

SEPTEMBER 2004

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

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Movie director Bunny Watts  
Performance diva Laurie Anderson  
Film Festival highlights  
Fall arts preview

## DONKEY SONG

A report from the Dem convention

## FAMILY SAGA

Annise Parker continues her adoption tale

## PLUS: Gay boy music

A new Madonna book

Fall cruising options

Bunny Watts, *Late Coffee and Oranges* director

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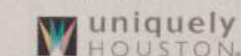
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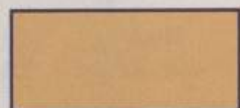
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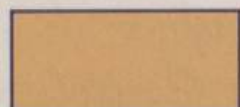
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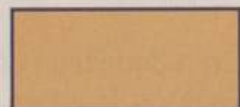
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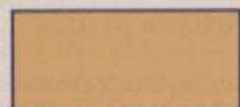
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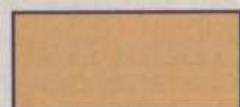
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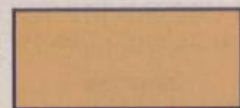
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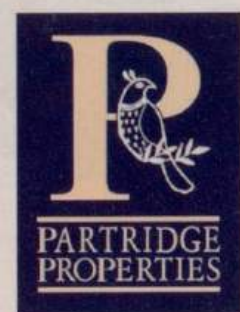
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## CONTENTS

VOL. 11 • No. 8 • SEPTEMBER 2004

### News & Comment

- 10 Letters
- 18 News Briefs GLBT students start college, recovery resources, more.
- 22 LeftOut/Daryl Moore Don't "misunderestimate" Dubya.
- 23 OutRight/Dale Carpenter The Dem convention and gay visibility.
- 26 InsideOut at City Hall/Annise D. Parker The adoption story continues.

### Features

- 12 OutFront Houston Women's Festival turns 10, a Banned Books Week story, Race for the Cure. Photographs by Yvonne Faee
- 30 Convention Wisdom After the Democratic gathering in Boston, we heard from local activists who were there. Compiled by Tim Brookover
- 34 COVER FEATURE Character Study Film director Bunny Watts lenses a Queer New Wave drama. By Brian Martinez
- 36 All the Bayou's a Stage Fall season offers plenty of treasures. By D.L. Groover
- 42 Avant Guardian Laurie Anderson gets personal about her art and life with Lou Reed. By Bradley David Williams
- 46 Reel Time Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival hits screens. By Collin D. McClure
- 52 Check Up: Bart Loesser Once a Houstonian, the activist and speaker now works and rows in Austin. By Eric A.T. Dieckman

### Arts & Entertainment

- 56 LookOut/Tim Brookover Miss Lupita rocks Mela's.
- 58 Queer Quotes/Blase DiStefano Colin Farrell, Michael Moore, Dubya, more.
- 60 Television The gay Emmys air, Will & Grace sing, more. By Troy Carrington, Blase DiStefano, Suzie Lynde
- 64 DVD/VHS The 20th-anniversary DVD of Another Country, plus Swoon, Maggie & Annie, So Graham Norton, South Park: The Passion of the Jew, more. By Troy Carrington, Suzie Lynde
- 66 GrooveOut/Gregg Shapiro It's a (gay) man's world. Plus reviews/previews of gay grooves from Lipstick Conspiracy, k.d. lang, Patricia Barber, many more. By Troy Carrington, Alexsya Coleman, Suzie Lynde, Andrea Rodricks, Lance Scott Walker, Jack Varsi.
- 74 ReadOut/Tim Brookover A Houston artist contributes to a new Madonna book. Plus reviews/previews of Kings & Queens: Queens at the Prom, The Queer Movie Poster Book, more. By Troy Carrington, Alexsya Coleman, Suzie Lynde, Jack Varsi

### Out & About

- 92 OutLoud/Sally Sheklow Save marriage sanctity from wicked homos.
- 94 DineOut/Tim Brookover Restaurants serve up desserts for AssistHers.
- 96 Out of Town/Victor Zorn Book passage on a cruise for fall.
- 98 Calendar Women's festival.
- 110 Bar/Club Guide Terri Crown of The Rainbow Room.
- 112 SignOut/Lilly Roddy
- 114 SceneOut

### Advertisers' Index

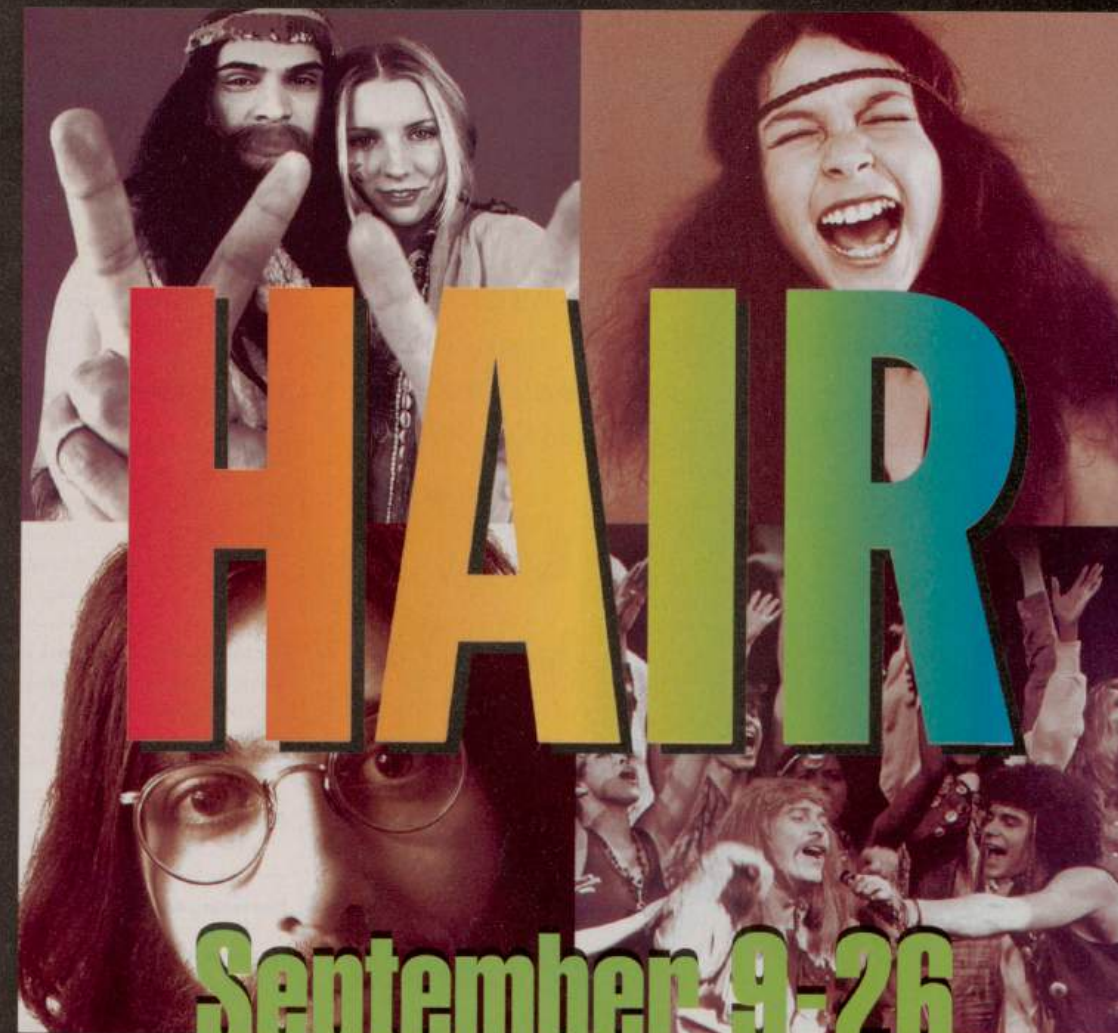
- 77 OutSmart Features Community Businesses
- 102 Classifieds
- 104 Business News
- 108 OutSmart Advertisers



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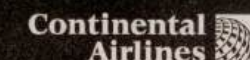
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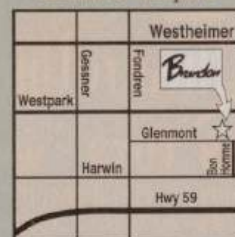
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## Letters

### THAT'S LIFE

Thanks so much for your thoughtful review of my book *Half-Life*. I'm not sure when it was published, but I was just turned on to it today (August 2). Anyway, the review was so cool because you really "got" the book. You understood the "life" part of the narrative and that there aren't any easy answers. So I just wanted to write and thank you for so carefully reading the text.

Aaron Krach  
New York City

EDITOR'S NOTE: Krach addressed his letter to contributor Alexsya Coleman, who reviewed his book in our July issue (*ReadOut*). Krach ([www.aaronkrach.com](http://www.aaronkrach.com)) is also a senior editor at Cargo, the shopping magazine for guys.

### ELECTION QUESTION

If I understand the news, it seems that the most important issue for George W. Bush is gay marriage. Is it exaggeration to then say that homosexuals are the most important people in America and we will be the deciding factor in the coming election and thus will decide the future of this nation?

Billy Glover  
Bossier City, Louisiana

### OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Photographer Dalton DeHart has a redesigned, expanded website, [www.daltondehart.com](http://www.daltondehart.com), which includes extensive photo galleries. Rockport Solutions, the local web design and marketing firm, produced the site.

Columnist Daryl Moore recently returned from a summer of postgraduate study at Oxford University in England.

### ATTENTION, COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

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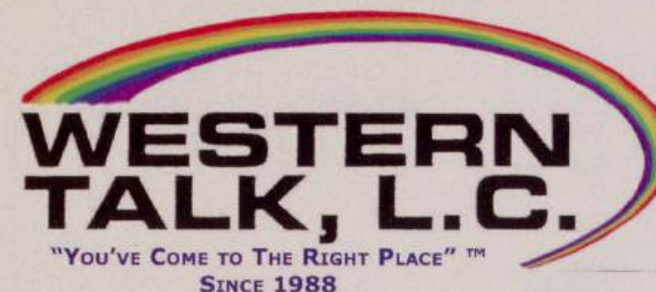
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**WOMEN'S WORK.** This month, Sally Andrews (from left), Shirley Knight, Shannon Rhodes, and Deb Tosh, along with a host of other volunteers, will make final preparations for the 10th annual Houston Women's Festival, on October 2. For the second year, the all-day celebration of music, art, and activism will take place at Jones Plaza downtown. The entertainment lineup includes Texas star Ruthie Foster, the Irish duo Zrazy, and Ellis, named best Twin Cities musician by *Lavender* magazine, in her Houston debut. Fall showers washed out the festival last year, so expect organizers to do a no-rain dance.

Photographed by Yvonne Feece at Jones Plaza



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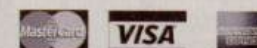
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**READ ALL ABOUT IT.** Banned Books Week begins September 25. The American Library Association established this annual observance in 1982 to bring attention to books declared *verboten* over the years. Not surprisingly, volumes with gay-and-lesbian content often incur the censors' wrath. These have of course included *Daddy's Roommate* and *Heather Has Two Mommies* but classics like *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* as well (after all, just what were Huck and Jim doing on that raft?). We asked local librarian Victor Schill to pick a favorite recent book likely to irritate the banners. He chose *King & King*, by Linda De Haan and Stern Nijland (Ten Speed Press), which relates the tale of a young prince who spurns the eligible young women in the kingdom in favor of, well . . . we won't spoil the ending. Buy the book.

Photographed by Yvonne Feece at the Houston Public Library Freed branch

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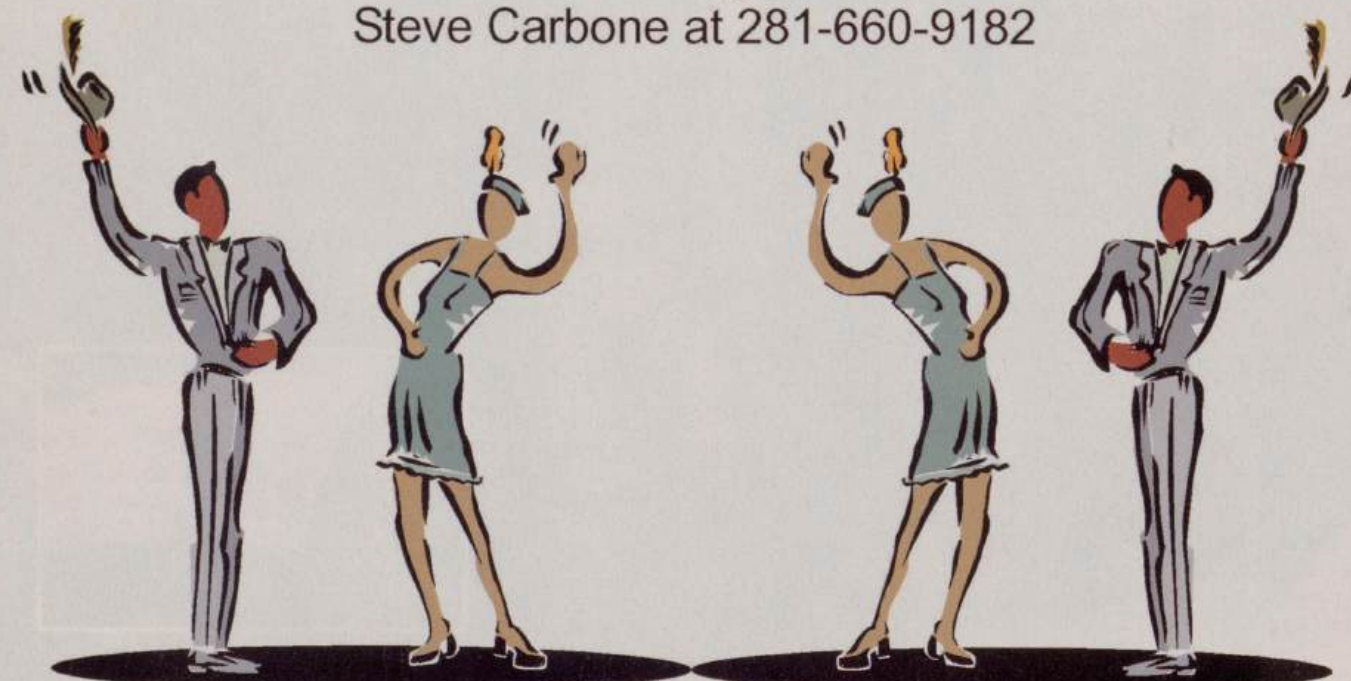
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**IMPORTANT STEPS.** Janet Baker serves on the education committee for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Race for the Cure. "I'm their token lesbian," she says with a chuckle. "They have never had anybody out before." On October 2, Baker also plans to walk the course—downtown this year, for the first time—with her mother Marilyn, who will be visiting from Syracuse. Baker, a mother of three with her partner Christine Togni, has a tattoo that memorializes two sisters, Diane and Karen, lost to the disease. Another sister, Julie, has been diagnosed and receives treatment. Baker herself carries the gene that indicates an increased risk for developing breast cancer. "I'm in the bonus round," she says. "I think that every time I have a birthday. Every year cancer-free is a good year."

Photographed by Yvonne Feece at The Campanile



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DATEBOOK

• On Sept. 11, the **Network of Houston Area Tolerance Education (No-HATE)** and **H.A.T.C.H.** hosts a 9 a.m.-5 p.m. workshop at Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church for students and teachers interested in forming gay-straight alliances in their schools. Info: 713/529-0037 x324.

• The city planning and development department presents **Directions & Connections: Charting a Path for Your Neighborhood**, an all-day Sept. 11 conference for community organizers, beginning at 8 a.m., at the George R. Brown Convention Center. Register: conference@cityofhouston.net, www.houstonplanning.com.

• **Bike for a Better City**, the recreational cycling group, holds a Houston Zoo ride on Sept. 11, beginning at 10:30 a.m., and an Allen Parkway ride on Sept. 16, 11 a.m., followed by a Houston Texans viewing party at Woodrow's. Info: bikeforabettercity@hotmail.com.

• **Misfits of Houston** presents **Lockdown in the Stockade**, the group's annual ball, on Sept. 12, 5-9 p.m., at Rehab, benefiting Colt 45's AIDS Trouble Fund and P.A.W.S. Info: www.misfitshouston.org.

• On Oct. 4, **Kolbe Project** celebrates its 15th anniversary with a 4 p.m. service at All Saints Catholic Church, followed by a dedication of a St. Francis statue at Kolbe House. Info: 713/861-1880, www.kolbeproject.org.

• Oct. 8 marks **Boycott for Equality**, an effort encouraging GLBT persons and allies to opt out of the economy for one day to demonstrate that the gay community is a vital part of the national life. Details: www.boycottforequality.com.

• **Creative Life Spiritual Center** in Spring hosts a new GLBT support group on Sundays, 7 p.m. Info: David Mayes, 281/442-3395.

• **Human Rights Campaign Houston** seeks volunteers for the 2005 gala. Volunteers may choose from committees including diversity outreach, corporate sponsorships, auctions, and others. Info: info@hrchouston.org. ■

## BACK TO SCHOOL

*Scholarships in hand,  
GLBT students start college*



Ten years ago, the local chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) created a scholarship fund, granting an award to a single student. Four years later PFLAG and Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.), the youth support group, joined forces. Since its formation, the PFLAG/H.A.T.C.H. Youth Scholarship Foundation has presented 107 awards worth \$490,000. In 2004, the foundation gave scholarships to 31 students, including four of these five incoming freshmen, photographed at a H.A.T.C.H. meeting in July.

|                                                                          |                                                             |                                                                                                       |                                                           |                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Jeffry Faircloth</b>                                                  | <b>Tom Jurewicz</b>                                         | <b>Colleen Herndon</b>                                                                                | <b>Jeffery Jelm</b>                                       | <b>Yvan Ramirez</b>                                               |
| San Jacinto College, history and business, Graduate of Dobie High School | Valparaiso University, pre-seminary, Clear Lake High School | University of Houston, English and secondary education, Ball High School and Alief Taylor High School | Houston Community College, business, Bellaire High School | Houston Community College, liberal arts, Alief Taylor High School |

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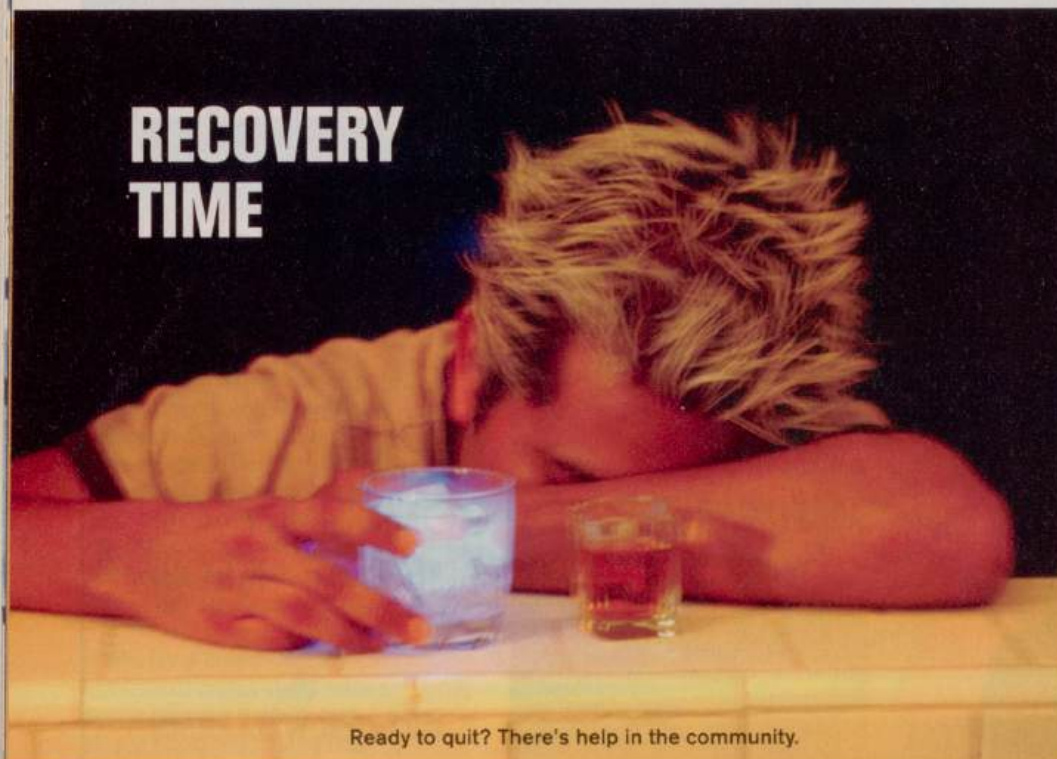
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## RECOVERY TIME



Ready to quit? There's help in the community.

September is National Drug & Alcohol Recovery Month, designated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

"Studies indicate that, when compared with the general population, LGBT people are more likely to use alcohol and drugs, have higher rates of substance abuse, are less likely to abstain from use, and are more likely to continue heavy drinking into later life," stated a 2002 study released by the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration, a division of HHS.

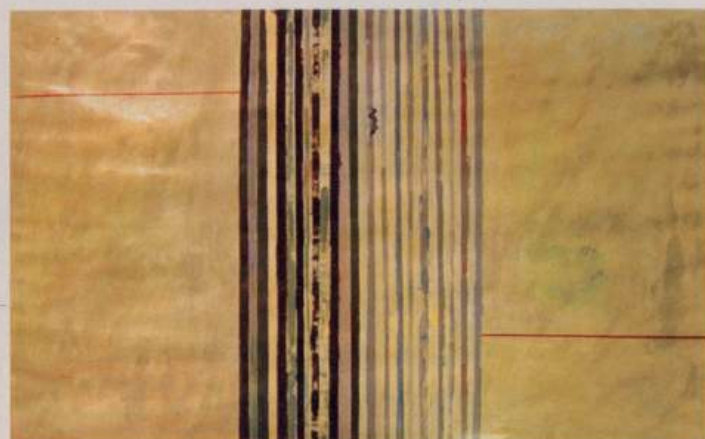
For those who want help, there are

resources. These are only a few:

**Lambda Center Houston** offers 44 Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon meetings throughout the week. Check [www.lambdahouston.com](http://www.lambdahouston.com) for a schedule. 1201 West Clay, 713/528-9772.

**Bering Support Network** offers several AA meetings during the week. 1440 Harold, 713/526-1017, [www.beringumc.org/bsn.htm](http://www.beringumc.org/bsn.htm).

**Montrose Counseling Center** has a state-licensed outpatient treatment program designed for the GLBT community. 701 Richmond Ave., 713/529-0037, [www.montrosecounselingcenter.org](http://www.montrosecounselingcenter.org).



Work by Alan Hurwitz (pictured) and three other local artists are featured in *Showcase Houston* at Deutser Gallery, Jewish Community Center. The exhibition remains on view through October 22.

## FIRST UU MARKS "WELCOMING" ANNY

This month, First Unitarian Universalist Houston celebrates the 10th anniversary as an official Welcoming Congregation. The governing Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) body created that designation in 1989 to recognize churches that include gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgender persons in all aspects of church life.

Fewer than half of UUA churches have received the Welcoming Congregation stamp.

Events that will mark the anniversary include a September 14, 7 p.m., lecture on marriage equality by attorney Jerry Simoneaux of the firm Nechman, Simoneaux & Frye, which specializes in GLBT law.

**ON THE WEB:** For more local congregations with LGBT-friendly designations, see [www.outsmartmagazine.com](http://www.outsmartmagazine.com).

## LAWYERS OFFER AIDS LEGAL CLINICS

Beginning September 23, the Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program will launch a series of free legal-advice clinics for individuals living with HIV/AIDS. Project services include estate planning, Social Security/SSI appeals, and divorces and other family matters.

The first clinic will take place at Montrose Counseling Center on September 23, noon-3 p.m. The lawyers will offer additional clinics on October 28, November 18, and December 16 at Saint Hope Foundation, Montrose Clinic, and Family Services of Greater Houston, respectively.

Interested persons may contact Tom Anthony, 713/228-0735, ext. 121, about an appointment. ■

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## Noche Espiritual's 3rd Anniversary

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Spanish GLBT Movie & Discussion  
Saturday, Oct. 2nd, 11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
Facilitated by: Rev. Dr. Ana Vargas  
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Spanish Worship Service  
Saturday, Oct. 2nd, 7 p.m.  
Guest: Rev. Dr. Ana Vargas

Worship Services  
Sunday, Oct. 3rd, 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Guest: Rev. Dr. Ana Vargas  
12:30 p.m. - Open Community Discussion  
On Latino/Latina Issues

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## 60 DAYS LEFT

*But it would be dangerous to "misunderestimate" Dubya*

It's hard to believe that in less than 60 days, Americans will decide whether George Bush deserves four more years as president. This election is a no-brainer for me, but I'm admittedly biased. I have never voted for Bush. I voted for Ann Richards when he defeated her to become governor. I crossed over and voted in the Republican primary for John McCain in 2000 and then voted for Gore in the general election.

Bush has been my least favorite candidate in every race he has run in because he has always been the least experienced candidate in every contest. He exemplifies what I most disdain—personal success in every endeavor in spite of a mediocre performance, secured by inherited wealth, a privileged upbringing, and immeasurable family connections.

He was accepted into Yale despite poor grades and test scores because he was a "legacy" (his father and grandfather had

attended). He avoided the draft by getting into the National Guard because of his family connections, leaping ahead of several others who tried to get in before him. He was made part owner in the Texas Rangers because his daddy was the vice president. In short, at every critical juncture in his life, he has advanced in spite of his performance, never because of it. And that recurring theme about his success has always nauseated me.

Having said that, I appreciate that he is an incredibly gifted politician. After losing his first race for U.S. Congress more than 20 years ago, he has never lost again. He annihilated Ann Richards when she was sitting on huge approval ratings and didn't think he had a chance of winning. He figuratively (and to many of us, literally) stole the White House from Al Gore after losing the popular vote by more than a half-million votes, even beating Gore in his home state of Tennessee.

Bush won by running as a "compassionate conservative," but he has turned out to be neither. He promised that "No Child Would Be Left Behind" with his education reform package, and then refused to provide funding for it after it passed. He has limited stem-cell research and has thwarted the fight against AIDS abroad and at home by cutting funding for programs that promote anything other than abstinence only. He has ordered 1,000 troops to their death in Iraq, but hasn't shown up at a single soldier's funeral.

Considering the facts and his current approval ratings, he should lose. Regarding the facts, he took office when the federal government was operating in the black. Now, it's running a \$500 billion deficit. The stock market is down, unemployment is up, interest rates are on the rise, and talks of inflation abound. The war on Iraq is a mess, and more than 50 percent of Americans now

*continued on page 24*

## OUT OF SIGHT

*In Boston, the Democrats retreat from gay visibility*

There is very much a stifling effect here at the convention," observed Carole Migden, an openly gay California Board of Equalization member and 2004 Democratic National Convention delegate. "But there is an implicit feeling that there is widespread support for our issues that goes unspoken."

What to make of the Boston Democrats? They really like gay people, but they would really rather the American public didn't know that. And what of gay Democrats? They're high-minded idealists when they criticize gay Republicans for belonging to a party that doesn't much like gays, but they're sober-minded pragmatists when assessing their own party's treatment of gays. Yes, they acknowledge, the Boston convention was a retreat from gay visibility at past conventions. But that's necessary, they say with satisfaction, to defeat the evil Republicans.

The contrast to the three past Democratic conventions was remarkable. In 1992 and 1996, Bill Clinton actually used the word *gay* in his acceptance speeches. In 2000, Al Gore specifically endorsed the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and hate-crimes legislation in his acceptance speech. At both the 1996 and 2000 conventions, rainbow flags were clearly visible in the convention hall, waving in front of the TV cameras during prime-time speeches.

This year, no rainbow flags appeared on the convention floor. There were six openly gay speakers, which is nice and certainly better than what we'll get at the Republican convention. But none of them appeared in prime time, when Americans could actually see them. Query: If you're not heard in prime time, do you make a sound?

I heard *gay* mentioned once in four nights of prime-time coverage. If you didn't know better, and confined your convention

watching to the 8-11 p.m. time slot, you wouldn't have known gays even exist.

Most striking was the nearly complete omission of anything gay in the convention speeches of John Edwards and John Kerry. Neither Kerry nor Edwards mentioned gay Americans or gay-related legislation. There was no promise to do anything about lifting the ban on gays in the military, no pledge to work for legislation to protect gay people from employment discrimination or from hate crimes, not a word about lifting the ban on HIV-positive immigrants (a ban Kerry voted for), not one syllable devoted to the recognition of civil unions.

Kerry announced his obligatory respect for diversity in general language President Bush himself could have used. He also tried to undermine Republican moralism by claiming to support "family values," which for Democrats means raising taxes to pay

*continued on page 25*

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disapprove of it and think the country is headed in the wrong direction. Bush's approval ratings are under 50 percent, and no president in the last century has been reelected with such a rating 60 days before the election.

Still, considering that Bush has raised a quarter of a billion dollars for his reelection campaign, and that he is currently running even with Kerry in spite of those polling numbers, I would never underestimate him (or "misunderestimate" him, as he says). I would never underestimate Bush because he has repeatedly

demonstrated a willingness to say and do whatever it takes to win. Whether it's lying about weapons of mass destruction, landing in a jump suit on an aircraft carrier in a "Mission Accomplished" suit while hundreds of young Americans are still fighting and dying, or pushing for an amendment to ban gay marriage to shore up his religious base, Bush is hell-bent on getting reelected. And he will sacrifice whoever gets in his way to assure himself a second term.

I know my perception is jaded because I loathe Bush, but I still don't understand why

a majority of Americans aren't worn out after the last 3.5 years. After the lies, the cocky swagger that has landed us in an abyss in Iraq, and a sputtering economy, why do 46 percent of Americans still support his reelection bid, when only 6 percent of Europeans do? What do they get that we don't?

It's certainly not excitement about John Kerry. What's to get excited about? He's boring and makes Al Gore look animated.

**Kerry is a blue blood from Massachusetts who acts like it. Dubya is a privileged blue blood who acts like a Bubba. Kerry actually went to war. Dubya claims he's a war president.**

He's a blue blood himself. He snowboards and windsurfs (while Dubya runs a chain-saw at his Crawford Ranch).

Still, there's a difference. Kerry isn't pretending to be someone he's not. He is a blue blood from Massachusetts who acts like it. Dubya is a privileged blue blood who acts like a Bubba. Kerry actually went to war. Dubya claims he's a "war president."

More importantly, Kerry hasn't sacrificed other people to get where he is. Nobody went in his place to Vietnam so he could stay home and hide out in the National Guard.

Now, Bush (who avoided Vietnam), his vice president (who got five deferments to keep from going), and his attorney general (who got an amazing seven deferments to avoid serving) are challenging Kerry's service. Kerry went to Vietnam and nearly got his ass shot off in a war he opposed. What's more patriotic than that?

I don't know what Kerry will do about all of the problems facing Americans after 3.5 years of Bush. But I know he won't squander the goodwill of the world by starting a preemptive war based on misinformation. I know he won't reward the richest 2 percent of Americans with a

tax cut they don't deserve at the expense of the middle class. I know he won't appoint religious zealots to the federal bench who don't believe in abortion under any circumstance or that gays and lesbians aren't equal under the law. And, I know he won't support a constitutional amendment that keeps gays and lesbians from ever marrying.

It's hard to get excited about John Kerry. He is not an exciting guy. But he has paid his dues. He is steady under fire and has the medals to prove it. And the prospect of

where we will be in 3.5 more years if George Bush gets reelected absolutely petrifies me. I'm taking Dubya's advice. I'm not mis-underestimating him ever again. I'm moving to a swing state and voting for Kerry.

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

## OutRight continued from page 23

for social programs and government-controlled health care.

Then there was Kerry's promise not to "mis-use for political purposes the most precious document in American history, the Constitution of the United States." This passage of the speech caused much mirth among gay Democrats, who clung to it as possibly a reference to the Federal Marriage Amendment. That's certainly a reasonable interpretation, and no doubt it's what Kerry wanted gay Americans to understand it to mean.

But, in context, the reference was oblique. To the casual listener, who heard Kerry denounce the Attorney General John Ashcroft, it could have been understood as a critique of the Bush administration's overall record on civil liberties. And, since neither Kerry nor Edwards could be

bothered to show up to actually vote against the FMA, why give them the benefit of the interpretive doubt?

True, the 2004 Democratic platform mentions a few of these things, and that's nice. It's also true that Kerry and Edwards announced gay-supportive positions on these matters during the Democratic primaries, and that's even nicer. But since he secured the Democratic nomination in March, Kerry has hardly mentioned gay Americans or his supportive stands on gay issues.

To gay Democrats, none of this matters. Typical was the reaction of D.C. delegate and longtime gay activist Phil Pannell, as quoted in the *Washington Blade*: "The times are different now from what they were when Clinton and Gore gave their speeches. People who typically would be mad about certain policies or certain omissions in speeches are so determined to defeat Bush that they are willing to not let that bother them."

But it does matter. If Kerry shies away from gay issues now, Republicans will justifiably argue that he has no mandate on them once he is elected.

And if fear of political consequences is enough to silence Kerry and the Democrats now, the same reasons will justify their silence later. Before he is elected, we are told, Kerry must do nothing substantive on

gay rights so he can get elected. In 2005 and 2006, we will be told, Kerry must do nothing substantive on gay issues so the Democrats can win the 2006 congressional election. In 2007 and 2008, we will hear, Kerry must do nothing substantive on gay issues so he can be reelected in 2008. And so on.

What I see developing with the Kerry/Edwards no-show at the FMA vote, with the failure of Kerry and Edwards to say much about any gay-related issue since the primaries, with the relative invisibility of gay at the Democratic convention, and now with the gearing up of the old excuse factory, is a replay of the years that gave us Don't Ask, Don't Tell and the Defense of Marriage Act.

But, bless his heart, Kerry does have an implicit feeling for us that goes unspoken. He is promising us nothing, and it's starting to look like that's just what he will deliver.

*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.*

## ON THE OTHER HAND

For differing views on the Democratic convention and the presidential campaign, see page 30.






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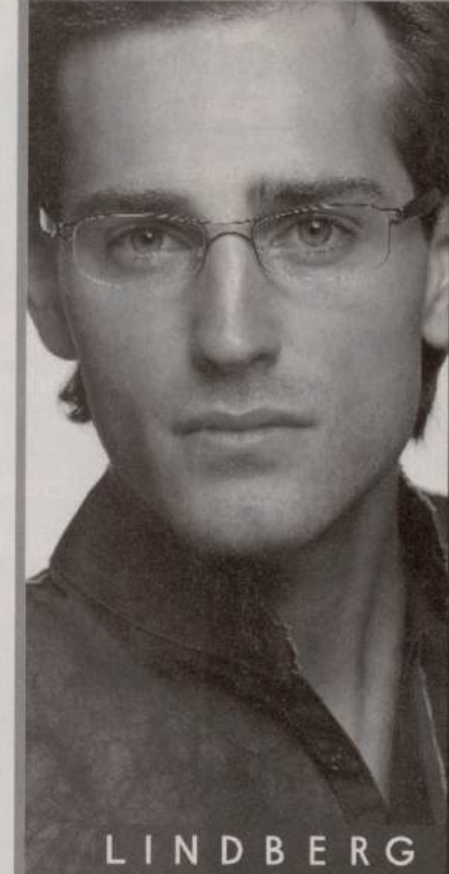
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by Annise D. Parker

## MATCHMAKING

*Annise and Kathy's story of their adoption journey continues*

*This month I continue a story I began in the August issue of OutSmart magazine. That article ended with my life-partner, Kathy Hubbard, and I completing all the prerequisites to adoption imposed by the state. We were approved for one or two children, 2 to 10, of any race, who were in state custody and eligible for adoption. We were waiting to meet our child.*

The process is disconcertingly like using a matchmaking service to find a spouse (think mail-order bride). We had filled out all the forms, taken the requisite classes and cast our bread upon the waters—or placed our fate in the hands of a cadre of social workers—to find the perfect match.

Our Spaulding for Children social worker was our advocate in the process. His job was to troll through information available on adoptive kids looking for possibili-

ties. Local caseworkers are dedicated to placing local kids, but they have access to children all over the state (and nationally, for that matter). We could also search the public databases on our own. Our information, in turn, was available to other caseworkers representing children.

Again, like a matchmaking service, the process starts with a caseworker (yenta) trying to put the right parties together. Each child in the system has a picture and a brief descriptive paragraph that may (or may not!) reflect pertinent information from the voluminous case files on each child. As in any matchmaking process, everyone puts their best foot, or carefully edited image, forward.

Once we select a prospective child, the next step is for our caseworker, the child's Children's Protective Services (CPS) caseworker, and a CPS adoption caseworker, as well as a representative for any other

prospective adoptive family, to have a summit and decide if we move to the head of the line.

If we're picked, we have access to the full file on that child, although with key names redacted. After reviewing that information, we can meet with the child's caseworker and foster parents to find out more personal details that can't be gleaned from a written report. Only then would we proceed to a face-to-face meeting.

The key to this phase is to be honest, but flexible. Since there are so many more older children in the system, and race wasn't an issue, we had a large pool from which to choose. That's when other criteria kicked in. We were looking for one child, but open to siblings if they came as a package. We thought we wanted a girl, but would consider a boy. We wanted a child of normal intelligence, but would consider physical

*continued on page 28*

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## InsideOut

continued from page 26

disabilities. They all have emotional scars, but we wanted a child capable of bonding with us.

"Flexible" is a charitable way to describe what was happening on the other side. We began to receive information on children clearly outside our parameters. We'd receive photos of impossibly cute kids staring wistfully at us with attached paragraphs about how all they really wanted was a loving home and how they liked basketball or singing and we'd melt, but... in sibling groups of five and with permanent impairment caused by fetal alcohol syndrome, for example. These children deserve homes, and we knew they were presented to us "just in case," but we also knew what we could handle.

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There were kids who touched us, but none who really seemed right. We did have our profile submitted several times for children in other parts of the state, only to be told there were local prospects that would be given preference so the kids wouldn't be uprooted.

After months of waiting, the floodgates suddenly opened!

In the course of a week we were presented three strong possibilities. A friend who ran a daycare facility gave us information about a sibling pair who were in foster care and seemed to be what we were looking for. They were African-American girls, three and five.

A few days later we got a Sunday evening call from a caseworker in North Texas. She had three sisters she needed to move in a hurry because their foster placement was experiencing problems. They were Anglo, ranging in age from 7 to 12.

Then, while our caseworker was out of town, his colleague emailed a postage stamp-sized picture of a bi-racial five-year-old girl in a kindergarten graduation gown. She was now seven, but they had no current picture or profile. She had recently been abandoned by her foster mother. The picture was on the same sheet as a larger picture of her sister, then 10 years old, who they hoped we would consider later.

After an agonizing few days, we decided to proceed with the five and seven-year-olds. We had a Polaroid picture and a descriptive paragraph. We began to build mental images of life with them. They seemed right. We asked that we be officially considered for placement.

Progress at last!

Alas, it was not to be. During the course of the caseworker summit meeting, it was determined that the girls had a number of undiagnosed problems and that their caseworker had not been presenting an accurate account of their status. They were abruptly removed from consideration. Back to square one.

That picture of the beautiful girl in the cap and gown kept coming back to us. We asked for more information.

I know I reported last month that I would finish the story this month, but you will just have to wait for part three! If you missed the first installment, read it at [www.outsmartmagazine.com](http://www.outsmartmagazine.com).

Annise Parker is city controller and the highest-ranking openly GLBT elected official in any of the 10 largest U.S. cities. Her city website is [www.ci.houston.tx.us/citygovt/controller](http://www.ci.houston.tx.us/citygovt/controller). Parker's television program, Money Matters, airs Mondays on the Municipal Channel (Warner Cable 16) at 2 and 8 a.m. and 2 and 8 p.m.

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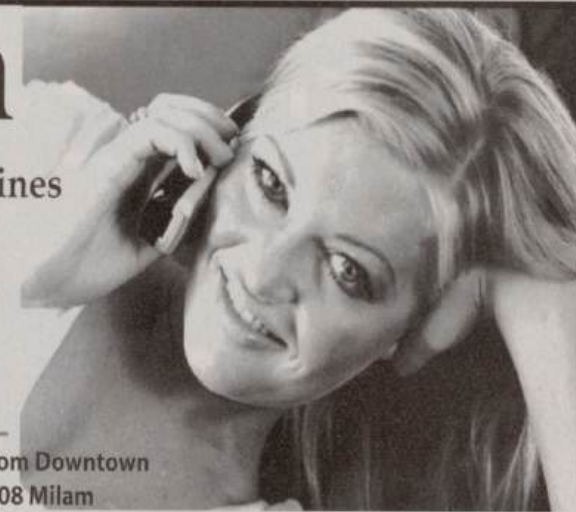
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# Convention Wisdom

*After the Democratic Convention, we heard from community activists who were there*

Compiled by Tim Brookover



**H**ouston had a GLBT contingent at the Democratic National Convention, July 26–29. After the Dems returned home, flush with Kerry pride, delegate Anita Renteria let us quote from her convention diary (and shared some of her snapshots). Vanessa Edwards Foster, an alternate delegate, and activist Dalia Stokes gave their impressions. Sue Lovell, a member of the Democratic National Committee, reported on her fourth convention. Local high school student Travis Sheive offered a view from the next generation.

## ANITA RENTERIA

The convention itself was amazing. Thousands of like-minded people in one place. For a Texas Democrat, used to a much lonelier existence, it was intoxicating. Everyone was a Democrat: the locals on the subway, the bus drivers, the waitresses, the hotel staff. It was like walking through the mirror to an alternate existence where everyone just naturally expected that John Kerry would defeat George Bush because Bush is so far out of touch!

Some of my main impressions:

- The cage where protesters had to stand was appalling. Let them speak out. If we don't protect free speech, who will?
- People all over the country know about—and dislike—Tom Delay.
- GLBT people were not really a "feature" of the

On the floor: Anita Renteria (l) and Sue Lovell paused on the convention floor at the Fleet Center.  
Above: Kerry accepted the nomination on Thursday night.

convention, and we didn't have to be. We were just an integral part of the whole, like everyone else.

• My friend Arden described to me the unanticipated effect on the community of same-sex marriage being legal in Massachusetts. She said more than one couple she knew had broken up. The pressure was just too much! The fact that it was now available forced the question of whether it was really where that relationship should go, and sometimes the answer turned out to be no. Even for those who thought it was in their future, the loud sound of the clock ticking to 2006 (when it goes to a vote) is creating anxiety: Yes, I want to marry, but *now*?

• There is a lot of support for John Kerry. There is probably just as much anti-Bush motivation. Between those two things, the Democrats have a real chance to take back the White House.

• It will only take two Senate and 11 House seats to change the legislative branch to Democratic from Republican control.

After the last night, I hated for it to end. I had the opportunity, thanks to my friend Sue Lovell, fellow delegate and DNC member, to have dinner with a bunch of political lesbians. Included in our party was Roberta Achtenberg, who served in the Clinton administration for four years, first as assistant secretary of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and later as senior advisor to then HUD secretary Henry G. Cisneros. Roberta was the highest-ranking lesbian in the country at that time, and was made infamous by Jesse Helms's reference to her as "that damn lesbian" during her confirmation hearings. We toasted John Kerry's grand slam of an acceptance speech, and spoke over each other in our enthusiasm to articulate why Kerry would undoubtedly defeat Bush.

I urge you to get involved. Vote, of course, but do at least one more thing. Write a check to the campaign or the organization of your choice to help elect Kerry. Volunteer to make



Meet and greet: Vanessa Edwards Foster (r) met Rep. Gene Green of Houston at a convention function. "I actually got within three or four feet of Hillary once," Foster reports.

calls or walk neighborhoods. Buy a bumper sticker or a yard sign and display it. Make sure your friends and neighbors are going to vote. We GLBT folks are an integral part of the Democratic Party. It's time to do our part. I can't wait for the inauguration!

**ON THE WEB:** Read more of Anita Renteria's convention memories at [www.outsmartmagazine.com](http://www.outsmartmagazine.com).

## Vanessa Edwards Foster

The National Transgender Advocacy Coalition chair was an alternate delegate to the convention.

"Obviously, Kerry's speech was a highlight for me," Foster said in an interview after the convention. "I guess I was concerned because Edwards' speech was not up to par to his previous speeches, and I wondered if they were running out of steam."

On Monday night, Foster attended a party given by the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force and the trans delegation to counter the LGBT Unity 2004 event, after the event organizers dumped comedian Margaret Cho from its entertainment lineup, following some salty remarks about George W. Bush by Whoopi Goldberg caused a stir. The task force had been a co-sponsor of the event.

Foster, one of two transgender delegates from Texas, attended the GLBT caucus meeting. "That was a rousing event to me. Teresa gave a rousing speech. She's just very down to earth. She just speaks from our heart to the feelings that really matter. To me, that's something I can relate to."

Ever the activist and organizer, Foster got involved in a petition effort, organized by the National Congress of Black Women, to have Sojourner Truth added to the monument in the Capitol rotunda that commemorates the women's suffrage movement. Foster worked throughout the convention to get signatures on petitions.

"I got a chance to talk with folks from all around the country. I let them know I am transgendered, but it's still an issue I can relate to

and I want to address. It's an issue of social concern. It's an issue of helping out our allies."

While she was in Boston, Foster also appeared twice on *GenderTalk*, the weekly radio program on transgender issues that airs on the public radio station WMBR and over the Internet (via [www.radiopower.org](http://www.radiopower.org)).

## Dalia Stokes

The activist and president of River Oaks Area Democratic Women, who had convention credentials, reported via e-mail after the convention:

The overarching theme was unity—electing Kerry. The person reporting on the work done on the platform a couple of weeks before in Florida said that overall she was pleased with what got into the platform. She reported what all those things were—things like supporting domestic partner benefits. But she acknowledged that the platform did not support same-sex marriage as all would have expected it not to. One person stood up—I'm sure Vanessa has told you—and noted that the platform did not have "transgender" in it and that they hoped that would be corrected for the 2008 convention. He got a very good round of applause.

I did get into the hall for HRC's Cheryl →



Convention snaps: Carol Mosley Braun, Jerry Springer, Donna Brazile, Ellen Burstyn, Ann Richards, Al Franken, Alfre Woodard, Gloria Steinem, Barney Frank





Symbolism: Dalia Stokes paused along the Freedom Trail in Boston with a conveniently placed donkey statue.

Jacques' speech right around 6 on Wednesday. She did a fine job and was well received. Signage in the hall was very controlled. Some signs with Kerry/Edwards on a rainbow/flag background were distributed, but not a great number—like you would see for Teresa or Edwards or Kerry or Obama.

Overall, I'd say special issues, like a woman's right to choose and GLBT rights were relegated to caucus meetings and special luncheons and breakfasts and were not visible, for the most part, in the hall. I did not have the feeling that delegates were opposed to these, but that these issues were "low profile" this year.

#### WE SPOKE

**Rep. Tammy Baldwin** of Wisconsin was convention vice chair, the first openly LGBT person to hold such a position at a national political convention. Baldwin spoke during the convention, along with these community figures:

- **Barney Frank**, U.S. representative from Massachusetts
- **Roberta Achtenberg**, former Clinton administration office, now San Francisco Chamber of Commerce senior vice president
- **Cheryl Jacques**, Human Rights Campaign executive director
- **Andrew Tobias**, writer and Democratic National Committee treasurer
- **Jim Stork**, former mayor of Wilton Manors, Florida, and congressional candidate
- **Dyshaun Muhammad**, chair of GLBT Caucus of Young Democrats of America.

#### Sue Lovell

The community activist and 2003 City Council candidate serves as the only openly gay member of the Democratic National Committee from Texas.

"I was also the only openly gay DNC member to be elected statewide—and from Texas of all places," Lovell remarked with a laugh in a phone interview.

Some of the convention highlights for Lovell:

- "I think hearing President Clinton speak again reminded us all that he is such a master of public speaking."
- "Seeing the emergence of a new Democratic star, Barack Obama."
- "It's always exciting to go through that roll call of states. Even though there's no drama to it, it is exciting."
- "The GLBT caucus was big. There must have been 250 people attending. The first day, the first part of the meeting was just for openly gay officials to introduce

Lovell said. "At the GLBT caucus, there were some of us veterans around, but there were many young people." These younger activists included Houston high school junior Travis Sheive, a friend of Lovell's son, who got into the convention with her help.

"If you ever wonder if we are making any progress, I can tell you we are, if you saw this high school student."

#### Travis Sheive

The Waltrip High School junior was returning from a trip to France when he got a chance, through Sue Lovell's connections, to attend the convention.

"Probably for me the highlight was the first night," Sheive said in a post-convention interview. "Clinton, Gore, and Jimmy Carter—he is one of my heroes."

Sheive also attended the GLBT Caucus event. "That was just fantastic. They had so many people coming through, including Teresa Heinz Kerry and celebrities like



On the town: Celebrating after Kerry's acceptance speech were (l-r) Roseanne Guaglianone with her partner Roberta Achtenberg, Miriam Saez with her partner Julian Potter, Anita Renteria, Sue Lovell, and Wendy Smith.

themselves. That took 30 minutes. I have been at previous caucuses when that took 5 minutes. It just showed me just how far we have come. And that wasn't even all of them."

This was Lovell's fourth Democratic convention. At her first convention, in 1992, she heard Bill Clinton include "gay and lesbian" in his acceptance speech, a first for a major party candidate.

In 2004, Lovell said, GLBT folks were everywhere. "At least from our community's perspective, nobody was holding their breath wondering if our community was going to be acknowledged. There was no reason. We were already so integrated into the convention."

There was also a welcome presence of the next generation at the convention,

Ben Affleck and Robert Gant from *Queer as Folk*."

And what about the occasionally controversial Teresa? "She was amazing. She is a dynamic speaker. I heard her speak a few times. I could tell she was really compassionate. When she spoke to the Gay & Lesbian Caucus, she spoke about the way that families have changed in the past few years and that if people want to support families they should support people who love each other."

Sheive was on the convention floor to hear Kerry's acceptance speech. "It was just awesome. It was very emotional. Everything he said just hit a chord with me. He brought up everything from women's rights to the constitutional amendment."

continued on page 90

## decadent dessert

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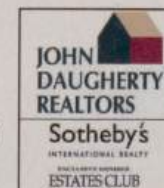


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# CHARACTER STUDY

*First-time director Bunny Watts lenses a Queer New Wave drama about six women and their intersecting stories*

by Brian Martinez • Photos by Tricia McFarlin

**B**unny Watts isn't on a mission to change the world. With her new project however, she is on a mission to empower people to find their own voices.

"I hope this encourages people to tell their own stories," Watts, a Houston writer and filmmaker, says. "I hope that people will see this as an opportunity."

With the development of her first film, *Late Coffee and Oranges*, Watts is finally finding a way to explore issues close to home.

Watts wrapped filming last month and is now involved in post-production. She describes her film as "six women intersecting, colliding, disconnecting, and re-attaching over 36 hours in a bittersweet Queer New Wave drama. There are six different women. Some of them are connected. Some are not. It's a character-driven piece. I hope that it ends up being a character study. Each character has her own character arc and set of stories. There's a lot of triangulation. There are six main stories, but maybe nine stories. I hope what it ends up being is a mosaic of what these people are experiencing."

A longtime student of writing and film, Watts seeks to explore an area of film that she says hasn't traditionally been explored. "There don't seem to be a lot of ensemble pieces that focus on women or lesbians, so I was interested in filling a void. Someone said, 'It's like lesbian *Swingers*,' which I guess it kinda is, but it's kinda not."

Watts takes the film's evocative title from a line in a favorite Wallace Stevens poem. It was writing that propelled her into filmmaking.

"I met my girlfriend here [in Houston] and settled down and started to figure out what I was going to do," Watts says. "I was trying to write a novel but I realized I love movies. As much as I love to read, film is my favorite. It encompasses choreography, cinematography, photography, acting, writ-

ing—all the elements in one medium. With all the new technology around, it was so much easier to start thinking about being able to do all that, where even five or 10 years ago you would have waited for years and years and years to get the money to even start."

Watts found much inspiration for the film and the entire writing process by being a student of both film and culture. "I see the value in most films," she says, "even stuff that people say is 'so formulaic.'"

Watts's own tastes in film reflect her interest in humanity and connection.

"Renoir's *Rules of the Game* is a great movie. His technique and love of subject . . . his technique with camera set the bar for cinema up to that point. Also, anything by P.T. Anderson. He's brilliant. Somehow he's managed to use every style that's ever come into cinema and reinterpret it, and it's totally fresh. You can see other directors in his work, but it's still his own."

But Watts also acknowledges what she calls "the part of me that is still trapped in adolescence." She explains: "I'm a huge movie fan. I'm a huge pop culture fan. John Waters, Andy Warhol, P.T. Anderson, Hal Ashby—their styles are all so different, but they are all very compassionate filmmakers. As outrageous as John Waters can be, and Warhol, and how different they are from Anderson, they all seem to love their subjects."

Aside from her deep appreciation of writing and film, one of the driving forces behind Watts's production is a sense of home. A self-confessed "Texafornian," she spent her formative years split between

Houston and California, studying at film school in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and delving into creative writing at San Francisco State University along the way. In the process, she found jobs in the film industry as a grip intern and a gaffer both in Los Angeles and in Houston. After a final return to Houston for personal reasons, Watts poured her energies into making the project work.

"As far as I know, this may be the first lesbian film ever shot in Houston," she says. "I know a lesbian filmmaker from

Houston who made a film but didn't shoot it in Houston."

Now that Watts is in the cutting and editing process, the next step is distribution. "We're going to try to do the film festivals," she says. "With the new gay and lesbian cable network LOGO opening up, it feels like things are starting to happen with gay and lesbian filmmaking. We'll do whatever we can do."

Watts pauses for a moment and chuckles. "You never know, I might sell it out of my car trunk like Master P or Eminem."

Whatever the method of getting her works out for the public to see, Watts's hope is for a greater good.

"Things are exciting right now," she says. "Coupling new technology with people whose voices aren't being heard—because of a lack of money or whatever—changes the whole ballgame. I hope people will see this as an opportunity. I hope that this encourages people to tell their own stories."

*Brian Martinez, a former Houston Chronicle copy editor, teaches at an area high school. This is his first contribution to OutSmart.*



On location: Bunny Watts filmed her first movie at spots across the Houston area. "We're going to try to do the film festivals," she says of her next step.

In living color: "I'm a huge movie fan. I'm a huge pop culture fan," says film director Bunny Watts, photographed at the Taoist temple in the East End. Watts's movie *Late Coffee and Oranges* is currently in post-production.





Flag girl: Scott Sawyer stars in *The Best Little Whitehouse* in Texas, the annual Halloween Magic musical comedy show on October 23 and 24.  
Photo by Jann Whaley.

# ALL the BAYOU'S a STAGE

From a tribal rock musical to drag high jinks (and who can resist?), the fall season offers plenty of treasures

By D. L. Groover

**S**hakespeare's right, as usual. If all the world's a stage, then Houston's fall arts season is a splendid curtain raiser. While not the gayest on record, the offerings up through Christmas will satisfy the most discriminating palette. So get your leather-clad butt off that bar stool, put down that pool cue, finish your apple martini, and get yourself some culture—and some damn fine entertainment. Mr. or Ms. Right will wait while you expand your horizons. Who knows? Your next ex may very well sit next to you. →



September 9-12  
70, Girls, 70

For its fifth annual production, Paul Hope's Bayou City Concert Musicals presents John Kander and Fred Ebb's least-performed musical. From the team that created such Broadway classics as *Cabaret*, *Chicago*, and *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, this 1971 production lasted one month and quickly faded, in spite of a stellar cast that boasted Lotte Lenya, Martha Raye, Hans Conreid, Lillian Roth, and Mildred Natwick. Although the score is much loved by Broadway babies, especially "Yes" and "See the Light," the show's really a rich opportunity for veteran performers to strut their stuff. All proceeds from the show at Hobby Center benefit The Center for AIDS: The Hope & Remembrance Project.

Bayou City Concert Musicals  
713.315.2525  
www.bayoucityconcertmusicals.com

September 9-26  
Hair

As a countercultural artifact of the swingin' protest '60s, this extravagant "American Tribal Love Rock Musical" by Galt McDermott (music) and Gerome Ragni and James Rado (book and lyrics) packs a feel-good punch that's hard to resist, even if you're much too young to remember putting flowers in your hair, and saying such things as "groovy" and "way out, man!" When it premiered in 1968, the show blasted staid Broadway awake with its overt sexual content and thumb-in-your-eye youthful insouciance, as waves of pot smoke wafted through the theater. Nothing like it before had ever been seen or heard (or smelled) on the Great White Way. It's more revue than thought-out plot, but the music's now part of our history. Chill out, dude, and enjoy the "Don't trust anyone over 30" attitude.

Theatre Under The Stars  
713.558.2600  
www.tuts.com



Graphically powerful: Sister Resister (2003), one of the works in the Carrie Moyer exhibition at DiverseWorks ArtSpace, which opens Sept. 16.



Let the sun shine in: A scene from the September 9-26 Theatre Under The Stars production of *Hair*.

September 9-19  
Women@Art

Two world premieres and a Houston Ballet premiere comprise this dance triad that showcases three of the best contemporary women choreographers. Natalie Weir's *The Host*, set to Edward Elgar's rapturous *Concerto for Cello*, dramatically captures the shifting alliances (social, sexual) during an elegant soiree. Julia Adam's *The Accidental*, set to Ottorino Respighi's evocative tone poem *The Birds*, tells of an avian-like outsider plunked down into a group not of its own kind. Lila York's *Celts*, set to traditional Irish folk tunes, is a zip-drive tour de force through the history and traditions of Ireland. These three different distaff views of life rendered through movement continue the great tradition of Graham, de Mille, and Humphrey.

Houston Ballet  
713.227-ARTS  
www.houstonballet.org

September 10  
Debbie Reynolds with  
the Houston Symphony

They just don't make old-school Hollywood vets like Debbie Reynolds anymore. In a raft of movies (among them, *Singin' in the Rain*, *The Unsinkable Molly Brown*, and the gender-swapping *Goodbye Charlie*) up to her show-stopping turns as Bobbi Adler on *Will & Grace*, Reynolds knows how to bring the star power. She will lend her show-biz sass to the symphony's opening night, when she provides narration for fairy tale-inspired music, including Prokofiev's *Cinderella*, Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*, and Stravinsky's *The Fairy's Kiss*. —Tim Brookover

Houston Symphony  
713.224-7575  
www.houstonsymphony.org

September 10-October 2  
The Cat's Meow

By 1924, Hollywood had already been rocked to its core by three scandals the previous year that brought forth national condemnation on the degradation and filth posited by that most evil city since Sodom. Fatty Arbuckle, one of America's most beloved comedians, was accused of rape/murder during a drunken party in San Francisco. Wallace Reid, Hollywood's top leading man, died from morphine addiction. Next, closeted director William Desmond Taylor was shot to death in his bungalow home, and the careers of superstar Mabel Normand and ingenue Mary Miles Minter were destroyed by innuendo. Then, to top it off, producer/director Thomas Ince mysteriously died while aboard William Randolph Hearst's yacht in the company of Charlie Chaplin, Marion Davies (Hearst's lover), columnist Louella Parsons, and eccentric English novelist Elinor Glyn. Steven Peros wrote this play based upon the events and what he thinks happened that night. Peter Bogdanovich adapted this play for his 2002 movie with Kirsten Dunst and Cary Elwes.

Country Playhouse  
713.467-4497  
www.countryplayhouse.org

September 14-18  
Culture Clash in AmeriCCA

Culture Clash, the comedy troupe of Richard Montoya, Ric Salinas, and Herbert Sigüenza, brings its cross-cultural irreverent comedy celebration of our melting pot to Houston. The show is a wild ride of dance, poetry, satire, and vaudeville, as the multi-talented trio portrays contemporary America with all its glorious and hilarious contrasts.

Alley Theatre  
713.315.2525  
www.alleytheatre.org

September 16-25  
La Traviata

Courtesan Violetta coughs, falls in love with society gadfly Alfredo, coughs, is talked out of her affair by Alfredo's uptight dad, coughs, drinks champagne, coughs, gets publicly humiliated by her former lover, coughs, reconciles with her true love, coughs, then dies. Verdi's musical genius and utter theatrical know-how turned Dumas's melodrama *La Dame Aux Camelias* into one of the greatest works of man. There's not a false note in the entire score.

Opera in the Heights  
713.861-5303  
www.operaintheheights.org



Return of the natives: Shon-ta-yi-ga, Little Wolf, a Famous Warrior, Iowa (1844), one of the paintings in George Catlin and His Indian Gallery at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. The exhibition opens October 10.

September 16-November 6  
Sister Resister

As one half of the Dyke Action Machine, artist Carrie Moyer uses graphics the way Georges Seurat used dots. Here she takes images of protest, from the Black Panthers' raised clenched fist through Gay Liberation's rainbow flag and entwined medical symbols and pastes them together in wonderfully novel, provocative ways. The exhibition is part of The Voting Machine, a multimedia collaboration of eight Houston arts organization that seeks to ignite interest and debate in this political season. Voting Machine (www.votingmachine.org) events continue through October 31.

DiverseWorks ArtSpace  
713.223-8346  
www.diverseworks.org

September 18  
Houston Museum District  
Family Day

Fourteen institutions in the Museum District fling open their doors for free on this annual family-friendly day. Among the highlights, the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft (www.craftthouston.org) will present potters, blacksmiths, weavers, and metal artists making objects on site. How cool is that? The Sandra Organ Dance Company (www.organdance.org) will present a free 8 p.m. performance, *Fun and Games*, at Miller Outdoor Theatre. —TB

Houston Museum District Association  
www.houstonmuseumdistrict.org

Through September 19  
Nazi Persecution of  
Homosexuals 1933-1945

If you think there's nothing else to learn about this most hideous period in modern world history, or nothing more to grieve about, then I urge you to bear witness to this stunning and heartfelt exhibition at the Holocaust Museum of Houston, collated with generous assistance from our own community's Gulf Coast Archives & Museum if GLBT History. You will be moved to tears and to action that this will never happen again. Man's inhumanity to man knows no bounds, but the human heart, even perched on the abyss of annihilation, will always and ultimately triumph.

Holocaust Museum Houston  
713.942-8000  
www.hmh.org

September 24-25  
A Weekend of  
Contemporary Dance

Every once in a while you may want your dance without tutus or happy peasants in red boots, and there's nary a better modern dance smorgasbord than producer Christina Giannelli's Weekend of Texas Contemporary Dance. Presented for the 10th year by Houston Dance Coalition, this wild ride through the diverse ways of making people move to music (sometimes not even to music) is always a crowd pleaser and eye opener. This year's varied program includes Ad Deum Dance Company (www.danceaddeum.com), Dominic Walsh Dance Theatre (www.dwdt.org), Austin's Forklift Danceworks (www.forkliftandcworks.org), and Michele Brangwen Dance Ensemble (www.brangwendance.org), among many others. As if thought-provoking dance weren't enough, the evening is free at Miller Outdoor Theatre.

Houston Dance Coalition  
www.houstondance.org

September 25  
Words for Peace 3 / Incite Change!  
October 1-January 2

Another event in the pre-election Voting Machine series, the season opener for Voices Breaking

Boundaries features Mango Tribe, a Chicago-based Asian/Pacific Islander women's group. Local poets, artists, and musicians will also perform during the evening at DiverseWorks that will address creating change, immigration, reproductive rights, and global peace. —TB

Voices Breaking Boundaries  
713.524-7821  
www.voicesbreakingboundaries.org

Open-ended run  
beginning October 7  
The Untitled Tom Cruise Project

The crazies at Infernal Bridegroom Productions do battle with Tom Cruise and the Scientologists. Guess who wins? Written and directed by IBP associate director Troy Schulze, who always keeps his eyes wide shut, this multimedia presentation will not be risky business, nor a mission impossible, but promises to inflict lots of collateral damage to, far and away, Hollywood's secretive top gun.

Infernal Bridegroom Productions  
713.522-8443  
www.infernalbridegroom.com

October 8  
Hall & Oates

In those grand hedonistic days of the late '70s/early '80s, this rock duo was the gayest thing going. If it wasn't Daryl Hall's preening, it was John Oates's clone look that catapulted them to the top of the charts. It might even have been those songs. Remember "Maneater," "Private Eyes," "Say It Isn't So"? Well, the guys are back, if you can stand the rush. Hall's mermaid hair is way shorter, and Oates no longer sports that sexy Castro Street facial hair, but let's time trip anyway and give them—and us—the opportunity to strut, primp, and cruise, just like yesteryear. By the way, Michael McDonald is the headliner on this tour along with Average White Band as "special guest," but we won't hold that against them.

Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion  
713.629.3700  
pavilion.woodlandscenter.org



Dancing duo: Dominic Walsh (l) and Paola Georgudias will perform during the Weekend of Contemporary Dance, September 24-25, at Miller Outdoor Theatre.





The unsinkable Debbie: Miss Reynolds will appear with the Houston Symphony on September 10 at Jones Hall.

### October 10-January 17 *George Catlin and His Indian Gallery*

From 1830 through 1836, former lawyer-turned-painter George Catlin traveled in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark and recorded his impressions of the 50 diverse Indian tribes he encountered west of the Mississippi. From buffalo to Kickapoo, his colorful, detailed oil paintings, along with his extensive gallery of artifacts collected on his adventures, are all we have of any documentary evidence of the vanished way of life of so many Americans.

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston  
713.639.7300  
www.mfah.org

### October 12-17 *Tyler Perry's Meet the Browns*

Writer, director, actor, producer, and set designer Tyler Perry has realized his wildest dreams and has gone from homeless to wealthy with his semi-autobiographical comedies that pack in culturally diverse audiences that normally don't attend live theater. *I Can Do Bad All by Myself*, *Diary of a Mad Black Woman*, *Madea's Family Reunion*, and *Madea's Class Reunion* are part of his successful

franchise. Inspiring, gentle, and laugh-out-loud funny, his plays are sitcom romps, usually with Mr. Perry appearing in drag as one of the lead female characters. His new play, *Meet the Browns*, has already been a smash around the country, and now we can appreciate his prodigious talents.

Verizon Wireless Theater  
713.230-1600  
www.verizonwirelesstheater.com

### October 15-November 7 *Leading Ladies*

In this world premiere comedy, written and directed by Ken Ludwig (*Crazy for You*, *Lend Me a Tenor*, and the current Broadway adaptation of *Twentieth Century*), two down-on-their-luck Shakespearean actors tour rural Pennsylvania when they discover a rich old biddy who is looking for her two long-lost nieces to share a \$3 million inheritance. Quicker than you can say *La Cage Aux Folles*, the guys put on the drag and hope to pull a fast one.

Alley Theatre  
713.228-8421  
www.alleytheatre.org

### October 21-November 7 *A Chorus Line*

Those Broadway pros, Kander and Ebb, say life is a cabaret, but this ultimate backstage show implies life is a constant audition. To some Broadway babies, this 1975 Michael Bennett/James Kirkwood/Marvin Hamlisch/Edward Leban show is the definitive Broadway musical. An undisputed classic, it hit the Great White Way with a revolutionizing big bang. The 18 gypsies, desperately auditioning for eight anonymous places in the chorus, reveal their inner selves in vignettes that are heartbreaking, sentimental, sappy, humiliating, yet uplifting in a masochistic way. After collective hearts get stomped on, you feel jubilant that the remaining eight finally get to be in a show, even one as mundane as the final number seems to indicate.

Theatre Under The Stars  
713.558-2600  
www.tuts.com

### October 23, 24 *The Best Little Whitehouse in Texas*

Just in time, immediately preceding the election, the loonies at Halloween Magic bring their wicked tongues and sharp-as-a-paper-cut hanging chad sense of irreverence to Texas's own W. and his quest for retaining his address on Pennsylvania Avenue. They will shred him alive with more wit and sass than even whacked-out Teresa could ever hope to achieve. The pre-show activities include the ever-popular open bar and silent auction. As always, the proceeds benefit local HIV/AIDS service organizations. Even the Bush supporters in the audience (rare though they will be) will not be able to resist laughing out loud at those loopy characters and their continuing comedy shtick that just gets better and funnier every year.

Halloween Magic  
www.halloweenmagic.org



A sketch of Constance Hoffman costumes for the Houston Grand Opera production *Salsipuedes, A Tale of Love, War, and Anchovies*.

### SHOW TUNE ALERT

Love musicals? Theatre Under The Stars welcomes you and other GLBT aficionados with a new program, *Out at TUTS*. On one Wednesday during the run of each production, show queens (of any gender) can take in the performance, then repair to Arista, the restaurant in Hobby Center, for a cabaret evening with the cast members. First up: *Hair* on September 15. Pull out that tie-dye headscarf and let the sun shine in. *OutSmart* sponsors *Out at TUTS* nights. —TB

Theatre Under The Stars  
713.558.8887  
www.tuts.com

### October 29-November 14 *Salsipuedes, A Tale of Love, War, and Anchovies*

Composer Daniel Catan, responsible for Houston Grand Opera's most successful contemporary opera, *Florencia en el Amazonas*, has written a new work for the company. His world premiere *Salsipuedes, A Tale of Love, War, and Anchovies* is a comic fable about a tiny Caribbean island that declares war on Germany. This rhythmic, invigorating take on *The Mouse That Roared* stars soprano Ana Maria Martinez in a production by James Robinson, conducted by Guido Maria Guida.

Houston Grand Opera  
713.228-OPERA  
www.houstongrandopera.org

### November 14 *Music That Tells a Tale*

The Foundation for Modern Music, established by the late Robert Avalon, composer and brother of Houston mayor Bill White, continues with interim artistic director Rodolfo Morales at the helm. The second concert of the season, at the Hobby Center, features works by Almeida Prado, Mark Schultz, and Francis Schwartz, who will also conduct his own *I Am the Diva*, a musical roast of the stereotypical prima donna. —TB

Foundation for Modern Music  
713.529-3928  
www.modernmusic.org

### December 14 *Christmas Mass and Gloria*

If you want a break from the usual Handel or Bach holiday offering, try some musical Christmas fare that's rare yet lovely to listen to. Mercury Baroque presents the seldom-heard, sparkling *Christmas Mass* by Marc-Antoine Charpentier (who wrote incidental music for the original plays of Moliere, among other works) paired with the glorious *Gloria* by Italian master Antonio Vivaldi. Spiritualism and great faith combine in heavenly music.

Mercury Baroque Ensemble  
713.315.2525  
www.mercurybaroqueensemble.org

D.L. Groover writes regularly on the arts for *OutSmart*. Tim Brookover contributed to this article.

ON THE WEB: Read more of the season preview at [www.outsmartmagazine.com](http://www.outsmartmagazine.com).

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Describing who and what Laurie Anderson is can be a mouthful. Visual artist, composer, poet, photographer, filmmaker, ventriloquist, electronics whiz, vocalist, instrumentalist. Whew! She's often called a "Performance artist," but that doesn't really capture what this amazing woman does. In her new S.P.A. co-commission, *The End of the Moon*, she looks at the relationship between war, esthetics, spirituality and consumerism.

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# Avant Guardian

*Laurie Anderson, performing soon in Houston, gets personal about her art, the cosmos, and life with Lou Reed*



by Bradley David Williams  
Photo by Peter Ross

**W**hen Laurie Anderson comes to town on October 9 with her latest performance-art creation, her visit will have particular significance. Her return to Houston caps a two-year stint as NASA's first-ever artist in residence, during which the space agency gave her unprecedented access to its American facilities, including a special tour of the Johnson Space Center last summer. The results of Anderson's research will include a 12-minute film that will play continually on an "astro-vision" screen to some 15 million people at the World Expo in Japan next year.

The ageless Anderson (who happens to be 57) is arguably the world's most renowned performance artist, having wowed audiences around the globe with her elaborate multi-media presentations, while taking on such diverse personas as visual artist, composer, poet, photographer, filmmaker, ventriloquist, electronics whiz, vocalist, and instrumentalist. A classically trained violinist, the Chicago native had a surprise hit recording, "O Superman," from her 1981 experimental pop album *Big Science*.

Anderson recently spoke by phone from her Manhattan loft, which she shares with her famous significant other, Lou Reed, and her terrier Lola Belle.

**Are you planning to go out to NASA when you're in Houston to perform?**

Absolutely. They've been very nice to me. I love people who work with giant machines—I find that fascinating—and [people who are] doing things that are really, really hard to do

**I hear you'd like to go up into space yourself. Wouldn't it be fantastic? That was the first question I asked when I got this opportunity. "Does that mean I'm going up?" They crushed that pretty quick. They never tried to say, "Well, you know, maybeeee." [Laughs]**

**In my preparation, I came across this piece you did a while back called "The Night Flight From Houston." [Lyrics at [www.outsmartmagazine.com](http://www.outsmartmagazine.com)]**

Oh, yeah! That was in the '70s.

**When you're on a plane like that and the person next to you starts yakking, are you likely to say much?**

Yeah, I love meeting people. I really do. And especially on planes, because I was in a plane crash at one point, and I know that some people talk out of nervousness, like I did. For years, I would just go to the stewardesses and start these long pointless conversations.

**When were you in a plane crash?**

It was 1973, and it was a small [commercial] plane coming back into New York.

**Were you injured?**

No, I wasn't. But a lot of people died. It was an amazing experience. But I do love flying. So I flew later that day, because I knew that I would never ever fly again in my life unless I did it that afternoon. So I did.

**I have this incredible Annie Leibovitz photo of you and Lou Reed on the boardwalk at Coney Island. [Anderson sighs] It must be such a unique relationship—these two musical geniuses together.**

Well, we've been together for 12 years, so we adore each other, obviously. But it's so eerie to hear . . . You know, I can imagine *him* being called a genius, [but] I feel weird about myself being called that way. It's really amazing because I really admire how he writes, and so that is a real inspiration to me. We're either always talking about each other's work or never. We're very involved in what the other one is doing.

**Do you travel much together?**

Well, he's away on a tour right now, so I'm back to my sort of bachelor life. [Laughs]

**I think a lot of people identify Lou Reed as something of a bisexual icon with [his song] "Walk on the Wild Side," and I'm sure you have a large gay following, in part because of your androgyny.**

I don't have too much of a sense of that. I guess when I'm aware of audiences, I think of them less as men, women, straight, bi, gay, as I think of them as more of a city. [Laughs] You know, when I go places, I'm thinking, "Berlin is really going to be much more like San Francisco . . ."

**What about when people call you androgynous?**

Well, I always have been. It's not something I feel one way or another about, because that's just who I am. I was just born that way, and it was never a thing that seemed strange. In the art world, which is where I came from after growing up, absolutely every single person in that scene was androgynous. We were so fed →





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#### Avant Guardian continued from previous page

up, I think, with the caricatures of who men were supposed to be [and] who women were supposed to be that we wanted to go running screaming away in another direction. Every situation has its stereotypes, so I found that by being an artist, that was the way to escape as many of them as I could.

#### Have you been following the gay marriage battle?

Yeah, sure. I mean, obviously I'm in favor of that. I'm in favor of people doing what they want to do, and especially in terms of making a commitment like that. That's such an incredibly sweet commitment to make. I don't know why anyone would want to say to anyone else—"You better not do that." That's crazy, because that's a very evolved thing to do, to commit to someone.

#### Do you consider yourself a spiritual person, or are you more of an atheist or an agnostic?

I'm all of those. I'm very interested in Buddhism, and I try my best to practice. I find that it's [comprised of] very breathtaking principles. I'm suspicious of authority, and it's the one sort of belief system—because it's not a religion—but it's a belief system in which no one's in charge. In fact, you're in charge. You know, for being a democratic country, we're in many ways extremely infantile and just want to point a finger at somebody else. I remember sitting around complaining to a friend, "There's no avant-garde anymore. The pop culture in America is so stupid and dumb..." And she says, "Well, if you want that, why don't you, like, go to a café, sit down and start one." And I was like, "Me? I want someone else..." It can't be just me." And then I thought, "Yes, it can."

#### I read that you're trying to get away from "goal-oriented behavior."

Yeah. Grabby stuff. You know, I see something I have to have it. I just don't want to be disappointed yet again. And it's not that I then settle for nothing. It's just that I change my level of happiness and that I realize that, actually, I only need the sky to be happy. I don't really need very much stuff at all to feel peaceful and happy. And that is what I'm looking for. I don't really care about other stuff.

Laurie Anderson will perform her new show, *Beauty*, in Houston on October 9 at Wortham Center as part of the Society for the Performing Arts New Now series.

#### ON THE WEB

Read more of this interview with Laurie Anderson at [www.outsmartmagazine.com](http://www.outsmartmagazine.com).

Bradley David Williams interviewed Broadway director Jeff Calhoun for our June issue.



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University of Houston's Center for Choreography



# Reel Time

**With stories that range from a Warhol diva to a dyke punk band, the Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival hits screens this month**

by Collin D. McClure



*Touch of Pink* is the festival opener and stars (l-r) Jimi Mistry, Suleka Mathew, and Kristen Holden-Ried. SEE SEPTEMBER 9.

Each year, for the past eight, something wonderful, something fabulous comes out of the celluloid closet. Yes, it is time once again for the hottest cineaste event in town, the Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival. Moved from its previous summer engagement to a new fall time slot, the annual festival opens on September 9

with *Touch of Pink*, the debut of writer/director Iqbal Rashid.

NEW THIS YEAR:

- Infernal Bridegroom Productions joins as a presenter at The Axiom, its downtown space (in conjunction with DiverseWorks). See the sidebar for info on all venues.
- For the first time, there is a midnight screening for all you night owls. The

September 10 flick is the inimitable *Pink Flamingos*.

- A new logo designed by Kim Thompson brings a fresh face to the festival.
- Sundance Channel is the major sponsor.

Selected festival highlights follow. Dates indicate the first screening; some films screen only one night. For a complete schedule, show times, and ticket prices, check out [www.hglff.org](http://www.hglff.org).

September 9

***Touch of Pink***

Landmark Theatres Greenway

Cultures collide in this rom-com about family, values, and sexuality. Alim (Jimi Mistry), a South Asian-Canadian, lives in London thousands of miles from home, because he has a boyfriend. A wrench is thrown into his ideal gay life when his mother arrives to find him a proper Muslim girlfriend and to return him to Canada. Sponsored by Sundance Channel and Continental Airlines.

September 10

***Die Mommie Die***

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

In this whodunit set in the '60s, Charles Busch stars as washed-up pop diva Angela Arden, who allegedly kills her husband (Phillip Baker Hall) with a poison-laced suppository to be with her young lover (Jason Priestly), while her defiant daughter (Natasia Lyonne, *But I'm a Cheerleader*) scrambles to uncover her mother's plot. And of course, hilarity ensues. Sounds like a lot? It is, and the movie does not disappoint. Wonderfully written and acted by the cross-dressing Busch, *Die Mommie Die* is a must see.

September 10

***Superstar in a Housedress: The Life and Legend of Jackie Curtis***

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

Andy Warhol once said of the subject of this documentary, "Jackie Curtis is not a drag queen. Jackie is an artist. A pioneer without a frontier." Directed by Craig B. Highberger, *Superstar* gives just a glimpse of Curtis, the poet, playwright, and Warhol star. See some 30 interviews with celebrities and friends including Harvey Fierstein, Paul Morrissey, and Lily Tomlin, as well as never-seen footage of Curtis (1947-1985).

September 10

***Pink Flamingos***

Landmark Theatres River Oaks

Divine stars in the John Waters cult classic as Babs Johnson, a simple Baltimore girl defending her title of filthiest person alive. Waters' 1973 movie is a prescient take on our current celebrity-crazed, reality-TV-besotted society. Meteor hosts a party before the movie and sponsors the midnight screening.



*Die Mommie Die* stars Charles Busch (c), who seems to be stuck here between a couple of hard bodies. SEE SEPTEMBER 10.



*Superstar in a Housedress: The Life and Legend of Jackie Curtis* stars Jackie Curtis, who is seen here not in a housedress. SEE SEPTEMBER 10.



John Waters' *Pink Flamingos* stars the one and only Divine. SEE SEPTEMBER 10.

## WHERE THE FILMS ARE

### Angelika Film Center

510 Texas Ave.  
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[www.angelikafilmcenter.com](http://www.angelikafilmcenter.com)

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**September 12**  
**Brother to Brother**

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

Rodney Evans' debut delves into the identity and history of gay African-American life. Winner of the Special Jury Prize at this year's Sundance Film Festival, the story follows Perry (Anthony Mackie, *8 Mile*), a New York artist facing daily homophobia and racism. Only after a chance meeting with the homeless Bruce can Perry learn the humble beginnings of Harlem, his past, and gay African-American culture. The director will speak at the screening. Continental Airlines, Human Rights Campaign Houston, The Lovett Inn, and First Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston sponsor.



**September 14**  
**Vegas in Space**

The Axiom

A transgendered romp through space that leads Captain Dan Tracy and his crew to Vegas, the capital of the "babes-only world" of Clitoris, *Vegas in Space* is a perfect movie for fans of those space-cult classics of yesteryear. Before landing on the distant planet, the crew must undergo a sex change and all become vixens in order to save the universe. Starring the late, great San Francisco drag diva Doris Fish, *Vegas in Space* is both fun and fab-u-lous!

**September 14**  
**Boy Trouble: Gay Shorts**

The Axiom

Whether it's the troubles men cause or just one man, *Boy Trouble* uncovers men in several shorts—films, that is. Kristian Salinas, the former Rice Cinema stalwart of Rice Cinema who is now with OUTfest in Los Angeles, curated this evening with Sixo Wagan of DiverseWorks and Lisa Haymes of Infernal Bridegroom Productions. Continental Airlines sponsors. These are just three of the films:

• **My German Boyfriend**

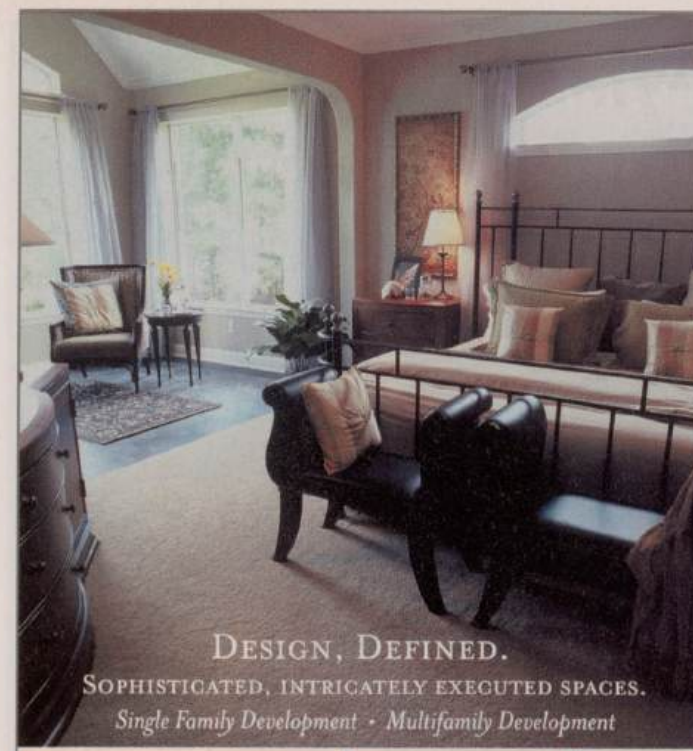
Directed by Wayne Yung, this bittersweet comedy follows a gay Chinese-Canadian seeking out love in Berlin while battling ethnic stereotypes.

• **The Mezzos**

It's like *The Sopranos*, only gayer! Joe Dietl and Michael Irpino direct.

• **I Am a Boy Band**

Director Benny Nemerofsky Ramsay brings a tale of a cloned boy band that co-opts an Elizabethan madrigal to process through heartbreak and lost love. →



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**September 15**  
**Girltown: Lesbian Shorts**

Aurora Picture Show

Salinas also curated this evening of shorts about the women. Continental Airlines, Chances, and Meteor sponsor. Highlights include these three:

• **The Ten Rules: A Lesbian Survival Guide**  
Director Lee Friedlander (who also lensed *Wasabi Tuna*, another festival film) offers everything you have wanted to know.

• **Bessie, Billie & Ruth**

Directors Mary Jo Godges and Renee Sotile celebrate the lives of the great American singers.

• **Beauteous**

A Long Island beauty queen awakens. Giovanna Chesler directs.

**September 16**  
**Wendy Chicago**

The Axiom

The venerable Houston drag queen herself will attend this screening of the terrific documentary directed by Walt Zipprian ["Long Live the Queen," June 2004 *OutSmart*]. Continental Airlines sponsors.

**September 17**  
**Gypsy 83**

Angelika Film Center

The Night of 1,000 Stevies brings two Goths, dressed head-to-toe in black velvet, to New York City. Overweight Gypsy (Sara Rue) wraps herself in sequined shawls just like her idol. Clive longs for true love with another boy. With Clive's encouragement, Gypsy vows to be the best Stevie Nicks impersonator ever. Their road trip drives them head-on into judgments of both society and themselves. This movie tugs at the head as well as the soul. Bring tissues.

**September 17**  
**Rise Above: The Tribe 8 Documentary**

Rice Cinema

Director Tracy Flannigan takes us backstage into the lives of the all-dyke punk band Tribe 8. If you're a fan of the band and their libidinous stage show, this film is definitely for you. From the stage, to audience participation, to the lives of the band's families, *Rise Above* rocks. GoGirlsMusic.com and the Houston Women's Festival sponsor.

**September 17**  
**You'll Get Over It**

Angelika Film Center

Cutie newcomer Julian Baumgartner is Vincent, an average high school boy, a good



student and a star swimmer. School life couldn't get better with his girlfriend Noemie until he meets Benjamin. They seem to continuously "bump into each other" until the private moment of truth. The fact that he may be gay turns his life upside down, particularly once the school is defaced with the word "fag" painted across the walls. Fabrice Caseneuve directs.

**September 18**  
**Wasabi Tuna**

Angelika Film Center

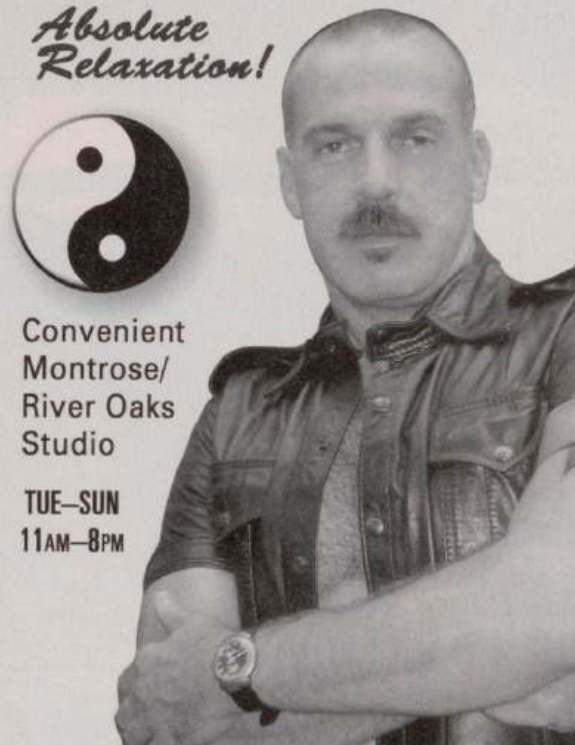
Lee Friedlander directed this urban caper involving five friends prepping for the West Hollywood Halloween parade, gangbangers, mistaken identities, a cache of guns, a troupe of drag queens devoted to Anna Nicole Smith (the Santa Ana Annas), and so much more. Just go read the dizzying synopsis at [www.wasabi-tuna.com](http://www.wasabi-tuna.com) for yourself. Mexico's own Ms. Smith makes an appearance in this comedy, which stars Antonio Sabato Jr., Alanna Ubach, Jason London, and Guillermo Diaz, among others. Sundance Channel and the Jewish Gay and Lesbian Social Group of Houston sponsor.

Collin D. McClure interviewed performer Jimmy James for our July issue.

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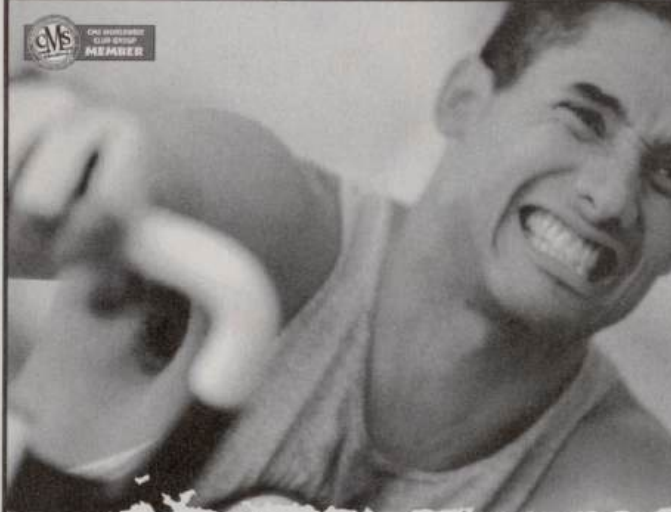
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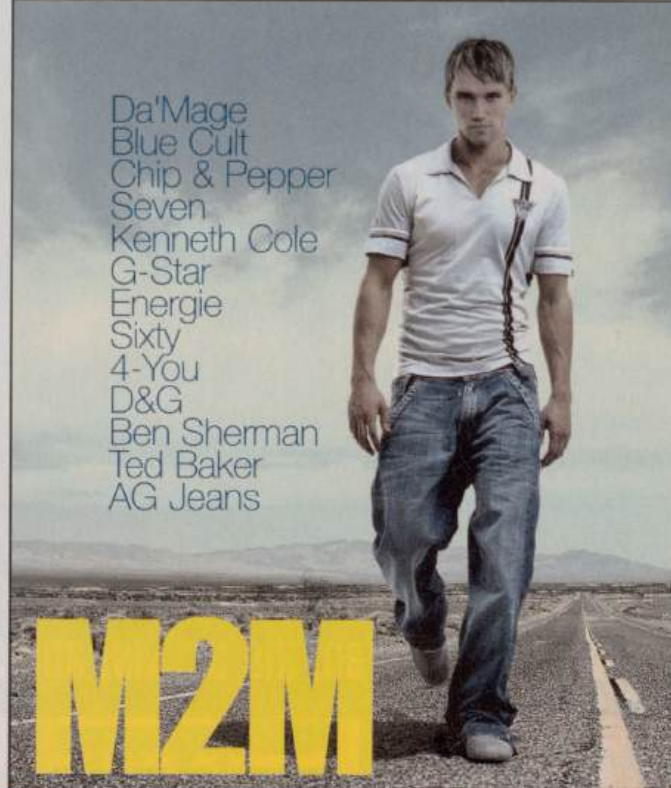
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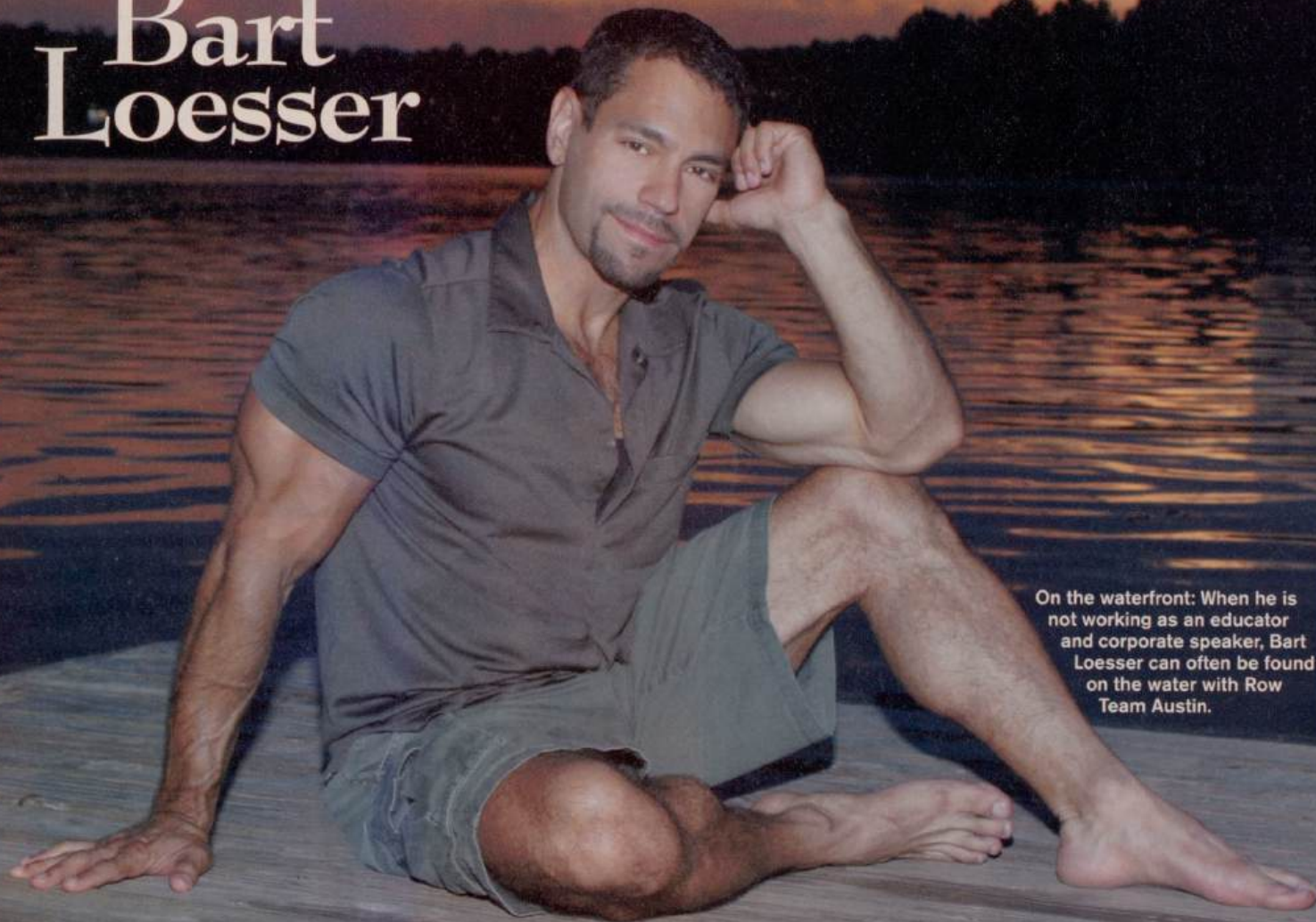
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# Check Up Bart Loesser



On the waterfront: When he is not working as an educator and corporate speaker, Bart Loesser can often be found on the water with Row Team Austin.

Once a Houstonian, the activist and speaker now works and rows in Austin

by Eric A.T. Dieckman • Photos by Leslie Pierce

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. →

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## Check Up continued from page 52

Ten years ago, Bart Loesser lived here and worked for AIDS Foundation Houston (he also contributed a health column to *OutSmart*). He now lives in Austin. I spoke with Loesser by phone last month as he drove home from Fort Worth, where he just taught a seminar on HIV treatment.

Still in the business of educating



health from a physical standpoint, an emotional standpoint, psychologically as well as spiritually," he explains. "When you find your strengths and skills, and build your own confidence, then you become the leader you want to be." This mix of holistic wellness and corporate leadership has become his dream job. "It's everything I ever wanted to do with people. It's a lot of work, a lot of travel, but I absolutely love it. I'm so energized by it. I leave

people about the disease, Loesser now works with Community Access, a company started in New York by HIV-treatment advocates that offers education programs around the country. He leads two or three seminars a month with a focus on anemia.

Loesser says he has taken his own infection with HIV as a call to reassess his priorities from time to time. Before he received his positive diagnosis in August 1986, he was a stockbroker, unsatisfied with his work. "It was the greatest catalyst of my life, as a wakeup call," he says. "I was told I had three years [to live]. I was not going to see 30."

Since then, Loesser has worked for the HIV Wellness Center in Austin and co-owned a corporate events planning business, but what draws him in is teaching. When not leading HIV-treatment seminars, Loesser flies around the country giving leadership-skills seminars for the corporate world.

He bases both HIV and corporate teaching on the same principles. "The bigger issues are keeping up your

**"Back then, when we had to fight for our lives, we really got together in a time of crisis."**

every seminar excited. It's the perfect job for me."

Loesser's diagnosis came in the early days of AIDS, when talk of HIV and T-cell counts was still insider jargon. It took the positive diagnosis of his best friend Mark to get him to even consider getting tested. "I was 25 at the time. I didn't consider [Mark] to be promiscuous. At the time, those are the only people we thought got HIV." Loesser, who has lost two husbands to AIDS, sees a sort of revised return to this indifference in younger generations. With the existence of protease inhibitors, Loesser finds what he terms the "I just wouldn't sleep with someone who's got it" philosophy disturbingly common. "They don't worry about it."

continued on page 89

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## LookOut

by Tim Brookover

**GOOD WORKS.** Over Labor Day weekend, the Empire of the Royal, Sovereign & Imperial Court of the Single Star will present the Peasants Revolt/Monarch's Revenge, raising funds for The Assistance Fund and Montrose Clinic. At Friday and Saturday shows at Guava Lamp and a Sunday-night Brazos River Bottom show, the two sides (monarchs and peasants) will compete to collect the most cash.

At its September 7 meeting at Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, GLOBO (Gays & Lesbians Organized by Orgullo) will award its first college scholarships. The GLBT Latino group, led by president **Abel Rodriguez**, plans to give these awards annually.

On September 23, Theatre Suburbia will present a benefit performance of *The Calling of Jericho Jones*, to raise funds for Omega House. **C. Jean Montgomery**, the playwright, is a nurse who once worked at the AIDS hospice. **Judy Reeves** directs.

AVES (Amigos Volunteers in Education and Service) is one of the beneficiaries of Macy's second annual Community Shopping Day on October 2. By purchasing an advance tickets, bargain-minded shoppers will receive extra discounts throughout the store. The organization keeps all ticket money and will share in Macy's profits from that day. Call **Ralph Lasher** at AVES to buy a \$10 ticket: 713/626-2837.

**Miss Marsha Mink**, representing Cousins, received the title Miss Mint Julep at a July 18 benefit for Montrose Clinic.

**MISSING MISS CAMP?** On the heels of one local HIV/AIDS service organization, the Colt45's AIDS Trouble Fund, sending up a flare about depleted coffers, another prominent funding group is scaling back. The Miss Camp America Foundation, which for 35 years has held an extravagant spoof on that *other* beauty pageant and raised thousands of dollars for AIDS care and treatment, will not stage a major show this year. But the foundation will present a September 18 event at 1415 Bar & Grille, featuring highlights from past performances and collecting donations for The Assistance Fund, Bering Omega Community Services, Montrose Clinic, and Montrose Counseling Center. **Daryl Quijano** is Miss Camp president.

**IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD.** Congratulations to the new board of Stonewall Law Association of Greater Houston: president **Lee Jeronimo**, vice president **Donald Rumer**, secretary **Peggy Bittick**, treasurer **Phyllis Randolph Frye**, and member-at-large and law-student liaison **David Ford**.

**Patrick Palmer** is one of 22 artists/teachers with work in the Glassell Studio faculty exhibition at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. The show opens on September 17.

*OutSmart* photographer **Yvonne Feece** dropped by recently with word that she and three other community-minded gals—her partner, **Rebecca Mahaffey**,



**ON STAGE.** Fans of the alluring **Miss Lupita** will want to arrive early on September 18 for her performance at Mela's. The singer also has a small part in the locally produced film *Late Coffee and Oranges*, directed by **Bunny Watts**, who is interviewed on page 34. Look for a conversation between Miss Lupita (née Guadalupe Cantu) and our **Aaron Coleman** in an upcoming issue.

**Madlyn Sklar**, and **Lynn Sixkiller**—have formed GrooveGirlz Productions to throw social events for the sisterhood. Mark your calendars, ladies: The first happening, the Panty Party, will take place on October 8 at the Rhythm Room. **Sarah Golden** will perform, followed by DJ sets and lots of dancing. Get more info at [www.groovegirlz.com](http://www.groovegirlz.com).

The June 18 world premiere of **Walt Zipprian's** documentary on local drag

diva **Wendy Chicago** was a terrific spectacle. Screaming and stomping, the energetic sold-out house at the Axiom showed a tremendous amount of love for the venerable Miss Chicago, who performed after the screening. She did not disappoint. If you missed the show, you have another chance on September 16 when **Wendy Chicago** screens at the Axiom as part of the Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival (see page 46). ■

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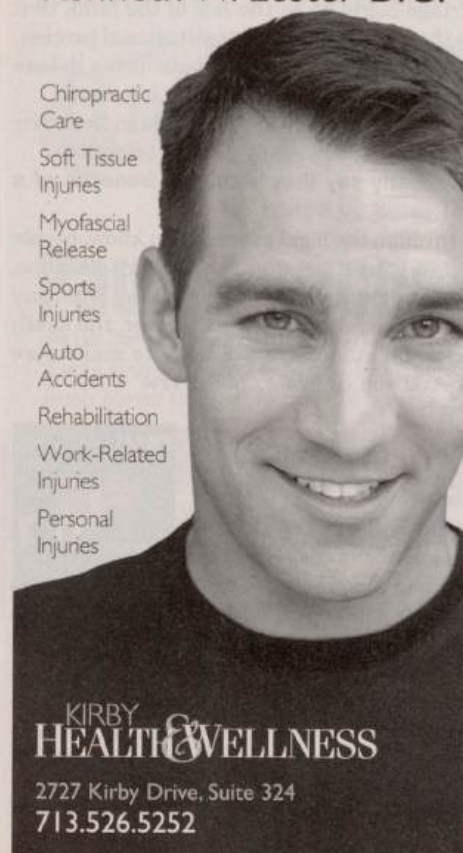
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## President George Bush

(CNN Larry King Live, 8/15/04)

**Larry King:** ... You want a constitutional amendment to protect heterosexual marriage?

**George Bush:** Yes, I do.

**Why? Why do you need an amendment?**

Well, because I'm worried that the laws on the books that basically define marriage as between a man—not basically, *do* define marriage between a man and a woman will be ruled unconstitutional, and then judges will make the decision as to the definition of marriage. And I think it's too important an issue for judges to make that decision. And I think that one way to guarantee that traditional marriage is defined as between a man and a woman is through the constitutional process.

**What about the union of gays?**

Well, that's up to states, you know. If ... they want to provide legal protections for gays, that's great. That's fine. But I do not want to change the definition of marriage. I don't think our country should, from the traditional definition of marriage that's between a man or a woman.

The other thing about the constitutional process, it will get states involved. In other words, the people ought to be involved in this decision. And so that's why I took the stand I took. ...

**You don't amend easily.**

Yeah.

**Laura Bush:** That's right. It's a debate. I mean ...

**George Bush:** Absolutely. But it's an important debate, Larry, and it's a debate that the people need to be involved with, and not courts. And that's what you're beginning to see. There was a decision here in California, it was a court decision. ... [I]t ruled that marriages in San Francisco were illegal according to California law. But the point is that this ought to be decided by people, and I just happen to believe and know that if you believe that traditional marriage ought to be the law of the land, that the way to guarantee that is through the constitutional process.

And I want to say something about this debate. It is a debate that must be conducted with the greatest respect for people. ... I think our society is great because people are able to live their lifestyles, you know, as they choose or as they're oriented.

**Gay people would honestly say they want the benefits of a marriage.**

Well, you can do that through the legal process. You know, people have said to me, Well, if you're gay, you can't inherit because, and you don't get the exemption from income tax. Well, my answer there is get rid of the inheritance tax forever, the death tax, which I'm trying to do. And there are ways to make sure gays have got rights. And you can do so in the law.

## Michael Moore

(Film Comment, Jul/Aug 04, Gavin Smith)

I don't mean to give Bush the benefit of the doubt here, but let's look at him as a human being caught in a very bad place because he's been hanging out with the wrong people. And these people, the Saudi royal family, brutal dictators—I hate calling them “the royals,” because it gives them such a Masterpiece Theater air [*laughs*—these are the f--kers who a couple of years ago celebrated New Year's Day by beheading three gay guys. That's who the Bushes are in bed with.



Michael Moore (l, director of the controversial film *Fahrenheit 9/11*) on the cover of *Film Comment* with a Bush impersonator.



## Girlyman

When asked why they chose the name “Girlyman,” Nate Borofsky said, “We didn't want to take ourselves too seriously, and with a name like ‘Girlyman,’ we can't. Also, the name reflects our annoyance with traditional gender roles.”

Doris Muramatsu added, “And if you put us all in a blender, you'd probably end up with a girly man.”

The band Girlyman (l-r): Ty Greenstein, Nate Borofsky, and Doris Muramatsu

## Alanis Morissette

(CNN Larry King Live, 8/04)

Morissette ... is candid about her experiences with queerness, admitting that she partook of sexual experiences with a female friend during her 20s.

“It was lovely. I loved it,” Morissette shares, “and while there's part of me that deeply wishes I was hardcore homosexual, unfortunately, I feel I am deep down heterosexual.”

“I really think [gay experimentation is] a rite of passage, and I highly recommend it to anybody who's pre-lifelong commitment. Wouldn't this planet be a different place if all fraternities and macho communities were required to experiment with their sexuality? I think it would be really great. It should be, like, required reading.”



Compiled by Blase DiStefano

## Paula Poundstone

(The Late Show with David Letterman, 7/23/04)

“I was court-ordered to Alcoholics Anonymous on television. Pretty much blows the hell out of the second A, wouldn't you say?”

## Ron Reagan Jr.

(The Advocate, 8/31/04, Gail Shister)

“I've been married for 23 years. Pretty good for a gay guy,” laughs Ron Reagan. ...

Being typed as gay “has never bothered me,” says Reagan, 46. ... “I've always thought of it like someone thinking I'm Chinese or something. It's not pejorative, as far as I can see. It's simply incorrect.”

... A registered independent, Reagan says he didn't vote for Bush in 2000 and won't vote for him in November. He won't campaign for anyone, he says, but will support “any viable candidate who can defeat Bush.” He plans to vote for John Kerry.

## Colin Farrell

(Entertainment Weekly, 7/23/04, Dave Karger)

**Dave Karger:** I can't open a paper these days without reading something about your nude scene [in *A Home at the End of the World*]. Are you surprised by all the attention it's gotten?

**Colin Farrell:** Yeah, man, I mean, f--k me! Who gives a f--k? Apart from the readers of *The Advocate* maybe, who wants to see Colin Farrell's c--k that much? And let me tell you, it ain't nothing to f--kin' write home about. ...

**I saw the early version with the scene, and it wasn't that big a deal, pardon the pun.**

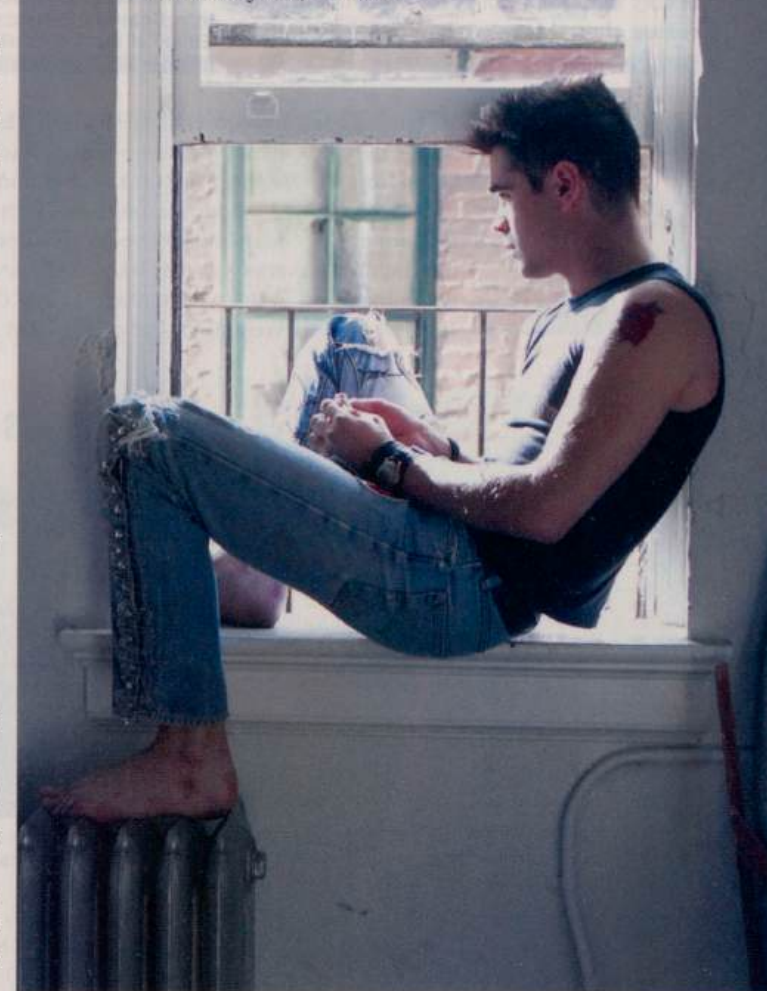
[Laughs] No, it's nothing, man! I walk to a door and you see my c--k, and I walk out of the shot. It's dark, and it's three inches, uh, seconds long.

**But on the set, you felt it was important to do?**

Absolutely. But then you look at it in respect to the film and you say, Do you need it? I don't think it was needed. ... Now you see that I'm naked when I get into the bed with Dallas [Roberts, his male costar], and you see it in a much more beautiful, childlike, and Bobby way. ...

**But now what's been added back in the film is ... the rooftop kiss between you and Dallas.**

The kiss is back in? Good, yeah. It's a very important part of the story. It's very quick and very gentle. It's not exactly *9 1/2 Weeks*.



GIRLYMAN - COURTESY DAEMON RECORDS; FARRELL - RAPIFYWARNER INDEPENDENT PICTURES



# EMMYS' GAY SIDE

Angels in America, Will & Grace, Ellen, & more

This year's "gay" Emmys are dominated by *Angels in America* (21 nominations) and *Will & Grace* (nine nominations). Besides a nomination for Outstanding Miniseries, *Angels in America* nominations include Al Pacino for lead actor, with supporting actor noms going to Patrick Wilson, Justin Kirk, Ben Shenkman, and Jeffrey Wright; lead actress nominations include Emma Thompson and Meryl Streep, with a supporting nod to Mary-Louise Parker.

On the *Will & Grace* front, the sitcom is nominated for Outstanding Comedy Series, with supporting nods going to Sean Hayes and Megan Mullally. Eileen Brennan and John Cleese received nominations for their guest-starring roles.

If you're one of us who sees *Sex and the City* as a story about four gay men in dresses, then this sexy show can definitely be included in the homo Emmys. Not only



No smooch this year: After winning Lead Actress in a Comedy Series, Debra Messing kisses Emmy at last year's awards ceremony. Neither she nor Eric McCormack is nominated this year.

is it in competition with *Will & Grace* for Outstanding Comedy Series, three of the stars (Kim Cattrall, Kristin Davis, and Cynthia Nixon) are up for supporting nods in the same category with Mullally. Sarah Jessica Parker is nominated for lead actress.

*Ellen DeGeneres: Here and Now* received two nominations, one for outstanding individual performance and one for outstanding special. Speaking of Ellen, her bi ex Anne Heche got a supporting actress nod for her role in Lifetime's *Gracie's Choice*.

Last but oh-so-not-least is *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*, which received a nom for Outstanding Reality Program. The Fab Five's show also got a directing nod.

The 56th Annual Primetime Emmy Awards, hosted by Garry Shandling, airs on ABC, Sunday, September 19.

—Blase DiStefano

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On Tuesday, September 14—five days before the Emmy telecast and two days before *Will & Grace's* seventh season premiere—*Will & Grace: Let the Music Out!* hits the shelves of music stores. This compilation from the TV show features a duet from Megan Mullally and Carly Simon on Simon's hit "The Right Thing to Do," while Eric McCormack performs with Barry Manilow on "Living with Grace," a song especially written by McCormack and Manilow for the compilation. The CD also features a special edition of "Footloose" recorded by the Bacon Brothers (yes, that Bacon). Other songs take their inspiration from stars and songs that have appeared on the show in the past, including Cher ("Gypsies, Tramps & Thieves"), Elton John ("The Bitch Is Back"), and Jennifer Lopez ("Waiting for Tonight"). From BMG Music (www.bmg.com). Info: www.willandgracemusic.com.

## SUNDANCE'S LESBIAN SIDE

### The Hours

Nicole Kidman won the 2003 Best Actress Oscar for her portrayal of author Virginia Woolf in this highly acclaimed meditation on literature, human connection, and death. Adapted from Michael Cunningham's Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *The Hours* draws upon Woolf's classic novel *Mrs. Dalloway* to explore the lives of three women in different eras. Among them: Clarissa (Meryl Streep), a contemporary Manhattan book editor who is planning a party for her close gay friend Richard Brown (Ed Harris) who is dying of AIDS; Laura Brown (Julianne Moore), a depressed housewife and mother in 1951 Southern California; and Woolf (Kidman), a blazing talent tormented by mental illness. Oscar nominations included Best Picture and Best Director



Lesbians aplenty: Meryl Streep in *The Hours* (l); Jennifer Tilly and Gina Gershon in *Bound*.



(openly gay Stephen Daldry), among others. Airs on Sundance Channel, Sunday, September 12 at 10:30 p.m., 18th at 8 p.m., 21st at 9 a.m. & 11:30 p.m., and 30th at 7 a.m. & 6 p.m. To confirm schedule: www.sundancechannel.com. —Suzie Lynde

### Bound

Three years before their breakthrough success *The Matrix* (1999), filmmakers Andy and Larry Wachowski made their directorial debut with this finely crafted, tongue-in-cheek thriller. Gina Gershon stars as Corky, an ex-con with sapphic appetites who sets her sights on Violet (Jennifer Tilly), the girlfriend of a Chicago mobster (Joe Pantoliano). Before long, Corky and Violet are not only caught up in a steamy affair, but they are also scheming to grab \$2 million of mob cash. The 1996 film airs on Sundance Channel, Friday, September 10 at 11:30 p.m., 15th at 8 p.m., and 26th at 9 p.m. To confirm schedule: www.sundancechannel.com. —SL

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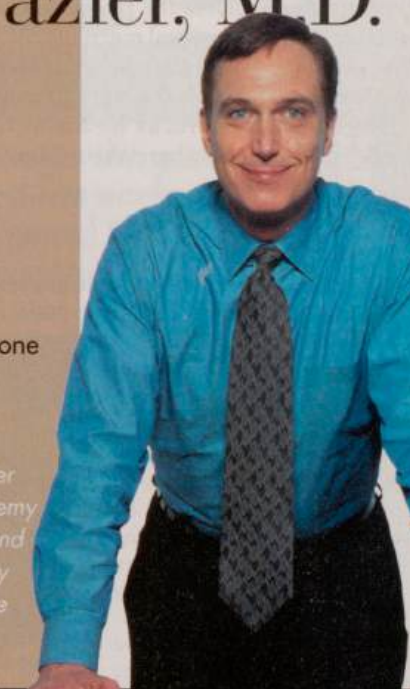


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Blame Canada: A lesbian couple are preparing to tie the knot.

## THE MARRIAGE-GO-ROUND

In the Life spotlights "Mergers and Acquisitions"

on the Christian roots of the nation and why "gay marriage" threatens the foundations of family.

- Tod Roulette and Chuck Allen were planning to make history with their same-sex ceremony planned for November 2003 at the historic St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Harlem. In "Happily Ever After," *ITL* examines how a twist of fate not only derailed the ceremony for the couple but also highlighted the impact of not having the legal rights that can only be secured through marriage.

- For 30 years, transgendered people have legally married, and many of these

mentary *Out in the Cold*, a film investigating the growing percentages of homeless gay youth in America and the harsh realities they face.

- Canada's status as one of only three countries with full and equal marriage rights for same-sex couples allows them to benefit from the economic stimulation of free and equal weddings. In "Blame Canada" *ITL* examines our neighbor to the north and their journey to acquire same-sex marriage rights.
- Finally, in *Out Takes*, *ITL*'s regular commentator Harvey Fierstein shares his take on marriage and more.

Airs on PBS on September 5 at midnight. For more info: [www.pbs.org](http://www.pbs.org).

**V**IBE magazine's former editorial director Emil Wilbekin guest hosts *In the Life*'s (*ITL*) season finale "Mergers and Acquisitions," a full exploration of the term "marriage."

- In "Are You Ready for Marriage," *ITL* speaks to author E.J. Graff (*What Is Marriage For?*) and Freedom to Marry's executive director Evan Wolfson about the evolving institution of marriage and the plethora of legal rights acquired through this union. The piece also explores the recent developments in the push for equal marriage rights.

- Not everyone agrees that gay and lesbian Americans should have the right to marry. In "The End of the World as We Know It," a number of opponents share their thoughts

couples currently live in government-sanctioned same-sex unions. However, the recent spotlight on same-sex marriage rights has rendered these matrimonial pioneers vulnerable to attacks by the conservative right. In "Heterosexual Privilege" *ITL* looks at recent court cases and visits with a transgendered couple to find out why marriage matters.

- For this month's Real to Reel, *ITL* speaks with Judy Shepard and the directors of the Matthew Shepard Foundation's docu-



Happily ever after: A gay couple didn't tie the knot.

### About In the Life

**I**n the Life is the TV newsmagazine of record on gay and lesbian America. A three-time Emmy Award nominee, *In the Life* blends hard-hitting journalism, lively entertainment reports, and bold commentary for a no-holds-barred look at gay and lesbian life. A

television pioneer, the show launched in 1992 and became the country's first regularly scheduled gay-themed program.

—Troy Carrington

### HERE IS HERE!

**H**ere! TV, the first nationwide gay television service, officially launched on satellite TV in August 2003 on DIRECTV and subsequently on DISH Network in March 2004. Here! TV is expected to launch its companion 24/7 pay-television services on October 1, 2004.

September's line-up includes:

#### The Event

Part mystery, part human drama and a good dose of humor, this film directed by Thom Fitzgerald (*The Hanging Garden*, *Beefcake*) is an ensemble piece headed by Olympia Dukakis (*Moonstruck*, *Tales of the City*) and indie-darling Parker Posey (*Party Girl*, *Waiting for Guffman*, *Scream 3*). When Matt (Don McKellar), sick from AIDS, insists on dying at home with his friends and family present, some serious legal and ethical questions arise.



Aide to AIDS: Don McKellar (l) and Olympia Dukakis in *The Event*.

#### Sugar Sweet

One of the very first Japanese films about lesbians, *Sugar Sweet* focuses on Naomi, a television-series director by day and porn director by night. In a moment of despair, Naomi divulges her secret to an on-line confidante. Soon, our heroine finds herself in the director's chair of the

first girl-meets-girl matchmaking show.

#### Speed Demon

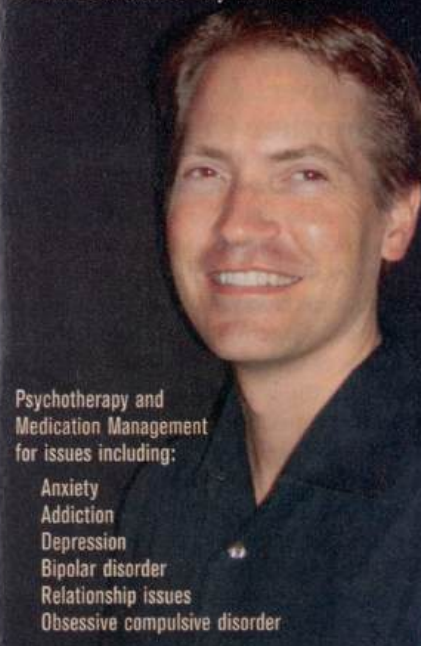
Jesse returns home from college to find that his brother has joined a ferocious gang of hot-

rodders. However, a mysterious driver in an ominous muscle car begins to hunt down and kill the gang members one by one. When Jesse goes looking for answers, he sets out on a collision course with terror.

For more info, visit Here! TV's website at [www.heretv.com](http://www.heretv.com).

**Too Cool for Christmas** is a film from Here! TV that recently went into production and stars George Hamilton and Donna Mills. It is the first "gay-themed" family holiday movie and is due to air on Here! TV in November and December. ■

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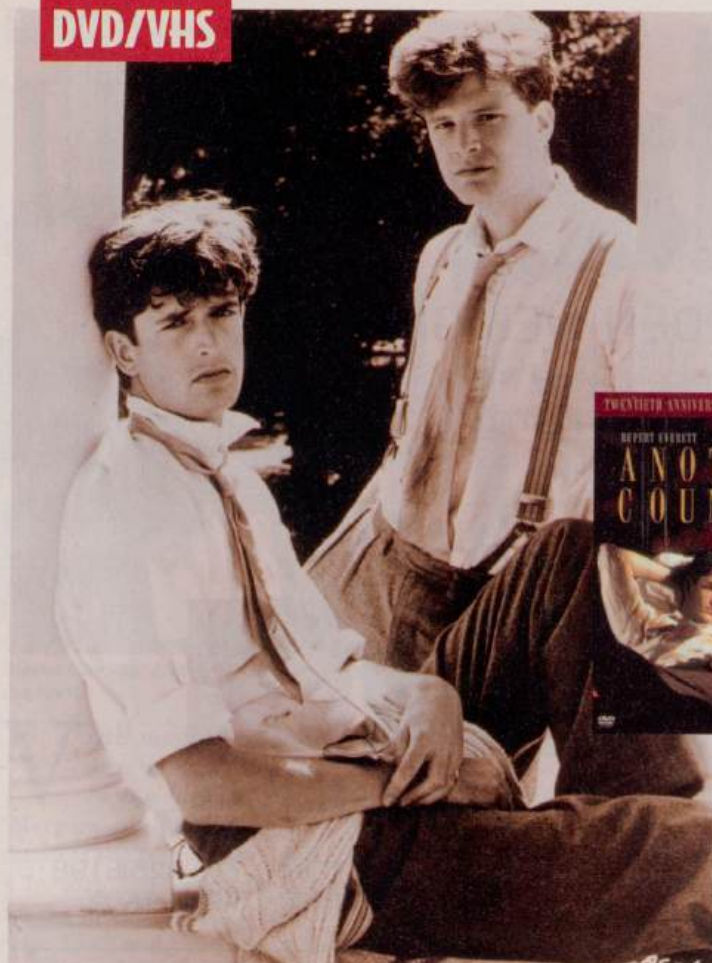
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Loyal friends: *Another Country* stars Rupert Everett (l) and Colin Firth.

## GAY COUNTRY

Openly gay Rupert Everett plays gay in *Another Country*

In a shabby apartment in Moscow, an American journalist asks a retired spy why he betrayed his country and defected to the USSR 50 years ago. The answers take them back to 1932, where in the closed atmosphere of a British boys' school, young Guy Bennett (Rupert Everett) realizes that his attraction to his classmates is more than a passing phase. There, in an environment permeated by desire and denial in the wake of a gay classmate's suicide, Bennett falls desperately in love with a younger student, James Harcourt (Cary Elwes), and is introduced to Marxism by Tommy Judd (Colin Firth), his most loyal friend.

In celebration of the 20th anniversary of this classic film, BBC Video ([www.bbcamerica.com](http://www.bbcamerica.com)) releases a special edition DVD on September 7. The DVD features 5.1 sound and a restored picture; a *Newsnight* interview in which Everett, Kenneth Branagh, and playwright Julian Mitchell discuss the play on which the film is based; a commentary by director Marek Kaniévski; and more.

—Troy Carrington

### MORE DVD/VHS PREVIEWS

#### Swoon



Nathan Leopold Jr. and Richard Loeb were two Jewish intellectuals who became famous in 1920s Chicago for the kidnapping and murder of a boy. These brilliant, precocious 18-year-old men genuinely took pleasure in criminal activity. Their motives were chilling—they wanted to do it simply to prove to themselves that they were smart enough to get away with it. After committing the murder, however, they were captured by the clues they left behind and by their jumbled alibis, and the subsequent trial became international news—and served to reinforce the culture's then-stereotypes about the dangers of homosexuality, Judaism, and intellectualism. Leopold and Loeb escaped the death penalty only because of an impassioned defense by Clarence Darrow, the best-known defense attorney of the time, who argued that they were insane, and used their homosexuality as proof of insanity. • Smart, stylized, and emotionally jarring, *Swoon* introduces the talents of openly gay Craig Chester (Leopold) and Dan Schlachet (Loeb), and uses an experimental narrative format to explore the social,

judicial, and psychological forces which acted upon these two lives. • 1992. Directed by Tom Kalin and produced by Christine Vachon, who is now openly lesbian. • From Strand Releasing ([www.strandreleasing.com](http://www.strandreleasing.com)). —Suzie Lynde

#### Peoria Babylon



Jon Ashe (David Drake) needs more. The 20 gay men of Peoria are tacky, boring, and unimaginative. Candy Dineen (Ann Cusack) is well-bred, blonde, and broke. Together they own two halves of a failing gallery. Their dreams are shattered, depressed, and glum until a hunky art stud shows his talent for art forgery and publicity stunts. As the three conspire, together they imagine a most successful venture. They decide to create an art massacre, destroying some of the world's most famous paintings... with a twist. The unbelievable art con gains fame, wealth, and success along with a town full of problems. In the end, what remains are the pleas of a lesbian porn drag queen-turned-congresswoman, her angry lover Peoria's godfather, his disgruntled wife, and a snooty gallery director. • 1997. Directed by Steven Diller and costarring The Lady Bunny. • From Ariztical

Entertainment ([www.ariztical.com](http://www.ariztical.com)). More info: Culture Q Connection ([www.cultureqconnection.com](http://www.cultureqconnection.com)). —SL

#### AKA



This 2002 film is loosely based on director Duncan Roy's own life and follows the strange odyssey of a working-class teenager who infiltrates the hermetic, decadent world of the European aristocracy circa 1979. Kicked out of his home by his abusive stepfather, Dean Page (Matthew Leitch) manages to get a job with the widely reviled art dealer Lady Gryffoyn (Diana Quick). But Lady Gryffoyn's largesse is short-lived and the young Page soon sets out for Paris, where he successfully reinvents himself as her son, Lord Alexander Gryffoyn, and meets David, an older gay man, and Benjamin, a young hustler. • The DVD features two versions of the film, a triptych 3-panel view as seen in theaters with director's commentary and a single-frame version. *AKA* won the Audience Award for Outstanding First Narrative Feature at the 2002 L.A. Outfest. • From Sundance Channel Home Entertainment ([www.sundancechannel.com](http://www.sundancechannel.com)). —TC

#### Maggie & Annie



Annie has a wonderful husband and a darling little girl, everything she's ever wanted in life. At least that's what she thinks until she meets Maggie—cute, athletic, and openly lesbian—at a softball game and discovers something in herself she never knew existed. The two women become teammates and friends, but Maggie refuses to acknowledge or act on her own attraction out of respect for the family Annie has created. As their relationship deepens, it becomes impossible for the women to deny their mutual desire any longer. A night of dancing and drinking leads Annie into Maggie's arms, and their love affair is born. Will this secret love last or will Annie choose to return to the comfort of her former life? • 2002. Directed by Kimberly K. Wilson and stars Amy Thiel, Joy Yandell, and Adam Fox. • From Ariztical Entertainment ([www.ariztical.com](http://www.ariztical.com)). More info: Culture Q Connection ([www.cultureqconnection.com](http://www.cultureqconnection.com)). —SL

#### Crazy Richard: I Can't Even Think Straight



At eight years old, Richard Veed (Dylan Ettridge) was the highest paid and most popular star on television. Five years later, he suffered a near-fatal drug overdose and was instantly forgotten. Now, aged 21, Richard (Richard Viede) attempts to recapture the spotlight as a promiscuous gay teenager in the late-night sitcom *I Can't Even Think Straight*. Katrina Matters (Katrina Mathers), a young filmmaker, is hired to shoot behind the scenes of Richard's new show and becomes entwined in the drama of his real life. Richard's insatiable quest for fame and Katrina's voyeurism pushes the fallen angel too far. Will Katrina turn off the camera before it's too late? • 2002. Directed by Dean Francis. • From Ariztical Entertainment ([www.ariztical.com](http://www.ariztical.com)). More info: Culture Q Connection ([www.cultureqconnection.com](http://www.cultureqconnection.com)). —SL

#### 2 by 4



Irish construction worker Johnny Maher (Jimmy Smallhorne) likes roughing it up in the North Bronx. At night he sings karaoke and drinks whiskey with his mates. This great American life with girlfriend Maria (Kimberly Topper) is threatened by the horrors of Johnny's forgotten past. A night of passion with a street hustler revitalizes lusts from his past and the torment of his childhood. Johnny turns to his uncle (Chris O'Neill), the only person who may hold the key to his past. He has no choice but to confront the demons of his past or be destroyed by them. • 1998. Directed by Jimmy Smallhorne. • From Ariztical Entertainment ([www.ariztical.com](http://www.ariztical.com)). More info: Culture Q Connection ([www.cultureqconnection.com](http://www.cultureqconnection.com)). —TC

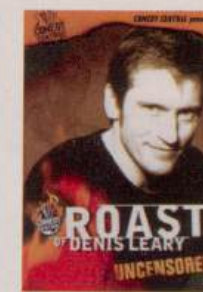
#### So Graham Norton



Irreverent, mischievous, and downright hilarious, there is nothing like it anywhere in the world. Openly gay Graham Norton asks the most outrageously personal questions of his audience and celebrity guests. Equally able to send up members of the public and the rich and famous, Norton says the things that the rest of the world would never dare utter. A stranger to political correctness, Norton unmercifully probes a host of celebrity guests who become the butt of his wicked gags. His humor is so infectious that his guests can't help but join in the fun. • This brand-new DVD features an interview with Norton and the best bits from his multi-award-winning chat show, featuring Elton John, Dolly Parton, Alan Cumming, Cher, Kim Cattrall, Orlando Bloom, Dustin Hoffman, Queen Latifah, and many more. Hot on the heels of Norton's premiere on Comedy Central, the release of *So Graham Norton* is a must for fans of Norton's hilarious and outrageous antics. From BBC Video ([www.bbcamerica.com](http://www.bbcamerica.com)). —TC

#### Roast of Denis Leary Uncensored

Denis Leary is an asshole and proud of it. And that's why his friends are lining up to rake him over the coals. Gina Gershon and Colin Quinn join Jon Stewart, Conan O'Brien, and Rene Russo in paying homage to the man who built his career on cigarettes and rage. So light 'em



up and join in the fun, because the only thing that can shut Denis Leary up is a taste of his own medicine... and maybe a mouth-to-mouth kiss from Mario Cantone. • The DVD features Leary's full-length uncensored and uncensored rebuttal. • From Comedy Central Home Entertainment ([www.comedycentral.com](http://www.comedycentral.com)) and Paramount Home Entertainment ([www.paramount.com/homeentertainment](http://www.paramount.com/homeentertainment)). —TC

#### South Park: The Passion of the Jew



Comedy Central's always controversial series *South Park*, which explores different religious themes in an intelligent and boldly irreverent way, presents its take on Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ*. Episodes featured: "The Passion of the Jew," "Christian Rock Hard," and "Red Hot Catholic Love." • From Comedy Central Home Entertainment ([www.comedycentral.com](http://www.comedycentral.com)) and Paramount Home Entertainment ([www.paramount.com/homeentertainment](http://www.paramount.com/homeentertainment)). FYI: At press time, the DVD of *South Park: The Passion of the Jew* was to be released on August 31, the same day as Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ* DVD. —TC ■

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# BOYS NOISE

*It's a (gay) man's world  
on these new releases*



Unapologetically  
gay: Brady Earnhart

For the first time that I can remember, the number of CDs that I have received for review by openly gay males has surpassed the number of CDs sent to me by women. This is by no means meant to

be a competition, but gay men (and lesbians) looking for genuine queer music (which doesn't include the *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* soundtrack) by male performers have a fascinating array from which to choose.

**Manalapan** (City Salvage), the second full-length album by **Brady Earnhart** is so brilliant and wondrous that it's almost unfair to write about any other CDs in the same column. Earnhart is first and foremost a poet (he received an MFA in poetry from the University of Iowa), and his lyrics have a sophistication and sensitivity that is rare in the contemporary queer music scene. And the subject matter is unapologetically gay—from "Whitman in 1863" (written in the voice of the queer poet) to "Honey Don't Think Your Mama Don't Know," in which the singer sends a closeted lover off to his family for Christmas and worries about him "trying not to say my name." But the singer believes that the lover's mother, who named him Troy "to remind you what to buy when you find a boy," knows more than she's letting on. In the sincerely sweet "Car Repair," Earnhart troubles himself over what he should wear when he goes to get his car repaired because he has a crush on the mechanic, and "Good Night Friday Night" might be the best song ever written about last call in a gay bar. While I don't know in what order he writes his songs—lyrics or music first—the outcome is perfection. The music and the words are ideally suited to each other. Earnhart's vocals and acoustic guitar are supplemented

by Gina Pezzoli's cello on the title track, while Kris Curran's French horn shines through on "I Just Want More." The backing vocals on "Arlington" give it an early Simon & Garfunkel zest. I cannot recommend this disc strongly enough.

**Michael Holland's** fourth album, the long-awaited **Beach Toys Won't Save You** (Miss Prim) is a radiant and summery disc that will have you reaching for the sunscreen and the beach umbrella, no matter what season it is. On "Wish You Were Here," Holland bids "bitter, wintry weather" farewell, becomes a gay Beach Boy on "Beatrice's Boyfriend," and on "Boys Say Go," Holland merges girl group energy and punk pop punch for a 21st-century gay anthem. "Drive Drive" suggests the car songs of the '60s, and the dance-floor fixed "It's Too Late (for a Summer Love)" recalls k.d. lang's "Summerfling." Holland also has a way with touching ballads, as you can hear on "Everything in the Whole Wide World" and "More."

**Space Under Sun** (Gold 18), the second full-length album by Outmusic Award-winning blue-eyed soul singer/songwriter **Ari Gold** boasts song production by Desmond Child ("Intimate") and a title track co-written by Marsha ("Love Don't Need a Reason") Malamet. So, why isn't this release

more interesting? It's obvious, even without the obstruction of a vocoder, that Gold can sing, as you can hear on "Bashert (Meant to Be)" and "Back to Me." Gold also exhibits a distinctive sense of humor on "He's on My Team," a duet with Kendra Ross, in which he debates whether a hot guy is checking out him or her. The question for me is whether or not we really need a gay Justin Timberlake? For that matter, do we really need a straight Justin Timberlake?

Speaking of Justins, **Justin Tranter**, another Outmusic-winning artist has just released his second album, **Tear Me Together** (Third Verse). Witnessing Tranter's live performance at the 2003 Outmusic Awards ceremony, I had a better grasp of his work, something that didn't occur completely when I listened to *Scratched*, his debut disc. *Tear Me Together* does a more perfunctory job of capturing Tranter's nearly frenetic and unbridled live energy. It bonds the album, sometimes giddily, as on "Yadadada," and other times furiously on "Gag Reflex," "Martyrs & Monsters," "In Our Science," and the breathless rush of "Good Luck With Your Armageddon." Tranter also sounds equally comfortable

delivering dramatic power ballads such as "Fear of Frailty," "Ultimatum," "Borrowing," and "Sad as It Is."

Gay men and jazz are not a new combination. From Billy Strayhorn to Andy Bey to Gary Burton, the influence of gay men resounds. Among the mostly highly regarded contemporary performers and composers is Grammy-nominated and GLAMA-winning **Fred Hersch**. Hersch returns with his trio (Drew Gress on bass, Nasheet Waits on drums, Hersch on piano)

for **+2** (Palmetto), on which they are joined by a brass section consisting of Ralph Alessi and Tony Malaby. The nine originals (including "A Riddle Song," which like the aforementioned Brady Earnhart song, is a reference to Walt Whitman) and one cover (Lennon and McCartney's "And I Love Her") give the listener the feeling of sitting at an intimate table for two in a smoky jazz club.

Welsh jazz vocalist **Ian Shaw** made me dizzy with glee after listening to his latest album, **A World Still Turning** (441). As daring an effort as you are likely to hear, Shaw applies his ample vocal talents to some unexpected musical selections and hits the jackpot. Beginning with the '70s →



Justin  
Tranter

## GrooveOut Shorts

**Tony Bennett**  
*Cloud 7*



The cover of *Cloud 7*, the picture of a young girl with her eyes closed blissfully snapping her fingers, hints perfectly at what's inside. With a series of incredibly humble arrangements (there aren't even any violins) to the songs, and a very young voice making its way through the smoke, this is Tony in his prime. And though you can argue that his "prime" could very well extend over the period of decades, this is special in that it is a record he released after only having been involved in the industry a few short years. The album was originally released in 1955, and with the exception of a little hiss in the recording, it's just as valid today as it was nearly 50 years ago. Sing it, Tony. From Columbia ([www.columbiarecords.com](http://www.columbiarecords.com)). —Lance Scott Walker

**Jeff Buckley**  
*Grace: Legacy Edition*

In 1994 Columbia Records, the label that introduced Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen, and, well, Barbra Streisand to the record-buying public, released an album that, although falling short of advance hype and expectations at the time, has now come to be regarded as one of the most soulful and critically lauded albums of the '90s. The album was *Grace* and



the singer was 26-year-old Jeff Buckley. Three years later Buckley was dead, and since then the legend has grown, in part because Buckley's father, the folk singer Tim Buckley, had also died young. Now, for the many devoted fans of *Grace* comes Columbia's three-disc set *Grace: Legacy Edition*, which includes: (1) the original album newly remastered; (2) 13 rarities and collectors' items, some from the original *Grace* sessions; and (3) a DVD of video clips, archival studio recordings, interviews, and live performances. Buckley's music, whether he's performing his own songs or covering those of more established legends (Leonard Cohen, Bob Dylan, Screamin' Jay Hawkins, Hank Williams . . . Screamin' Jay Hawkins?), is by turns sensitive, ethereal, enigmatic, rocking, abrasive, or just strange—which is to say: not for everybody. Although Buckley released only one full-length album in his lifetime, there have been innumerable releases since his tragic death on May 29, 1997. This new edition of *Grace* is a welcome addition. More info: [www.columbiarecords.com/jeffbuckley](http://www.columbiarecords.com/jeffbuckley) and [www.jeffbuckley.com](http://www.jeffbuckley.com). —Jack Varsi

**Terri Clark**  
*Greatest Hits*

Ever since she announced to the world that she has better things to do, Terri Clark has been capturing hearts in Nashville. The Canadian country artist has covered everything from her trade-mark honky-tonk to adult contemporary and beautiful ballads. The *Greatest Hits*



disc includes a live version of "No Fear," a song she wrote with Mary Chapin Carpenter, and the popular single "Girls Lie Too." The strong emotion in her voice is conveyed in her songs that are often playful, sometimes cynical, but mostly hopeful. From Mercury Nashville ([www.mercurynashville.com](http://www.mercurynashville.com)). More info: [www.terri-clark.com](http://www.terri-clark.com). —Andrea Rodricks

**Ann Hampton Callaway**  
*Slow*



Callaway performs pop and jazz standards, contemporary classics, and her noted originals. *Slow* also features a song, "Tonight You're All Mine," Callaway wrote and recorded with singer/songwriter Carole King. Another highlight includes her first recording of the song she co-wrote for Barbra Streisand to sing to James Brolin on their wedding day. From Shanachie Entertainment. More info: [www.annhamptoncallaway.com](http://www.annhamptoncallaway.com). —Troy Carrington

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Turn to page 70 for Gay Grooves →

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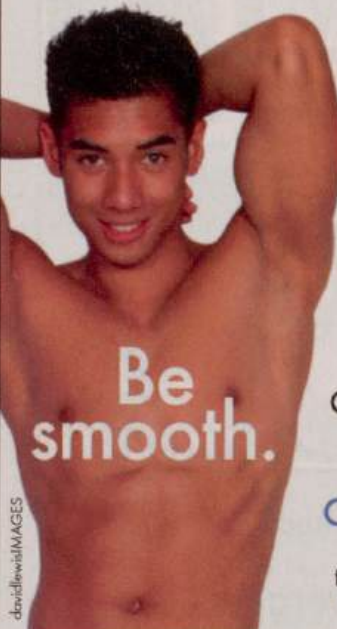
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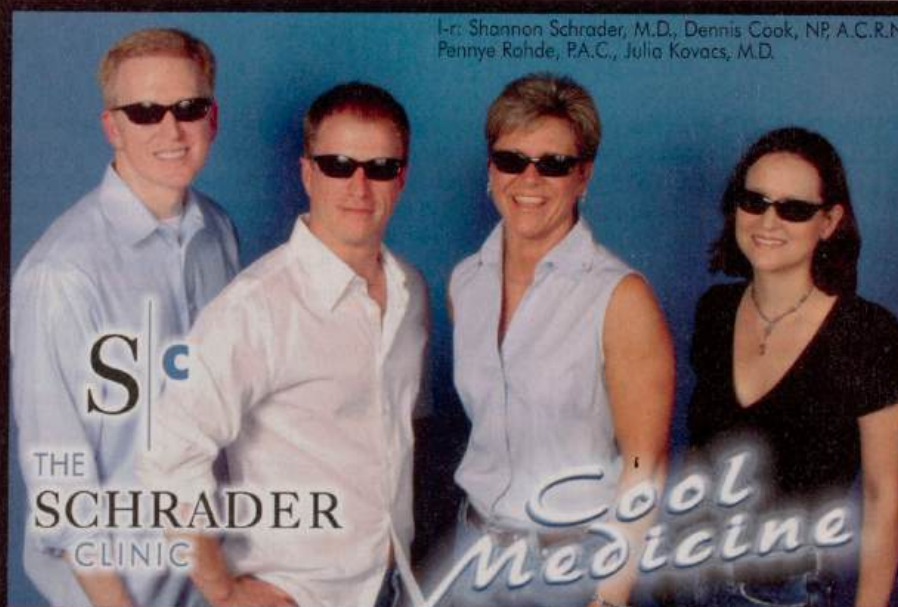
### GrooveOut continued from page 67

classic, "Alone Again, Naturally" and continuing on to a jazz deconstruction of the Elton John song "We All Fall in Love Sometimes," Shaw, and the listener, are given the opportunity to become reacquainted with songs that we thought we knew. David Bowie ("An Occasional Dream"), Bob Dylan ("Gotta Serve Somebody"), Randy Newman ("Guilty"), and Radiohead ("The Tourist") all soar in their new jazz settings. For those listeners less willing to take those kinds of risks, Shaw also covers songs by Harry Warren ("This Is Always"), Kurt Weill ("Speak Low") and Jimmy Dorsey ("I'm Glad There Is You").

Justin Hayford has made a career of performing and recording obscure gems, thereby shining much needed light on them and allowing them to shine. **Look Who's Been Dreaming** (LML Music), the eagerly anticipated follow-up to 2001's *A Rare Find*, continues the tradition. Pianist Hayford's cabaret crooning, accompanied by Phil Gratteau and Jim Cox, glows like the light from the projection booth in a movie palace as he turns his attention to "neglected treasures from Hollywood's golden age." The title track is a dreamy romantic number, while "You Lucky People You," "Never Swat a Fly," and "Please Pardon Us We're in Love," are clever and perky tunes that have the ability to set toes a-tapping. The album's centerpiece, a gorgeous reading of "Baby Mine" (from *Dumbo*) is a tearjerker lullaby that will soothe you between sobs.

The aptly titled **Someday Peace Love & Freedom** (w.nhojj.com) by Nhojj, is acoustic soul music with a message. Addressing homelessness ("The Beggar's Cup"), settling disagreements ("Peace"), ending ignorance and hate ("Fighting for Love," "Someday"), and loss ("I Miss You"), Nhojj does it all with an island flavor and the resolve of church music.

The Outvoice top 40 chart of CDs by queer artists has, for me, been an incredible resource. It's a great way to find out when a performer, especially an independent one, will be releasing a new CD. **Steven Gellman** is a singer/songwriter who experienced popularity on those charts. **Love Loss Longing** (Hidden Poet) is Gellman's latest CD, his first in a number of years, released following the traumatic breakup of his relationship. Gellman has a pleasant voice and is a capable guitarist, and the production values are very high. The opening track is a terrific rendition of the traditional "Shenandoah," on which Gellman is joined vocally by acclaimed folk singer Kate Campbell. I only wish that the rest of material lived up to the setting. Musically, the songs are interesting in a folk-pop vein, but the lyrics are often →



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## GAY GROOVES



### Various Artists ABBAlicious

Oh, man... you know when you hear about a bunch of boys dressed up in drag doing ABBA that you're in for something tasty. Difference is that these boys aren't just lip-synching—they have completely re-recorded, re-imagined, and reinvented the songs. So what after that? They can *really* sing. Especially Sade Pendarvis, who delivers a husky, jaw-dropping version of "Knowing Me Knowing You." Yes, it is camp, and they have made ABBA more theater than ABBA really is, but the boys can sing, and the new arrangements of the songs are brilliant enough to make you sorta not miss the originals. Rumored to be coming to Houston in Spring/Summer 2005. Available online now at [www.FigJamEnt.com](http://www.FigJamEnt.com) and in stores nationwide in October. —LSW



### Lipstick Conspiracy Don't Tell a Soul

"It's really simple, cos I'm just another girl," sings Marilyn Mitchell on the opening track of this five-song disc. And she means it because she *is* a girl. Or at least she is one now—as are all the members of Lipstick Conspiracy. The songs retain a distinct late '80s feel—almost like they came right off of the *Miami Vice* soundtrack. But these girls aren't running around in pink suits. Just voted Best Girl Band by the editorial staff of the *San Francisco Bay Guardian*. Self-released ([www.lipstickconspiracy.com](http://www.lipstickconspiracy.com)). —LSW



### Pamela Means Single Bullet Theory

Pamela Means is a Boston-based out(spoken), biracial, independent artist whose "kamikaze guitar style" and punchy provocative songs have worn a hole in her guitar. Armed with razor wit poetry and irresistible charm, Means's "stark, defiant songs" (*New York Times Magazine*) set the status quo and the stage afire. A timely release, *Single Bullet Theory* confronts the USA Patriot Act, racial profiling, and the Bush Administration, while advocating for the rights of marginalized identities. With truth as ammunition, Means brings the fight for social justice and human dignity to the forefront of a new generation. Means recently won the Outmusic award for Outstanding New Recording (Female). From Wirl Records. More info: [www.pamelameans.com](http://www.pamelameans.com). —SL



### Scissor Sisters Scissor Sisters

The standout moment on this, a sweeping exercise in modernizing the lost art of disco, comes from an unlikely place. The third

track is titled "Comfortably Numb," which happens to be the same name as Pink Floyd's 1979 hit song. Thing is, you have to check the lyrics to convince yourself it's the same song. And that's the approach of a band who are, as they say, "displaying their fantasies on the outside." It is an incredibly unabashed record—especially in the Bee Gees-esque falsetto voice of Jake Shears—with an approach to rejuvenating disco that, instead of taking a Lexus out on the road, it's more like they're driving a '57 Chevy. From Universal Motown ([www.universalmotown.com](http://www.universalmotown.com)). —LSW



### Girlyman Remember Who I Am

Imagine a modern-day Peter, Paul & Mary—only edgier and with a quirky sense of humor. Doris Muramatsu, Nate Borofsky, and Ty Greenstein are long-time musicians and friends who create a rich, poignant, playful sound that crosses genres and genders. Girlyman's harmony-driven style veers from contemporary folk to country rock to pop. Each member switches off songwriting duties, lead vocals, and a range of instruments, including acoustic guitar, djembe, banjo, baritone guitar, and mandolin. From Daemon Records ([www.daemonrecords.com](http://www.daemonrecords.com)). More info: [www.girlyman.com](http://www.girlyman.com). —TC



### K.d. lang Hymns of the 49th Parallel

K.d. lang, who caused considerable controversy within the traditional world of country music with her androgynous appearance and rock-inflected pop-country music, has lent her voice to a wide range of material showcasing many musical styles. This Canadian songbook is a glowing tribute to the singer-songwriters who had a profound impact on her. Lang pays homage to fellow Canadian artists Joni Mitchell, Leonard Cohen, Neil Young, Jane Siberry, Ron Sexsmith, and Bruce Cockburn. From Nonesuch Records ([www.nonesuch.com/kdlang](http://www.nonesuch.com/kdlang)). More info: [www.kdlang.com](http://www.kdlang.com). —AR



### Athena Reich Stranger Things Have Happened

Athena Reich is a New York City-based singer/songwriter and actress who has been performing in television, film, radio, and theater since age 12. Reich, who is openly lesbian, has done everything from sketch comedy to playing a crack-head on TV to painting herself gold and standing still in Times Square for money. *Stranger Things Have Happened* is Reich's quirkiest, liveliest, and most fully integrated project to date. Combining folk, punk, ska, pop, and cabaret, Reich intertwines her exceptional musicianship into gorgeous and →

## GrooveOut continued from previous page

lazy and predictable. Maybe it's a question of maturity, because Gellman certainly has the potential to be a better lyricist.

Uninspired lyrics are also a problem on Ricardo Alvarado's compilation, *Unveiled* (Odracir), which is subtitled "celebrating a decade of music 1993–2003." Most of the songs on the 15-track disc are in the dance pop realm and suffer from an absence of energy and originality. As with Gellman, it is obvious that Alvarado is not lacking for enthusiasm, just creativity.

Before I get to the numerous debuts by gay male performers, it's important to note that Phideaux (Xavier), a longstanding figure in the queer music scene, has released a new album titled *Fiendish* (Blood Fish). A progressive rock production, the album is one of the best indications of the variety of musical styles in which gay men work. The influences of Pink Floyd, Jethro Tull, and others can be heard synthesized through the 11 songs on Phideaux's disc.

Because of Phideaux, and many others, new generations of gay male performers continue to spring up in the rock, pop, folk, and soul realms. *Wandering Eyes* (Deep Tissue) is the ballyhooed full-length debut disc by Dylan Rice. Rice, who was taken under the wing of openly gay former Styx member Chuck Panozzo, is a savvy young performer with a knack for catchy and edgy pop songs. The opening track, "Distant Planet," rocks like a meteor. A Rice staple, "March of the Misunderstood," is an anthem for those disenfranchised by divorce. "Just Like You" could be the theme song of anyone looking for Mr. Right (not Mr. Right Now), and "Drama Queen," another of Rice's signature tunes, is the most ready-made radio song on the disc. "I Do & I Don't," from which the album draws its title, also has *hit* written all over it. Rice sounds best on "Lucky to Need You," on which he is allowed to sing unencumbered. Live, Rice swivels and sneers like a gay Chris Isaak, and shouldn't be missed.

The previously mentioned Ari Gold isn't the only gay male artist dabbling in the dance realm. Bill Budd sounds like he was listening to a lot of David Gray while he created the set of melodic and moody electronic tracks on his debut album, *And So Here...* (IndieRec). That's not necessarily a bad thing, as you can hear on "Trying Here" and "Again." J. has been making a name for himself recently with the club remixes of some of the songs "So High" and "Without My One and Only." The original boy-group-like versions of those songs (and others) can be found on *Animal* (TUNEngine).

I'm not a fan of the EP (extended play) release, because I never feel satisfied. →



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Three or four songs are never enough for me. That said, I did want to mention a pair of EPs that make me look forward to the full-length releases by the artists. **Broken** (Rubber/Glue) by **Douglas Wood** consists of four songs, three of which ("Broken," "The Voice," and "The Voice") are rhythmic tracks that are well suited to Wood's vocals. However, Wood really gets the chance to show off his abilities on the rock ballad "There Is a Stone." The self-titled three-song EP by **Scandelle** is a pleasant, if all too brief, introduction to a promising singer/songwriter. "Speak Easy" is about turning away a pretty thing with the line, "No means no. Not maybe." "Afterlife" is a subtle, if pulsating, dance track, and the acoustic soul ballad "You'll Be Back" may make some listeners hope that Scandelle will be back with more songs.

#### ON THE WEB

Shapiro's article continues at [www.outsmartmagazine.com](http://www.outsmartmagazine.com).

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

#### Gay Grooves

innovative melodies. Reich is a co-founder of SirensWildRide ([www.sirenswildride.com](http://www.sirenswildride.com)), a touring collection of female performers who have corporate sponsorship and tour nationally. More info: [www.athenareich.com](http://www.athenareich.com). -SL



**Patricia Barber**  
**Live: A Fortnight in France**  
Recorded at clubs in three French cities, *Live: A Fortnight in France* features openly lesbian Patricia Barber delivering five

originals and five covers rendered with romance, edginess, and esprit. The CD opens with the richly haunting "Gotcha," a new Barber composition with the terrific first lines: "Did you ever think a piano would fall on your head?/Do you look over your shoulder at all?" In typical Barber songwriting fashion, the tune evokes humor and evinces paranoia. Another new composition is the unsettling "White World," in which she rails about "Third-world Thebes" and men arriving in the "jungle with . . . new khaki clothes" to connect with "the primitives." She says, "I was thinking about anthropologists when I was writing this. But as I was writing, it became obvious that the song was about imperialism: the white guys, us, me, the war." Available September 7 from Blue Note Records ([www.bluenote.com](http://www.bluenote.com)). -SL



**Zoë Lewis**  
**Small Is Tremendous**  
Zoë Lewis is a source of undying energy that is contagious. Her fifth CD, *Small Is Tremendous*, is better than a cup of coffee on your way to work. Her view of change in "Tadpole Puddle" makes you nod your head in understanding while creating a chuckle. She sings an absolutely hilarious song about Snow White at Disney. Her approach and style with music is refreshing and unique. She has performed all over the U.S., as well as with Olivia Cruises. You can find her CD at [www.cdbaby.com/zoe3](http://www.cdbaby.com/zoe3). More info: [www.zoelewis.com](http://www.zoelewis.com). -Alexsys Coleman



**Various Artists**  
**Queer Trax**  
House Music started with the gay, black, and Hispanic queens who first produced, played, and danced to these fierce tracks in unmarked warehouses in shady parts of town. It was the gay clubs that first introduced this raw, gritty, stripped-down track-heavy sound to their post-disco floors. *Queer Trax* is a very live (no studio tricks here), banging, non-stop mix of classic and underground Chicago House tracks; many of the House classics here remain in the crates of today's most influential DJs because they are exciting to play, dance to, and listen to now as they were when they were

first released. Make no mistake: This is not another circuit mix, disco mix, or dance-hits mix. This is a unique peek into the gay House Music underground of the late '80s. From Trax Records ([www.traxhouse.com](http://www.traxhouse.com)). -TC

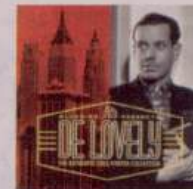


**Chris Pureka**  
**Driving North**  
*Driving North*, Chris Pureka's much-anticipated sophomore release, delivers a passion and conviction that is hard to come by these days. While there was something charming and intimate about Chris's homegrown self-titled first album, this time around Pureka headed to the studio with a full band. The result is a beautifully cohesive and passionate collection of songs addressing themes of love, loss, tenderness, and hope. Her control over her guitar and the complicated and percussive riffs she writes strikes critics and peers immediately. More info: [www.chrispureka.com](http://www.chrispureka.com). -SL



**Billi & Patti**  
**Love and Other Four Letter Words**  
The latest album from Billi & Patti is a dynamite acoustic record and gives listeners everything they could want in a country-rock group. The hard-edged grooves of their upbeat tunes and the softer sounds of their poignant ballads perfectly represent the talent of this band, and

any fan of acoustic or country-rock could easily make a collection cornerstone out of this offering. Expressing very personal feelings of love and loss, *Love and Other Four Letter Words* deals with the happiness of life, but also larger issues such as AIDS, with the final track "Until There Is a Cure." More info: [www.billiandpatti.com](http://www.billiandpatti.com), [www.cdbaby.com/cd/billipatti](http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/billipatti). -SL



**Various Artists**  
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The music of Cole Porter has become legendary over the years—as much for the music and lyrics (with gay subtext) of his memorable compositions, as for the roster of artists who have performed and recorded his work. *It's De Lovely* stands alone as a truly authentic collection of his music as it features recordings of Porter's era performed by some of his most esteemed contemporaries, including Lena Horne ("From This Moment On"), Tommy Dorsey Orchestra ("I Get a Kick Out of You"), Dinah Shore ("You'd Be So Nice to Come Home To"), Frank Sinatra ("Night and Day"), Paul Desmond ("I've Got You Under My Skin"), and Sonny Rollins ("You Do Something to Me"). The 19-track CD, which features Porter singing his own songs, is available from Bluebird ([www.bluebirdjazz.com](http://www.bluebirdjazz.com)). More info: [www.victor-music.com](http://www.victor-music.com). -TC

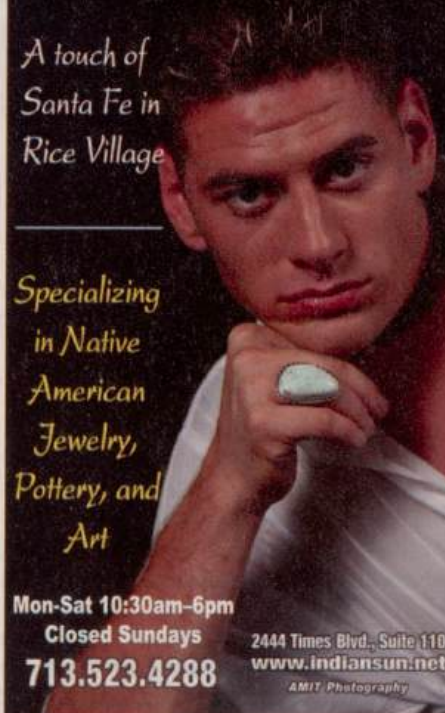
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## MADONNART

*A Houston artist contributes to a new picture book about the Material Girl*

**E**stevan (born with the surname Treviño, now mono-monikered) has contributed work to *Madonna in Art*, a brand-new coffee-table tome. Published by Pop Art Books/Chaucer Press, the 192-page book includes work by 100 artists who interpret the life of Esther...uh, Ms. Ciccone at every stage of her career from the head-scarf era of "Lucky Star" to the current Kabbalah period.

The book's producer, Mem Mehmet, and his partner, Roger G. Taylor, who compiled the *Marilyn in Art* and *Elvis in Art* books in the '80s, invited Estevan to submit four pen-and-ink drawings after spotting his work on his website, [www.inkworkx.com](http://www.inkworkx.com). The book is available for purchase at [www.madonna-in-art.com](http://www.madonna-in-art.com).

**Tim Brookover: Tell me about your work in the book. Which Madonna period does it hail from?**

Estevan: The first image is from Madonna's first album cover, *Madonna*. The second image is inspired by a Herb Ritts photo. The third image is from the cover of Madonna's *The Immaculate Collection* CD, and the fourth image is from her *Ray of Light* CD. [At press time, Estevan didn't know which of the four images would appear in the book.]

**What is your favorite Madonna song?**

I have so many favorite Madonna songs, but the one that stands out for me is one from 1996's *You'll See* CD, the Spanish version.

**Have you ever met Madonna?**

No, I have never met Madonna, although I would love to meet her. As far as seeing Madonna live in concert, thank God for HBO.

**What is it about Madonna that inspires you?**

Her desire to do whatever it takes to get whatever she wants. Her determination to reach her goals, and to make things happen for her career. She has a drive. She is living proof that if you set your mind to it, you can achieve anything.

Adoration of the Madonna: Estevan (inset) contributed work to a new book all about Madge.



**Is Madonna your favorite performer?**

I'm a diva lover. Madonna is one of many female performers that I admire.

**What is the next art project you are working on? Another book project?**

The next art project I'm working on is doing some new Marilyn Monroe images for Roger G. Taylor's revised *Marilyn in Art* book that should be available in 2005. ■

be unaware of. While hardly a complete retelling of gay history, it fills in many of the gaps and suggests how growing up gay has and hasn't really changed over the years. *Kings and Queens* is for everyone who did (or didn't) go to their prom From Soft Skull Press. More info: [www.gayprom.com](http://www.gayprom.com). —Suzie Lynde

**The Queer Movie Poster Book**  
Jenni Olson



There have been many excellent movie poster books collecting the best and most representative movie posters of a particular genre, with 1992's *Graven Images: The Best of Horror, Fantasy, and Science-Fiction Art* being probably the best and most famous. Now comes *The Queer Movie Poster Book* by Jenni Olson with

a forward by none other than Bruce Vilanch. I would say as movie poster books go, it ranks pretty high, and it also gets props for being the first overview, that is *gay movie poster overview*, of its kind. If the book's contents seem skimpy compared to, say, *Graven Images* (or some idiot's history of Godzilla posters), that's only because gay movie history was fairly skimpy up until recent years. The contents consist of gorgeously reproduced images ranging from Nazimova starring in Oscar Wilde's *Salome* all the way up to the poster for 2000's *101 Rent Boys*, which shows 101 butts. (I counted them, very slowly.) In between, there are posters for groundbreaking films such as *Maedchen in Uniform*, *Glen or Glenda*, *Suddenly*, *Last Summer*, *Victim*, *Boys in the Band*, *The Times of Harvey Milk*, *Personal Best*, and *Longtime Companion*, among numerous others. Let the buyer beware: There are no John Wayne posters in this book. From Chronicle Books ([www.chroniclebooks.com](http://www.chroniclebooks.com)). —Jack Varsi →

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### ReadOut Shorts

**Kings & Queens: Queers at the Prom**  
David Boyer



We all have the prom photos, and, gay or straight, they're awkward, sweet, touching, or embarrassing. Thing is, if you're gay, your photo probably tells a story that has an ending a bit different than those of your straight peers.

*Kings & Queens* is indeed a collection of those very photos, stories, and memories, but it's also a snapshot of queer lives, some further along than others, from 1935 to 2003. In addition to cataloguing cultural shifts via the clever "mini-mag" in the center of the book, *Kings & Queens* offers an anecdotal gay history that many of today's queers may

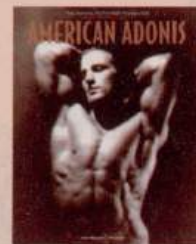


## ReadOut Shorts continued from page 74



### **Aura** Gary Glickman

While homosexuality is a definite theme throughout the book, *Aura* goes so much deeper into the people involved. The fluidity of sexuality and the constraints of the '70s and '80s (and even the present) are seen in the relationship of Jane and Annie. The longing for a "true" love is seen in Jimmy's journey for love. The truth of "money doesn't buy everything" is experienced with Rose, a wealthy older woman, as well as with the privileged Leo. The power of focus and passion are seen with Jane in her quest for fame, as is Annie with hers. The drama and experiences that these friends share are exciting, saddening, and powerful. Glickman does a beautiful job of drawing you in and creating great anticipation around having the right address to call your own, being in the "right" neighborhood. Many of us easily understand that very potent desire of having the right address and watching the group ponder what the boundaries are in order to obtain and maintain their address as alluring. As in real life, the unexpected outcomes are welcome, if you are willing to accept that the universe does not always bend to your desires. From Haworth Press ([www.haworthpressinc.com](http://www.haworthpressinc.com)) —Alexsys Coleman



### **American Adonis: Tony Sansone, the First Male Physique Icon** John Massey

During the era known as the Jazz Age, the physical perfection of bodybuilder and nude model Tony Sansone (1905–1987) was considered "without peer" and "god-like." His contemporary Rudolph Valentino was perhaps far more famous, but Sansone's career lasted a lot longer than that of the doomed silent screen star. Charles Atlas, who with Sansone would practically invent America's fitness revolution, called Sansone the most beautiful man in America. Now Sansone's physical perfection and backstory are preserved in John Massey's biography and scrupulously designed photo book, *American Adonis*. Anyone interested in male beauty (and that must include two or three people reading this) will view this book, which includes over 120 photos of Sansone naked, as a treasure trove of information about the origins of male physique photography. The book required three years of research. Some of us may spend that much time cruising the photos—and if the pages are still readable, we may get around to reading the text. From Rizzoli International Publications. —JV

### **A Home at the End of the World** Michael Cunningham

Michael Cunningham's celebrated novel, *A Home at*



*the End of the World*, is the story of two boyhood friends: Jonathan—lonely, introspective, and unsure of himself; and Bobby—hip, dark, and inarticulate. In New York, after college, Bobby moves in with Jonathan and his roommate Clare, a veteran of the city's erotic wars. Bobby and Clare fall in love, scuttling the plans of Jonathan, who is gay, to father Clare's child. Then when Clare and Bobby have a baby, the three move to a small house in upstate New York to raise "their" child together and create a new kind of family. *A Home at the End of the World* masterfully depicts the charged, fragile relationships of urban life today and what we mean by love, commitment, and loyalty. From the *Los Angeles Times*: "Cunningham writes with power and delicacy. . . . We come to feel that we know Jonathan, Bobby, and Clare as if we lived with them; yet each one retains the mystery that in people is called soul, and in fiction is called art." From *The Washington Post Book World*: "Michael Cunningham has written a novel that all but reads itself." • From Picador ([www.picadorusa.com](http://www.picadorusa.com)). • If you'd rather listen than read, the audiobook—read by Colin Farrell, Dallas Roberts, Blair Brown, and Jennifer Van Dyck—is available from Audio Renaissance ([www.audiorenaissance.com](http://www.audiorenaissance.com)). —Troy Carrington ■

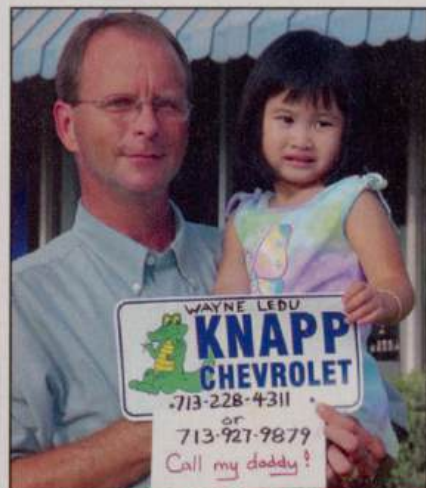
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The locally owned and operated store, the largest and finest independent jeweler in the greater Houston area, will open a new store at 2623 Town Center Boulevard in Sugar Land in October. This marks the first time I W Marks has expanded beyond its flagship Bellaire Boulevard locale.

I W Marks's policy of inclusion and acceptance toward employees and cus-

tomers has contributed to the store's growth. This inclusiveness carries through to its charitable contributions, many of which are directed to the GLBT community, such as the annual Human Rights Gala held earlier this year.

"I joined the staff of I W Marks five years ago and have been impressed by their outreach to the GLBT community, their willingness to donate to its charities and organizations and to the community at large," said sales associate Cass Wyzkowski.

"Respect doesn't need an occasion, but sometimes a jewelry purchase does," he added. "For whatever purchase you have in mind, I W Marks associates will show you and your occasion the respect it deserves."

I W Marks's couture salon features such premier lines as Gucci, Versace,

Lagos, Mikimoto, Charriol, John Hardy and Hidalgo. The store boasts Rolex, Vacheron Constantin, Blancpain, Raymond Weil, Baume & Mercier, Omega and Tag Heuer watches, Links of London silver goods and Jay Strongwater multi-jeweled and enameled mirror compacts, which elicit the "wow factor" from customers. For those desiring one-of-a-kind jewelry pieces, I W

Marks will custom create whatever you have envisioned for you or your partner.

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



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David Ellzey—real estate broker who owns Texas's oldest continuously opened gay bar, the Briar Patch, has managed to successfully keep customers happy by keeping a well-trained staff and offering piano sing-a-long. Customers enjoy seeing their favorite bartender and hearing piano sing-a-longs that include show tunes and songs like "Proud Mary," "American Pie," and "All That Jazz."

Ellzey believes that a business success depends on having a well-trained staff. "It would not have been possible without the best entertainers and great staff that we have," says Ellzey. "These guys deserve all the credit of my success. Oftentimes, business owners take all the credit



Shawn and David Ellzey of The Briar Patch

and forget who made it possible. I really would like to thank Richard Middleton, John O'rien, and Warren Chase, forgoing with their hearts and working with the best piano bar and not leaving to going to the other guys. They are the real reason that the

Briar Patch is still the best piano bar in Houston," says Ellzey.

The Briar Patch offers Houston's best and largest entertainment line-up with stars that include Warren Chase on Fridays and Saturdays, Laurie Gage on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, Jerry Atwood on Saturday nights, and special guests Julie Link and Christophe Boehme.

Ellzey invites all of Houston to stop by the Briar Patch and say "thanks" to all friends that work there. "Stop in and say thanks to Aunt Richard, Daytime John, and Warren on the piano. "They deserve all the credit," says Ellzey.

The Briar Patch is located at 2312 Crocker at Fairview. For more information, call 713/665-9678 or visit the website at HoustonGayBars.com.



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Since 1984, he has involved himself in working with individuals, couples, and groups to help people in our community cope and remove barriers to self-esteem and self-actualization. His work has been achieved in the therapy room, the classroom, actively participating on the board of directors for both Montrose Counseling Center and Houston Body Positive, training

volunteers for Houston AIDS foundations, being the architect and overseeing the much-heralded Houston Body Positive Peer Counseling Program.

Miles's work also includes training, supervising, and mentoring students working to achieve advanced degrees in social work and/or mental health. Today Miles Glaspy continues his private practice, trains social workers employed in the nonprofit HIV arena, conducts clinical supervision for masters level social workers at the Montrose Clinic, and works as an activist for the GLBT community.

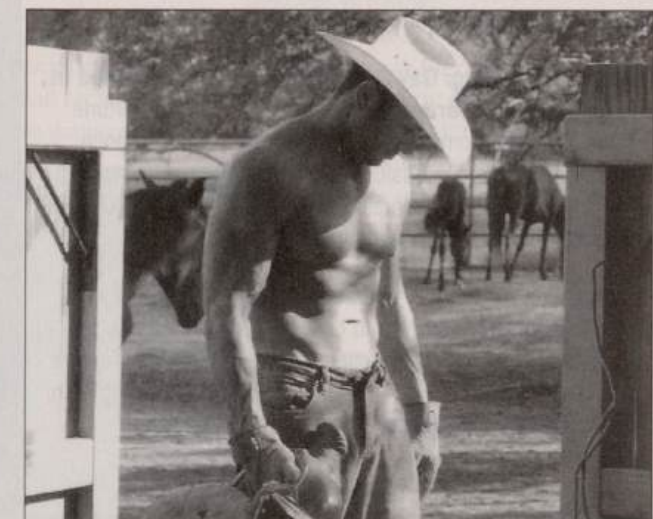
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by  
Cristina E. Martinez  
President, MD Marketing

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As a supporter of Houston's GLBT community, Planned Parenthood is proud of our association with the Pride parade over the last five years...and we thank you for your continued support of our mission.

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## Cra-Z-Coil Footwear

*A commitment, a baby, a shower, and a funky pair of footwear lead to a new business venture for Houston life partners*

Cristi Lington and Vicky Hayes met years ago playing flag football. They started life together by making a strong commitment to each other and planning for the future. In doing so, they worked out a plan to have one of the most precious gifts of all—a child. Vicky and Cristi followed all of the steps to ensure the most healthy diet, exercise, and support from friends to have a safe pregnancy.

However, during the pregnancy, Cristi was diagnosed with gestational diabetes and was told to exercise more and keep her blood sugar count down or she would have a 12-pound baby. Not wanting to deliver a baby of that size, Cristi walked and exercised to the point that she was in incredible pain every night.

"My back was hurting so bad, I couldn't even roll over without crying," Cristi says. "Maintaining my day job and exercising at night became too much to handle."

At their baby shower, Vicky said a friend—Teresa Trammell, from Amarillo, Texas—showed up wearing the funkiest shoes. Teresa said they were Z-Coil Pain Relief Footwear that she'd purchased in Albuquerque and that they were the best thing that ever happened to her. Teresa is a neo-natal nurse in Amarillo and also a Type 1 diabetic. She's been in two traumatic automobile accidents that have caused painful problems in her neck and back.

Needing to find pain relief, Vicky and Cristi looked for Z-Coils immediately.

"Within two days of wearing Z-Coils—YES, two days—Cristi's back pain was gone," Vicky says. "That put two people in our personal lives these shoes have helped. Cool."

Following Cristi's pain-relief experience, Vicky was still working and planning for the baby and had an accident that caused major nerve damage in her



Christi Lington, Vicki Hayes and Chase Alexander Lington

ankle. The diagnosis was tarsal tunnel which is similar to carpal tunnel but in the ankle. The MRI of the ankle and foot also showed Morton's neuroma, which is scar tissue on the nerve between the toes.

"After the surgery, the healing nerves were very painful and the walking boot the doctor provided had no support or cushioning," Vicky says. "I started wearing Cristi's size 9 shoes, even though I am a size 7. But it helped."

"When visiting my mom the following month in Amarillo, I got my first pair of Z-Coils at the 'On Your Feet' Z-Coil store in Amarillo," Vicky adds.

"These shoes made my foot feel better immediately. I took them to my orthopedic surgeon Dr. Eddie Matsu and he wanted a pair right then. The rest, as they say, is history."

Cra-Z-Coil Footwear has been open in Houston now for over a year. Cristi and Vicky recently celebrated with customers during the First Annual Z-TUNE-UP DAY! Customers brought in their Z-Coils for a tune-up and cleaning and to enjoy snacks, a massage chair, and giveaways.

"Our first event we participated in last year was EMPOWER 2003. It was awesome! We could not have been so successful without the support of our friends, family and Z-wearers," Cristi says. "We are touched on a daily basis by our faith in each other, testimonials from our customers, and the kindness of everyone around us."

*Vicky would like to extend a special thanks to Dr. Eddie Matsu with Houston Sports Orthopedic, Dr. Sally Andrews, Shirley Knight and the Houston Women's Festival, Barbara Levine Graphics, Coy Tow and Dalton DeHart of The Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce, The Branches of Life prayer group, attorney Peggy Bittick, and the many others who have been so instrumental in the success of Cra-Z-Coil Footwear. And of course, her partner Cristi and baby Chase Alexandra Lington Hayes.*

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Rob Schmerler was born in Houston, raised in Pasadena, and lived in Houston all his life. He and his partner Bill have been together for 20 years and have made their home in Southgate for almost as long.

Every year for two decades the two return to West Hollywood, where they met, to celebrate Pride.

Schmerler is active in EPAH, the Executive and Professional Association of Houston, the Four Seasons Club, and is an enthusiastic supporter of Krewe of Olympus.

Before he started Schmerler Insurance in 1990, he worked 15 years in public relations for an outdoor advertising company. While working there, he found himself buying copious amounts of insurance to



Rob Schmerler (center) and Staff

increase his sense of security. This triggered an independent streak in him, initiating Schmerler's decision to start his own company. In his own words, "I like what I do now." Schmerler offers auto insurance, as well as home, renters, health, life, boat, flood, and many other forms of coverage. Clientele include individuals and business owners from all over Houston, Galveston,

Austin, Dallas, and San Antonio. Schmerler Insurance represents several companies. There's Farmers Insurance Group for homeowners, renters, and auto policies; BlueCross BlueShield, Fortis and John Alden Life for health insurance; and Farmers Insurance Group for life insurance. As one might guess, Farmers Insurance Group is Schmerler's primary provider. And with good reason. Farmers is a great company, an industry leader, and exceptionally gay-friendly.

When you choose to do business with Schmerler Insurance, you'll find a key difference from other agencies: no voice-mail. You'll be readily dealt with real, friendly people, able-bodied, and eager to help you in person. The agents at Schmerler Insurance—Rob Schmerler, Jeffrey Bules, Ray Price, Jason Garcia, and their newest member Elijah Kabalka—will give you the attention and respect you deserve.

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fessionals that wish to diligently pursue their legal training by choosing to exceed the minimum number of hours of required Continuing Legal Education (CLE).



Christopher Barber

The law does not always favor your needs, thus it is imperative to find professional guidance, to help you jump through the legal hoops needed to accomplish your desires. By providing insight and guidance, Christopher can assist you in making decisions which accomplish your goals.



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## Do Business with People You Like!

For 17 years, Bruce Chambers has been a successful real estate agent because of his commitment to personalized service. One of Chambers' clients told him recently, "You were so attentive to our needs. You made us feel like we were your only client." He has said he enjoys the challenge of finding just the right home for each of his clients and gets great satisfaction from seeing his clients settle in a new home that they love.

Being both a Montrose resident and a Realtor specializing in the area, Chambers is very familiar with all the inner Loop neighborhoods as well as other close-in areas.



Bruce Chambers

Chambers works in the Karen Derr Realty Montrose office at 415 Westheimer and is ready to professionally market your property or find that perfect home just for you. "I live in Montrose and love it," he says. "That's why I'm the best agent to sell Montrose homes."

Reach Bruce Chambers at 713/822-1577.

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## REJUVENATION 2004

A DAY SPA FOR YOUR SOUL

Bringing people together, giving back to the community who love and support us and celebrating the generous leaders in Houston who stand out by giving!

WHEN: Saturday, September 18, 2004 from 11:00AM to 5:00PM  
It is strongly suggested you arrive 30 minutes early unless you are pre-registered.

WHERE: Lotus Space and Lotus Work Center  
4040 Milam Suite 310 & 320 Houston, Texas 77006  
Above the Fitness Exchange

EVENTS: Silent Auction to benefit the Montrose Clinic  
Candlelight Ceremony & Silent Meditation  
Art Exhibition & Sale Featuring John Palmer and Brick Bishop

Experience for yourself:  
• Hypnotherapy with Mitra Kira  
• Chair Massage with Charlie Tuminello  
• Mini Coaching sessions  
• Psychic readings with Ken Barkin  
• Enjoy a light, delicious buffet

All inclusive with admission

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Donnie Day - Life Coach, on helping identify the choices you make that hold you back from living the life you want to live!

Mikel Reper - Interior Designer, on creating a spiritual and supportive environment in your home.

Coach Kimmie - Personal Trainer, on incorporating fitness and nutrition into your everyday life.

For more information or to purchase admission contact Donnie Day  
713.527.0700 • donnie@donnieday.com



Admission is \$50 per person or \$75 per couple. Space is limited and early registration is strongly suggested.



Aquafest event management (left to right) Tom Thompson, Glen Barley and Tom Baker



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## Bruce W. Smith, DDS

*The Science and Art of Dentistry*

First-rate dental care is as much an art as a science and requires careful attention to the many facets of our patients' needs. We must consider technical expertise, high quality, pleasing environment, excellent staff, aesthetically pleasing results, being available when you need us, high standards of sterilization, keeping our services affordable, and, perhaps most importantly...taking care of your dental needs without pain or anxiety.

Located in a beautiful Montrose bungalow, the setting of our office is both gracious and homelike, from sherry in the waiting room (!) to a thick brocade lap rug to wrap up in while you're in the dentist's chair.

I emphasize personal, involved dental care. I think it's worthwhile taking the time to explain procedures and options carefully, in easy-to-comprehend terms, so that dentist and patient work together as a team. Unlike many profit-centered managed care practices (who sometimes seem to be more the employee of the insurance companies than the patients!), I strive to inform



Bruce W. Smith, DDS

University of Texas at Arlington in 1975, doctorate in dental surgery from the University of Texas Health Science Center in 1979. Between 1979 and 1981, I was a lieutenant in the National Health Service Corps, part of the United States Public Health Service. I started my general dental practice in Houston in 1981—focusing on the GLBT community from the very beginning—and moved to our current location at 1006 Missouri in 1983.

My professional and community involvements include the Greater Houston Dental Society, Texas Dental Association, American Dental Association, Bering Dental Clinic, Southwestern Society for Oral Medicine, River Oaks Area Democratic Women, Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, and several others. I have been privileged to speak before a number of local, national, and international dental bodies about oral pathology, sterilization, and infection control.

My private practice at 1006 Missouri Street in Houston caters primarily to business and professional people who seek restorative, cosmetic, and preventive care. We strive to provide a comfortable homelike setting with attention to quality and comfort. I am board certified in Conscious Sedation dentistry, which allows us to offer nitrous oxide and sedative medication for those who are anxious about dental care.

**Bruce W. Smith, DDS**

1006 Missouri Street, Houston, Texas 77006 • 713/520-4364 • Email: BSmith\_dds@mss.com

## Karen Derr Realty

*New Realty Office Mindful of Past*

After almost a year's anticipation, it is official—Karen Derr & Associates is open for business at their brand-new 4,000-square-foot office at 1545 Heights Blvd. "To the best of our knowledge, this is the first structure built and permitted as office space on the boulevard in 50 or more years," explains Robert Derr, co-owner and Realtor. The gracious Queen Ann-style home was built by Allegro Builders, recipients of a 2002 Community Improvement Award from the Houston Heights Association for historic renovation. Although many homes on the boulevard have been converted to offices, this is an office that was planned to be converted someday to a home. It has a large

kitchen and all the rooms common to a home but also has a commercial elevator. Built to fit into and enhance the location, the signage will be low profile, and Derr included as much green space as possible while still meeting parking requirements.



Karen Derr

The new office includes several tributes to other historic locations Karen Derr & Associates has occupied in the Heights. The columns on the porch are replicas of the ones at 1512 Heights, the address where the residential realty firm first officed with attorneys Mosier and McEnrue. The fireplace mantel is a copy of one at 1034 Heights, the first location the realty firm owned on Heights Boulevard. The last tribute is yet to be installed but will be a

touch of the bright pink paint reminiscent of the firm's more humble beginnings in the Heights at the corner of Studewood at 10-1/2 street (now a tie-dye shop). Karen Derr opened her first Heights office there in 1994 with only one Heights agent—herself.

"The Heights has been very good to us," Karen Derr remembers. "I'm very nostalgic about the people and places that have helped us get to where we are today." Karen Derr and Associates has grown in 10 years to 40 agents and four offices in Houston and Galveston.

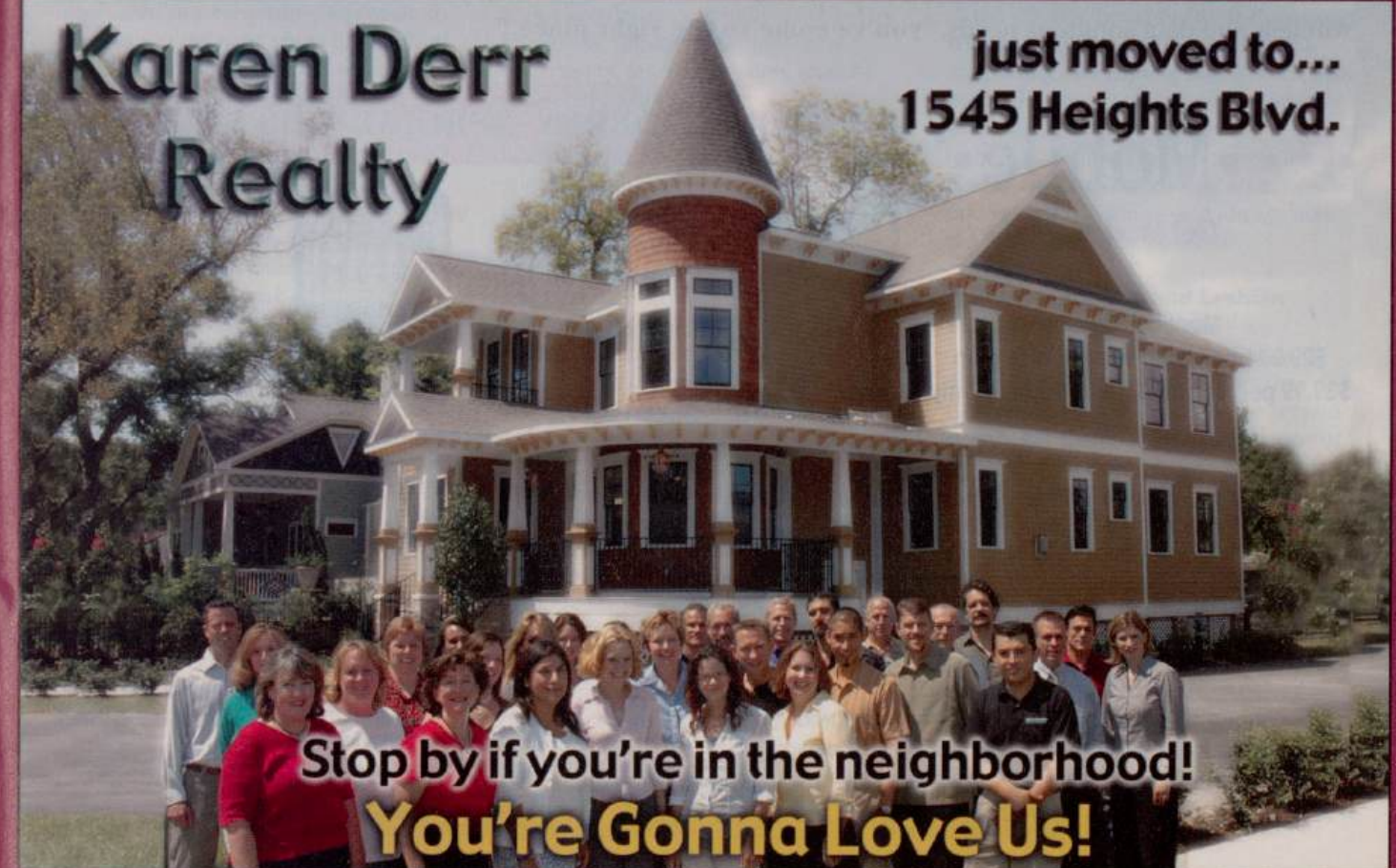
As Karen Derr Realty clients might expect, a party will mark this grand opening! In fact, several celebrations are planned for September including an art opening on Saturday, September 25. Call 713/862-1600 for more details.

1545 Heights Blvd • 713/862-1600 • [www.KarenDerr.com](http://www.KarenDerr.com)



## Karen Derr Realty

**just moved to...  
1545 Heights Blvd.**



**Stop by if you're in the neighborhood!  
You're Gonna Love Us!**



## Nextel Names Western Talk Number 1 in Houston Sales for July 2004



"We're number one! We're number one!" was the chant you heard all over Western Talk Corporate Office as they welcomed and received the news from Nextel that they were number one in sales in Houston for the month of July 2004. "It's an awesome feeling when you reach your goals" said Kerry Sheppard, partner/owner, "and this is one goal we are all proud to achieve." Dawn Allman, a wireless consultant for Western Talk, added, "I'm proud to be number one and it's because each individual and business is assigned a personal sales rep to provide consistent & superior customer service."

### NEXTEL TOP FIVE FOR HOUSTON IN JULY 2004

| RANK | DEALER/REP            |
|------|-----------------------|
| 1    | WESTERN TALK, LC      |
| 2    | Total Choice          |
| 3    | Pronto Communications |
| 4    | American Telemanageme |
| 5    | Choice Wireless Main  |

Western Talk plans to keep their number-one ranking in Houston by opening a new location to cater to and serve the entire GLBT community. The store will open in October 2004 and will be located on the corner of Smith and Elgin. "All of us work hard to show our community that when you come to Western Talk for your wireless and data solutions needs, **"you've come to the right place."**

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\$199.99 w/Data Only



BlackBerry 7230

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- Full QWERTY keyboard
- Trackwheel for scrolling and selecting menu items
- Intellisync – sync information with PC
- Integrated speaker and microphone
- 5 hours talk time: 12 days standby

- Tri-Band 900 MHz, 180MHz & 1900 MHz
- Color Screen and easy to read icons
- t-zones (WAP) Browser
- Push email deliver (Web Client)
- Full QWERTY keyboard
- Trackwheel for scrolling and selecting menu items
- Intellisync – sync information with PC
- Integrated speaker and microphone
- 5 hours talk time: 12 days standby

### BlackBerry Benefits

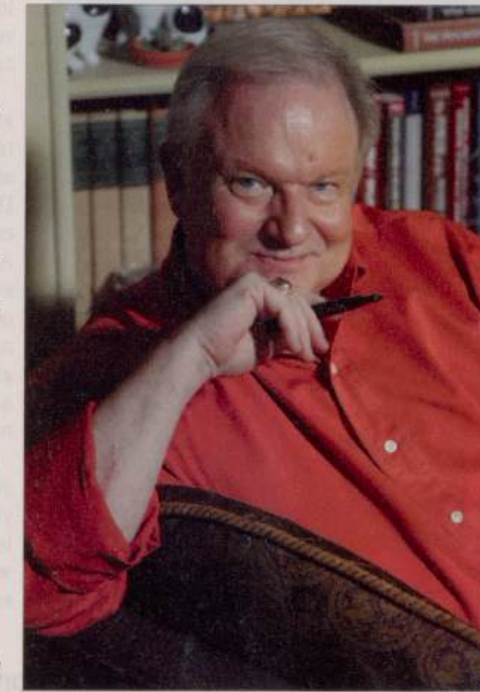
- CONVERGED DEVICE FOR VOICE AND DATA COMMUNICATIONS
- ACCESS TO EMAIL REAL TIME WHILE AWAY FROM OFFICE
- ACCESS WORD DOCUMENTS, SPREADSHEETS, AND THE INTERNET
- A MOBILE EXTENSION TO YOUR OFFICE MAILBOX

Your local Western Talk representative is:

**Dawn Allman**  
Cell: 281-898-0950  
[dawn@westerntalk.com](mailto:dawn@westerntalk.com)

## Tony Carroll

### The Art and Science of Psychotherapy



Tony Carroll, Psychotherapist

**ANSWER:** Contentment, happiness, peace, vitality, satisfaction, love, fulfillment, and security.

**QUESTION:** What do you expect from effective therapy?

**QUESTION:** Don't only weak or really messed-up people go to therapy?

**ANSWER:** Funny, isn't it? Smart people use professional consultants all the time: personal trainers, financial advisors, nutritionists, interior designers, tax consultants. We never think of going to a financial advisor as weak, do we? On the contrary. Generally, the people who I see in my office are business and professional people who are doing well in most aspects of their lives. Some come for assistance working through a particular crisis—death, divorce, ending relationships, etc. Others have found that they are "stuck" in their personal growth, finding themselves in the same counter-productive cycles, but unable to come up with a new approach, not knowing what to do to progress to the next stage of personal fulfillment. My clients expect excellence and richness from life, and are unwilling to settle for less. When they want more from a particular area of life, want to be happier or do better with relationships, or when something becomes problematic, rather than waste time, they consult an expert. Does this sound weak or messed up?!

### My Own Story

On the outside, I was a secure college kid filled with hopes and dreams for a life as a musician. I grew up in Arkansas, in an unfriendly homophobic small-town world, and couldn't wait to get away. I moved to Houston seeking fame and fortune, love and friendship, pursuing a successful career as a classical musician, enjoying my new life as an outgoing gay man in the big city for the first time. To others everything looked okay or even better. But privately, it was a more complicated story; in those few

secret moments of honesty, I found this happy picture was actually troubled by loneliness, unhappiness, insecurity, uncertainty, fear, depression, anxiety, and relationship problems.

By the time I reached my late 20s, it became clear I wanted more from life and would find someone to help me in my quest. But even in Houston there was no therapist especially for gay people. Fortunately, I found a wonderfully kind and empathic woman who was willing to take on the work with me. After experiencing the almost miraculous growth that took place for me, I developed a deep desire to be able to share the experience with others.

### From the Science of Psychotherapy...

I graduated in 1983 with a degree in clinical social work having just completed the first English-language research study of long-term gay relationships. In the 20+ years since, I've developed a psychotherapy method that circumvents the "stumbling around in the dark" experience so common in therapy. My partic-

ular method will teach you to stay on track by drawing from your existing knowledge and experiences, learning to differentiate between talking with a friend and talking in therapy. Together we will identify specific areas of concern and sensitivity, which become your guideposts and direct you toward the change you want.

Your therapy must be skillfully tailored to fit your personality style. The "cookie cutter," "one-size-fits-all" dysfunction-related models of therapies so common in the late 20th century simply aren't effective or suitably refined. A meticulously crafted fit between personality and psychotherapy is essential. With my broadly based background, I access a varied repertoire of therapy styles from which to craft a therapeutic approach uniquely tailored to help your personality style grow and thrive.

### ...to the Art of Psychotherapy

The practice of psychotherapy is as much art as science. I offer a sensitivity to the client's thoughts and feeling along with an exquisite ability to work in a supporting and guiding role. I work with each client much as an accomplished accompanist works with a singer—intimately attuned to the singer's artistic desires, helping the melody soar, never taking over the song—and always making the music more beautiful.

### A Practice for Gay and Lesbian Individuals and Couples

I started my practice in 1988 with the expressed desire of serving the GLBT community. I became the second openly gay therapist in Houston, one of the few in the country, and have since had the greatly satisfying opportunity for working with hundreds, perhaps thousands in their journeys toward a happy and fulfilling life. Today I offer psychotherapy and counseling uniquely tailored to gay and lesbian adults and couples. I also offer workshops and seminars about relationship issues for both single people and couples.

**Tony Carroll, LMSW-ACP**

1006 Missouri Street Houston, Texas 77006 • 713/527-0000 • [www.HoustonTherapist.com](http://www.HoustonTherapist.com)

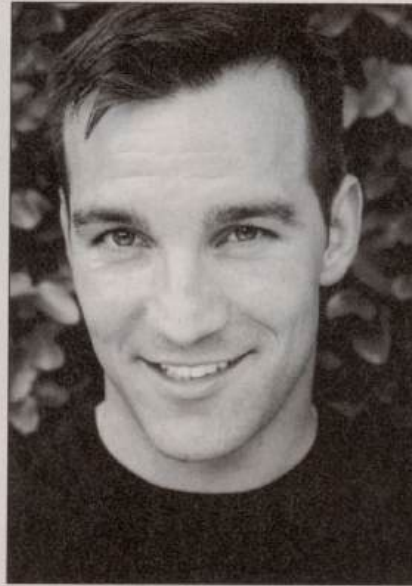


## Dr. Kenneth Lester – Empowering A Healthy Lifestyle

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

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

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



Dr. Kenneth Lester of  
Kirby Health and Wellness

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

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

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

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## Why do OutSmart readers think your business is so special?

# Because... You told them.

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Call OutSmart at 713/520-7237 for more details.

Deadline: September 12, 2004

# Get featured in OutSmart

Houston's Gay and Lesbian Media Choice

The ONLY Circulation-Audited GLBT Monthly in Texas

## Check Up continued from page 55

As he sees it, the disease was not just a wakeup call for him, but for the entire community. "It brought us together as activists. It really fired us up. Back then, when we had to fight for our lives, we really got together in a time of crisis." If improved medical treatment continues to foster a laissez-faire attitude, Loesser fears that cohesion could be lost.

But there is more to this man's life than encouraging wellness in the community, office, and self. Loesser is also a founder and coordinator of Row Team Austin. The team he helped assemble for the 2002 Gay Games in Amsterdam was the largest to compete. "We won more medals than any other team [from the United States], because we had so many different crews rowing in so many different events. I didn't win anything, but we came close." Next up is

**"I'm over 45 years old, and I was supposed to be dead by the time I was 30. When I'm 65, I want to be able to say I'm in pretty good health."**

a new team to compete in the 2006 Gay Games in Chicago.

Loesser enjoys his life now in Austin, a city that he says has never ghettoized its gay community. "In Houston, there's the Montrose area, in Dallas you've got the Quad area, but in Austin we shop everywhere. We eat everywhere. There's not even a lesbian bar in Austin. There's not one area that you'll go to feel safe in. It's safe for us everywhere. In Austin we feel like it is our city."

Loesser practices what he preaches. "I'm over 45 years old, and I was supposed to be dead by the time I was 30. When I'm 65, I want to be able to say I'm in pretty good health." He has taken his brushes with death and used them as opportunity to become more alive than before, passing his passions and zeal on to as many as possible. His overall perspective: "I have a great life."

Eric Dieckman, a regular OutSmart contributor, edits the Calendar section.



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The young activist disputes any notion that a lack of GLBT visibility tainted the convention. "I totally disagree. There wasn't a lack of support. There was a lack of using



Party alliance: Houston high school junior Travis Sheive (r) got into the convention with the help of family friend Sue Lovell. Sheive had worked on Lovell's campaign for City Council.

us as a wedge issue. There were a lot of speeches about equality for everyone in America. I think I would rather hear speeches like that. I liked that because it shows we are not just being used. Bush has not accomplished a lot and he is using us a

wedge issue. I think it's really offensive."

Sheive said he found acceptance and inclusion in Boston. "One of the great things at the convention was that everyone was understanding of my sexuality." He said it was never an issue with other convention participants, "regardless of how old they were or where they were from. That was really comforting."

What do young people care about in this election? "A lot of young people can understand that George Bush is really just screwing us up. I think that is one thing that's going to get a lot of young people." Other concerns, he said, include "the war and more social issues like gay marriage—people our age don't see gay marriage as a problem."

Sheive, who will be eligible to vote in 2007, began his activist career at age 12, when he printed up flyers against Proposition 2 (an amendment to the city charter to deny benefits to same-gender partners of city workers) and distributed them at his polling place. He also worked on Lovell's city council campaign.

"I hear a lot of people say that 'Oh, both parties suck,' and I don't feel that way. I have compared the Dem party to the Green Party to the Liberal Party, and decided that the Democratic party is the best party for me."

## PREPARE TO VOTE

Not yet registered? Get busy.

The final deadline to register to vote in the November 2 general election is October 4. The deadline to register for early voting is September 17.

Throughout this month, the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus will staff tables across the community with voter-registration applications and information. For more info: 713/521-1000, [www.hglpc.org](http://www.hglpc.org).

Here is an insider's tip from caucus president Ken Jones: "Any citizen who lives in Harris County can send their name with home and mailing address to [marty\\_morrison@co.harris.tx.us](mailto:marty_morrison@co.harris.tx.us), and this county employee will snail-mail them a voter application."

Voter-registration applications are also available at post office branches, many libraries, and at the Houston GLBT Community Center. More info: 713/524-3818, [www.houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org](http://www.houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org).

Here are six websites where you can complete a form online, print it, and mail it to the appropriate election officials (the address is provided):

- Human Rights Campaign: [www.hrc.org](http://www.hrc.org)
- National Gay & Lesbian Task Force: [www.nglft.org](http://www.nglft.org)
- Actvotote: [www.actvototeamerica.com](http://www.actvototeamerica.com)
- Citizen Change: [www.citizenchange.com](http://www.citizenchange.com)
- Rock the Vote: [www.rockthevote.org](http://www.rockthevote.org)
- Working for Change: [www.workingforchange.com](http://www.workingforchange.com)

# THE KERRY WAVE

## Making the case for the Democratic candidate

by Wayne Besen



John squared: Kerry and Edwards greet a crowd after the nomination.

**T**he Democratic convention is over, and I absolutely, positively love John Kerry. Sure, in the latest polls he got the convention bounce of a medicine ball on a concrete sidewalk, but I still adore him. To be honest, I would rather vote for Tony Soprano or Tony the Tiger or *anyone* that isn't George W. Bush.

I'm one of those folks who doesn't like the way Bush walks or talks. I despise his policies, and I loathe his politics. I know this is irrational, but I'd rather French kiss a piranha than hear Bush pronounce "nuclear" one more time.

Most Democrats—especially gay ones—feel exactly as I do. So to win over the base at the convention, all Kerry had to do was be able to walk and chew gum—and not necessarily at the same time. Fortunately, he delivered a powerful speech that exceeded expectations.

For most gay Americans, choosing Kerry over Bush for president is as easy as choosing Matt Damon over Don Knotts for a prom date.

Kerry is a co-sponsor of legislation banning job discrimination based on sexual orientation. Bush is against such a law.

Kerry is for hate-crimes legislation that includes sexual orientation. Bush is not.

Kerry is for civil unions and domestic partnerships. Bush is against such unions and led a failed effort to pass a federal

constitutional amendment banning gay marriage.

Kerry, a war hero, is in favor of openly gay and lesbian people serving in our military. Bush is against allowing openly gay service members.

The list of differences is long, and the further one goes down the list the worse Bush fares. And this doesn't even take into consideration that if Bush is reelected he will try to stack the federal courts with Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas clones. A Bush reelection is an unmitigated disaster for GLBT Americans.

Kerry, of course, doesn't favor same-sex marriage. In normal times, this would lead gay activists to mount sizable protests. But these aren't normal times, and gay leaders are rightfully, albeit painfully, allowing Kerry a pass for the sake of unity.

In fact, the most notable gay protest in Boston was not directed at the nominee. It came when the largest gay rights group, The Human Rights Campaign, rescinded an invitation for comedian Margaret Cho to perform after she said she would tell off-color jokes about Bush. But even the jilted jester Cho displayed comity for her canceled comedy and forgave HRC.

As an activist, it is not easy to let the Democrats dissemble on gay marriage and treat us as second-class citizens. However, let's be real: Same-sex marriage will not be won or lost between now and November.

So let's take a much-needed break and focus on the positive. For example, the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender delegation featured a record of 236 delegates at the convention. HRC's articulate executive director, Cheryl Jacques, addressed the Beantown crowd on gay issues. Another speaker, Rep. Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin, served as the first openly gay vice chair of any major political convention.

Politics aside, the Democrats just look good. On the campaign trail they have John Edwards, the candidate with the movie-star looks, campaigning with Ben Affleck, an actual movie star. Perhaps Edwards is against gay marriage because he would get too many proposals.

John Kerry isn't perfect on gay issues, but he's not W. That's good enough.

The lesson from Boston is that gay activists are not going to obsess about Kerry's relatively minor flaws. Instead they are going to relax, go to the beach, and catch the Kerry wave. Sure, they have no illusions it will take us all the way to the shores of equality. But it sure beats the dangerous and exhausting undertow of the Bush administration that has been dragging us down for the last four years.

Wayne Besen, author of the book *Anything But Straight: Unmasking the Scandals and Lies Behind the Ex-Gay Myth* (Harrington Park Press), sent this dispatch at the conclusion of the Democratic National Convention in August.

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## IT'S JUST NOT RIGHT

*Save marriage sanctity from wicked homos and free-wheeling heteros*

The screen door creaks open and slams shut. "Honey, I'm home-o!" It's my darling bride, back from the gym. "In here, Ward," I call from the kitchen, where I'm fixing dinner.

Wifey smooches my cheek and swipes a cucumber slice. "How was your day?" Crescents of sweat ring her muscle shirt collar and sleeves. She leans against the fridge, forearms glistening.

"The plumber came by." I continue tearing romaine into the bite-sized strips my sweetie likes. "She says we'll need to replace the whole pipe."

Wifey turns to pour ice water for us both. "Oh well, it had to happen some time." She reaches past me for plates and pulls fresh napkins from the drawer. "Been listening to the news?" She sets out forks and knives.

"Unfortunately," Wifey goes to grab an-

other cuke, but I tap her hand with a salad tong and give her a look. "That damned marriage amendment will be on our ballot."

"Don't worry," she says, hugging me from behind. She nuzzles my neck, then snags

**How's the woman supposed to be the helpmate if you have two women? Who will take out the recycling? Who gets to use the power tools? Who drives, and who folds the map? Which one fakes the orgasm?**

more cucumber. "We're still married no matter what."

Nearly a quarter million Oregonians signed the Defense of Marriage Coalition's petition. That's a lot of people hell-

bent on defending their marriages. Good for them. They've got a problem and are offering up a creative solution. Marriage isn't faring very well (about 50 percent end in divorce), so they'll amend the constitution and prohibit marriage for gay people now and forever. Right on.

You can't have the likes of Sarah and Gretchen or Tim and Kent—or the thousands of other same-gender couples who have already taken vows—getting legally married, having access to all the privileges and protections the law grants to everyone else. Issuing marriage licenses to two

men or two women puts proscribed gender roles up for grabs. Women mowing the lawn? Men folding laundry? It's just wrong.

How's a guy going to be the head of the family if you have two guys? How's the woman supposed to be the helpmate if you

have two women? Who will take out the recycling? Who gets to use the power tools? Who drives, and who folds the map? Which one fakes the orgasm?

If we lose, we're doomed to marriage equality. What a fine mess we'll be in then. People will think for themselves and follow their own God-given proclivities—and then where will we be? People doing what they damn well please, that's where.

Same-sex marriage isn't the only threat, either. Some of you boy-girl couples ought to forfeit your right to marriage licenses, too. We know you're out there, mixing it up—taking turns doing dishes, sharing grocery duty, granting equal time with the remote. You threaten the very institution of marriage as we know it.

We can't base our society—our nation—on every person leading their own life, exercising their own liberty, pursuing their own happiness. We need standards, direction, control. We need official edicts declaring who can do what. We need a king, for chrissake.

At the very least we need to support the

Defense of Marriage Act in every state. Vote to change that liberal constitution. Better yet, don't vote at all. That way those who know what's right for you can make all the decisions. Don't even bother to register. America thrives on low voter registration. Look where it's got us so far!

Oregon—the whole country, the world, and any life we might discover on other planets—needs all marriages to be exactly alike. How do you expect to get a good goose-step going if everyone marches to her own drummer? Difference is scary, so be afraid. Get out there and defend your marriage against the onslaught of the wicked homos and homettes and those free-wheeling heteros. Vote some good old-fashioned discrimination right into your state constitution. And if that doesn't protect the sanctity of your marriage, maybe you ought to get a gun.

*Sally Sheklow shares equal domestic responsibilities with her wife in Eugene, Oregon. An amendment to the Oregon state constitution banning same-sex marriage will be on the ballot in November.*

## MARRY ME, KATE

Kate Clinton, who opened for Melissa Etheridge on her recent tour, regularly tops the lists of America's sharpest, edgiest, and most irreverent comics—her strength lies in her ability to deliver her witty send-ups in a way that makes even the targets she picks laugh in appreciation. The timely and raucous live performance captured in Clinton's seventh CD, *The Marrying Kind*, captures the originality and intellectual ferocity of this comedian like no prior CD she has released.

Most recently, Clinton secured her reverend's license from the Universal Life Church, enabling her to perform weddings and other ceremonies. In light of the Massachusetts Supreme Court's decision to allow same-sex marriages in that state, Clinton, who performs each summer in Provincetown, Massachusetts, and has lived and taught there in the past, will be actively contributing to what she calls the "Marriage-Industrial-Complex."

What does playwright Tony Kushner have to say about Clinton?—"Kate Clinton cuts through 10,000 miles of badness with a single brilliant insight, complete with punchline." *The San Francisco Chronicle* writes, "Clinton's appeal runs deeper than quotable lines, to a buoyant, bemused attitude that can connect seemingly distant dots." *The New York Times* calls her "quick-witted, clear-spoken. . . . She has developed a bizarrely logical, seemingly free-associating style of delivery [that] had this critic in tears from laughing so hard." More info: [www.kateclinton.com](http://www.kateclinton.com). ■




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# SWEET!

Eateries serve up desserts at the AssistHers benefit



What a treat: Taste the crème brûlée from Annabelle's at the AssistHers Decadent Dessert Extravaganza.

Think of the Decadent Dessert Extravaganza as a warm-up for the holiday treats season ahead. Next comes pumpkin-shaped cookies and chocolate bars at Halloween, then Thanksgiving pecan pies, next Hanukkah gelt, then fruitcake at Christmas (shut up, some of us like it), and finally champagne truffles on New Year's Eve. Yum.

Every year, a heavenly host of local restaurants and caterers set out a spread of desserts at the benefit for AssistHers, the volunteer group that provides non-medical in-home care for lesbians coping with critical illnesses. The eateries now gearing up for the October 3 event at Meteor include (at press time) Annabelle's, Carter & Cooley, don Carlos Catering, Fabio's Italian Bar & Grill, Java Java Cafe, and Jim Benton Catering. Yvette Palomo, the chef who runs Annabelle's with partner Mari Kaye Lasewicz, plans to serve lusciously smooth crème brûlée (pictured) and chocolatey brownies.

The fundraiser will also feature entertainment, raffles, and a live auction. Tickets are \$20 in advance (\$25 at the door); order at [www.acteva.com/go/AssistHers](http://www.acteva.com/go/AssistHers). Then prepare that sweet tooth. ■

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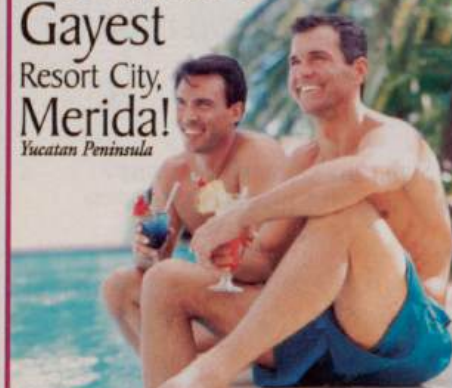
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## Out of Town

by Victor Zorn

## GET CRUISED

Book passage on the big boats for fall

For local travelers, cruising is increasingly a popular option, especially now that more ships are departing Galveston. If you are looking to get away with members of the GLBT family this fall, check out these choices:

**Dignity Cruises**, the local cruise purveyor that particularly welcomes transgender and cross-dressing travelers, sails on its most ambitious trip yet. **TG Hands Across the Atlantic** departs Barcelona on September 18 on the Royal Caribbean Splendor of the Seas. The seven-day cruise then stops at Cannes/Monte Carlo, Florence/Pisa, Rome, Naples, and Malta. "Prior to the Barcelona cruise, we are having dinner as a group with the leader of the transgender community in Spain," reports Melanie Rudd of Dignity Cruises, who will lead the excursion with her spouse and fellow community activist, Dr. Peggy Rudd ["Legacy of Learning," April 2004 *OutSmart*]. At press time, 23 people had booked the cruise. Advance rates were \$644-\$1,144 per person (plus port and government taxes); current rates are higher.

More info: 281/347-8747, 888/347-7245, [www.pmpub.com](http://www.pmpub.com). The Dignity Cruise folks celebrate next month with a **Halloween cruise** departing Galveston on October 31. The voyage on the Carnival Elation stops at Cozumel, Cayman, and Belize. Advance rates were only



Ship to shore: A sailboat glides past the Oceanographic Museum and Aquarium in Monaco, one of the ports of call on the TG Hands Across the Atlantic voyage organized by Dignity Cruises.

\$310-\$400 per person (plus port and government taxes).



Cruising comics: Julie Goldman (l), Jason Stuart spend Halloween at sea.

**Aquafest**, the Houston-based purveyor of GLBT cruise events, also celebrates the most bewitching night of the year at sea. The **Western Caribbean Halloween Cruise** departs New Orleans on October 31 on the Carnival Conquest, then heads for Montego Bay, Grand Cayman, and Cozumel. Features include a gala costume ball and the GLBT Film Festival at Sea. Popular comedians Jason Stuart and Julie Goldman and the inimitable drag diva Bernadette will entertain on board. Rates begin at \$1,749 (plus port charges).

Info: 800/592-9058, [www.aquafest.net](http://www.aquafest.net).

Victor Zorn reported on travel options in our August issue.



### FOR THE GALS

Hurricane Charley skirted the Florida Keys, so the annual **Womenfest** celebration, which seemed threatened last month, will continue undeterred September 7-12. In its 17th year, the festival for lesbians and friends attracts about 5,000 festive women for fun in the sun. Comedian Kate Clinton headlines on Friday night. Other events include tea dances, dolphin watch trips, an exhibition of 100 women artists at the Key West Museum of Art & History, and a "hot buns" contest. You go, girls.

The waterfront Atlantic Shores Resort coordinates the festival. More info: 305/296-2491, 800/526-3559, [www.womenfest.net](http://www.womenfest.net).

Dancing girls: An exhibition of work by women artists, including Rochelle Wald's *Saddle Shoes*, is one stop during Womenfest.

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# Calendar of Events

Deadline for OutSmart's October issue is 5 p.m., Saturday, September 11.

## SEPTEMBER

**Daily** (Mon.-Fri.)

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

**Daily** (Mon.-Fri.)

**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; EJ's, 2517 Ralph, 10 pm-1 am; Midtowne Spa, 3100 Fannin, 10 pm-1 am. **Thursday:** All-Star News, 3415 Katy Frwy, 4-8 pm; BRB, 2400 Brazos, 8 pm-midnight; Cousins, 817 Fairview, 8 pm-midnight. **Friday:** EJ's, 2517 Ralph, 10 pm-1 am; Midtowne Spa, 3100 Fannin, 10 pm-1 am; The Meatrack, 2915 San Jacinto, 10 pm-2 am; Rich's, 2401 San Jacinto, 10 pm-1 am. The clinic offers classes for those newly diagnosed with HIV or Hepatitis C. For more info: 713/830-3000.

**10** (Fri.)

**Ethel** is a 21st-century realization of the classical string quartet model fusing classical music with today's pop culture. The performance should prove to be an innovative, improvisational rock concert, 8 pm at Wortham Center's Cullen Theater, 501 Texas. For more info: 713/

237-1439 or [www.spahouston.org](http://www.spahouston.org) or [www.ethelcentral.com](http://www.ethelcentral.com).

**10 & 11** (Fri. & Sat.)

**Divine Comedy.** John Waters' campiest, kitschiest, pervertiest cult comedy ever made—*Pink Flamingos*—stars Mink Stole, David Lochery, the ever divine Divine, and Edith Massey as Divine's egg-obsessed, mentally ill mother. Divine's family and the murderous Marbles (played by Stole and Lochery) wage war against each other for the title of The Filthiest People Alive. No one under 18 admitted. \$8. Midnight at Landmark River Oaks Theatre, 2009 W. Gray. Info: 713/524-2175.

**10-12** (Fri.-Sun.)

**Gay Mysticism.** Contemporary mystic and prolific author Andrew Harvey celebrates and teaches the contribution of homosexual mystics to the world's body of spiritual knowledge. Demonstrating the existence of gay spiritualism in a number of global belief systems, Harvey encourages the gay believer's right to claim their full divine identity following what he calls "the Direct Path." This straight-friendly workshop for gays and lesbians covers tantric sexuality, sacred androgyny, group discussion, and sacred practices for inspiration. Not for the conservative theologian, expect a progressive approach to theological analysis of the world's sacred traditions. \$265, some meals provided. Orientation begins Friday at 7:30 pm; workshop ends after lunch at noon. At Omega at The Crossings, Austin, TX. To register: 877/944-3003. For a review by Alan Davidson of Andrew Harvey's book *A Walk with*

Four Spiritual Guides: Krishna, Buddha, Jesus, and Ramakrishna, visit [www.outsmartmagazine.com](http://www.outsmartmagazine.com) ("ReadOut Shorts" in the Arts & Entertainment section).

**11 & 26** (Sat. & Sun.)

**Bike for a Better City.** Sept. 11: Hermann Park & Zoo Ride. Meet 10:30 am at Mary's front bicycle rack, 1022 Westheimer. Zoo cost is \$7. • Sept. 26: Allen Parkway Ride & Texan/Kansas City game at Little Woodrows in Midtown, 2306 Brazos. Free hamburgers. Start 11 am at Houston Bicycle Co., 404 1/2 Westheimer on Taft. Game noon. • Info: 713/523-6381.

**11** (Sat.)

**Pegasus Productions** presents the 2005 Miss Third Coast Diva Contest, "A Camp Tribute to Stonewall." Festivities will begin at 7 pm at EJ's with a reception show, followed by a GLBT Pride party and the contest. The evening will include great entertainment, light buffet, raffles, and a presentation of a special Community Service Award. Proceeds benefit the Montrose Clinic & Colt 45's. For detailed info: [www.pegasusproductions.us](http://www.pegasusproductions.us).

**18** (Sat.)

**Get Stung.** With "Roxanne" and *The Dream of the Blue Turtles* behind us, a Sting concert is now more of a greatest-hits show. But as oldies but goodies go, he's one helluva goodie. Add '80s pop icon Annie Lennox to the line-up and you realize your generation's music now falls under the category of easy listening. 7 pm at Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion. For tickets: 713/629-3700 or [www.pavilion.woodlandscenter.org](http://www.pavilion.woodlandscenter.org).

**INFO NEEDED FOR YOUR EVENT LISTING:** a few lines of info about your event; date/time; cost; location/address; organization name; AND two phone numbers—one for OutSmart to reach you for questions and one for OutSmart readers to get more info on your event. **Mail info to:** OutSmart Magazine, 3406 Audubon Place, Houston 77006. **Fax info to:** 713/522-3275. **E-mail info to:** [calendar@outsmartmagazine.com](mailto:calendar@outsmartmagazine.com). **NO LISTINGS CAN BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE DEADLINE DATE—SAT., SEPT. 11.**

**18** (Sat.)

**Lou Rawls.** "You'll Never Find" a more golden opportunity to hear a more golden voice. A little bit of trivia: If Isaac Hayes had turned down Matt Stone and Trey Parker for the job as the voice of Chef, Rawls was next on their calling list. \$39-\$133. 8 pm at The Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Postoffice St., Galveston. For tickets: 409/765-1894, 800/821-1894, or [www.thegrand.com](http://www.thegrand.com).

**23** (Thu.)

**Free HIV/AIDS Legal Clinic** with Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program. You will need to bring with you: copy of your ID, proof of all available income into the household, proof of residency, and proof of HIV+ status. The lawyers cannot assist with fee-generating issues, criminal issues, or immigration. Noon-3 pm @ Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond. Call Tom at 713/228-0735, ext. 121, for an available appointment.

**26** (Sun.)

**Julio Iglesias.** If you think Enrique is seductive, try another taste of his father. Julio's Castilian sensuality makes Robert

Goulet sound like a castrati. \$39-\$133. 7 pm at Galveston's Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Postoffice, 409/765-1894, 800/821-1894, or [www.thegrand.com](http://www.thegrand.com).

## PLANNING AHEAD

OCTOBER

**October 2** (Sat.)

**The Young Beethoven.** DaCamera launches its 04-05 season theme of Rebels and Visionaries with an all-Beethoven chamber music concert. As a twentysomething student of Haydn, Beethoven claimed he learned nothing from the master and refused to list him as his teacher in his early published works. Clarinetist Richard Stoltzman performs three of those early works. \$21-\$36.50. 7:30 pm at the Wortham's Cullen Theater, 500 Texas at Smith. Tickets: 713/524-5050, [www.dacamera.com](http://www.dacamera.com).

**October 2 & 3** (Sat. & Sun.)

**Camera Show & Sale.** Everything from collectible antiques to top-of-the-line digitals, darkroom equipment, books, and door prizes twice a day. If you really like camera equipment, this swap-fest will make your bug shutter. \$6. Saturday, 10 am-5 pm; Sunday, 10 am-4 pm. Marriott Hotel, Hobby Airport, 9100 Gulf Fwy at Airport exit. Info: 713/943-7979.

## PERFORMING ARTS

♦ **Balé Folclórico da Bahia.** Brazil's only professional folk dance company combines slave dance, samba, martial arts, song, and music to create an exceptionally unique show. Fri., Sept. 24, 8 pm, at Jones Hall. For tickets: 713/227-4772 or [www.spahouston.org](http://www.spahouston.org). ♦ **Cantinflas!** The Charlie Chaplin of Mexico, Mario Moreno, otherwise known as Cantinflas, is cherished internationally as one of the most charismatic comediantes of Central America. Herbert Siguenza returns to the Alley with this tribute to a comedic figure of depth and genius. Performed in Spanish and English. Sept. 7-12 at The Alley, 615 Texas Ave. Tickets/info: 713/228-8421 or [www.alleytheatre.org](http://www.alleytheatre.org).

♦ **Hair.** Theatre Under The Stars (TUTS) begins its 04-05 season with the musical about moons in seven houses and Jupiter aligning with Mars. Philip Wm. McKinley directs this bounty of fun-time hippy tunes like "(The Age of) Aquarius," "Let the Sun Shine In", and of course, "Hair." This show will be in keeping with the original production, strong language, nudity, and all. \$27-\$72. Sept. 9-26 at the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, 800 Bagby at Walker. For tickets: 713/558-8887 or [www.tuts.com](http://www.tuts.com).

♦ **The Houston Dance Initiative** and friends presents a taste of some of Texas's leading contemporary choreographers and dancers in this presentation of new and recent works. With something for every dance aficionado, styles range from contemporary ballet to funk and hip-hop. Free. Sept. 24-25, 8 pm (11 am matinee Sept. 25), Miller Outdoor Theatre in Hermann Park. ♦ **I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change!** is the show for anyone who's ever felt awkward on a date or in a relationship, and would rather laugh. It's a musical about Everyman and Everywoman and everything that can go wrong when they try to get together. It exposes everything you've secretly thought about dating, mating, and romance but were afraid to admit. Through Sept. 12. Tickets \$25. Stages, 3201 Allen Pkwy. Info: 713/527-0123 or [www.stagestheatre.com](http://www.stagestheatre.com).

♦ **Passing Zone.** Enough juggling acts have seen the lights of the stage that to get as big a booking as the Wortham Center, you have to be unique. That's what these guys are. While juggling chainsaws is nothing too new, juggling members of the audience is clearly original, and pretty damn exciting, especially for the vol-

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## GALS GOLFING

**F**ore! Legacy is An Uncommon Legacy's sixth annual golf tournament. Proceeds from the event will benefit An Uncommon Legacy, a non-profit foundation dedicated to enhancing the strength, visibility, and vitality of the lesbian community. Legacy awards academic scholarships to lesbian students and grants to projects or organizations that address lesbian issues and by promoting lesbian philanthropy.

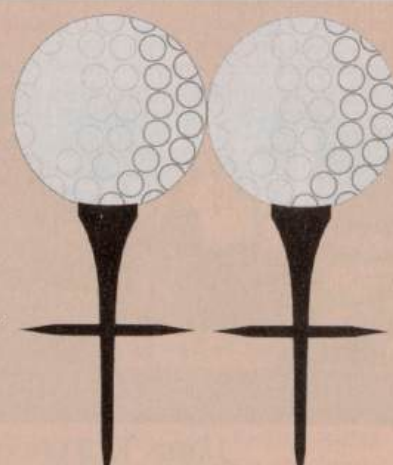
Your entry fee to play in this year's event gives you playing privileges at Hermann Park Golf Course, including green and cart fees; continental breakfast and lunch; beverage/snack cart during play; sponsor prizes; and chances to win great door prizes and course prizes.

Registration begins at 7 a.m. with a continental breakfast, and the playing starts at 8 a.m. At completion of play, lunch will be served, with an awards ceremony and the presentation of raffle prizes. To register online:

[www.ateva.com/go/legacygolftournament](http://www.ateva.com/go/legacygolftournament).

On Thursday, September 16 at 6:30 p.m., you can bid on some great items and on your favorite team at Calcutta (the name of the pre-party for Fore! Legacy) at CABO Montrose, 1111 Westheimer. Appetizers and cash bar.

**What:** "Fore! Legacy" Sixth Annual Golf Tournament  
**When:** 8 a.m., Saturday, September 18, registration at 7 a.m.  
**Where:** Hermann Park Golf Course, 2155 N. MacGregor  
**Info:** Syd White at 713/524-6339 or [swhite6@houston.rr.com](mailto:swhite6@houston.rr.com)





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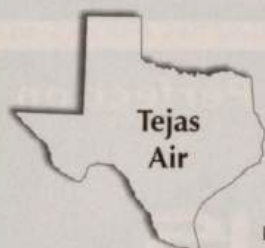


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Ruthie Foster (r) and Cyd Cassone

For the 10th year running, the Houston Women's Festival will offer people a place to hear great music, view arts and crafts, learn about the community, see old friends, and meet new ones.

One of the headliners is **Ruthie Foster**, who has become an established Texas star since she made her festival debut in 1999. Her career has spanned a recording contact with Atlantic in New York City, performances on "Austin City Limits," and appearances at festivals nationwide including the Kerrville Folk Festival, Willie Nelson's Fourth of July Picnic, and Bluesapalooza in California.

The 10th anniversary of the festival also features **Zrazy**, the popular duo from Dublin, Ireland, touring with their new CD *Dream On*. With a gold disc in Ireland, a GLAM Award for Best Jazz, and acclaimed appearances at clubs and festivals in all the major western cities, Zrazy is one of the most respected musical groups in Dublin's history.

Back after winning over fans in their Houston debut last year is **Halcyon**, a duo that is well known in Florida and the southeast. After releasing five CDs, touring from coast-to-coast, singing the national anthem at major sports stadiums, and being featured on Olivia Cruises, this fun and funny duo is increasingly gaining notice.

In the past three years **Nini Camps** has gained many fans in Texas. A New York resident who is originally from Miami, Camps is known for powerful performances that blend pop, country, folk and rock. She uses slide, effects pedals, and percussive Latin rhythms with her acoustic guitar to create a powerful and

enchanting sound that is uniquely hers.

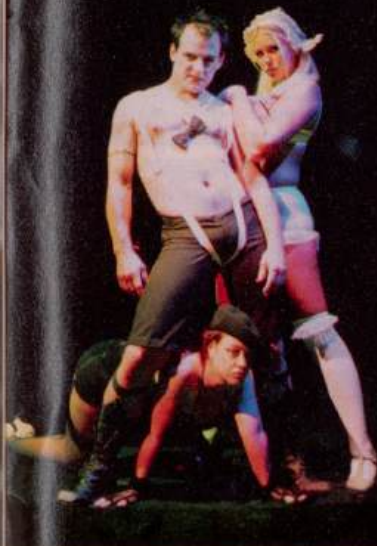
This year the festival is pleased to present **Ellis** in her festival debut. A four-time winner of a Best Musician award in the Twin Cities, Ellis wows audiences with her charismatic stage presence and playful sense of humor. Her album *Tigers Above, Tigers Below* was recognized by *Independent Songwriter Web Magazine* as one of the best albums of 2003.

Another up-and-coming artist making her festival debut is **Katie Reider** from Ohio. Since the release of her first CD *Wonder*, she has been performing with a variety of artists throughout the Midwest, including Melissa Ferrick, Michelle Malone, and Catie Curtis. Her songs have been heard on the WB television show *Dawson's Creek* and on Lifetime TV's *Strong Medicine*.

The festival takes place Saturday, **October 2** from noon to 10 p.m. at Jones Plaza downtown. While music wafts through the plaza, a marketplace of vendors will offer handmade arts and crafts and information about community groups and services. Paintings, candles, jewelry, and imports from around the world are just some of the items that will be featured. In addition many vendors offer interactive activities, giveaways or drawings for prizes. Good food and drinks are available throughout the day, and street parking is free downtown on weekends.

Completely remodeled in 2001, Jones Plaza is the site of weekly concerts and offers a concession area, plenty of nice restrooms, pedestrian ramps, canopies for shade, new tables and chairs, and beautiful landscaping. For more information, visit [www.hwfestival.org](http://www.hwfestival.org).

## WILLKOMMEN, BIENVENUE, WELCOME!



**Cabaret**, set in the city of Berlin just before Hitler's rise to power, is based on Christopher Isherwood's *Berlin Stories* and John Van Druten's *I Am a Camera*. The main action of the play revolves around a cabaret performer, Sally Bowles, and the brief affair she has with an American writer who takes her in after she is kicked out of the Kit Kat Club where she performs. Although Sally and Clifford soon find themselves deeply in love, there is too much chaos in the world around them. Soon they find their relationship is being jeopardized by outside forces which threaten to tear them apart. • Tickets \$22 for adults and \$17 for students/senior citizens. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. through Sept. 12, at etc, 2001 Postoffice, Galveston, 409-762-3556, [www.islandetc.com](http://www.islandetc.com).

Kevin Daugherty as the emcee, Penny Reiger (floor) as Frenchy, and Monika Frazier as Helga in etc's production of *Cabaret*.

unteers: Sat., Sept. 25, 7 pm. at Wortham's Cullen Theater. For tickets: 713/227-4772 or [www.spahouston.org](http://www.spahouston.org).

## PERFORMING ARTS For Young People

♦ **ComedySportz for Kidz**. With a new matinee just for kids, your wee ones now have their own tailor-made version of *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* These special KIDz R US are designed with the 14-and-under crowd in mind, use lots of audience volunteers, and provide loads of entertainment without parental worries of adult language, situations, or violence. \$5. Every Saturday beginning Sept. 18, 4-5 pm, at the ComedySportz Arena, 901 Town & Country Blvd. (I-10 West and the Beltway). For tickets: 713/868-1444.

## 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

♦ **Bill Dennard: Retrospective 1947-2003**. Respected artist and head of the ceramics department at the Glassell School of Art, Bill Dennard was a beloved teacher who led a successful career. His retrospective is in the Main Gallery, his former students' show in the Artists' Hall. Free. Sept. 25-November 14, with opening reception Sept. 24, 6-8 pm. Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, 4848 Main St. For info: 713/529-4848 or [www.craftshouston.org](http://www.craftshouston.org).

♦ **Glass: An Artist's Medium**. This exhibit of a dozen artists emphasizes the artists' concept over form and function. Rather than making glass the end result of a piece, each artist incorporates glass into their finished work. Free. Through Sept. 30 at The Arts Alliance Center, 2000 NASA Parkway, across from Johnson Space Center. For info: 281/335-7777 or [www.taacd.org](http://www.taacd.org).

♦ **How Latitudes Become Forms: Art in a Global Age**. An in-depth examination of how global change impacts art. Artists from Brazil, China, Japan, India, South Africa, Turkey, and the U.S. who work in media ranging

from drawings and architectural structures to documentary films are featured in the exhibition. Through Sept. 26 at the Contemporary Arts Museum, 5216 Montrose Blvd. Info: 713/284-8250 or [www.camh.org](http://www.camh.org). ♦ **Jessica Stockholder: New Installation**. Described by ARTnews as "one of the most sought-after installation artists working today," Stockholder is known for large-scale spatial constructions that are imaginative, hilarious, and colorful. This will be the first solo installation in the U.S. for the director of graduate studies in sculpture at Yale University in eight years. Opening reception at 6 pm, Thursday, Sept. 16 with a talk from the artist. Free. Through Sunday, Oct. 31, at Rice University Art Gallery. For more info: 713/348-4736 or [www.ricegallery.org](http://www.ricegallery.org).

♦ **Teachers in the Spotlight in Studio School Faculty Exhibition**. Twenty-two professors and faculty members continue the Glassell's tradition of faculty shows, but for the first time in 46 years, with an accompanying catalogue. Organized artists? Is this progress or is it creativity held down by the system? Sept. 17-Nov. 28 at the Glassell School of Art, 5101 Montrose Blvd. For info: 713/639-7500.

♦ **Truth Matters: The Meaning of Objects** is a group exhibition that looks at still life and the meaning artists make of them. Koya Abe adds digital images of Samurais and the Ol' West to photos inspired by 19th-century snapshots. Michelle Sank offers a critical portrayal of the Western world from the perspective of adolescent girls. On exhibit Sept. 17-Oct. 31 at the Houston Center for Photography, 1441 W. Alabama. For info: 713/529-4755 or [www.hcponline.org](http://www.hcponline.org).

♦ **Yale Street Arts & Flower Market** is a Heights market created for local artists to display and sell their original works of art. Fresh-cut flowers are also available. Entertainment is provided by local musicians and is a highlight throughout the day. The market is free & open to the public from 9 am-5 pm and continues the first Saturday of each month, coinciding with the Heights 1st Saturday events. The market is located behind Kaplan's Ben-Hur at 210 West 21st Street just off Yale. Free parking is available in the Kaplan's parking lot. Info or booth rental: Mitch Cohen at 713/802-1213 or visit [www.YaleStreetMarket.com](http://www.YaleStreetMarket.com).

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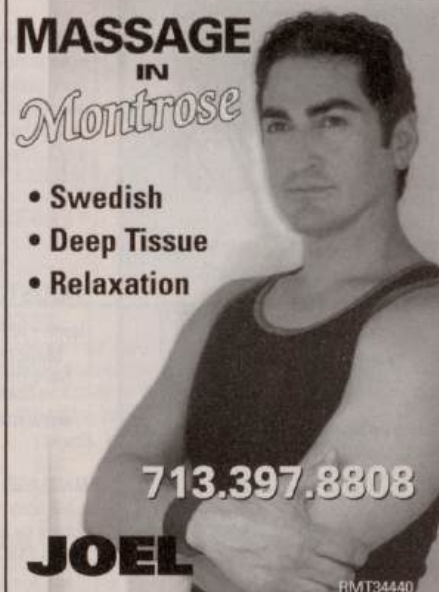
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## Business News

**Cat Veterinary Clinic** (2125 West Alabama, 713/523-5171) has opened a second building adjacent to the existing location, which includes a state-of-the-art operating theater for felines, additional office space, and a reception area for pet owners. The clinic, owned by **Paula Runté, D.V.M.**, has also unveiled an improved website, [www.catvetclinic.com](http://www.catvetclinic.com). The site now includes health and care tips for cats, retail sources, adoption information, and the Nurse Puff question-and-answer page.



**Brett Roberts** (above) of **River Oaks Chrysler Jeep** (5807 Kirby Dr.) was recently promoted from sales consultant to finance-sales manager. His phone number is 713/831-2820.

**Rebecca Perez**, an agent with **Keller Williams Realty**, will host a workshop for prospective homebuyers on September 23, 6:30-7:30 p.m. The free event, "Why Take The Long Way Home?," will take place at the Freed-Montrose Library (4100 Montrose Blvd.). Space is limited to 15 people. Refreshments will be served. More info and reservations: 713/240-6320.

**Blakely Bering**, formerly of Bering's Home Centers, has joined art dealer **Austin James** as partner in his Rice Village gallery. With the new partnership, the name for the firm has changed to **Bering & James** (2482 Bolsover, 713/529-0351). Bering & James represents 25 artists, including the gallery owners. The art-consulting group Corporate Walls remains part of the firm. The

current gallery exhibition, *Contemporary Abstraction Meets the Kitchen Appliance*, includes work by Houstonian Stephen Russell



(whose painting, *Village Creek Camp*, is pictured) remains on view through September.

**Jeff Greider** has announced that his **Travel By Jeff** is now an independent, accredited home-based travel agency. His phone number is 832/875-4800, and his website is [www.travelbyjeff.com](http://www.travelbyjeff.com).

**Martha Turner** (l), owner of **Martha Turner Properties**, and **McMurtrey Gallery** owner **Roni McMurtrey** co-



chair *It's All About Art from the Heart*, an October 17 benefit for Darla's School for Mentally Retarded Adults. The fundraiser at Decorative Center Houston will feature an auction of works of art created by students of Darla's School, located in Montrose, as well as work by local and national artists. Tickets are \$75. Info: 713/523-2114.



On July 14, **Rafael Galindo** and his wife **Barbara** (not pictured), celebrated the fourth anniversary of their **Café Red Onion** restaurant. Joining Galindo (c, with

cake) were *My Table* publisher **Teresa Byrne-Dodge** (l-r), **Julie Coan**, **Robyn Tinsley**, **Ernie Manouse** of KUHT, and **Timothy Mingee**. ■

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## Dalton DeHart PHOTOGRAPHER



Recent events on website:

- Bunnies on the Bayou
- Holocaust Museum
- Empower w/ Jai of Fab Five
- Pride Parade 2004

...and many other events!



[www.daltondehart.com](http://www.daltondehart.com)





Tom Staley with OutSmart at Kennebunkport.

#### SHOW US YOUR OutSMART

Tom Staley, formerly of Houston and now a New Yorker, posed in July with his copy of OutSmart at Walker's Point, Kennebunkport, Maine, the summer retreat of the Bush clan. The president was in residence the same weekend to attend his nephew George P.'s wedding. Staley did not receive an invitation.

**Going out of town?** Take OutSmart along. Snap a picture of yourself at your destination and send it to us. We will publish our favorites. Readers who submit photos that we print will be entered into a drawing for prizes. Send high-resolution images to editor@OutSmartMagazine or mail photos to 3406 Audubon, Houston, TX 77006.

#### Time Out with OutSMART

SPECIAL PROMOTIONS AND ADVERTISING

#### COMING IN OCTOBER: GAYEST & GREATEST

Pick up the October OutSMART and check out the results of our eighth annual reader survey. Will your favorite community activist win? That show-stopping drag queen? That new restaurant you like? Read OutSMART and find out.

Throughout August, the OutSMART crew held Gayest & Greatest ballot parties at clubs and restaurants in Houston and Galveston.



On August 11, Paul Luong (l-r), Jeff Godell, Tony Siytangco, and Kacey Brown attended the Gayest & Greatest ballot party at JR's Bar & Grill.

#### RIGHT TRUCK, WRONG DEALER

Jack Roach Ford provided the official OutSMART parade vehicle for the June 26 Pride parade, not Russell & Smith Ford, as we indicated last month.



OutSMART staff, friends, and family wait for the start of the Pride parade with the official truck from Jack Roach Ford.

Time Out

# JESUS...

## 'nuf said!



Community Gospel Church

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

GALVESTON ANTIQUE DEALERS ASSOCIATION

OCT 8-10, 2004

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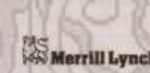
Each participant will have a daily drawing for prizes.

Grand Prize Drawing will be held on

Sunday October 10th at 5pm.

Grand Prize: A Galveston Weekend for 2.

(Includes a two night stay at the Tremont House, brunch for 2 at Hotel Galvez and a carriage tour by Island Carriages)



#### PARTICIPANTS

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Dragonfly Gallery • Eiband's Gallery • Grace Manor  
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Porch • Nautical Antiques & Decor • Normandy Inn B&B  
On Broadway Antiques • Sam Hampton Grandfather Repairs  
Simpson's On The Strand • Skinner's Antiques • Somewhere  
In Time • The Coppersmith Inn B&B • The Front Porch  
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#### In Memoriam

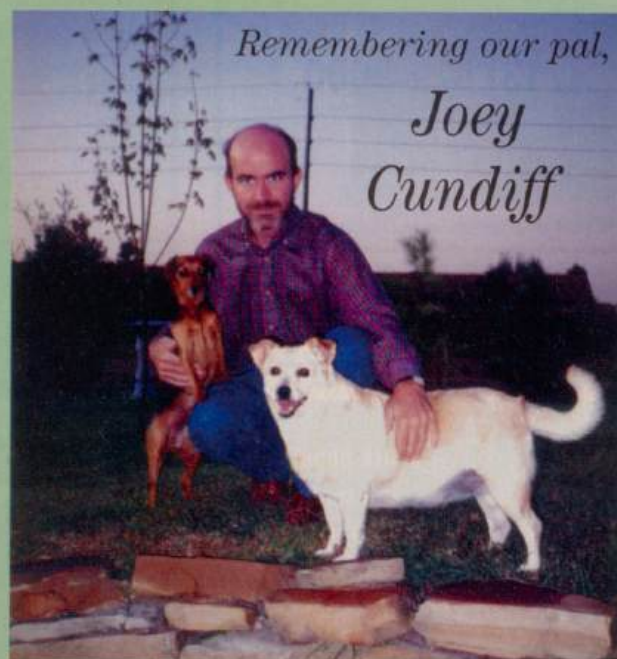


**Bryan K. Williams**

Your kindness, friendship and support  
will always be remembered.  
—your friends at OutSmart

#### Remembering our pal,

**Joey Cundiff**



April 18, 1955~September 9, 1992

The true language of the heart  
goes unspoken.  
love, Greg Jeu

## Self-hatred, pity, depression

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## BAR & CLUB GUIDE

### HOUSTON

#### BOCADOS

On Wednesday nights, women pack this Mexican restaurant for dancing and socializing. Sunday brunch starts at 11 a.m. and lasts till 3 in the afternoon. 1312 West Alabama • 713/523-5230.

#### BRAZOS RIVER BOTTOM

The BRB, Houston's leading country-western bar, is located in Midtown, just outside Montrose. Expect to see some fast and fancy two-stepping. Great benefit shows often take place on Sunday night. 2400 Brazos • 713/528-9192.

#### BRIAR PATCH

One of the oldest gay nightspots in Houston, the venerable piano bar recently moved to a Montrose location. Popular entertainer Jerry Atwood performs every Saturday night. 2312 Crocker • 713/665-9678 • www.HoustonGayBars.com.

#### BRICKS II

This neighborhood joint boasts a jukebox with country music, pool tables, cold draft, and the occasional cowboy hat. Regu-lars rule at this low-key spot. 617 Fairview • 713/528-8102.

#### CABO MONTROSE

This restaurant near the Westheimer-Montrose epicenter now has a weekly GLBT Night on Tuesdays directed at diners in the community, featuring drink specials. 1111 Westheimer • 713/942-2226.

#### 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 Thursdays. Women-fronted bands perform every Saturday night. 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. 8305 Skyline • 713/953-0268, 281/322-0394 • www.clubbigyo.com.

#### 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.

#### COUSIN'S

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



#### BEHIND THE BAR

**WHO:** Terri Crown  
**WHERE:** The Rainbow Room (527 Barren Springs, 281/872-0216)

**WHAT'S UP:** The northside club has begun presenting live music. The Buck Jager Band performs on September 10.

#### 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 at this stylish Shepherd Plaza video club. Karaoke fans tune up for the Wednesday and Sunday night contest. 2159 Portsmouth • 713/524-3359 • www.guavalamp.com.

#### JR's/SANTA FE

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

#### MANGO VIDEO LOUNGE

Located next to Club Inergy, this Wednesday-Saturday spot has a 15-ft. video screen, dance floor, & 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 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.pearl.houston.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

Every Thursday, Heather Moon hosts Karaoke Night at this north Houston club. DJ Kenny supplies music on Friday & Saturday. The club has begun presenting live music. 527 Barren Springs off Ella Boulevard • 281/872-0215 • www.GayNorthHouston.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/levi/uniform crowd. 715

Fairview • 713/521-2792 • www.theripcord.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 potent EAW Avalon Series Sound System keeps the shirtless boys dancing the night away. In the Gayest & Greatest poll, OutSmart readers named this spot the best club after 2 a.m. 810 Pacific • 713/529-SOBE (7823) • www.SouthBeachTheNightclub.com.

#### TOYZ

Thursday night means the long-running Papi Chulo amateur strip show, emceed by Monique Johnson with DJ Alex T. providing house, hip hop, and Latin music. Cookie La Cook hosts her show on Fridays. 5322 Glenmont • 713/668-4892.

#### UNION BAR & LOUNGE

This swank new club in Montrose has Girlie Action on Thursdays hosted by DJ Gracie Chavez and featuring guest female DJs ("Bring your girlfriends out, ladies," the website beckons). 202 Tuam • 713/529-5296 • www.unionbarandlounge.com.

#### VIVIANA'S

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

#### XCAPE

Lyrice Andrews hosts Luscious Ladies Nite on Wednesdays, featuring female go-go dancers and no cover for gals. On Fridays and Saturdays, there is no cover all night. 8101 Airport Blvd. • 713/454-0775.

**NOTE:** • Club Kalipsa has closed.

• The owner of Rich's Houston recently closed the gay nightspot and re-opened the establishment as a nongay-oriented music club.

#### 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

#### 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.

#### ROBERT'S LAFITTE

A real neighborhood bar, this island institution attracts a colorful crowd of regulars and travelers. The verdant, redone private patio at the club, located only two blocks from the Gulf, now includes a swimming pool. 2501 Ave Q (at 25\*) • 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.

#### UNDERCURRENT

Keith Curry and Marvin Grenier, long-time Blvd Saloon bartenders, have assumed ownership of the Gulf-view bar and rechristened it. The second-floor deck still has a great view of the water. 3102 Seawall Blvd. • 409/750-8571.

#### 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.

#### CHRIS' CROCKETT STREET PUB

This club (formerly just Crockett Stree Pub) has new owners, Chris and Sybil, and a slightly new name. Free pool and Man Watch on Saturday night are just some of the features here. 497 Crockett • 409/835-4243 • www.GayBeaumont.com.

#### HOOLIGAN'S

Though primarily a women's bar, this just-opened club is open to all. Features include karaoke night on Wed. & frequent live music, especially on Fridays & Saturdays. 6025 Martin Luther King • 409/832-0808.

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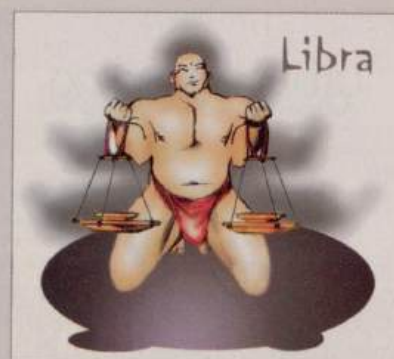
by Lilly Roddy

As the month opens, we experience Mercury direct on September 1. However, we need to wait until the 5th before we start new projects. This is a busy and active month with a fair amount of stress and tension. This seems to be the case for the first half of the month. The latter half is a bit smoother. • Jupiter changes signs on the 24th and moves into Libra. The normal time that Jupiter spends in any sign is approximately a year. With Jupiter in Libra, we will see more people working for harmony and peace. But along with that, we will be made more aware of the conflicts around the world and around us. • The tense days of this month are the 2nd, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 15th, 18th, 22nd, 26th, and 29th. The calmer days are the 5th, 6th, 16th, 17th, 23rd, 24th, and 28th. I realize there are not too many calm days. Keep alert. • The Sun begins the month in Virgo and tries to balance herself when she moves into Libra on the 22nd. Mercury starts the month retrograde in Leo but quickly moves into Virgo on the 9th. Venus is at home in Cancer but needs more attention as she livens up Leo on the 6th. Mars is working his way through Virgo and becomes a worker for peace on the 26th as he enters Libra. I mentioned Jupiter above. The rest of the planets are happy where they are.

**ARIES** (March 21–April 19). You are very focused on getting your health, house, and workplace in order. And you are clearly working like a Trojan to get everything done. You see detail more clearly and may lose sight of the larger picture if you are not careful. Career and security are still leading you this month, and having more order in your life is paramount. Near the end of September, you shift your attention toward relationships. Activity in this part of your life is about to get a lot more interesting.

**TAURUS** (April 20–May 20). You are more playful this month, and your creative juices are flowing. You are more fun at work, on a date, and in the bedroom. After last month, you need a break from all the tension about work and financial security. You are still a bit distant about real commitment to almost everything. Those of you born in the middle of the sign are the most affected by this lack of clarity about life direction. You will feel more driven about getting back on schedule toward the end of the month.

**GEMINI** (May 21–June 21). You are looking for a place to settle down this month. And you are working on making your home a whole lot more orderly and organized. You may even go back and visit your family to get a more grounded feeling in your life. Career activities are unsettled, and you really need something that excites you. And watch your temper near the end of the month. You could really be acting out at work.



**LIBRA** (September 23–October 23). Rest and relaxation are important for you this month. You are in a time of spiritual retreat. And too many people, or too much noise, or too much in general will suck the energy from you. Spend time with those who you care most about and those who will succor you. You are about to have a very busy year as we approach the end of the month. There will be travel, lots of activity, and plenty of business opportunities. Enjoy your rest, as you will not have much time for this till next year in September.

**CANCER** (June 22–July 22). Two things will be happening this month for you. You will be getting organized, and you will be more productive than usual. You are more attuned to your body. Many of you will be visiting the doctor or putting health regimes back into your life. You will be ruled more by your intellect than your emotions. And you may seem cold to some who know you. What you really want is to not waste your time. You may want people to only speak to you in headlines. You are still working on the perfect format for a partnership. Family matters come aboard at the end of the month.

**LEO** (July 23–August 22). You are taking a much more aggressive stance toward your finances this month. Your appetites are large, and you can easily charge up those credit cards. Keep a handle on the difference between what you want and what you need. Your charisma and charm are very strong this month. This can be very helpful in relationships or in business. Relationships still feel illusive until the end of the month when you get some mental clarity about this part of your life.

**VIRGO** (August 23–September 22). This is your birthday time of the year when your yearly cycles come to an end and begin again. Part of this time represents closure, and the other part is about renewal. You are working on a whole new way to have a relationship. Your old pattern has been thrown out the window. There are lots of business opportunities, and you need to respond to as many as you can. Watch the temptation to take on more than you can manage. Money is the key element at the end of the month.

**SCORPIO** (October 24–November 21). You are moving into a very good time for business

and social conditions. And it will be easy for you to combine both. Seek out people and organizations that can be helpful to you in all areas. Business will play a very strong role in your life, even over relationships. There is some romance out there, but it will also be found in the career arena. Keep your eyes and your heart open. You may think that you are being practical, but your sexual energy is showing and a few may have the courage to approach.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22–December 21). You have a real balancing act this month. On the one hand, your career activity is extra strong, and there will be plenty of people knocking on your door. Yet you are guarding your privacy more than ever. And people will come strolling into your space as though they think they should be there. They will soon come into contact with your temper. This is especially strong on the 8th through the 13th. Keep your boundaries in place. They are just attracted to your dynamic fiery qualities.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22–January 19). You definitely need to get away from your routines and take some time for the great outdoors. And if you have a partner, this is a great time to take her/him with you. You really need to spend some time concentrating on that part of your life in which you have been lacking. But you may not have allotted much time. And in this month, you are ready to get away from the office, and you will want to have someone close to you. Regular life intercedes near the 26th, and you will have plenty to do at work.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20–February 18). Deepening commitments are what you are interested in this month. You are seeking a renewal in your relationships via sexual energies and going beyond the mask that you wear to protect others from you. And only close physical intimacies will do. If barriers are discovered, then there will be arguments and fireworks until the walls are torn down or the relationship ends. You are not going to be willing to be less, so that others can love you.

**PISCES** (February 19–March 20). This month, you will want people in your life—partners, friends, lovers, business associates, and almost everyone you come into contact with. The period of isolation is partially over, and you are ready to allow people back into your life. You are more motivated at your current career, or you are definitely looking for some place to feel passionate about. You are not interested in settling. During the week of the 5th through the 14th, you are a bit edgy. Don't hide away during this time. Let your potent self show!

A professional astrologer for 20 years, Lilly Roddy counsels individuals and teaches classes. Her website is [www.lillyroddy.com](http://www.lillyroddy.com).

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# OUT IN HOUSTON



**1** Mayor **Bill White** (l) and City Controller **Annise Parker** spoke at the June 10 meeting of the National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association-Houston at Rouge.



**2** **Daniel Zorn** (l) greeted DIFFA Houston director **Rodney Honerkamp** at the June 3 kickoff event at Cabo Montrose for the Eat Out Chip In restaurant benefit for Design Industries Foundations Fighting AIDS.



**3** On June 19, the Men's Gathering of Houston presented the forum "The Black Woman's Low Down on the Down Low" at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. **Dionne Redmond** (r) was a panelist, and **Christopher Evans** is Men's Gathering facilitator.

**4** Two more snapshots from the June 26 Pride Parade: members of the Houston transgender clan (l) and Houston GLBT Community Center group waited for the parade to roll.

**5** On June 9, the Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce held a preview reception of *Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals 1933-1945* at Holocaust Museum Houston. **Rocky Atwood** (l) and **Allen Balla** greeted **Ted Phillips** (c), deputy director of exhibitions for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., which organized the exhibition, on view through Sept. 16.

**6** **Liz Wanden** (l-r), **Shreda Paire**, and **Tiffany Ainsworth** of AssistHers participated in the June 5 Lesbian Health Initiative fair at Montrose Clinic.

**7** **Chris Jimmerson** (r) of Unhinged Productions accepted a donation from **Earl Krieger** (l) and **Frank Staggs** of the Diana Foundation on May 19.



1-2, 5-7 DALTON DEHART; 3 COURTESY THE MEN'S GATHERING; 4 TIM BROOKOVER

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