spurred HGO to commission *End of the Affair* (through March 21 at Wortham Center).

"It's a career I never, ever thought I would have. It's a Cinderella kind of story."

Heggie's impressive musical catalog includes, in addition to his two operas, numerous chamber pieces, a cello concerto, and a host of art songs and song cycles recorded by the stellar voices of our time. Currently, he is working with veteran playwright **Terrence McNally**, *Dead Man Walking* librettist, on an original musical set for 2005.

End of the Affair is based on **Graham Greene's** celebrated semi-autobiographical 1951 novel of adultery and redemption. During the London blitz, Sarah, wife to bland bureaucrat Henry, has a torrid affair with writer Maurice. During one tryst, she brusquely calls it off. Years later and still in love with her, Maurice hires a detective to find out why she ended the affair.

"I deliberately try to do different projects," Heggie says. "The scariest thing in art would be repeating yourself, becoming stagnant, predictable. If art doesn't have surprise and freshness, it dies. I wanted to do something very different from *Dead Man Affair* has six characters, no chorus, and a small orchestra. It had to be a very personal, intimate story, but I still wanted lots of things to happen, because in the theater, stuff has to happen on stage. The story seemed to have every element I respond to musically and was so innately operatic. It spoke to me."

D.L. Groover writes monthly on the arts for OutSmart magazine. Read an expanded version of this interview at OutSmart's website www.outsmartmagazine.com.

LIVE IN CONCERT
RUFUS WAINWRIGHT AND BAND

verizonwireless THEATER MARCH 11

Get Tickets At CC.COM

Call For Tickets 713-629-3700 (automated), or online at Ticketmaster.com Tickets also available at all ticketmaster outlets. Tickets for Verizon shows also available at the Verizon Wireless Theater Box Office (520 Texas Ave. 713-230-1600). All dates, acts, and ticket prices subject to change without notice. A service charge is added to each ticket price. American Express Membership Rewards® points now accepted for all concert tickets. A Clear Channel Entertainment event.

Measure your life in Love
RENT

ON SALE NOW!
MARCH 9-14
JONES HALL

713-629-3700
BroadwayAcrossAmerica.com

Groups of 10 or more: 713-693-8692

We Prefer MasterCard

BROADWAY HOUSTON EXPERIENCE THE BEST

www.rentthetour.com

J.E.F.F.C.O.O.P.E.R PLATINUM

For a Lifetime Commitment

Ask for Cass, your community consultant of fine jewelry

IWMarks
3841 Bellaire Blvd. • 713-668-5000
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 10-6 Thu. 10-9

Member LEADING JEWELERS OF THE WORLD

Awards for Excellence 4-Time Winner

BAYOU CITY
ART FESTIVAL
MEMORIAL PARK

MARCH 26-28 • 10 AM-6 PM
Friday, Saturday & Sunday

300 national artists selling original creations

- Theater District Stage • Eclectic Music • Restaurants
- Creative Zone (interactive art for children)

Admission: \$8 Children 12 and under: FREE

- No pets allowed per City Of Houston Ordinance
- Secure your purchases while you shop at Patron Relations

Free METRO Art Fest Shuttles - 9:30 am to 7:00 pm
No public parking available at Memorial Park

FRIDAY: From Northwest Mall only
SATURDAY & SUNDAY
Northwest Mall: 290 @ 610 Loop on 18th Street
610 West Loop Park & Ride: West Loop exit Braeswood
Downtown: Memorial Drive @ Rusk • Rusk @ Smith • Smith @ Capitol
Theater District Parking - parking fees apply
Art Colony Office 713 521-0133 • www.bayoucityartfestival.com

Proceeds benefit local charities

Smooth Jazz 95.7 KPRC The Houston Chronicle cachh The Houston Chronicle MICHELLE

GREAT BONES

Janis Ian, who performs in Houston this month, talks about her latest, *Billie's Bones*

At the time that I interviewed Janis Ian, in early February, her live CD, *Working Without a Net*, was number seven on the Outvoice top 40 album chart of LGBT music. Her previous studio album, *God & the FBI*, was also a longtime presence on the Outvoice chart. All of that bodes well for her new studio disc, *Billie's Bones* (Rude Girl/Oh Boy), which was to be released later in the month.

An Ian concert was one of the first live music shows I ever attended as a kid, and as I was beginning my career in journalism in 1993, Ian was the first person I interviewed. So it meant a lot to me to be able to speak with her again, especially about an album as wonderful as *Billie's Bones*.

Gregg Shapiro: *Working Without a Net*, the live disc you released in 2003, is not your first live set. There was *The Bottom Line Encore Collection* from 1995, for example. Do you have a fondness for live albums, and if so, what is the attraction?

Janis Ian: It's the first live [album] that I've released that I had control over that is actually culled from the best shows and the best takes. In that sense, it's real different from the *Remember* album that was done over a period of two shows and is out of print or *The Bottom Line Collection*, which was recorded at a time when live recording wasn't anything to brag about. The oppor-

tunity to do a live double album that was culled from the best shows we could find was attractive to me. And the opportunity to use that as a bridge—because I hadn't had an album out in a couple of years—to satisfy the fans who were waiting for *Billie's Bones*, was also really attractive to me. Beyond that, I think it's nice for fans to have a memento of shows that's as close to the actual shows as possible. That's the feeling that we were going for.

No discussion of your new CD would be complete without first talking about the title track. In it you sing about Billie Holiday, "I would tell her how I've yearned to be worthy of the grill/All these years and all I've learned is just how brilliantly I fail." What can you tell me about that line and about your relationship to Billie Holiday? I felt there was a connection from the time that I first heard her. In that mystical way of a 12-year-old, I thought that the fact that we were both born on April 7 meant something deep. She's just the best. I don't think there's another singer out there who can touch her. She and George Jones, I'd say. To try and come up to the standard that

Billie hit is a worthy endeavor, although fraught with difficulty.

You've been living in Nashville for a number of years, and Tennessee really comes through loud and clear on the new disc. It is especially audible on "My Tennessee Hills," a duet you sing with Dolly Parton. I'd been fooling with the song for about six years, unable to write a verse. Then one day last January I sat down and thought, *Well, I should write this like a George Jones song.* The minute I thought that, the song just wrote itself over a period of a couple of days. I really wanted to do it as a duet. My partner said, "Dolly would sound great on that." We called her and [laughs] much to everyone's shock, she said yes. It was one of the best

two—from her ever-growing repertoire. She never performs a song the same way twice, partly because she has difficulty remembering lyrics, particularly her own, and partly because she pledges allegiance to no rule other than to keep her music and her performances as fresh and non-repetitive as possible. "If I write the same song twice, I'm dead," she has been known to say, although she admits to revisiting certain themes, among them death, poverty, anger, animal rights, sarcasm, feminism, phoniness, and the desire to be "less pretentious, less arty, and basically call my own bluff." From Columbia Records (www.columbiarecords.com). —*Suzie Lynde*

Various Artists

CLUB Sodade: Cesaria Evora by . . .

Her voice is an ocean of swells, the tides carrying the sounds of her aged pipes back and forth underneath her like the furious currents beneath our feet when we wade

studio experiences of my life. She's a pro from the word go—just amazing to work with, a real pleasure.

There is another interesting collaboration on the disc, the song "I Hear You Sing Again" . . .

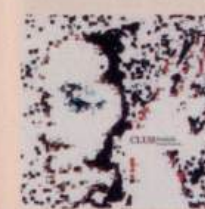
. . . my co-write with Woody [Guthrie].

Right! Can you explain how that occurred? Well, the Guthrie Foundation approached me and asked whether I would write music to lyrics of Woody's that went unfinished. Nora Guthrie sent me 13 songs to choose from, and none of them did a whole lot for me but two. The minute I saw "I Hear You Sing Again," I thought, *I need to write this one. This one's mine.* It was just a perfect fit. That song, again, wrote itself really quickly.

Matthew Shepard continues to be a source of powerful music. Like you, both gay band The Aluminum Group ("Motorcycles") and straight emo band Thursday ("M. Shepard") have songs about him on their new CDs. Can you please say something about your contribution to the canon of songs about Matthew?

I think I was disturbed that so many of the songs about him made him heroic and made it like, "Well, this was a terrible thing, but on the other hand, good came out of it." While that's true, that wasn't the issue for me. The issue for me was just the horror of it—that this could happen at all. I doubt that if Matthew had the choice, he would have chosen this, no matter how famous it made his name. I wanted to talk about that part of it and just find a way to cope with my own personal reaction, which was, like everyone else's, absolute horror.

What can people expect from the Janis Ian concert tour of 2004? →



out too far from the shoreline. Cesaria Evora tours eight months a year. That's not such a noble effort until you realize that she is in her 60s and that she didn't begin any sort of ascent into the popular light until she was 50. With the release of her 1991 album *Mar Azul*, the Cape Verdean vocalist quickly rose to a level of recognition that has bordered on infamy, and has since garnered six Grammy nominations. An international host of producers has now paid tribute to her efforts through the alchemy of collaboration, and we have *CLUB Sodade* to show for it. Evora's voice is left intact on this release—some of the tracks use a bit less of it than they would normally and take the songs in a dancier direction, but for the →



Ode to Billie: Janis Ian and Billie Holiday were both born on April 7.

"Suchu artistic director Jennifer Wood is the most inventive choreographer working in Houston today." —Molly Glentzer, Houston Chronicle

"Witty and inventive... Wood has molded Suchu Dance into one of Houston's most admired contemporary dance companies." —Mitchell J. Shields, Citysearch.com

Performed by:
Daniel Adame
Karen Brown
Chad Chasteen
Tiffany Couser
Dana Crawford
Jessi Harper
Christian Holmes
Jenny Magill
Aileen Mapes
Luis Pena
Tina Shariffskul
Toni Leugo Valle

Receive advance notice of future Suchu Dance performances:
Join our e-mail list at www.suchudance.org

SUCHU DANCE

Astoria

at 8 pm

March 4 | 5 | 6 | 11 | 12 | 13

\$10 | \$12 | \$14 | \$12 | \$14 | \$16

at the Barnevelder Theater in East Downtown, 2201 Preston @ Hutchins, 2 blocks E of Hwy 59

Tickets at 713.529.1819 or www.suchudance.org

Two bucks off every Fri/Sat ticket purchased 24 hours in advance

1 1/2 hours of fantastic entertainment
Houston's most unpredictable modern dance performance troupe
athletic, sensual, surprising, funny

GrooveOut Shorts

Alicia Keys

The Diary of Alicia Keys



Yes, that's her playing the piano. Not tickling the ivories, mind you—that's her that you hear shredding away at every note. Alicia Keys is a prodigy. Her voice carries with it a newness with all the delivery of someone who's been singing an entire lifetime, but there is youth in her inflection. The control and confidence that comes with it overwhelm that youth, however, and in the end this young R & B pioneer has put together a quietly confident and very strong record. Its 16 tracks twist and turn away from each other in defiance of sounding

anything alike, and even with the incredible control Keys has over her voice, she seems to feel no need to flex it. All of the vocal melodies stay in place—something which is unusual in modern R&B—to a fault. "If I Was Your Woman/Walk on By" would be the standout on an album on which it's difficult to pick one. From J Records (www.jrecords.com). —*Lance Walker*

Nellie McKay

Get Away from Me



A multi-talented "youngster" of 19, Nellie McKay is already a seasoned performer/singer/songwriter/reconteur who peppers her live shows with acerbic and witty banter in between self-penned songs—and a well-placed standard or

BARBER & PI, L.L.P.

ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW



CHRISTOPHER BARBER, J.D.

— Procrastinate Later; The Time to Plan is NOW! —

You and your partner are strangers under the law. In the event of a disability, break-up, or death, do you know what your rights are? Isn't it time for you to provide your family with legal protections & peace of mind? Call now for a FREE initial consultation.

2 Convenient Locations in the Houston & Clear Lake area

281-464-LAWS (5297)

For Adoption Services, Call: 713-885-0041

Second-Parent/Joint Adoptions • Estate Planning
Wills, Trusts & Probate • Living Will • Asset Protection
Durable Power of Attorney • Medical Power of Attorney
Cohabitation/Co-Parenting Agreements • Guardianship
Disability/Special Needs Planning • Elder Law

Not Certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization

CUSTOM KITCHENS & BATH



Custom Renovations

New Construction

Unique Design & Planning

DN Classic Design & Construction

David Nadolney

713.869.3440 • Houston, TX
crownpointhomes@aol.co

Drive Lounge

910 westheimer

MON
\$2 Ritas
TUE
\$3 'til 10pm ABSOLUT Vodka
WED
\$3 House Martinis ALL NIGHT
THUR
\$3 SKY Night - All SKY Vodka
FRI
Happy Hour 4-7pm
SAT
DJ on the Patio
SUN
\$3 Bellinis ALL DAY

music martinis bellinis

IAN IN HOUSTON

Janis Ian, who wed her partner Patricia Snyder in a Toronto ceremony in August, will perform in Houston on **March 17** at McGonigal's Mucky Duck.

"If we could have gotten married in the United States, we would have," Ian wrote on her website, www.janisian.com. "We also got married because, just like coming out, public figures need to do that to make the rest of the world aware."

RUFUS COMES TO TOWN

Gay troubadour Rufus Wainwright will perform here on **March 11** at the Verizon Wireless Theater. In his interview with Wainwright for the November 2003 *OutSmart*, Gregg Shapiro called the singer's latest two-part *Want* release "his most ambitious and thrilling project."

GrooveOut Shorts

most part her songs are left in their original shape. It's understandable that they didn't take much liberty with it: Her voice is kind of like a Rothko painting—dark, intense, and (lyrically) admittedly fatalistic. What would you want to do to mess that up? From *Bluebird* (www.bluebirdjazz.com). —LW

José Luis Encinas

Travesura Chill



Encinas promotes his latest release *Travesura Chill/Prank Chill* saying it's accented by "ambient-chill." Too bad the liner notes don't explain what any of that means. But even if listeners can't understand his title or promo buzz words, they won't have any trouble understanding his music. From smooth jazz to passionate flamenco, *Travesura Chill* loses nothing in translation. Not for the Ricky Martin set, this is for more laid-back, mature listeners. From *Planet Rhythm/Universal Music Latino*.

—Olivia Flores Alvarez

Daft Punk

Daft Club



If a cook's going to let someone stir his or her soup, they're gonna want it to be Paul Prudhomme. Or at least Emeril. Personally, I'd pick the Iron Chef... Either way, Daft Punk has taken a similar approach on this disc of remixes, handing over the knobs and levers to luminaries such as The Neptunes, Basement Jaxx, and the lesser-known but brilliant Cosmo Vitelli. A remix of the already hooky "Digital Love," done by

GrooveOut

continued from previous page

They can expect a lot of good guitar work [laughs]. And they can expect a combination of the old songs and the new songs. We're taking out some songs that I'm really tired of doing, like "Jesse." We're leaving in "At Seventeen," and I think I'm going to start doing "Stars" every night—[and] a bunch of stuff from the new CD, obviously. I try to keep it a blend of the old and the new nowadays. I've got 20 or 23 albums out in general release, in one form or another, so I don't really feel the need to go out on tour and do every song from the new album. I'm just trying to pick the best songs from the entire catalog.

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

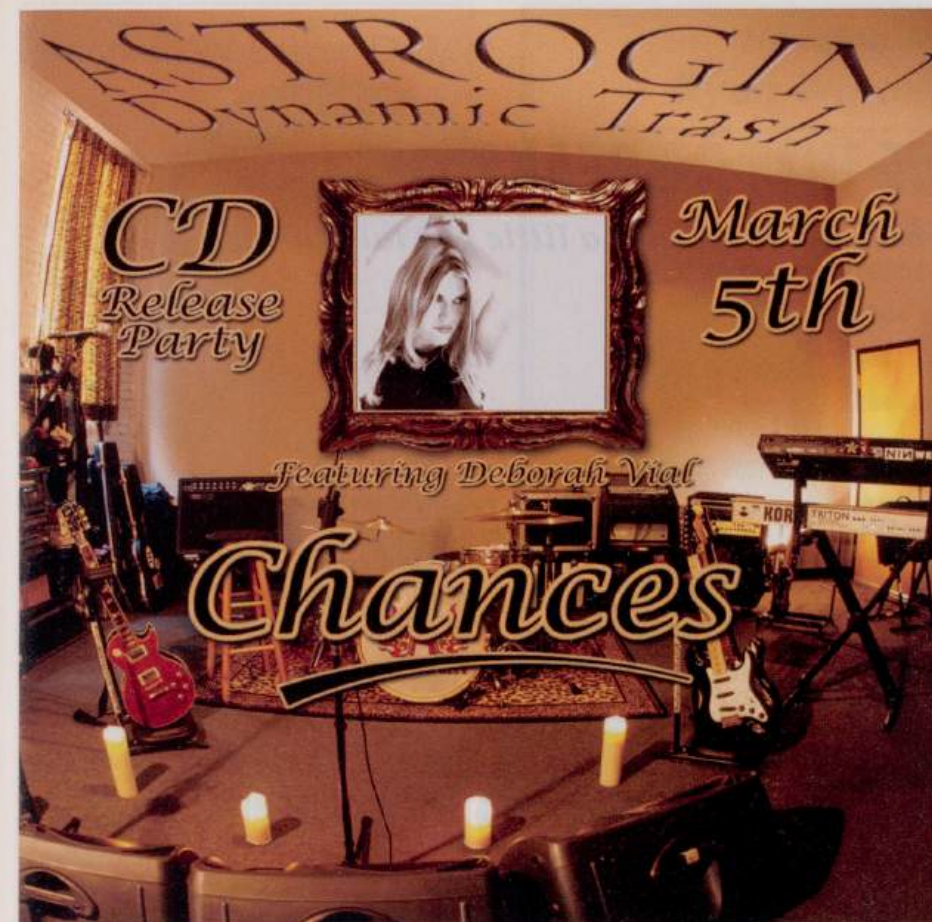
German House DJ Boris Dlugosh, is a floor-stomper and accents the original resonance of the vocals while expanding on the direction of the music and giving it new life. That new life is evident throughout and will surely find its way to the clubs as the robotic and melodic voices of Daft Punk as you heard them on *Discovery* make their way around wearing brand-new leather jackets. From *Virgin Records* (www.virginrecords.com). More info: www.daftpunk.com. —LW

Kylie Minogue

Body Language



She was a pop princess in the '80s, but don't fault her for it. One has to admit that this Australian-born diva has not only survived the decade that gave birth to her career... she trumped it. Most of those tempered careers that were born in the '80s survived the fatal blow of the tag of having been birthed in that decade, and despite a disappearance of sorts in the '90s, Kylie Minogue has failed to go the way of Tiffany or any of her other mall-touring comrades. She has instead worked quite hard at constant image reinventions and overseen increasingly varied directions in her music. Not to save herself, mind you, but to continue some sort of regression into an infinitely more creative catalog of performance and songs. The new album is all over the place, her voice is where you expect it, and the direction is anybody's guess. "Locomotion" is as much a part of her past as is *Neighbours*, and we'll not be expecting her to look back any time soon. With the way she's going, she's likely got a lot of work planned ahead of her. By the way, she's only 35. From *EMI* (www.emimusic.info). —LW



Special Thursday March 18th Concert @ 9pm

with

Michelle Malone



Chances

Monday \$10 Buckets
Tuesday Locals Night: \$3 Martinis
Wednesday Singles Night: \$2 Wells
Thursday Open Mic: 9am-1am
Friday Sheila Lennon: 10pm-2am
Saturday Dart Tournament: 3pm-5pm
Sunday Karaoke & \$1 Vodka

LIVE CONCERTS
Every Saturday Night at 10:00 pm

Mar. 6: ASTROGIN Mar. 13: NINI CAMPS Mar. 21: LADY D
Mar. 28: LIVIYA COMPEAN Apr. 3: CIAO BELLA

Chances open daily at 2pm - Happy Hour 'til 7pm

www.chancesbar.com

1100 Westheimer • Houston • 713/523-7217

The Improv Comedy Theater



The Kinsey Sicks • March 18-21

America's Favorite
Dragapella Quartet!

A MUST See for everyone who enjoys over the top, bawdy performances.

Join us for dinner at our early shows and enjoy priority seating.

LOCATED IN THE MARQ'E ENTERTAINMENT CENTER ON KATY FREEWAY @ 610

BUY TICKETS ONLINE AT WWW.IMPROV.COM OR CALL

713.333.8800

www.improv.com

Join us each Sunday for
the L word
Free Food & Giveaways
7-11pm

THE NEW
BARN
SALOON

KARAOKE
CHALLENGE '04
THURSDAYS

GIVE HIM A BREAK?

John Stossel discusses his new book, with a little gay talk thrown in

John Stossel is co-anchor with Barbara Walters on ABC's *20/20*. The 56-year-old married journalist spoke to *OutSmart* before he attended a February speaking engagement in Houston, hosted by the Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse.

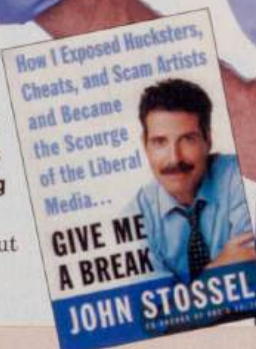
Were you ever a smoker?
No.

What do you think of the restrictions put upon smokers?

I think it's a nasty tyranny. I love smoke-free bars, but I think in a free country, smokers ought to be allowed to have some bars. And an owner ought to get to make the decision.

It seems that if you own the place, shouldn't it be your decision? It's the government getting involved.

You're right, it should be, but it isn't.



Why do you think the government tends to get too involved in everything?

I think it's human nature that we want to turn to an elite group that will be like mommy and protect us and make everybody be fair to each other. And despite this stunning record of failure, the conceit of the elite is such that we keep thinking the elite will rule us better than we can rule ourselves.

"A government big enough to tell you where you can smoke is a government big enough to tell you who you can screw."

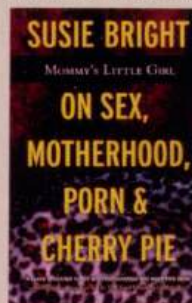
In what areas do you think you're very liberal and in what areas do you think you're very conservative?

It sort of depends so much on how you define these things, but I think we should have limited government, as people should be free to do anything that's peaceful. Adults should be free, so if you want to rent your body to somebody else, that should be your right. Vice laws should be thrown out. These laws cause more crime, do more harm than they possibly →

ReadOut Shorts

Mommy's Little Girl: On Sex, Motherhood, Porn & Cherry Pie
Susie Bright

Thunder's Mouth Press



Mommy's Little Girl starts with Bright's then eight-year-old daughter Aretha coming home from school, and eyes narrowed, hands on hips, demanding, "What is your job, Mom?" It was a question Bright had been expecting—and dreading—since she first realized she was pregnant.

Bright, her daughter well knew, writes about sex. Male-female sex. Female-female sex. Male-male sex. Sex with multiple partners. Sex with no partner at all.

But her daughter didn't want to write that in her school report. Sex, any kind of sex, was the ultimate second-grade faux pas. And admitting that her mom spent her day writing about sex, talking about sex, and sometimes even having sex, was more than Aretha was willing to endure.

With over a dozen books to her credit, including *The Sexual State of the Union* and *Nothing But the Girl*, Bright is considered a leading sexpert. Much of her work draws on her own bisexual, open relationships. With *Mommy's Little Girl*, Bright examines life from the point of view of sex-goddess/mom, a dual role she enjoys even with its many surprises and bumps in the road.

It is the traditional "sex is taboo/dirty/for married

people/a sin" that Bright is determined her daughter will not experience. Bright's daughter is a tiny walking opportunity to practice what she preaches by teaching her about sex in a shame-free, age-appropriate way.

But no matter how rehearsed and prepared Bright is, the exchanges are always anxiety-ridden and the results never predictable. She cautiously gives her daughter a working definition of sex, saying, "It's any two (or more . . .) people touching each other all over with their hands or mouths or genitals." Her daughter yawns. Bright shows her daughter's friends a photo album of Aretha's birth, complete with blood and gore, only to find them fascinated by the fact that Bright spent time between labor pains painting her toenails. Her daughter yawns. A teacher makes a "My Mom's Job" writing assignment and her daughter burst into tears. →

Kenneth W. Lester D.C.

Chiropractic
Care

Soft Tissue
Injuries

Myofascial
Release

Sports
Injuries

Auto
Accidents

Rehabilitation

Work-Related
Injuries

Personal
Injuries

KIRBY
HEALTH & WELLNESS

2727 Kirby Drive, Suite 324
713.526.5252

Houston Area HIV Services Ryan White Planning Council

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2004

January – No meeting	July 8, 2004
February 12, 2004	August 12, 2004
March 11, 2004	September 9, 2004
April 8, 2004	October 14, 2004
May 13, 2004	November 11, 2004
June 10, 2004	December 9, 2004

Attend a Meeting... Apply for Membership... Be a Participant...

All meetings are open to the general public and although only Council members are allowed to vote, public comment is always welcome. The Council meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 11:30am at our offices located between Westheimer and San Felipe in the Galleria area.

Call to put your name on the list for public comment, to request a calendar or membership application or for more information.

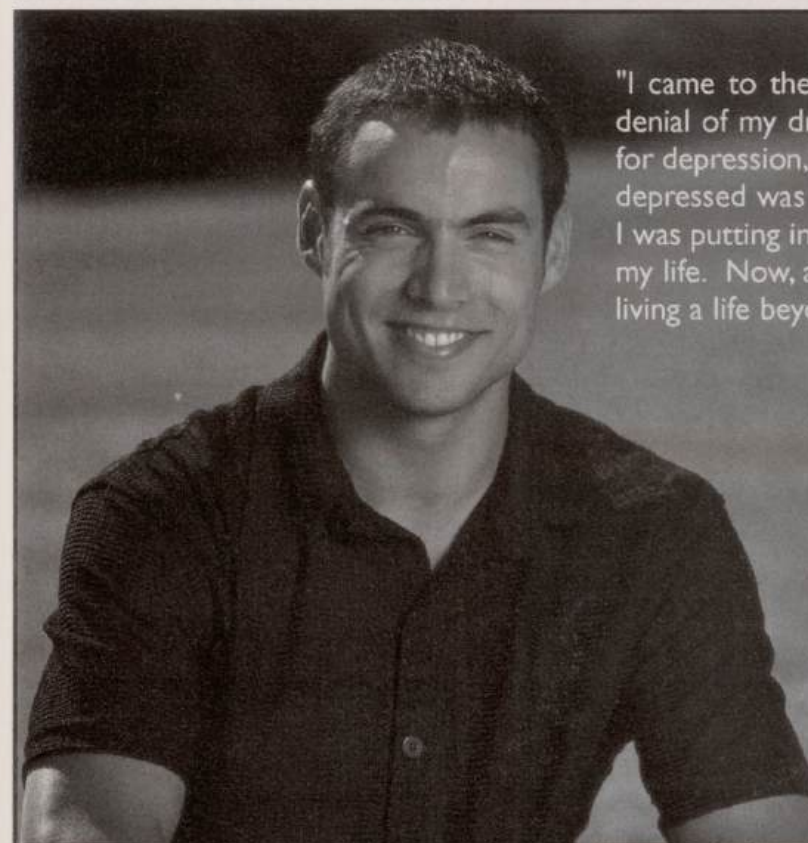
The calendar of all Council & Committee meetings and a wealth of other information is available on our website: www.rwpc.org. Check the calendar regularly for topics of specific interest to you.

We hope to see you soon!

Houston Area HIV Services Ryan White Planning Council

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

Phone: 713-572-3724 X TTY: 713-572-2813 X Fax: 713-572-3740



"I came to the PRIDE unit, scared, unsure and in complete denial of my drug and alcohol problem. I checked myself in for depression, it never occurred to me that the reason I was depressed was the amount of alcohol, marijuana and cocaine I was putting into my body on a regular basis. PRIDE changed my life. Now, almost 3 years later, I am still clean and sober, living a life beyond my wildest dreams."

Brian C.

Just Call

PRIDE
INSTITUTE
800-54-PRIDE

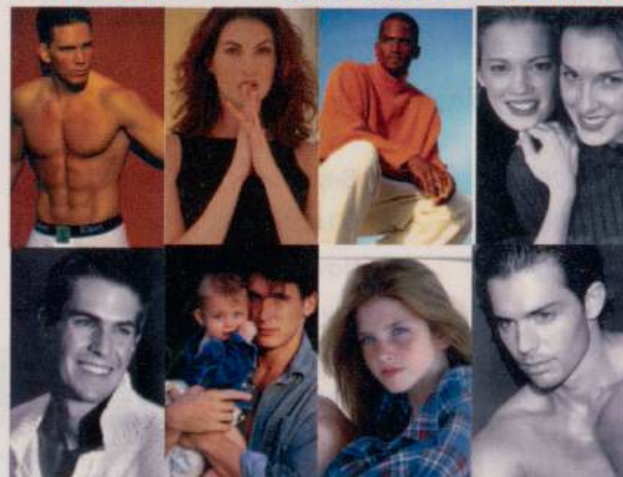
www.pride-institute.com

Dallas, TX
Chicago, IL
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Minneapolis, MN
New York, NY
Summit, NJ

The nation's leader in treating the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender communities for over 15 years.

VARSITY PRODUCTIONS



- Sports/Fitness
- Model Portfolios
- Actors Headshots
- Couples, Bridals, Family
- Fashion Advertising
- Business Portraits

JOHN CONROY PHOTOGRAPHY



6217 EDLOE
WEST U PLAZA
HOUSTON, TX 77005
713.542.8277



JOHN CONROY
PHOTOGRAPHER

www.varsityproductions.com

ReadOut continued from page 66

could prevent. But I also think we should have a minimal welfare state and that free markets do wonderful things for people, and that's considered conservative.

I've always considered myself extremely liberal in all areas, but while reading your book, I realized that I'm very conservative in certain areas.

I guess you're a Libertarian.

There doesn't seem to be much difference between the two parties.
Democins and Republicrats.

[Laughs] Do you vote?

Sometimes, but often I have just found no one I could stomach voting for, and then I have not voted.

Do you think you'll run for president?
No, I don't have the social skills.

[Laughs] You mentioned in your book that you think homosexuality is perfectly natural. So do you think that I should be able to get married and serve in the military and be openly gay at the same time?
Yes.

I realize that the Democrats have a more liberal view of gay marriage, but what they're saying is that I can have a civil union, but I can't get married.
Right. I guess some are saying you can't even have a civil union.

In your book you say that males and females are biologically hardwired to be different. What about men like me who as kids played with dolls and, in fact, played with cowboy guns, too?

I would assume that you were biologically hardwired to be that way, but I like to mouth off about what I've really studied [both laugh]. And I studied general differences in testosterone baths that boy and girl babies get in the womb. But when it comes to homosexuality and girls with CAH [Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia, who exhibit behavioral masculinization] and all these complications, . . . I think these things are largely things we're born with.

I've never known anything but homosexuality, so I can't see that that's not how I was born. It just seems logical.

Can you talk just a little bit about lawyers and how you feel about them?
I think they are the biggest threat to our money and our freedom. And since they argue better than everybody else, they roll us

in the debate. And that's very threatening, but practice makes perfect. These guys fight for a living, that's what they do. All day they use trickery and deceit—or the truth—to win cases. So they have learned to argue better than us, and it's very hard to get reform. Even "loser pays"—[they use] the language, so they cleverly call it the English Rule, as if it's some weird English thing, when it's really the rest-of-the-world rule, and we have the weird American rule.

Part of it for me is actually understanding a lot of what they're talking about, because they tend to use lawyer jargon.

That's true, too, like they're special magic, wise people.

Any more thoughts about homosexuality and the law?

Just that a government big enough to tell you where you can smoke is a government big enough to tell you who you can screw.

[Laughs] Thank you. If a man were to put the make on you, how do you think you'd react?
Badly.

Really? I wouldn't have expected . . .

Well, as an adult, not badly. But if it would have happened to me when I was 14 . . .

Oh, no, no, not when you were a kid. I'm talking about now.

Well, it happens, and if it's done in a nice way, I kind of enjoy it. It's flattery.

I had a feeling that that's how you felt. When I interviewed Tammy Faye Baker and I asked her how she would feel if a woman ever put the make on her, she was obviously very uncomfortable.

That's interesting. I have a friend who once did polls for *Playboy*, and one of their questions was that if you were bisexual, what actor or actress of your sex would you have an affair with? And the women by and large would say this one or that one, and the guys by and large said, "What do you mean?! I'm not gay!" So I would think a woman would be more open to that.

But you don't have to be open to it, because I've been asked what woman I would pick. A long time ago, I remember I picked Angel Tompkins [an actress who had posed in *Playboy*]. So who would you pick?
I'm not gonna go on record on this.

Blase DiStefano, creative director of OutSmart, interviewed Kathy Najimy for the November issue.

ReadOut Shorts continued from page 66

Along with the sexual parenting pitfalls, the book also discusses the perils of being an honest, sexual adult. But more than anything, *Mommy's Little Girl* is a guide to living a free, happy, and sexual life.

Honest, tender, and tenacious, *Mommy's Little Girl* is an excellent read and a welcomed breath of fresh air.

—Olivia Flores Alvarez

The Trouble Boy Tom Dolby Kensington Books



Debuts rarely go this well. Tom Dolby's *The Trouble Boy* is a rare example of mature, seamless writing on the first time out. Not too much needless action, not too many quirky plot twists that don't ever happen to anyone in real life. Just a solid, if flawed, leading man, and a well-written story.

Moving to New York after graduating from Yale, Toby Griffin has no friends, no job, and a tiny walk-up apartment. Hoping to launch a career as a freelance writer, he also wants a nicely packaged group of hip, good-looking friends where "one-phone-call-means-dinner-for-six." And a perfect lover, of course.

He lands a job as nightlife editor for an online magazine and begins to build a circle of buddies, most of whom are more than happy to accompany him on his nightly visits to New York bars for "research." And he begins an earnest search for Mr. Right. (Think *Sex and the City* with young queers instead of 30-something fashion hounds.)

When he stumbles into a circle of movie stars and VIPs, his friends are impressed but feel a little left out. Then a night of drinking and drugging turns into a nightmarish car accident, and it's Toby who's feeling left out. The subsequent cover-up by his important new friends put Toby in a strange position of power.

To get him to go along with their fabricated version of the accident, the very guilty VIPS offer him thinly veiled bribes including a job as a screenwriter and exclusive interviews with Hollywood big shots.

So how long will it take before Toby's superstar friends start to turn on him? Will his regular friends stand by him? Can you really buy false testimony with one screenwriting gig? Shouldn't perjury cost more?

It takes Dolby just 262 tightly written pages to answer these and other questions. And while it's not a nice story, it certainly is nicely written.

Already at work on his second novel, Dolby grew up in San Francisco and has written for *The Village Voice* and *Time Out New York*. —OFA

The Summer Book 2004 Sarah Gish

Weather Camps. Chess Camps. Fencing Camps. Music Camps. Reading Camps. Nature Camps. Free Camps. They are all here this summer in Houston, and they are all in *The Summer Book 2004*, an annual directory of Houston day camps and classes for children 5–12 years old. New

this year is a website devoted to the book (www.the-summerbook.com), a kids' art contest and survey, and several new camps and organizations with classes. It still includes over 200 camps and classes, organized alphabetically, by category and by dates. The camps include all variety of ethnicities, economic levels, and subjects.

The concept is the brainchild of Sarah Gish, the owner of the marketing firm Gish Creative, in Houston. She realized that there was a need to compile a separate, stand-alone directory of summer day camps and classes in Houston and decided to produce one. Gish says, "I chose that age group since children of that age don't always go away for overnight camps and are not in school during the summer. I also was driven by a strong personal need to find 'interesting' camps for my older child, since he is not a sports lover, and typical sports summer camps wouldn't do for him."

The Summer Book 2004 retails for \$9.95 and is available at over 20 local stores including Barnes and Noble and Borders. For a complete list of retailers or for more info, visit www.the-summerbook.com.

—Troy Carrington

Fabulous!

Donald F. Reuter
Broadway Books, a Random House Inc. Division



The bad news is Donald F. Reuter's new book *Fabulous!* doesn't live up to its name. The good news is Reuter will probably have

something else out pretty soon and make us forget all about this unfortunate release.

Reuter's complete title is *Fabulous!: A Loving, Luscious, and Lighthearted Look at Film from the Gay Perspective*. He must have used up all his creativity coming up with the title, because nothing inside is even slightly loving, luscious, or lighthearted.

Lighthearted maybe, but that's it.

It's a great idea, it's got great pictures, and there are tiny tidbits of great gossip scattered here and there, but it's a big dud.

Some of Reuter's theories seem true enough. Gay men (sorry, Reuter excludes everyone else) have had a special relationship with movies, infusing them with homosexual subtext where there often was none in an effort to see themselves onscreen. Some movies are laced with an insider's "gay" code, sneaking homosexual inferences in right under the censor's nose. OK, so far, so good. But then *Fabulous!* falls apart.

Reuter goes through 75 of what he considers the gayest movies, each with production details, a plot summary, and classic one-liners. Problem here is that the descriptions are just downright hard to read.

Second big stumbling block—there are very few films that have real gay content. And some movies Reuter calls gay are just ludicrous—*Babe* and *The Fly*? When was there anything even slightly, sort-of, kind-of gay in *The Fly*?

Overall, Reuter and *Fabulous!* disappoint. Some pretty pictures and a great title aren't enough to warrant reader attention. —OFA ■

Coach Kimmie
Certified Personal Trainer & Nutrition Specialist
832-443-FITT
"Voted Best Female Trainer 2002 & 2003"
coachkimmie.com

EXTENSIVE RETAIL & RENTAL SELECTIONS
5175 Westheimer
Houston, TX 77056
713.626.3318
HRC Dinner
March 20, 2004

Danny Kallen, District Manager
Galleria, Level 2

Any Tuxedo Rental for the HRC Dinner \$59.95
100% Wool Tuxedos starting at \$199.95 retail
15% off all retail prices
9 Houston Locations, Over 460 Locations Nationwide

HOMEWARD BOUND

Sally flees Mexico for the freedom to choose

Thirty years ago I was young and wild, and so were my ovaries. One sassy egg, not yet adjusted to my new lesbian identity, sent out its biological call. "Woo hoo! IUD's gone. Let's par-tay!" I was in my last year of college at the U of O. To fulfill the foreign-language requirement, I'd enrolled in a three-month intensive Spanish program in Mexico City. I was eager for lesbian liberation, but I cast off my birth control method one sperm cell too soon.

Next thing you know there I was, pregnant in Mexico. I was never mommie material. My DNA code is DNR—Do Not Reproduce. Being a lesbian was the best birth control, except for that unexpected adjustment period.

Speaking of periods, I wanted mine.

I'd found only one feminist in all of Mexico City. She was the first respondent to my new how-to-meet-women strategy—a copy of *Sisterhood Is Powerful* sticking out

of my backpack. While I filled out forms in the university registration office, a short-haired woman in faded overalls flashed me a smile. Nice. But, as I was disappointed to find out, she wasn't a lesbian.

Still, Becky was funny and fun, and we clicked immediately. It didn't take her long to pick up on the subtle cues of my pregnancy, such as puking in the gutter every morning on the way to our composition lesson. I was embarrassed because I'd already made this big deal of being a dyke. Becky was cool, though. "Promise me one thing," she said. "Do not get an abortion in Mexico." Her best friend had bled to death in an unregulated Mexican clinic only two years before. That was enough to scare me into being pro-life—mine!

Becky helped me call the Feminist Women's Health Center in L.A. and make an appointment. In three weeks I'd finish

the Spanish program and then would rush my rapidly bloating body back to the States while I was still in my first trimester. I'd be cutting it close.

I waved goodbye to Becky and pulled my old Volvo wagon into the Pemex station to gas up. I hid the \$300 for the abortion in a textbook. If I drove 12 hours a day, I could be out of Mexico in two days. I slept in my car at the side of the road. Stretched out in the back, I made up stories—in my best polished Spanish—to tell any banditos in case I got hassled.

The old Volvo, dusty and weak from bad Mexican petrol, finally lugged me across the U.S. border. The sleepy Texas town of Eagle Pass was populated by folks unlikely to take kindly to a Jewish, abortion-bound lesbian. Even so, I was glad to be in the USA. While my tires crunched along the unpaved main road, every dumb patriotic song I'd ever learned sprang to mind. Growing up on

antiwar politics, I've always protested obscene nationalism. I'm the one who, despite contemptuous glares of sports fans, sits down during the national anthem. So naturally, when I saw an American flag flying over the Eagle Pass post office, one thought crossed my mind. Home! "Oe'r the land of the freeeeee," I sang through tears of relief and ricocheting hormones.

I parked in front of a little café and went in to freshen up.

Three wide, sweaty, hairy-backed, Caucasian men sat at the counter, their gray hair buzzed short above their bulging red necks. My people! I slipped into the bathroom and ran the water while I sobbed. I washed my pregnancy-swollen face and steeled myself for the last thousand miles of my journey.

I made it to L.A. and the clinic workers' welcoming arms just in time. Thank God and the feminists: In my country a woman's right to choose was protected, guaranteed, and safe.

Abortion rights are in peril. To find out what you can do, log on to <http://www.naral.org/takeaction/>.

Sally Sheklow contributes monthly to OutSmart magazine.

Your family is what you want it to be.
Your mortgage is what you need it to be.
At Chase, we understand both.



FLEXIBLE MORTGAGE PROGRAMS

When you find your dream home and it's time for financing, let Chase Home Finance be your guide.

Whether you're buying alone or with a partner, you can feel comfortable.

A mortgage specialist will work with you to meet your needs every step of the way, from application to closing.

Call Moe today for all of your home financing needs.

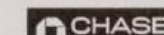
Chase Home Finance

1800 West Loop South, Suite 1950
Houston, Texas 77027

713/968-8727



Moe Sarakbi
Assistant Vice President



THE RIGHT RELATIONSHIP IS EVERYTHING.®

All loans are subject to credit and property approval. Program terms and conditions are subject to change without notice. Not all products are available in all states or for all loan amounts. Other restrictions and limitations may apply. Copyright © 2003 J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. All rights reserved.

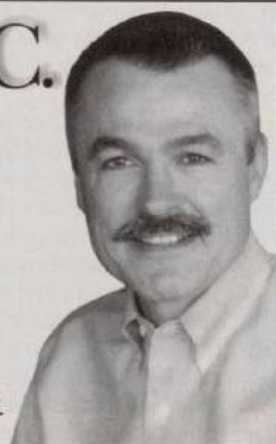
ART KELLER, D.C.

Work Injuries Auto Accidents
Sports Injuries Acupuncture
Impairment Ratings

713.781.3344

CHIMNEY ROCK CHIROPRACTIC CENTER

3033 Chimney Rock at Richmond, Suite 440



Who's watching your kids when you're away?

PET SITTING IN THE HEIGHTS

• Experienced • Bonded
• Professional • References Available

Competitive Rates:
\$20/day (2+ visits) or \$10/visit.
SPECIAL 25% CASH, OR
NEW CLIENT DISCOUNT!

P.S. IN THE HEIGHTS
PET SITTING IN THE HEIGHTS
713/869-3698

THESE ARE NOT MODELS. THESE ARE ACTUAL CLIENTS!



Dignity HOUSTON GLBT Catholics CELEBRATING 30 YEARS 1974 - 2004

Every Saturday at 7:30 pm
MASS & SOCIAL HOUR

March 7, & 21st at 5 pm
SUNDAY MASS

1307 Yale • PO Box 6682

(in the Heights)

Houston, Texas 77266

713.880.2872

www.dignityhouston.org • dignityhouston@aol.com
SERVING THE HOUSTON GLBT COMMUNITY SINCE 1974

COUNSELING & PSYCHOTHERAPY



- Certified IMAGO Relationship Therapist
- Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist
- Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor
- 21 Years Counseling Experience

DENISE O'DOHERTY

3730 KIRBY DR., STE. 910 • HOUSTON, 77098

(713) 524-9525

Time for those Easter Photos!



HOLLYWOOD PORTRAIT STUDIOS

Call For An Appointment
713.523.9683

Celebrating Over 20 Years Of Excellence • Specializing in Unique Portraits
Ask About Our Club Plan • Offer valid through January 31, 2004

"Family Portraits" Pets Children's Parties
Graduations Special Occasions Passport Photos
Holy Unions Weddings Immigration Photos

www.hollywood-portraits.com

BRING IN
THIS AD AND
RECEIVE
ONE 8X10
FREE

THE OUTSIDERS

Take advantage of our springtime window with some al fresco dining

Spring has returned. Time to return those sweaters to their tidy little bags with a few balls of cedar. Time to enjoy the outdoors in that brief window of time when temperatures are pleasant, the air is vitalized by balmy breezes, and the mosquito larvae have yet to hatch, driven by a voracious appetite for human blood. Time to savor a good meal or brunch on the patio of your favorite bistro. Here are a few places where any meal can be made even more delightful by adding a dash of al fresco.

Hollywood Vietnamese & Chinese

In the midst of the Pacific Street District (and only a few steps away from South Beach), Hollywood's Viet-Chino restaurant offers high-quality dining at mid-range prices. The specials typically have something of interest, as does the wine list. Vegetable dishes always have a distinct freshness. On top of all this, Hollywood is one of the few, the proud, gay-owned and -operated restaurants in Houston. Sit on the patio with a bowl of *bun* (a vermicelli dish made with lemongrass and other delicious elements) and ogle the buns of the boys on the way to the Beach.

2409 Grant • 713/523-8808 •

www.hollywoodvietnameserestaurant1.com



YVONNE FELICE

Biba's One's a Meal

This venerable spot offers late-night dining to practically every life form imaginable. Artists, bohemians, party people, night owl GLBT couples, police officers on break—there's always someone interesting to ogle. The food is almost as diverse as the crowd. The outdoor patio provides an amenable sanctuary at 4:30 a.m., replete with breakfast, burgers, mini-pizzas, calzones, gyros, and stuffed grape leaves. The adventurous find entertainment in the Greek culinary spectacle known as "flaming cheese." Then there's the personality of the place. Whether your waiter is the comically abrasive Greek gentleman named Yanni or a charming German woman with a comforting maternal nature, the staff and clientele make One's a Meal more than a diner. It's dinner and a show.

607 W. Gray • 713/523-8432

Niko Niko's

www.nikonikos.com

For their French fries alone, Niko Niko's merits high recognition. The gyros here are hard to beat. For a few dollars more, try the snapper. The eggplant boat is stuffed with

decadent hunks of creamy feta. If you prefer Americana, the nicely seasoned pork chops and the chicken Philly do the trick. The cozy terrace has an unmistakable, but not overwhelming, Greek theme. 2520 Montrose Blvd. • 713/528-1308 • www.nikonikos.com

Barnaby's Café

Though the three Barnaby's are no more than five or 10 minutes apart, each is a reflection of its neighborhood. The bistro on Shepherd, with a cozy deck facing the street, transforms an otherwise ordinary curbside restaurant into a sidewalk café. Sandwiches and light fare are more popular at this location than at the others. Patrons like to modify their orders here, trimming down the fatty items and bulking up the healthy items. To their credit, the staff doesn't mind or make a fuss.

1701 S. Shepherd • 713/520-5131

Noche Cocina y Bar

With its quaint little fountain, Noche's veranda offers a charming setting that matches its equally charming food and willing-to-please kitchen. If the special that sent you into convulsive pleasure the other day is not on the menu or chalkboard today, just ask. Most likely, the kitchen can make it for you anyway. The crawfish enchiladas are one favorite former special that the kitchen has almost always been able to recreate. Their delicate creamy sauce is fantastic, as are the crab cakes. The on-the-menu Veracruz dish chicken Pibil is another fantasy come to life. Rubbed in cumin, cinnamon, and achiote paste, then wrapped in banana leaves to seal in the flavor, the chicken is flavorful and as plump and juicy as chunks of fish.

2409 Montrose Blvd. • 713/529-8559 •

www.nocherestauranthouston.com

Eric Dieckman reported on romantic restaurants in the February issue.

"Like an old friend..."

Marvin Zindler's
Blue Ribbon Award
2002 & 2003

SINCE 1977

OutSmart Reader's Choice
BEST ITALIAN RESTAURANTS
5 years in a row!

Come in and let
the Men in Black
take care of you.

Riva's Italian Restaurant

1117 MISSOURI STREET 713.529.3450

One block north of
WeDinner off Missouri

Come enjoy our patio or dine in!

TILAS

Happy Hour M-F 4p.m. - 7 p.m.
Open Late To Welcome
You Night Owls!

Mexico City Continental Cuisine
Dining/Patio Seating/Private Dining Room

1111 S. SHEPHERD
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77019
713-522-7654

New off menu
delicacies

TILA'S
TUESDAY
\$2 TEA

\$2 Ritas
\$2 Voddinis
\$2 Appetizers

Join our VIP membership
Receive your frequent
visit membership card
and on your 10th visit
you will receive your
choice of a free margarita,
voddini or appetizer.

Margaritas
with fresh
Lime Juice

NOCHE

COCINA Y BAR

THE RICH FLAVORS
OF DEEP MEXICO
RIGHT IN THE
HEART OF HOUSTON!

2409 MONTROSE AT HYDE PARK
713-529-8559
www.nocherestauranthouston.com

LUNCH AND DINNER
SEVEN DAYS A WEEK
SUNDAY BRUNCH

RENT thesite.com

INSTANT
INTERNET
PRESENCE

- * Self-managed
- * Sophisticated
- * Dynamic
- * Easy
- * Fast

In less than 48 hours!

www.RENTthesite.com
877-839-5121

Pepino's
Italian Restaurant

Chef Pepe draws on 15 years
of experience for delicious,
moderately priced Italian in
a casual, artistic atmosphere.

Bring Your Own Bottle

1421 Richmond near Montrose
713.522.9044

We'd like you
to meet our
60,000 readers...

Over **89%**
of OutSmart readers tell us they
GO OUT OF THEIR WAY
to **SUPPORT**
OutSmart advertisers.

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

For advertising information
call 713-520-7237.

Calendar of Events

Deadline for OutSmart's April issue is 5 p.m., Thursday, March 11.

MARCH

Daily (Mon.-Fri.)

HIV Testing. HCHD Thomas Street Clinic is offering HIV testing free to the public, 9 am-1 pm. There is no need to establish eligibility ("gold-card"), no donation will be asked of the person seeking testing, and the test is free. Thomas Street Clinic, 2015 Thomas, 713/873-4157 or 713/873-4026.

Daily (Mon.-Sat.)

HIV Testing. The Montrose Clinic offers free confidential HIV testing at these locations. **Monday:** Bricks, 617 Fairview, 4-8 pm; 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.J.'s, 2517 Ralph, 10 pm-1 am; Midtowne Spa, 3100 Fannin, 10 pm-1 am. **Thursday:** All-Star News, 3415 Katy Fwy, 4-8 pm; BRB, 2400 Brazos, 8 pm-midnight; Cousins, 817 Fairview, 8 pm-midnight. **Friday:** E.J.'s, 2517 Ralph, 10 pm-1 am; Midtowne Spa, 3100 Fannin, 10 pm-1 am; The Meatrack, 2915 San Jacinto, 10 pm-2 am; Rich's, 2401 San Jacinto, 10 pm-1 am. The clinic offers classes for those newly diagnosed with HIV or Hepatitis C. For more info: 713/830-3000.

Weekly (Fri. & Sat.)

Midnight at the Oasis. The Landmark River Oaks midnight movie series has become an oasis for film buffs, both classic and kitsch. This month's funtime revivals begin with Hitchcock's eerie classic *The Birds* on the 5th and 6th. Next, on the 12th and 13th is Cheech & Chong's ode to the hempophilic, *Up in Smoke*. The 19th and 20th bring the Coen brothers' (*The Big Lebowski*, *Fargo*) debut pic, the Southern-fried film noir, *Blood Simple*. Ending the month on the 26th and 27th is the Beatles' rock-n-roll comedy classic, *A Hard Day's Night*. \$8. Midnight at Landmark River Oaks Theatre, 2009 W. Gray between Shepherd & McDuffie. For information: 713/866-8881 or www.landmarktheatres.com.

6 (Sat.)
H.M.S. Pinafore. Let your ship sail the ocean blue and remain an Englishman. Gilbert and Sullivan's comedic opera sets sail in the Galveston harbor one night only. For whom will the lovely Josephine pledge her troth, the noble Sir Joseph Porter or the lowly seaman Ralph? \$18.50-\$63. 3 and 8 pm at the Grand 1894 Opera House, Galveston, 2020 Postoffice. For tickets: 800/821-1894 or www.thegrand.com.

6 & 7 (Sat. & Sun.)
Everything's Coming Up Violets. The Spring Branch African Violet Club hosts their 25th annual show and plant sale. Plants big and small, violet and not-so violet, variegated and not-so variegated are available for purchase, with club members on hand to answer all your violet questions. Free. 9 am-5

pm Saturday and 10 am-4 pm Sunday at the Houston Garden Center, 1500 Hermann Dr. Info: 713/462-4257.

8 (Mon.)

Powerful Poetry. Martin Espada, the "Pablo Neruda of North American authors," is considered by many a master of language, a pioneer of poesy. Much of his writing is inspired by his Puerto Rican heritage and his work experiences, ranging from bouncer to tenant lawyer. Ellen Bryant Voigt's six books of poetry have received recognition from the National Book Awards and the Teasdale Prize. The Inprint Brown Reading Series presents Espada and Voigt to read their verse. \$5. Free to students/seniors. 7:30 pm at the Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave. Info: 713/521-2026 or www.inprint-inc.org.

12 (Fri.)

Bringin' in the Green. The Montrose Counseling Center's 16th annual St. Patrick's Day celebration, brings entertainers Jerry Atwood and Julie Link. Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres are provided. But if you let the bartenders from the Four Seasons Club fill you so full of libations after the silent auction that you think the resident Leprechaun (Jack G. Jackson) really is hiding a pot of gold, have the valet to call you a cab instead of giving you your keys. \$35 donation. 5:30-8 pm at 3618 Burlington St.

12 & 13 (Fri. & Sat.)

I Wanna Live Forever! Fame-The Musical hits the Galveston bay with all

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—THU., MAR. 11.**

the splendor of a precocious teenage prodigy. Follow the kids at New York's High School for Performing Arts through the trials, the romance, the break-ups, and the triumphs. \$18.50-\$72. Friday and Saturday at 8 pm, with a Saturday matinee at 3 pm at the Grand 1894 Opera House, Galveston, 2020 Postoffice. For tickets: 800/821-1894 or www.thegrand.com.

12-14 (Fri.-Sun.)

Campy Fun. Lace up those butch hiking boots. The Houston Outdoor Group is going to Nails Creek on the south side of Lake Somerville State Park. Get in some R&R in March before it gets so bleeding hot you wake up pre-dawn in a puddle of sweat. Gross. For info: 713/KAMP-OUT or www.geocities.com/houstonoutdoorgroup.

14 (Sun.)

Steppin' Out. Or lace up those sporty kix. AIDS Foundation Houston, in

partnership with JP Morgan Chase, presents the 15th annual AIDS Walk Houston. The Walk raises crucial funds for local HIV/AIDS service organizations that provide education, research, housing, food, medical care, counseling, pediatric programs, and job training to more than 100,000 Houstonians each year. Last year's walk raised over \$550,000. Let's outdo ourselves this year and celebrate at Post Walk Party at the finish line. No registration fee. Registration at 8 am, strating time at 10 am at Sam Houston Park, 1000 Bagby. Info: 713/623-6796, ext. 278, or www.AIDSwalkhouston.org.

15 (Mon.)

The 411 on 611. 611's big 20th Anniversary Party features a buffet, giveaways, drink specials, door prizes, and God knows what else. A wee tidbit of trivia: Did you know 611 has a 1920's pipe organ? It's somewhere in there. Have some fun trying to find it. 6-11 pm at 611 Hyde Park. For information: 713/526-7070.

19 (Fri.)

Let's Get Sleuthing. Laurie R. King, author of the Edgar Award-winning series of crime novels featuring lesbian homicide cop Kate Martinelli, discusses and signs her new Mary Russell/Sherlock Holmes novel, *The Game*. 6 pm at Murder by the Book, 2342 Bissonnet. For information: 713/524-8597 or www.murderbooks.com.

20 (Sat.)

La Musica La Mas Jazzissimo. David Sanchez joins Jerry Gonzalez and the Fort Apache Band for *The State of Latin Jazz*. This Da Camera production brings some of the most highly acclaimed Latin jazz musicians to one stage for a night of rhythmic freeform excitement. \$25-\$40. 8 pm at the Wortham Center's Cullen Theater, 500 Texas St. For tickets and information: 713/524-5050 or www.dacamera.com.

20 (Sat.)

If I Were a Rich Man. The sing-along version of *Fiddler on the Roof* offers the opportunity to sing along with Topol and Molly Picon as special guests lead the audience through this classic musical. Don't go to the screening stag. Just sing. "Matchmaker, matchmaker, make me a match..." \$6. 6 pm at the Museum of Fine Arts. For information: 713/639-7515 or www.mfah.org/films.

20 & 21 (Sat. & Sun.)

Shutterbug Heaven. The Photographic Collectors of Houston hosts the 55th semi-annual Houston Camera Show and Sale, with new, used, and collectible photographic equipment a'hoi. As one of the founders put it, "This is like a mall where every store deals in photography." \$5/day. Saturday 10 am-5 pm, Sunday 10 am-4 pm at the Marriott Hotel (formerly the Radisson), Hobby Airport, 9100 Gulf Fwy at the Airport exit. For information: 713/868-9606.

20 & 21 (Sat. & Sun.)

Carmina Burana. by Carl Orff, is based on poems from a 13th-century manuscript. Orff takes these centuries-old words and creates a full theatrical spectacle. At Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana. Info/tickets: 713/224-7575 or www.houstonsymphony.org.

21 (Sun.)

Songs of the Oscars. Celebrated singer and Native Houstonian Rob Landes performs songs that were either nominated for or won an Oscar. *Oscar Winning Songs—and those that Weren't!* promises an afternoon of musical grandeur. \$12. 2 pm at Galveston's Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Post Office. For tickets/info: 800-821-1894, or www.thegrandbd.com.

23 (Tue.)

Miss Nelson Is Missing. Galveston's Grand 1894 Opera House's *Serious Fun* series continues with this adaptation of a children's book of the same name. When Miss Nelson is taken ill, her students must cope with the lousy ol' sub, Miss Viola Swamp. In their struggle to get Miss Nelson back, the students learn a lesson about themselves. \$5 for children under 12, \$6 for adults. 7

pm at the Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Postoffice. Tickets: 800/821-1894 or www.thegrand.com.

25 & 26 (Thu. & Fri.)

Mo Mix, Please. Momix takes dance to its surreal pinnacle. Artistic director/choreographer Moses Pendleton's *Opus Cactus* creates images of the varied plants and animals of the desert using costumed dancers. Vibrant colors and the lush music of Bach, Brian Eno, and traditional music of aboriginal American tribes bring the imagery together. 8pm at Wortham Center's Cullen Theater, 500 Texas St. For information and tickets: 713/227-45PA or www.spahouston.org.

26 & 27 (Fri. & Sat.)

Maybe We Should Leave. Experimental music duo Last Bastions presents *Houston: Why Are We Still Here?* This tribute to the home of this duo (Mike Switzer and Charlie Naked) incorporates improvisation, found sound, interviews, guest appearances, and video in a rich, slowly shifting soundscape. The ultimate goal of the piece: to cause us to ponder our love-hate/love-love relationship with the fattest, smoggiest, most fascinating city in the country. \$15. 8 pm at DiverseWorks, 1117 East Fwy off Main at Naylor. For information: 713/223-8346 or www.diverseworks.org.

27 (Sat.)

Chicks Raw! GoGirls presents yet another estro-rockin' show to the Rhythm Room. The lineup features Sean Wiggins from L.A., Honey Tongue from Seattle, and Eden Automatic and Mosaic Minds from Dallas. Why should you put this show on your calendar? 'Cuz chicks rock! At the Rhythm Room, 1815 Washington Ave. For tickets and information: 713/863-0943 or www.gogirlsrock.com.

27 & 28 (Sat. & Sun.)

The Bayou City Goes Hard CORE. Several Dancers Core and the Art Colony Association, Inc. present CORE Performance Company at the Bayou City Art Festival Memorial Park. Their show, *And the Band Played On* uses the environment of the park as its stage, integrating sound and noise-making throughout the festival. Free with admission to the festival. 2 pm Memorial Park, 6501 Memorial. Info: www.bayoucityartfestival.com. For information on Several Dancers Core: 713/862-5530 or www.severaldancerscore.org.

27 & 28 (Sat. & Sun.)

Wha? Interpreting *Anthropogeomorphology* is a mixed presentation from the archives of the Center for Land Use Interpretation. Based in Los Angeles, the group produces exhibits, tours, publications, and the like to interpret the landscape of the U.S. This FotoFest 2004 screening takes a look at various forms of video (documentary, industrial, government, and artistic) that deal with their A-number-one fave topic, land. \$5. 8 pm Saturday, 3 pm Sunday at Aurora Picture Show, 800 Aurora St. For information: 713/868-2101 or www.aurorapictureshow.org.

28 (Sun.)

Galway or the Highway. Sir James Galway is a legendary flautist, both as a musician and as an entertainer. For over three decades, Galway has dazzled audiences with fierce interpretations of Bach and Vivaldi, fresh renditions of folk and world music, pop hits, and beyond. In addition to playing alongside symphonies, he's performed with the Muppets. 3 pm at the Grand 1894 Opera House, Galveston, 2020 Postoffice St. For tickets: 800/821-1894 or www.thegrand.com.

PLANNING AHEAD

APRIL

April 2 (Fri.)

The Art of Guitars. The guitar is not just for rock, jazz, and the blues. Grammy-nominated Los Angeles Guitar Quartet plays classical and chamber music with intricate arrangements and an adventurous nature.

SICKLY SWEET HARMONY

The premise: Alfred Kinsey's 1948 book *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male* shaped American rhetoric on sexuality, with a six-point scale measuring sexual preference. • The setup: A Kinsey zero, for example, is only interested in the opposite sex, 100% straight. A Kinsey three is 50-50 bisexual (like the white Bengal tiger or the Black Republican, they are very, very rare). A Kinsey six is only interested in the same sex, 100% homosexual. • And finally, the punch line: The Kinsey Sicks. The Kinsey Sicks formed in San Fran when a group of friends thought it would be fun to see Bette Midler in drag. The friends in drag that is, not Midler. (Well, from some perspectives they were all in drag.) These compatriots were sure they wouldn't be the only dragaboos (dressed as the Andrew Sisters) at the show. Wrong. Alienation. Eek. Nonetheless, the friends were approached and asked to perform at an upcoming event. Opportunity. Hoorah. The Kinsey Sicks were born. Performing uniquely as a dragapella beautyshop quartet, the K-Sicks put on a hilarious and titillating show, with astonishing harmonies and comically subversive lyrics. —Eric A.T. Dieckman

Also at The Improv in this month Dave Attell (from Comedy Central's *Insomnia*): March 4-7 • Cruz Comedy (a Latino comedy showcase): March 10 • Brian Regan: March 11-14.



What: The Kinsey Sicks

When: March 18-21

Where: The Improv, Marq*E Center, 7620 Katy Fwy @ Silber

How much? \$17-\$25 **Info:** 713/333-8800,

www.improvhouston.com or www.kinseysicks.com



LICENSED & BONDED
30 YEARS EXPERIENCE

- Home Inspections
- Service Upgrades
- New Construction
- Renovations

713-824-5118

Residential & Commercial

PAX PLUMBING SERVICE

Women-Owned & Operated
Plumbing Service Since 1985

- Residential • Commercial
- New Construction
- Repairs & Remodeling
- Building Maintenance

Amelia Reed

License #J-28054

Call 713/698-5012 (pager)

713/939-1552 • Hours: Mon-Sat.

MASSAGE THERAPY

In the "Heart of Montrose"

- Full Body
- Therapeutic
- Swedish 1 hr \$60
- Deep Tissue
- Hot Stone 1 1/2 hr \$100
- Reflexology 1hr \$50

By Appointment

Patrick W. O'Gara Dawn L. June
RMT 032664 RMT 032068
713/447-1251 832/428-4284
Tues - Sat 10 am - 6 pm

404 Westheimer

I highly recommend massage therapy prior to chiropractic treatments for better results. — Dr. Jackie Duval MS.DC.CAC

A Professional Health Care Service

Chances are you've already heard Nini Camps. If you're a fan of MTV's *Real World*, the WB's *Felicity*, or (shame on you!) *The Mary Kate and Ashley Show*, you've most likely heard Camps's smooth, bluesy tunes playing in the background of all the on-screen drama. The singer-songwriter has also gotten airplay on NPR, and cuts from her two CDs made the soundtracks of the indie films *Motorcycle Diaries* and *Amy's Orgasm*. • Fresh off the success of her second release, *So Long*, Camps will be in Houston during a Texas mini-tour that includes a stop at Chances, South by Southwest, and a few dates where she'll open for Los Lonely Boys, one of the hottest alternative rock groups around. This isn't Camps's first Houston visit. She was here during the 2003 Houston Women's Festival. • Originally from Miami, Camps now lives in New York City where she's an integral part of the "girls with guitars" scene. She recorded her first CD, *Lovepie*, in co-producer Marilyn D'Amato's living room, and a solo tour of the Northeast followed. When she came in off the road, Camps had a newly sophisticated, mature sound and a renewed thirst to record. She went into the studio with producer David Seitz, crafting a stylish and passionate *So Long*. • Rock, alternative, country, blues, salsa, it's all in there. And it's all well done. With a pure, silky voice that seduces and challenges at the same time, Camps is an angel with a guitar... and an attitude. Camps sprinkles what she calls "Spanish-y" songs in her show



NINI CAMPS
ANGEL WITH AN ATTITUDE

and recordings, and *So Long* featured a rock-tinged, very hip version of the Cuban classic "Guantanamera." "Latin music's not what I listen to most of the time, but it's in my blood, and I love being able to reach back to my heritage and include a couple of [Spanish] songs in my show. And even the people who don't understand the lyrics, they still get the feeling of the song, they still get the message. Plus once everybody gets dancing, nobody cares what language I'm singing in!" she laughs. • Expect a bit of witty banter during Camps's stage show. It's a skill she polished as part of the Acoustic Girl Circle, a 1998 tour with Marilyn D'Amato, Trina Hamlin, and Leslie Nuchow, where playful tête-à-tête was as much of the show as music. And there's also a lot of sizzle to her live performances, thanks to her dark, sultry good looks. But ha-ha's and eye candy aside, Nini Camps is all about the music. • Nini Camps (www.ninicamps.com) appears at Chances on March 13.

—Olivia Flores Alvarez

Also at Chances this month: March 6: Astrogin, with the dynamic vocals and stage presence of lead singer Deborah Vial. More info: www.astrogin.com. • March 13: Nini Camps (see above). • March 18: Michelle Malone, a singer/guitarist from the music mecca of Athens, Georgia, who offers up rich sonic blends that include blues, rock, gospel, and jazz undertones. More info: www.michellemalone.com. • March 27: Liviya Compean, a singer/songwriter/guitarist whose music is best described as a combination of hard rock, funk, and Latin beat. More info: www.liviya.compean.com. • All at Chances, 1100 Westheimer, 713/523-7217, www.chancesbar.com. \$5 admission.

PERFORMING ARTS

◆ **Always ... Patsy Cline.** This is a first for Stages, an open-ended run, but audience demand has been overwhelming. The story centers on Cline (Julia Kay Laskowski) and Louise Seger (Susan O. Koozin), a Houston housewife and devoted fan. Seger meets her idol after one of Cline's shows in Houston. The two become friends until Cline's death in '63. Another bonus is the casting of steel guitar legend Herb Remington, who played with country icon/prototype Bob Wills and his Texas Playboys. *Always* includes over 20 of Cline's songs performed live and retells—through Cline's letters and Seger's commentary—the joys, pains, and mutual respect these two women shared. \$25. Begins Thursday, March 4 at Stages, 3201 Allen Pkwy. For tickets: 713/527-0123 or www.stagestheatre.com.

◆ **Astoria.** The prolific Suchu Dance troupe has been known to make a stir, namely with the titillating *Naked Show*. Revived and updated from 2001, *Astoria* now has three additional dancers (including out psychologist Luis Pena), boosting its cast to a dozen. Described by choreographer/artistic director Jennifer Wood as one of the troupe's most entertaining productions, the recital ranges widely, wildly, and unpredictably in mood and movement. \$10–\$16. March 4–13, 8 pm at Barnevelder Theater, 2201 Preston @ Hutchins in east downtown. For tickets and information: 713/529-1819, or www.suchudance.org or www.barnevelder.org.

◆ **Birthday from Hell.** The uproariously funny Fertle family faces more travails. About to turn 40, Bridgette Fertle finds herself stuck in midlife crisis. To make things worse, none of the Fertles seem to remember her birthday. To make things spooky, Mama Fertle believes she's been visited by her late husband,

Ned. On a brighter note, the Fertle family simp, Earl, is inducted into The High Order of Little Baby Owls. The amazing thing is that all these characters, and countless more, are played—seamlessly—by a cast of three. \$18. Through May 15. Thursday and Friday at 8:30; Saturday at 8 and 10:30 pm at Radio Music Theatre, 2623 Colquitt (off Richmond & Kirby). Tickets/more info: 713/522-7722.

◆ **Brigadoon.** Based on a German tale, Lerner and Loewe's first big hit musical finds two American tourists, Tommy Albright and Jeff Douglass, in the little Scottish town of Brigadoon. Tommy falls love in the local lass Fiona MacLaren, but the two visitors soon discover the misty and mysterious town is under a spell. The entire village is only awake one day every hundred years and Fiona cannot leave without breaking the spell and dooming everyone else in Brigadoon. If Tommy stays, he must leave everything behind and join the bewitched Brigadoon? More like bring the doom. \$25–\$68. March 11–28 at the Hobby Center, 800 Bagby at Walker. Tickets: 713/558-8887 or www.tuts.com.

◆ **Dirty Story.** In this regional premiere of Oscar-winning screenwriter John Patrick Shanley's play, a graduate student meets her idol, a sexy novelist named Brutus. Brutus is blocked, but that's the least of the problems here when global conflict takes over. \$25. March 17–April 11 at Stages, 3201 Allen Pkwy. For tickets: 713/527-0123 or www.stagestheatre.com.

◆ **Fallen Angels.** Noel Coward wrote this bold tale about Julia and Jane, best friends and former sweethearts of the dreamy Frenchman Maurice. Whilst their huddles are away playing a round of golf, the two friends wait for their beloved Maurice to make an appearance. Through March 13 at the Company OnStage, 536 Westbury Square. For tickets: 713/726-1219 or www.companyonstage.org.

◆ **Life x 3.** Even the best-laid plans sometimes go astray. Take Henry and Sonia. They've planned their dinner party down to the most meticulous detail to impress Henry's boss, Hubert. One problem, the night before, just as Henry and Sonia have put their difficult son to bed, Hubert and his wife show up thinking the party is one day earlier than planned. The story is told three times, with the headstrong child, lack of food, and several bottles of wine all contributing to the narrative. March 26–April 18 at the Alley Theatre, 615 Texas. Tickets: 713/228-9341 or www.alleytheatre.org.

◆ **Lucia di Lammermoor.** There's something inherently funny about an Italian-born composer writing an opera about the Scots (how can an Italian tongue handle a Scottish brogue?). However, this closing work of Opera in the Heights' season is a tragic romance. In Gaetano Donizetti's famous "Bel canto" opera about a family's struggle for power, Enrico (Lord Henry Ashton of Ravenswood). But now he must unite his family with that of Arturo (Lord Arthur Bucklaw) to gain political favor. Enrico's best bet is to force his sister, Lucia (Lucy Ashton) to marry into the family. \$20–\$30. March 25–April 3 at Lambert Hall, 1703 Heights Blvd. For tickets: 713/861-5303 or www.operaintheheights.org.

◆ **Our Lady of 121st Street.** by one of theater's most celebrated up-and-coming playwrights Stephen Adly Guirgis, centers on a group of former schoolmates. Reunited after 15 years, the kids gather for the funeral of the beloved Sister Rose, only to learn her body has been stolen. In their search for answers, these vivid characters revisit the past and rekindle friendships. This dark comedy comes from the same author who has penned episodes of *The Sopranos* and *NYPD Blue*. March 19–April 18 at the Alley Theatre. Tickets: 713/228-9341 or www.alleytheatre.org. →

\$20–\$35. 8 pm at Cullen Theater, 500 Texas. Tickets and info: 713/524-5050 or www.dacamera.com.

April 2 (Fri.)

Eleemosynary. Lee Blessing's play explores the relationship among three independent women, a strong-willed, eccentric grandmother; her brilliant but emotionally unavailable daughter; and her intelligent and sensitive granddaughter. Through May 8 at the Company OnStage, 536 Westbury Square. 713/726-1219.

April 3 (Sat.)

Messiah. Handel's most famous masterpiece was completed in 24 days, an incredibly short time for a work that takes nearly three hours to perform in concert. Though many identify the work with Christmas, it actually celebrates both Christmas and Easter. It begins with the nativity, but continues on into the second section with the Crucifixion and the Redemption, with the third section an affirmation of faith. The Mercury Baroque Ensemble will perform *Messiah* on period instruments. Cantare, one of Houston's premiere choral groups, provides the vocals. 7:30 pm, Hobby Center, Zilkha Hall, 800 Bagby at Walker. Tickets/info: 713/315-2525 or www.mercurybaroqueensemble.org.

April 4 (Sun.)

Spring Fieldwork Showcase. In conjunction with The Field, a New York-based artist service organization, Several Dancers Core and Houston Community College's Central Dance Department present this culmination of 10 weeks of development of dance pieces. The works-in-progress by local artists is followed by a

meet-n-greet where audience may discuss the evening's recitals. \$7. 7 pm at Studio A, 3517 Austin, on the Houston Community College Central campus. For information: 713/862-5530 or www.severaldancerscore.org.

April 6–14 (Tue.–Wed.)

The Foreigner. Joe Sears and Jaston Williams of Greater Tuna fame have yet another tickler for us. The helplessly shy Charlie arrives in Georgia and asks his friend Froggy to help him avoid social anxiety. The plan: Tell people he's foreign and unable to understand English. As a result, people spill all sorts of beans, assured the foreigner can't understand a word. \$11–\$48. Tuesday–Saturday at 8 pm, Sunday at 7 pm, Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 pm at the Grand 1894 Opera House, Galveston, 2020 Postoffice. For tickets: 800/821-1894 or www.thegrand.com.

April 7 (Wed.)

A Little Day Music. Karen Wylie (saxophone), Timothy Hester (piano), and the Moores School Saxophone Quartet perform at DaCamera's free concert series. Take a break from work, bring a lunch, and enjoy selections from Bach, Bozza, Rimsky Korsakov, and others. Free. Noon in the Grand Foyer of The Wortham Center. Info/reservations: 713/524-7601.

April 8–10 (Thu.–Sat.)

Dance Salad. Houston's premiere dance festival celebrates its 12th year with performances from the greatest dancers, choreographers, and companies from around the globe. North and Latin America, Europe, Africa, and Asia are represented. Students of dance

(and multiculturalism) will find the program's master classes and lectures of interest. At Wortham Center's Cullen Theater. Info/tickets: www.dancesalad.org, 713/629-3700, or www.ticketmaster.com.

April 8–11 (Thu.–Sun.)

Jungle XII. Thursday, April 8: Kickoff party, Meteor, 2306 Genesee @ Fairview, 9 pm–2 am (no cover). Friday, April 9: Welcome party "Gather the Tribe," Rich's, 2401 San Jacinto, DJ Mark Tarbox (L.A.), plus surprise performance artist, 9 pm–4 am, \$15. Saturday, April 10: Main party "Tribal Heat," Verizon Wireless Theater, 520 Texas Ave. @ Bayou Place, DJ/producer Manny Lehman (N.Y./Miami), plus surprise entertainment, 10 pm–4 am, \$45 advance, \$55 door (cash bar). Sunday, April 11: After-hours party "Tribal Communion," Boaka Bar & Mercury Room, 1008 Prairie @ Main St., DJ Dawna Montel (L.A.), plus surprise performance artist, 3:30–10 am, \$25. Sunday, April 11: Closing party "Tribal Lust," South Beach, 810 Pacific, DJ Roland Belamres (LA/N.Y.), 9 pm–4 am, \$10. Bayou City Boys Club, Inc. (BCBC) will produce the Jungle XII annual fundraising event on April 10. Advance tickets are available online at www.circuitticket.com or from M2M Fashions, JR's Bar & Grill, and Houston Buyers Club. Weekend events are scheduled from Thursday through Sunday. 100% of proceeds from the main event plus donations from all other events benefit AIDS Foundation, Houston's Stone Soup Food Pantry, Casa de Esperanza de los Ninos, Montrose Clinic, and The Assistance Fund. Weekend VIP passes, sponsorship opportunities, and more info: www.bcbc.info.

See what 2004
has in store for you.



Lilly
Roddy
Astrologer

Personal, Relationships & Business Readings
Past Life Regressions • Reiki Master • Astrology Tape Series

Consultations by Appointment Only
Call 713/529-5842

Gift Certificates • Credit Cards Accepted
email: LillyCath@aol.com • www.cybersim.com/hermes

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
River Oaks Chrysler Jeep
☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Jeep
2004 Wrangler
Rubicon



**Military Rebates
College Rebates
Realtor Rebates!**

up to 4500!

Jeep
2004 Grand
Cherokee



☆ Slow credit, bad credit - not a problem
☆ Friendly and comfortable environment
☆ We will treat you like "family"

CONVENIENTLY LOCATED HWY 59 AND KIRBY@WEST PARK



Brett Roberts

**My commitment to you:
purchase or lease a
vehicle from me, and
I will personally donate
\$50 to a charity or
nonprofit organization
of your choice in your
name. New or pre-owned
vehicles apply, and
you must mention
"OutSmart" to qualify.**

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
4807 Kirby | 713.524.3801
☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

HUBBARD
Financial Services, Inc.

Kathy Hubbard EA

- Income Tax Service
- Past Due & Out-Of-State Returns
- IRS Problems Resolved
- Business Bookkeeping & Tax Returns
- Estates, Trusts & Gift Returns
- Non-Profit Compliance Consulting

(713) 522-9000

Fax: (713) 526-6588
2615 Montrose Blvd.
Houston, Texas 77006

One Block off Westheimer at the corner of Montrose and California

Specializing in Personality-Guided Therapy
...because every person is unique

I'd Be Glad To Help You

- Build Self-Esteem
- Improve Relationships
- Overcome
- Stress and Fears
- Depression

DEBORAH DENSON, LMSW-ACP

- Licensed Master of Social Work
- Advanced Clinical Practitioner

2900 Wesleyan Suite 535 • 713-850-7225

BEST MASSAGE
BEST MASSAGE 2002 & 2003
in Houston by Triangle Readers

MASSAGE
by rail

NATIONALLY CERTIFIED THERAPIST
PREFERRED 1.5 HOURS . . . \$75
1 HOUR . . . \$60

1st Visit - 20% Discount!

Jacuzzi Before and/or After Massage
Available in Private Tropical Setting (Houston)

**CALL 832.524.7700
OR 713.527.0400**

◆ **Parallel Lives: The Kathy and Mo Show.** If you missed the opportunity to see this insightful and hilarious sketch show in January, here's your second chance. The series of vignettes originated by Kathy Najimy and Mo Gaffney returns to Theatre New West with a varied cast of characters. Two goddesses at the dawn of creation whimsically decide what makes a male and a female; a frat boy and his dingy gal sup at a bistro frequented by trannies and gays; two wornymists exalt their female genitalia. It's a slice of life not served often enough. \$20. Fridays and Saturdays through March 13 at 8 pm at Theatre New West, 1415 California St. Tickets/info: 713/522-2204 or 281/224-3170.

◆ **Pure Sterling—The Music of Cole Porter.** The Gay Men's Chorus of Houston sings the best songs of this great singer/composer, with tunes from Broadway to Hollywood, including "I've Got You Under My Skin" and "I Get a Kick Out of You." Expect a musical ensemble as delightful as the chorus. March 20, 21, and 23 at the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, Zilkha Hall. Tickets/info: 713/521-7464, tickets@gmch.org, or www.gmch.org/tickets.

◆ **Symphony of Rats.** Richard Foreman, the undisputed inheritor of Eugene Ionesco's legacy of the absurd, can be described as hysterical yet devastating, nonsensical yet completely honest. In this particular play, Infernal Bridegroom Productions presents a U.S. president who cannot think or speak for himself (relevance, anyone?) who receives his instructions from outer space or maybe God. Who knows. Nonetheless, robots, spacemen, and presidential advisors indulge in moments of psychic outburst and deflation. \$10-\$15. Through March 13 at The Axiom, 2524 McKinney. Tickets: 713/522-8443 or www.infernalbridegroom.com.

◆ **TEXAS: The Big Picture.** Anyone who's Texas-proud and is looking to convert a few unbelievers will find this Texacentric film handy. Narrated by native Texan Colby Donaldson (of *Survivor: The Australian Outback*) who grew up on a ranch in the small town of Christoval in West Texas, *TEXAS* portrays the Lone Star State in all its cinematic beauty, from her rugged mountains to her serene plains to her majestic city skylines and all her diverse inhabitants therein. Through June 7 at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. For information: 713/639-4629 or www.hmns.org.

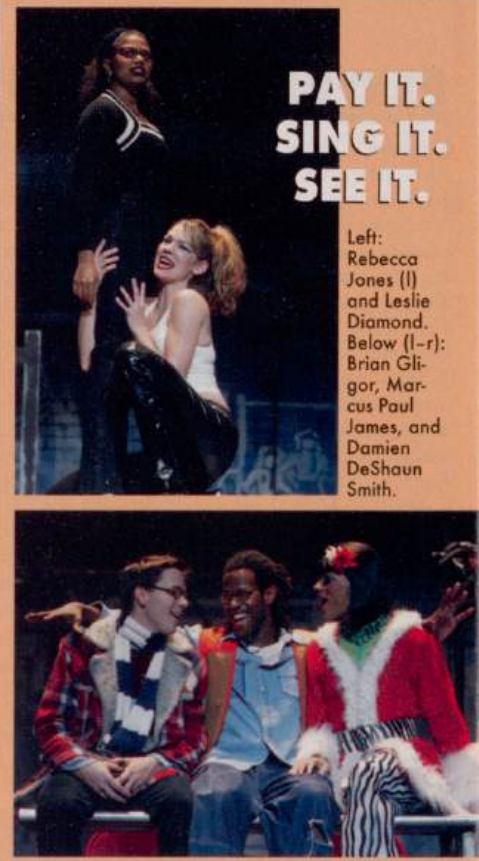
◆ **Twelfth Night.** Some of Shakespeare's most memorable characters and moments are found in this romantic comedy. Gender-bending, mistaken identity, duplicity, love discombobulated, and high comedy abound in this classic tale. Through March 14 at the Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave. For tickets: 713/228-8421 or www.alleytheatre.org.

◆ **Urinetown, the Musical.** It's difficult to stave off the curiosity piqued by such a title. A phantasmagoric city is torn apart by ecological disaster. A severe water shortage has led to a government-enforced ban on private toilets, transforming the ability to have a tinkle into a costly privilege. Amidst all this bladder-torturing hell, love is still in the air. March 30-April 11 at the Hobby Center, Sarofim Hall, 800 Bagby. Tickets: 713/629-3700 or www.broadwayacrossamerica.com and www.ticketmaster.com.

PERFORMING ARTS

For Young People

◆ **Rapunzel & the Frog Prince.** Princess Rapunzel has been locked away by that mean ol' forest witch, Gruesomella! An offbeat group of princes try to save her without success. Who can save her? In this play based on two beloved Brothers Grimm tales, sometimes the least likely candidate is the most likely frog for the job. March 20-May 1 at the Company OnStage, 536 Westbury Square, 713/726-1219.



Left: Rebecca Jones (l) and Leslie Diamond. Below (l-r): Brian Gligor, Marcus Paul James, and Damien DeShaun Smith.

PAY IT. SING IT. SEE IT.

Giacomo Puccini's opera *La Boheme* is over a century old. Critics argue that, while it's a beautiful opera, the 1896 piece is outdated and no longer holds any relevance. Jonathan Larson's rockin' youthful musical based loosely on the opera is set in the 1990s and adds modern characters and elements (a stripper, a drag queen, and AIDS for instance) relevant to life today. The vibrant musical returns to Houston for just under a week. Join New York's East Village gaggle of bohos and starving artists as they struggle with their dreams and embrace life. —ED

What: Rent
When: March 9-14
Where: Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana
How much? \$24.25-\$56.25
Info: 713/629-3700,
www.ticketmaster.com, or
www.broadwayacrossamerica.com

RADIO

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

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

ART/PHOTOGRAPHY

◆ **The 9-lb. Vase: Recent Works by John S. Whitman.** Houston Potter's Guild Shop and Gallery present this solo show of wheelthrown and altered stoneware. March 15-28, with artist reception Saturday, March 20, 2-6 pm, at Houston Potter's Guild Shop and Gallery, 2433 Rice Blvd. For information: 713/528-POTS.

◆ **The Annual Spring Show at the Watercolor Art Society-Houston (WAS-H)** features water-media in a range of styles from abstract to realistic. Do some Spring cleaning and make room on your wall-space for some new art. March 13-April 2 at the Watercolor Art Society, Houston gallery, 1601 W. Alabama. Info: 713/942-9966 or www.watercolorhouston.org.

◆ **Arshile Gorky: A Retrospective of Drawings.** Widely considered the most critical link between European Surrealists and American Abstract Expressionists, Arshile Gorky's linear, organic imagery influenced a generation of important painters, including Pollock and Menil fave Rothko. This is the first comprehensive overview of Gorky's works on paper, looking at how they relate to his paintings. March 5-May 9 at the Menil Collection, 1515 Sul Ross. Info: 713/525-9414 or www.menil.org.

◆ **The Banality of Terror.** Lori Nix gets a little exposure through FotoFest with this exhibit. Her exquisitely executed photographs of miniature model depictions of fabricated disasters give the viewer a glimpse of an uncertain moment. Has tragedy just stricken or is it about to strike? The notion communicated has obvious relevance in a post-911 environment.

Free. Sunday, March 13, 6-8 pm, through May 1 at DiverseWorks, 1117 East Fwy off Main at Naylor. Info: 713/223-8346 or www.diverseworks.org.

◆ **Bayou City Art Festival.** Three hundred artists from around the country exhibit and sell their work in this juried festival. An eclectic mix of music, food, and activities for kids and adults make this an event for the senses. Plus, a number of local nonprofits benefit from ticket sales. \$8 for adults, free for kids under 12. March 26-28, 10 am-6 pm at Memorial Park, Memorial Dr.

◆ **Bird Brain—Ducks and Geese Tour.** Bessie Award-winning choreographer Jennifer Monson draws relationships among humans, the environment, and migrating birds through improvised dance. Free. March 20: 11 am at Hermann Park, 4 pm at Houston Museum of Natural Science, and panel discussion at 5 pm; March 21: 2 pm at Houston Arboretum. Info: 713/223-8346 or www.diverseworks.org or www.birdbraindance.org.

◆ **Bugs and Butterflies: A Rainforest Adventure.** The movie *A Bug's Life* is a big dirty lie. Bugs don't sing and dance. They fight. They kill. They rip your heart outta your chest and show it to ya before ya die. Wait, that was Bruce Lee. This particular IMAX picture features a cast of real insects, starring Papilo the butterfly and Hierodula the praying mantis. The film follows the two from their birth to their inevitable encounter in a rainforest of Southeast Asia. Predator meets prey. This ain't Pixar, baby. This ain't pretty. At the Houston Museum of Natural Science, One Hermann Circle Drive. Tickets/info: 713/639-4629 or www.hmns.org.

◆ **Chocolate: The Exhibit.** Chocolate. This universal treat is made from the seeds of the cacao tree whose scientific name *Theobroma* means "food of the gods." Bring the kids for cool hands-on programs March 15-19. Complimentary weekend tastings (beginning at 1 pm) offer samples from some of Houston's finest boutique retailers. Wear a floppy khaki hat, speak in an Aussie accent, and insist you're the Chocodile Hunter. Crikey! Through May 19 at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, One Hermann Circle Drive. For tickets and information: 713/639-4629 or www.hmns.org.

◆ **Evelyn and Herbert Frensky Hall of African Wildlife.** Did you know the Houston Museum of Natural Science is the fourth most heavily attended museum in the nation? (The pride is back.) Visitors to the new African Hall can see in eight seconds what a safari explorer might see in eight weeks, if she/he is lucky. And no series of vaccinations, either. Displays that set this exhibit apart from most include the Congo Basin, primate coexistence of the West African Tropical Forest, and predator-prey dynamics of the Serengeti Grassland. At the Houston Museum of Natural Science, One Hermann Circle Drive. For tickets and information: 713/639-4629 or www.hmns.org.

◆ **Luis Barragán: An Unbuilt House for the Menil.** He only produced a dozen structures in 60 years. But what he did was otherworldly. Luis Barragán utilized natural materials and brilliant color and light, creating metaphysical landscapes. Moved by his work, Dominique de Menil commissioned Barragán to build an intimate space between the Menil collection and the Rothko Chapel. It never happened. For the first time, the completed model, blueprints, presentation boards, correspondence, and other materials have been moved from the archives to public display. At the Menil Collection, 1515 Sul Ross. Info: 713/525-9414 or www.menil.org.

◆ **Our Country: The History of Country Music.** The history of America and the history of country music are both documented and paralleled in this visually stunning IMAX film. Historical footage is edited with breathtaking images of the mountains of Appalachia, the Grand Ole Opry, and the deserts of California. Featured artists include Dolly Parton, retro-country boys Asleep at the Wheel, Loretta Lynn, and Houston's own Lyle Lovett. Through June 7 at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Info: 713/639-4629 or www.hmns.org.

◆ **Passport to the Universe.** This is not the dinky star show you went to as a kid. Academy Award-winner Tom Hanks narrates this full-dome, high-definition video at the Burke Baker Planetarium. *Passport to the Universe* brings you close-up views of star fields and planets through a virtual re-creation of our universe. Take the kids, bring the visiting relatives, or treat yourself to something just as entertaining as it is educational. \$5 (\$3.50 kids 3-11 & seniors 62+). At the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Info: 713/639-4629 or www.hmns.org.

◆ **PG-13/Male Adolescent Identity in the Age of Video Culture.** There's nothing easy about adolescence. Video artists Janet Biggs and Barbara Pollack look at how gender is constructed and enacted by pre-adolescent boys mimicking and embodying the paradigms of masculinity set by sports, video games, and music videos. March 13-May 1, opening reception March 13, 6-8 pm at DiverseWorks, 1117 East Fwy off Main at Naylor. For information: 713/223-8346 or www.diverseworks.org.

◆ **Photo Takes.** In this more-reverent-than-irreverent send-up of the internationally acclaimed fine art photography festival FotoFest, artists exhibit non-photographic works dealing with photography. The cheeky show features paintings of photos, an abstract collage done on photo paper, and (at a whimsical height) a 3-D rendition of a photograph. That's like an impression of an impression. Through March 27 at 2013 W. Gray, River Oaks Shopping Center. For information: 713/522-2409 or www.archwaygallery.com. ■

CALENDAR DEADLINE
for OutSmart's April 3-D issue:
Thursday, March 11, 5 p.m.

Come home to family in lovely San Miguel de Allende, Mexico!

Own a NEW single family house in the best foreign life style.

Under construction: 3 great 2-story houses; first class construction with beautiful features never found in affordable housing, "inner-loop" location in established neighborhoods. Off street parking, great city & mountain views. From \$112,500. Call Jim or Robert 713.571.6869 - 10 years in business

Center for Healthy Sexuality

Treatment of:

- Intimacy & Relationship Issues
- Obsessive Compulsive Disorders
- Sexual Addictions
- Internet Addictions
- Depression/Anxiety Disorders

- Court Assessment & Evaluations
- Sex Offender Treatment

713.785.7111

Barbara S. Levinson Ph.D., RN, LMFT
Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist
Certified Sex Therapist Diplomate
Certified Sex Addiction Therapist Supervisor
2400 Augusta Dr. • Suite 120 • Houston TX 77057

Business News



James R. Vanya (l) has been promoted to general manager of **Performance Saab** on the Southwest Freeway, just inside Beltway 8. Vanya reports that the dealership will continue to donate \$25 to the Human Rights Campaign

for every test drive (when the consumer mentions the special) and new car sale. Specials at Performance Saab include nothing down and \$239 a month for 35 months on a 2004 9-3 Linear Sport Sedan.

Performance Saab is located at 10505 Southwest Frwy. (713/981-4400). The second Performance Saab location is 18855 Hwy. 59 North (281/964-4660). The website is www.PerformanceCarCo.com.



Amy Meyers (l), owner of the **Sippora** gallery, greeted her father, **Sonny Gerber**, at the February 6 opening of the "Touch Me-Feel Me" group exhibition. Before he

turned over the Midtown building now occupied by Sippora to his daughter, Gerber had operated a pawnshop there for more than 60 years. Meyers opened her art and design

gallery (234 West Gray, 713/520-1085) last April. The website is www.sippora.com.

Yan Sushi has opened in Montrose. Lunch and happy-hour specials are some of the highlights at this new Japanese restaurant. Yan Sushi is located at 1517 Westheimer. The phone number is 713/526-8866.



On February 4, **Karen Derr** held a party at her Heights office to award bonus checks to the top agents with the firm. The rewarded agents (l-r): **Glen Filmore**, **Bill Baldwin**, **Rhonda Power**, **Darren Moore**, **Sarah Goodner**, **Jerry Jaggers**, and **Richard Buentello**. Not pictured: **Rich Martin** and **Margot Perez**. **Karen Derr Realty** has 40 agents and three offices, including 1034 Heights Blvd. (713/862-1600, www.KarenDerr.com).



Dennis Entler with the 1920 theater pipe organ at the 611.

The **611 Club** celebrates its 20th year in operation with an anniversary party on March 15, 6-11 p.m.

Steve Shimer opened the bar in 1984. After Shimer's AIDS-related death in 1994, his silent partner, **Dennis Entler**, took over the club. Since then, Entler has run the 611 (611 Hyde Park, 713/526-7070) with the help of **Terry Flood**, general manager for 20 years.

Over two decades, the 611 has nearly doubled in size. The establishment has hosted many community organizations and fundraisers, including benefits for the Gay Games and HIV/AIDS causes. The latest 611 additions are a large-scale "G" model train that runs around the bar and a working 1920 theater pipe organ.

Entler invites the public to the March 15 party. The evening will include a buffet supper, giveaway prizes, and drink specials. ■



Fitness Your Way

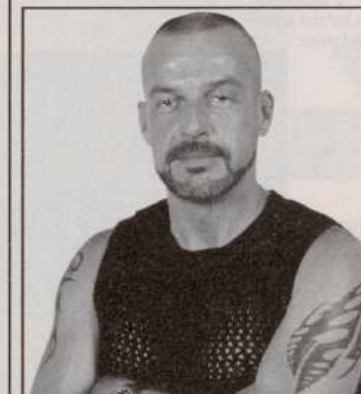
Feeling good about yourself and how you look is the key. We can help you get there with a program just for you. Call Today!

JOIN TODAY AND GET 2 FOR 1!

HOUSTON GYM

1501 Durham Street
713-880-9191
www.houstongym.com
*Tour club for details

MASSAGE BY KEN
MASSAGE BY KEN
MASSAGE BY KEN



KEN CLAUDE, RMT

- Therapeutic Massage
- Light to Deep Pressure
- Aromatherapy
- Reflexology
- Hot Stone Massage
- In or Out Calls Available

Convenient Montrose-River Oaks Studio

713.240.9598

Give the Gift of Relaxation
Gift Certificates Available

Save The Date!

Friday - March 12, 2004

"Masquerade Carnavale Venezia"

The Corinthian
202 Fannin @ Franklin
9pm - 1am

Costumes are encouraged or black tie with mask

Entertainment
Yvonne Washington & The Mix

Light mid-night supper
by Jackson & Company

Co-Chairs: Rachel Grant, Ed Rivera and Don Rumer
Benefiting The Assistance Fund

Call 713-529-7171 or
visit www.theassistancefund.org
for additional Ticket and Table information

Ticket price is \$200.00

try something NEW



eclectic decor &
entertaining ideas

www.mangoroad.com

use coupon code 'outsmart' for 10% off

"Properly done, modern dental care should NEVER hurt, should not be stressful and should last a long time."

We employ the **best** and **newest techniques** and **materials** because YOU are our first and only concern.

My practice is not a "clinic" setting!
YOU get quality time, one patient at a time.
Every time. Come see how much difference a nonclinical setting makes for comfort!

Strict adherence to cutting-edge sterilization of all instruments and facilities.

Bruce W. Smith

1006 MISSOURI ST.

Hours By Appointment

713.529.4364



Restorative, Cosmetic and Preventative Dentistry for Adults Since 1981

Take it off
Take it All off

Town & Country
Plastic Surgery

Professional & Discreet Laser Hair Removal

713-467-4007

Complimentary Consultation

www.yarishmd.com

10565 Katy Fwy., Suite 100

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 NEW BARN/G-SPOT

This three-in-one women's bar provides a place to two-step, rock, or chat. Check out the 9 p.m.-1 a.m. open mic night on Thursday. Women-fronted bands perform every Saturday. 1100 Westheimer • 713/523-7217 • www.chancesbar.com.

CLUB BIG YO

With the motto "This is an all girls production; our male friends are welcome," this Southwest club offers special evenings including Thursday talent night. Dancers strut on Sunday. 6305 Skyline • 713/953-0268, 281/322-0394 • www.clubbigyo.com.

CLUB KALIPSO

This Spring Branch club offers hot Latin music, including cumbia, merengue, ranchera, and salsa as well as Latin and English pop. Male dancers work their stuff every Sunday night. 6806 Long Point #F • 713/688-6562.

CLUB INERGY

A nightlife institution for 12 years, this Southwest club offers an eclectic mix of Latin rhythms, mainstream dance, and hip hop. Sunday is the special show night. 5750 Chimney Rock • 713/666-7310 • www.clubinergy.com.

CLUB RAINBOW

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

CLUB TOYZ

Latin house, hip hop, salsa, and merengue flavor this Southwest Houston nightclub. On Friday, Cookie LaCook hosts Ladies Night catering to the over-25 African American lesbian crowd. 5322 Glenmont • 713/668-4892.

CLUB XCAPE

Located in South Houston, Club Xcape offers special nights including Monday Madness with MC Jenny Craig. Ghetto Fabulous Friday, featuring rap, hip-hop, and bootie music, marks the end of the week. 2612 South Richey • 713/944-7663.

WHO: Jim Garza

WHERE:

611 Club
(611 Hyde Park,
713/526-7070)

WHAT'S UP:

Stop by the 611 for its
20th-anniversary
party on March
15, 6-11 p.m.

The evening will
include a buffet
supper and
giveaway prizes.

COUSIN'S

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

DECADES

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

EJ's

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

GUAVA LAMP

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

JR's/SANTA FE

This Montrose standard offers features from pool tables, table dancers, to karaoke. Look for Carol Gifford and George Konar, named best bartenders in the 2002 Gayest & Greatest OutSmart reader poll. 808 Pacific • 713/521-2519.

KEYS WEST

Selected best piano bar in the Gayest & Greatest poll, this nightspot near downtown features regular performers and guest entertainers. The two-level deck provides a knockout skyline view. 817 West Dallas • 713/571-7870 • www.keyswest.com.

LICOR LOUNGE

This Midtown spot now has a GLBT Night on Sunday, featuring DJ Limey (Kevin England). 2204 Louisiana • 713/654-0869 • www.licorlounge.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 last January but reopened once purchased by Michael's Outpost owner Michael Galtz. Inside and outside bars stay busy at this legendary nightspot. 1022 Westheimer • 713/527-9669.

MELA'S

The crowd at this neighborhood spot drops by for the Tejano and country-western music, the women, and the pool tables. Owner Mela Contreras was a Pride parade grand marshal in 2002. 302 Tuam • 713/523-0747.

METEOR

The chic atmosphere at this Montrose video bar includes overstuffed couches, marble-topped bars, and stylish glassware. Attractive men and women gather here any night of the week for drinks and conversation. 2306 Genesee • 713/521-0123 • www.meteorhouston.com.

MICHAEL'S OUTPOST

Minutes from 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.

PEARL

Promoter Eduardo Elizondo now hosts a Thursday gay night at this swanky new club in the downtown club district. Hop on the Metro train and head north. 310 Main • 713/528-5736 • www.pearlhouston.com.

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 danceteria still draws an energetic crowd. Techno light and laser shows enhance the pumped-up music. 2401 Son 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.ripcordjournal.com.

611 CLUB

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.

VIVIANA'S

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

Conroe

RANCH HILL SALOON

Located 30 miles north of Houston, this spot features daily drink specials, live entertainment, and karaoke night on Wednesday. 2111 Airport Rd. • 936/441-6426.

Galveston

BLVD SALOON

In the Gayest & Greatest poll, OutSmart readers named this spot the best island place to show off your leather. The second-floor deck has a great view of the Gulf. 3102 Seawall Blvd. • 409/750-8571 • www.blvdaloongalveston.com.

GARZA'S KON TIKI

Located downtown, the Kon Tiki is steps from the Strand. This spot was named favorite island club and best place to see male dancers in the Gayest & Greatest poll. 315 Tremont • 409/765-5805 • www.thekontiki.com.

MYRA'S CANTINA

Well-known island entertainer Myra Sanchez and her business partner Charles Peña opened this distinctly Latin neighborhood cantina. They offer beer, wine, and setups. • 813 21st (between Ball and Sealy)

ROBERT'S LAFITTE

A real neighborhood bar, this island institution attracts a colorful crowd of regulars and travelers. The club, only two blocks from the Gulf, features a private patio. 2501 Ave Q (at 25th) • 409/765-9092.

THIRD COAST

This new club has opened in the former Jimmy's on the Beach location. The wall of windows still offers a great view of the Gulf. 904 Avenue M • 409/765-6911.

Beaumont

THE COPA

The hangout for Lamar University students, this two-story dance club has pool tables, a spacious stage, and a staircase that would make Norma Desmond green with envy. 304 Orleans • 409/832-4206.

CROCKETT STREET

Formerly known as Mary's Place, this club recently changed hands and name. Miss Olivia Gardener hosts Talent Night on Tuesday. On Sunday, Latino Night includes Latin music and an all-Latino illusionist show. 485 Crockett • 409/832-4944.

HOOLIGAN'S

Though primarily a women's bar, this just-opened club is open to all. Features include karaoke night on Wed. & frequent live music, especially on Fridays & Saturdays. 6025 Martin Luther King • 409/832-0808.

Send bar/club news to clubguide@outsmartmagazine.com.

Investment | Retirement | Education | Planning

"Helping people make smart choices about money for over 25 years".



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



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

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

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

CONCIERGE TRAVEL, INC.

713.661.2117
877.775.9616
Call Joakim (KIM) www.conciergetravel.cc

TEXAS LARGEST
RSVP VACATIONS
SUPPLIER!

Bringing REST to the Restless

Since 1988
Hot Stone Massage
now available
20% OFF
WITH THIS AD
\$90 VALUE
NOW ONLY \$72



alan davidson
registered massage therapist

essential
touch

1712 Fairview
Houston, Texas 77006
713.942.0923



SPRING INTO A NEW SEASON OF FUN!

Capturing events
for our community
is my passion.

Check my website and
see who's there!



Dalton DeHart
713.622.2202
ddehart@flash.net
www.ddehart.com

www.ddehart.com

meteor
Urban | Video | Lounge

A better space to be.

HAPPY HOUR every weekday 4 to 8pm!

2306 Genesee @ Fairview | Houston, TX 77006 | 713.521.0123

Saturdays... Where Fun People Have A Great Time

Houston's only
LASER
Lightshow

You'll see colors
you've only
DREAMED OF

810 Pacific • Houston Texas • 713.529.SOBE • southbeachlhnighclub.com

Open Mic Night
with the wild and
crazy girls of

**fluff the
kat**

EVERY Thursday
9pm-1am
@
Chances

www.fluffthekate.com

Would your business like to profit from this space?

Monthly Gay & Lesbian Spending Patterns
• Dines Out 4-5 times per week • Attends Live Performances
2-3 times per month • Goes to a Club or Bar 2 times a week

OutSmart

Call 713.520.7237

OutSmart Marketplace

• ACCOMMODATIONS

BEACH GETAWAY IN GALVESTON. Fabulous selection of beachfront, beachside, & bayfront homes. Weekly & weekend rentals. Sand 'N Sea Pirates Beach. Call 800/880-2554 for free brochure or visit www.sandnsea.com for photos, house descriptions, floor plans & Internet Specials.

THE LOVETT INN

Affordable luxury in the heart of Montrose. Beautifully appointed rooms for both business and leisure travelers. All rooms have direct dial phones, private bath, breakfast, and color TVs. Also available VCR, FAX, Jacuzzi suites, pool, and spa. Walk to clubs, restaurants, shopping, and public transportation. Convenient to Downtown, Galleria, Medical & Convention Centers.

713/522-5224

RAINBOW RANCH

Gay & Lesbian camp grounds located on Lake Limestone in Central Texas. Tent & RV Camping
www.rainbowranch.net • 888.875.7596

ROCKIN' R' RANCH

Gay & Lesbian RV PARK/camp grounds with showers and comfort stations, Northwest of Houston. For information & reservation: 936/894-3779.
www.RockinRRanch.net

SPECTACULAR FRENCH VACATION. Wine tours, antique shopping, gay honeymoons, biking, canoeing on the wild Loire River, horseback riding, golf, chateaux, cooking courses, gardens and great food. See our website: www.moulinbregnon.com.

• ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAPPY 60TH BIRTHDAY DANIEL!

We love you! Thomas, KD & Charlie, too



• ATTORNEY



Jerry W. Simoneaux
Attorney and Counselor at Law

Jerry@Simoneaux.com
www.Law.Simoneaux.com

The Simoneaux Law Firm

12 Greenway Plaza
Suite 1100, PMB 141
Houston, Texas 77048
Phone 713/227-1717
Fax 281/893-0960

• CERT. PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

OFFERING TAX PREPARATION, TAX PLANNING, ACCOUNTING & GENERAL CONSULTING SERVICES TO SMALL BUSINESSES, INDIVIDUALS AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.
DONALD RESSEGUIE, CPA
832-717-3422
RESSEGUIE@SBCGLOBAL.NET

• EMPLOYMENT

PART-TIME INCOME \$500-\$1500 per month. 5 - 10 hours per week. Great Benefits. Call 1-888-373-9194

• FUNERAL HOMES/CEMETERIES



800-DIGNITY • www.DignityMemorial.com

• HAIR SALONS/BARBERS

HAIR CUT FOR ONLY \$10!
37 Years Experience • formerly from Ben's Barber Shop

Tonie's Barber & Styles Shop
Call Toni for Appointment
4310 Koehler (just north of Washington off Yale • Se Habla Espanol) 713.392.4810



HAIR - BODY - YOU
1660 Richmond, Studio 6 @ Dunlavy • Houston, TX
713.521-2444
www.shawnpenn.com

• MASSAGE

Classic Massage

"In The Heights"
Maturity and experience. Great rates. Relaxing, therapeutic massage in private studio in the Heights. 9 am - 10 pm weekdays and weekends 12-10 pm. Call for appointment, Byron 713/202-9786. Visit my website at www.classicmassage.com
Four hands available.

Reward Yourself
A NICE TOUCH, RELAXATION OF BODY AND MIND BY LEE
Centrally located
7 days/Evenings/Outcalls Welcome
832.978.7017

MAGIC HANDS

MASSAGE THERAPIST
• Therapeutic & Relaxing
• Stress Relief
• Convenient Galleria Area
• Deep Tissue
• Nice Touch
• Out Calls Welcome
281/804-8027



• MASSAGE

HEALING HANDS. Caring and healing hands with Swedish, Deep Tissue massage. Balancing your life by restoring flow and energy. Peaceful, relaxing and rejuvenating for total health. RMT#2233. Howard Kanelakos 713/528-6174. (Please note my new number).

Massage by Ken Massage for everyone

• In or Out Calls.
• Convenient
• Montrose location.
• Experience stress relief.
• By appointment only.
11AM to 8 PM
Ken Claude, RMT
713.240.9598

THOM OF HOUSTON. Massage - Sunday, Monday and Tuesday only. 713/523-6577

Ariel Massage
Excellence in Swedish Massage Therapy in the Rice/Medical area. Dedicated Studio.
See web for further info:
<http://hometown.aol.com/arielmassage> or call 713/282-6464

DAVE'S HANDS. Shiatsu and Swedish massage with an experienced therapist. Relaxation and deep tissue combined into one massage. Great treatment from a strong man. 832/443-2229. Se Habla Espanol Un Poco.

In or Out calls.
Waxing, Facials.
Relaxation,
Sports, or Light/
Deep Massage.
CALL JOE
713/540-7544
MT#014552

LePepe Salon of Beauty
FREE HAIRCUT WITH MASSAGE FOR NEW CUSTOMERS
Thursdays in February, bring a friend to receive 2 haircuts for the price of 1 (men only)
713/622-1622; 713/392-7361 (cell)
In/Out Calls - 7 Days by Appointment
3303 South Rice #100 • Houston, TX 77056
www.hairandmassagebylepepe.com

SPORTS AND DEEP TISSUE FULL BODY MASSAGE
In Calls only
Heights Studio
Location
Daily
10AM-6 PM

"Thank you OutSmart readers for voting me one of the Best Massage Therapists."
Zeppelin Massage
Tom Zeppelin • 713.542.0426
REGISTERED MASSAGE THERAPIST (RMT)

• MASSAGE

BODY MASSAGE

• Get Relaxed
• Feel Awesome
• Centrally Located
• Outcalls Welcome
713-942-2399
7 days/evenings
Visa/MasterCard accepted

Roland, RMT

Massage Therapy. Therapeutic and deep tissue by Jason. Memorial Park at Montrose area (big metal house on Fairview). College guy. RMT# 23870. 713/524-5400/cel 713/ 863-8888 or www.sizzlingmassage.com.



BODY DAY CARE. Massage Therapy: Swedish, Deep Tissue & Sports. Rose Zepeda. 281/948-5807 or 713/263-1276. Gift Certificates Available. www.fitness-instructor.net.

Profoundly relaxing...
exceptionally
therapeutic
Paul Rutledge
713/592-0444

• Voted best massage therapist TX Triangle Readers 2000 & 2001
• Light to deep tissue
• On-site chair massage
• Serving for over 7 years
• Gift certificates available
In/Out Calls • Flexible Hours
SEE MY DISPLAY AD IN THIS ISSUE!

BODYSTRESS • DEEP TISSUE • SWEDISH • SPORTS • MONTROSE STUDIO • IN/OUT • PRIVATE • DISCREET • 8 AM - 11 PM • DAN •
713-529-8787

• PHOTOGRAPHY

Houston Photographer
www.davidlewisimages.com

• Full Privacy
• Events
• Single, Couples, Family Pics
713/240-5508

• RETAIL/FOR SALE

Mary Lou's Ceramic's & More
"Always all good!"
Robin • 2407 Bellway 8 East, Pasadena, TX 77503 • 281.998.9987 • fax 281.998.4913
Mention this ad to receive 1/2 off select products.

• SERVICES

Draco Designs
• Remodeling Kitchen & Bath • Tile Work
• Faux Finishes • Sheet Rock • Custom Murals • General Paint
Call Carlos Zepeda 713/443-6147 or Steven 713/302-9011

CENTRAL Ford
4410 Westheimer Rd
Houston, TX 77027
713/960-9800
www.centralford.com
Tom Courtney
NEW I/PRE-OWNED SALES CONSULTANT

Astrology, Tarot, & more
Electional, Mundane & Esoteric Astrology combined with Tarot & confirmed numerology.
Joseph Molina • 713.521.0349
Astrology & Tarot for individuals, partners, families & the soul.

Freelance Graphic Designer

713. 468.6565

NO JOB TOO SMALL
FREE ESTIMATES
A RAINBOW OF COLOR
PAINTING • SHEETROCK REPAIRS • WALLPAPER REMOVAL • TEXTURE MATCHING • 832.567.3804

SERVICES OF THE HEART
Let Thomas assist you to honor life's special events:
• Holy Unions
• Blessings
• Memorials
713/522-7626

MARKETPLACE AD RATES

Marketplace Classifieds are per column inch. Column inch width is 1.688. Word line ads are 30 words or less, plus \$1 per additional word and 50 cents for all words in bold. Add additional \$6 per issue to have your classified ad appear on our website. Ads can also be placed on our secure website at www.OutSmartMagazine.com.

Marketplace	1 Month	3 Month	6 Month	12 Month
Color Boxed Ad per inch	\$62	\$57	\$52	\$47
B/W Boxed Ad per inch	\$47	\$43	\$38	\$35
30-Word Line Ad	\$27	\$25	\$23	\$22

Deadline: March. 12 for the April. 04 Issue. Order by phone & pay by VISA, MC, AMEX, or Discover. Or FAX it 713/522-3275. Sorry, we do not bill. Mail ad & payment to: OutSmart 3406 Audubon, Houston, TX 77006-4412. For more information, call 713/520-7237.

• SERVICES

LOSE 20 POUNDS FAST. Swim suit season coming. Program starting at \$40. Call 1-888-212/7618. Local 281/859-8340.

Hairless is Flawless!
• Body Wax
• Ageless Skin
• Extractions
• Rejuvenation
Call Candice 713.471.3213
10% Off With Ad
Just be Flawless!

COMPUTER SUPPORT. Personal/small-business technical & network support. 832/755-6792.

planning to
WE'LL MOVE YOU IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.
MOVE?
AMERICANMOVERS
EXPERIENCED • TRUSTED • INSURED
713/522-1717
Call your friend Frank and let his professional team of enthusiastic movers pack, move & unpack your belongings...all it takes is 1 call.
www.AmericanMovers.org
Now Statewide (800) 522-2670 TX DOT 5282035C

Granite Countertop & Vanities
Need custom kitchen countertops? Renovating the bathroom with stone or tile finishes? **Queen of the Tile** specializes in residential & commercial granite, marble, slate and limestone fabrication and installation.
Call **Queen of the Tile** at 713/983-6200.

Who's watching your kids when you're away?

• Experienced • Bonded
• Professional

P.S. Pet Setting in the Heights

713/869-3698



• Painless Hair Removal
• Full Body & Partial Body
• Brazilian waxing
• Bikini Waxing
Cindy's Natural Day Spa
2303-A S. Voss
713/278-7087 Day • 713/818-2248 Evening

CINDY'S NATURAL DAY SPA



latest skin care European & Corrective Facials
Custom Body Cocoons (Seaweed or Mud)
massage therapy Swedish, Chinese, Japanese, Reflexology, Accu-pressure & more
waxing Full or partial body
Brazilian
Men & Women

Private Facilities | Gift Certificates available

Cindy's Day Spa

2303-A South Voss • Houston, TX 77057

713.278.7087

Things in Life You Can Trust:



An ad placed in OutSmart Magazine reaches loyal, interested readers. OutSmart's circulation figures are audited independently by Verified Audit Circulation, your guarantee of an accurate count.

VERIFIED
AUDIT CIRCULATION
www.verifiedaudit.com

Verified Audit Circulation is a national auditing service respected for over 50 years in the publishing industry. **Insist on Audited Circulations like OutSmart.**
For advertising information call 713/520-7237.

Our
Circulation
Numbers!

Show your OutSmart Pride Card and get special discounts, free admissions, and exclusive offers from OutSmart advertisers!
(Look for the  pride card and merchant offer)

ACCOMMODATIONS

G-Town Guest Houses
1301 Ave M - Galveston 409/762-2117
Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites Galleria
7787 Katy Fwy, Houston 713/683-5957
The Lovett Inn
501 Lovett, Houston 713/522-5224
Paradise Guest House
2317 Ave P/Galveston 1-877/919-6677
The Victorian Condo/Hotel
6300 Seawall/Galveston 1-800/231-6363

ADVERTISING/MARKETING

Advertising International
806 Main #920 713/223-9333
OutSmart Magazine
3406 Audubon Place 713/520-7237

ASTROLOGER

 **Lilly Roddy Astrology**
..... 713/529-5842
10% OFF ASTROLOGICAL READINGS.

ATTORNEYS/LEGAL SERVICES

Barber & Pi
2656 South Loop W 713/885-0041
Peggy S. Bittick
2400 S Texas - Pearland 281/485-3500
 **Brennan & Johnson Law Firm**
..... 713/522-1211
10% DISCOUNT OFF HOURLY RATES.
Tyler Flood, Attorney at Law
1314 Texas Ave #1012 713/224-5529
Law Office of Mark Levin, Attorney
2813 West T.C. Jester 281/355-7936
Monica Vaughn
4203 Yoakum, Ste. 330 713/630-1010

AUTOMOTIVE SALES

Fred Haas Toyota/Jimmy Jones
20400 I-45 N. 281/297-7000
Planet Ford 20403 145 North
Ruday Gonzalez/Service 888/251-9135
Linda Boze/Fleet Depart. 281/719-3728
Will Boze/Fleet Depart. 281/719-3716
Jack Roach Ford/Stephen Rubin
6445 S. W Frwy. 281/588-5000
Performance SAAB
10505 S. W Freeway, Houston, 713/981-4400
18855 Highway 59 N, Humble. 281/964/4660
James R. Vanya 713/981-4400
River Oaks Chrysler/Jeep/Brett Roberts
4807 Kirby 713/524-3801
Russel & Smith Ford/John Hays
3440 South Loop West 713/663-4798
Team Ford/Paul Unerlusser
19000 Eastex Frwy. 281/446-9171

BOOK STORES

Hollywood Book & Cafe
2409 Grant, Ste. A 713/523-8855

CAB COMPANIES

United Cab
..... 713/699-0000

CATERING

... "of course!" Catering
1701 California 713/526-1800
KeyStar Complex
3209 Montrose 713/524-MEET

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

Paul R. Wasserloos, CPA
Galveston 409/939-6922
Houston 713/526-4760

CHURCHES/SPIRITUAL CENTERS

Bering Memorial United Methodist
1440 Harold 713/526-1017
Creative Life Spiritual Center
5326 Spring-Stuebner 281/350-5157
Dignity Houston
1307 Yale 713/880-2872
First Unitarian Universalist
5200 Fannin 713/526-5200
ResurrectionMCC
2025 W 11th 713/861-9149

CLOTHING

Gingiss Formal Wear
5175 Westheimer 713/626-3316
Method
2437 University 713/807-0003

COMMUNITY/NONPROFITS

AIDS Coalition of Texas Now
2015 Thomas St. 713/528-4514
The Assistance Fund
Masquerade Carnavale 713/529-4788
Gay & Lesbian Community Center
3400 Montrose 713/524-3818
Houston Buyer's Club
3224 Yoakum 713/520-5288
Human Rights Campaign
..... www.hrchouston.org
Ryan White Planning Council
..... 713/572-3724

COMPUTERS/INTERNET

Atomar Communications/Anthony Bures
..... 713/528-0404

CONSTRUCTION/REMODELING

DN Classic Design & Construction
1209 W. Drew 713/869-3440
KJM Construction
807 Watson St. 713/824-5118
Quantum Electric
2470 S. Dairy Ashford #123 281/924-1136
Queen of the Tile/Granite and Tile Service
9013 Taub Rd. 713/983-6200
Richard's Total Backyard Solutions
1701 Highway 6 South. 281/948-2496

ENTERTAINMENT/NIGHT LIFE

611
611 Hyde Park 713/526-7070
Astrogen/Chances
1100 Westheimer 713/523-7217
Bayou City Art Festival
..... 713/520-5253
Bayou City Boys Club, Inc.
..... 713/520-5253
Broadway in Houston
Hobby Center 713/629-3700
Bunnies On The Bayou
..... www.bunnies.org

Chances/The Barn/G-Spot
1100 Westheimer 713/523-7217
Fluff The Kat/Chances
1100 Westheimer 713/523-7217
HRC/the L word
..... 1-877-LWordNow

Human Rights Campaign
..... www.hrchouston.org

Improv Houston, The
I-10 and Silber 713/333-8800
Meteor
2306 Genesee 713/521-0123
Prive Lounge
908 Westheimer 713/522-0013
South Beach
810 Pacific Street 713/529-7623

Suchu Dance Company
2201 Preston 713/529-1819
Theatre Under the Stars
Hobby Center 713/558-TUTS

EVENT/CONVENTION SERVICES

KeyStar Complex
3209 Montrose 713/524-MEET

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Chase Bank of Texas
..... 713/216-7000

Coastal Banc
1629 S. Voss 713/978-7381
Green/White Advisors
1225 N. Loop West, Ste. 1030 713/869-1144
..... 409/741-2006
Hubbard Financial Services
2615 Montrose Blvd. 713/522-9000
Prudential Financial/Michael Delaney
1233 W Loop South # 1100 713/960-5081

FITNESS CLUBS/TRAINERS

Fitness Exchange
4040 Milam 713/524-9932
Houston Gym
1501 Durham 713/880-9191
Kimberly Marler, Personal Trainer
..... 832/443-FITT
Muscle Mechanics/John Aaron
617 Richmond 713/523-5330

FUNERAL HOMES/CEMETERIES

Dignity Memorial Providers
..... 1-800-DIGNITY

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS/PRINTING

 **Avantage Design**
4200 Montrose, Ste. 520 713/528-3311
15% OFF SELECTED PRINTING ORDERS
House of Coleman
901 W. Alabama 713/523-2521
Vilven Design Group
3716 1/2 Mt Vernon 713/526-3212

GROCERIES, BEER/ LIQUOR

Kroger
3300 Montrose 713/526-7865
M's Liquor
1232 Westheimer 713/524-2510

HAIR/NAILS/SKIN CARE/SALONS

Bellaire Laser Center/Elvis Torres, D.O.
5420 Dashwood, Ste. 306 713/466-7230
Cindy's Day Spa
2303-A S Voss 713/278-7087
Hollywood Hair & Nails
2409 Grant 713/523-2253
Town & Country Plastic Surgery/
Skin Enrichment Center, LTD/
R. Scott Yarish, MD, PA
10565 Katy Frwy, Ste. 100 713/467-4407

HEALTH CARE

CHIROPRACTIC/THERAPY

Alternative Health & Wellness/
Jackie Doval, DC
404 Westheimer 713/627-9355
Chimney Rock Chiropractic Ctr
Art Keller, D.C.
3033 Chimney Rock 713/781-3344
Kirby Wellness Center/Kenneth W. Lester
2727 Kirby Dr., Ste. 324 713/526-5252

COUNSELING/THERAPY

Tony Carroll, LMSW-ACP
1006 Missouri 713/527-0000
Deborah Denson, LMSW-ACP
2900 Wesleyan Ste. 535 713/850-7225
Jackie Falls/Face to Face Relationsp Inst
2626 W Loop South # 650-Z 713/667-4977

 **Daniel Garces, MS, LPC, LMFT**
3316 Mt. Vernon 713/526-8390
20% OFF INITIAL VISIT.
Enod Gray, LMSW-ACP, C. HI., CSAT
4200 Montrose 713/522-7014
Barbara Levinson, PhD/ Ctr for Healthy
Sexuality
2400 Augusta Dr. Ste. 120 713/785-7111
Carol Kelleher
2001 Kirby Dr., Ste. 600 713/520-5052
The Pride Institute
..... 800/54-PRIDE

Bob Snellgrove, LMSW-ACP
3400 Montrose 713/522-7014
Jeff Vannice, PhD
1415 N. Loop W., Ste. 780 713/426-4455
Patrick J. Vachon, LMSW, ACP
1712 Fairview 713/524-1771

DENTISTS

Bruce W. Smith, DDS
1006 Missouri 713/529-4364

HEALTH SERVICES/PRODUCTS

Houston Buyer's Club Discount Vitamins
3224 Yoakum 713/520-5288
UnfH/Health Science Center
..... 713/500-2637

MASSAGE THERAPIST/YOGA

 **Alan Davidson, RMT/Essential Touch**
..... 713/942-0923
20% DISCOUNT OFF FACIALS.
Albert Woo/Touch Therapies
719 W Gray 713/446-6473
Ken Claude, RMT
..... 713/240-9598

Raul Guzman, RMT
..... 832/524-7700
Patrick W. O'Gara/Swedish Therapy
404 Westheimer 713/447-1251
Paul Rutledge, RMT
..... 713/592-0444

OPHTHALMOLOGISTS

Diagnostic Eye Center
Marc R. Sanders, MD, F.A.C.S.
6500 Fannin, Ste. 1108 713/797-1500
Diagnostic Eye Center Bellaire/
Stewart Zuckerbrod, MD
5420 Dashwood, Ste. 101 713/668-9118

OPTOMETRISTS

Eye Elegance
3966 Westheimer 713/622-4411
Eye Q Optical
908 Westheimer 713/529-4733
Spectacles on Montrose
4317 Montrose # 2 713/529-3937
Studio 20/20/Dr Paul Beckwith
2015 W. Gray 713/807-7773

PHYSICIANS

Rod Frazier, MD
1214 Hermann Dr #845 713/521-0340
Carolyn Gardiner, MD
4126 SW Freeway, Ste. 1100 713/965-9898
Patrick McNamara, MD
4101 Greenbriar, Ste. 355 713/52-HIVDR
Schrader Clinic/Shannon Schrader, MD
4101 Greenbriar, Ste. 200 713/526-1717

COSMETIC/PLASTIC SURGERY

Town & Country Plastic Surgery
R. Scott Yarish, MD, PA
10565 Katy Frwy, Ste. 100 713/467-0146

HOME FURNISHINGS/ACCESSORIES

Brandon Home Furnishings
8648 Glenmont 713/785-7888

PRINTING/COPY CENTERS

 **Avantage Design**
4200 Montrose, Ste. 520 713/528-3311
15% OFF SELECTED PRINT SERVICES
Copy.Com
1201-F Westheimer 713/528-1201
House of Coleman
901 W. Alabama 713/523-2521

PSYCHIC/INTUITIVE READERS

Joe Paxton
..... 713/523-1627
Morgan Peters/Psychic & Tarot
..... 713/952-4523
 **Lilly Roddy Astrology**
..... 713/529-5842
10% OFF ASTROLOGICAL READINGS.

REAL ESTATE SERVICES REALTORS

Richard Buentello/Karen Derr & Assoc.
1034 Heights Blvd 281/222-9311
Bob Derr/Karen Derr & Assoc.
1034 Heights Blvd 713/875-7049
Karen Derr/Karen Derr & Assoc.
1034 Heights Blvd 713/862-1600
Glen Fillmore/Karen Derr & Assoc.
1034 Heights Blvd. 713/862-1600
Bruce Hulmacher/Karen Derr & Assoc.
1034 Heights Blvd. 281/216-0557
Jerry Jagers/Karen Derr & Assoc.
1034 Heights Blvd. 713/501-7076
Marty Justus/Karen Derr & Assoc.
1034 Heights Blvd. 713/539-7870
Karpas Properties/Choice Condominiums
3355 W Alabama # 800 713/850-1777
Jim Manen/Keller Williams
..... www.jimmanen.com
Darren Moore/Karen Derr & Assoc.
1034 Heights Blvd. 713/409-8929
Alan Mundy/Partridge Properties
3230 Yoakum. 832/755-6948
Todd Partridge/Partridge Properties
3230 Yoakum. 713/528-1184

Margot Perez/Karen Derr & Assoc.
1034 Heights Blvd. 281/932-7764
Danny Pleason/Karpas Properties
3355 W. Alabama, Ste. 800 713/850-1777
George N. Polydoros/Polydoros & Assoc.
gnp@pdq.net 713/528-7770
Sheree Thompson/Karen Derr & Assoc.
1034 Heights Blvd 713/204-4828
Tony Valadez/Waterhill Company's Limited
1717 St James Place Ste 360 . 281-898-1020
Jim Whitelaw
San Miguel de Allende, MX 713/571-6869
Bryan Williams, ABR/Coldwell Banker
1505 Heights Blvd 713/869-0456
Robert Zahn/Karen Derr & Assoc.
1034 Heights Blvd 409/939-9237

REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE LENDERS

Chase Home Finance/Moe Sarakbi
1800 W. Loop South, Ste. 1950 713/9688727
Chase Home Finance/Doug Luza/Revis Bell
13810 Champion Forest #260 . 281/893-9396
Coastal Banc
1629 S. Voss 713/978-7381
Countrywide Home Loans/Scott Pelzer
..... 713/703-7299

Neider Mortgage/Sharon Neider
4615 S.W. Freeway, Ste. 817 ... 713/355-4288
Wells Fargo Mortgage/Larry Broughton
1301 McKinney 713/654-3085

RESTAURANTS/COFFEE BARS

Auntie Chang's Dumpling House
2621 S Shepherd #290 713/524-8410
Baba Yega
2607 Grant 713/522-0042
Hollywood Vietnamese & Chinese
2409 Grant 713/523-8808
Hollywood Book & Cafe
2409 Grant 713/523-8855
Laurier Cafe and Wine
3139 Richmond 713/328-5103
Noche Cocina Y Bar
2409 Montrose 713/529-8559

Osaka Japanese Restaurant
515 Westheimer 713/533-9098
Pepino's Italian Restaurant
1421 Richmond 713/522-9044
Riva's Italian Restaurant
1117 Missouri 713/529-3450
The Bridge Steak & Seafood Restaurant
7787 Katy Frwy 713/681-5000
Tila's Restaurant
1111 S. Shephard 713/522-7654

SPECIALITY RETAIL

M's Liquor
1232 Westheimer 713/524-2510
Pampered Spirit
..... www.PamperedSpirit.com
Sippora Art Gallery
234 West Grey 713/520-1085

TELEPHONES/CELL/WIRELESS

 **Premier Paging & Wireless**
12220 Murphy Road, Stafford . 281/575-8500
CALL FOR PRIDE CARD SPECIALS

TRAVEL

Concierge Travel, Inc.
5008 Mimosa 713/661-2117

Thank you
for supporting
OutSmart's advertisers

Please be sure
to tell them you saw
their ad in OutSmart!

If you ever want to celebrate
a 50th Wedding Anniversary,
you'd better log on now.

Want a date that's more than a date?
OutSmartPersonals.com is the smart way to meet quality people.
Far more than a typical dating site—we offer our 20,000 members
unique ways to locate and get to know a great mate.

Log on and try out our Online Chat, Top 10 Lists,
the Date Manager and other fantastic features to help you
sort out your cream of the crop. Go ahead, try it today.

OutSmart
Personals
.com

OutSmartPersonals.com

This is going to be an easier month for all of us. The planetary interaction in the sky is much gentler and that should make all things easier to deal with. The middle week, March 14 through the 20th, is the most difficult of the month.

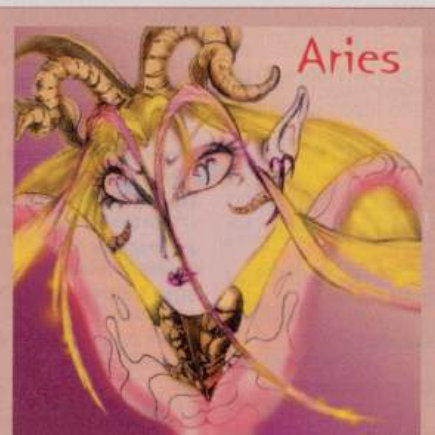
- Try to get as many projects started as you can during this month because in April, Mercury goes retrograde and you will want to be ready for that.
- Good days for this month are the 3rd, 7th, 11th, 19th, 24th, and 31st. Days to stay in bed are the 8th, 12th, 15th, 18th, 26th, and 27th.
- The Sun enters Aries the first day of spring on the 19th. Mercury is wading through Pisces and then flashes into Aries on the 12th. Venus is flaming her way through Aries and grounds herself in Taurus on the 5th. Mars starts the month in Taurus and finally flies into Gemini on the 20th. The outer planets are not changing signs. They are happy where they are.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20). You are in a social and active mood this month. Friends and business associates can be very helpful for any venture you are starting. You are more impatient than usual, and you will want to be right, even if you are not. Arguments can occur in relationships if you won't compromise. Work is very confusing on the 17th and 18th. You may feel that you are not being appreciated at all. Watch that you don't put yourself in a spot to be victimized. Take time for a rest after the 20th. Seek a place of quiet retreat and indulge in physical pleasures.

GEMINI (May 21–June 21). Your interest this month is totally on your career. You are restless. You want some fun and exciting things to do. You may feel bored or trapped at your current place of work. Get out and start looking for something else. Be careful that you don't sabotage yourself by confronting others with the truth. You may be right, but you may be out of a job. After the 20th, you are impatient and may not be sleeping well. It's a great time for adventures and spontaneous sexual encounters, but not for routines.

CANCER (June 22–July 22). The beginning of the month is a lighter time for you. The crabs have been having a tough time of it, looking at everything and questioning whether it fits into their lives. This month allows you to sit back and enjoy some of the work you have been doing. Get away from your routines. Activity with groups and friends will be especially rewarding. You are still working on long-term goals for your relationships. Some are ending and some are continuing. At the end of the month, you are back on your career track, ready to move forward.

LEO (July 23–August 22). You are continuing to question your relationships this month. You are looking deeper than usual. And you will not be deterred from your search for the truth. You also



ARIES (March 21–April 19). You are in a very introspective mood this month, as you are resting up before the spring. Your home is your retreat, and you don't want any uninvited guest to visit. Pay attention to your health and avoid any unnecessary stress or tension from work, because you are working behind the scenes to establish a good foundation to work from. After the 20th, you are more like your old self—fun, active, and ready to make the best of any situation. Keep a low profile on the 15th and the 26th.

want a more passionate sexual life. This can be very problematic if your partner is unwilling to be more experimental. Work can be challenging this month as you seek to be recognized for what you do and what you know. You can gain attention through an altercation or through conversation. You choose.

VIRGO (August 23–September 22). Yes, change is in the air, and you are really feeling it this month. You are rebelling from old images of yourself that keep you locked up. Long-term partnerships must be examined and renewed, or they are headed for the dumpster. Even your role at work must change. You need excitement and fresh challenges. If you are single, you will be looking for someone new to come into your love life. You are not as shy as you normally are and are willing to take some risks. This only gets stronger toward the end of the month.

LIBRA (September 23–October 23). Pay attention to that waistline this month. You are ready to make changes in your health and exercise routines. And you are so not ready to tolerate the whining of your coworkers. Most of your advice for them will be "to get a life." Many will wonder where that sweet peaceful Libra went. You are on track to get your routines organized. Keep working on those long-term career goals. You will have more clarity after the end of June.

SCORPIO (October 24–November 21). Relationships are a hot topic for you this month. You need fun and adventure from your partner or you will be out looking for someone who is. This can bring on confrontations in relationships, but this is also a good time to clear the air about things that

you have kept buried. Creatively, you are more open to new ideas and are more willing to try things you don't normally do. At work, you are more productive because it is easier for you to compromise. At the end of the month, you will want to get more organized.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22–December 21). There are lots of shifts in the home this month. This all started in November 2003 and is especially strong this month. Some of you will be moving. Some will be remodeling. Some will be dealing with their parents. And some will be with the therapist, exorcising the programming they were indoctrinated with as a child. You want to be free of previous obligations. "Don't fence me in" will be your theme song. By the end of the month, this focus shifts to the relationships that are in your life.

CAPRICORN (December 22–January 19). It is so much easier for you to get your thoughts out this month. You are putting out all those small fires, tying up loose ends and generally getting organized. This is a bit of an easier month for you. And if you have the chance, take some time to get away. It will do wonders for your attitude. Relationships are still in the shop and will continue to be for the whole year. You are looking for a renewal in your commitments, or you will be ending them. Toward the end of the month, you are back at work building your foundation for emotional and financial security.

AQUARIUS (January 20–February 18). You are discovering hidden talents this month. And you are wanting to be more creative in all the things you normally do. It is a good month to get your finances in order or to work on your taxes. You are still spending a good deal of time on projects associated with the home. Watch for disagreements with family members or neighbors. You are just a bit edgy at this time and aren't getting as much sleep as you need. The end of the month is much smoother.

PISCES (February 19–March 20). It is your birthday month. And this yearly cycle represents a time when you are reviewing last year and wondering just what you are going to do next year. You are certainly more willing than ever to break away from past patterns. In fact, you are looking for things that totally help to redefine you. The 7th, 8th, 11th, and 12th are rather tense days for you. You may need to stand up for yourself. Toward the end of the month, this theme is emphasized until the end of April. It is also a great time to work on diet or exercise programs.

A professional astrologer for 20 years, Lilly Roddy counsels individuals and teaches classes. Her new URL for her website is www.lillyroddy.com.



KA-CHING.

NOW USE YOUR NEXTEL® PHONE TO ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS FOR REAL-TIME PAYMENT.

No checks to collect. No invoices to chase.
No delay from when the job's done to when you get paid.
Nextel brings you Wireless Payment Solutions with the Creditel PowerSwipe™. Get it done. Get paid.

FREE DELIVERY!

NEXTEL®
AUTHORIZED SERVICE CENTER



LEA BOGLE

President of Premier Wireless Solutions www.CallPremier.com

Freedom Rings
Premier
WIRELESS SOLUTIONS

12220 Murphy Road

281.575.8500

PowerSwipe

©2004 Nextel Communications, Inc. NEXTEL® and NEXTEL DONE are service marks, trademarks, and/or registered trademarks of Nextel Communications, Inc. MOTOROLA and the Stylized M Logo are registered in the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office. The Creditel logo and all other Creditel products and services referenced are either a trademark, service mark, or registered trademark of Virtual Fonlink, Inc. All other product or service names are property of their respective owners. All rights reserved.

OUT IN HOUSTON



1 Ginger Rodriguez (l) and Ramona Gibson took a break during construction of the Habitat for Humanity house built by a group organized by Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church in partnership with Maranatha Metropolitan Community Church. The Jan. 10-16 project was part of a citywide pre-Super Bowl effort.

2 Also on the Habitat for Humanity job: Resurrection's Rev. Bernard Barbour (l) and Debbie Maurelli, flanking Habitat's Sara Selber.

3 Visiting from San Antonio, Kevin Vidal (l) and Isaac Cascante Gomez performed at the Jan. 18 "Expressions of Freedom" Martin Luther King Jr. Day program.

4 SoFonda St. John (r) read at the Dec. 12 In Our Own Write program at the Houston GLBT Community Center, organized by Thomas Blanton.

5 Donna Garrett read her poetry and sang at the "Expressions of Freedom" event at the Houston GLBT Community Center.

6 Tamisha Franklin (l) and Meredith Hill stopped by Meteor on Jan. 18 to view the debut of *The L Word* on Showtime.

7 Stan McDonald (l-r), Robert Attra, and Jeffery Martin also watched the Meteor *L Word* screening, hosted by Human Rights Campaign Houston.

8 Alton LaDay (l), Decorative Center Houston director of marketing and design services, and Tim Kollatschny of the Human Rights Campaign national board of governors attended the Jan. 21 preview party for Café Extraordinaire, the new restaurant inside the Decorative Center. Opening for business March 1, the restaurant is operated by the catering company A Fare Extraordinaire, owned by Mary Jo Caya and Karen Lerner.

9 Bill Sansom (l) and Mike Harwell attended the Dec. 21 Montrose Softball League holiday party at Hollywood Restaurant.

10 Linda (l) and Will Boze, owners of Planet Ford, attended the Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce New Year's Eve party at the Warwick.



1 DEBBIE MAURELLI; 2 RESURRECTION MCC; 3, 5, 6-7 YVONNE FEECE; 4 TIM BROOKOVER; 8 PHYLLIS HAND; 9-10 DALTON DEHART



PUBLISHER'S WARNING

Advertising in OutSmart's April 3D-issue will cause...

- Your ad to jump off the page and into our readers' faces.
- Partial to permanent memory loss about your competition.
- And a 3D-increase in your sales!

Our April 04 3D-issue will cause over 60,000 readers to wear 3D glasses to view its content.

April's OutSmart will appear clearly in focus, but our 3D-cover, photos and your 3D-advertisement will jump off the page when viewed with 3D glasses included in each magazine. This new OutSmart eyewear may make the "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" men see red, but the 3D specs will make your ad leap off the page and go pow!!

OutSmart will be the first GLBT magazine in the nation to bring 3D vision to its readers. Take your advertising to a new level and your sales to 3D. OutSmart's April 3D-issue celebrates our 10th anniversary of bringing the highest-disposable-income-GLBT consumers to your front door.

To see your ad in 3D, call OutSmart at 713.520.7237. Ask about our Special Promotions and Marketing Sponsorships. Hurry! Deadline is March 12, 2004.

OutSmart Readers can be your best customer...

Gay men and lesbians boast some of the most impressive demographics around. They're highly educated and rarely have dependents, so they have high levels of disposable income.

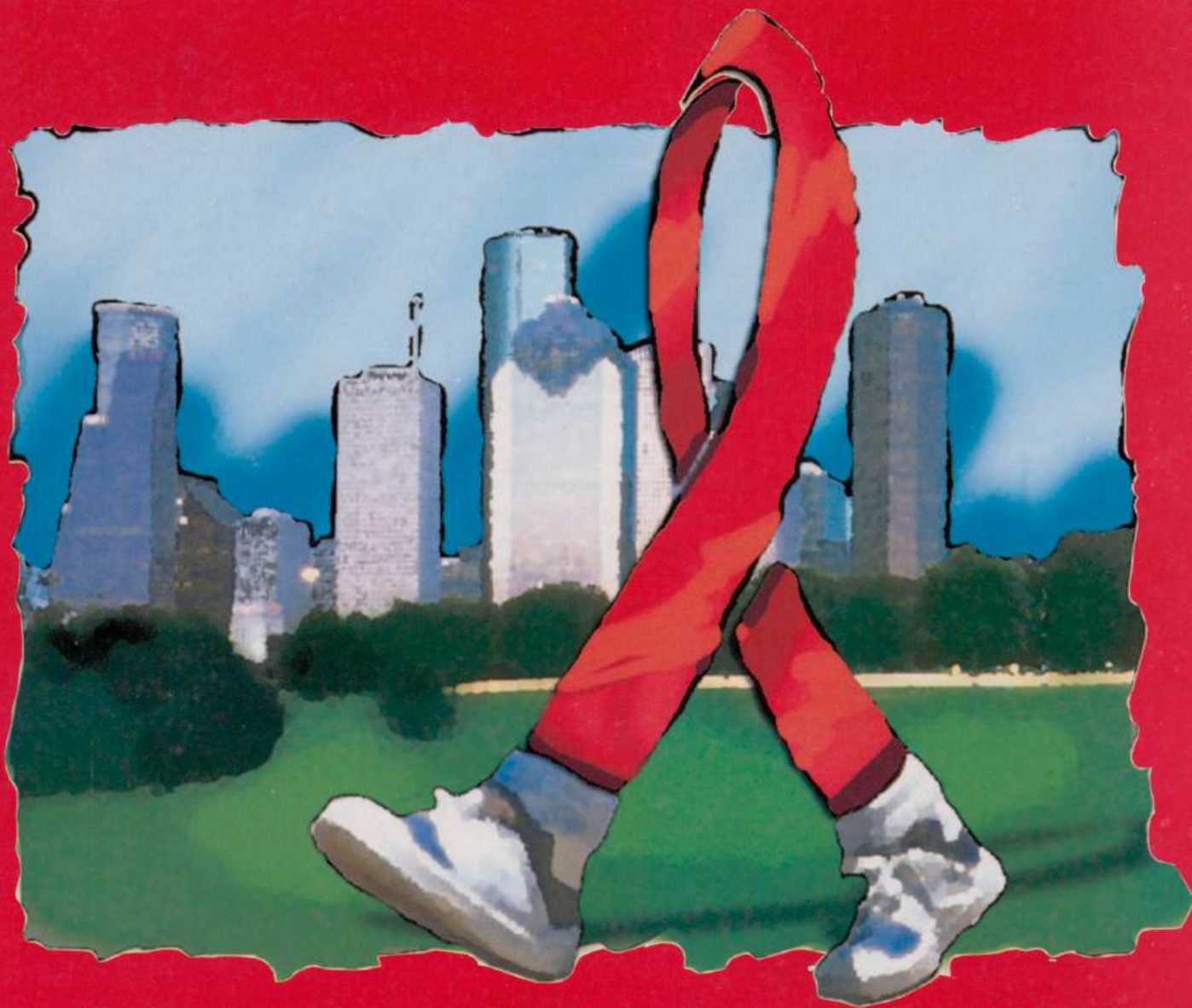
- **More affluent:** The average combined household income of gay couples is \$65,000, nearly 60 percent higher than the median income of \$40,800. —Syracuse University, OpusComm Group, GSociety Study, U.S. Census Data
- **More educated:** 71 percent have a college education and some have higher degrees; 70 percent work in professional and managerial jobs. —Simmons
- **More disposable income:** Statistics show it takes an average of one million dollars to raise a child to the age of 22. While some gays and lesbians have children, the majority do not, so where does their extra income get spent? On products and services advertised to the gay community. —USA Today, US Census Data
- **More loyal:** Over 89% of OutSmart readers tell us they go out of their way to support businesses who advertise in OutSmart. —OutSmart Reader Survey, Simon

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

3406 Audubon Place • Houston, TX 77006 | p: 713.520.7237 • f: 713.522.3275



AIDS Walk Houston



Raising Awareness One Step At A Time

Sunday, March 14, 2004

8:00 a.m. Registration

10:00 a.m. Walk

Sam Houston

Park-Downtown

1000 Bagby Street



JPMorganChase



ChevronTexaco



OutSmart

AIDS Foundation Houston
American Red Cross, Greater Houston Area Chapter
Bread of Life
Brentwood Community Foundation
CAMPYouth
Donald R. Watkins Memorial Foundation

Families Under Urban and Social Attack
Fifth Ward Enrichment Program
Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program
Lazarus House
New Hope Counseling Center, Inc.
People With AIDS Coalition

Planned Parenthood of Houston & Southeast Texas, Inc.
Resurrection MCC
St. Hope Foundation
Texas Children's Hospital
The Center for AIDS
Volunteers of America, Inc.

www.AIDSwalkhouston.org