

OutSmart

HOUSTON and trans magazine

OCTOBER 2005
www.outsmartmagazine.com

All Hail the Queen

Kofi, drag queen
extraordinaire,
leads your choices
in the annual
Gayest & Greatest
survey

Election Preview

- Q&A with marriage-amendment fighter Glen Maxey
- Profile of City Council candidate Sue Lovell
- Political Caucus endorsements

Kofi, Gayest & Greatest
Favorite Drag Queen

True Blue.



AKURUM/LINJÄR blue kitchen with 10 x 10' pricing starting at **\$2,186***

*Excluding assembly and installation.

You'll never feel blue in this beautiful IKEA kitchen. You can even design it yourself by visiting www.IKEA.com. But first, check out our fully-built and functional showroom kitchens at the store. You won't believe how affordable your dream kitchen can be.

You don't have to be rich. Just smart.



7810 Katy Freeway, Houston Telephone: (713) 688-7867 Store Hours: 10 am - 9 pm Everyday

© INTER IKEA SYSTEMS B.V. 2005 Some assembly may be required.

Sell your home for as little as **\$1,000***



UrbanLite.com

Price	Savings
\$300,000	\$8,000
\$500,000	\$14,000

(713) 868-LITE

\$1,127/mo



Highrises, a life above the rest.

Montrose Area from \$259,000

HN Group
& Associates LP

\$1,034/mo



A lot more room.
A little less money.

Memorial Park from \$237,700

FARB
HOMES

\$1,230/mo



Luxury isn't only for the rich.

Memorial Park from \$282,500

NH
Nortgate Custom Homes

\$1,650/mo



The inside is finished like the outside.

Memorial Park from \$379,000

Steven Homes

\$914/mo



Be the first on your block.

The Heights from \$210,000

Model Now Open!
7 Days a Week, From 10am - 7pm

KJovnanian
HOMES

\$1,193/mo



Don't let the low prices scare you off.

Garden Oaks from \$274,000

Joyce Homes

\$1,388/mo



Not all of today's best investments are found on Wall Street.

Memorial Park from \$319,000

MR
MORGAN RESIDENTIAL, INC.

\$1,153/mo



Increase your net worth.

The Heights from \$265,000

Willars & Willars, LLC
Home Builders



Owners Wanted

Visit Our Showroom:
5023 Washington Ave.

UrbanLiving.com

713.868.7226

* 5/1 Interest Only ARM | 5% Down | Interest 1st 5.5% (Fixed for 5 years, adjusts every year after 5th, 2% annual cap & 5% lifetime cap) | Interest 2nd 7.125% (30 due in 15) | 5.462% APR | Rates may vary annually | License # 6498

exquisite yet affordable



Thanks OutSmart's Readers
for the vote of trust
**ONE OF THE BEST
GIFT & ACCESSORIES
SHOP 2005**

Invite you to join ART/JAZZ/WINE Event
held October 20 thru 22
in the River Oaks Shopping Center!

Visit our new location on

2034 W. GRAY
HOUSTON, TX 77019
At S. Shepherd and W. Gray - River Oaks
Shopping Center next to Jamba Juice
Phone: 713-524-8429
Mon - Fri 10-6 * Sat 10-7 * Sun 12-5

CONTENTS

Vol. 12 • No. 9 • OCTOBER 2005

News & Comment

- 8 **Letters**
- 14 **News Briefs** A World Series win, Halloween Magic, more.
- 18 **LeftOut/Daryl Moore** Katrina exposed an ugly national secret.
- 19 **OutRight/Dale Carpenter** Arnold's threat to veto marriage rights imperils his legacy as a moderate.
- 22 **InsideOut/Annise D. Parker** We must keep our eyes on the prize in the marriage fight.

Features

- 10 **OutFront** No Nonsense apparel makes a statement, a Houston Buyers Club benefit calendar. Photographs by John Conroy and David Lewis.
- 26 **COVER STORY Gay to the Nines** In our ninth annual Gayest & Greatest survey, you tell us your favorites.
- 48 **First in the Fight** Glen Maxey leads the No Nonsense in November campaign to defeat the antigay marriage amendment. By Brian Martinez.
- 54 **Sue Aims for 2** Community activist Sue Lovell runs for City Council At-Large Position 2; plus political caucus endorsements. By Deborah Moncrief Bell.
- 60 **After the Storm** Members of the community pitched in to help when Hurricane Katrina struck. Photos by Dalton DeHart.
- 64 **Freudian Song** The new Houston Grand Opera director makes plans for the company. By D.L. Groover.

Arts & Entertainment

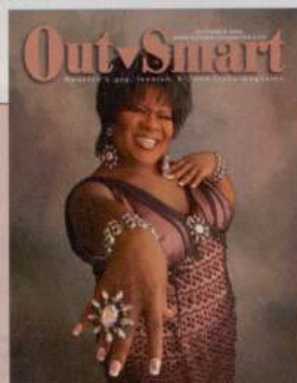
- 68 **LookOut/Tim Brookover** An exhibition celebrating the life of Princess Diana opens this month.
- 70 **Queer Quotes/Blaise DiStefano** Portia de Rossi, Elijah Wood, more.
- 72 **DVD/VHS** Gregg Araki portrays childhood demons in *Mysterious Skin*. Plus previews of *Fish Can't Fly*, more by Troy Carrington, Suzie Lynde.
- 76 **Television** An interview with the gay writers of the series *Tripping the Rift* by Lance Scott Walker.
- 78 **GrooveOut/Gregg Shapiro** From Baez to Bowie, concert CDs record live action. Plus reviews/previews of new releases from Barbra Streisand, Andy Bell, Dolly Parton, Linda Eder, more by Troy Carrington, Suzie Lynde, Lance Scott Walker.
- 84 **ReadOut/Tim Brookover** A new book salutes Metropolitan Community Church founder Troy Perry. Plus reviews of *The Velvet Rage*, *Center Square*, more by Angel Curtis, Blaise DiStefano, Donalevan Maines.

Out & About

- 92 **OutLoud/Sally Sheklow** Flamingos?
- 94 **Calendar** A new movie version of *Macbeth* premieres.
- 110 **Bar/Club Guide** Sam Echols of Undercurrent.
- 112 **SignOut/Lilly Roddy**
- 114 **SceneOut**

Advertisers' Index

- 102 **Business News**
- 106 **Classifieds**
- 108 **OutSmart Advertisers**



About the cover:
OutSmart readers again named Kofi their favorite drag queen in our Gayest & Greatest survey, beginning on page 26.
Photo: Pam Francis
Design: Blaise DiStefano

Charming 3 bed, 2 bath Heights home on fantastic street with lots of light, open floor plan, lovely yard and large front porch. \$275,000 Call Glen Fillmore at 713-875-9482.



Beautiful 3 bed, 2 bath Heights renovation on oversized lot with hardwoods and granite throughout, incredible master and uncompromised attention to detail. \$325,000 Call Glen Fillmore at 713-875-9482.

Well-restored 2 bed, 1 bath classic Heights bungalow with beautiful kitchen, refinished hardwoods and relaxing backyard. \$220,000 Call Glen Fillmore at 713-875-9482.



Glen Fillmore
Independent Realtor Executive
713-875-9482

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

Ten new homes in Shady Acres by Carbella Homes with stucco & stone exteriors, arched windows and balconies. Buy now to customize! Starting at \$231,900 Call Bob Beszborn at 281-650-2726.



3 bed, 1 bath Midtown home on corner lot with gorgeous old oak trees was built in 1919 and has been beautifully restored. \$249,000 Call Bob Beszborn at 281-650-2726.

Wonderful 2 bed, 2.5 bath Midtown TH in gated community with fantastic kitchen, welcoming master suite and great downtown view. \$379,900 Call Bob Beszborn at 281-650-2726.



Bob Beszborn
Independent Realtor Executive
281-650-2726

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

Like new 3 bed, 2 bath Galveston home with panoramic Gulf views, hardwoods and comes with all appliances and most furnishings! \$279,000 Call Dana Shinn or Alice Melott at 713-598-1126.



Beautiful, large, 3/2 in Galveston's popular Isla del Sol with awesome views, 9' ceilings, surround-sound inside/out & 508 s.f. of deck. \$322,000 Call Dana Shinn or Alice Melott at 713-598-1126.

Well loved 2 bed, 1 bath Heights cottage with some updates, some original features and additional sunroom and greenhouse. \$222,000 Call Dana or Alice at 713-598-1126.



Dana Shinn & Alice Melott
Independent Realtor Executive
713-598-1126

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

Elegant 3 bed, 3.5 bath townhomes near Memorial Park with open spaces, beautiful hardwood floors, stylish kitchen and wonderful architecture. \$329,900 Call Ashton Martini at 832-878-7686



Charming, light and bright, 2 bed, 2 bath TH in the heart of the Montrose/River Oaks area with designer features and lots of green space. \$225,000 Call Ashton Martini at 832-878-7686

Townhomes in gated Rice Military community with huge master, island kitchen, granite counters and builder will provide a year of estimated electric. Starting at \$276,900 Call Ashton Martini at 832-878-7686



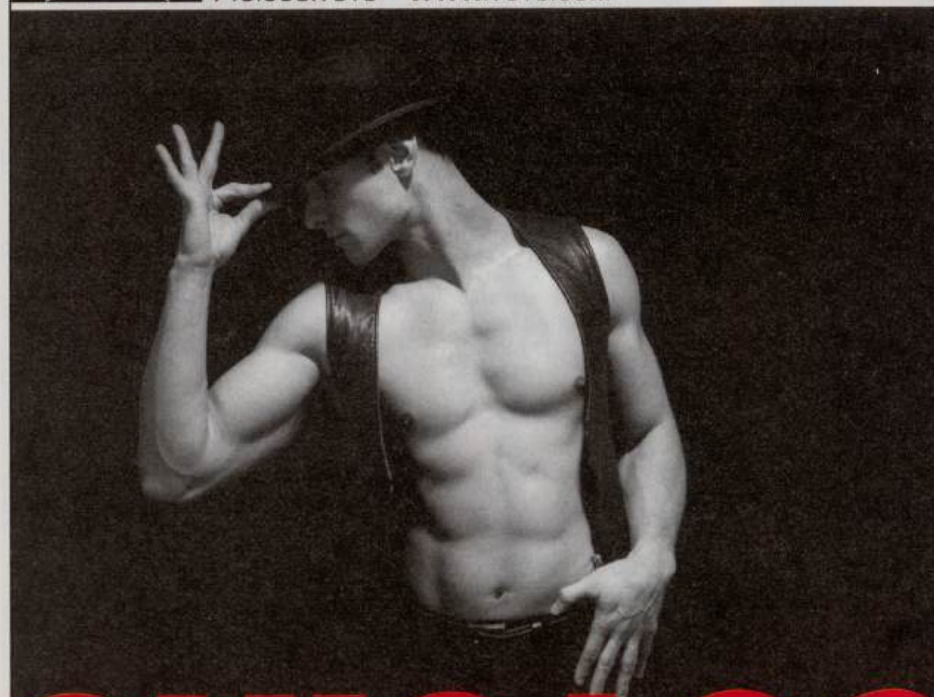
Ashton Martini
Independent Realtor Executive
832-878-7686

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

WWW.KARENDERR.COM

KAREN DERR & ASSOCIATES REALTY

713-862-1600



CHICAGO

LIVE!
OCTOBER 11-23
HOBBY CENTER

OUT@TUTS — Wednesday, October 12

Would you like to mingle with the cast and listen to some fabulous cabaret music? After the performance join your GLBT friends at Artista. You'll enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres and drinks at Happy Hour prices.

Groups of 15+ call 713.558.8888 for special discounts.



Acapulco —
at least 10° cooler here this time of year

Acapulco's gay guesthouse accommodation

Book now and mention code OSM05 for 1/2 off your second night

res@casacondesa.com

Paradise just got a toll-free number: 800.816.4817

NOW PUBLISHING IN OUR 11TH YEAR!

OutSmart

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

Publisher Greg Jeu
Associate Publisher James T. Hurst

Editor Tim Brookover
Creative Director/Entertainment Editor Blase DiStefano
Graphic Artists Teresa Anderson, Leslie Claire

Contributing Writers Deborah Moncrief Bell, Dale Carpenter, Troy Carrington, Angel Curtis, Eric A.T. Dieckman, D.L. Groover, Suzie Lynde, Donalevan Maines, Brian Martinez, Daryl Moore, Annise D. Parker, Lilly Roddy, Gregg Shapiro, Sally Sheldow, Lance Scott Walker

Photographers/Illustrators John Conroy, Dalton DeHart, Yvonne Feece, Pam Francis, David Eduardo Flores Perez

General Manager Tom Fricke

Account Executives Thomas Chelena, Greg Jeu, Alan Moehle, Jack Richardson III, Dolores Varela

Web Content Manager Ann Walton Sieber

National Advertising Representative Rivendell Media - 212/242-6863



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

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

E-mail address: letters@outsmartmagazine.com

Website address: www.outsmartmagazine.com

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



Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender/Affirming Senior Living Center Survey

The following questions will help determine the community we are going to serve.

All of the information you provide will be completely confidential and anonymous.

Please mail this completed survey to **Resurrection MCC, 2025 W. 11th Street, Houston, Texas 77008**

You may also download this form from our website: www.resurrectionmcc.org

1. Are you? ☐ Male ☐ Female

2. Age? ☐ Under 30 ☐ 31 to 45 ☐ 45+

3. What is your monthly mortgage/rent payment?

- ☐ -Less than \$500
- ☐ -\$500 to \$999
- ☐ -\$1,000 or over
- ☐ -Do not have a mortgage

4. What are you considering for housing arrangements during your retirement years?

- ☐ -Remain in current situation
- ☐ -Move to a living center
- ☐ -Move to another house/apartment
- ☐ -Move in with family members or friends
- ☐ -I have no plan

5. Which of the following are most important to you?

- ☐ -Independent Living Center
- ☐ -Nursing Center
- ☐ -Assisted Living Center
- ☐ -Hospice

6. What do you like most about your current living situation? (Mark all that apply).

- ☐ -Independence
- ☐ -Near family
- ☐ -Cost
- ☐ -Near friends
- ☐ -Near shopping
- ☐ -Near medical facilities
- ☐ -Other _____

7. What factors would you consider most important about an independent living center? (Rank in order from 1 to 9 with 1 being the most important and 9 the least important).

- ☐ -Atmosphere
- ☐ -Services
- ☐ -Building and Grounds design
- ☐ -Staff
- ☐ -Prices
- ☐ -Location
- ☐ -Security
- ☐ -Privacy
- ☐ -Other _____

8. How important is it to you to find a gay owned or gay friendly independent living center?

- ☐ -Very important
- ☐ -Somewhat important
- ☐ -Not important

9. Is it important enough to you to live in a gay/lesbian friendly independent living center, that you would relocate? ☐ -Yes ☐ -No

10. If you were to consider moving to an independent living center, would you prefer it to be located:

- ☐ -In a rural area or small town
- ☐ -In a residential area outside of a large city
- ☐ -Within a major metropolitan area

11. If you were interested in moving to an independent living center, when would you consider becoming a resident?

- ☐ -Within 1 year
- ☐ -3 to 5 years
- ☐ -1 to 2 years
- ☐ -6 or more years

12. Independent living centers offer a variety of financial options. Which would you prefer?

- ☐ -Buy the unit, with the potential for a one time capital gains tax shelter from the sale of your current home.
- ☐ -Pay a partially refundable entry fee and a monthly fee for operations and services.
- ☐ -Rent. Pay no initial fee, but pay a considerably higher monthly fee.

13. If you were moving into an independent living center, which type of living arrangement would interest you?

- ☐ -Apartment type units in a complex
- ☐ -1-story single or attached homes with access to community areas
- ☐ -Hi-rise Apartment type unit

14. Which of the following describes how you anticipate paying for your nursing needs, if any?

- ☐ -Medicare
- ☐ -Family
- ☐ -Personal Assets
- ☐ -Private Insurance
- ☐ -Medical/Welfare
- ☐ -Other _____

Letters

A GOOD READ SPOILED

Big fat F for fail! Bad editor [Tim Brookover] and bad reporter [Blase DiStefano]. You both get a failing grade from this reader. In July, I was eager to read your article on Shirley MacLaine ["Still Out on a Limb"]. But I was very, very upset that you blurted out one of the surprises in the article about the movie *Bewitched*. Why did you do that? When I saw the "spoiler" warning, I didn't know what you meant. You should have written "STOP and skip to the next question if you have not seen the movie."

I can't even tell you how disappointed I am about this. You have ruined the movie for me now, and I was anxious to watch it. I'll still see it, but that should never have been written without a better warning. Just can't keep a secret, I guess. You both fail big time. You should be fired.

I'll never read another review from your magazine again. Glad you didn't report on *Sixth Sense*!

Duane Nowell
Houston

ROAST TOASTED

Annie Parker's roast of Ray Hill ["Inside Out at City Hall," June] may have amused a lot of

lesbian feminists. It did not amuse me. There was too much material in it that is basically hostile to gay liberation understood as sexual liberation. I was in the habit of voting for Annie whenever she was on a ballot simply because she is gay. I won't make that mistake again.

Tim Campbell
Houston

EDITOR'S NOTE: Campbell sent copies of his letter to both Annie Parker and Ray Hill regarding her column, which was a published version of remarks she made at the June 10 "Well-Deserved Roast of Ray Hill," hosted by the Stonewall Law Association of Greater Houston. Parker and Hill requested that we publish this response from Hill:

"It was a roast! Annie had been encouraged to hit me hard. I deserved every word of her comments. Please understand how much Annie, her companion Kathy, and I love and respect one another. Annie Parker has grown up to be the woman I wanted her to be in every respect. If you choose not to vote for her, do that for your own reasons, but don't blame it on me.

Love,
Ray"

JUST RIGHT

I just wanted to send you an e-mail thanking you for the incredible article and coverage of Jamie [Zelko]. We have gotten many compliments on how fabo it is. Of course, there are always those few who are antigay that give you trouble, but controversy makes change. The photos and descriptions of Jamie ["In the Kitchen," June] create a beautiful, strong, gentle, and caring person in our community. When I see the picture of her in the chef clothes, I melt because I feel Kelly [Catchings] captured, in that one moment, the person that I adore and fell in love with.

Tivona L. Watson
Houston

EDITOR'S NOTE: Kelly Catchings photographed Jamie Zelko. Joyce Gabiola wrote the profile of the Hotel Icon chef.

LOVE LETTERS? HATE MAIL?

Send to
Letters, 3406 Audubon Place,
Houston, TX 77006,
or e-mail to letters@outsmartmagazine.com.



HEIGHTS - 607 E. 10TH
\$290's • 3/2/2



HEIGHTS - 1736 NICHOLSON
\$330's • 2+2+2



HEIGHTS - 1348 DOROTHY
\$370's • 2/2.5/2 + POOL/SPA

Today's Realtor
for
Today's Market



BRYAN BOYLE
Direct: 713.868.5100
Mobile: 713.927.4808
bryan@bryanboyle.com



A Name of Integrity

At Community Gospel Church...

WE ARE
about
FAMILY

Ministries that **VALUE** your family!

Caring and Loving Nursery
Exciting Preschool and Children's Ministries
Dynamic Youth Ministries
Relevant Preaching and Teaching
Freedom in Worship
Life Counseling Center

www.communitygospel.org

WE
JESUS

THANK YOU, HOUSTON!



THANK YOU, OUTSMART READERS, FOR VOTING FOR THE HOUSTON COMETS IN OUTSMART'S "GAYEST & GREATEST" POLL. WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!

GLYP.COM and the Houston Comets are excited to offer the GLYP.COM Season Ticket Holder Section for the 2006 Season! Place a \$25 per seat deposit to reserve your spot in 2006!

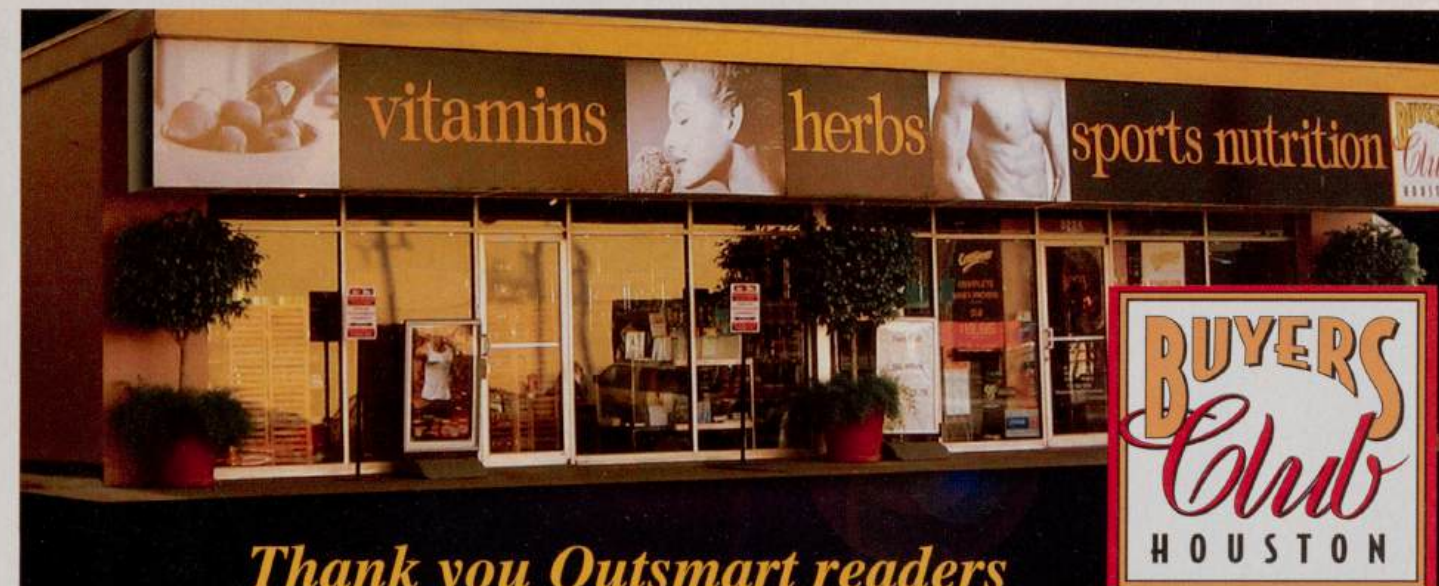


Call 713.627.WNBA today!
Limited seats are available.



WEAR IT WELL. Activist April Ayers, vice president of the Houston Equal Rights Alliance and Houston GLBT Community Center board member, models one of the T-shirts in the spiffy new merchandise line produced by No Nonsense in November, the campaign working to defeat the antigay marriage amendment on the November ballot. Check www.nononsenseinnovember.com for more items and ordering information. On October 10, HERA hosts a 6:30 p.m. fundraiser for No Nonsense in November and a volunteer appreciation night at Guava Lamp. Read an interview with No Nonsense director Glen Maxey on page 48.

Photographed by John Conroy



*Thank you Outsmart readers
for voting us best Nutrition Store!*

Houston Buyers Club 3224 Yoakum Blvd 713.520.5288

across from Half Price Books

www.houstonbuyersclub.com

Hours: M-F 10am-8pm Sat 10am-6pm Sun noon-6pm



Lindsey Custom Homes

New Construction Team

(Back row, l-r) Coldwell Banker realtor Terre Coffman; builder Jim Lindsey; and designer Neal LeBouef, I Design Group; (front row, l-r) architect Kathleen Carpenter, Carpenter & Associates Architects; and construction superintendent Denise Muniz

New Construction in Houston Heights and Shady Acres: \$260,000-\$500,000
Quasi-Custom and Custom Homes Available

**Customer Satisfaction Delivered with
Creative Flair and Master-BUILDER Skills**

713.866.7805

www.terrecoffman.com



The Bering Support Network provides a safe and nurturing place where persons who are GLBT and/or affected by HIV/AIDS can find support.

- Individual, Couple and Family Counseling
- Community Support Groups
- GLBT-Friendly Counselors
- \$25 Counseling Services

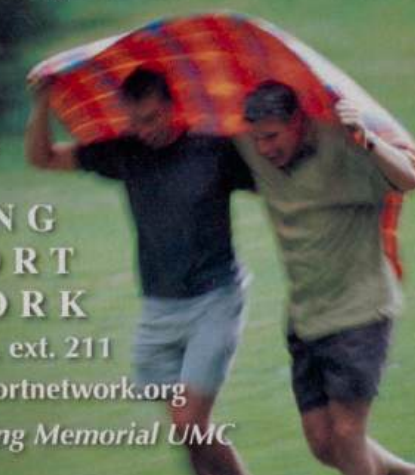


**BERING
SUPPORT
NETWORK**

(713) 526-1017, ext. 211

www.beringsupportnetwork.org

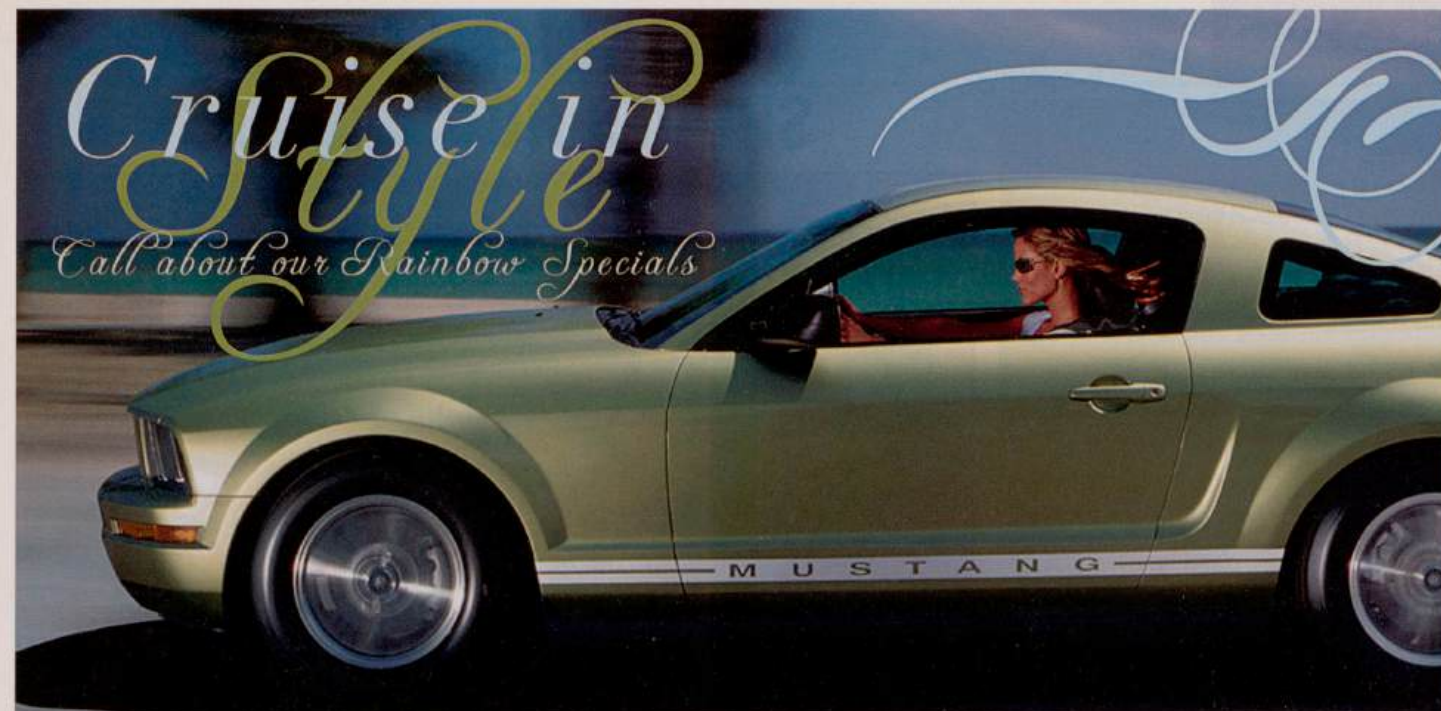
A ministry of Bering Memorial UMC





CALENDAR MAN. Photographer David Lewis (who has contributed to this magazine) and graphic artist Rob Tomlin of Vilven Design Group have created a brand-new calendar that presents a different male nude every month. Sales of the calendar, called *Shadows*, benefits Houston Buyers Club, which provides nutritional supplements and information for people living with HIV and other chronic conditions. Lewis and Tomlin unveil the calendar on October 22 with a reception at Meteor that will feature the models (including Alain, pictured here), who are all Houston-area guys, and a silent auction. Calendars will then be sold at Houston Buyers Club and Male U Wear.

Photographed by David Lewis



*Cruise in
Style*
Call about our Rainbow Specials



3440 South Loop West
Houston, Texas 77025
A Mile West of Reliant

Connie Ford
(713) 663-4121



RENOVATION SPECIAL

Feeling good about yourself and how you look is the key. We can help you get there with a program designed just for you. Call today!

Membership Special
Join now and pay

\$18 Per Month

Tour club for details.
Sale thru October 30, 2005



1501 Durham
713.880.9191

CALL NOW!



**PART REALTOR.
PART MATCHMAKER.**

**MOVE UP.
MOVE IN.**

**STEPHEN OVALLE
COLDWELLBANKER
713.320.0760**

DATEBOOK

Joe Watts's **Theatre New West** travels its production of *Bent* to Galveston for performances at Strand Street Theatre on Oct. 7 and 8, 8 p.m., and Oct. 9, 2:30 p.m. Tickets: \$20. Reservations: 409/763-4591.

Houston Roughnecks RFC opens the fall rugby season on Oct. 8 with a 2 p.m. match in Victoria. Details: www.roughnecksrugby.org.

Houston GLBT Community Center hosts **GLBT Night at Hollywood Vietnamese & Chinese** on Oct. 11, 6:30 p.m., saluting Gulf Coast Archive & Museum of GLBT History. Details: 713/524-3818, www.houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org.

Rothko Chapel presents the second in a year-long series of lectures on religion and faith, titled "Religion vs. Spirituality," with guest lecturer Swami Agnivesh, on Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m. Details: 713/524-9839, www.rothkochapel.org.

On Oct. 13 and Oct. 27, **Bike for a Better City** cycling club meets for rides at 7 p.m. at Starbucks, River Oaks Shopping Center. Details: 713/446-3898 Aaron Love, bikeforabettercity@hotmail.com.

Houston activist and breast-cancer survivor Fran Padgett, author of *No One Wrote a Manual*, appears as part **The Gift of Time Tour**, a three-day breast-cancer awareness event, Oct. 20-22, at Katy Mills Mall, co-sponsored by the mall and Memorial Hermann Hospital Katy. Appearances include Oct. 22, noon, at the mall. Some proceeds benefit the hospital. Details: www.franpadgett.com, www.catalystmoon.com, 281/644-5050 (Katy Mills).

Texas Association for Transsexual Support meets at Houston GLBT Community Center on Oct. 22, 4-6 p.m. Details: Tamara Frankowski, tamarafrankowski@sbcglobal.net, 713/524-3818 (center).

Lazarus House hosts a Halloween party on Oct. 29, 8 p.m., at 4106 Austin. \$10. Details: 713/526-5071.

Houston Transgender Life Connection, a program of Houston Area Community Services, has moved its weekly Thursday dinner, 8 p.m., to Hollywood Book & Cafe. Info: Cris Williams, 281/831-8649, www.transhouston.com/htlc.shtml.

Project X-Cite, the new Bering Support Network group for youth 14-19, meets Thursday, 6:30 p.m., at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, Room 201. Details: Jay, Kristen, or Ryan, 713/526-1017, www.projectxcite.org.

More: www.outsmartmagazine.com

HALLOWEEN MAGIC SPOOFS HOUSEWIVES



Over 17 years, Halloween Magic has raised \$1 million for local AIDS service groups with its annual musical comedy shows. This year's edition, *Desperate Montrose Housewives*, spoofing the popular ABC series, plays October 22 and 23 in Hobby Center. Beneficiaries are AIDS Foundation Houston, AVES (Amigos Volunteers in Education & Services), Bering Omega Community Services, Montrose Clinic, and The Center for AIDS. Tickets: www.halloweenmagic.org.

BLAZE WINS! BLAZE WINS!



Houston Blaze won the women's recreational division at the August 15-20 Gay Softball World Series. "Our team went undefeated with 19 teams in our bracket," reported coach Erin Henry. "We beat Kansas City in

the championship 11-4." The Blaze (photographed after their victory) was one of seven Montrose Softball League teams that qualified for the games in San Diego. The Houston league continues its fall schedule through October 23.

More News Briefs →



**Neartown
Animal
Clinic**

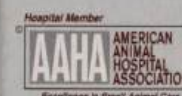
Serving
**CENTRAL HOUSTON
RIVER OAKS & MONTROSE AREA**

Dr. Randy H. McBride Dr. Dorothy M. Murray
Dr. Morgan G. Baskin

Small Animal Medicine
Surgery • Ultrasound • X-Ray • Dentistry
Boarding • Diets • Supplies
Senior Discount

Hours: Monday - Friday 7:30-6:30
Saturday 9:00 - 1:00

Voted One of the Best Veterinarians in Houston



713.526.1502
1314 Woodhead at West Gray
www.neartownvet.com



A Wife, A Mother, A Princess, A Legend.

DIANA
a celebration

~ AWARD WINNING EXHIBITION ~

This exhibition showcases over 150 of Princess Diana's personal items, including her royal wedding gown, 28 of her stunning designer dresses, childhood mementos and much more.

theHoustonMuseumofnaturalscience

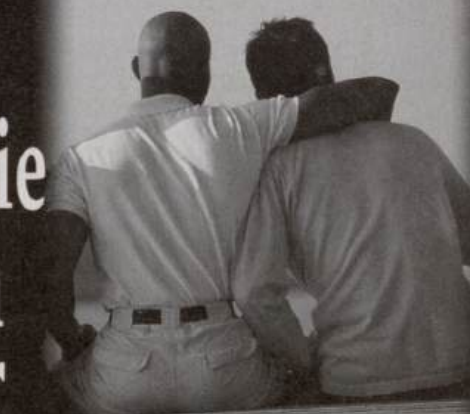
For tickets or more information,
visit www.hmns.org or call 713•639•4629

Hotel accommodations for exhibition visitors provided by:
Crowne Plaza Medical Center & Hotel Derek

Profits generated to Althorp from the Exhibition are paid to the Diana, the Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, a registered charity (No. 1064238), subject to a minimum payment of the greater of £10,000 or 10% of the retail sale price of all products sold in the USA bearing the Diana, Princess of Wales logo.

OCTOBER 21, 2005 THROUGH FEBRUARY 5, 2006

Grab
a
quicke
with
your
boyfriend.



OraQuick
The HIV Rapid Test

**MONTROSE
MC
clinic**

713-830-3000 215 Westheimer • Houston, TX 77006
www.montrosecclinic.org



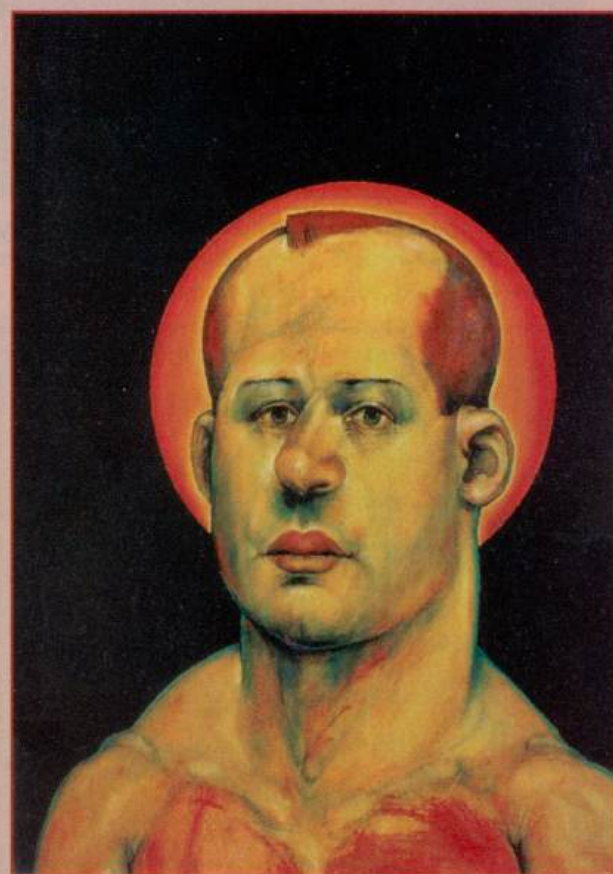
ASTROWORLD RIDE ENDS

In recent years, the community hasn't flocked to Six Flags AstroWorld for a designated gay day during Pride month. Still, many of us (like the group that attended the 2003 day, I) will have fond memories of past events at the theme park, set to close after the final Fright Fest event on October 30.

THE RITA EFFECT

As we went to press with our own Hurricane Rita-delayed October issue, we learned of several community events rescheduled because of the storm:

- **Bering & Friends Follow the Yellow Brick Road: A Musical Journey.** Now October 7-8, Bering Memorial United Methodist Church.
- **Spoiled Boyz Dukes of Houston party.** October 8, Next.
- **Eastman Gallery Deep in the Art of Texas** opening night/awards presentation. October 14, The Resource Center.
- **Who's Who in Houston** auction benefiting Bayou City Performing Arts (Gay Men's Chorus of Houston, the new Bayou City Women's Chorus). October 16, Hotel Derek.
- **Misfits of Houston Locker Room Lockdown.** October 23, Numbers.
- **Houston Women's Music Festival.** October 29, Jones Plaza.
- **Mukuru Art for AIDS Series premiere concert.** November 13, Christ the King Lutheran Church.
- At press time, Bayou City Boys Club had not announced a new date for its **Gospel Brunch** event.



HIS FALL SHOW

Patrick Palmer presents his annual exhibition of recent paintings (including *Matthew's Dream*, above) at his residence, 1118 Milford, on October 8, 5-8 p.m. A well-known artist in the community, Palmer founded the Positive Art Workshop for adults with HIV and serves on the faculty of The Glassell School of Art at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. ■

VARIETY MAY BE THE SPICE OF LIFE, BUT

DIVERSITY

IS THE MOST IMPORTANT INGREDIENT.

We're happy to be part of the many communities we serve.

Gulfgate 3000 Woodridge Dr. Suite 745 Houston 77087 713.640.3220	Little York 121 Little York Rd. Houston 77076 713.742.4720	Northline 4400 North Fwy. Suite 300 Houston 77022 713.884.2800
---	--	---

www.wamuloans.com

FDIC Insured

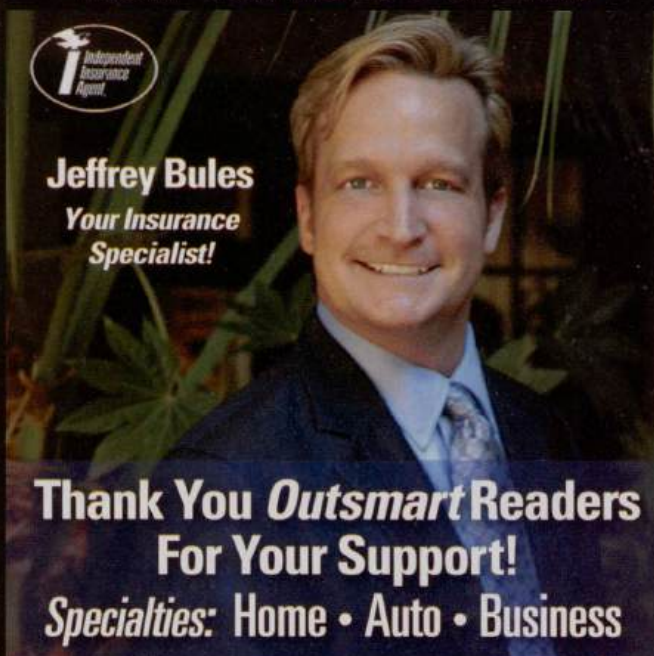


Washington Mutual

POLICY RENEWING SOON? Now You Have a Choice.



Jeffrey Bules
Your Insurance
Specialist!

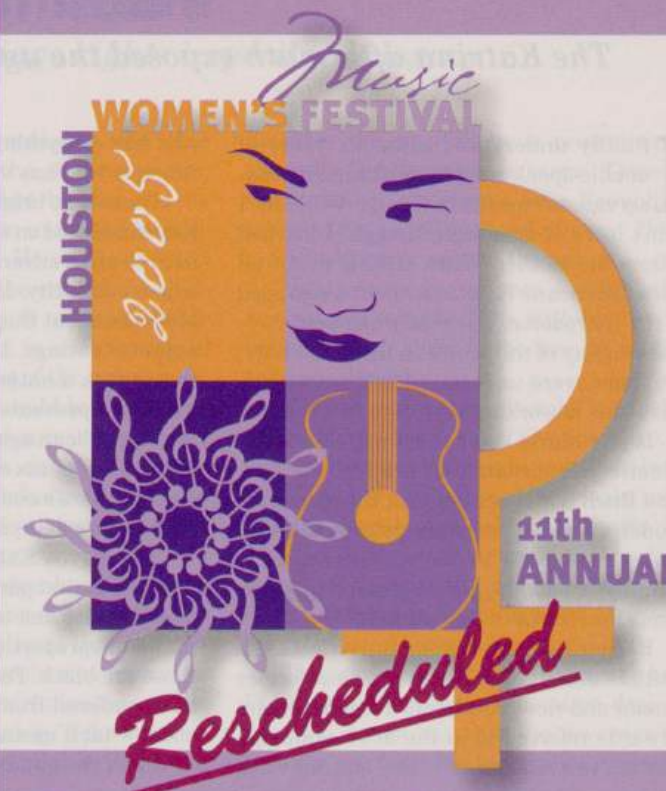


Thank You *Outsmart* Readers
For Your Support!
Specialties: Home • Auto • Business

GET STARTED TODAY.
713.523.9400
Insurance
Associates
Group



11th Annual Houston Women's Festival



PLEASE JOIN US SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 29, 2005

AT

JONES PLAZA, DOWNTOWN HOUSTON
(601 Louisiana Street)

FROM NOON - 10:00 P.M.

Tickets are \$12.00 in advance or \$15.00 at the door.

Our 11th Annual Houston Women's
Festival line up is:

**Tamaras, Patrice Pike,
Michelle Mayfield, Holly Light,
Yvonne Perea, Halcyon,
Whitney McCray & Mary Allen**

Check our website for updates with performers & times

For More information please visit our website at
www.hwfestival.org or call 281-338-7430

POOR RESPONSE

The Katrina aftermath exposed the ugly national secret of poverty in our nation

I finally understand after six years of double-speak what "compassionate conservatism" means to George W. Bush. I didn't learn it from him, though. I learned it from his mother. When talking about all of the Hurricane Katrina evacuees stranded in the Astrodome, Barbara Bush said, "... and so many of the people in the arena here, you know, were underprivileged anyway, so this—this is working very well for them."

Is she Marie ("Let them eat cake") Antoinette reincarnated or what? Does Barbara Bush really believe that the idea of an "underprivileged" person's getting to share a warehouse with 10,000 other evacuees is actually a boondoggle—a great big party bonus for Katrina's poor victims?

Barbara Bush's statement reflects the attitude of half of the equation that former senator and vice-presidential candidate John Edwards referred to in the 2004 campaign as the "two Americas"—the one America

who has everything it needs and the other America who has virtually nothing.

There is no bright side to the devastation Katrina visited on the poorest of the poor. It's hard to see a silver lining in the clouds that wiped out a city. It's difficult to find joy in Mudville about Bush's new and dimly low approval ratings. It's even harder to accept that it took a national tragedy, which could have been prevented, to point out the fallacy of a Republican agenda that simultaneously promotes war, tax cuts, and the empty promise that there's enough left over to maintain our nation's decaying infrastructure.

But maybe Katrina finally exposed the ugly secret that persists in America: that too many Americans are living in poverty and that a disproportionately large number of those are black. For too long, we Americans have suffered from a severe case of denial about what it means to be poor in an America in which the gap between one America and

the other has grown exponentially. (In 1965, CEOs of major corporations made 24 times more than the average worker; in 2003 they earned almost 200 times more.)

For too long, we have pretended that an entire segment of the population does not exist. (Twelve percent of America, or 37 million Americans, lives below the poverty line—\$14,680 for a family of three.)

We have been aided in our denial about poverty and race because we don't much want to see—and the media doesn't provide—a lot of coverage about poverty and the poor. Politicians don't cater to the poor, as their voter turnout is traditionally low. After all, the same poor people who had no car in which to escape New Orleans also have no car in which to go to the polls on election day. Put simply, it's easier to ignore the ugly fact of poverty in America than it is to take action.

Maybe the coverage of Katrina will

continued on page 20

THE VETO-NATOR

Arnold's threat to veto gay-marriage rights imperils his legacy

There's no putting lipstick on this pig. Unless he changes his mind, California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger will become the first executive anywhere in the world to veto a law allowing gay couples to marry. In 50 years, when the gay-marriage controversy will be history, nothing he has done as governor will be remembered more than that.

Make no mistake: The passage of a gay-marriage law by the California legislature was momentous. Even five years ago, having a legislative body in the United States approve gay marriage was unthinkable. Legislators fret about re-election, and until now even the most liberal of them have justifiably worried that a vote for gay marriage would be the kiss of electoral death. If the brave California legislators who voted for the bill survive the next election, politicians around the country will finally have some evidence that they can safely support gay marriage.

Then there's Schwarzenegger, who came to office with the panache of a movie star, the swagger of a former bodybuilder, and the moral authority of a man unsullied by politics. He was refreshing. He could say what he thought and do what he wanted. He skillfully used his popularity to reshape politics and policy, for the better, in a state with 10 percent of the population of the country.

Predictions that he would be an antigay governor, that he would support repealing domestic-partner benefits, and even that "our very lives" depended on defeating him (as one gay Democratic state legislator warned) were unfounded and proved untrue.

Instead, Schwarzenegger has signed pro-gay legislation. Just last week his spokesperson declared that he "believes that gay couples are entitled to full protection under the law and should not be discriminated against based upon their relationship." Schwarzenegger, she continued, "is proud that California

provides the most rigorous protections in the nation for domestic partners." These are revolutionary statements for a Republican; indeed, they're miles ahead of many Democratic politicians around the nation.

Schwarzenegger opposes discrimination against gay couples. Now, with history and equality staring him in the face, he is about to blink. Why?

The coy explanation given by his spokesperson last week was this: "Five years ago, the matter of same-sex marriage was placed before the people of California. The people voted, and the issue is now before the courts. The governor believes the matter should be determined not by legislative action—which would be unconstitutional—but by court decision or another vote of the people of our state."

There are several things to unpack here. First, note what this explanation does not say. It does not say that the governor will veto the marriage bill because he opposes →

THE WORD IS OUT
AT HOUSE OF GLORY

SUNDAY SERVICE 10 AM
3333 Fannin • Suite 106
713.528.6756
Look for the welcome banners. We are located in the ICC Building - Ample Parking Upstairs
www.houseofglory.org

HOUSE OF GLORY

For God SO LOVED the world
that HE GAVE his one and only Son,
that WHOEVER BELIEVES in him
shall not perish but have ETERNAL LIFE.

John 3:16

ACTS Bible School Register Now 713.528.6756
October 11-15, 2005
Evening Classes 7:00pm-9:30pm

Sponsored by
Encounter Missions
International
www.emiglobal.org

TECHAUTO
MAINTENANCE
Personalized Service Catering to YOUR Automotive Needs

ASE CERTIFIED

Engine Repair • Suspension & Steering
Heating & A/C • Brakes & ABS Systems
Emissions Control Systems • Tune-Ups

BOBBY HARTING
OWNER

"Bobby always gets it RIGHT the FIRST time. His honest estimates, affordable service, and attention to detail have created a reputation of INTEGRITY for over 20 years. TechAuto Maintenance is my QUALITY auto repair guarantee."

Alan Davidson
Owner, Essential Touch

37 Waugh Dr. • Houston, TX
713.863.8244

Guaranteed Parts & Service • 24 HR Towing: 713.462.9945

TCC TIMINERI CONSULTING GROUP
IT likes being hard, but...
IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE

PROVIDING SUPERIOR IT SOLUTIONS

Expert Level Server and Workstation Support
Business Process and Change Management Consulting
Onsite and Offsite Training and Seminars
Web, Database and Client Applications Development
Value Added Product Sales and Support
Complete IT Department Outsourcing
24/7 Systems Monitoring and Reporting
Gay Owned since 2002

CONTACT
TOLL FREE:
1.866.490.1824
HOUSTON:
1.713.893.6199
info@timinericonsulting.com

Microsoft, Sun, Cisco, Citrix and Comptia Certified

WWW.TIMINERICONCONSULTING.COM

BLISS
ON 19th

home accessories
wall decor
frames
specialty cards
gifts
lighting
and more!

Thanks for
voting us one of
your OutSmart
favorites for
2005

home accents & gifts
235 West 19th Street (in The Heights) • 832.673.0099

For us, it's all about you and your needs.

George Hawkins
Financial Consultant
AXA Advisors, LLC
www.georgehawkins.com

Chris Laakso
Financial Consultant
AXA Advisors, LLC
www.chrislaakso.com

777 Post Oak Blvd.
Suite 450
Houston, TX 77056
Tel. (713) 621-7900
Fax (713) 621-4760

Financial professionals providing:

- IRAs
- Financial Planning
- Retirement Planning*
- Personal & Business Strategies
- Life Insurance for Personal & Business Needs



www.AXAonline.com

*Funded through the use of life insurance and other financial products. Securities and investment advisory services offered through AXA Advisors, LLC (NY, NY 212-314-4600), member NASD, SIPC. Annuity and insurance products offered through AXA Network, LLC and its subsidiaries. GE-30484(a) (11/04)

For All Your Mortgage Needs...

Owner-occupied rates as low as 1.75%
Investment rates as low as 2.125%

- UP-FRONT PRE-APPROVAL
- RE-FINANCE/CASH OUT
- HOME EQUITY LINE OF CREDIT
- NEW CONSTRUCTION FINANCING
- NO DOWN PAYMENT OPTIONS
- NO INCOME VERIFICATION LOANS

**ASK ABOUT OUR
10-DAY CLOSING
GUARANTEE***

Cody Grizzoffi • Top Producer

Sales Manager—River Oaks
Countrywide Home Loans
1939 West Gray, Second Floor, Houston, TX 77019

Call 832-541-1103

Cody_Grizzoffi@countrywide.com
http://home.countrywide.com/codygrizzoffi



*Call for further information.

LeftOut continued from page 18

change that. Maybe the non-stop images of those desperate, all poor, and mostly black faces piped into our air-conditioned living rooms will cause us to face up to the fact that we have elected a government that shirked its moral responsibility to protect and provide for the weakest among us.

At least for now, Americans have stepped up. As demonstrated by the outpouring of our collective generosity, Barbara Bush does not speak for most of us. And, if "compassionate conservatism" means shuffling the poor from one horrible place to the next, we are more than compassionate conservatives.

The questions are: Has Katrina forced America to grow a conscience, and have we finally stepped out of our bubble of denial and into a reality that includes 37 million poor people?

The answers to those questions will not be revealed in the next few weeks or months, but in the next decade. The answers will be determined at each election, by whom we choose to represent us and the 37 million people left out of the American dream each year. The questions will be answered when our conscience—or our guilt—has a shelf life that endures longer than the aftermath of Katrina.

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

OutRight continued from previous page

gay marriage. Opposition to gay marriage itself would have been the most obvious—and defensible—reason to veto the bill.

But Schwarzenegger could not oppose gay marriage and be true to his publicly stated commitment to "full protection" for gay couples. Until he tells us otherwise, we must therefore presume that he supports gay marriage or at least that he sees no very good reason to oppose it.

So, again, why the threatened veto? The governor's spokesperson claims that the new marriage law would undo an initiative passed by California voters in 2000 declaring only heterosexual marriages "valid or recognized" in the state. Now, in principle, the fact that "the people" voted on an issue five years ago does not preclude them from reconsidering it, this time through their elected representatives. But under the state constitution the legislature cannot "amend or repeal" a popular initiative.

Whether the gay-marriage law would really do that is an interesting legal question. There are decent arguments both ways.

On the one hand, the 2000 initiative was passed to prevent the recognition of out-of-state gay marriages and is located in

a section of the state code that deals with out-of-state marriages, not in-state marriages. The new gay-marriage law would not "amend or repeal" the prohibition on recognizing out-of-state gay marriages.

On the other hand, the 2000 initiative broadly declared that only male-female marriages are "valid." It was passed with the commonsensical background assumption that gay marriages would also not be validly performed within California.

Yet the parts of the state family code that actually define marriage were adopted in the 1970s by the legislature, not by popular initiative. So the legislature is presumptively free to change them.

My point is not to resolve this state constitutional issue, which the California courts can decide later. My point is that the issue is a debatable one, and that where the issue is fairly debatable it is the responsibility of a leader to lead in the direction his heart and mind tell him is right.

If Schwarzenegger truly believes that gay couples deserve the same legal protection and support given to other couples, then it is his moral obligation to resolve reasonable doubts about his constitutional power in their favor. If he does not believe gay couples deserve marriage, then he should come out and say so, not hide behind courts and legalisms.

Around the country, they are taunting Schwarzenegger with the "girlie man" label he used against his political opponents last year to accuse them of cowardice in the face of duty. He was right then about his enemies. It would be a shame if his epithet becomes his epitaph.

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.

2Bkreative "Another Design by Keith"

Affordable & Reliable
New Construction & Remodel
Custom and Faux Finish

Mention this ad
to receive a 10% discount

Keith Collins Mobile: 832-865-9051
www.2bkreative.com
keithcollins@2bkreative.com

Brandon
Your Passport to a Beautiful Home

**The Best The Furniture World has To Offer
At Warehouse Direct Prices**

**300,000 Sq. Ft. Warehouse Of
Fine Home Furnishings**

8648 GLENMONT
Just East Of Fondren Between Harwin & Westpark
713.785.7888
SUNDAYS 11a - 6p • M-S 10a - 6p

		Richmond
	Gessner	Fondren
Westpark		
		Brandon Glenmont ★
	Harwin	
		Hwy 59

by Annise D. Parker

MARRIAGE VOW

"Win, lose, or draw in November, we must keep our eyes on the prize"—eventual victory

As I write this, Houston is in the midst of an unprecedented response to a nearly overwhelming national disaster. In addition to the almost total devastation of a major American city of nearly 500,000 people, Hurricane Katrina cut a swath of destruction across the coastal regions of three states.

We should be proud of our city. Our response shows what can be accomplished when we view each other as human beings and reach beyond the divisions that normally divide us. Locally, regionally, and nationally, we will be working through this tragedy for months to come.

Unfortunately, thanks to some small-minded state legislators, some of us will have to divide our time, attention, and energy. Our families are under assault through the ballot box. If I were superstitious, I would think the right wing is fixated on Prop. 2'ing us back into the closet.

In November 2001, Houston voters narrowly approved city Proposition 2, which prohibits the city of Houston from offering employees domestic partner benefits.

On Tuesday, November 8, Texas voters will be asked to bless another Prop. 2—a far-reaching one defining marriage as between one man and one woman and "prohibiting this state or a political subdivision . . . from creating or recognizing any legal status identical or similar to marriage."

That passage applies to civil unions, probably even domestic partner registries. The sponsor chose his language loosely. These words could also affect current (Travis County) and future governmental domestic partner benefits and have all sorts of consequences unintended even by our state legislature's brilliant leaders. Similarly worded amendments from other states have already made it harder to prosecute domestic violence cases, for instance.

Peel the cover off the right wing's zeal and you'll find good reasons for their amendment push:

- **Money.** The gay issue ranks as one of their best fund-raising tools.
- **Organizing.** The fight builds mailing lists and create an excuse to outreach to potential new allies.
- **Diversification.** Deflects attention from lack of action on significant public policy issues.
- **Election influence.** Turnout for the amendment can impact local races.

I've experienced that last item firsthand. Even though I have won three of four elections handily, I was almost forced into an expensive runoff in 2001. Fueled by the conservative Prop. 2 turnout, my no-name opponents, who jumped into the race at the filing deadline, gay-baited me extensively and whittled my support down to 51 percent.

It would be easy to dismiss our opponents as ignorant homophobes who will win any-

way. Yes, they may win statewide. But we can "lose forward," and there's no reason we can't win the major cities. Each percentage point makes a point.

And the No Nonsense in November campaign is prepared to maximize the vote, with the help of national leaders and lessons learned during the 2004 marriage amendment fights around the country. We can use this issue to do what they do: Raise money, organize, and turn out our voters for the local election!

Undoubtedly, Prop. 2 will propel most voters to the polls around the state. Houston has local elections for mayor, controller, and City Council, and east Houston voters will elect a new state representative to replace Joe Moreno, who died in an auto accident in May. Eight other state constitutional amendments also will be decided that day. Because of our local races, Houston can have a disproportionate impact on statewide turnout.

We also have the opportunity—the obligation—to get local candidates on the record about how they will vote on this ballot initiative, and how they see it in the context of our trinity of equality: nondiscrimination in employment, recognition of our relationships, and the ability to serve our country in the military.

We cannot win without allies. It's time to start asking candidates to step up publicly. In any campaign or civil rights struggle, personal motives vary as widely as hairstyles. No Nonsense in November is no different. Our allies will join the fight for many reasons, and we must recognize the range of positions among them:

- Gay marriage supporters
- Civil union supporters
- Libertarians and true conservatives opposed to unnecessary laws and government intrusion
- Those who don't want discrimination added to the state constitution
- Liberals who want to send a message to the right wing
- Friends and neighbors we will win over with personal appeals.

Win, lose, or draw in November, we must keep our eyes on the prize. Despite across-the-board marriage amendment losses, we have succeeded in moving the debate forward. Five years ago, domestic partner benefits topped the "agenda." Two years ago, it was civil unions. How amazing that we're discussing marriage and not the myth that gays recruit new homosexuals! How important that we're fighting to legalize our domestic relationships so we can protect and provide for the children many of us are raising, and not fighting the tired falsehood that we're child molesters.

Extending marriage rights to us is →



The Best Soups, Salads, Sandwiches and Desserts!

Open for lunch
6 days a week

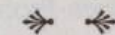


Mon-Fri 9-3:30
Saturday 9-5



375 W. 19th Ave.
at Ashland
(across from Harold's)
in The Historic Heights

Serving our community
for over 17 years!



CARTER & COOLEY
COMPANY
Sandwiches • Deli



713.864.3354

Home is where
the heart dwells...
need more room?



Your Agent.
Your Advocate.

Thanks for voting me
Gayest and Greatest
Male Insurance Agent.



FARMERS

Rob Schmerler Insurance Agency

6575 West Loop South, Suite 185 713.661.7700

www.schmerleragency.com

EDELWEISS
COLLECTIBLES, INC.

Your complete Department 56
and Christopher Radko Halloween Headquarters

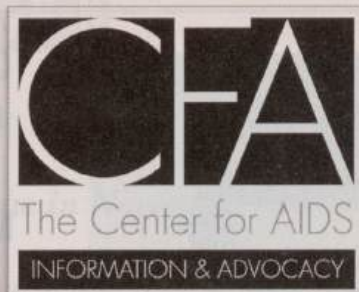


281-440-8458

www.edelweisscollectibles.com

5419 Suite G FM1960 West

At the corner of FM1960 and Champions Forest Drive in the Champions Village Shopping Center



The Center for AIDS Presents "What's In Your Medicine Cabinet? Interactions with HIV Medications: What HIV+ People Should Know."

Edward P. Acosta, Pharm. D.
Associate Professor — University of Alabama at Birmingham

Thursday, October 13, 2005 — 6:00 - 8:00 pm
at The Center for AIDS • 1407 Hawthorne, Houston 77006

A light dinner will be served for those that RSVP

Please contact Bernie at 713.527.8219 or Bernie@centerforaids.org
For more information visit us at: centerforaids.org

InsideOut

continued from previous page

a threat to traditional marriage, but only because it sends a message to youth that normalizes who we are and opens the institution of marriage to new couples who will nurture and sustain it. This debate is changing over how we're viewed in the world. In time, we will win.

Next month: More stories from the John F. Kennedy School of Government Senior Executives in State and Local Government program at Harvard University, which I first reported on in my September column.

Annise Parker is city controller and the highest-ranking openly GLBT elected municipal official in any of the 10 largest U.S. cities. She is on the ballot for re-election to a second term in November. Her website is www.houstoncontroller.org. Parker's television program, Money Matters, airs Monday on the Municipal Channel (Time Warner Cable 16) at 2 and 8 a.m. and 2 and 8 p.m.

Know No Nonsense

Read a profile of Glen Maxey,
campaign director of No Non-
sense in November, on page 48.

Want to Target Gay Houston?

"I invite you to
visit us today at
GLYP.com!"
Laura Villagran
President/CEO



GLYP.com
The GLBT Community at Your Fingertips Since 1990!

Advertise in the Winter 2006 edition!
Deadline is Oct. 14.

We distribute 100,000 directories starting this January and
listing ads start at just \$110 per year! Call 713-942-0084 today!

OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF



MAID IN THE SHADE

making people happy since 1988

Regular / One-Time
Move In/Out
Spring Cleaning
Post Construction

713-665-6243
www.CleanThis.com

Dependable
Professional
Bonded & Insured



TEJANO BREW-JA-JA
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2005
FUNDRAISER DOORS OPEN @ 8:30pm
(La Cueva opens 4pm)

BENEFITING GALLO
Gay and Lesbian Latin Organization

\$5 AT DOOR DONATION
-COSTUME CONTEST
-DOOR PRIZES
-TEJANO/SALSA/DANCE MIXES
ALL NIGHT

TOO SCARY DRINK SPECIALS
\$2 WELLS
\$2.50 DOMESTIC
(\$3 AFTER 12AM)

AT LA CUEVA
TEQUILA LOUNGE
OPEN TUES - SUN 4PM - 2AM
832-203-8574
2312 CROCKER ST HOUSTON, TX 77006



MODERN WORTH

design • accessories • gifts

5113 Bellaire Boulevard 713-666-5113 www.ModernWorth.com
10 a.m. to 6 p.m. • Monday - Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. • Saturday



MANCHEE WOODS DESIGN

interior design solutions

Laura Manchee, ASID Blake Woods, ASID



MARK B. LEVIN

Board-Certified Personal Injury Trial Law

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



John Wald, Legal Assistant, and Mark Summer, Administrator



Call Mark Summer or John Wald
for Your Free Consultation

281.355.7936 Se Habla Español

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



GAY TO THE NINES

For the ninth year, you have again revealed your community favorites for our annual Gayest & Greatest list—from local heroes to best new restaurant to most beloved drag queen (who else but Kofi?) and more

Photo of Kofi by Pam Francis

You *OutSmart* readers know what you like. And every October, for nine years, you have told us through our annual Gayest & Greatest survey. Some winners are perennial, much-deserved choices (hello, community heroes Ray Hill and Annise Parker). Every year, there are also some surprises and first-time nods, which for 2005 include two for Christopher Bown, the new best male activist and most valuable volunteer. Read on for more. • No surprise is your selection of Kofi, our bejeweled cover girl, as favorite drag queen. Whether hosting regular weekly events that include the uproarious karaoke night at JR's Bar & Grill or presiding at fundraisers like the recent tsunami-relief and Hurricane Katrina benefits at South Beach, Kofi is always a true monarch, glamorous and certainly great.

All hail the queen: Kofi is again Gayest & Greatest Favorite Drag Queen. Among her many community engagements, Kofi hosts karaoke night at JR's Bar & Grill on Thursdays.



Three-peat: Annise Parker (second from r) is our Gayest & Greatest Female Community Hero, Most Prominent GLBT Activist, and Favorite Politician. The city controller, who is unopposed for re-election to a second term in the November election, was photographed after the August 3 Houston GLBT Political Caucus endorsement meeting with spouse Kathy Hubbard (far r) and daughters (l-r) Daniela and Marquitta. Photo by Dalton DeHart

Gayest & Greatest

continued from previous page

PEOPLE

COMMUNITY HERO (MALE)

Ray Hill

Runners-up
Christopher Bown
Jerry Simoneaux

COMMUNITY HERO (FEMALE)

Annise Parker

Runners-up
Marion Coleman
Carol Wyatt

MOST PROMINENT GLBT MALE ACTIVIST

Christopher Bown

Runners-up
Ray Hill
Jack Valinski

MOST PROMINENT GLBT FEMALE ACTIVIST

Annise Parker

Runners-up
Phyllis Randolph Frye
Tammi Wallace

MOST VALUABLE VOLUNTEER

Christopher Bown

Runners-up
Don Gill
Tony Bonnett

LEADING MALE FUNDRAISER

Don Gill

Runners-up
Gary Teixeira
Nick Brines (tie)
Sean Carter (tie)

LEADING FEMALE FUNDRAISER

Sonna Alton

Runners-up
Barbara Walker
Sydney White

FAVORITE DRAG QUEEN

Kofi

Runners-up
Lana Blake
Shy Anne

FAVORITE POLITICIAN

Annise Parker

City Controller
713/247-1440
www.houstoncontroller.org

Runners-up
Bill White
Garnet Coleman

TOP MALE BUSINESSPERSON

Todd Partridge

Partridge Properties
3230 Yoakum • 713/528-1184
www.partridgeproperties.com

Runners-up
John Frels, Mortgage Associates
of Texas
Charles Armstrong, Charles
Armstrong Investments, Inc.

TOP FEMALE BUSINESSPERSON

Marion Coleman

House of Coleman
901 W. Alabama • 713/523-2521

Runners-up
Cristina Martinez,
Rainbow Pages

Kathy Hubbard,
Hubbard Financial Services

BEST ATTORNEY

Jerry Simoneaux

Nechman, Simoneaux & Frye
3400 Montrose Blvd., Ste. 509
713/227-1717 • www.nsflaw.us

Runners-up
Mitchell Katine, Williams,
Birnborg & Anderson L.L.P.
Jim Walker, Walker &
Hunter P.C. (tie)
Office of Mark B. Levin (tie)

BEST PHYSICIAN

Shannon R. Schrader, M.D.

The Schrader Clinic
4101 Greenbriar, Ste. 200
713/526-1717
www.theschraderclinic.com

Runners-up
Patrick J. McNamara, M.D.,
Rod Frazier, M.D.

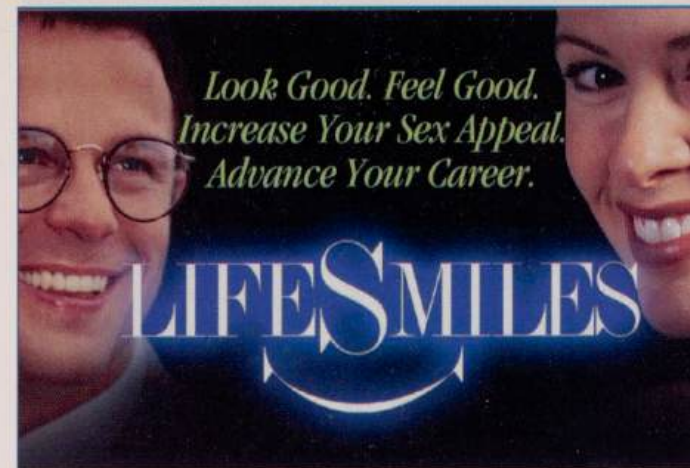
BEST DENTIST

Bruce Smith, D.D.S.

1006 Missouri • 713/529-4364

Runners-up
Randy Mitchmore, D.D.S.
John Stockman, D.D.S. (tie)
Joseph Longoria, D.D.S. (tie)

continued on page 30



RANDY MITCHMORE, D.D.S.

We have moved to the Montrose!

Be sure to visit our new location for dental care
that will help you look good and feel great.

Proud to be one of the Gayest & Greatest in OutSmart
& Honored to be named One of the Best Docs in Houston by H Magazine

1722 W Alabama 713.592.9300 www.LifeSmiles.us

WADE L. KNIGHT



REALTOR ASSOCIATE

713.558.3283 OR 713.582.0264

WKNIGHT@MARTHATURNER.COM • WWW.MARTHATURNER.COM • WWW.WADEKNIGHT.COM
WWW.WADEKNIGHT.COM

Circle of Excellence Winner 2000-2004

THE COMPANY OF TOP PRODUCERS PROVIDING EXCELLENCE IN REAL ESTATE



Open Thursday Until 9 P.M.

Thanks to Outsmart Readers for choosing us-
Best Jewelry Store

Mémoire
"How memories are held."



I W Marks

"Houston's Leading Jeweler"

3841 Bellaire Blvd. • Houston, TX. 77025 • 713-668-5000
2623 Town Center Blvd. • Sugar Land, TX. 77479 • 281-275-5000

Hours: Mon.-Sat. 10-6 • Thu. 10-9

Gayest & Greatest

continued from page 28

BEST MALE

MASSAGE THERAPIST

Ken Claude, R.M.T.

Massage by Ken • 713/240-9598

www.kenclaudemassage.com

Runners-up

JD Arnold (tie)

Raul Guzman/METRO (tie)

Frank Garcia/METRO (tie)

TOCAR Therapeutic Touch (tie)

BEST FEMALE

MASSAGE THERAPIST

Angela McCaughey

Runners-up

Christine Prohl

Dana Sweet

BEST MALE

PERSONAL TRAINER

John Aaron

Muscle Mechanics

617 Richmond • 713/523-5330

www.musclemechanics.com

Runners-up

Anthony Ramos

Wes Rose

BEST FEMALE

PERSONAL TRAINER

Kimberly Marler

Body By Coach Kimmie

832/443-FITT

www.coachkimmie.com

Runners-up

Shana Ross

Mary Jane Tiernan

BEST ASTROLOGER

Lilly Roddy

713/529-5842

www.lillyroddy.com

Runner-up

Joseph Molina

BEST VETERINARIAN

Dr. Paula Runte, D.V.M.

Cat Veterinary Clinic

2125 W. Alabama • 713-523-5171

www.catvetclinic.com

Runners-up

Dr. Rosser, West Alabama

Animal Clinic (tie)

Dr. Byron Germann,

Central Houston (tie)

Dr. Randy McBride,

Neartown (tie)

BEST INTERIOR DECORATOR

Daniel Chanis

DC Design

713/385-9277

Runners-up

Brent McCaleb,

William Design Group (tie)

Gilbert Perez,

Gilbert Joseph Interiors (tie)

Troy Broussard,

Troy Broussard Design, Art &

Consultation

BEST MALE

INSURANCE AGENT

Rob Schmerler

Rob Schmerler Insurance Agency

6575 West Loop South, Ste. 185

713/661-7700

www.schmerleragency.com

Runners-up

Jeffrey Bules,

Insurance Associates Group

Shane McShane,

McShane Insurance Services

BEST FEMALE

INSURANCE AGENT

Pippa Wiley

Pippa Wiley Insurance Agency

10777 Northwest Frwy.

713/957-4297



Our hero: Ray Hill, the perennial Gayest & Greatest Male Community Hero, was photographed in the KPFT studios, where he frequently guests on the weekly Queer Voices show and hosts the Friday-night Prison Show.

Photo by Dalton DeHart

continued on page 32

YOUR "GO TO" LAW FIRM FOR EVERY LEGAL NEED

*Thank you, OutSmart readers, for your vote
of support and confidence.*

2005 OUTSMART'S READERS' CHOICE AWARDS



JERRY SIMONEAUX

Best Attorney and One of the
Top Community Heroes (Male)



PHYLLIS FRYE

One of the Most Prominent
GLBT Female Activists

**NECHMAN
SIMONEAUX
& FRYE, PLLC**

Principal Office: Houston, Texas; Dallas and San Antonio by appointment only.

HOUSTON

713.227.1717

DALLAS

214.764.0947

SAN ANTONIO

210.568.7241

www.nsflaw.us

mylawfirm@nsflaw.us

THE BEST TAN IN HOUSTON!

\$16.66

MONTHLY UNLIMITED
LEVEL 2 TANNING*

Voted One Of The Top Three
"Best Tanning Salons"
Thank You OutSmart Readers

Tanacious Tanning

713.942.TANS (8267)

1216 WESTHEIMER
HOUSTON, TX 77006
WWW.TANACIOUSTANNING.COM

CALIFORNATAN
TANNING FRANCHISE

*Some restrictions apply. All Tanacious Tanning for adults.

ALLEGRO BUILDERS

AWARDED 2005'S

BEST HOMEBUILDER

BY OUTSMART MAGAZINE



THANK YOU
FOR RECOGNIZING OUR
QUALITY CRAFTSMANSHIP



YOUR INNER LOOP
CUSTOM HOME BUILDER

713.880.8899

WWW.ALLEGROBUILDERS.COM

Gayest & Greatest

continued from page 30

Runners-up

Laurie Marques
Mary Peterson

BEST MALE

REAL ESTATE AGENT Todd Partridge

Partridge Properties
3230 Yoakum • 713/528-1184
www.partridgeproperties.com

Runners-up

Richard Hill, Keller Williams
Ronnie Kee, Allison Spear

BEST FEMALE

REAL ESTATE AGENT Karen Derr

Karen Derr & Associates Realty
1545 Heights Blvd. • 713/862-1600
www.karenderr.com

Runners-up

Terre Coffman, Coldwell Banker
Rebecca Perez,
Keller Williams Realty

BEST MALE HAIRDRESSER

Don Gill

Studio 911
911 Welch • 713/521-0911

Runners-up

Simon Sikora, Simon & Co.
Greg Decker, Azur Salon

BEST FEMALE HAIRDRESSER

Susan Romeo

Bogarts on the Boulevard
1536 Heights Blvd.
713/802-1281 • www.bogarts.org

Runner-up

Vicki Fraychinaud, (THE) SHOP

FAVORITE COMMUNITY

PHOTOGRAPHER

Dalton DeHart

713/622-2202
www.daltondehart.com

Runners-up

Yvonne Feece
David Lewis

BEST DJ

JD Arnold

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

Runners-up

Mark Goebel, Meteor &
South Beach
Mark D, Rich's

BEST MALE BARTENDER

Nick Gray, Meteor

2306 Genesee @ Fairview
713/521-0123
www.meteorhouston.com



Up the down staircase: For the first year, Allegro Builders is the Gayest & Greatest Best Homebuilder. This interior shot is from a recently completed Allegro residence.
Photo courtesy Allegro Builders

Runners-up

Don Acord, Rich's
George Konar, JR's

BEST FEMALE BARTENDER

Racie Ferris

Chances • 1100 Westheimer
713/523-7217
www.chancesbar.com

Runners-up

Kristen Richards, JR's
Eileen Ledgerwood, Decades

FAVORITE RADIO PERSONALITY

Maria Todd

KRBE-FM 104.1 • www.krbe.com

Runner-up

Jimmy Carper, KPFT

BEST TV GUY

Frank Billingsley

KPRC Channel 2
www.click2houston.com

Runners-up

Ernie Manouse,
KUHT Channel 8
Greg Hurst, KHOU Channel 11

BEST TV GAL

Lisa Foronda

KHOU Channel 11
www.khou.com

Runners-up

Dominique Sachse, KPRC Channel 2
Debra Duncan, KHOU Channel 11

continued on page 34

Thank you, OutSmart readers, for your
vote of support and confidence.

Best Doctor

2005 Gayest & Greatest
Readers' Choice Awards

S c

THE SCHRADER CLINIC

New extended office hours: 7am – 5pm
Mon, Tues, Thurs; 2nd & 4th Saturdays of each month

The Schrader Clinic in collaboration with Houston Area Community Services will be offering **FREE** HIV & STD testing services performed by certified counselors between 1-3 every Friday afternoon. Completely anonymous & confidential. No appointment necessary.

Family Practice • HIV Care • Internal Medicine

Shannon R. Schrader, M.D.

John B. Share, D.O.

Natalie N. Vanek, M.D.

Infectious Disease Specialist

713 526-1717

4101 Greenbriar • Suite 200 • Houston, Texas 77098

Most insurance plans accepted

Visit our website at: www.theschraderclinic.com

Welcoming the Community



A La Carte-Style Dining
Luxurious Mediterranean Décor
Catering Available
Open Late On Weekends

912 Westheimer

(at Montrose Blvd.)

713 942-2321

713 942-2073 (Fax)

Mon.-Thurs. 11am - 11pm Fri.-Sat. 11am - 3am
Sun. 11am - 12pm (Midnight)
All Major Cards Accepted



Serving Houston for over 12 years!

REBECCA PEREZ, REALTOR®



Thank you, OutSmart Readers

Voted one of the
Top Female Realtors
2004 and 2005

Cell: 713.240.6320

Fax: 713.559.8507

rdperez2002@yahoo.com



THE METROPOLITAN

KELLER WILLIAMS



Six in the city: Raul Guzman (second from r), proprietor of Metro His Spa, welcomed members of the Executive and Professional Association of Houston at a July 21 mixer. Metro is the Gayest & Greatest Best Day Spa. Photo by Dalton DeHart

Gayest & Greatest

continued from page 32

FAVORITE MALE PRO ATHLETE

David Carr
Houston Texans • 832/667-2000
www.houstontexans.com

Runners-up
Lance Armstrong
Brad Ausmus, Houston Astros

FAVORITE FEMALE PRO ATHLETE

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

Runners-up
Tina Thompson, Houston Comets
Martina Navratilova

COMMUNITY

FAVORITE SOCIAL ORGANIZATION
Bayou City Boys Club
www.bcbc.info

Runners-up
Dianas
EPAH (Executive and Professional Association of Houston)

FAVORITE PHILANTHROPIC ORGANIZATION
Bayou City Boys Club
www.bcbc.info

Runners-up
Bunnies on the Bayou
Colt 45's Houston (tie)
Hollyfield Foundation (tie)

FAVORITE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

Houston GLBT Community Center
3400 Montrose Blvd., Ste. 207
713/524-3818
www.houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org

Runners-up
Bayou City Boys Club
Houston Buyers Club (tie)
Pride Houston (tie)

FAVORITE BENEFIT EVENT OF THE YEAR
Bunnies on the Bayou
www.bunnies.org

Runners-up
Jungle 12
Human Rights Campaign Dinner
Halloween Magic

BUSINESSES/ SERVICES

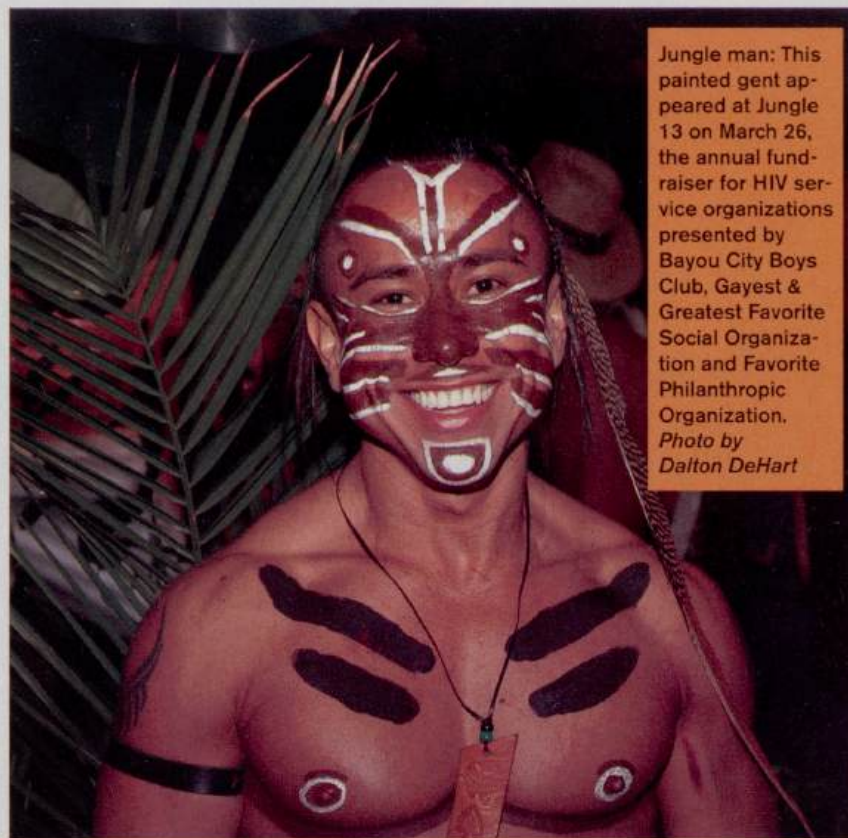
MOST SUPPORTIVE OF THE GLBT COMMUNITY (LOCAL)
Continental Airlines
800/525-0280
www.continental.com

Runners-up
JP Morgan Chase
Charles Armstrong Investments

MOST SUPPORTIVE OF THE GLBT COMMUNITY (NATIONAL)
JP Morgan Chase
www.chase.com

Runners-up
Shell
Budweiser

BEST LOCAL WEBSITE
www.OutSmart
Magazine.com



Jungle man: This painted gent appeared at Jungle 13 on March 26, the annual fundraiser for HIV service organizations presented by Bayou City Boys Club, Gayest & Greatest Favorite Social Organization and Favorite Philanthropic Organization. Photo by Dalton DeHart

Runners-up
Houston Buyers Club
Greater Houston GLBT
Chamber of Commerce (tie)
Gay & Lesbian Yellow Pages (tie)

BEST NATIONAL WEBSITE
www.gay.com

Runners-up
www.Manhunt.com
www.hrc.org (Human Rights Campaign)

BEST INTERNET PROVIDER
Roadrunner
www.rr.com

Runners-up
Yahoo
AOL

BEST BANK/CREDIT UNION
JP Morgan Chase
2900 Wesleyan
800/935-9935, 800/242-7324
and multiple other Houston-area locations • www.chase.com

Runners-up
Washington Mutual
Wells Fargo

BEST MORTGAGE COMPANY
Mortgage Associates of Texas
5311 Kirby, Ste. 216
713/524-1850
www.mortgageassociates.com

Runners-up
Neider Mortgage
Countrywide Home Loans
BEST TITLE COMPANY
StarTex
3700 Buffalo Speedway, Ste. 400
713/418-7000
www.startextitle.com

Runners-up
Texas American Co.
Stewart Title

BEST HOME BUILDER
Allegro Builders
1533 Heights Blvd. • 713/880-8899
www.allegrobldrs.com

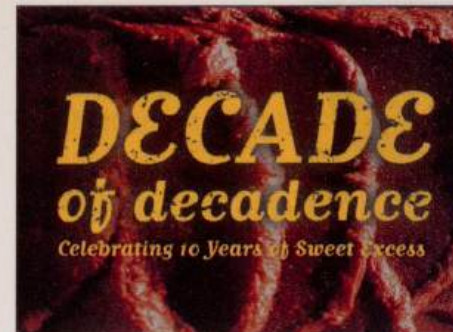
Runners-up
Perry Homes
Crownpoint Homes (tie)
Pulte Homes (tie)

BEST HOME REMODELING CONTRACTOR
Larry French
713/956-7733

BEST LANDSCAPING COMPANY
AJ's Landscaping & Design Inc.
1223 West 12th St.
713/957-0449
www.ajslandscaping.com

Runners-up
Windswept Landscapes
McDugald-Steele Landscape Architects

continued on page 36



Proud to be named
Best Dessert
on this year's list of
Houston's Gayest &
Greatest.

Upper Kirby District
3200 Kirby Drive (in back)
713.522.9999

Galleria Area
1616 Post Oak Boulevard
713.622.0007



www.dessertgallery.com



Thank you OutSmart Readers for
your vote of support & confidence.

BEST PLACE TO BUY EYEWEAR
2005 OutSmart Reader's Choice Awards

BOOTH & BRUCE
from London

Spectacles on Montrose
distinctive eyewear

4317 montrose blvd. 713.529.3937

Thank You
OutSmart Readers
for naming me one of your
Favorite Eye Doctors

*One of the Top Eye Doctors
Gayest & Greatest Surveys*

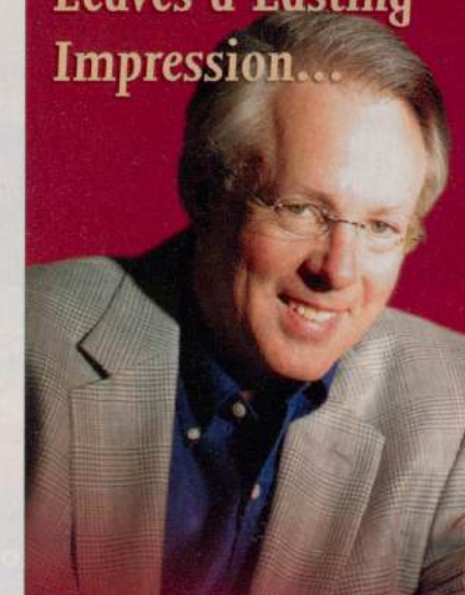
Scott Sawyer, M.D.
Ophthalmologist

**Montrose Clinic
Frost Eye Clinic**
3311 Richmond, Suite 100

*For all your
vision care needs*

713-830-3033
call for appointment

Because a
Great Smile
Leaves a Lasting
Impression...



Bruce W. Smith DDS

- Cosmetic dentistry
- Smile design
- Tooth whitening
- Porcelain veneers
- Tooth colored fillings
- Preventive dentistry
- Treatment of breath odor
- Periodontal wellness
- Painless dentistry with conscious sedation and nitrous oxide
- Many major insurance plans
- Credit cards accepted
- Payment plans available
- Comfortable homelike environment

1006 Missouri Street
between Montrose & Grant
Houston Texas 77006
713.529.4364



Gayest & Greatest

continued from page 34

BEST FURNITURE STORE IKEA

7810 I-10 West • 713/688-7867
www.ikea-usa.com

Runners-up
Gallery Furniture
Brandon Furniture

BEST FURNITURE STORE ON A BUDGET IKEA

7810 I-10 West • 713/688-7867
www.ikea-usa.com

Runners-up
Brandon Furniture
Alabama Furniture

BEST PLACE TO BUY NUTRITIONAL SUPPLEMENTS Houston Buyers Club

3224 Yoakum Blvd.
713/520-5288
www.houstonbuyersclub.com

BEST GROCERY STORE Kroger

3300 Montrose Blvd.
713/526-7865, and multiple
other Houston-area locations
www.kroger.com

Runners-up
Central Market
Whole Foods Market

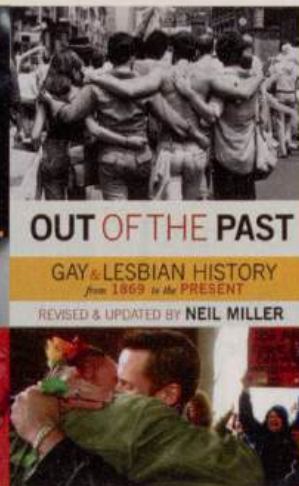
BEST SPECIALTY FOOD STORE Central Market

3815 Westheimer • 713/386-1700
www.centralmarket.com

Runners-up
Whole Foods Market
Spec's Liquor Warehouse & Deli

BEST CATERING FIRM "...of Course!"

1701 California • 713/526-1800
www.ofcourseonline.com



Novel ideas: These are three new queer books available at Borders, the Gayest & Greatest Best Place to Buy Books. Photos courtesy Borders

Runners-up
Don Carlos Catering
Jackson & Co.

BEST LIQUOR STORE Spec's Liquor Warehouse

2410 Smith • 713/256-8787
www.specsonline.com

Runners-up
M's Liquors
Richard's Liquors & Fine Wines

BEST GIFT AND ACCESSORIES SHOP Events

1966 W. Gray • 713/520-5700
www.eventsgifts.com

Runners-up
Bliss on 19th (tie)
decorDECOR (tie)
Crossover Gifts

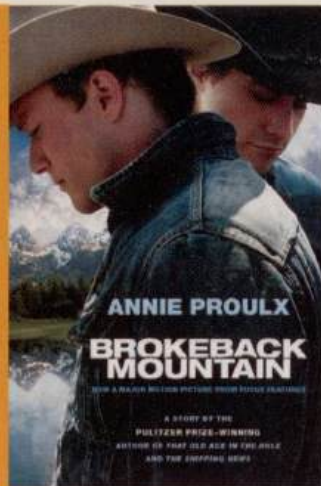
BEST RESALE SHOP FOR CLOTHING Buffalo Exchange

1614 Westheimer • 713/523-8701
www.buffaloexchange.com

Runners-up
Sand Dollar
Bluebird Circle

BEST RESALE SHOP FOR OTHER TREASURES Alabama Furniture

2200 Yale • 713/862-3035



Runners-up
Bluebird Circle
Salvation Army

BEST PLACE TO BUY GREETINGS CARDS Crossover Gifts

415 Westheimer, Ste. 101
713/523-5201
www.crossovergifts.com

Runners-up
Hollywood Super Store
Events

BEST AUTO DEALERSHIP Planet Ford (tie)

20403 I-45 North • 281-719-3700
www.planetford.com

Russell & Smith Ford (tie)
3440 South Loop West
713/663-4111
www.russellsmith.com

Runners-up
Fred Haas Toyota
DeMontrond Auto Group

BEST AUTO DETAILING SERVICE Carriage Car Care

900 Richmond • 713/529-6766

Runners-up
Mr. Carwash-Kirby
Car Spa

BEST PLACE TO BUY MUSIC Soundwaves

3509 Montrose Blvd.
713/521-9890, and eight other
Houston-area locations
www.soundwaves.com

Runners-up
Best Buy
Cactus Music & Video

BEST PLACE TO BUY BOOKS Borders Books

3025 Kirby Drive
713/524-0200, and multiple
other Houston-area locations
www.bordersstores.com

Runners-up
Half Price Books
Barnes & Noble

continued on page 38



Center of things: The Houston GLBT Community Center, Gayest & Greatest Favorite Community Organization, hosted the monthly planning meetings leading up to the June 18 Conference Houston's LGBTI Future. Phyllis Randolph Frye (l) and Jack Valinski were two of the lead organizers.
Photo by Dalton DeHart

Thank You
OutSmart Readers!

I am proud to receive
the award for
Best Insurance Agent
for the Fourth
Consecutive Year!



Pippa Wiley



FARMERS

AUTO • HOME • LIFE

Pippa Wiley
Farmers Insurance
713.957.4297

Passion
Defined

Windswept
Landscape
Studios

Distinctive Landscapes



Tim Turner
Landscape Designer

Thank you for voting us
one of the best in the 2005
OutSmart Readers' Poll.

713.263.7771

www.windsweptlandscape.com

Why call anyone else for mortgage services?



Thanks to all OutSmart readers for your support for the third year in a row!

Take advantage of all of
our on-line services.
It's EASY, just visit us at
www.mortgageassoc.com

Purchase, Refinance, Cash-out ... before you call the REST -
call the BEST! Call John Frels and Mortgage Associates.

CALL US OR GO ONLINE TO GET APPROVED TODAY.
JUST CALL 713.524.1850 TO GET STARTED NOW.

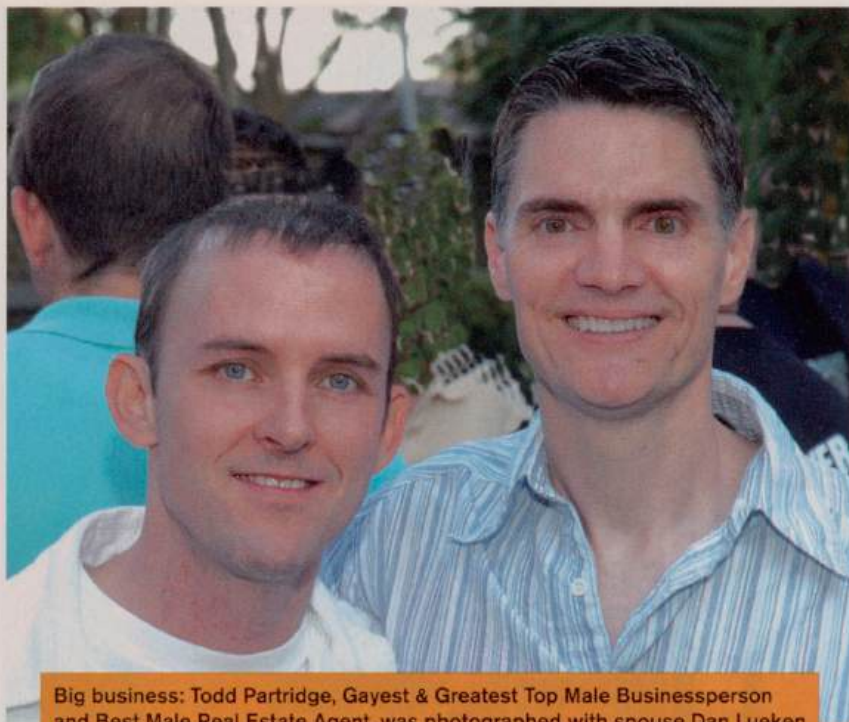
3303 Louisiana, Suite 220, Houston, Texas 77006 TSLDMB#117

Mortgage Associates is
the oldest and largest
gay-owned/operated
brokerage in Texas.

We're not your grandfather's
type of Mortgage Brokerage.
We've assembled a young,
wonderful team of experts
who know what today's
young up-and-comers
really need. With over 11
years in business, there's
really no reason to look
anywhere else.

When you think of owning a
piece of Houston,
think of...





Big business: Todd Partridge, Gayest & Greatest Top Male Businessperson and Best Male Real Estate Agent, was photographed with spouse Dan Lueken at The Lovett Inn, which they own.
Photo by Dalton DeHart

BEST PLACE TO BUY DRUG ESSENTIALS
Jewel's
2404 Taft • 713/523-3557
www.crossdressersboutique.com

Runners-up
Erotic Cabaret
Eros 1207

BEST GARDEN/NURSERY SUPPLY
Buchanan's Native Plants
611 E. 11th St. • 713/861-5702
www.buchanansplants.com

Runners-up
AJ Landscape
Another Place in Time

BEST DRY CLEANERS
Image Cleaners
3407 Montrose Blvd.
713/527-0880, and three other
Houston-area locations

BEST PLACE TO BUY PET SUPPLIES
PETSMART
2902 S. Shepherd Dr.
713/520-8092
www.petsmart.com

Runner-up
PETCO

BEST FLORIST
The Village Greenery
5203 Kelvin Dr. • 713/529-4161

Runners-up
Jim Hines Floral Designs
Flowers Etc by Georgia

BEST ANTIQUES STORE
Carl Moore Antiques
1610 Bissonnet • 713/524-2502
www.carlmooreantiques.com

Runners-up
Mid-Century Pavilion
Lackey•Prince

BEST JEWELRY STORE
I.W. Marks
3841 Bellaire Blvd.,
713/668-5000
2623 Town Center Blvd. North
(Sugarland), 281/275-5000
www.iwmarks.com

Runners-up
Zadok Jewelers
J. Silver

BEST PLACE TO BUY EYEWEAR
Spectacles on Montrose
4317 Montrose Blvd.
713/529-3937
www.wearusout.com

Runners-up
Eye Elegance

BEST B&B OR HOTEL/MOTEL
The Lovett Inn
501 Lovett Blvd. • 713/522-5224
www.lovetinn.com

Runners-up
Sheraton Brookhollow
Holiday Inn Select

continued on page 40

Gayest & Greatest

continued from page 36

BEST WIRELESS PHONE SERVICE PROVIDER
Premier Wireless (tie)
12220 Murphy Road
281/575-8500
www.callpremier.com

Western Talk (tie)
514 Elgin, Ste. A
713/861-0811
www.westerntalk.com

Runner-up
Telecom Wireless

BEST PLACE TO BUY ELECTRONICS
Best Buy
5133 Richmond Ave.
713/552-1512, and multiple
other Houston-area locations
www.bestbuy.com

Runners-up
Fry's Electronics
Tweeters

BEST PLACE TO BUY EROTIC PLAYTHINGS
Black Hawk Leather/
The Ripcord
711 Fairview • 713/522-1414

Runners-up
Eros 1207 (tie)
Leather Forever (tie)
Hollywood Super Store

BEST TATTOO PARLOR
Shaw's Tattoo Studio
1660 Westheimer
713/528-1255
www.shawstattoostudio.com

Runners-up
Lane Bryant
Foley's

BEST PLACE TO BUY MEN'S CLOTHES
M2M
3400 Montrose Blvd.
713/521-0804
www.m2mfashion.com

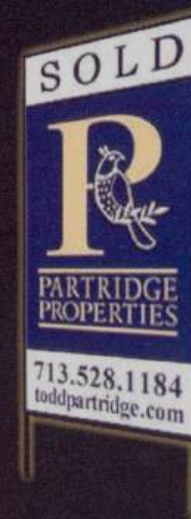
Runners-up
Foley's
Male U Wear

BEST PLACE TO BUY WOMEN'S CLOTHES
Nordstroms/Galleria
5192 Hidalgo • 832/201-2700
www.nordstrom.com



This year's model: The 2006 lineup at Planet Ford, Gayest & Greatest Best Auto Dealership, includes the new Ford Fusion.
Photo courtesy Ford Motor Company/Planet Ford

Thank You Again



And Again



For Voting Us
Your Favorites
Todd and Dan

Looking Forward To
Another Year With You!

713.528.1184 . . . PartridgeProperties.com

713.522.5224 . . . LovettInn.com

Thank
You!

Thanks OutSmart readers for
choosing me as one of Houston's
best therapists in 2005.



**Robert
Snellgrove**
Icsw

Counselor • Psychotherapist

713.522.7014

www.robertsnellgrove.com

4200 MONTROSE • SUITE 540

"I've always strived to provide the
highest quality care while assisting
clients to live life fully and passion-
ately on their own unique journey."

RS

The
*Coach
Kimmie*
SPORTS STUDIO
832-443-FITT

*Thank
You*

Proud to have
been voted:
**BEST FEMALE
TRAINER 2005**
'04, '03 & '02
by OutSmart
Readers!

coachkimmie.com



Gayest & Greatest

continued from page 38

BEST AIRLINE

Continental Airlines
800/525-0280
www.continental.com

Runners-up

Southwest Airlines
American Airlines

BEST TRAVEL AGENCY

Concierge Travel
5008 Mimosa • 713/661-2117
www.conciergetravel.com

Runner-up

Travel By Jeff

BEST TRAVEL WEBSITE

www.Travelocity.com

Runners-up

www.Expedia.com
www.Orbitz.com

BEST GAY CRUISE

OR TOUR COMPANY
RSVP Vacations
800/328-7787
www.rsvpvacations.com

Runners-up

Aquafest
Atlantis Events

BEST CAR RENTAL AGENCY

Enterprise
800/261-7331
www.enterprise.com

Runners-up

Hertz
Avis

BEST DAY SPA

Metro His Spa
2606 Grant • 713/52-METRO
www.metrospa4men.com

Runners-up

Dolce Vita
Michael Kemper

DINING

BEST NEW RESTAURANT

Aladdin
912 Westheimer • 713/942-2321

Runner-up

Pronto

BEST RESTAURANT

FOR PEOPLE WATCHING
Baba Yega
2607 Grant • 713-522-0042

Runners-up

Farragos (tie)
Hollywood Book & Café (tie)
Barnaby's Cafe

continued on page 42



The wicked witch of Wicked: Stephanie J. Block stars as Elphaba in the national tour of the blockbuster musical, opening October 26 at Hobby Center. The production is one of the season highlights in the Houston Downtown Theater District. Gayest & Greatest Best Spot to Take Out-of-Town Visitors. Photo by Joan Marcus/Broadway Across America

We do it all for you...

Thank you, OutSmart readers
and the city of Houston,
for choosing us again
as the BEST



800 Pacific • 713.529.7623 • SouthBeachtheNightclub.com

Anniversary Special 50% package discount!



Octavio Barrios, M.D.
Carol Donnelly, P.A.-C



We specialize in
cosmetic laser procedures.

Hair Removal

Enhanced Skin Rejuvenation
- removes blemishes & wrinkles;
an alternative to facelift.

Acne (Active & Scars)
Rosacea, Face & Leg Veins
Laser Peel/Resurfacing
Botox™ Restylane™
Sculptra™

Gay owned and operated!

713.942.SKIN
106 Westheimer (at Bagby)
Se habla español.

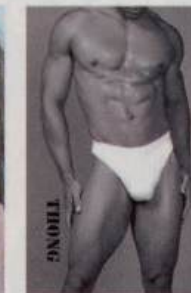
FREE
Consultations!

SKIN Renaissance

LASER CENTER

See before and after pictures at www.skinrenaissance.net

Thank you for choosing me as one
of your favorite photographers for
the third year in a row!



713-240-5508
davidlewisimages.com

Spinning: JD
Arnold of South
Beach is Gayest &
Greatest Best DJ.
Photo by
Dalton DeHart



Gayest & Greatest

continued from page 40

BEST 24-HOUR RESTAURANT

Katz's Deli
616 Westheimer • 713/521-3838
www.lloveKatzs.com

Runners-up
House of Pies
IHOP

BEST RESTAURANT FOR ELEGANT DINING

Mark's
1658 Westheimer
713/522-3800
www.marks.citysearch.com

Runners-up
Sorrento
Ruggles Grill

BEST RESTAURANT FOR CHEAP EATS

Lankford Grocery & Market
88 Dennis St. • 713/522-9555

Runner-up
Texas Tamales Factory

BEST RESTAURANT FOR OUTDOOR DINING

Baba Yega
2607 Grant • 713/522-0042

Runners-up
Laurier Cafe
Farrago

BEST BREAKFAST

Baby Barnaby's
602 Fairview • 713/522-4229

Runners-up
House of Pies

BEST BRUNCH

La Strada
322 Westheimer • 713/523-1014

Runners-up
Thirsty Cactus Cantina
Baba Yega

BEST LUNCH SPOT

Baba Yega
2607 Grant • 713/522-0042

Runners-up
Barnaby's
Carter & Cooley Company

BEST DESSERT

Dessert Gallery
3200 Kirby Dr. • 713/522-9999
1616 Post Oak Blvd.,
713/622-0007
www.dessertgallery.com

Runners-up
The Acadian Baker
Noaky's Erotic Bakery (tie)
Chocolate Bar (tie)

BEST COFFEE HOUSE

Starbucks Coffee
3407 Montrose Blvd., and other
Houston-area locations
713/521-7278
www.starbucks.com

Runners-up
Diedrich Coffee
Brasil

BEST BARBECUE
Goode Co. Barbeque
5109 Kirby Dr. • 713/522-2530
www.goodecompany.com

Runners-up
Luther's Barbecue
Demeris Barbecue

BEST CAJUN

Ragin' Cajun
4302 Richmond Ave.,
713/622-6321
9600 Westheimer, 832/251-7171
930 Main St. (in the Tunnel),
713/571-2422
www.ragin-cajun.com

Runners-up
Pappadeaux
Mardi Gras

BEST CHINESE

Kam's
4500 Montrose Blvd., #C
713/529-5057

Runners-up
Aunt Chang's Dumpling
House (tie)
Shanghai River (tie)
Pei Wei

BEST CUBAN

El Meson
2425 University Blvd.
713/522-9306

Runners-up
Café Piquet
Latina Café

BEST GREEK

Niko Niko's
2520 Montrose Blvd.
713/528-1308
www.nikonikos.com

Runners-up
Aladdin
La Fendee

BEST HAMBURGER

Lankford Grocery & Market
88 Dennis • 713/522-9555

Runners-up
Hard Rock Cafe
Charlie's Hamburgers

BEST INDIAN

Khyber Grill
2510 Richmond Ave.
713/942-9424

BEST ITALIAN
Riva's Italian Restaurant
1117 Missouri • 713/529-3450

Runners-up
Carraba's
Pronto

continued on page 44



Thank You Again, Houston For voting Planet Ford "BEST AUTO DEALER"

We look forward to serving the community for years to come

Your complete Service and Sales staff is waiting to hear from you!

Kristine Smith



Service

281.719.3816

Chris Mann



Service

281.719.3816

Rudy Gonzalez



Service

281.719.3816

Scott Sprouse



New & Pre Owned Sales

281.465.3804

Sales & Service that respects every guest as one of our family.

*VALID ON MOST FOR, LINCOLN AND MERCURY VEHICLES. MUST PRESENT THIS AD FOR DISCOUNT.

SERVICE • PARTS • BODY SHOP 20403 Interstate 45 North
SERVICE & PARTS DEPT HOURS: Monday-Friday 6:30am-7:00pm/Saturday 6:30 to 5:30pm
SERVICE DEPARTMENT: (888) 251-9135

When detail matters

State-of-the-Art Medical Eye Care

2004 Best Eye Doctor
in Houston!
Thanks OutSmart Readers

Exams for glasses/contacts
Cataract Surgery
LASIK Surgery
Comprehensive Ophthalmology

PERSONAL ATTENTION
FOR RESULTS YOU CAN SEE

STEWART ZUCKERBROD, MD
OPHTHALMOLOGY

5420 Dashwood, Ste 101, Houston, Tx 77081

713.668.9118 832.553.EYES (3937)

Thanks, Houston

for choosing me as one of the
Top Male Real Estate Agents in '05!

Experience
InnerLoopLiving.com

Ronnie Kee, CRS
Broker Associate
713.557.4404

AllisonSpear.com
REALTORS®
713.524.SOLD



Gayest & Greatest

continued from previous page

BEST FEMALE BARTENDER

Mel Kennedy
3rd Coast Beach Bar
3102 Seawall • 409/765-6911
www.3rdcoastbar.com

Runners-up
Kristin Simmon, Undercurrent
Victoria Winters, Undercurrent

COMMUNITY

FAVORITE PHILANTHROPIC ORGANIZATION
AIDS Coalition of Coastal Texas
707 Tremont • 409/763-2907
http://acctx.tripod.com

FAVORITE BENEFIT EVENT OF THE YEAR
Misty Valdez's Annual Benefit for ACCT

BUSINESSES/ SERVICES

BEST PLACE TO BUY BOOKS
Midsummer Books
2309 Ship's Mechanic Row
409/765-5930

BEST GIFT AND ACCESSORIES SHOP

Nest
525 22nd • 409/763-5415
www.environmentsonline.net

Runners-up
Hendley Market
Peanut Butter Warehouse

BEST ANTIQUES STORE
Big House Antiques
2212 Ship's Mechanic Row
409/762-0559

Runners-up
Simpson's on the Strand
The Market on Market

BEST B&B OR HOTEL/MOTEL
The San Luis
5222 Seawall • 800/445-0090
www.sanluisresort.com

Runners-up
Sand 'n Sea
The Commodore on the Beach

DINING

BEST RESTAURANT FOR ELEGANT DINING
Rudy & Paco
2028 Postoffice • 409/762-3696

Runners-up
The Saltwater Grill
Clary's

BEST RESTAURANT FOR OUTDOOR DINING
Ocean Grill
2227 Seawall • 409/762-7100

Runners-up
Fish Tales
Fisherman's Wharf

BEST RESTAURANT FOR PEOPLE WATCHING
Benno's on the Beach
1200 Seawall • 409/762-4621
www.BennosinGalveston.com

Runners-up
Fish Tales
Yaga's

BEST SUNDAY BRUNCH
Hotel Galvez
2024 Seawall • 409/765-7721
www.wyndham.com

BEST BREAKFAST
Mosquito Café
628 14th St. • 409/763-1010
www.mosquitocafe.com

Runners-up
Apache Mexican Cuisine
Dutch Kettle

BEST LUNCH
Mosquito Café
628 14th St. • 409/763-1010
www.mosquitocafe.com

Runners-up
Yaga's
Ocean Grill (tie)
The Press Box (tie)

BEST PIZZA
Mario's Italian Restaurant
628 Seawall • 409/763-1693
www.opentable.com

Runners-up
Papa's Pizza
Connolly's of Galveston

BEST BARBECUE
Leon's World's Finest In & Out BBQ House
5427 Broadway • 409/744-0070

Runner-up
Queen's Bar-B-Que

BEST DESSERT
Sunflower Bakery
1527 Church • 409/763-5500

Runners-up
Phoenix Bakery & Coffee Shop
Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory

BEST CAJUN
Cajun Greek
2226 61st • 409/744-7041

BEST GREEK
Mediterranean Chef
2402 Strand • 409/765-7700

BEST ITALIAN
DiBella's Italian Restaurant
1902 31st St. • 409/763-9036

Runner-up
Mario's Italian Restaurant

BEST MEXICAN
The Original Mexican Café
1401 Market • 409/762-6001

Runners-up
Salsas Mexican & Seafood Restaurant
Tortuga Coastal Cantina

BEST SUSHI
Sky Bar Sushi Bar & Grill
2107 Postoffice • 409/621-4759
www.GalvestonSkyBar.com

BEST COFFEE HOUSE
Mod Coffee & Tea House
2126 Postoffice • 409/765-5659
www.modcoffee.com

Runner-up
Java's 213

AFTER DARK

BEST CLUB FOR DANCING
Undercurrent
2409 Market • 409/750-8571
www.undercurrentgalveston.com

Runner-up
Garza's Kon Tiki

BEST PLACE TO SEE MALE DANCERS
Undercurrent
2409 Market • 409/750-8571
www.undercurrentgalveston.com

Runners-up
Garza's Kon Tiki
3rd Coast Beach Bar

BEST DRAG SHOW BAR
Robert's LaFitte
2501 Ave Q • 409/765-9092

Runners-up
Garza's Kon Tiki
3rd Coast Beach Bar

BEST HAPPY HOUR
3rd Coast Beach Bar
3102 Seawall • 409/765-6911
www.3rdcoastbar.com

Runners-up
Robert's LaFitte
Pink Dolphin

BEST PIANO BAR
The Tremont House
2300 Ship's Mechanic Row
409/763-0300
www.galveston.com/
thetremonthouse

Runner-up
Cocktails

FAVORITE BRAND OF BEER
Bud Light
www.budlight.com

Runners-up
Dos Equis
Shiner

ON THE WEB

See www.outsmartmagazine.com for the list of winners and runners-up and their contact information.

WE DID IT AGAIN! #1 Cajun Restaurant

Best Crawfish in Houston



Lunch • Dinner • Catering

Ragin' Cajun

4302 Richmond • 713.623.6321
80 Woodlake Sq. • 832.251.7171
930 Main St. Downtown Tunnel • 713.571.2422
16100 Kensington #400 Sugar Land • 281.277.0704

Now Located In Montrose!

Auto Accidents
Work-Related Injuries
Rehab Exercise Facility
Back Pain
Headaches

Fernando Franco, D.C.
(713) 526-5959

FRANCO
CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC
3400 Montrose, Ste 550
FrancoChiropractic.com

LINDBERG

Eye Elegance
FINE EYEWEAR

It's Where You Find Your Look In Eyewear
Voted one the top "Best Places To Buy Eyewear" in Houston
3966 Westheimer • Highland Village • 713-622-4411

KEN CLAUDE, RMT

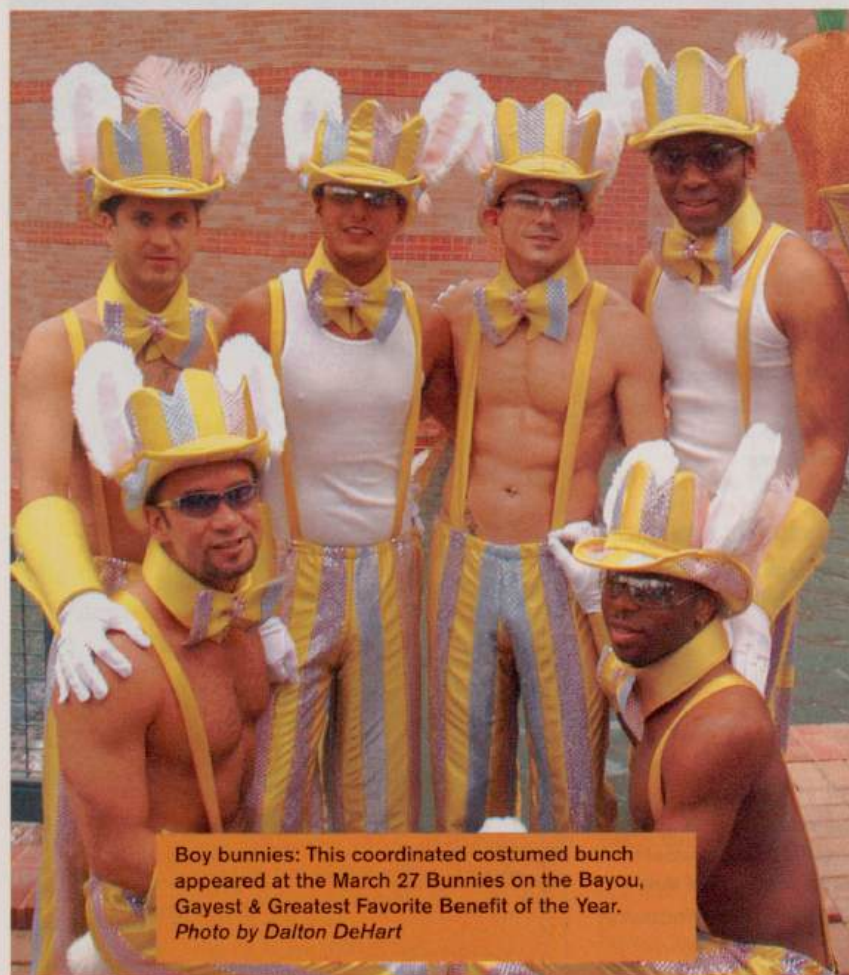


713.240.9598

Thanks, OutSmart Readers,
for selecting me
BEST MASSAGE THERAPIST
four years in a row!
Congratulations to
all the winners!

Convenient
Montrose/River Oaks Studio
TUE-SUN 11AM-8PM

www.kenclaudemassage.com



Boy bunnies: This coordinated costumed bunch appeared at the March 27 Bunnies on the Bayou, Gayest & Greatest Favorite Benefit of the Year. Photo by Dalton DeHart

First in the Fight

"First, we must remember this is not about marriage," Glen Maxey says. "This is about politics and wedge issues"

Get ready. Next month, you have a chance to make history.

When Election Day rolls around on November 8, one key constitutional amendment on the ballot has the power to change Texans' lives in a dramatic way, especially those of gay, lesbian, and transgender Texans. This amendment (championed by Governor Rick Perry and conservative groups statewide) establishes a strict definition for marriage of one man and one woman, and proscribes any other arrangement.

Because of the impact this amendment would have, if passed, a coalition of organizations, including the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, formed No Nonsense In November last July. The political-action committee is dedicated to fighting passage of the amendment and getting out the vote. With headquarters

in Austin and offices across the state (including one in Houston), No Nonsense in November is working to bring voter momentum to anti-amendment side. Spearheading the campaign is former state representative Glen Maxey, the first openly gay legislator in Texas history (he was elected in 1991 and served six terms until 2003).

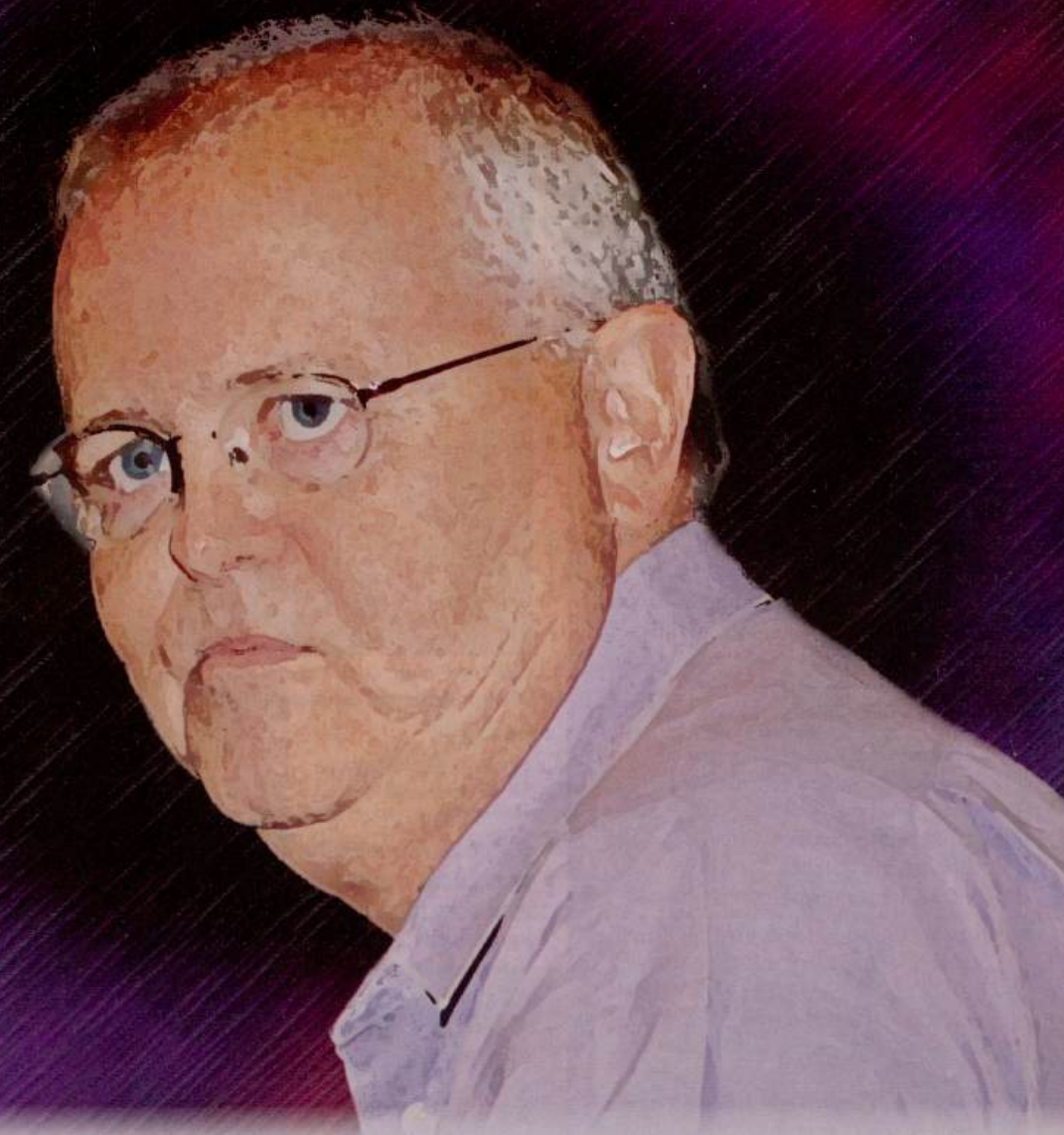
After years of working with the Democratic Party and serving as a political consultant, Maxey has turned his attention to bolstering the No Nonsense campaign and fighting the November ballot measure. Maxey, who is a Baytown native, recently agreed to answer several questions for *OutSmart* readers.

Martinez: What exactly is No Nonsense in November? What does it hope to do?

Maxey: No Nonsense in November is a coalition of more than 150 organizations and businesses and thousands of individuals that have joined together to fight against Constitutional Amendment #2 that would ban civil marriages, civil unions, and domestic partnerships between gay and lesbian couples in Texas. Our coalition is mobilizing fair-minded Texans to vote with gay and lesbian Texans and defeat this discriminatory amendment.

What's the big deal about amending the Texas constitution? It's been done many times before.

Constitutional Amendment #2 does more than amend the constitution. It amends the Texas Bill of Rights. It is absolute nonsense to ask Texans to write hate and discrimination into the Bill of Rights, the very document that has long been →



A true Texas pioneer as the first openly gay legislator, Glen Maxey now leads the No Nonsense In November campaign to defeat the antigay marriage amendment to the state constitution

POLITICAL ACTION

You can choose among several events this month to support the campaign:

- On October 7-8, No Nonsense In November hosts two local Come Out & Be Counted voter-registration evenings—part of a statewide effort—at the Brazos River Bottom and at Keys West, both at 8 p.m. Details: www.nononsenseinnovember.com/calendar.
- Dale Carpenter, University of Minnesota law professor and *OutSmart* OutRight columnist, argues the "opposed" side in amendment debates on October 10, noon, at University of Houston Krost Hall and on October 11, noon, at South Texas College of Law.
- Houston Equal Rights Alliance hosts a No Nonsense In November fundraiser and volunteer-appreciation night on October 10, 6:30 p.m., at Guava Lamp. Details: www.houstonera.org.
- On October 21, No Nonsense In November hosts a coordinated statewide house party. Other house parties take place across Texas throughout October. Details: www.nononsenseinnovember.com.
- The Foundation for Marriage Equality presents No Tragedy In November: An Equality Vigil, at Spotts Park on October 22. The event (see "How To Win," September *OutSmart*) was rescheduled from the previously announced October 8 date to avoid a conflict with other activities. Details: www.familyequality.org.
- On October 27, Congregation Beth Israel hosts a 7-9 p.m. public forum on the amendment, featuring clergy discussing opposition to the amendment. Panelists (announced by press time) include Rev. Betty Adam, Christ Church Cathedral; Rabbi David Lyon, Congregation Beth Israel; Rev. Marilyn Meeker-Williams, Bering Memorial United Methodist Church; and Rev. Matt Tittle, Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Church. Details: Congregation Beth Israel, 713/771-6221, or Alan Hurwitz, ahur111@aol.com.
- No Nonsense In November hosts Get Your Tail Out, early-voting tail-gate parties on October 29, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., and November 4, 3 p.m.-7 p.m. Details: www.nononsenseinnovember.com/calendar.

More events:
www.outsmartmagazine.com



Two Dem men: Glen Maxey with Howard Dean (l), Democratic National Committee chairman and 2004 presidential candidate.

First in the Fight

continued from previous page

the place where rights are granted and protections expanded. The Bill of Rights is where we find rights to speech, assembly, and religion. It offers us protection against discrimination based on gender, race and religion. By adding discrimination, we would turn our Bill of Rights into the Bill of Wrongs.

If I already can't get married in Texas, then why is this an issue?

The current law is discrimination, plain and simple. Passing the constitutional amendment embeds that discrimination in the Bill of Rights. But it does much more. It prohibits the option to have civil unions and domestic partnerships. With so many unintended consequences, it will be tied up in the courts for years.

Aren't Texas and the country getting more gay-tolerant? We have shows like *Will & Grace* and *Queer Eye For The Straight Guy* on TV nowadays.

Other than the fact that reality for most GLBT Texans is not *Will & Grace* or the Fab Five, absolutely.

A good case in point is that after November 2004 when 11 states voted against same-sex marriage, the Pew Research Center's annual benchmark study showed that support for marriages between gay and lesbian couples increased by over 5 percentage points nationally.

When I began doing this work in the mid-eighties, polling showed that not even a majority of Texans supported anti-discrimination laws. That number is now in the high 70s. We're going to keep moving that number.

Is this just an anti-gay amendment? Or would it have ramifications have for an average Texan?

Clearly it has ramifications for all Texans. First, we must remember this is not about marriage. This is about politics and wedge issues. These are the same people fighting affirmative action and access to higher education for minority children, pushing vouchers for public education, and trying to keep taxes low for big business. This isn't about marriage. It's about money.

Secondly, the language in the amendment is so poorly drafted it could have unintended consequences. Common-law marriages between heterosexual couples will be affected, for instance. Health insurance and other benefits now available as part of domestic partnerships, and all the contracts gays and lesbians have crafted to replace what they cannot get automatically with a marriage license, will also be jeopardized.

If this amendment passes, it could be the attorneys' Full Employment Act of 2005, because we'll need lots of attorneys to sort it all out. →

If you think
you have a problem...

Crystal
Meth X-G-K

Alcohol

CRACK

Cocaine

WE CAN HELP
1-800-54PRIDE

Dallas TX

Ft Lauderdale FL

Key West FL

PRIDE
INSTITUTE

GLBT Mental Health & Chemical Dependency Care

New York NY

Minneapolis MN

Summit NJ

www.pride-institute.com



AVES

Amigos Volunteers in Education and Service

FAST, FREE & NO NEEDLES

Get a Free HIV Test in 20 minutes!
Call or visit us for more information.

Sólo en 20 mín y tienes tus resultados del VIH.
Llama al 713- 626-2837 para información sobre la prueba. Todo es confidencial o anonimo.

AVES | 807 Hawthorne Street | Houston, TX 77006

713.626.2837



Guiding Your Path To Success!

We Refer You

Through Our Directory, On the Phone
& On Our Web Site

We Promote You

Rainbow Pride Nights
(Gay Nights) at Different
Venues Around Houston

We Help You Succeed!

Cutting Edge, In-depth, Goal Oriented &
Personalized Marketing



No Nonsense summit: Glen Maxey met on August 10 at the Pride Houston office with (l-r) Emily Langdon, Houston regional co-coordinator, No Nonsense In November; Jack Valinski, Pride Houston executive director and Houston GLBT Political Caucus vice president; Alex Martinez, Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund; and Christopher Bown, Houston GLBT Community Center president.

First in the Fight

continued from page 50

Texas is a red state with Republicans holding every statewide office. Why shouldn't we just let majority rule?

The only majority we're looking for in this election is fair-minded Texans. Ours is a big tent, and I'm telling you, it has people of every political persuasion, including Republicans who are fed up with their leadership that brought us this amendment, but didn't bring us any solutions to real problems, such as school finance, property tax reform, and health insurance for every Texas child.

You have a lot of experience in and with the Texas legislature and politics in general. Do you see a change or trend in regards to gay issues?

In 1987, when I became the lobbyist for the gay community, there were only three legislators who would speak on our behalf and even they were timid at that point.

Twenty years later, many legislators not only speak for us, but stand with us, and clearly a majority of the legislators agree with us but are fearful of their own constituents.

We have to show them that their constituents are not as bigoted as they think, and that's what this election can do in addition to keeping discrimination out of the constitution.

What do I do now?

You and every reader of *OutSmart* can have an enormous impact in this election.

- Host a house party to get your friends and neighbors involved all while raising a little money for the campaign.
- Join the Mess with Texas (phone-bank) campaign. Go online to www.onlinephonebanking.com, sign into Call Voters and start identifying No Nonsense in November supporters in the Houston area.
- Sign up at www.nononsensein november.com and start receiving emails about the campaign, events in your area, and ways you can help.
- Write a check or donate online at www.nononsenseinnovember.com.

What else should readers know?

At the end of the day on November 8 when we win this thing—and we will win—I want the GLBT community in Texas to know that this victory is theirs. The way that victory will be earned will be by having everyone work their asses off between now and then. You gotta vote and take 10 friends to vote. You've got to give money and get your friends to give money.

And then we can all take pride in the fact that Texas made history by standing up for gay and lesbian families and becoming the first state to defeat a constitutional amendment prohibiting marriage for gays and lesbians.

Brian Martinez, who reported on the Mexican bed-and-breakfast inn Angeles de Merida for our December 2004 issue, frequently posts about politics on his blog, Left Is Right, at <http://texasbrian.blogspot.com>.

GRAYHOMETEAM

SMART MOVE.

GRAYHOMETEAM.COM
INNER LOOP REAL ESTATE

ROBERT GRAY 713.298.1481
DANA GRAY 713.540.5379

SOUTHAMPTON TH \$440's
GORGEOUS!! EXTENSIVELY REMODELED TOWNHOME
3/2.5, CHEF'S KITCHEN, COMMERCIAL RANGE, GRANITE,
DESIGNER FINISHES, MARBLE BATH, OPEN LIVING SPACES

RICE UNIVERSITY MODERN \$1.25mil
PERFECT FOR ENTERTAINING! Wall of Windows,
MEDIA ROOM, GYM, OPEN SPACES, HEATED POOL,
GUEST HOUSE, SUMMER KITCHEN, SUNDECK

WHITNEY COURT FROM \$310's
NEW PATIO HOMES/TOWNHOMES IN MONTE ROSE
MODERN LOFT STYLE, HARDWOODS, ROOF LEVELS, GATED,
EXPOSED STAINED TRUSSES, OPEN LIVING SPACES

2913 CAROLINE - MIDTOWN TH - 3/3/2 - \$210's
1521 ANITA - MIDTOWN SALE/LEASE - \$1650 OR \$220's
WICHMAN LOFTS - MONTE ROSE THS - FROM \$260's
2009 MASON - MONTE ROSE FOR LEASE - \$1695/MO.

THE METROPOLITAN
KELLER WILLIAMS
Informative, devoted, reliable, but subject to change.

Did you know an estimated 14,000 people around the world become infected with HIV every day?

What do we have in common?

WE ARE ALL AT RISK.

Investigational HIV Prevention Vaccine Research Study

Up to \$400 for time and travel for:

- Women at high risk
- Gay/bisexual men age 18-45

The Center for Clinical Studies Texas is looking for high-risk men and women (i.e. with HIV+partner) with no history of HIV-infection to participate in an investigational vaccine research study for HIV. If you qualify, you will receive up to \$400 for time and travel plus free screening tests for HIV. For more information, call (713) 528-8818.

Houston (713) 528-8818
Clearlake (281) 333-2288
The Center for Clinical Studies Texas
www.ccsstexas.com

Rod Frazier, M.D.

General Medicine
HIV Medicine

Sculptra®
Corrects facial lipatrophy

Restylane®
Botox®
Collagen®

Dr. Frazier is a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians and the American Academy of HIV Medicine

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

Free consultation for cosmetic procedures.

713.521.0340



Sue Aims for

2

Sue Lovell is making her second run at a City Council post. Here, one longtime community activist profiles another for OutSmart

by Deborah Moncrief Bell
Photo by John Conroy

Gay rights advocate, Little League coach, businesswoman, Democratic Party leader, and neighborhood activist are all labels that Sue Lovell, candidate for City Council At-Large Position 2, wears proudly. Hearing her talk about her life, it is easy to understand how all of these varied roles are intertwined.

As owner of a printing business in Spring Branch in the late '70s, Lovell offered to print the Houston Gay Political Caucus (now the Houston Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Political Caucus) newsletter, thinking that would be the extent of her contribution to the community. One night at a meeting, however, she heard a young man who was a victim of a hate crime tell his story. His parents had kicked him out of the house after learning he had been beaten up after being at a gay bar. Lovell's sense of injustice was stirred, and after that point she became increasingly involved in the HGPC, eventually becoming the organization's first female president in 1984. →



DALTON DEHART

Sue Aims for 2

continued from previous page

Lovell got involved with the fight against AIDS early on when several friends became ill. Watching what was happening in the community reminded her of a story she heard from her grandmother about the horror of the influenza epidemic of 1918, including the way victims were treated as pariahs, the numbers of death, and the lack of community response. That analogy motivated her to help start what is now the AIDS Foundation Houston and to serve on its board for 12 years. The first-ever AIDS booklet and the first safe-sex pamphlets in the country were printed in her shop. Lovell said that local government was slow in responding.

"In other cities, they were providing funding, but that did not happen in Houston," she says. "So we had to think in creative ways to help people who were without resources or funds."

Lovell later went to work for then-state controller John Sharpe. She learned a lot there about public service and how to develop innovative changes and creating programs that work. In 1999, Lovell

was hired as a director by The Mills Corporation, one of America's leading retail developers, to plan and implement a pilot jobs training/welfare-to-work program at Katy Mills, the massive retail mall. Because of its success, the program became the model used nationally by The Mills Corporation.

Even though mentored by and picked as a successor by legendary political activist Billie Carr for a seat on the Democratic National Committee, Lovell had to run for the position. Running statewide, she has been elected twice.

She credits Carr with giving her the good advice to "budget your enemies." She explains the meaning: In the process of fighting for something, you are going to make enemies, Carr told her, "so make sure you pick your battles so you can look back and say it was something important enough that it was worth the fight."

Lovell says she has always wanted to run for a City Council seat because she saw that having the power of the vote on council could make a difference for people. Because her children have been her priority, she delayed seeking office (she first ran for a district council seat in

2003, but didn't make a runoff election). A devoted mom of two sons, Lovell is active as a Little League coach, in her church, and neighborhood civic activities. These family values may seem incongruent with the public persona Lovell has in other aspects of her life, but they also have served as a catalyst for action.

Lovell says that "holding each child for the first time" as being the most defining moments of her life— "... that sense of, 'I'm responsible for this other life' and 'I don't want to let you down.'"

Beyond the qualifications and accomplishments listed on her campaign website, www.suelovell.com, Lovell sees her experience as a single mother with a career as a perfect qualification for someone who serves on City Council, because "you have to be very well-organized to do a good job."

Lovell credits her children as teaching her something that provides her with another ability that could be invaluable on City Council. "To be a good parent, you have to learn to listen, not just to what is said, but what may not be verbalized," she says. "You have to be aware and sensitive to their needs."

Because Lovell is known as a fiery activist, an astute businesswoman, and a high-level political player, some folks in the community might be surprised to learn of her softer side, reflected in her love of opera, her tendency to take in stray animals, and even moments of outright unabashed silliness. One wonders how she does it all, seeming to fit the stereotype of modern-day Superwoman. One way she seeks balance in her life is to take at least 30 minutes a day for herself (even if she sometimes has to get up early to do it). She loves to read. Not surprisingly, the last book she read was political in nature—*Master of the Senate: The Years of Lyndon Johnson*, the third volume in Robert Caro's biographical series, but Sue admits to sometimes reading "trashy stuff." Another love she makes time for is gardening, which one only has to look at her yard to realize.

While Lovell claims no "gay agenda" per se, her political agenda does include concerns for the GLBT community. She emphasizes that affordable housing and economic development are GLBT issues. She sees good jobs that offer domestic-partnership benefits as essential to the economic well being of our city. Additionally, she says she will always take the lead to fight any form of discrimination. →

Political Caucus Endorsements

The Houston GLBT Political Caucus political action committee has made these endorsements for the November 8 municipal elections:

MAYOR:
Bill White

CITY CONTROLLER:
Annise Parker

CITY COUNCIL, AT LARGE, POSITION 1:
Peter Brown

CITY COUNCIL, AT LARGE, POSITION 2:
Sue Lovell

CITY COUNCIL, DISTRICT B:
Felicia Galloway-Hall

CITY COUNCIL, DISTRICT C:
Hermann Litt

CITY COUNCIL, DISTRICT D:
Ada Edwards

CITY COUNCIL, DISTRICT H:
Adrian Garcia

CITY COUNCIL, DISTRICT I:
Carol Alavarado

At its August 3 endorsement meeting, held at the Houston GLBT Community Center, the caucus membership also voted to take a position against the anti-gay marriage amendment to the state constitution.

Check www.outsmartmagazine.com for additional endorsements for Parker, who is running for a second term as controller (she also contributes a monthly column to *OutSmart*), and Lovell.

Coming to Creative Life

"The Voice Celestial" Sunday talks in October by Rev. Dr. Jesse Jennings surround a Searcher's journey through the wisdom of the ages. *Weekly at 9am and 11am, with children's classes at 11.*

Mandala art workshop with Kay Kemp. *Saturday, October 8, 10am-4pm. \$35 includes materials.*

Pet blessing and memorial with Carol Mitchell. *Sunday, October 16, 12:30pm, in the courtyard.*

Hallowe'en Dance & 20th Anniversary Party "Master Chefs of CLC" brunch in the morning, then costume up and come celebrate in the evening. *Sunday, October 30.*

"The Gift of Intimacy" six-week class with Barbara Baldwin and Valinda Lutz, starts in November.



5326 Spring-Stuebner Road,
2 blocks east of Gosling between
I-45 (exit 70A) and Kuykendahl
Sunday celebrations - 9 & 11am
Jesse Jennings, D.D.,
Founding Minister

www.creativelife.org • 281 350 5157

Dirk Hunter, D.C.

Chiropractic
Care

Rehabilitation

Ergonomic
Consulting

Wellness
Programs

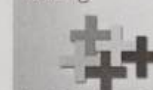
Sports
Injuries

Soft Tissue
Injuries

Work-Related
Injuries

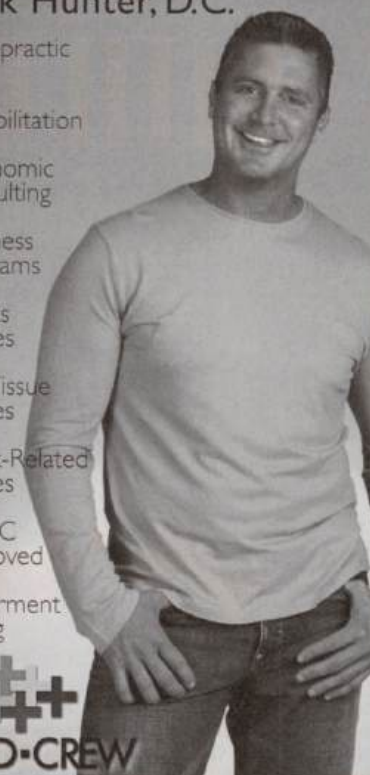
TWCC
Approved

Impairment
Rating



MED-CREW

3930 Kirby Drive, Suite 108
281.773.0010
Med-CREW.com





DALLON DEHART

Sue Aims for 2

continued from previous page

"I will work every day on City Council to make the community proud of me," she promises.

Lovell says she feels blessed to be part of a wonderful family that includes many supportive friends who have helped her raise her sons.

"The current situation really brings that home," she states, referring to the recent aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and the efforts in Houston to assist people affected by the disaster. "We are dealing with a lot of heartbroken people right now."

Lovell talks animatedly about a visit to the George R. Brown Convention Center and viewing firsthand the relief efforts there. "I am so proud of the response to the tragedy this city has had, that city and country leaders were able to put partisanship aside and do what was needed."

She cautions, however, "It is a lesson for Houston regarding what we did right and what needs improvement. We need to continue these partnerships and the cooperative efforts that have been

developed so we can be prepared for the worst-case scenario. But for the grace of God, this could have happened to Houston. Hurricanes are a reality of living on the Gulf Coast. But we can learn from this and be prepared."

Lovell says she plans to utilize her experience in helping people with job development, affordable housing, and to form partnerships needed to serve the current population as well the new residents of Houston who have been displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

Admitting that she had to promise a friend not to take on the responsibility of taking in a "woman with children" during her tour of the convention center, Lovell embodies her own vision of Houston.

She says, "I think it is time for Houston to no longer be known as the Bayou City or Space City, but deserves the title Big-Hearted City." She has even coined a new slogan: "Big City, Big Heart."

Deborah Moncrief Bell is co-host of Queer Voices, the weekly GLBT program that airs 7-9 p.m. Monday night on KPFT-FM. She is a former editor of the Houston Voice. This is her first contribution to OutSmart.

Political meeting: April Ayers (far r), who hosted the August 6 Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund event with Liz James (not pictured), posed with guests Sue Lovell, Annise Parker, and Janine Brunjes (second from r), one of three Victory Fund board members from Houston. The Washington, D.C.-based organization supports openly GLBT political candidates, including Lovell and Parker on the November 8 ballot.

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

Marion E. Coleman
Your Community Image Inker!
Thank you OutSmart Readers for your
vote of support & confidence.
• Top Female Business person
• One of the Top Community Heros
2005 OutSmart Reader's Choice Awards

House of Coleman

Fine Printing & Graphics

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



Steven Lash

Unique Bands
Customized to
Your Specifications

Nozell
design studio

2043 W. Gray • 713-626-0800
In the River Oaks Shopping Center

THE METROPOLITAN

KELLER WILLIAMS

HOUSTON METROPOLITAN
550 POST OAK BLVD, SUITE 350
HOUSTON, TX 77027

RICHARD HILL

"The Sign of the Times"

*It Is All About You!
Call to see how my 20 years of
experience can benefit You.*



Email: richard@richardhill.com
Office: 713-621-8001
Direct: 713-980-5111



1004 Columbus #A \$299,900.00



2402 Park \$349,500.00

AFTER THE STORM

When thousands of persons displaced by Hurricane Katrina fled to Houston, members of the community pitched in to help

Photos by Dalton Dehart

From the beginning of the Hurricane Katrina disaster, local GLBT folks stepped up to the front lines. A few examples: Montrose Counseling Center provided a range of services, including a housing database. Montrose Clinic offered health care for evacuees. Houston GLBT Community Center served as an information hub and established a fund for the New Orleans center. Pride Houston and the counseling center began a fund for GLBT victims. Individuals across the community collected clothing and raised money through drag shows, drives, and cookouts. Many also volunteered at the municipal shelters at the Reliant Astrodome and the George R. Brown Convention Center.

Continued on page 62



Francisco Sanchez (r), who is public information officer for Harris County Judge Robert Eckels, toured the shelter set up at the Reliant Astrodome with Kenneth L. Mattox, M.D., Harris County Hospital District chief of staff.



Ron Beagle (l) worked in the medical command center at the George R. Brown Convention Center that was administered by the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston at the George R. Brown Convention Center. He is pictured with James T. Willerson, M.D., UH Health Science center president, and C. Gwin Morris, vice president, public affairs.

Assisted Living • Memory Care • Respite



EPOCH –
 <əp'ək>n.
 ... the beginning of
 a new era.

At EPOCH Assisted Living of Tanglewood, seniors are able to create a new beginning for themselves.

Each day EPOCH residents enjoy:

- 24-Hour Care Staff
- Diverse Resident Activities 7 Days a Week
- Elegant Living and Dining
- Memory Enhancement Program
- Daily Exercise Programs

Call today at **713-532-1718** to schedule a visit.



ASSISTED LIVING
 of Tanglewood

505 Bering Drive • Houston, TX • www.epochsl.com

The Residence of Choice for Seniors



**Drug Crimes
 DWI Defense
 and all other
 criminal defense**



The Kahn Law Firm, P.C.

1314 Texas Ave., Suite 1012
 Houston, TX 77002
 713-226-9900
 1-877-226-9940
www.thekahnlawfirm.com

Two Seminars for Gay and Lesbian Couples

In this seminar
 you can enhance your
 relationship through:

- Improved communication skills
- Reduced frustration and blame
- Specific skills for increasing happiness
- Deeper understanding and resolution of your recurring problems
- Greater compassion for both yourself and your partner
- Increased clarity about your relationship
- Skills and tools for predicting and shaping the future of your relationship



These seminars are
 outstanding for:

- newer Gay and Lesbian Couples who want to insure the continuing success of their relationships.
- established couples who want to strengthen and enrich their relationships while preventing pitfalls in the future.
- couples who are struggling and may be considering ending their relationships.



Although the dynamics of all couples are very much alike, separate sections are offered to address the subtle issues of particular concern to gay and lesbian couples. These seminars are specifically designed to avoid unwanted or uncomfortable invasions or exposures of privacy.

Lesbian Couples - Oct. 15 & 16, 2005
 Heterosexual Couples - Dec. 3 & 4, 2005
 Couple Fee: \$225

Successful Dating and Mating in the 21st Century:
 Single Lesbians - Nov 12 & 13; Single Heterosexuals - Oct 29 & 30;
 Single Gay Men - Jan 14 & 15, 2006

Call or email for more information,
 or to register with a credit card.



Tony Carroll, LCSW

1006 Missouri Street • Houston, Texas 77006

(713) 527-0000

Tony@HoustonTherapist.com

www.HoustonTherapist.com

Houston's oldest gay and lesbian psychotherapy and counseling practice.

KATRINA HELP

After Hurricane Katrina struck, several local GLBT community organizations began offering services and resources for persons displaced by the disaster. These groups, which included the following, continue to provide assistance (for an expanded list, see www.outsmartmagazine.com):

AIDS Foundation Houston

Housing, information, and food resources for people with HIV/AIDS.
713/623-6796
www.aids-help.org

Bering Memorial United Methodist Church

Social and housing resources.
713/526-1017
www.beringumc.org

Center for AIDS Information & Advocacy

Resource guide with information for HIV-positive people displaced by Hurricane Katrina.
713/527-8219
www.centerforaids.org

Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston

Information resource (a program of Montrose Counseling Center), 24-hour phone response.
713/529-3211
www.gayswitchboardhouston.org

Houston Transgender Life Connection

This program of Houston Area Community Services offers transgender support groups and HIV information and assistance.
713/426-0027
www.transhouston.com

Houston GLBT Community Center

Information referral, phone and Internet service resource, support fund for the Lesbian and Gay Community Center of New Orleans.
713/524-3818
www.houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org

Houston's Rainbow Cross

Information resource for GLBT community service providers.
HoustonsRainbowCross@yahoo.com

Montrose Clinic

Health care, including HIV care and assistance.
713/830-3000
Hurricane Katrina hotline: 713/830-3047
www.montrosecclinic.org

Montrose Counseling Center

Hurricane Katrina support groups and relief information and resources, including a housing database.
713/529-0037
www.montrosecounselingcenter.org



JC Simmons (r) and co-worker Robin Romano of AMR helped triage patients at the convention center. Simmons also served as part of the patient transport team.



Paige Mahogany (r) and Mica Green of Community Awareness for Transgender Support organized a clothing drive, held in the parking lot of Bartini.

New Covenant Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

One of several churches involved a city-wide ecumenical effort to feed displaced persons housed in the Houston shelters.
832/723-6948
www.radicalchristians.org

Pride Houston

Established a Hurricane Relief Fund, in partnership with Montrose Counseling Center, to raise money for GLBT Katrina survivors.
713/529-6979
www.pridehouston.org

Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church

Food, clothing and housing assistance.
713/861-9149
www.resurrectionmcc.org

Continued on page 99

How Can You Be Gay & Catholic? With DIGNITY!

Every Saturday at 7:30PM
MASS & SOCIAL HOUR

First and Third Sundays @ 5PM
SUNDAY AFTERNOON MASS

Saturday, October 8 @ 7:30PM
SOLIDARITY MASS

Now meeting in Montrose at
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
2515 Waugh (at Missouri)



GLBT Catholics
SERVING THE HOUSTON COMMUNITY SINCE 1974

www.dignityhouston.org
info@dignityhouston.org • 713.880.2872
PO Box 66821 • Houston, TX 77266

JOE TRAMONTE REALTY

1802 BROADWAY, SUITE 122 GALVESTON, TEXAS



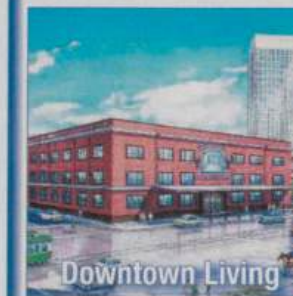
V.J. TRAMONTE

(800) 765-4030
(409) 765-9837
EMAIL@TRAMONTEREALTY.COM

Thank you OutSmart Readers
for your vote of support and confidence.

BEST REAL ESTATE AGENT - GALVESTON
2005 OutSmart Readers' Choice Awards

WWW.TRAMONTEREALTY.COM



Downtown Living



Beach Living



Rentals & Property
Management

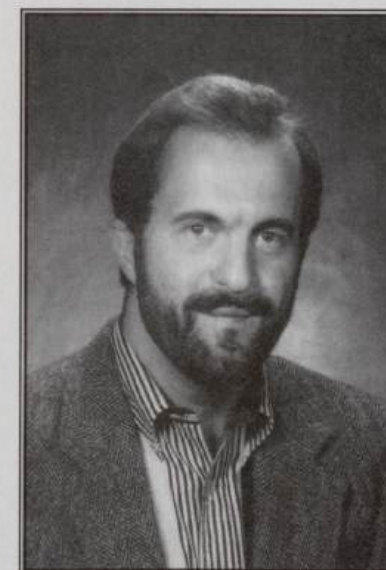


Condo Living



Historical Charm

Thinking about Real Estate?
Call one of Houston's Top Agents!



Specializing in Real Estate Sales,
Leasing, and Property Management in
Montrose, West University, Braeswood,
and Willowbend areas!



Two new constructions in the Heights!

1201 Herkimer

1,920 square feet, 3 - 2 1/2 - 2A

Wonderfully appointed with hardwood floors down, open-concept living area, custom kitchen w/ granite, huge master w/ vaulted ceiling, and bedroom-sized closet!

Low \$300s



David Montz
RE/MAX Executives **713-667-1001**



Freudian Song

I don't think anyone at Houston Grand Opera is crazy enough to need Sigmund's help, but they're all smiles that another Freud—Anthony—is at the helm of their great ship of songs. The unanimous choice of the opera board to replace David Gockley (who guided Houston through 33 years of international renown and respect and is leaving for San Francisco Opera), Anthony Freud assumes command in March. Currently general director of Welsh National Opera, Freud becomes the third HGO general director and the first chief executive officer of the company. The ship is in most capable hands.

Born in London of Hungarian parents (his mother miraculously survived Auschwitz), the soft-spoken, quietly intense, charming Freud is as English as strawberries with clotted cream. He is passionate about opera, a love affair begun by a chance outing with his father at Covent Garden when he was 12. "I was completely hooked," he laughs. "I chose to go to university at King's College precisely because it was halfway between Covent Garden and the National Theatre. I'm terminally addicted to opera, and I get enormous pleasure in sharing my passion with others."

Freud's resumé is an impeccable musical Who's Who that includes theater management at Sadler's Wells Theatre; producing for Philips Classics; chairmanship of Opera Europe; trustee of the National Endowment for Science, Technology, and the Arts in the United Kingdom; jury chairman of the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World Competition; and directing Wales' national opera company and leading touring company. Now Freud is off to humid Houston in search of a house with his partner of 21 years, Colin Ure, an artists' manager in Cardiff.

"We're both looking forward very much to a new life in Houston," Freud reported in a recent phone interview from Cardiff—intrigued, he said, by the idea of "going somewhere that's sort of tropical. What people don't seem to say is that for eight months of the year, Houston's beautiful. I'm in south Wales, don't forget, where it's slightly hilly if you look hard enough. And the mountains in north Wales are fine in the sunshine, but when it's raining for three weeks, you can't actually see them. The weather is not one of Wales' great strengths."

Because opera schedules are set years in advance, Freud's imprint on the repertoire won't be felt until the 2008–2009 season. (The new season opens on October 22 with *Boris Godunov*.) "Obviously there are things in '06–'07 and '07–'08 that aren't quite finalized, but essentially the repertoire is in place," he says. "And that's fine. It gives me the right time cycle to work to, rather than have to put together a season at very short notice. We don't have to rush, and I want to get to know the company, the city. I want the ideas to be organic. Obviously I have a million ideas, but whether many of them are right for Houston remains to be seen. What I'm really not wanting is to transplant WNO to Houston. That would be quite wrong, counterproductive, and not what excites me about the job." →

Anthony Freud, the new openly gay director of Houston Grand Opera, tells of his move from Wales and his plans for the internationally prominent company by D.L. Groover

BORIS BEGINS SEASON
On October 22, Houston Grand Opera opens the 2005-2006 season with the Mussorgsky opera *Boris Gudonov*. Samuel Ramey, considered the leading Boris of his time, stars as the powerful, mad Russian tsar in this extravagant, theatrical work. The production runs through November 5. Details: www.houstongrandopera.org.



JIM CALDWELL/HGO



"Opera is the best form of entertainment, there for everyone to enjoy," Freud says

Freudian Song *continued from previous page*

And what does excite him? Freud doesn't hesitate. "To really immerse myself in a new city, a new country, a new culture. To understand the company and understand the communities that the company is there to serve. To bring my ideas, clearly, but to distill them and refine them, adapt them, work with colleagues to create the right program for the right environment."

What also excites him? Opera, of course, and Freud is passionate about it. "Opera is the best form of entertainment, there for everyone to enjoy. It's essential for an opera company to succeed that it does not immerse itself in a hermetically sealed bubble and exist for its own sake. An opera company exists to provide a public service to the community, to provide pro-active developing relationships with the community. Balance is the key word, responding to demand and expanding people's horizons."

"I like to think of it as taking the audience by the hand and leading them gently, but steadily, down a path of discovery. If you pace that journey well, structure it, persuade your audience to be more enthusiastic about discovering

new things, then bit by bit the vitality, the energy, the demand for innovation and excitement grows. You reach new people by being very vocal about your belief in opera—its relevance, its immediacy, its greatness as an art form, and also as a great form of entertainment."

"It is daunting to follow in the footsteps of David, but it's also inspiring and wonderfully energizing and motivating to work with a company that's so successful, confident, and determined to move ahead, develop and grow. I find that deeply inspiring. It's a company—and a city—in which people believe that anything is possible. What struck me is how bright a cultural flame burns in Houston, how many exciting organizations there are, and how many opportunities to collaborate with them to achieve a win/win cultural snowball, if you like. It's really exciting."

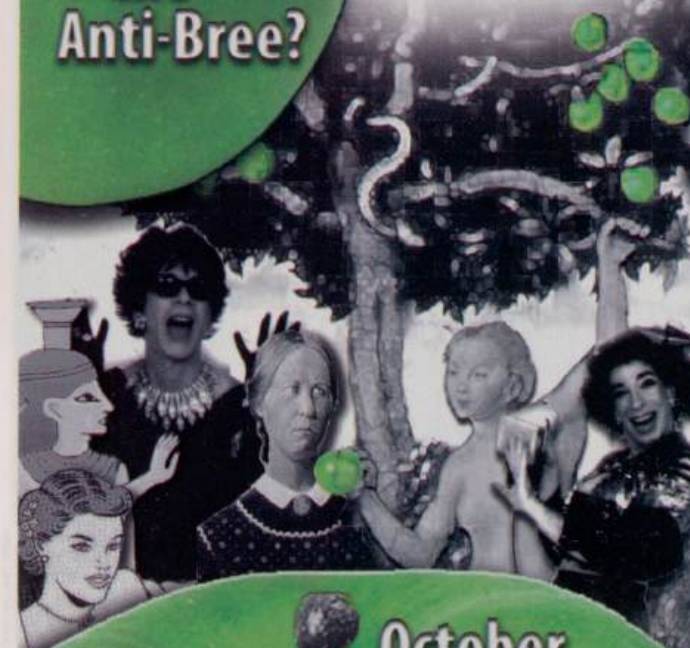
Then Freud adds with a smile in his voice: "The only thing that really scares me is packing, getting through the clutter that I've accumulated in my apartment in Cardiff. I'm a squirrel by nature."

D.L. Groover, who writes frequently on the arts for OutSmart, previewed the fall cultural season in our September issue.

www.halloweenmagic.org

Is Wanda June the Anti-Bree?

The Neighbors on Wisteria Lane have nothing on the Gals from Montrose! Halloween Magic's brand of equal opportunity offending is sure to be the talk of the town. Join us in raising fund for noteworthy AIDS causes.



HM halloween magic

October 22 & 23 at Hobby Center's Zilkha Hall

presents *Desperate Montrose Housewives*

tickets/packages available online

www.halloweenmagic.org

OutSmart Magazine is the official Media Sponsor of Halloween Magic
Continental Airlines is the official Airline Sponsor of Halloween Magic.

AN EVENING OF CLASSIC

Lily Tomlin

SOLD-OUT

Sun. Nov. 6, 2005 7 pm

ADDED PERFORMANCE DATE!

Monday Nov. 7, 2005 7 pm

Sponsored locally in part by

GALVESTON.COM



THE GRAND 1894 OPERA HOUSE - GALVESTON

Tickets: 1-800-821-1894 Online www.thegrand.com

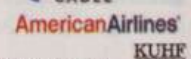
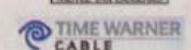
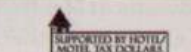


Photo courtesy CBS

Eight Themed Weekends

Texas Renaissance Festival

Saturdays & Sundays
October 1st to November 20th

Discount Tickets



www.TexRenFest.com
800-458-3435
Woodforest Bank
Market Basket
Brookshire Brothers
Appletree



LookOut

by Tim Brookover

COME OUT, COME OUT. On National Coming Out Day, October 11, Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church hosts a town hall meeting. Speakers include **Sue Banner** of PFLAG Houston and **Deb Murphy** of HATCH. GLOBAL, the University of Houston student group, will host a fundraiser that evening at Fuddrucker's and later in the week will present the annual Gayla Masquerade Ball (details not determined by press time; check www.uh.edu/global).

Tommy Calzadiaz of Unity, the University of Houston Clear Lake GLBT student organization, reports that his group will host an afternoon of presentations by **Michael Migura**, community health educator at Montrose Counseling Center, and others. Speaking of the counseling center, that organization begins a coming-out support group on October 13.

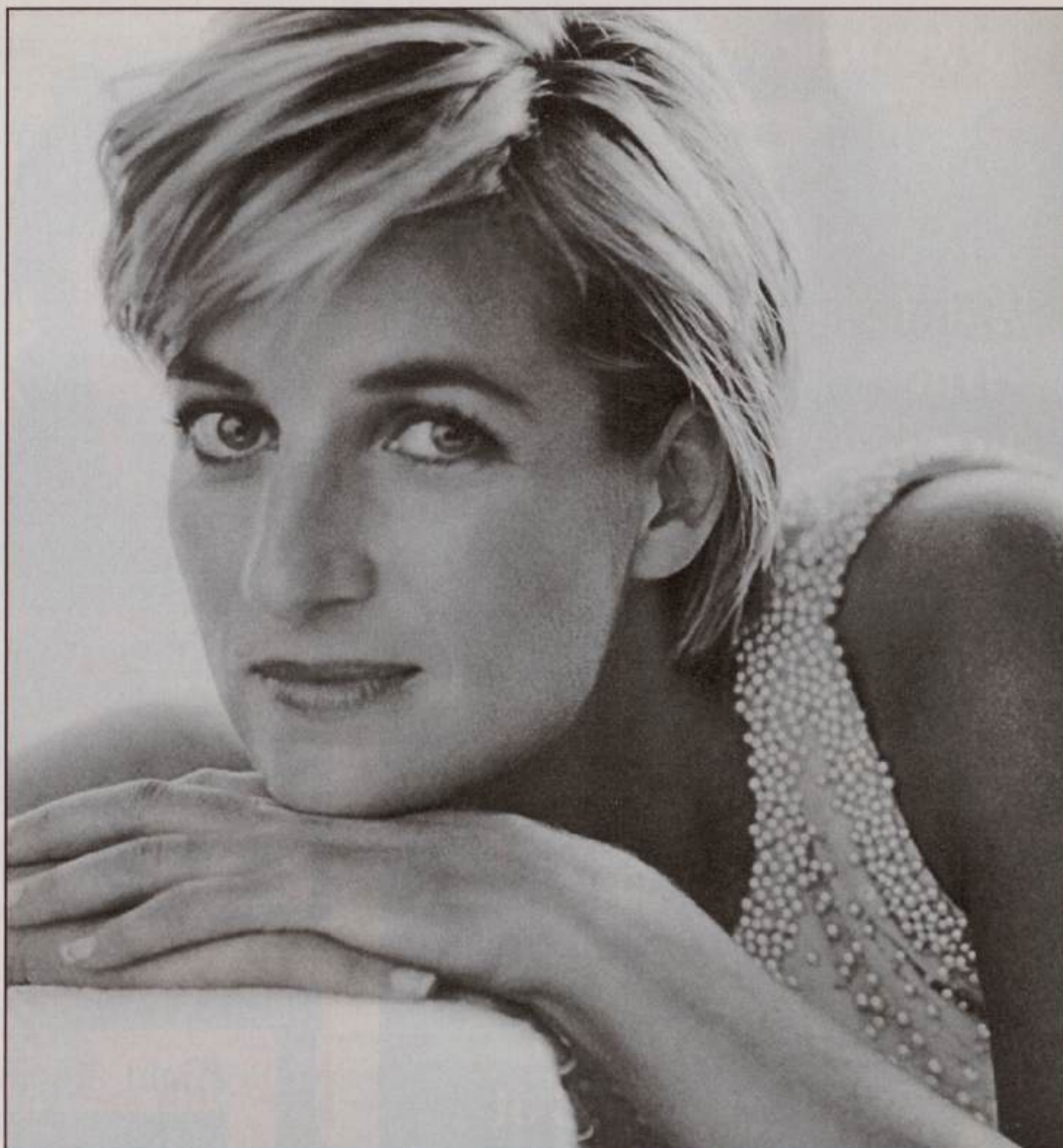
IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD. Head downtown on October 8-9 for the Bayou City Art Festival.

On October 14-15, **Jerry Atwood** and **Rick Comeaux** return to Ovation with a cabaret show.

Channel 8's **Ernie Manouse** has been nominated for a Lone Star Emmy Award for his weekly program *The After Party* and also received a nod in the best performer/host category. The winners will be announced in Dallas on October 15.

We're not done with Hurricane Rita: Storm warnings prompted **Christine Dinh** to reslot the River Oaks Wine, Art and Jazz Event at her relocated decorDECOR to October 20 and October 22. Her chic home shop is in River Oaks Center on West Gray.

GOOD WORKS. The threat of Rita forced the rescheduling of several other late September activities, including the premiere Community Center Movie & Game Night, hosted by **Christina Gomez**. The first of the monthly events is now October 23 at the Houston GLBT Community Center, featuring *Kissing Jessica Stein*. Gomez encourages donations for the fund that the Houston



PRINCESS DIARY. Upon the death of Princess Diana in 1997, The Body, the online HIV information resource, included in a eulogy: "Princess Diana won the gratitude, respect, and love of people with AIDS and their supporters when she visited PWAs [persons living with AIDS], demonstrating to the world that AIDS was not communicable by shaking a PWA's hand or holding a PWA in your arms. Through these simple acts, she was able to educate people at a time when myths were flourishing about how AIDS is transmitted, often fueled by the media's focus on sensational rather than factual reports." Diana continued her involvement with AIDS charities throughout her life, recounted in the exhibition *Diana, A Celebration*, which opens on October 21 at the Houston Museum of Natural Science.

center has established for the Lesbian and Gay Community Center of New Orleans. (See page 15 for news of more rescheduled events.)

Hillary Woest throws her fourth annual Bewitched Ball on October 28 at the Magnolia Ballroom. Beneficiaries are AIDS Foundation Houston's Camp HOPE, Bering Omega, Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church Wellness Ministry, and the Leisure and Arts Promoting Healing/Athena Art

Project Partnership for Women's Programs.

Kudos to **Sean Carter**, **Judy Reeves**, **Jerry Dewese**, and the rest of the Imperial Court of Houston-Space City Empire for raising \$10,000 in a single night at the July 8 Imperial Summer Soiree at Magnolia Ballroom. Proceeds supported the court, Colt 45's, Lexy Bowen Community Fund, and AIDS Foundation Houston Camp Hope. The court holds its annual Enthronement on October 15. ■

mukuru
arts for AIDS

Circle in the Sky
The Ensō String Quartet
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 6:15 p.m.
Live Oak Friends Meeting House 1318 West 26th Street

The Ensō String Quartet, prize winners of the 2004 Banff International String Quartet Competition, has performed internationally since its inception in 1999. Don't miss the silent viewing of sunset through Turrell's spectacular work "Skyspace."

For concert series information, visit www.mukuru.org
or call Artistic Director Rodney Waters at 713-623-6796 x226.

A concert series benefiting the AIDS Foundation Houston Community Partnerships in HIV Prevention Program

Houston Pride Band
presents

This **GLOBAL** Village

October 22, 2005 • 7pm • \$10
For tickets & information: 832-265-3346
www.houstonprideband.org

8th Annual Galveston
Downtown Lofts Tour

OCTOBER 8TH & 9TH
FROM 10AM TO 6PM

Come experience some of the most incredible privately owned lofts that Downtown Galveston has to offer!

FOR TICKETS CALL (888) 939-8680
OR (409) 763-8680
WWW.GALVESTON.COM

Art 2005 oberFEST

GALVESTON ISLAND'S
8TH ANNUAL FINE ARTS FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 10am-6pm
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 10am-5pm

Admission \$3, Free for Children 12 & Under
Net proceeds to benefit the AIDS Coalition of Coastal Texas and the Animal Shelter & Adoption Center of Galveston

For more information and a map, visit www.artoberfest.com
Sponsored in part by Historic Downtown Strand Partnership and Galveston.com



Warren Knapp Tulips Acrylic on Canvas

art in the city

fine art • accessories • custom framing

Unique art for large and small spaces

3601 W. Alabama
in the West Alabama Design District
713.552.0900

Corporate & Residential
Tues-Fri 10-5, Sat 11-3
and by appointment

Black Tie Dinner
Special Offer!

20% off
Any Complete
Tuxedo Rental
OR
Tuxedo Purchase

Purchase Your Formal Wear
NOW while we have our
Lowest Prices
of the Year on
Retail Tuxedo Packages.

Al's Formal Wear

www.alsformalwear.com

For the store nearest you,
dial your area code and...

730-4TUX

...Or Call 1-877-4ALS-TUX

*On tuxedo rentals starting at \$89.95. No other
discounts or promotions apply. Excludes Calvin Klein.
See store for details. Expires 12/31/2005.



David Letterman

(The Late Show with David Letterman, 9/05)

A pair of ruby slippers worn by Judy Garland in *The Wizard of Oz* have been stolen. The thief is being described as "armed and fabulous."

Sally Struthers

(Lavender, 9/2/05, John Townsend)

John Townsend: One of the most important moments for me as a teenager was when I saw the All in the Family episode with Edith's lesbian relative. So moving, and I know it sounds like a cliché, but so validating.

Sally Struthers: That's great. I'm so glad.

And Ellen DeGeneres has her own talk show. *Six Feet Under*. *The L Word*.

A few years ago, I guested on a cable one-hour drama series as a lesbian mother of a young black cop on *The Division*. My life partner was played by Debbie Allen. We played a couple who adopted a child. A white woman and a black woman. We raised this little girl, and she was now a policewoman. She was played by Taraji Henson. Now, when Taraji runs into me on the street in Hollywood, she screams "Mama!"

Ted Allen

(Queer Eye's food and wine guy)

(Out, 10/05, Dennis Sebyan)

Re: his new cookbook, *The Food You Want to Eat: 100 Smart, Simple Recipes*.

Ted Allen: [T]here's definitely no such thing as gay food—with the possible exception of organic grapefruit juice and rice cakes.

Dennis Sebyan: How about bisexual food?

It's all bisexual, I would say.

Edouard Collin

(18-year-old actor in the upcoming film *Cote d'Azur*)

(The Advocate, 9/13/05, Adam B. Vary)

I don't know if I am homosexual, heterosexual, or bisexual. However, I am very open about sexuality."

Michelangelo Signorile

(The Advocate, 9/13/05, David Ehrenstein)

David Ehrenstein: [*The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*] were "deer in the headlights" about Jeff Gannon. They were duped. They didn't know there was a phony reporter working in the White House, much less that he was a gay "escort." What else are they missing?

Michelangelo Signorile: Mary Cheney [vice president Dick Cheney's daughter]. Now she's writing a book and once again trying to capitalize on everything she's done to sell out the gay and lesbian community. First she was working for Coors, using herself as a lesbian to try and stop a very successful boycott, telling us, "Oh, these people aren't as bad as you think." Then she was doing the same thing with the Bush campaign, trying to make it appear that he might be different on gay issues. All of this rhetoric turned out to be absolutely false. Their whole presidency was going down the tubes because of the war in Iraq and all these other issues, so they just said, "OK, we're going to ratchet up the hatemongers, divert attention to the Federal Marriage Amendment, hide Mary Cheney, and we'll get by that way." She was in on all of that. Don't forget, she was running her father's campaign.



Ally, then Ellen: What made Portia de Rossi (pictured here in *Arrested Development*) weak in the knees?

Portia de Rossi

(The Advocate, 9/13/05, Mark Liddell)

Mark Liddell: ... [W]hen people saw you and Ellen [DeGeneres] break up with the women you were with [Ellen had been with Alexandra Hedison for

several years] and immediately get together with each other, it seemed very sudden. What was the real story?

Portia de Rossi: Well. [Sighs, then answers slowly and carefully] There are many different layers to this. I had met Ellen about five years ago, and there was definite a lot of chemistry between us, but I didn't allow myself to think of being with her just because of the place I was at. I was still on *Ally McBeal* and still closeted, and this seemed inconceivable. But I really never stopped thinking about her, because I just haven't felt that kind of energy with anyone in my life. ...

I had a great relationship with Francesca [Gregorini]. ... I think that we really weren't suited for each other for a long period of time; I think we were [suited] for the time we were together. ... But we still had great respect and love for each other.

Then I ran into Ellen at a photo shoot about a year ago and she took my breath away. That had never happened to me in my life, where I saw somebody and [experienced] all of those things you hear about in songs and read about in poetry. My knees were weak. ... And then when I saw her again that night [at the VH1 awards show] we started talking and that's that. We just were kind of supposed to be together. That's my side of the story. I really, really hated all the pain I put Francesca through, and I really didn't want to hurt her. But I just couldn't ignore the feelings I had for Ellen.

Queer Quotes

Compiled by
Blaise DiStefano



Elijah Wood

Male bonding: Is Elijah Wood (seen here in *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*) into same-sex hold-handing?

(MSNBC, 9/13/05, Jeanette Walls)

Elijah Wood is finally addressing those gay rumors. And unlike certain megabucks stars—Tom Cruise, for instance—he's not threatening to sue. In fact, the *Lord of the Rings* star seems amused. Wood says he likes to surf the web and look at doctored photos that put him in compromising positions with men.

"There's one that's called 'elijahwoodisverygay,' which is actually a personal favorite of mine. It's absolutely hilarious," Wood said, reports World Entertainment News Network. "It's this kind of joke website that maintains that they have proof that I am very, very gay in various photographs—photographic evidence [of me] holding hands with a male."

Wood says some of the "photos" are pretty realistic. "I was actually at a film festival once ... and this fan came up with a gift ... I open the gift in front of all these people that I'm talking to and it happens to be a photo from one of these websites of me and [*Lord of the Rings* co-star] Dominic Monaghan making sweet love," Wood explains. "If you didn't know any better, it kinda looks real. These people have a lot of time on their hands and my hat's off [to them] because it's very good work."

DARK HISTORY

Two young men wrestle with demons from their childhoods

Mysterious Skin

Out director Gregg Araki delivers his most powerful film to date with this unyielding look at the lingering effects of childhood sexual abuse in a small town. With this powerful adaptation of Scott Heim's novel, Araki portrays the stories of two young men coping with the effects of their past. Having emerged as an awkward and withdrawn young man, Brian (Brady Corbet) has blocked five traumatic hours of his life, now convinced that he was abducted by aliens. Joseph Gordon-Levitt (*Third Rock from the Sun*) delivers an extraordinary performance as Neil, an impassive teen hustler, taking advantage of the attentions of older men. In spite of their differences, their shared history brings them together years later. Though the child actors who play Brian and Neil were clearly shielded from having to do anything unsuitable, the film presents the abuse with candor; Neil's experience is shown from his point of view, with all of the complexity of emotions that help to



Neil (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) and Brian (Brady Corbet) share a painful past in *Mysterious Skin*.

make him the indifferent young man he later becomes. The brilliant cast includes Michelle Trachtenberg (*Dawn from Buffy the Vampire Slayer*) as Neil's best friend Wendy, Elizabeth Shue (*Showgirls*) as Neil's immature mother, and Jeffrey Licon as Eric, a flamboyant gay teen. DVD extras include interviews with and commentary by Araki, Gordon-Levitt, and Corbet. • 2004. Directed by Gregg Araki. • Available October 25 from TLA Releasing (www.tlareleasing.com). —Troy Carrington

Saving Face

In the tradition of *Joy Luck Club* comes Alice Wu's directorial debut, a witty portrayal of two women's journey to lead honest lives in the midst of cultural bias and conflicting life experiences. *Saving Face* is about Wil (Michelle Krusiec), a 28-year-old New Yorker struggling between a promising career as a surgeon and her responsibilities as a dutiful daughter. She has yet to come out of the closet to her mother (Joan Chen of *What's Cooking?* and *Twin Peaks*), which threatens to upend her relationship with her girlfriend, Vivian (Lynn Chen). But Wil's mother has a secret of her own, and when she's forced to move in with Wil, cultural mayhem ensues. Joan Chen gives a tremendous performance as Ma. Wu has said that the crowd-pleasing film is a love letter to her own mother: "I suppose if there is one thing I am trying to say with the film, it is that no matter who you are—Asian or black, gay or straight, young or old—that everyone basically wants to love—and that opportunity can start at any point in your life. . . . I wanted my mother to know that it was never too late to fall in love for the first time." • 2004. Directed by Alice Wu. • Available October 18 from Sony Pictures Home Entertainment (www.sonypictures.com). —Suzie Lynde



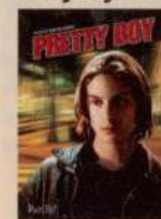
test. • 2004. Directed by Achim von Borries. German with English subtitles. • Available October 18 from Wolfe Video (www.wolfevideo.com, 1-800-GET-WOLFE). —T.C.

Ma Mère



Christophe Honoré's controversial adaptation of Georges Bataille's posthumous novel tells the story of a teenage boy (Louis Garrel) who, after the death of his father, receives from his mother (Isabelle Huppert) an education in sexual desire. The boy is straight, but the mother experiments with both sexes, eventually pushing her son into a relationship with one of her female friends. Sexually charged, dreamy, yet startling, *Ma Mère* is a bold view of the shadowy recesses of the heart. 2004. Directed by Christophe Honoré. French with English subtitles. • Available October 18 from TLA Releasing (www.tlareleasing.com). —S.L.

Pretty Boy



Alienated by his mother, Nick (Christian Tafdrup) flees his dysfunctional home. Fatherless, he seeks out the companionship of older men, finding himself in a relationship with Ralph (Stig Hoffmeyer), a closeted, middle-age professor of astronomy. However, when Ralph's girlfriend returns from vacation, Ralph chooses her over the boy. Nick then hits the streets and is adopted by a band of violent youth, in which he finds refuge with the gang's only female member, Renee (Benedicte Madsen), an androgynous girl who masquerades as a boy. Things get complicated when Ralph decides he wants Nick back and Renee becomes jealous. • 2004. Directed by Carsten Sander. Danish with English subtitles. • From Picture This! Entertainment (www.picturethisent.com). —T.C.

The Hole



From director Wash West (*The Fluffer*), *The Hole* is a clever, satirical version of the popular horror film, *The Ring*. Any man who views a mysterious videotape will receive a phone call telling him he will turn gay in seven days. Reviewers have praised the film's production values, as well as its humor and attractive cast. The film captured the Best Video Award at both the GayVN and Grabby Awards in 2003. • 2002. Directed by Wash West. • Available October 4 from TLA Releasing (www.tlareleasing.com). —T.C.

Ethan Mao

Quentin Lee's third feature film is a psychological thriller, a coming-of-age drama, and a love story all in one. Ethan Mao (Jun Hee Lee), an 18-year-old Asian boy who has been thrown out of his suburban home →

DVD/VHS PREVIEWS

Fish Can't Fly



While the idea of changing one's sexual orientation may be viewed with skepticism or ridicule by some, these are the stories of those who tried. Taking a secular point of view, *Fish Can't Fly* explores the lives of gay men and lesbians of faith as they recall their journeys to put their sexuality and spirituality in harmony. These are the personal stories of people who participated in the

"ex-gay" ministries and found no "cure." This film tells another side of the ex-gay debate and the role that religion can play in one's life. The stories are sad, frightening, and poignant, but also inspiring and enlightening. • 2005. Produced and directed by Tom Murray. • From T.Joe Murray Videos (www.fishcantfly.com). —S.L.

Love in Thoughts

A drama based on a true story, *Love in Thoughts* is based on the infamous 1927 Steiglitz student tragedy. In the volatile German era between the two world wars, two young



men share a romantic view of life but differ greatly: Paul (Daniel Bruehl), a shy poet, comes from a working-class family, whereas daredevil Guenther (August Diehl) hails from the wealthy upper class. Rebellious and passionate, both boys reject their parents' empty world and create a pact: At the point when love fails them, they will end their lives. And one weekend at a bohemian party, this reckless agreement is put to the

Stop counting minutes. All incoming calls are free.

Get all your incoming calls free while on the Nationwide Sprint PCS® Network or Nextel National Network.



i265 By Motorola®

- Built-in speakerphone
- Built-in Walkie-Talkie
- Web and e-mail enabled
- GPS enabled

Buy one
Get one FREE
\$49.99

REG. \$199.99
SAVE \$349.99
on TWO instantly.

Offer requires activation on a new line of service with Nextel Data Service and a two-year subscriber agreement.

Sprint Free Incoming Plans

Plan includes:

- > 300 outgoing minutes
- > Unlimited nationwide walkie-talkie service
- > Unlimited night & weekend minutes
- > Nationwide long distance, every minute, every day

Plans starting at
\$49.99**/month

Other monthly charges apply. See below for details. **Offer requires one-year subscriber agreement.

Sprint
Together with NEXTEL

Preferred Retailer

WESTERN
TALK, L.C.
You've Come To The Right Place™

\$25 In-Store Credit with Activation



**Rates exclude taxes and Sprint fees (including USF charge of up to 2.33% that varies quarterly, cost recovery fees up to \$2.83 per line and state/local fees that vary by area). Sprint fees are not taxes or government-required charges. Coverage and rate plan features vary by network. Nationwide Sprint PCS Network reaches over 250 million people. Nextel National Network reaches over 260 million people. Offers expire 11/12/05 or while supplies last. Offers may not be available in all markets. Terms and Conditions apply. See store or Sprint.com for details. i265 Buy One, Get One Free Offer Requires a trial data service subscription (\$10 USD/month) per phone. Data service is free for one month, after which monthly charge will apply unless canceled during trial period by calling customer service at 800-SPRINT or Sprint Free Incoming Plans. \$36 activation fee per phone. \$150 Sprint PCS or \$200 Nextel early termination fee. Free incoming applies to calls received in the U.S. (Coverage \$50/line). Sprint PCS domestic roaming calls (\$0.50/min. + \$0.25/min. for long distance). Incoming call minutes are not free while roaming without adding roaming option. Nationwide Walkie-Talkie: Refers to either Nextel Nationwide Walkie-Talkie or Sprint PCS Ready Link service. Sprint PCS Ready Link requires a Ready Link capable phone. ©2005 Sprint Nextel. All rights reserved. SPRINT, the "Going Forward" logo, the NEXTEL name and logo, the Focus on Driving logo and other trademarks are trademarks of Sprint Nextel. MOTOROLA and the Stylized M Logo are registered in the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office. All third-party product or service names are property of their respective owners. All rights reserved.

Dr. David S. Genac

LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST

Most insurance accepted

713.899.3769

1712 FAIRVIEW

LOCATED IN MONTROSE



UNITED WE STAND, UNITED WE CAB!



United Cab features state-of-the-art dispatching, computer terminals with GPS navigation in each taxi and guarantees pick-ups on average of 10 minutes or less. They feature in-cab digital cameras for entering and exiting the cab. Whether it is a ride to the airport or a night on the town, United Cab is the affordable, convenient choice.

UNITED CAB

FOR SERVICE, PLEASE CALL
713.699.0000

One of the
Best Cuban Cuisine
OutSmart Readers 2005

On Thursdays:
Free Salsa Lessons & \$1.75 Domestic Beer

Now Serving Weekend Brunch
Mon - Thur 11am - 9 pm Fri 11am - 10 pm
Sat 9 am - 10 pm Sun 9 am - 3 pm
Also serving Mexican dishes

Latina Café Cuban Cuisine

1972 Fairview (between McDuffie & Hazard) or 3 blks east of S. Shepherd Dr 713 521-2611

DVD/VHS continued from previous page



for being gay, secretly breaks back in on Thanksgiving night with his boyfriend Remigio (Jerry Hernandez). When his parents catch him, he turns the tables by taking them hostage. In the tense moments that follow, the group is forced to confront hidden and unresolved conflicts. • 2004. Directed by Quentin Lee. • From TLA Releasing (www.tlareleasing.com). —T.C.

Arrested Development: The Second Season



The eccentric family of former socialites are back in this DVD collection of the series's second season. The series follows the misadventures of the Bluths, a hilariously dysfunctional clan of rich misfits trying to maintain their lavish lifestyle after the incarceration of their patriarch (Jeffrey Tambor). Portia de Rossi (Ellen DeGeneres's real-life girlfriend) plays Lindsay, who is married to Tobias (David Cross), who is "allegedly" gay. The series also features Jessica Walter and Jason Bateman. Included on the three-disc set are all 18 episodes from the second season, as well as audio commentary, deleted scenes, outtakes, blooper reel, and more. • 2004. • Available October 11 from Fox Home Entertainment (www.foxhome.com). —S.L.

In Living Color



A young Chris Rock is the next featured comedian in the new DVD release of *In Living Color: Season Four*. In addition to Rock, the fourth season also features the return of Jennifer Lopez as one of the show's fly girls, the addition of comedian Alexandra Wentworth, and the sketch "Straight Pride Parade." In addition, Jamie Foxx appears in the recurring role of ugly, libidinous good-time girl Wanda Wayne. The three-disc set features all 33 episodes from the fourth season. • 1992. • Available October 25 from Fox Home Entertainment (www.foxhome.com). —T.C.

Young Gods



Eighteen-year-old Taavi (Jussi Nikkila) and his young and wealthy friends find themselves on the cusp of adulthood. After throwing a wild party, Taavi shoots video of the partygoers in their various states of undress. What begins as a prank spurs Taavi and his friends to form a club, the only requirement for admission being that each man must bring a tape of his latest sexual conquest to the meeting. The game degenerates into dangerous compulsion as relationships implode and the boys forsake their girlfriends in favor of prostitutes and swingers. Bits of homophobia seep through this otherwise fine film. • 2003. Directed by Jukka-Pekka Siili. Finnish with English subtitles. • From Picture This! Entertainment (www.picturethisent.com). —T.C. ■

TRI-STAR FINANCIAL
A Fixed Income Specialist

PORTFOLIO RETURNS GOT YOU DOWN?

Proper diversification can help smooth the bumps in your investment portfolios performance. Consider adding high-quality fixed income securities to your investment mix.

For more information call today for a **FREE** audio CD on Fixed Income Investing

Bill Moritz Jr.
5718 Westheimer, Suite 950
Houston, Texas 77057

713-735-9217
email: bmoritz@tristar.us

Member: NASD/SIPC

Jon-Paul Hamilton, MD
Board Certified Psychiatrist



**Psychotherapy and
Medication Management**

4200 Montrose Blvd., Suite 540
Houston, Texas 77006
713.522.7014

Sliding-scale fees
Evening and Saturday appointments available

100% Wool Tuxedos
starting at \$199.95 retail
15% off all retail prices

8 Houston Locations,
almost 100 Locations Nationwide

Black Tie Dinner
November 12, 2005

Danny Kallen,
District Manager
Galleria I, Level 3

Any Tuxedo
Rental for
the Black Tie Dinner
\$79.95 complete...
includes any tuxedo rental, vest and shoes!

5015 Westheimer
Houston, Texas 77056
713.626.3318

TUXEDO JUNCTION

ART KELLER, D.C.

Work Injuries Auto Accidents
Sports Injuries Acupuncture
Impairment Ratings

713.781.3344

CHIMNEY ROCK CHIROPRACTIC CENTER

3033 Chimney Rock at Richmond, Suite 440



Investment | Retirement | Education | Planning

Mike Ryan CFP, MBA Sandy White CFP, CFS Bill Green CFP Gary Brownfield MBA

get Money Smart.com

"Be smart. Plan your financial future."

GREENWHITE ADVISORS

CFP® is a registered trademark of the Board of Certified Financial Planners.

1225 N Loop W, Suite 1030 713.869.1144
Securities offered through Commonwealth Financial Network, Member NASD/SIPC

Daniel Garces
Counselor/Consultant

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

Free Phone Consultation
713.526.8390

www.dansmnd.net
Dan77006@yahoo.com

"Still Not Happy?"

WHAT A TRIP!

Mini-interview with Terry Sweeney and Lanier Laney about Tripping the Rift

Tripping the Rift follows the adventures of *Jupiter 42*, a smuggling vessel led by a stumpy purple alien named Chode who, along with his colorful group of misfit shipmates, battles archenemies and new obstacles in space each week. On an earlier episode, the *Jupiter 42* crew commandeers some valuable booty on a disabled space truck and sets a course for the all-gay planet Fabulous 7 to unload their spoils. On Fabulous 7, much to the crew's surprise, heterosexual relations are punishable by death.

As partners in life and in business, the show's head writers, Terry Sweeney and Lanier Laney, boast an impressive list of credits. Besides their work on SCI FI Channel, they're also successful writer/producers on both *Saturday Night Live* and *MadTV*. Their brand of outrageous humor garnered them accolades from *TV Guide*, who picked one of their sketches as "One of the 50 Funniest Moments on Television of All Time." The duo also penned the Southern teen cult classic film *Shag*. Currently, they are at work on an animated feature film.

Sweeney and Laney answered a few e-mail questions for *OutSmart*.

Lance Scott Walker: In the first episode of the show, we follow our hetero-protagonists to an almost entirely gay planet, where discrimination against heterosexuals even surpasses that against homosexuals on Earth. Was there an intended social commentary there?

Terry Sweeney and Lanier Laney: Yes. We thought it would be fun to show the shoe on the other foot for a change.



He's gold. He's gay. He's Gus: According to the show's website, the ship's engineer, Gus, likes "lubing up with hot oil, Judy Garland movies, and metal-on-metal action."

As ridiculous as we made it seem is as ridiculous as it is in real life that gays have to go through so much crap on this planet.

Will we see more of the gay planet?
No, but don't you wish there was one you could go to?!

Your main character is kind of an ass. Are we supposed to love to hate him?
Exactly. He represents the worst of a particular chauvinist mindset. (But he is funny!)

Would you say that the rampant sexual overtones of the show, at least in episode #1, are intended to teach people about homosexuality, heterosexuality, or just sexuality as a whole?

We're more satirizing all sexuality in general and all the crazy hang-ups people have about it.

Your show is raunchy! Is there a lot you actually can't get past the folks at the Sci-Fi Channel? Seems like they didn't censor much at all.

It's not your grandmother's cartoon, that's for sure, but the show gets a lot of positive feedback from both gay and straight viewers who like the irreverent tone of the show.

Though this series began a couple of months ago, the premiere episode discussed in this article is scheduled to air Wednesday, October 19, at 9 p.m. on the Sci-Fi Channel. To confirm schedule: www.scifi.com.

QUEER TV QUOTE

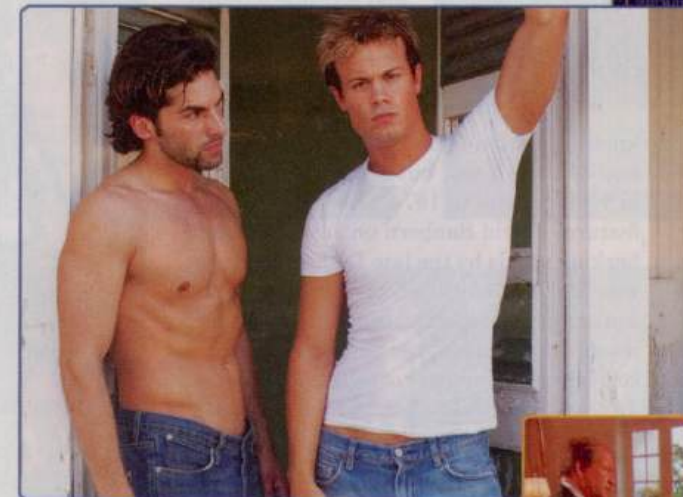
As to why there are no gay characters on a show with over a dozen main characters, *Lost*'s executive producer Damon Lindelof said in October's issue of *Out* magazine, "To be honest with you, we have asked this question of ourselves many, many times. . . . [A]ll I am going to say is, watch season 2."



TRIPPING THE RIFT PHOTO: SCI FINEGROUP; LOST PHOTO: MARIO PEREZ/ABC

here! America's First Gay Television Network

NOW PLAYING



Dante's Cove

When Kevin, a recent addition to the Hotel Dante, releases a sinister part of its disturbing past, he and his friends must solve the mystery surrounding the evil that has been unleashed. With an attractive cast of mostly gay and bisexual twenty-somethings, there's a racy edge to this supernatural series.



Beautiful Boxer

Based on the true story of Thailand's famed transgendered kickboxer, *Beautiful Boxer* is a poignant action drama that punches straight into the heart and mind of a boy who fights like a man so he can become a woman.



Birch & Co.

Former Executive Director of the Human Rights Campaign, Elizabeth Birch, sits down for candid one-on-one conversations with some of the most important names in politics, activism and entertainment, including Rosie O'Donnell, Pat Buchanan and Congressman John Lewis.

Order here!

To order a movie on **here!**, tune to Channel 1, select "**All Movies**," then "**here!**"

Order Time Warner Digital Cable at 713-341-1000

TIME WARNER
CABLE

heretv.com

LIVE ACTION

From Baez to Bowie, concert discs record the real experience



Carole King

Live albums are a confusing creation. First, I have to wonder what the appeal is for listeners, unless they were actually in attendance when the recording was made and want a legal souvenir. Even artists who are renowned for being stellar live performers (see Joan Armatrading) often fail to capture that magic when recorded in concert (see Joan Armatrading).

Take David Bowie, for instance. One

knows isn't true. He can be cold, distant, and detached, yes, but not staid. Recorded in Philadelphia in 1974, *David Live*, which features David Sanborn on saxophone and backing vocals by the late Luther Vandross, was a clear indication of the glam meets soul direction in which Bowie was later to move. *Stage* is a tougher nut to crack, as it is comprised of a number of songs from Bowie's 1977 masterworks, *Low* and *Heroes*, two

of the key elements of a Bowie concert is the visual component. Since live discs such as the expanded and reissued *David Live* and *Stage* (both on Virgin/EMI), are of an audio nature, that aspect of the live performance is absent. In fact, what both of these discs seem to indicate, at least from a sonic standpoint, is that Bowie is a rather staid live performer—something, of course, that anyone who has ever seen him live

collaborations with Brian Eno that reinforce how difficult it can be to translate studio wizardry to the stage.

Fellow sexually ambiguous Brit Morrissey is also hitting his audience with a double live whammy. I wasn't at the show



Joan Baez

GrooveOut Shorts

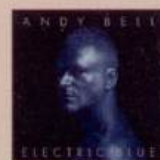
Barbra Streisand
Guilty Pleasures



With 49 Gold, 30 Platinum, and 13 Multi-Platinum albums to her credit, Barbra Streisand is the music industry's #1 best-selling female artist... and she's the mother of a gay son. On *Guilty Pleasures*, Streisand has reunited with producer/songwriter/vocalist Barry Gibb. This eagerly awaited release has come 25 years after the pair's first multi-platinum album *Guilty* made pop music history as a worldwide chart-topping smash; it became Streisand's fifth album to reach the #1 spot on Billboard's Pop Album chart. The new album contains 11 new songs composed by Gibb including the first single, "Stranger in a Strange Land," and "Come Tomorrow," a duet with Babs 'n' Barry. From Columbia Records (www.columbiarecords.com). —Troy Carrington

Andy Bell
Electric Blue

There's really no way around it—these are just flat Erasure songs. One could probably argue that the more



recent part of Erasure's career was full of nothing but flat Erasure songs, sure, but Bell's venture here, away from his longtime collaborator Vince Clarke, just doesn't hold a candle. It would be different if the songs were inherently different from Erasure, perhaps, but these are dance songs, and are therefore fair to compare to Erasure's brilliant body of work. But it doesn't matter. Openly gay Andy Bell still has the charisma, and will still go down as one of the greatest "finds" in all of pop music's long history, even if the guy who "found" him (Clarke) is the guy who obviously "makes" him. From Sanctuary (www.sanctuaryrecords.com). —Lance Scott Walker

Dolly Parton
Those Were the Days



I feel sorry for anyone who didn't grow up with Dolly Parton. Okay, a lot of you didn't grow up with Dolly, but you were at least there when she single-handedly ruled country's pop landscape with that sugary voice and fiery attitude for a good part of the '80s. But if you grew up in the '90s, you missed out on

"9 to 5," "Islands in the Stream" (with Kenny!), and a pretty-much endless smattering of Dollyisms all over country music. She's really never waned in popularity, either, which affords her the chance to take a step backward (musically) on this album. A step backward, meaning that it harkens back to her roots in traditional country, but her song choices are more like snapshots of pop music over the past three or four decades. In doing so, she has also invited the original songwriters to appear with her on the album, resulting in guest performances from Kris Kristofferson, Norah Jones, and a slew of others. Parton even produced it herself. Now that's working harder than 9 to 5. From Sugar Hill (www.sugarhillrecords.com). —L.S.W.

Tom & Joy
Antigua



Slip in Antigua by Parisian duo Tom (Thomas Naim) and Joy (Joyce Hozé-Liwer) and be immersed in a beautifully fragrant cocktail, equal parts bossa nova, afrobeat, and jazz with a splash of French chanson. The duo, accompanied by a band of five musicians, have delivered a sophisticated, →

Gwen Stefani
with very special guests
the BLACK EYED PEAS
November 10th
All Tickets On-Sale Now!
BUY TICKETS AT PACCONCERTS.COM
1-866-4HOUTIX • TOYOTACENTER.TIX.COM • TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE BOX OFFICE
All dates, acts and ticket prices subject to change without notice. A service charge is added to each ticket.

D=PECH=MOD=
touring the ANGEL 2005/2006
WITH SPECIAL GUEST: the bravery
NOVEMBER 7
TOYOTA CENTER
BUY TICKETS AT PACCONCERTS.COM
1-866-4HOUTIX • TOYOTACENTER.TIX.COM • TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE BOX OFFICE
All dates, acts and ticket prices subject to change without notice. A service charge is added to each ticket.

Chances
OCTOBER 29 WITCHES AND HO's HALLOWEEN BASH
October 8 Femmatics
October 9 Uncommon Market
October 15 Double Nickel
visit us online for more information on special events
www.chancesbar.com



Julia Fordham

where *Live at Earls Court* (Attack) was recorded in December 2004, but I was there when he played the Aragon Ballroom in Chicago in October of that year. The show was so amazing that it brought my friend Aldo to tears on a couple of occasions. Confident and comfortable, Morrissey took possession of the stage from the moment he strutted out onto it, in front of Las Vegas-sized letters flashing his name, and didn't rest until the end, regaling his devoted following with Smiths tunes and numerous selections from his lengthy solo career. You can actually get a feel for what I'm talking about on this lively live recording. Additionally, the live DVD *Who Put the 'M' in Manchester?* (Attack Films), filmed in May 2004, contains a selection

of numbers not found on the live album and also supplies the visual factor.

About a year apart in age, Carole King and Joan Baez are seminal performers in the folk/rock scene, whose most significant contributions were made during the '60s and '70s, although their later work does have some value. Interestingly, both women have released live albums, which explore the past, both distant and recent. It's hard to believe that with a career as lengthy

as King's, the double disc set *The Living Room Tour* (Rockingale/Concord/Hear), is only her third live album. A seven-song medley at the end of disc one, which includes "Go Away Little Girl" and "One Fine Day," as well as "(You Make Me Feel Like a) Natural Woman" and "Locomotion," on disc two, offers historical perspective on her contribution to contemporary pop music. "Jazzman," "It's Too Late," "Sweet Seasons," "You've Got a Friend," and "Where You Lead" (a duet with daughter Louise Goffin) provides a similar overview of the next phase in her career. Live versions of her '90s output, including "Now and Forever" (from the movie *A League of Their Own*) and "Wishful Thinking," as well as more recent selections such as "Love Makes the World"

and the new "Loving You Forever," speak to King's creative longevity.

Recent albums by Baez, including 2003's stellar *Dark Chords on a Big Guitar*, reminded listeners of her singular interpretive skills. Hearing live renditions of songs from that disc, such as "Rexroth's Daughter," "Motherland," and "Christmas in Washington," on the live set *Bowery Songs* (Koch), as well as first-time live recordings such as Bob Dylan's "Seven Curses" and Steve Earle's "Jerusalem," make this, something like her 10th live album, the next best thing to being there.

The late Nancy LaMott is a performer who died too young. I suppose that that is one important function of a live recording—capturing an artist we have lost, singing before an appreciative audience. Recorded in October 1995, just weeks before her untimely passing, *Live at Tavern on the Green* (Midder/LML) finds LaMott also covering James Taylor ("Secret O'Life"), as well as Antonio Carlos Jobim ("Waters of March"), a pair of Irving Berlin tunes ("How Deep Is the Ocean" and "I Got the Sun in the Morning") and a couple by David Friedman (contemporary cabaret standards "Listen to My Heart" and "Help Is on the Way"), among others, making this a fond farewell to a singular performer.

Julia Fordham is another artist whom I have had the pleasure of hearing perform live on more than one occasion. On her first live album, *That's Live* (Vanguard), Fordham performs many of the songs that have earned her a special place in the hearts of LGBT listeners, including "Lock and Key,"

"Girlfriend," "Porcelain," "Falling Forward," "Manhattan Skyline," and, of course, "Happily Ever After." The disc also includes live renditions of favorites from her more recent releases, including "Concrete Love," a duet with India.Arie.

ON THE WEB: Read more of Gregg Shapiro's recommendations at www.outsmartmagazine.com.

Gregg Shapiro is a past recipient of the annual OutMusic award that recognizes involvement by non-musicians in furthering the work of GLBT performers.



Howard Jones *Revolution of the Heart*

Nearly a decade ago, Howard Jones appeared at Planet Music in Meyerland Plaza, bringing with him a woman who played hand drums. Then right before he was to start the show, his

keyboard broke. He decided to play anyway, doing all of his songs a capella, with only the hand drummer accompanying him. It was awful—probably the single worst rendition ever of those beautiful songs of his. But the crowd respected him for it, and I was reminded of said performance when listening to "Respected" on this new album—which sounds like Lenny Kravitz covering Radiohead. Musically, the entire record is a bit like that—drenched so much in other influences, mostly dance music, that the songs seem to get lost. But then, Howard is one of those guys who's never gonna outrun his brilliant past, and though this record might not be a chart-topper, people will still keep going to see him play—so long as his keyboard works next time. From Koch (www.kochrecords.com). —L.S.W.

MUSIC DVD Spandau Ballet *Live from the N.E.C.*

Filmed in December 1986, this DVD captures Spandau Ballet in performance during their "Through the Barricades, Across the Borders" tour. Driving funk rhythms, sax solos, and powerful vocals electrify the likes of "Chant No. 1," "Fight for Ourselves," "Through the Barricades," and "How Many Lies," as well as great versions of "Gold" and "True." Features include an audio commentary by Gary and Martin Kemp. (Trivia: Brothers Gary and Martin Kemp starred in *The Krays*, a 1990 fact-based film that chronicles the lives of the twin gangsters—one gay, one straight—in '60s London.) From Legacy (www.legacyrecordings.com). —T.C. ■

GrooveOut Shorts continued from page 78

multi-lingual album of songs which evoke soothing, welcome images of balmy beaches, Parisian cafés, and breezy summer Sunday afternoons zipping around town on a scooter. Available October 18 from Tommy Boy Entertainment (www.tommyboy.com). —Suzie Lynde

Lewis Taylor *Stoned*



"You could say I am Lewis Taylor's biggest fan. Pay attention: Listen to him and discover something truly wonderful," said Elton John. Taylor has been quietly releasing psychedelic progressive soul records in the U.K. to consistently incredible reviews and a rabid cult of fans. The songs on *Stoned* range from the modern pop of "Til the Mornin' Light" through the syrupy slow-jam of "When Will I Ever Learn" to the brooding "Lewis IV," which builds to an explosion of vocal harmonies and tortured guitar that hits emotions rarely explored in pop music. From HackTone Records (www.shoutfactory.com). —T.C.

The East Village Opera Company *The East Village Opera Company*



They turn beautiful opera classics into powerhouse rock anthems. The talented multi-instrumentalist Peter Kieseewalter and magnetic lead vocalist Tyley Ross are the minds behind East Village Opera Company. The result is a five-piece band, a string quartet, and two vocalists who are changing the face of rock opera. From Decca/Universal (www.universalclassics.com). More info: www.eastvillageoperacompany.com. —T.C.

The Pussycat Dolls *PCD*



With this debut album, The Pussycat Dolls go beyond physical beauty. With tremendous voices, and after working with some of today's top songwriters and producers (including Will.i.am from the Black Eyed Peas, Timbaland, Rich Harrison, Sean Garrison, and Ron Fair), The Pussycat Dolls are ready to stamp their mark on music and attitudes. The album leads with the #1 hit "Don't Cha," a duet with Busta Rhymes and produced by Cee-Lo. From

A&M Records (www.amrecords.com). More info: www.pussycatdolls.com. —S.L.

Linda Eder *By Myself: The Songs of Judy Garland*



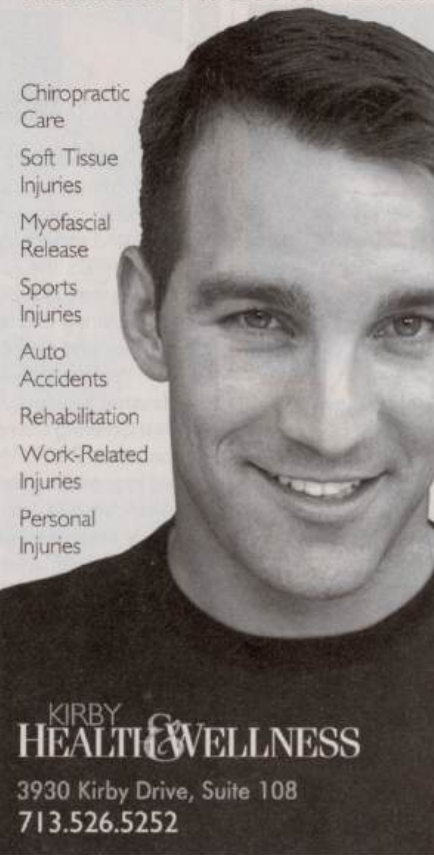
In its 11 tracks, Linda Eder pulls off the impossible, paying tribute to her idol while making the timeless Garland songs her own. The CD kicks off with "By Myself," a song from Garland's 1963 film *I Could Go on Singing*. "The Rainbow's End," the only original tune on the album, is a newly written song by Eder's frequent collaborator Jack Murphy. It not only captures Judy's essence in its lyrics, but sounds remarkably like a classic torch song from the '40s. From Angel Records (www.angelrecords.com). —S.L.

Sarah McLachlan *Bloom*

Bloom is a collection of previously unreleased remixed versions of 10 recordings, all but one of which originally appeared on Sarah McLachlan's earlier studio albums. The oldest song, "Vox," dates back to her debut album, *Touch* (1989), recorded when she was 19 years old. *Bloom*'s

Kenneth W. Lester D.C.

Chiropractic Care
Soft Tissue Injuries
Myofascial Release
Sports Injuries
Auto Accidents
Rehabilitation
Work-Related Injuries
Personal Injuries



KIRBY
HEALTH & WELLNESS
3930 Kirby Drive, Suite 108
713.526.5252

Rediscover the Magic!



FEATURING

New Executive Chef Martin Delgado

New Lounge with Live Music

Strolling Magicians

Las Vegas Style Magic & Comedy Show

New Live Jazz Brunch



2215 Southwest Frwy., Houston, TX 77098
WWW.THEMAGICISLAND.COM
713-526-2442



COLOR YOUR WORLD



Get Noticed

Get the attention you deserve with oversize color printing. Ask one of our associates how you can impress, starting at less than \$50. Featuring the HP DesignJet 5500 for stunning prints on a variety of high quality media.

copy.com
COPY CENTER/COMPUTERS/INTERNET BAR

1201-F Westheimer, Houston Texas 77006
713-528-1201 • www.copydotcom.com

Dine OutSmart

A la Smart Dining Guide

Hungry?

Check out one of these top-notch Houston dining spots. Be sure to mention that you were referred by the A la Smart Dining Guide in OutSmart.

Restaurants:

Let OutSmart bring gay consumers to your table. You can reach 50,000+ hungry readers by reserving space in the A la Smart Dining Guide. OutSmart readers dine out an average of 4-5 times a week. 89% of our readers report that they prefer to spend their money with businesses that advertise in OutSmart.

Make a reservation today. Call 713/520-7237 or email marketing@outsmartmagazine.com



Magic Island

MAGIC ISLAND, Houston's Premier Dining & Entertainment Showcase now introduces NEW Family Sunday Jazz Buffet, New Executive Chef Martin Delgado, New Eclectic Continental Menu, and that's not all... a new piano bar in the Den of Osiris.

2216 Southwest Freeway
Houston, Texas 77098
713.526.2442



"...of Course!" Catering

"...of course!" Catering has been providing guests with outstanding food and service since 2001. Our menu offers the largest selection of hot entrees for party and corporate catering and targets a variety of styles and tastes.

We have been listed on the Houston Business Journal's List of Best Catering Companies in Houston since 2001. We are committed to providing you with a quality event beyond your expectations every time. We serve the highest quality experience of food and service to each and every client. Take advantage of our great food and services for your next party, office meeting or business-related function.

1701 California • Houston, Texas
713/526-1800
FAX 713/528-6337
www.ofcourseonline.com



Daily Review Café

Daily Review Café, a friendly bistro style restaurant nestled between Montrose, Downtown and River Oaks, features contemporary American cuisine with global influence. Dine al fresco in our beautiful garden, choose from our award winning wine list and enjoy our sumptuous cuisine.

3412 West Lamar
Houston, Texas
713.520.9217

www.DailyReviewCafe.com

Hours: Mon. 11:30AM-2PM; Tue.-Thu. 11:30AM-2 PM and 5:30-10PM; Fri. 11:30AM-2PM and 5:30-10:30PM; Sat. 11:30AM-2PM and 5:30-10:30PM; Sun. 11AM-2:30PM and 5:30-9PM

Saffron
MOROCCAN CUISINE

October 26, 2005
Our 1 Year Anniversary
with
"A Night In Casa Blanca"
Costume Party

Featuring: Henna Tattoos, Belly Dance Contest, Bobbing for Preserved Lemons
Drink Specials: Mojitos, Pomaras, Sangria

\$10 Cover - Best Costume Wins
Dinner for 4
Reservation Required

Two private rooms available

Tues. - Thurs. 5 pm - 10 pm
Fri. - Sat. 5 pm - 11 pm

2006 Lexington
(1 block N of 59 off Shepard)
713 522-3562

Thank You OutSmart Readers
Voted 2005 "Best Restaurant
in a Category We Forgot"

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

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

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

3300 Montrose Blvd.
713.526.7865
Pharmacy: 713.526.1239



A NEW AMERICAN BISTRO

It's Patio Season at Laurier

Lunch, Tuesday through Friday
Dinner, Tuesday through Saturday
Sunday Brunch

Full Bar
Now Available
2005 Wine Spectator
Award of Excellence



Chosen one of the Best Restaurants
for Outdoor Dining 2005
OutSmart Readers' Choice Awards

3139 Richmond Ave. Houston, Texas 77098
713.807.1632 www.lauriercafe.com

Connecting you to a healthy lifestyle. Ziggy's Healthy Grill



2202 W. Alabama 713.527.8588
Ziggyshealthygrill.com

AUNTIE CHANG'S
DUMPLING HOUSE
Chinese Restaurant

A Full-Service Restaurant - Nice Dining View

"...the best dumplings in town..."
— Houston Chronicle

OutSmart Card
complimentary soup
with entree

Lunch Specials
7 days a week until 4:00PM

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

2621 Shepherd #290 • Houston, TX 77098
P: 713.524.8410 • F: 713.524.4134
(at corner of Randalls Supermarket, upstairs with elevator)
ORDER ONLINE AT WWW.AUNTIECHANGS.COM

Saucy Sundays
BRUNCH / DJ / PATIO / KICKIN MEXICAN FOOD
Every Sunday 11am - 4pm

Top 3 "Best Brunches"
"Best Margarita"
Thanks OutSmart Readers!
-2005 Gayest & Greatest Readers' Poll

Thirsty Cactus
cantina

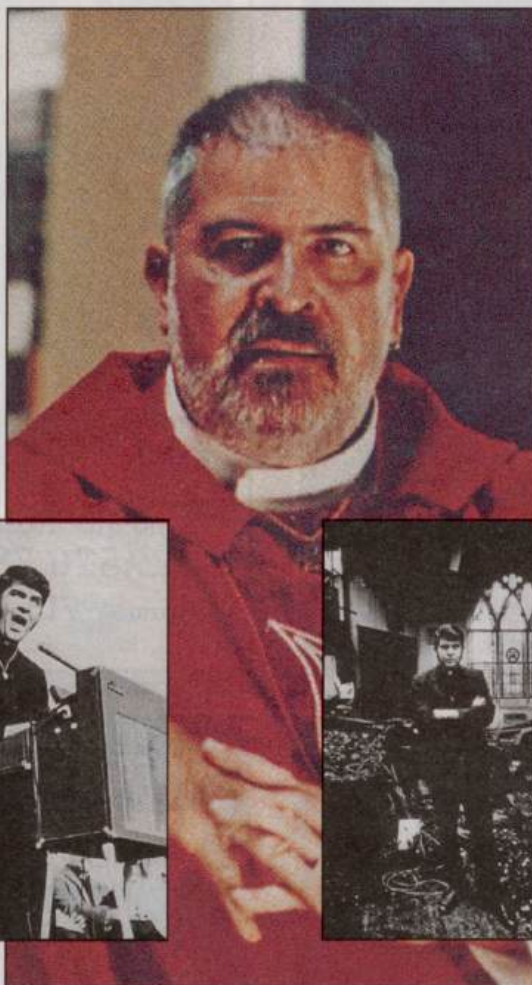
2416 Brazos (next door to BRB) (713) 521-1776 ThirstyCactusCantina.com

PERRY POWER

A new book salutes the Metropolitan Community Church founder

This month, the Rev. Troy Perry, founder of the Metropolitan Community Churches, retires after 37 years of building the denomination that ministers to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people. Today, the church that Perry started in his home has over 40,000 members and 250 churches in 23 countries, including Resurrection MCC in Houston.

To celebrate Perry's career, MCC has published a celebratory book, *Troy Perry: Pastor and Prophet*. This slender volume, edited by gay Christian author Chris Glaser, is an unabashed tribute, not a biography (one of Perry is certainly overdue). Still, the overview of Perry's life and struggles, along with comments by colleagues and friends as well as the minister himself, make this an impressive document.



Now and then: The Rev. Troy Perry during the early days of the Metropolitan Community Church (l); amid the ruins wrought by arson in Los Angeles, 1973 (r); and today (c).

In the book introduction, the Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson, who succeeded Perry as MCC moderator in July, explains the significance of the founding of the new church:

"In 1968, before Stonewall, homosexuality was a crime, a diagnosable mental illness and a sin so grave that few but the most fanatical ever spoke of it publicly. Homosexuals were to be pitied, punished, controlled, and kept at the margins of 'decent' community. It was a crime, in some states, for homosexuals to assemble publicly, and in some places, they were required to 'register' with the police department as sex offenders. There were secretive organizations and a literal handful of people who were beginning to petition for civil rights, but who were not on the radar screen of the general public....

"In 1968, Troy Perry had the audacity to place an ad in *The Advocate* inviting homosexuals and anyone else who dared to come to a worship service in his home in Huntington Park, California. →

ReadOut Shorts

The Velvet Rage: Overcoming the Pain of Growing Up Gay in a Straight Man's World by Alan Downs, Ph.D.

Da Capo Press (www.perseusbooks.com)

There is an old joke about the owner of a racehorse awaiting news of how his horse fared in an out-of-town race. When he gets a telegram saying "S.S.F.F.," he thinks the horse "Started Second, Finished First." Actually, the horse "Slipped, Stumbled, Farted, Fell." The Velvet Rage slips, stumbles, farts, and falls, then amazingly finishes first. For about the first 120 pages, the author outlines three stages a

gay man goes through to achieve emotional well-being: (1) shame, (2) compensating for shame, then (3) cultivating authenticity. Entire words are left out of sentences, as if the author just cranked out an e-mail he didn't have time to proofread before sending. But in the last three chapters, when the clinical psychologist who practices in Santa Fe, N.M., discusses passion, love and integrity—and it's carefully written—the book soars with lessons on growing up gay, happy, and fulfilled. —Donalevan Maines

Hitched! Wedding Stories from San Francisco City Hall by Cheryl Dumesnil

Thunders Mouth Press (www.thundersmouth.com)
I have always held onto the feminist analysis of marriage I cut my activist teeth on. I was totally surprised when I found myself crying over the picture of Del Martin and



Phyllis Lyon being married in San Francisco's City Hall. I was even more surprised when I found myself sending flowers "to any couple standing in line" (that gay florist knew what I meant). Still, I wrote that whole week off to "the heat of the moment." • And now, we have a book telling the stories of some of the couples who did get married. Seemingly endless stories of happy couples. People happy to have given the government the right to have a say in their relationships. People happy to turn their relationships to a strange sort of property. Happy endings over and over and over. Blah. • Still, I'm going to keep this book. Any time I need a little help believing in real love, all I'll have to do is read one of these stories. —Angel Curtis →

UNCOVER OUR UNDERWEAR SALE

BUY ONE PAIR AT REGULAR PRICE
GET THE 2ND AT 60% OFF
SAME OR LESS PRICE
(OFFER ENDS NOVEMBER 30, 2004)



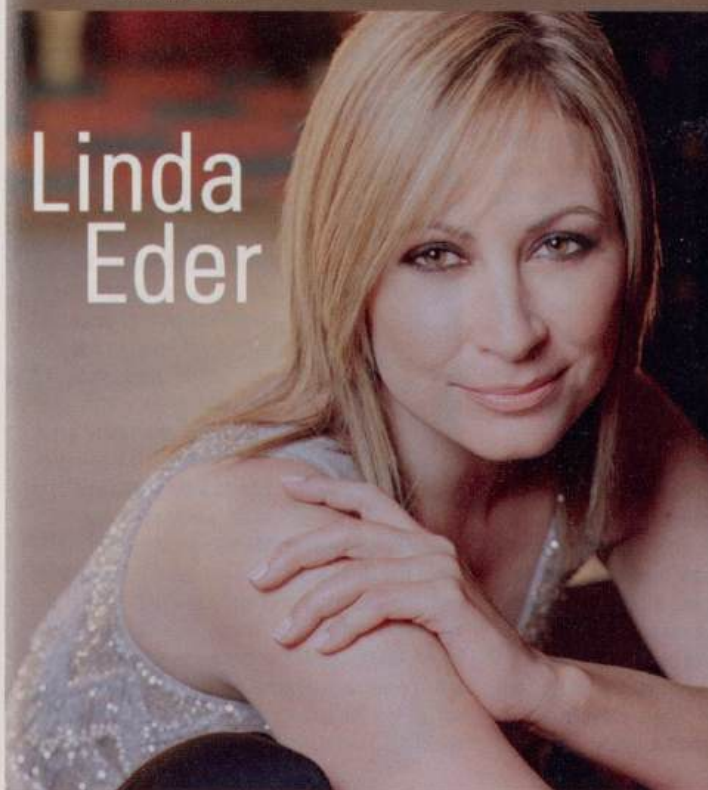
Thank you,
OutSmart readers,
for naming M2M
Number One again!

A Trendy Jean Boutique
3400 Montrose Blvd. #105
Tel: 713.521.0804
Fax: 713.521.9848
M - Sat. 11-8 Sun. 12-6

www.m2mfashion.com

HOUSTON SYMPHONY
HANS GRAF
MUSIC DIRECTOR

Linda Eder

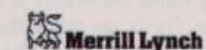


Cynthia Woods Mitchell

Pops
at Jones Hall

"A captivating presence and a Streisandesque singing voice." - USA Today

Friday, October 21, 8 PM
Saturday, October 22, 8 PM
Sunday, October 23, 7:30 PM



Tickets: From \$26. All performances in Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana.

Order Today! www.houstonsymphony.org
(713) 224-7575 Customer Service Center open Monday - Friday, 10 AM - 6 PM.
For group sales, call (713) 238-1475.

Be a Symphomaniac.

"Troy says he did this because he needed a safe, welcoming place to worship, and people with whom to worship. He says he had no idea that he would start a church movement that would sweep across 22 countries; that would inspire many imitators as well as an interfaith explosion of LGBT religious movements; that would rock the church, the nation, and the world, causing in 2004 the U.S. Congress to consider a Federal Amendment to the Constitution forbidding gay marriage and becoming an issue in elections in this country and many others.

"Maybe it was a good thing he couldn't see all that far ahead of him...

"Troy preached, in those first years, the three-part gospel that still functions as the core of the mission and values statement of MCC worldwide: The gospel of salvation, the gospel of community, and the gospel of Christian social action. It was gospel, 'good news,' that we could offer to a hurting and hungry community—a community that had heard nothing but 'bad news' from the church. And from the beginning God has used Troy Perry's personality to drive this movement. His boundless energy and relentless optimism have sustained us through some incredibly difficult and challenging times....

"Troy Perry always embodied the words

REVELATION IN THE LIBRARY

We asked Rev. Dwayne Johnson, the pastor of Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, to provide his own tribute to the Rev. Troy Perry.

"Rev. Troy Perry saved my life. That may seem overdramatic. Yet in the '70s when I was a gay teenager in Kansas, there was no program like HATCH to give me hope. There was no PFLAG. Sadly, I believed the lie that I was worthless to myself, others, and God. The suicide rate among GLBT youth is now widely documented, but during that time I almost became a statistic that no one would even bother to count.

"As a last resort, I went to the library to look for any books on homosexuality. There were only a few entries, most with a research-sounding tone. Yet one title

stood out: *The Lord Is My Shepherd and He Knows I'm Gay*, by Rev. Troy Perry. I was stunned. I said to myself, 'Could there really be a book like this?'

"I literally prayed that the book was not checked out. It was on the shelf. I grasped it like a drowning person for a lifeline and found an isolated corner where I began to read.

"I was too closeted to check it out under my name. Yet checking it out wasn't necessary. I read it in one sitting, crying most of the way through. It made an indelible impression: Maybe, I thought, just maybe, God could love me.

"I wasn't ready to believe it was OK to be gay. Yet for once I had at least enough hope to keep living until I could believe.

"Yes, Rev. Troy Perry saved my life."

of his first sermon, 'Be True to You.' He fills a room when he enters it. His charisma and capacity to say the right thing in the right moment have blessed so many. Many leaders in the LGBT civil rights movement (a surprising number of whom themselves come from religious backgrounds) turned to Troy

as a friend and pastor over the years. Leaders who struggled with AIDS or burnout or failure or grief or pain often turned to him, even if they were never officially members of MCC. They have relied on his consistency, his kindness, his energy and sometimes, on his faith."

The Sanctity of Marriage Handbook

by Bryan Harris

Tarcher/Penguin (www.penguin.com)



Remember your mother saying, "Do what I say, not what I do!"? Remember how angry it made you? Well, you can relive those fun times with this biting look at the real life choices of the right wing's leaders. • Zoom between belly laughs and outrage as you read about the extramarital affairs, multiple divorces, unpaid child support, gay chat liaisons, and general bad behavior of those advocating family values, the sanctity of marriage, and Christian homes. Cry as you realize they are as cruel in their personal lives as they are in their public ones. • Brilliantly illustrating the difference between what they do and what they say, this book will confirm what you always knew—they really are a bunch of mothers. —A.C.

Behind Every Great Woman There's a Fabulous Gay Man: Advice From a Guy Who Gives It to You Straight

by Dave Singleton

A Perigee Book (www.penguinputnam.com)

Who better than a dapper man with a queer eye for straight guys to put a gal's love life in perspective?

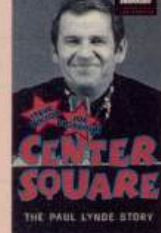


In this handy pocket-sized book, author Dave Singleton lays claim to the title of "gay best friend on steroids"—the perfect Will to your Grace—part muse, part fashionista, part Dr. Phil. Gay or straight, men are men, he says (and what dogs we are!), so like Rupert Everett in the Julia Roberts film "My Best Friend's Wedding," for better or worse, for richer or poorer, ladies, this gay man has your back! (His advice even extends to hairstyles for all those "awards shows" you go to.) It's straight talk from a guy who isn't, on everything from dating and relationships to style and self-esteem. —D.M.

Center Square: The Paul Lynde Story

by Steve Wilson and Joe Florenski

Advocate Books, an imprint of Alyson Books (www.alysn.com)



Talented. Vicious. Hilarious. Sot. This is a fascinating story of the real Paul Lynde, the one most of us never saw. His talent and humor were evident to both fans and critics alike; results of his viciousness and alcoholism were experienced by all of his friends... and even a few fans. But at the heart of *Center Square* is Lynde's major accomplishment: being gay on TV

for years, delivering jokes that were laughed at by both queers and mainstream America. • Authors Steve Wilson and Joe Florenski interviewed many people, including those who knew him in high school, and celebrity friends like Cloris Leachman, Phyllis Diller, and Charlotte Rae. • No holds barred. —Blase DiStefano

Gay Witchcraft

by Christopher Penczak

Weiser Books (www.redwheelweiser.com)



Conventional religion doesn't offer you anything? Feel a need for ritual, to be connected to the universe, to be your own priest? Then check out *Gay Witchcraft*, Christopher Penczak's absolutely great guide for those seeking a spiritual tradition grounded across time (and maybe space). •

This beginner's guide to Wicca has a little bit of everything: the spiritual contributions made by gay people since the beginning of religion, an explanation of the underlying principles of Wicca, spell-casting recipes for beginners, rituals that honor the natural calendar, and information that can enhance your sex life. • Well written and illustrated, this book is a must read for the spiritually curious and open-minded. —A.C. ■

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

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

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

For advertising information
call 713-520-7237.

The Original Mexican Cafe

Since 1916

Voted one of Top 75 Mexican
restaurants in Texas



2005 BEST MEXICAN RESTAURANT
GALVESTON

Thank you, OutSmart readers,
for your vote of support
and confidence.

"We think people like the friendly
home-like atmosphere they find at
The Original Mexican Café."
—John Bannon, owner

Mon - Fri 8 AM - 9 PM
Sat & Sun 8 AM - 10 PM

1401 Market • Galveston Island
409/762-6001

¡OLÉ!



JOSE MCDONALD
MORTGAGE CORPORATION

5444 Westheimer, Suite 1560 • Houston, TX 77056

TXMB 49346



TXLO55934

Jason Baca
Managing Loan Officer

281/658-7220

- Bad-credit experts
- Many "no money down" programs
- 0 Down on rental/investment properties
- Home loans down to credit scores of 500
- No-income-verification loans
- Call us about our \$1000 move-in
- Bankruptcy, repo, collections: We can help!

Call and get approval in 20 minutes FREE!

ENDLESS FINANCE OPTIONS

STRICT CONFIDENTIALITY



"...of course!" Catering

THANK YOU, OUTSMART READERS,
FOR YOUR VOTE OF SUPPORT AND CONFIDENCE.

BEST CATERING FIRM 2005

OUTSMART READERS' CHOICE AWARDS

1701 CALIFORNIA STREET ■ HOUSTON, TEXAS 77006

713.526.1800 ■ FAX: 713.528.6336

WWW.OFCOURSEONLINE.COM

OutSmart



Every day, a range of businesses power our community.
These enterprises provide the goods and services that keep life humming along.
A Special Advertising Section Part 2, October 2005

The little Agency that Could!

Concierge Travel, Inc. started selling gay cruises in 2000. The first sailing was on board the RSVP charter of Carnival Cruise Line ship *The Celebration* sailing out of Galveston in the spring of 2001. Then came the events of 9-11 and the crash of the entire travel industry. In the midst of bankruptcies, mergers and downsizing occurring throughout the industry, Concierge Travel, Inc. managed steady growth in 2001 and 2002. Concierge Travel kept its focus on customer service - going that extra little step in taking care of and providing for our customers - and at the same time contributing to local gay and lesbian community organizations.

The combination of community support, customer service and great products has put Concierge Travel, Inc. at the forefront of gay travel. In 2002, Concierge Travel hosted the largest contingency of Houstonians at the Gay Games in Sydney, Australia. Today the agency has clients from all regions of the world and is one of RSVP and Atlantis' largest agencies. With the kind of

continued growth that has been seen in the last three years, Concierge Travel could be the #1 RSVP agency for 2006.

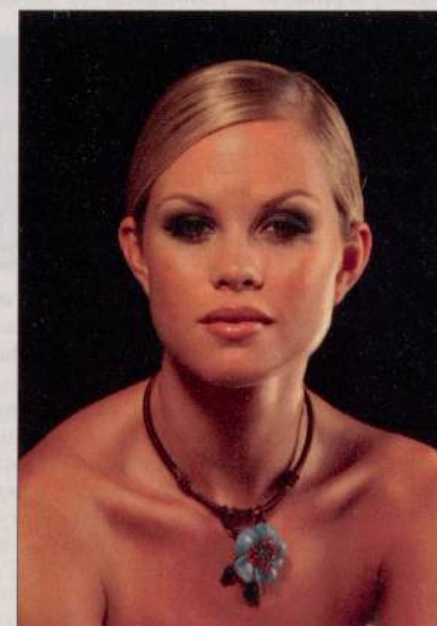
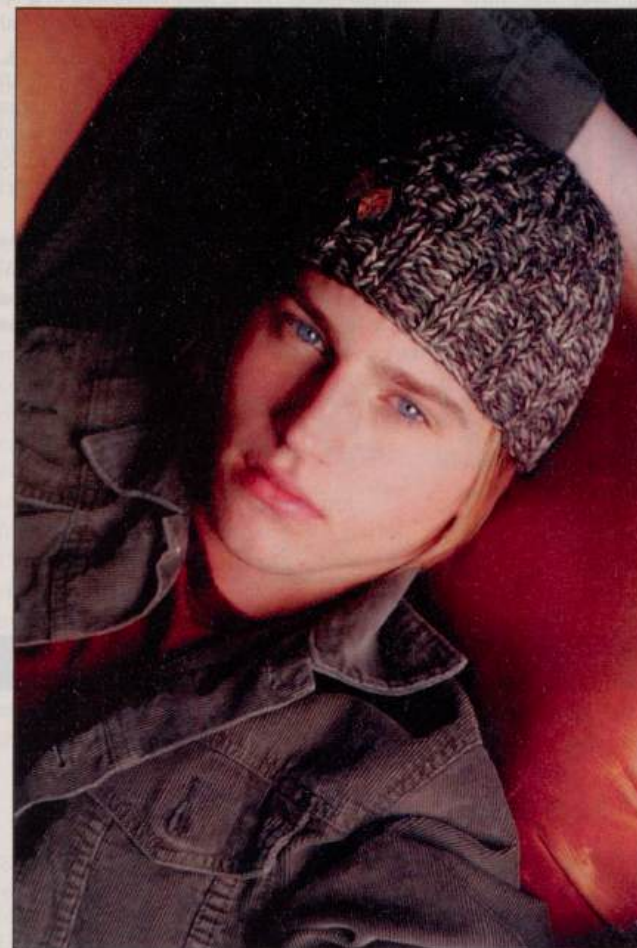
Our main source of growth is from customer referrals, says Kim Gustavsson, V.P. Sales & Marketing. Once a client travels with us, they are likely to come back time and time again; and they usually refer their friends as well. It is this kind of support from the community as a whole that has allowed us to contribute over \$30,000.00 in travel and donations to local organizations such as The Black Tie Dinner, Jungle Lust and HRC Houston in the last three years.

Thank you, Houston, and all OutSmart readers for your support and for continuously voting us THE Gayest and Greatest Travel Agency in Houston!

CONCIERGE TRAVEL, INC.
TOLL FREE 877.775.9616 713.661.2117

JOHN CONROY

p h o t o g r a p h y



6217 EDLOE
WEST U PLAZA
HOUSTON, TX
77005



JOHN CONROY
PHOTOGRAPHER

VARSITY PRODUCTIONS was established in 1995 by **Model/Photographer John Conroy**. A native of upstate New York, John started his career in NYC and has worked throughout the USA and European markets.

In addition to John's commercial clients, he enjoys developing new talent with top agencies as Ford, Elite, Page Parkes and Wilhelmina. One of the greatest talents of a good photographer is to put his subjects at ease. John establishes an immediate rapport with his clients to create beautiful images that seem effortless.

BUSINESS PORTRAITS • PORTFOLIOS • FAMILY • FITNESS
portfolio available on www.varsityproductions.com

7 1 3 • 5 4 2 • 8 2 7 7

Rob Schmerler Insurance Agency Our Community's Favorite Insurance Provider

Locally owned and operated, the Rob Schmerler Insurance Agency offers a wide variety of insurance and financial services, all with a personal and knowledgeable touch.

Schmerler Insurance Agency is proud to offer homeowners, renters, car, flood, and life insurance through the Farmers Insurance Group. We offer health insurance by Blue Cross/BlueShield of Texas.

We help many small businesses, apartment owners, and commercial accounts of all types. We insure boats, mobile homes, and much more. We offer insurance for builders risk, business vehicles, commercial general liability, workers comp, bonds, and special events.

About to renew your auto insurance? If you have a good driving record, the Farmers Auto Policy provides quality coverage at a rate based on your careful driving habits and low accident rate. Farmers offers many additional ways to save money, with credits for passive restraint, anti-theft device, auto/home, and two-or-more autos.

Knowledge and service are watchwords for Rob Schmerler. A native Houstonian,

Rob Schmerler is a graduate of the University of Houston and worked in advertising and public relations before starting an insurance agency in 1990. He is active in EPAH, the Executive and Professional Association of Houston, and the Four



Rob Schmerler



Elijah Kabalka



Jason Garcia

Seasons Club, and is an active supporter of the Krewe of Olympus. Rob lives in the Rice University area with his partner of 21 years, Bill Bulcher.

Rob's success results from the caring attention he shows his clients. His friends are clients and his satisfied clients become friends, referring others to him. Rob prides himself on never hurrying clients, confident that he will help find what is right for them.

Elijah Kabalka is the agency manager.

He is licensed in property and casualty insurance as well as in life and health insurance. He is a veteran of the U.S. Army and he has a special interest in communicating with the deaf community using American Sign Language. He is also interested in tropical fish and he maintains a beautiful salt water aquarium.

Jason Garcia has almost ten years experience in insurance, and is bilingual English/Spanish. He is an expert in auto, home, renters, and commercial insurance and quite often is the first friendly voice you talk to when you call our agency.

We are located in Bellaire, on West Loop 610 between Bissonnet St. and Bellaire Blvd. Please call or come in, let us know about your insurance needs and how we can help you meet them.

Rob Schmerler Insurance Agency
6575 West Loop South, Suite 185
Bellaire, Texas 77401 • 713-661-7700
Fax: 713-661-6472
<http://www.schmerleragency.com>



ZENO Clearly OutSmarts Pimples

Zeno is the most scientifically advanced and effective device available without a prescription for the treatment of acne pimples. Zeno is a handheld, portable electronic medical device that is clinically proven to make pimples disappear fast. FDA APPROVED, clinical studies were done with the University of Houston Band.

Zeno applies a precisely controlled heat dose directly to the pimple through a metal pad. One treatment lasts 2 1/2 minutes. Two to three treatments spread over 24 hours clear up most pimples quickly.

Zeno is for people with mild to moderate acne. Two to three 2 1/2 minute treatments



spread over 24 hours are sufficient for most pimples. Often, only one treatment is needed. Zeno can clear up a pimple in just hours. Most other medications can take days or even weeks to work. Other than temporary skin redness Zeno has none of the side effects described by most topical or oral medications and there is NO DOCTOR VISIT or prescription necessary.

Call for more information or visit us on the web.

Optimal Health Sciences
www.JustWhatTheDoctorOrdered.com
713.461.5252
recommended by leading healthcare professionals

OPTIMAL HEALTH SCIENCES
www.justwhatthedoctorordered.com
713 461 5252

URGENT: Help for Hurricane Victims

We are offering a special program—to run *AS LONG AS IS NEEDED*—to help our friends and family devastated by any Gulf Coast Hurricane.

If you have lost your home, will rebuild, or will need to acquire a new residence—We Are Here To Help You!!

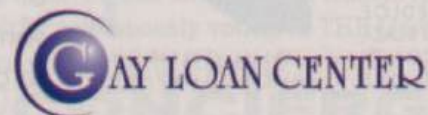
Do Not be taken advantage of.

Prepare NOW for your New Start. We will set up your new home loan, construction loan or refinance for: NO POINTS & NO FEES!

We want you to keep every extra dime you can for your new life, your new home, to take care of yourself and your family.

Call Now or fill out a Complete Application Online. We will package and prepare your file for you, ready to go when you are.

We will be here to help you and will be available at All Times!



GAY LOAN CENTER
GAYLOANCENTER.COM
866-502-LEND
info@gayloancenter.com

2951 Marina Bay Dr., # 130-299, League City, TX 77573



Dalton DeHart's H TOWN TODAY

Finally, An All-Inclusive Events Calendar Becomes A Reality!

After more than a year in the planning, "HTOWNTODAY.com" debuts at www.htowntoday.com, featuring an all-inclusive listing of every public event of interest in the Houston and surrounding areas, with a special focus on the Montrose.

HTOWNTODAY.com even includes an archive of past events, for those trying to reconstruct good times gone by or half-forgotten (perhaps on a night when the brain cells got a little overtaxed). The calendar includes every happening imaginable: performances, happy hours, softball games, Comets games, fundraisers, galas, drag shows, political forums, concerts, business expos, and rodeos.

It takes a social butterfly to really know what's happening where, when, and with whom. HTOWNTODAY.com is the long-standing dream of community

Dalton hopes that people will go to both of his websites to see when major events are scheduled and to locate photos of the events. "My greatest desire is that people know what is going on in the community by going to HTOWNTODAY.com," says Dalton. "After the events have been photographed, they can go to daltondehart.com to see themselves contributing to the vibrancy of the city and community. And hopefully they'll see through the pictures the passion with which I take them."

Each HTOWNTODAY.com listing will include the name of the event, location, time, description, and contact information (name, phone number, email address, etc.). The HTOWNTODAY.com events calendar will be especially useful to nonprofit organizations that wish to publicize their events. Organizations may also consult the website while plan-

In 20 years, these photos of Dalton's will be more precious than gold.

photographer and man-about-town Dalton DeHart. Dalton knows better than almost anyone the problems of keeping up with all the goings-on around Houston. As a result, Dalton has long nurtured a dream of a truly complete events calendar.

Anybody who has attended any community event has undoubtedly seen Dalton with his trusty camera making his friendly rounds. Once dubbed a "community treasure" by *OutSmart* magazine, Dalton has been faithfully recording the who's who of every community happening for almost 20 years, sometimes attending three, four, even five events on some weekend nights. You can view Dalton's photographs of any community event at www.daltondehart.com, the companion website to www.HTOWNTODAY.com.

ning their calendars so that major events will not be scheduled on the same night.

HTOWNTODAY.com was developed with the expertise of Ron Beagle, owner of Rockport Solutions, www.rockport-solutions.com. The first stage of the project was the launching of a world-class website that enabled Dalton to display the thousands of pictures that he takes each year. The photo website, www.daltondehart.com, went live in 2004. Once the photo website was fully operational, Ron and Dalton began discussing the new events website. During the spring of 2005, development of the new website began. After several months of discussion and development, Rockport Solutions launched HTOWNTODAY.com, which debuted in October.

About Photographer Dalton DeHart

To say that Dalton DeHart is passionate about photography is almost an understatement. Indeed, photography has been the "frame" through which Dalton has channeled his avid support of community life for more than 25 years.

Dalton DeHart spent the first eighteen years of his life in the small East Texas community of Buna. His photos have always been an important part of his life—from his undergraduate years at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville to his tour in the U.S. Army, teaching high school, teaching college, earning a doctorate.

In the fall of 1983, Dalton began teaching at San Jacinto College Central in Pasadena, becoming a permanent professor of English in 1986, and chairman of the Language Skills Department in 1989, a position he retains to the present.

In 1978 while living in Illinois, he purchased his first two 35mm cameras. Since then he has taken pictures on more than 13,100 rolls of film. All of his photographed rolls of film are numbered, dated, and identified, allowing him to locate any event by checking through his film files. He began taking pictures in the Houston area in 1987 with roll number 2220. Since that time, he has shot approximately 10,375 rolls of film at numerous events and activities in the community. Since purchasing a digital camera in the spring of 2004, Dalton has shot and posted more than 100,000 digital images on his website www.daltondehart.com.

As Dalton likes to say, "I have captured the past, and I intend to capture the present and the future through photographs that document the vibrant city of Houston and the surrounding area." Dalton currently provides photographs to several publications. Among them are *OutSmart* magazine and the *Houston Voice* newspaper.



ALL NATURAL

If same-gender marriage fights nature's design, what about those flamingos?

Because it's not natural. That explains (term used loosely) why we should ban gay and lesbian couples from legal marriage.

According to the literature (another loosely used term) of the One Man/One Woman campaign [of the Oregon Defense of Marriage Coalition], it's not natural for two men or two women to do what married men and women do—such as debate whether the toilet paper should hang in front or behind the roll. (Is one way more natural?) Real marriage, they say, is natural for only one type of couple—no girly men, or, we can infer, manly girls—allowed.

The "natural way" (their way) is the only way. They've determined that nature never intended for human beings to mate with their own sex. Neither did nature intend people to drive cars, wear socks, or eat Cheez Whiz, but that's another matter.

Marriage-for-us-only proponents dis-

regard the scientific proof that lots of nature's creatures have a proclivity for same-sex sexual activity. Same-sex coupling occurs in the macaque monkeys, chinstrap penguins, bonobo chimpanzees, and—as their name implies—fruit bats. Other critters known to hang at nature's gay bar include dolphins, elephants, goats, guinea pigs, gorillas, orangutans, sheep, vultures, cardinals, ostriches, and flamingos—some of which mate for life, which is more than you can say for most heterosexual humans. The list of nature's creations engaged in so-called unnatural acts extends even to insects, notably the swaggering female fruit fly and the swishy male bed bug.

You don't have to go that deep into the animal kingdom to find nature straying from the hetero path. Look no further than our best friend. Yes, the beloved dog. Often humanity's main link to the natural world,

some dogs are true "friends of Dorothy"—and we're not talking Toto.

Take the case of my neighbor's dog, Jacqui, a perfectly natural pure-blood French poodle. This silver-gray beauty would have nothing to do with male dogs. When Jacqui came into heat she put up the No Boys ALLOWED sign and trotted off to play with her doggie gal pals. Male dogs—not known for their ability to suppress their natural instinct—hounded the bitch (single entendre intended) as male dogs do. Jacqui raised her hackles, snarled, and bared her teeth. The intact male dogs, much like their human counterparts, did not respect Jacqui's not-interested signal. One clueless suitor persisted until she chased, cornered, and nearly shredded the poor guy.

Her humans didn't get it, either. They tried to impose on the little bulldagger their intentions for her to breed (a.k.a. the heterosexual lifestyle). Jacqui wouldn't

comply. She made a valiant break for it but was soon recaptured and returned to the breeding kennel. Still, the force of Jacqui's nature could not be denied. She refused to submit. Asserting the right to live as nature intended, Jacqui held a sit-down strike until her owners relented and let her return to her girl-gang. Stud fee forfeited.

Whether by intelligent design or serendipity, Jacqui was created as she is. As were homo-bedbugs, The Village People, and even Lou Sheldon. Nature is diverse. You'd have to be some kind of idiot to argue that nature is unnatural. Even so, we have misguided humans once again trying to impose a federal gay marriage ban.

Despite marriage equality victories in Canada, Spain, Belgium, Denmark, and Massachusetts, the Traditional Values fanatics are still at it, hell-bent on carving heterosexual-only marriage into constitutional stone. It gets their knickers in a serious knot to contemplate couples that might fiddle with the standard cake-top decoration.

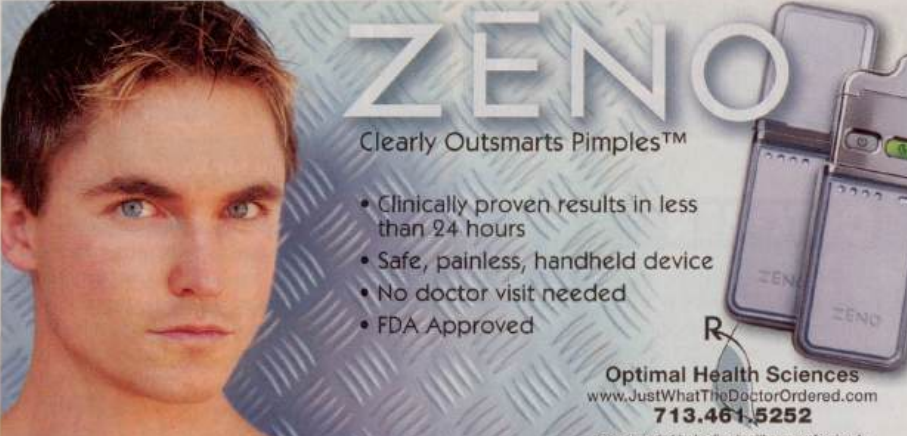
According to the marriage-for-heteros-only bunch, nobody else should get to marry the person with whom they plan to share life's path—and expenses, and in-laws. Only male-female couples should be entitled to insure their spouse under company policy, make life-saving medical decisions, and comment on the bizarre changes aging wreaks on their spouse's body. Heterosexual marriage, they're determined, should remain the only kind of marriage that is state-sanctioned and constitutional. Otherwise, we'd have utter chaos where every couple who wants to could go right out and promise to care for one another forever. Fine fix that would leave us in—everybody contributing equally to the 50-percent divorce rate.

That's why the federal Marriage Protection Amendment will be back. The fundamentalists reason (really, really loose term) that the institution of marriage will not be safe from the threat of annihilation until the One Man/ One Woman restriction is inscribed in the U.S. Constitution.

They one-way wonks are well-funded and supported by The Vast Right-Wing Conspiracy (as is our current administration). They're set on convincing voters of a picture-perfect fantasy where all marriages are the same and everyone votes however their pastor tells them to.

I ask you, what's so natural about that?

Sheklow lives with her wife in Eugene, Oregon. Sheklow, who received both first- and second-place honors in the magazine column category in the 2005 Houston Press Club Lone Star Awards, contributes a regular segment, "That Time of the Month," to the Eugene affiliate of the Air America radio network.



ZENO
Clearly Outsmarts Pimples™

- Clinically proven results in less than 24 hours
- Safe, painless, handheld device
- No doctor visit needed
- FDA Approved

Optimal Health Sciences
www.JustWhatTheDoctorOrdered.com
713.461.5252
recommended by leading healthcare professionals

Larry French Enterprises Complete Plumbing Services

Residential • Commercial • Remodel • Repair • New Construction
Softeners • Water Purification • Reverse Osmosis • Carbon Filters

Thanks for voting us #1 in the OutSmart Readers' Poll!

Your Water Heater Specialist
Featuring On-Demand
Noritz Tankless

NORITZ
ALWAYS HOT

713.956.7733

WWW.LARRYFRENCH.NET



All You Need to Get Away

Spacious Suites with Gulfview Balconies
FREE Daily Continental Breakfast
FREE High Speed and Wireless Internet
Theme Pools - Paradise Cove and Waterfall Lagoon
Tennis Court, Fitness Center, Gameroom,
BBQ/Picnic Pavilion and 32 Miles of Beach

from \$89 per night, Sun-Thur, Sep-Oct.
Not valid holidays or Galveston special events.



THE VICTORIAN
RESORT
and
CONFERENCE CENTER

A Suite for the
Price of a Room

6300 Seawall • Galveston • 800-231-6363 • www.victoriancondo.com

Comfortable Excellence

Located just outside the loop on Westview with easy access to all major highways. Minutes from Memorial Park, the Galleria, Montrose, and Downtown.



CASTLEWOOD APARTMENTS

1 Bedrooms from \$575 • 2 Bedrooms with W/D from \$730
3 Bedrooms with connections from \$950
New Central Park with Sand Volleyball Court
New Executive Business Center
24-hour gate attendant • Free covered parking
State-of-the-art fitness center • Washer and dryer included*
Two-tone interior paint • Large pets welcome
Washer/dryer connections — stackables in select units
\$100 off deposit with this ad!

*In select homes
FREE CABLE AND WATER!

7000 Westview Drive
Houston, TX 77055
713-686-3352



Health Care Costs Making You Ill?



If you are self-employed or a small business owner, we can provide you with information on affordable Comprehensive Major Medical Expense Insurance Plans

These plans are designed to allow you to take control of your healthcare and manage your out-of-pocket expenses.

Call today
for more
information.

Dawn Adkins

Cell:
713-614-8668

www.NASEweb.com/DawnAdkins

Do you think your A/C can do better? So do I!

Get the most out of your
A/C and heating system
and reduce your utility bills

Call for your free evaluation

A/C-Heating Sales & Service

Let me show you a better
approach to air conditioning
maintenance and repair

Kenny Walker

281-330-4284
kennywalkerservice@sbcglobal.net

TACL B1122E

Calendar of Events

Deadline for OutSmart's November issue is 5 p.m., Wednesday, October 12.

OCTOBER

Daily (Mon.-Fri.)

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

Daily (Sun.-Fri.)

HIV Testing. The Montrose Clinic offers free confidential HIV testing at these locations: **Decades**, 1205 Richmond, 713/521-2224, Mon. 6-10pm (Dennis); **EJ's**, 2517 Ralph, 713/527-9071, Wed. & Fri. 10pm-1am (Rhonda & Lourdes); **Mary's, Naturally**, 1022 Westheimer, 713/527-9669, Wed. 4-8pm (Jack); **Midtown Spa**, 3100 Fannin, 713/522-2379, Tues. 9pm-1am (Carlos), Wed. 10pm-1am (Juan), Fri. 10pm-12am (Quincy); **Ripcord**, 715 Fairview, 713/521-2792, Wed. 9pm-12am (Matthew); **Inergy/Mango Lounge**, 5750 Chimney Rock, 713/660-7310, Mon. 9pm-12am (Carlos); **1415 Bar & Grill**, 1415 California, 713/522-7066, Thurs. 9pm-12am (Carlos); **611 Hyde Park Pub**, 611 Hyde Park, 713/526-7070, Tues. 3-7pm & Sun. 2-6pm (Matthew); **All Star News and Video Emporium**, 3415 Katy Freeway & Studewood, 713/869-7878, Mon. & Thurs. 4-8pm (Jack); **Brazos River Bottom**, 2400 Brazos, 713/528-9192, Thurs. 8pm-12am (Matthew); **Cousin's**, 817 Fairview, 713/528-9204, Thurs. 8pm-12am (Jack); **Club Houston**, 2205 Fannin, 713/659-4998, Tues. 8pm-12am (Dennis). For more info: 713/830-3000.

7-30 (Fri., Sat., Sun.)

Thrills and Chills. Fright Fest at AstroWorld promises roller coasters and haunted houses for kids of all ages. Zombies lurk in the big-kid section, with shows and live performances. Bugs Bunny and his buddies await the kiddies and the faint of heart at the "Looney Tunes Spooky Town" for Halloween fun without the risk of a coronary. No extra charges; all shows free with park admission. \$41.99 general admission, \$24.99 for kids 48" and under, free for kids 2 and under. Info: 713/799-1234 or www.sixflags.com.

8 & 9 (Sat. & Sun.)

Mambo Italiano. The Federation of Italian-American Organizations present Festa Italiana 27, a celebration of Italian culture and food. Play bocci ball, ogle vintage Ferraris, Maseratis, and Vespa scooters, dance to live music (or with the Tarantella Dancers). Don't forget the pizza-making contest and the wine. The Festa benefits the Italian Cultural

and Community Center's educational programs, scholarship fund, language school, and cultural events. \$5 for adults, free for kids 12 years and under. Sat. 11 am-11 pm, Sun. 11 am-6 pm at the Houston Farm and Ranch Club, 1-10 West to Hwy 6 North. Info: www.houstonitalianfestival.com.

8 & 9 (Sat. & Sun.)

The Bayou's Core. Several Dancers Core and the Art Colony Association, Inc. present "Bayou Rag," a site-specific recital incorporating the physical surroundings of Hermann Square, as part of the Bayou City Art Festival. Free to attendees of the Bayou City Art Festival. Between 2 pm and 4 pm both days at the Historic Hermann Square. Info: 713/521-0133 or www.bayoucityartfestival.com.

9 (Sun.)

Suf's Up. AIDS Foundation Houston and the Indo-American Association of Houston present Sidi Goma, a celebration of the devotional music and dance of the hidden community of Sidi African-Indians. Hidden from the rest of the world until recently, this unique performance features four lead musicians, including drummers and singers,

and eight dancers who combine dance with sacred traditional music. The music gradually becomes faster and more excited as the dances unfold with constantly evolving individual and small-group acts of animal imitations, climaxing in a coconut-breaking feat. \$20-\$50. 6 pm, Wortham Theater, 501 Texas at Smith. Tickets: www.mukuru.org or www.iaahouston.com.

9, 13, 23, 27 (Sun., Thu., Sun., Thu.)

Ten Speeds of Camaraderie. The next Bike For A Better City rides are Sundays, Oct. 9 and 23, starting at 8 am. Thursday rides are Oct. 13 and 27, starting at 7 pm. All rides peel out from Starbucks at West Gray & S. Shepherd. Info: Aaron at 713/446-3898 or e-mail at bikeforabettercity@hotmail.com.

15 (Sat.)

Know Hate So One Day There Will Be No Hate. As part of Houston's Museum District Day, children are invited to participate in free arts and crafts workshops at Holocaust Museum Houston to help learn awareness of the dangers of hatred, intolerance, and prejudice in an age-appropriate manner. Participants will create butterflies from

INFO NEEDED FOR YOUR EVENT LISTING: a few lines of info about your event; date/time; cost; location/address; organization name; AND two phone numbers—one for OutSmart to reach you for questions and one for OutSmart readers to get more info on your event. Mail info to: OutSmart Magazine, 3406 Audubon Place, Houston 77006. Fax info to: 713/522-3275. E-mail info to: calendar@outsmartmagazine.com. NO LISTINGS CAN BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE DEADLINE DATE—WED., OCT. 12.

arts and crafts materials to contribute to the making of 1.5 million ornamental butterflies to commemorate the 1.5 million children who died in the Holocaust. Free. 10 am to 5 pm at Holocaust Museum Houston, 5401 Caroline St. Info: 713/942-8000 or www.hmh.org.

15 & 16 (Sat. & Sun.)

Very Moving Pictures. The Rice Media Center presents a double-feature screening of Preston Sturges' films, *The Miracle of Morgan's Creek* and *Hail the Conquering Hero*. Former U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky discusses both films in his three lectures being given October 18-20. Free. 7 pm at Rice

University Media Center, entrance #8 off University Blvd. at Stockton.

15 & 16 (Sat. & Sun.)

Get ARToberFESTive. Galveston Island's eighth annual fine art festival brings the works of over 100 artists and artisans (including developing artists at high school and college levels) to the public. Proceeds benefit the Animal Shelter and Adoption Center of Galveston Island, the AIDS Coalition of Coastal Texas, and the Historic Downtown Strand Partnership, which offer volunteers during the festival. \$3, free for children 12 and under. Sat. 10 am-6 pm, Sun. 10 am-5 pm. Postoffice Street between 21st and 23rd streets. Info: www.artoberfest.com or call Kathy Modzelewski at 409/762-3617 (email modz@aolmail.net).

16 (Sun.)

Full Moon Spokes-people. The 22nd Houston Moonlight Ramble gathers with 3000 other bikers for late-night cycling fun. Info: Aaron at 713/446-3898 or bikeforabettercity@hotmail.com.

18 & 24 (Mon.)

A Night at the Opera. Ann Thompson previews Mussorgsky's *Boris Gudunov* and Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro* for opera enthusiasts and dilettantes. 7-8:45 pm at the Spring Branch/Memorial library, 930 Corbindale. Information: 713/464-1633 (library), 713/465-0755 (Thompson), or awthompson@mindspring.com.

18-20 (Tues.-Thu.)

Nightmare on Main Street. Rice University inaugurates the Rice Campbell Lecture Series with a presentation of three original lectures on *The American Town: Dreams and Nightmares* by former U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky. The lectures address the topic of the American town, covering writers/poets like Mark Twain, Robert Frost, and Willa Cather and other observers like filmmaker Preston Sturges. Free. 7:30 pm at Rice University, 6100 Main Street. Tues. & Wed. at Stude Concert Hall in the Shepherd School of Music, Thurs. at Herring Auditorium in Herring Hall. Info: www.rice.edu/campbelllecture.

20-22 (Thu.-Sat.)

October Is National Breast Cancer Month. Author/artist/breast-cancer survivor Fran Padgett's "Gift of Time" tour visits Katy Mills Mall to promote breast-cancer awareness and the need for regular mammograms. Thurs. from 6-8 pm is a VIP reception at Moe's Bar & Grill. Fri. from 5-8 pm, go to AMC Theatres for "Teen Awareness Night" hosted by Katy Mills Mall Teen Board. Sat. from 10 am-6 pm get free testing for high blood pressure, bone density, and on-site scheduling for mammograms as part of the Gift of Time Health Happening, full of information, education, and entertainment. Enter to win a free mammogram screening at Memorial Hermann Katy. From 12:30-2 pm Padgett signs her book, *No One Wrote a Manual*, at Books-A-Million. Relax with herbal libations aplenty from 3-5:30 pm with High Tea and Conversation including guest speakers, a fashion show, a transitional hairstyles show, and singer Art Noyes. Reservations required for traditional High Tea and art exhibit (\$20 donation). The events benefit Weathervane Foundation, which will in turn donate proceeds to Memorial Hermann Katy, specifically for the hospital's breast-care resource library. Info: www.franpadgett.com or www.catalystmoon.com.

20-22 (Thu.-Sat.)

Modern Mom. The University of Houston Department of Women Studies presents "21st Century Motherhood: Change." The conference features panel leaders Sarah Blaffer Hardy, France Winddance Twine, among others. The weekend ends with a "funky, feminist" fundraiser, The Everybody Ball, which features the art exhibition, *Everybody Art: Show Us Your Feminism*, at Vine Street Studios, 1113 East Freeway. Childcare will be available for a nominal fee. \$75, \$40 for students. →

OUT IN MACBETH

Experimental theater troupe The Brazosport L'il Players (BLP) presents its movie version of Shakespeare's classic play *Macbeth*. "Sure, we made a few changes," says Paul Locklear, who wrote the script and directed the approximately 50-minute-long movie. "We had to, 'cause we didn't want to bore the audience to death with all that Shakespeare business."

Locklear admits that the script follows the basic plotline of Shakespeare's classic tale of greed and tragedy, but with a few changes. "We wanted to



Walt Zipprian

place it in a setting that our limited fan base could relate to, so *Macbeth* works at the Wal-Mart in Brazosport."

Walt Zipprian, a Houston-area the-

ater veteran who grew up in Brazosport, plays the title role. "This role is perfect for me. If I hadn't left town when I did, I'd probably really be working at the Wal-Mart in Brazosport and plotting my pathway to the top."

Zipprian heads a cast that includes BLP regulars Kelly Manison as Lady Macbeth, Mike Switzer as Banquo, and Noel Bowers as Macduff, with cameo appearances by the Leopard Boy and Batman and fast-rising Houston-based classical music combo Two Star Symphony, who appear as the witches. —Suzie Lynde

What: *Macbeth*

When: Saturday, October 15, 9 & 11 p.m. **Where:** The Axiom, 2524 McKinney

How much? \$5 **Reservations/info:** 713/689-2294

HUBBARD
Financial Services, Inc.

Kathy Hubbard EA

- Income Tax Service
- Past Due & Out-Of-State Returns
- IRS Problems Resolved
- Business Bookkeeping & Tax Returns
- Estates, Trusts & Gift Returns
- Non-Profit Compliance Consulting

(713) 522-9000

Fax: (713) 526-6588
2615 Montrose Blvd.
Houston, Texas 77006

One Block off Westheimer at the corner of Montrose and California

We take pride in our community

Chateaux Dijon Apartments
Beverly Hill at Yorktown
(713) 626-3660

Starting at \$475
Galleria living
Unique apartments
Low price per square foot
Excellent maintenance

THE ELECTRIC CHAIR
Since 1999

TATTOOING
BODY PIERCING

Thanks for voting us one of Houston's Best Tattoo Studios!

New Location Opening Soon!
8722 Richmond Ave. @ Fondren
www.electricchair.cc 713-780-3500

MOMENTUM BMW

Serving the needs of the GLBT Community

Jimmy Doan, Client Advisor
Cell 832.545.7099 Dir 713.596.3220
call to schedule a test drive

Absolutely Fabulous Insurance
Customized to protect your assets

Can we talk about the difference in having insurance and being insured?

Homeowners
Renters ♦ Life
Flood ♦ Auto
Commercial

Jean Border (713) 334-0900
Insurance & Financial Services Agency

FARMERS
Registered Representative
Farmers Financial Solutions, LLC • 2423 Galena Ave., S. Valley CA 93067
(805) 306-3400 • Member NASD

Secure Affordable Networks

Home and Office
Wired and Wireless
Printer Sharing
Playstation 2 and X Box
DSL and Cable

Kenny Walker
281-330-4284
kennywalkerservice@sbcglobal.net

MILES D. GLASPY

LMSW-ACP



- Psychotherapy
- Gay Mid-Life Issues
- Depression, Anxiety, Addictions, HIV
- Individuals, Couples, and Group Therapy

20 years experience working with the Houston G & L Community

713.529.1913

In the River Oaks Shopping Center

FRESH ARTS COALITION

The Best of Houston's Progressive Visual and Performing Arts.

fresharts.org

MALE UWEAR

Houston's Hottest New Men's Store

Thanks for voting us one of the Best Places to Buy Men's Clothes!
Our customers are the best!

Exclusive brands available nowhere else in Houston. Underwear, swimwear, shirts, shorts, cologne, jewelry, lube & more

www.maleuwear.com
415 Westheimer #104
713.527.8499

Info/reservations: 713/743-3214 or www.friendsforwomen.org

22 (Sat.)

The Houston Pride Band presents their fall concert, *This Global Village*, in which they will explore the many things we have in common with our neighbors—whether across the hall or across the ocean. 7 pm, Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, 2025 W. 11th St. Tickets (\$10) and info: 832/265-3346 or www.houstonprideband.org

22 (Sat.)

A Whole New World (of Opera). National Public Radio teams up with Houston Grand Opera to resume the national broadcasts of World of Opera. Fans will recall HGO's 04-05 season, including *Madame Butterfly*, *Faust*, and *Lysistrata*. Airing every Saturday at 12:30 pm through December 10 on KUHF, 88.7 FM. For a free guide, e-mail radio@houstongrandopera.org or call 888/626-7372.

22 & 23 (Sat. & Sun.)

Wussup, Homes. The 10th annual Eastwood Historic Homes Tour takes a look at early 20th-century Craftsman, Mission, Arts & Crafts and Foursquare homes developed in 1911 by William A. Wilson. Six of the first large homes to be built in Eastwood are featured on the tour. \$10. Noon-5 pm. Tickets: purchase on the days of the event at Church of The Redeemer, Episcopal at 4411 Dallas St. Info: Bill England, 713/412-6111 or www.eastwood-houston.com

23 (Sun.)

No Strings Attached. The Enso String Quartet's featured artists include Maureen Nelson and John Marcus, violins; Robert Brophy, viola; and Richard Belcher, cello. Don't miss the experience of viewing the sunset through James Turrell's spectacular work *Skyspace*. Houstonians are most familiar with James Turrell as the creator of the tunnel entitled "The Light Inside" at the Museum of Fine Arts. \$20 at the door; \$10 for students. 6:15 pm: silent viewing of James Turrell's *Skyspace*, 7:15 pm: concert begins at Live Oak Friends Meeting House, 1318 West 26th St. Tickets/info: 713/623-6796 ext. 278, www.mukuru.org, www.ensoquartet.com, or www.friendsforwomen.org

25-27 (Tue.-Thu.)

Ye Olde Field Trippie. The Texas RenFest proffers forth School Days, an experience most educational for all ye wee lads and lassies and wizards of enlightenment (eh, teachers). Ye olde demonstrations doth mixeth well with workshopes and period-related contests, m'lord. Before ye leavest, durst ye sup upon fatty meats skewered with wooden pikes? Also, wouldst thou needest a translator to make sense of this blurb? 9 am-5 pm 21778 FM 1774. Information: 281/356-2178 or www.texrenfest.com

29 (Sat.)

Good Morning, Star Shine. A false and widely circulated e-mail from not too long ago claimed that during August, Mars would appear as big as a full. If Mars ever appeared that big, we'd be in a lot of trouble. However, near the end of this month Mars will be exceptionally close. The George Observatory is open to the public on the night of Mars' closest encounter with Earth. The planet will rise at 7:13 pm and will be closest to Earth at 11:21 pm. Viewing through the telescopes is \$5 per person, free for children 4 and under. There is a \$3 entrance fee for Brazos Bend State Park. Info: www.georgeobservatory.org

30 (Sun.)

The Grateful Dead. Join the Orange Show in this tour of varying cultural interpretations of death, namely Mexico's Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead). Visit Casa Ramirez, where people build altars to honor the passing of their loved ones. Buy some candy skulls and skeletons (calaveras). Death never tasted so sweet. See

artist Sharon Kopriva's studio in the Heights and her take on the big D. A tour of cemeteries will prove to keep the tour lively. \$50. Depart at 12:30 pm sharp from the Orange Show, 2402 Munger. Reservations: 713/926-636 or oranges@orangeshow.org

PLANNING AHEAD

NOVEMBER

November 7 (Mon.)

Opera and Art. Ann Thompson discusses the connection between opera and art in context of the exhibit *Treasures from Olana: Landscapes by Frederic Edwin Church* (through Dec. 5), 1:30-3 pm, in the Brown Auditorium of the Caroline Weiss Law building of the Museum of Fine Arts, 1001 Bissonnet. Information: 713/957-2968, 713/957-2978, or awthompson@mindspring.com

PERFORMING ARTS

♦ **All American Symphony.** With the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and the renewed sense of patriotism and community spirit, the Houston Civic Symphony performs the first concert of their new 2005-2006 Season with a special invitation extended to the many guests re-located in Houston. Included in the evening's selections are the stirring *Fanfare for the Common Man* by Aaron Copland, *Rhapsody in Blue* by George Gershwin, and the 1891 Charles Ives composition, *Variations on America*. Free. Friday, Oct. 14 at 7:30 pm at Zilkha Hall. Info: 281/586-2100 or www.civicsymphony.org

♦ **Be My Baby.** Playwright Ken Ludwig's world premiere comedy graces the stage with Dixie Carter and Hal Holbrook. A man and a woman who share little more than a mutual disdain are forced into a trip across the Atlantic to deliver a newborn baby to her adoptive parents. Through Oct. 23 at the Alley Theatre's Hubbard Stage, 615 Texas Ave. Tickets: 713/228-9341 or www.alleytheatre.org

♦ **Boris Gudunov.** No, it's not a performance based on Rocky & Bullwinkle's nemesis. Mussorgsky's epic opera chronicles the rise and fall of a villainous czar (and assuredly the source of inspiration behind the name for R&B's archenemy). Oct. 22-Nov. 5 at the Wortham Center's Brown Theater, 501 Texas. Tickets: 713/228-6737 or 800/626-7372.

♦ **Chicago.** Kander, Ebb, and Fosse. Oh my! Michelle DeJean returns to her hometown as sexy murderess Roxie Hart with all that jazz and so much razzle dazzle, it's nearly blinding. \$27-\$72. Oct. 11-23 at the Hobby Center, 800 Bagby at Walker. Reservations: 713/558-3882, 888-558-3882, or www.tuts.com

♦ **ComedySportz** recently won the envied title of second-place winner of the "meaningless cup" at the World Championship Match of the World Comedy League, the alliance of ComedySportz teams across the globe. Only Los Angeles can claim a higher score. What better time to see an interactive improvisational comedy troupe than when they are gloating in their success? \$12. Fridays and Saturdays, 8 pm, at the ComedySportz Arena, 901 Town and Country Blvd. Reservations: 713/868-1444.

♦ **Fairies, Monsters, and Demons.** The fantasies of baroque music become real with Locatelli's *The Tears of Ariadne*, Purcell's *The Fairy Queen*, Leclair's *Scylla and Glaucus*, and Lully's *Suite from Thésée*. \$25-\$35. Sat., Oct. 8, 7:30 pm; at Zilkha Hall, 800 Bagby. Info/reservations: 713/315-2525 or www.mercurybaroque.org

♦ **Hapgood.** Espionage, the Cold War, and secrecy make this spy comedy by Tom Stoppard a favorite. Secret-service officer Elizabeth Hapgood fabricates an elaborate scheme to uncover a double agent (or is he a triple?) leaking scientific data to Moscow. Through Oct. 23 at the Alley Theatre's Neuhaus Stage, 615 Texas Ave. Tickets: 713/228-9341 or www.alleytheatre.org

♦ **I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change!** A Stages fave. The musical about the modern-day roller-coaster ride of romance, the devastation of dating, and the maelstrom of mating returns. Why? Because we're all addicted to the little snippets of ecstasy that accompany the torrent of pains of love. \$25. Through Oct. 31 at Stages, 3201 Allen Parkway at Waugh Drive. Tickets: 713/527-0123 or www.stagestheatre.com

♦ **Silence.** The regional premiere of Moira Buffini's *Silence* pits Princess Ymma of Normandy, a 10th-century feminist, against her marriage-by-contract husband Lord Silence of Cumbria, a naïve 14-year-old boy. As expected, their union brings anything but peace. Rather, it brings the two face to face with hellbent Vikings, a treacherous king, and 'shroom benders. Think Shakespeare twisted by Monty Python. \$25-\$35. Oct. 12-30 at Stages, 3201 Allen Pkwy. Tickets: 713/527-0123 or www.stagestheatre.com

♦ **What's His Name?** An unexpected guest appears at the door of the Fertle family. Though he appears to know them well, none of the Fertles have any idea who he is or why he is there. In as little time as the small town of Dumpster, Texas, requires, everyone within its borders is consumed with this mystery. If you've never seen the three-person cast of Radio Music Theatre change seamlessly in and out of countless characters with split-second timing, you deserve the treat. \$20. Fridays at 8:30 pm and Saturdays at 8 and 10:30 pm through Nov. 19 at Radio Music Theatre, 2623 Colquitt. Tickets: 713/522-7722.

♦ **What You've Done.** Aaron Landsman's play is unlike anything most theatergoers have experienced, and experience is a key term as this DiverseWorks production has a far more multi-sensory appeal than what you'll get from most stages. The audience gets truly close-up with the cast, as only 10 people are allowed in each show. Plus, the audience is encouraged to uncover the truths of the story by rifling through dresser drawers, bookshelves, and the apartment at large on the set. Oct. 13-16 at Project Row Houses, 2501 Holman St. Tickets: 713/335-3445.

♦ **Wicked.** Before that twister ever swept Dorothy and Toto into Munchkinland, two other young women met in the land of Oz. This new musical is the tale of how a clever, tempestuous, and misunderstood girl befriended a beautiful and ambitious girl and then went on to become the Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda the Good Witch. Find out why the biggest show on Broadway has already won a Grammy and three Tonys. Oct. 26-Nov. 13 at the Hobby Center. Tickets: 800/NOW-AMEX or www.ticketmaster.com

♦ **Yamato—the Drummers of Japan.** The beauty and majesty of the taiko is taken as far as possible by the mad drummers of Yamato, from delicate patter to ferocious thunderous kapows. It's percussion, it's dance, it's spectacle, it's Yamato. \$27-\$47. Sat., Oct. 22, 8 pm at the Cullen Theater, 500 Prairie at Texas.

RADIO

♦ **After Hours.** Saturdays, 1-4 am. Featuring the QMZ (Queer Music Zone) with Jimmy Carper. KPFT 90.1 FM, 713/526-5738.

♦ **Queer Voices.** Mondays, 7-9 pm. Features, news, music, interviews, reviews, and commentary. KPFT 90.1 FM, 713/526-4000.

ART/PHOTOGRAPHY

♦ **5th Annual Latin American Film Festival.** The Museum of Fine Arts and Rice Cinema celebrate the Latino celluloid touch with this showcase of six films from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, and Mexico. From the historical drama *Cabeza de* →

Tejas Air, Inc.

A/C – Heating Service & Sales
Call for a heating-system check-up — before cold weather arrives!



Lance Carnal
Owner

American
Standard
HEATING & AIR
CONDITIONING



Coleman®
HEATING & AIR
CONDITIONING

832.287.6117 DIRECT

Specializing in Personality-Guided Therapy

...because every person is unique

I'd Be Glad To Help You

- Build Self-Esteem
- Improve Relationships
- Overcome
 - Stress and Fears
 - Depression

DEBORAH M. DENSON, LCSW

Licensed Clinical Social Worker
2900 Wesleyan Suite 535 • 713-850-7225

FIRST CHOICE HOMECARE

Bringing Your Health Care Needs Home

Specializing in IV/HIV infusion therapies at home

- No out-of-pocket expenses, if insurance qualifies
- Nursing services available
- Oral and HIV medications
- Confidentiality assured
- Free delivery
- Mention this ad



713.526.6469
3336 Richmond, Ste. 325 • Houston 77098

Mention this ad and receive a 10% discount (local orders only)

Teleflora

Flowers Etc. By Georgia
1818 Waugh Dr • Houston, TX 77006
713/524-3989
Wholesale to the public • Full-service florist
Thank you, OutSmart readers, for voting us one of the Top Florists

Perfection Plus Services
A Premiere Cleaning Service since 1989

John Montgomery
Owner

- Family owned and operated
- Move in-out/Organizing
- Specialists in detail cleaning
- Weekly, bi-monthly, one-time
- Travel in team with supervisor
- Packing or unpacking for relocating
- Bonded & insured for your protection
- English speaking manager always on site

YOU OWE YOURSELF A PROFESSIONAL HOME CLEANING SERVICE
Free estimate by phone
713.664.9911

Psychic Readings by
Angelina

Love Specialist Helps In All Areas of Life

- Crystal, Tara Card, Palm/Face Readings
- Aura Cleansing
- Available For Parties
- Walk-Ins or By Appointment

2431 Little York **713 742-8434**

CRIMINAL DEFENSE



Melissa S. Harper
Attorney

- DWI
- DRUGS
- THEFT
- SEXUAL ASSAULT
- PROBATION VIOLATIONS
- ASSAULT CASES
- WEAPONS
- FORGERY
- EARLY PAROLE

A LAWYER
THE COMMUNITY
CAN TRUST

FREE CONSULTATION
713-224-4422

HOUSTON

Not Certified by Texas Board of Legal Specialization



Stella
* As pictured \$2899.00
FROM \$1200.00
SCOOTERSMITH.NET
713.869.4885 HOUSTON • TEXAS



LISA WANNEMACHER, LPC, NCC

THANK YOU OUTSMART READERS
FOR YOUR VOTE OF CONFIDENCE.

CHOSEN ONE OF THE TOP
"BEST THERAPIST 2005"

9525 KATY FREEWAY, SUITE 312
(713) 463-9449 PH
WWW.COUNSELINGHOUSTON.COM

Vaca (1991), introduced by its director Nicolás Echevarría, to a modern Brazilian murder-mystery, the films cover a wide range of themes and time periods. Oct. 7-17, Rice Cinema at Rice University screens two films; the MFAH screens four films in the Brown Auditorium Theatre of the Caroline Wiess Law Building, 1001 Bissonnet. Info: 713/639-7540.

♦ **All-Female Urban Crafters Market.** This group of women designers and artists showcase their hip and unique goods directly to the public in a party atmosphere. Lookers-on may enter to win goodie bags while enjoying music, art, and catering samples. Prices range from \$5-\$500. Opening reception Thurs., Oct. 6, 5-9 pm; Oct. 7 & 8, 10 am-6 pm at the Gallery, 6303 Beverly Hill (off Chimney Rock).

♦ **Diana, a Celebration.** We loved her in life and wept at her death. Many of us remember the memorial placed in her honor at the corner of Westheimer and Montrose. An exhibition of 150 breathtaking objects chronicles her extraordinary life. Her bridal gown and diamond tiara, home movies, photos, and personal correspondence are merely parts to a much greater whole. \$17.50 for adults, \$14.50 for kids 3-11. Oct. 21-Feb. 5 at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, One Hermann Circle Drive. Info: 713/639-4629 or www.hmns.org. Info in Spanish: 713/639-4603.

♦ **Eastern Thought; Western Technique.** Local artist Suzan Kraus' show of traditional Chinese brush paintings and modern interpretations of the art form capture the yin and yang of nature. Oct. 22-Nov. 20 at Tansu, 321-B W. 19th St. Info: 713/880-5100 or www.tansustyle.com.

♦ **Eye on Third Ward: Yates School of Photography.** The MFA honors the talent of students from HISD's Jack Yates High School with this exhibition featuring nearly 35 photographs taken by current students in the established photography program at Yates. Approximately 60 high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors, ages 15-17, participate in this project each year. The photographs are the product of a year-long project, under the guidance of photography teacher Ray Carrington III. Opens Sat., Oct. 1, at the Museum of Fine Arts in the Caroline Wiess Law Building, 1001 Bissonnet, and runs through Jan. 29, 2006. Info: 713/639-7540 or www.mfah.org.

♦ **Fall Splash.** Watercolor art in a range of styles from realistic to abstract, joined by well-known local artists, sits upon the walls of the WAS-H waiting to be regarded, adored, and adopted. Oct. 3-Nov. 4 at Watercolor Art Society Houston, 1601 W. Alabama. Info: 713/942-9966 or www.watercolorhouston.org.

♦ **Flying School and Mandala Naya.** Artist Diane Landry uses familiar objects to uncover the mystery behind the mundane. In Flying School, umbrellas create a garden of color and sound. With Mandala Naya, a moving light, a laundry basket, and plastic bottles make up a breathtaking cathedral rose window. Through Oct. 30 at the Rice Gallery, ground floor of Sewall Hall, entrance #1 off Main St. at Sunset Blvd. Info: 713/348-6069 or www.ricegallery.org.

♦ **James Surls: The Splendor Years, 1977-1997.** A survey of sculpture, wall works, drawings, and prints combine Surls' take on specific landscape, personal story, and the nature of art. Through Nov. 12 at the Blaffer Gallery, U of H, entrance #16 off Cullen Blvd. Info: 713/743-9530 or www.blaffergallery.org.

♦ **Lester Julian Merriweather** creates narrative collages using his own photographs combined with images from magazines like Jet, Ebony, Ton, Time, and others. His collective narratives portray the media's hidden agenda via advertising and marketing. Through Oct. 22 at DiverseWorks, 1117 East Fwy off Main at Naylor. Info: 713/223-8346 or www.diverseworks.org.

♦ **Mummy: The Inside Story.** Nesperennub, the

3,000-year-old mummified priest of Karnak, has been CAT-scanned and transformed into the first virtual mummy. See a recreation of his face, see the inside of his encasement, and get a feel for what this priest's life must have been like in Thebes around 800 B.C. Look for the enormous head of Amenhotep III, originally part of a 26-foot tall sculpture. \$15 for adults, \$12 for kids and seniors. Houston Museum of Natural Science, One Hermann Circle Drive. Tickets/info: 713-639-4629 or www.hmns.org. Info in Spanish: 713/639-4603.

♦ **Museum.** Chris Sauter investigates the role of the viewer, the art object, and the role of the institution in shaping how art is experienced. To achieve this, Sauter will construct a smaller gallery within the main gallery using materials taken from the main gallery itself. Through Oct. 22 at DiverseWorks, 1117 East Fwy. Info: 713/223-8346 or www.diverseworks.org.

♦ **Mystery of the Nile.** Marvel at the beauty of the world's greatest and most deadly river in this documentary adventure. A team of explorers travel deadly crocodiles, dangerous hippos, the world's most hazardous whitewater rapids, malaria, and temperatures topping 120°F. Traverse Egypt, Ethiopia, and Sudan with these daredevils as they struggle to become the first in history to run the Blue Nile from source to sea. \$7 for adults; \$4.50 children (3-11), students, and seniors. Opens Oct. 1 at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, One Hermann Circle Drive. Tickets/info: 713/639-4629 (713/639-4603 for Spanish) or www.hmns.org.

♦ **Perspectives 148: Su-En Wong** is the debut of New York painter Su-En Wong and her large-scale self-portraits. Although her work is formally related to '60s and '70s color field painting, her images are undeniably her own, placing herself in seductive and humorous costumes and settings. Oct. 7-Jan. 15 at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, 5216 Montrose Blvd. Info: 713/284-8250 or www.camh.org.

♦ **Reading Between the Lines.** Houston Center for Photography opens the fall season with this show of paranormal narrative and humorous phrasing. Victoria Crayhon, Nate Larson, and Juan Miguel Ramos exhibit. Through Oct. 23 at Houston Center for Photography, 1441 W. Alabama. Info: 713/529-4755 or www.hcponline.org.

♦ **Robert Gober: The Meat Wagon.** Combining disparate objects like legs and a fireplace Gobler creates psychologically charged pieces he termed "sculptural memories." Since his foray into the art community in the early '80s, he has made a name for himself as one of the most evocative sculptors of his generation. Oct. 28-Jan. 22 at the Menil Collection, 1515 Sul Ross. Info: 713/525-9400 or www.menil.org.

♦ **The Surreal Calder.** The works and achievements of the ubiquitous artist Alexander Calder are couched in a surrealist context. The exhibit comprises approximately 90 objects conceived of as a suite of six galleries. Through Jan. 8, 2006, at The Menil Collection, 1515 Sul Ross. Info: 713/525-9400 or www.menil.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. It 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.

CALENDAR DEADLINE
for the November issue:
Wednesday, October 12, 5 p.m.

After the Storm

Continued from page 62



Roger Bumgardner (standing, far r) and members of the Houston Community College (HCC) and Memorial Hermann Hospital radiography programs worked to provide X-rays at the convention center. With Bumgardner, standing l-r: Carlos Lopez, HCC; unidentified X-ray equipment sales representative; Heather Hopson, Memorial Hermann; seated, l-r: Janet Richards and Cissy Timm, both HCC.



Guests at the September 13 GLBT Night at Hollywood Vietnamese & Chinese, hosted by the Houston GLBT Community Center, included Paige Mahogany, Community Awareness for Transgender Support; Sally Huffer, Montrose Counseling Center; and Sharli'e Hicks of New Orleans with her friend Courtney. Hicks is the trans woman who made national news when she was arrested and jailed for showering in a women's facility in a shelter in College Station.

SEE WHAT 2005 HAS IN STORE
FOR YOU...



LILLY RODDY

ASTROLOGER

**PERSONAL, RELATIONSHIP,
and BUSINESS READINGS**

• Past Life Regressions

• Reiki Master

• Astrology Tape Series

Consultations by
Appointment Only

713.529.5842

GIFT CERTIFICATES • CREDIT CARDS

Voted BEST ASTROLOGER
by OutSmart Readers

lillycath@aol.com • www.lillyroddy.com

In memory of
Kevin Davidson

Follow every
rainbow till you
find your dream.

Kevin Davidson

AUGUST 2, 1956 – SEPTEMBER 28, 2005

Kevin Davidson, a native of North Lewisburg, Ohio, passed away September 28, 2005 at the age of 49.

Kevin was owner of The Resume Company, a founder of H.A.T.C.H., a safe, affirming social environment program for gay youth, and a founding member of the GLBT Chamber of Commerce. In addition, Kevin was a board member of EPAH, and board chair of PFLAG-H.A.T.C.H. Youth Scholarship Foundation and Houston GLBT Political Caucus.

We will miss you, but your legacy lives on! Thank you Kevin.



GREAT GAYS!

Check out the results of our ninth annual Gayest & Greatest reader survey, beginning on page 26. Thanks to everyone who joined us at one of our eight ballot parties in July. The crowds included (above) Sophia Cheung (on the l) and Lucy Limon at Meteor on July 6 and (left) Terry Folsom (on the l) and Desneiges Young with dancer Norman Ritch at JR's Bar & Grill on July 20.

Time Out



Joel Skeen took OUTSMART to the Casa Rosada (Pink House) in Buenos Aires.

SHOW US YOUR OUTSMART!

Joel Skeen posed with a magazine in front of the Casa Rosada, the Argentine presidential palace, in Buenos Aires. "I forgot to take the bicycle hat off. The South American traffic was a fright," Skeen wrote.

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.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Check out these events supported by OUTSMART:
10/11 **GLBT Night at Hollywood Vietnamese & Chinese** hosted by the Houston GLBT Community Center, with door prizes provided by OUTSMART. Info: 713/524-3818, www.houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org.
10/9, 10/23 **Concerts in the new Mukuru Art for AIDS Series**, which supports AIDS Foundation Houston programming (see "On With the Shows," September OUTSMART). Info: www.mukuru.org.
10/23 **Desperate Montrose Housewives**, the annual Halloween Magic show benefiting four AIDS service organizations at Hobby Center. Info: www.halloweenmagic.org.



FUNDRAISING BY THE BOOK

We are donating half of the purchase price from the sale of each copy of *Our Lives and Times*, the brand-new coffee-table book that compiles some of the best articles from OUTSMART's first decade, to nonprofit GLBT organizations in Houston. If your organization would like to sell *Our Lives and Times* as a novel fundraiser, contact OUTSMART general manager Tom Fricke, 713/520-7237 or TomFricke@OutSmartMagazine.com.

Pamper the man in your life

WHISKEY HIS SPA

Now offering
Ear Candling

gift certificates
available

- Full Body Massage
- Reflexology
- Hot Stone Massage
- Massage Cupping
- Body Treatments
- Aroma Cooons
- Sunless Tanning
- Facials/Back Facials
- Waxing
- Manicures/Pedicures

Texas' First Full Service Spa Exclusively for Today's Man
Est. 2004
2505 Grant Street • Houston, Texas 77005

(713) 52-METRO
525-3876

Open Daily 9am-9pm • Sundays Noon-9pm
Mondays Are Co-ed • Tuesdays By Appointment Only

Thank you, OutSmart readers, for your vote of support and confidence.

*Are you facing an uncertain future
because of health or financial concerns?*

Call us today to see if the sale of your life insurance policy may be the answer you are seeking.

The funds can be used to:

- \$\$ Offset Medical Expenses
- \$\$ Replace Lost Income
- \$\$ Supplement Retirement
- \$\$ Pay Off Debts
- \$\$ Provide For Loved Ones

We are here to provide expedient, personal and confidential assistance to you and answer any questions you may have.
Please call today - we are here to help!

Today Live Well
www.todaylivewell.com
1-866-336-6088
A registered viatical / life settlement broker

LAUNCH PARTY!

October 22nd : 6-9 p.m.
Special drink prices : Free hors d'oeuvres
Meteor : 2306 Genesee : 7/521-0123

Launch of "Shadows," the 2006 calendar fundraising project for Houston Buyers Club by David Lewis & Rob Tomlin.

3224 Yoakum Blvd. houstonbuyersclub.com 713.520.5288

vitamins herbs sports nutrition

Houston Buyers Club

TRK FITNESS

We can get
your **MIND RIGHT**
and your
BODY TIGHT

713.667.7072
4676 Beechnut • Houston, Tx

Business News

In the wake of the Hurricane Katrina disaster, the October 31–November 1 **2005 National GLBT Business Convention** has been moved from New Orleans to Dallas by the event host, **Echelon**, the Los Angeles-based GLBT business magazine. A portion of convention registration fees convention will be donated to GLBT New Orleans disaster relief through EQualitySource, a new West Hollywood-based nonprofit group (www.equalitysource.org) that supports organizations that promote GLBT equality. Equality Source is also home of the new Gay Ad Council (www.gayadouncil.org).

The convention, which has the theme "Building the Gay Economy Through Recognition, Inspiration and Purpose," will include the October 31 GLBT Media Forum, an all-day seminar on marketing and advertising. Keynote speaker at the media forum is **Bob Witeck** (l), co-founder and chief executive officer of Witeck-Combs Communications (www.witeck-combs.com), the Washington, D.C. public relations and



advertising firm that specializes in developing strategies for reaching the GLBT consumer market. Additional speakers include **Michael Wilke** (r), founder and executive director of The Commercial Closet Association (www.commercialcloset.org).



Workshops scheduled for the November 1 main convention include "Big Marketing for Smaller Businesses" and "Small Business–Pitching the Media." Exhibitors/sponsors include Sun Microsystems (www.sun.com), Hyperion Interactive Media (www.himcorp.com), Scarborough Research (www.scarborough.com), NeTV Networks and Studios (www.nettv.com), Multi Market Media (www.multimarketmedia.com), and DiversityInc (www.diversityinc.com).

Last year, 200 people attended the first Echelon-hosted convention in Los Angeles, according to magazine publisher Michael Lamb. "We are projecting 300 per day, totaling 600 at this year's event," he said.

The fee for the full two-day convention at the Wyndham Anatole is \$350, \$250 for the media forum only. The fee for the main convention only is \$150 (\$100 for business association/chamber of commerce members). Discounted group rates are available. Details and registration: www.echelonmag.com, 323/653-1960.

The founders of the **National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce**, joined by other GLBT business leaders, made history on June 20 as the first gay organization to ring the closing bell at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) in honor of Pride month.

Participants in the ceremony (in front, l–r) included **Paul Haber**, Gay Financial Network (www.gfn.com); **Zoa Martinez**, ZONA Design owner and founder; **John Thain**, CEO, NYSE; Gay Financial Network founder and NYSE board member **Walter Schubert**; chamber co-founder **Chance Mitchell**; chamber co-founder **Justin Nelson**; **Howard Buford**, CEO, Prime Access and chamber founding member; and **Patricia Vivado**, chair of the chamber board of directors and a Lehman Brothers vice president.

Recognition by the NYSE that the gay community is "an important part of the American economy, should send a signal to everyone, that discrimination in any form only weakens our country," said Schubert, who is a chamber board member.

The national chamber website is www.nglcc.org.



Jeff Vannice, PhD

Psychologist



Practicing
since 1990

Gay/Lesbian Issues
Children/Adolescents/Adults
Parenting Issues
Spirituality
Individuals/Couples/Families

1415 N. Loop West, #780
Houston, TX 77008
(Between Shepherd and Ella on the N. Loop)

713-426-4455

515 WESTHEIMER, SUITE E.
713.533.9098
OPEN DAILY, 11AM–LATE NIGHT

Thank you OutSmart Readers
for voting us **BEST SUSHI RESTAURANT** again!

COUNSELING & PSYCHOTHERAPY

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

DENISE O'DOHERTY
3730 KIRBY DR., STE. 910 • HOUSTON, 77098
(713) 524-9525

HOUSTON HOMETECH
HOME TECHNOLOGY
SOLUTIONS FOR
FELLOW HOUSTONIANS

- HOME THEATER
- WHOLE HOUSE AUDIO / VIDEO
- LIGHTING / SHADE CONTROL
- HOME AUTOMATION

SPECIAL THIS MONTH:
**PLASMA THEATER
PACKAGES**

HOUSTON
HOMETECH
www.houstonhometech.com
713.494.3582

Center for Healthy Sexuality

Treatment of:

- Intimacy & Relationship Issues
- Obsessive Compulsive Disorders
- Sexual Addictions
- Internet Addictions
- Depression/Anxiety Disorders
- Court Assessment & Evaluations
- Sex Offender Treatment

713.785.7111

Barbara S. Levinson Ph.D., RN, LMFT

Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist

Certified Sex Therapist Diplomat

Certified Sex Addiction Therapist Supervisor

2400 Augusta Dr. • Suite 120 • Houston TX 77057

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



This is not a model!! Lucy is an actual client!

Pet Sitting
IN THE HEIGHTS

Experienced • Bonded • Professional • References
Competitive Rates: \$24/day or \$12 per visit.
Special 25% Cash, or New Client Discount!

713-869-3698

P.S. in the Heights

Dalton DeHart PHOTOGRAPHER

Recent events on website:

- Montrose Softball League
- Bering Omega Community Events
- Bunnies on the Bayou & Jungle 13
- The Diana Foundation Events
- GMCH & HRC Events
- Art Car Parade
- Pride Parade & Related Events

...and many other events!



www.daltondehart.com

FREE FREE FREE

My name is Jackie and I have found perfect apartment homes for thousands of folks! My free service covers the entire Houston Area. I will always find you the very best deal but more importantly, I will find you the apartment that is right for you. I can escort you if needed and I will even give you a free gift when you move in. Call me 24 hours a day! I am the agent that is always ready to work for you!

Call **JACKIE** at **713.775.5080**

Thank you
OutSmart Readers
for your vote
of support & confidence

Riva's
SINCE 1977

BEST ITALIAN RESTAURANT
2005 OutSmart Readers' Choice Awards

Riva's Italian Restaurant

1117 MISSOURI STREET 713.529.3450

One block north of
Westheimer off Missouri

Marketplace Home Guide

List your property here!
For advertising information, call 713.520-7237.

**Your agent.
Your advocate.**

Auto Home Renters Life Health
Business And much more!



Elijah Kabalka

Rob Schmerler Insurance Agency

6575 West Loop South, Suite 185 713.661.7700

www.schmerleragency.com



1335 West Clay Lofts
Modern Patio Home by MDGI
Approx. 3100 s.f., media rm.,
3 bdrms, wood & stone flrs.
Pre-construction \$480's



1708-10 Stanford
1st Floor Living, 2-story,
Exquisite Finishes, 3/2.5/2
Island Kitchen, Hardwoods,
Granite, Patio. \$360's

Robert Gray 713.298.1481

GRAYHOMETEAM.COM

THE METROPOLITAN
KELLER WILLIAMS



1326 Vassar. Mediterranean-Style Home located on an Oak-Lined Street in Southampton, between Montrose and Mandell. Restored/Updated by an Interior Designer. 3 BR, 2 Bath, High Ceilings, Hardwood Floors, Crown Molding. Ready to Move In, just turn on the Lights. \$599,000

THE METROPOLITAN
KELLER WILLIAMS

Randall Hebert
832.878.5210

www.RandallHebert.com



Montrose—The Burlington

3502 BURLINGTON ST. #11
Beautiful two-story
2-2 condo in historic
Westmoreland District
...\$165,900



For sale by owner: Montrose two-story condo in historic Westmoreland District. Quiet 19-unit complex. Just minutes from Downtown, Galleria, Rice University, University of Houston, and the Medical Center. Spacious 1,200+ sq. ft. unit, large pool with heated spa, new central air/heat. Security gates with cameras. \$165,900. A great investment for individuals, students or roommates! Call 713/866-7805.

JOSE MCDONALD
MORTGAGE CORPORATION

TXMB 49346

5444 Westheimer, Suite 1560 • Houston, TX 77056

Call 713/446-0303. Ask for Jose.

- Free approval in 20 minutes!!
- Purchase, Refinance, Equity loans
- We shop your loan with over 75 lending institutions
- BAD-CREDIT EXPERTS
- We can help you find a realtor, a home, an inspector, and the title company
- Everyone deserves a home!



Upper Kirby 3 story custom town home. Hardwoods on 1st & 2nd floors, private master retreat, 4-1/2 baths with tumbled limestone floors, kitchen with Brookhaven cabinets, granite, stainless appliances, ornamental ironwork on staircase, 3rd floor game room/media, Elevator. \$549,000

Judy Anderson
Duffy & LaRoe Realtors

281-463-1141

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

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

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

For advertising information
call 713-520-7237.

our Lives and TIMES

Our Lives and Times is a glossy coffee-table book of celebrity interviews, inspiring stories, and commentary from newsmakers and personalities collected from the first decade of Houston's gay, lesbian, bi, and trans magazine. The 160-page hardcover volume celebrates *OutSmart's* 10 years of publication.

We donate half of the purchase price from the sale of each book (\$20 plus tax plus shipping for mail/online orders) to nonprofit GLBT groups in the Houston area. Community organizations: Contact us about raising funds by selling *Our Lives and Times*.

For book orders, call (713) 520-7237 or visit www.OutSmartMagazine.com.

OutSmart



Fabulous Interviews



Sharon Gless



Debbie Reynolds



Dame Edna



Tony Curtis



Cyndi Lauper



Sandra Bernhard



Harvey Fierstein



Kathy Najimy



Margaret Cho



Sean Hayes

...plus many more.

OutSmart Marketplace

• ACCOMMODATIONS

Lovett Inn
• PARTIES
• CEREMONIES
• BANQUETS
• LODGING
713.528.6433 • WWW.LOVETTINN.COM
NEW INN KEEPER
DAN LUEKEN & TODD PARTRIDGE

RAINBOW RANCH CAMPGROUND
New Owners
New Management
Texas' Largest GLBT Campground (RV/Tenting/Pool/On the Lake)
NOW WITH A NEW PIER AND PAVILION!!
www.rainbowranch.net • 888.875.7596

ROCKIN' R CAMPGROUND
(RV'S/TENTING) RV HOOK UP'S • GREAT HOME BASE RATES • LARGE POOL
BATH HOUSES/LAUNDRY
Located 6 miles west of TX Renaissance Festival
SPECIAL RATES FOR OCT/NOV
MAKE IT A WEEKEND EVENT
936/894-2030
www.RockinRRanch.net

Rent by the day, week, month or year...
Fully furnished 2/3 townhouse, excellent for corporate lodging. Living room (w/ sleeper sofa), dining room, kitchen & 2 car garage. Located next to Lovett Inn with access to all its amenities.
For more information, call The Lovett Inn at 713-522-5224 or 800-779-5224 or email reservations@lovettinn.com

Lovett Inn
For more information, call The Lovett Inn at 713-522-5224 or 800-779-5224 or email reservations@lovettinn.com

• ARCHITECTURE

LDG LEWIS DESIGN GROUP
Architecture • Design
Health Care • Commercial • Residential
Gregory P. Lewis, A.I.A.
License No. 13322
1512 38th Street • Galveston, TX 77550
409/762-3746 • www.lewisdesigngroup.biz

• CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

Helping Gays/Lesbians with Business & Tax Problems & Inheritance Tax Issues
Serving Houston & Galveston
Certified Public Accountant
Business Consultant
Paul R. Wasserboos
713/526-4760 • 409/939-6922

• CHURCHES/SPIRITUALITY

"A Place where doubts are welcomed and wounds are embraced"
NEW COVENANT CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)
3400 Montrose, 207
Sun Worship 11 am
832.723.6948 • Rev G. Todd Williams
www.radicalchristians.org

• CHURCHES/SPIRITUALITY

"The Voice Celestial"
Sunday talks in October by Rev. Dr. Jesse Jennings surround a Searcher's journey through the wisdom of the ages.
Weekly at 9am & 11am
with children's classes at 11.
Creative Life Spiritual Center
5326 Spring-Stuebner • Spring, TX
www.creativelife.org 281.350.5157

• CLEANING/MAID SERVICE

KAEHLER CLEANING SERVICE since 1995
"...continually the best!"
Residential & Commercial
Call John 713/861-6181
kingkaehler@sbcglobal.net

• CONSTRUCTION/REMODEL

2bcreative "Another Design by Keith"
Affordable & Reliable
New Construction & Remodel
Custom and Fine Finish
Mention this ad to receive a 10% discount
Keith Collins Mobil: 832-865-9051
www.2bcreative.com
keithcollins@2bcreative.com

• EMPLOYMENT

GAY ENTREPRENEURS!
Once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Looking for talented, determined individuals to be a part of a like-minded community.
5-year-old company growing at a tremendous rate.
CEO earnings, exotic travel, pure fun.
This is the real deal!
1-800-318-9787x4039
www.milliondollarminds.net.

General Office Manager: Permanent position for very special person, in Montrose area dental & psychotherapy office where patient care is paramount. Outstanding customer service, organization, telephone, computer, management, & accounting skills are required. Personally, you must be exceptionally personable, flexible, attentive to detail, easy to work with, highly motivated, well groomed, & a quick study. Dental or health care experience preferred, but not required. Increase in salary & benefits in 2nd yr of employment to reflect performance. FX 713/529-4337 or Tony@HoustonTherapist.com

• HEALTH

ZENO CLEARLY OUTSMARTS PIMPLES!
MOST pimples disappear in 24 hours - safe, painless, handheld device. FDA approved. NO doctor visit needed! See our display ad in this month's OutSmart! 713/461-5252 or visit us at www.justwhatthedoctorordered.com.

• MASSAGE

BODY MASSAGE
• Full Body
• Feel Awesome
• Centrally Located
• Outcalls Welcome
713-942-2399
7 days/evenings
Visa/MasterCard accepted
Roland, RMT

Dave's Hands
Know More Than He Does
Swedish • Polarity • Shiatsu
Hablo Pleno y Hago Con Mis Manos
832/443-2229

Massage Therapy
Swedish, Deep Tissue, Aromatherapy, Tropical Setting
www.oasispalms.com
Paul@oasispalms.com
"now in Montrose"
281-827-2908

ROBERT RMT
[713] 824-6230
massage therapy • deep tissue • SWEDISH

THE ART OF GIVING PLEASURE. Tall, muscular, masculine. State Licensed. AMTA Certified. 11 yrs experience. Incredible, full body, high energy, total release massage. Interloop. Mike 713/963-9603.

Paul Rutledge
713/592-0444
• Voted best massage therapist TX Triangle Readers 2000 & 2001
• Light to deep tissue
• On-site chair massage
• Serving for over 7 years
• Gift certificates available
• Major Credit Cards Accepted
In/Out Calls • Flexible Hours
www.PaulRutledgeMassage.com

BODYMAGIC • STRESS RELEASE • DEEP TISSUE • MONTROSE • IN/OUT • 9 AM - MIDNIGHT • 713-529-8787.

Luigi
MT 027249
• Therapeutic & Relaxing
• Stress Relief
• Convenient Galleria Area
• Deep Tissue
• Nice Touch
• Out Calls Welcome
MAGIC HANDS
281/804-8027

• MASSAGE

HEALING HANDS. Caring and healing hands with Swedish, Deep Tissue massage. Balancing your life by restoring flow and energy. Peaceful, relaxing and rejuvenating for total health. RMT#2233. Howard Kanelakos 713/528-6174.

Massage Therapy
Therapeutic & deep tissue by Jason RMT.
Body Shaving avail.
Montrose area
713/524-5400
or
www.jasonrmt.com

Integrative Massage
• earth
• fire
• spirit
Holistic Facials and Waxing
Aliver
832/264-5961
The Ultimate Relaxation
Cuts, Color, Highlights
4-style MT • 4-hand massage, also
SkyBar Bldg • Wkends, too

In or Out calls.
Waxing, Facials,
Relaxation,
Sports, or Light/
Deep Massage.
713/540-7544
MT#014552
Call Joe

Ken Claude RMT
713.240.9598
www.kenclaudemassage.com
Best Massage Therapist
OutSmart's Reader's Choice
Awards 2004

LePepe Salon of Beauty
Master Stylist/Color Specialist • Precision Haircuts • Corrective Hair Color • Highlights
• Massage and more!
713/622-1622
In/Out Calls
3303 South Rice #100
Richmond/S. Rice
Underground Parking
www.hairandmassagebylepepe.com

MASSAGE BY ISAAK, Therapeutic Swedish Massage and Deep Tissue, receive 10% off on your first visit. Call for appointments. 713/249-1469.

• MASSAGE

Zeppelin Massage
"voted one of the best massage therapists 3 years in a row"
Sports & Deep Tissue
Tom Zeppelin, RMT
713.542.0426
www.zeppelinmassage.com

John Rodriguez
Massage Therapist
Galveston Island
409/765-5863
jpaulrod@aol.com

Legitimate Therapeutic Massage. Full body aromatherapy massage in a relaxing environment using a combination of deep-tissue & Swedish techniques. 1-2 hour sessions available as well as tandem packages for couples. Private Montrose studio/shower facilities & relaxing atmosphere. A Truly healing & stress relieving experience you will recommend to all. Call Zach, 713/533-1472. (RMT # 041010)

John Rodriguez
Massage Therapist
Galveston Island
409/765-5863
jpaulrod@aol.com

GARY FREDRICK MASSAGE
Not satisfied with the work you've received. Call me! In call or Out call, Athletic Deep Tissue, Restorative Therapy, Swedish Massage. Call for an Appointment. Located in the Galleria/Westchase area.
RMT # 033026

• MASSAGE

www.inkworkx.com/massage.htm
THANK YOU for selecting
T.O.C.A.R.
BEST MASSAGE
winner of
OutSmart 2005
713.802.0439

Beverly's Therapeutic Massage
Wednesday - Saturday • 9-5:30
Call for an Appt: 281-513-3275
Please, cash or check only
Beverly Walter RMT MT104886

Classic Massage
"In The Heights"
Maturity and experience. Great rates. Relaxing, therapeutic massage in private studio in the Heights. 10 am - 9 pm weekdays and weekends 12-10 pm. Call for appointment, Byron 713/202-9786. Visit my website at www.classicmassage.com. Four hands available.

Reward Yourself
A NICE TOUCH, RELAXATION OF BODY AND MIND BY
LEE
Centrally Located
7 Days/Evenings/Out Calls Welcome
832.978.7017

• REAL ESTATE/FOR LEASE

MONTROSE GARAGE APT, GREAT STREET! 2118 Elmen #1, 492R, near Empire Cafe, 1BR/1BA, \$425/mo, call Barbara 713/526-9242, bjelvine@texas.net.

FUN AND CLEAN-CUT PROFESSIONAL looking for a responsible roommate in Midtown Houston. 1 bedroom 1.5 bathroom for rent. All utilities paid. \$600. Call for more details 713/492-9370.

• REAL ESTATE/SALE OR LEASE

iCityCondo.Com
The Smart Choice
Condominiums For Sale or Lease
1-888-CONDO-20
(26636-20)

• REAL ESTATE/SALE

ANDY WEBER
JOHN DAUGHERTY
REALTORS
713/724-4306 CELL
713/626-3930 DIR
ONE4ANDY@AOL.COM
1116 W 16TH ST
\$260,000

• REAL ESTATE/FOR SALE

FIRST-TIME BUYERS
Why rent when you can own?
Free list of homes available with no money down. Under \$1,100/month.
Free recorded message.
1/877/599-3873 ID# 1001

Spacious Montrose two-story condo in historic Westmoreland District. Quiet 19-unit complex. Just minutes from downtown, Galleria, Rice U and Med. Center. Spacious 1,200+ sq. ft. unit, new central air/heat, large pool with heated spa. Security gate with cameras. \$165,900 A great investment for individual, students or roommates. Terre Cottman/Coldwell Banker 713/866-7805.

NO MONEY DOWN
Free list of properties available with no down payments.
Free recorded message.
1/877/599-3873 ID# 1025

• SERVICES

GRANITE COUNTER TOPS
BY BRENDA
713-410-0236

SPIRITUAL ADVISOR FROM LOUISIANA
Now in Houston!
To Inquire Call 713/863-0525 or 337/898-0676
Phone Sessions Also Available
Curtis LaGrange

DEETERS PET SITTING AND SPOILING: Insured/bonded, with 25 yrs experience and references. Offering dog walking, cat tending, pet taxi, and last-minute emergencies are okay. \$17/visit/\$60/24 hrs. Phone: 713/861-7898, and leave message or email: deetersp@deeterspetsitting.com - Don't wait, book early.

SERVICES OF THE HEART
Let Thomas assist you to honor life's special events, Holy Unions, Memorials
713/522-7626

MARKETPLACE AD RATES

Marketplace Classifieds are per column inch. Column inch width is 1.688. Word line ads are 30 words or less, plus \$1 per additional word and 50 cents for all words in bold. Add additional \$6 per issue to have your classified ad appear on our website. Ads can also be placed on our secure website at www.OutSmartMagazine.com.

Marketplace	1 Month	3 Month	6 Month	12 Month
Color Boxed Ad per inch	\$62	\$57	\$52	\$47
B/W Boxed Ad per inch	\$47	\$43	\$38	\$35
30-Word Line Ad	\$27	\$25	\$23	\$22

Deadline: Oct. 12 for the November 05 Issue. Order by phone & pay by VISA, MC, AMEX, or Discover. Or FAX it 713/522-3275. Sorry, we do not bill. Mail ad & payment to: OutSmart 3406 Audubon, Houston, TX 77006-4412. For more information, call 713/520-7237.

• SERVICES

Who's watching your kids when you're away?
• Experienced • Bonded
• Professional
P.S. Pet Setting in the Heights
Call Daniel
713/869-3698

NO JOB TOO SMALL FREE ESTIMATES
A RAINBOW OF COLOR
Gay Owned and Operated
SHEETROCK REPAIRS • WALLPAPER REMOVAL
PAINTING • TEXTURES • 832.567.3804

• TRANSPORTATION

www.libertycab.net
713.695.6700
Meeting Your Transportation Needs
24 Hrs. a Day

Things in Life You Can Trust:

Spot Grandma
OutSmart's Circulation Numbers!

An ad placed in OutSmart magazine reaches loyal, interested readers. OutSmart's circulation figures are audited independently by Verified Audit Circulation, your guarantee of an accurate count.

VERIFIED AUDIT CIRCULATION
www.verifiedaudit.com

Verified Audit Circulation is a national auditing service respected for over 50 years in the publishing industry.
Insist on Audited Circulations like OutSmart. For advertising information call 713/520-7237.

OutSmart Advertisers

OCTOBER 2005 FOR ADVERTISING INFO CALL 713/520-7237

Show your OutSmart Pride Card and get special discounts, free admissions, and exclusive offers from OutSmart advertisers!
(Look for the  pride card and merchant offer)

ACCOMMODATIONS

Casa Condesa	800/816-4817
Acapulco, Mexico	
The Lovett Inn	713/528-6433
501 Lovett, Houston	
Sand N Sea Pirates Beach	409/737-2556
www.sandnsea.com	
The Victorian Condo/Hotel	800/231-6363
6300 Seawall/Galveston	

ADVERTISING/MARKETING

Gay and Lesbian Yellow Pages	713/942-0084
Center for AIDS	281/997-9778
Gay and Lesbian Rainbow Pages	
OutSmart Magazine	713/520-7237
3406 Audubon Place	

AIR CONDITIONING/HEATING

Kenny Walker A/C Service	832/287-6117
kennywalkerservice@sbcglobal.net281/330-4284	
Tejas Air Inc	

APARTMENTS/FOR LEASE

Castlewood Apartments	713/686-3352
7000 Westview	
Chateaux Dijon Apartments	713/626-3660
5331 Beverly Hill	

ASTROLOGER

Lilly Roddy Astrology	713/529-5842
10% OFF ASTROLOGICAL READINGS	

ATTORNEYS/LEGAL SERVICES

Kahn Law Firm/Jennifer Kahn	713/226-9900
1314 Texas, Ste 1012	
Law Office of Mark Levin, Attorney	281/355-7936
2813 West T.C. Jester	
Melissa S. Harper	281/224-4422
1314 Texas Ave	
Moore and Hunt	713/522-4282
3608 Audubon	
Nechman, Simoneaux and Frye, PLLC	713/227-1717
www.nsfaw.us	
Onan & Associates/All Onan & Victoria Wang	713/771-9988
6100 Corporate Dr., Ste 590	

AUTOMOTIVE REPAIRS

Tech Auto Maintenance	713/863-8244
37 Waugh Drive	

AUTOMOTIVE SALES

Planet Ford	20403 I45 North
Ruday Gonzalez/Service Depart.	888/251-9135
Scott Sprouse/Sales	281 465 3804
Momentum BMW/Jimmy Doan	832/545-7099
10002 Southwest Fwy	
Russel & Smith Ford	713/663-4798
3440 South Loop West	

BOOK STORES

Borders	713/524-0200
3025 Kirby	

CAB COMPANIES

Liberty Cab	713/695-6700
-------------	--------------

United Cab	713/699-0000
------------	--------------

CATERING

"...of course!" Catering	713/526-1800
1701 California	
Ziggy's Healthy Grill & Catering	713/527-8588
2202 W Alabama	

CHURCHES/SPIRITUAL CENTERS/TEMPLES	
------------------------------------	--

Bering Memorial	713/526-1017
1440 Harold	
Creative Life Spiritual Center	281/350-5157
5326 Spring-Stuebner	
Community Gospel Church	713/880-9235
4305 Lillian	
Dignity Houston	713/880-2872
2515 Waugh/dignityhouston.org	
Maranatha Fellowship	713/528-6756
3333 Fannin, Ste 106	
Resurrection MCC	713/861-9149
2025 W. 11th Street	

CLEANING SERVICES/DRY CLEANERS	
--------------------------------	--

Maid in the Shade	713/665-6243
www.cleantthis.com	
Perfection Plus Service	713/664-9911

CLOTHING/FOOTWEAR

Al's Formal Wear	713/730-4TUX
www.alsformalwear.com	

M2M	713/521-0804
3400 Montrose, Ste 105	
Male U Wear	713/527-8499
415 Westheimer #104	

COMMUNITY/NONPROFITS

Assistance Fund	713/529-4788
1116 Jackson	
AVES/Amigos Volunteers in Education & Services	713/626-2837
807 Hawthorne	
Black Tie Dinner, Houston	www.houstonblacktiedinner.org
Center for AIDS	713/527-8219
1407 Hawthorne	
Center for Clinical Studies	713/528-8818
EPAH - Executive & Professional	www.epah.org
Fresh Arts Coalition	713/703-7171
www.fresharts.org	
Gay & Lesbian Community Center	713/524-3818
3400 Montrose	
Houston Buyer's Club	713/520-5288
3224 Yoakum	
Houston Dept. of Health & Human Services	713/794-9020
HIV/STD InfoLine	
Planned Parenthood	713/831-6573
3604 Fannin	
Pride Institute	800/54-PRIDE
www.pride-institute.com	

COMPUTERS/INTERNET/IT SERVICES	
--------------------------------	--

Atomar Communications/Anthony Bures	713/528-0404
Copy.com	713/528-1201
1201-F Westheimer	
Kenny Walker Services	281/355-7936
kennywalkerservice@sbcglobal.net281/330-4284	
Timiner Consulting Group	866/490-1824
www.timinerconsulting.com	
CONSTRUCTION/REMODELING	
2bkreative/Kelth Collins	832/865-9051
5338 Bourgeois Road	
Allegro Home Builders	713/880-8899
1533 Heights	

ENTERTAINMENT/NIGHT LIFE

ARToberFEST	www.artoberfest.com
Galveston Island	
Broadway in Houston/Evita	713/629-3700
BroadwayAcrossAmerica.com	
Chances /The Barn/G-Spot	713/523-7217
1100 Westheimer	
Downtown Lofts Tour	www.galveston.com
Galveston Island	
Fluff the Kat Great Music	www.fluffthekat.com
Grand 1894 Opera House	409/783-7173
2020 Postoffice, Galveston	
Guava Lamp	713/521-3359
570 Waugh Dr	
Houston Comets	713/627-WNBA
JR's/Santa Fe	713/521-2519
808 Pacific	
La Cueva Tequila Lounge	832/203-8574
2312 Crocker	
Magic Island	713/526-2442
2215 Southwest Fwy	
Meteor	713/521-0123
2306 Genesee	
Montrose Mining Company	713/529-7488
805 Pacific	
Pace Concert/Gwen Stefani/Depeche Mode	866-4HOUTEX
gwenstefani.com	
paceconcerts.com	
South Beach	713/529-7623
810 Pacific Street	
Theatre Under the Stars/Chicago	713/558-TUTS
www.tuts.com	
Time-Warner Cable	713/341-1000
www.twchouston.com	
Texas Renaissance Festival	www.texasrenfest.com
Undercurrent	409/750-8571
2409 Market, Galveston	

FINANCIAL SERVICES

AXA Advisors/George Hawkins & Chris Laakso	713/402-6406
777 Post Oak Blvd, Ste 450	
Fiducial Services/Ronald E. Mock	713/523-1923
404 W. Alabama	
Green/White Advisors	713/889-1144
1225 N. Loop West, Ste. 1030	
Optimal Health	409/741-2006
9055 Katy Freeway, Ste 101	

Hubbard Financial Services	713/522-9000
2615 Montrose Blvd.	
Jean Border Insurance/Financial Services Agency	713/334-0900
2825 Wilcrest, Ste 515	
Tri-Star Financial/Bill Moritz Jr	713/735-9217
5718 Westheimer, Ste 950	
Washington Mutual	713/884-2806
4400 North Freeway, Ste 300	

FITNESS CLUBS/TRAINERS

Houston Gym	713/880-9191
1501 Durham	
Kimberly Marler, Personal Trainer	832/443-FITT
Muscle Mechanics/John Aaron	713/523-5330
617 Richmond	
TRK Fitness/Steve	713/667-7072
4678 Beechnut	

FLORIST

Flowers Etc. By Georgia	713/524-3989
1818 Waugh Dr	

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS/PRINTING

House of Coleman	713/523-2521
901 W. Alabama	
Vilven Design Group	713/526-3212
1709 Colquitt	

GROCERIES

Kroger	713/526-7865
3300 Montrose	

HAIR/NAILS/SKIN CARE/SALONS

METRO His Spa	713/52-METRO
2606 Grant	
Tanacious Tanning	713/942-8267
1216 Westheimer	

HEALTH CARE

CHIROPRACTIC/THERAPY

Chimney Rock Chiropractic/Art Keller, D.C.	713/781-3344
3033 Chimney Rock	
Franco Chiropractic Clinic/Fernando Franco	713/526-5959
3400 Montrose, Ste 550	
Kirby Health&Wellness Center/Kenneth W. Lester	713/526-5252
3930 Kirby Dr., Ste. 108	
Mad-Crew/Dr. Dirk Hunter	713/526-5252
3930 Kirby Dr., Ste. 108	

COUNSELING/THERAPY

Bering Support Network/Daniel Garces	713/526-1017
1440 Harold	
Tony Carroll, LMSW-ACP	713/527-0000
1006 Missouri	
Deborah Denson, LMSW-ACP	713/850-7225
2900 Westway, Ste. 535	
Daniel Garces, MS, LPC, LMFT	713/526-8390
5316 Mt. Vernon	

20% OFF INITIAL VISIT.

David Genac, PhD, MBA	713/899-3769
1537 Castle Court	
Enod Gray, LMSW-ACP, C. HL, CSAT	713/522-7014
4200 Montrose	
Miles D. Glaspy, LMSW-ACP	713/529-1913
1973 W. Gray #20	
Jon-Paul Hamilton, PhD	832/434-8514
4200 Montrose, Ste 540	
Barbara Levinson, PhD/ Ctr for Healthy Sexuality	713/785-7111
2400 Augusta Dr. Ste. 120	
Denise O'Doherty	713/524-9525
3730 Kirby, Ste 910	
Robert Snellgrove, LMSW-ACP	713/522-7014
4200 Montrose, Ste 540	
Jeff Vannice, PhD	713/426-4455
1415 N. Loop West, Ste 780	
Lisa Wannemacher, LPC, NCC	713/463-9449
www.CounselingHouston.com	

DENTISTS

Bruce W. Smith, DDS	713/529-4364
1006 Missouri	
LifeSmiles/Randy Mitchmore, DDS	713/592-9300
1722 W. Alabama	

HEALTH SERVICES/PRODUCTS

First Choice HomeCare	713/526-6469
3336 Richmond, Ste 325	
Houston Buyer's Club Discount Vitamins	713/520-5288
3224 Yoakum	
Houston Dept. of Health & Human Services	713/794-9020
HIV/STD InfoLine	
Mega Life and Health Insurance/Dawn Adkins	713/614-8668
www.NASWeb.com/DawnAdkins	
Montrose Clinic	713/830-3000
215 Westheimer	
Optimal Health	713/461-5252
9055 Katy Freeway, Ste 101	

MASSAGE THERAPIST/YOGA

Alan Davidson, RMT/Essential Touch	713/942-0923
20% DISCOUNT OFF FACIALS	

Ken Claude, RMT	713/240-9598
www.kenclaudemassage.com	

OPHTHALMOLOGISTS

Montrose Clinic/Frost Eye Clinic/Dr. Scott Sawyer	713/830-3033
3311 Richmond, Ste 100	
Stewart Zuckerbrod, MD	713/668-9118
5420 Dashwood, Ste 101	

OPTOMETRISTS

Eye Elegance	713/622-4411
3966 Westheimer	
Spectacles on Montrose	713/529-3937
4317 Montrose # 2	

PHYSICIANS

Nurture Health/Patrick J. McNamara, MD	713/524-4837
4101 Greenbriar, Ste 355	
Rod Frazier, MD	713/521-0340
1214 Hermann Dr #845	
Schrader Clinic/Shannon Schrader, MD	713/526-1717
4101 Greenbriar, Ste 200	
Skin Renaissance Laser/Octavio Barrios, MD	713/942-7546
106 Westheimer, Ste A	

HOME FURNISHINGS/ACCESSORIES

Bliss on 19th	832/673-0099
235 West 19th St	
Brandon Home Furnishings	713/785-7888
8648 Glenmont	
IKEA	713/688-7867
7810 Katy Fwy	
Mid-Century Pavilion	713/863-1986
2215 Washington	
Right Futons	713/464-9233
11313 Katy Fwy	

INSURANCE AGENCIES/AGENTS

Farmers Insurance Group/Pippa Wiley	713/957-4297
Insurance Associates Group/Jeffrey T. Bules	713/523-9400
3303 Louisiana, Ste 130	
Jean Border Insurance/Financial Services Agency	713/334-0900
2825 Wilcrest, Ste 515	
Rob Schmerler Insurance Agency/Elijah Kabalka	713/661-7700
6575 W. Loop South, Ste. 185	
Rob Schmerler Insurance Agency/Rob Schmerler	713/661-7700
6575 W. Loop South, Ste. 185	

JEWELERS

I.W. Marks Jewelers	713/668-5000
3841 Bellaire Blvd.	
Steven Cash Jeweler	713/626-0800
2043 W Gray	

LANDSCAPE/POOLS/DECKS

Windswept Landscape Studios	713/263-7771
1356 Chippendale Rd	

PET SERVICES/SUPPLIES

Cat Veterinary Clinic/Dr Paula Runte	713/523-5171
2125 W Alabama	
Near Town Animal Clinic/Dr Randy H. McBride	713/526-1502
1314 Woodhead	
P.S. Pet Sitting Service in the Heights	713/869-3696

PHOTOGRAPHY

Dalton DeHart Photography	713/622-2202
David Lewis Images/David Lewis	713/240-5508
davidlewisimages.com	
Varsity Productions / John Conroy	713/542-8277
6217 Edloe	

PLUMBING

Larry French Enterprises	713/956-7733
--------------------------	--------------

PRINTING/COPY CENTERS

Copy.com	713/528-1201
1201-F Westheimer	
House of Coleman	713/523-2521
901 W. Alabama	
Angelia Cooper	713/742-8434
2431 Little York	
Joe Paxton	713/523-1627

PSYCHIC/INTUITIVE READERS

Lilly Roddy Astrology	713/529-5842
10% OFF ASTROLOGICAL READINGS	

REAL ESTATE SERVICES REALTORS

Darrell Aguilar/Keller Williams	713/480-8612
550 Post Oak Blvd, Ste 350	

||
||
||

BAR & CLUB GUIDE

HOUSTON

BARTINI

This club near the Westheimer curve now features Exquisite Wednesdays ladies' nights, with no cover before 11 p.m. Thursday is talent night hosted by Cookie La Cooke and DJ Tony Powell. 1318 Westheimer • 713/526-2271.

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.

BRICKS II

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

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 1415

On Wednesday, Boys & Girls Club takes over the second-floor club space. Papi Chulo night on Thursday features an amateur strip contest. Fridays-Sundays are special-event nights. 1415 California • 713/522-7066.

CLUB BIG YO

Woman-owned and -operated, the Southwest Houston nightspot operates Thursday-Sunday. Big Yo also presents monthly concerts. 6305 Skyline • 713/953-0268 • www.bigyosplash.com.

CLUB INERGY

A nightlife institution for 12 years, this Southwest club offers an eclectic mix of Latin rhythms, main-stream dance, and hip hop. Sunday is the special show night. 5750 Chimney Rock • 713/666-7310 • www.clubinergy.com.

COUSINS

Drag fans frequent this club in the heart of Montrose for its campy shows on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. 817 Fairview • 713/526-9204.

LA CUEVA TEQUILA LOUNGE

Arturo Caluiche recently opened this club in the former Briar Patch location, featuring 86 top brands of tequila in the full bar. Though La Cueva is not specifically a gay bar, Caluiche welcomes all tequila fans. 2312 Crocker • 832/203-8574.

DECADES

This casual neighborhood bar attracts a devoted crowd of regulars. It hosts a Monday pool tournament and Wednesday dart tournament and offers free pool on Friday. 1205 Richmond • 713/521-2224.

EJ's

Located on the western front of Montrose, EJ's retains the charm of a colorful, local hangout. Night shows, including community benefits, pack the stage. The

upstairs martini bar offers a quiet retreat. 2617 Ralph • 713/527-9071 • www.ejsbar.com.

EVE

On Friday and Saturday, this spot for women takes over the space above Azteca's Bar & Grill. The guys move in with G Spot on Wednesday and Sunday. 2209 Richmond • 713/523-3837 • www.evestfirst.com.

G-SPOT

George Smith and his Icon Media pack the spot above Azteca's (known as Eve on Friday and Saturday) for

night on Wednesday. 5742 Chimney Rock • 713/666-7472.

MARY'S

The oldest gay club in Houston, this is a legendary nightspot, even though not as notorious as in days past. Mary's is the site of numerous community fundraisers. 1022 Westheimer • 713/527-9669.

METEOR

Weekly evenings at this chic Montrose video bar include Musical Theatre Night on Monday, Drag Queen Bingo on Tuesday, and Professional Women's Happy

Rich's features a Martin Audio sound system from London, billed as first of its kind in the southern United States. 2401 San Jacinto • 713/759-9606 • www.richs-houston.com.

RIPCORD

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

THE SOCIAL

DJ and promoter Gracie Chavez hosts Les Femmes du Nuit, a female DJ and vocalist night, on the third Thursday at the Heights nightspot. She reports that the crowd includes a growing contingent of GLBT folk. 3730 Washington • 713/426-5585 • www.thesocialinfo.com.

SOUTH BEACH

The patent 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 (7623) • www.SouthBeachTheNightclub.com.

VIVIANA'S

This club near downtown appeals to fans of Latino music and drag alike. 5219 Washington • 713/882-0203.

XCAPE

Lyrica 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.

Spring

RANCH HILL SALOON

The Canoe club has packed up and moved south to a new home near The Woodlands. The Spring location still features the Wall of Fame and the famous saddle from the old watering hole. • 24704 I-45 North, Suite 103 • 281/298-9035 • www.ranchhill.com.

Galveston

GARZA'S KON TIKI

OutSmart readers voted this Strand spot the best club for dancing in the latest Gayest & Greatest poll. On Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights, the club hosts popular drag shows with the Muscle Action dancers. 315 Tremont • 409/765-5805 • www.thekontiki.com.

THE PINK DOLPHIN

Eldridge Longinals recently announced plans to close his Paradise Guest House soon after he opened this club in the old 3rd Coast Beach Bar location. The club and deck offer a great beach view. 9th and Seawall Blvd. • 409/621-1808.

ROBERT'S LAFITTE

A neighborhood bar, the Island institution attracts a colorful crowd of regulars and travelers. The private

patio includes a swimming pool. On Saturday and Sunday nights, the Ladies of Laffite show takes the stage. 2501 Avenue Q (at 25th) • 409/765-9092.

3RD COAST BEACH BAR

OutSmart readers voted this Seawall spot the best happy hour in our Gayest & Greatest poll. Thursday is karaoke night. 3rd Coast presents cabaret/variety shows on Friday and Saturday nights. 31st and Seawall Blvd. • 409/765-6911 • www.3rdcoastbar.com.

THE TREMONT HOUSE

Smart Island visitors stop by the atrium bar in the Strand district hotel to hear Oma Galloway play. From our July 2003 issue: "Galloway doesn't merely tickle the ivories. He performs." 2300 Ship's Mechanic Row • 409/763-0300.

UNDERCURRENT

Marvin Grenier and Keith Curry have moved their club from Seawall to downtown. The multi-level, 15,000-square-foot space includes two bars with dance floors, a nonsmoking lounge, a game room, and Curry's art studio. 2409 Market • 409/750-8571 • www.undercurrentgalveston.com.

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 Wednesday and frequent live music, especially on Friday & Saturday. 6025 Martin Luther King • 409/832-0808.

Send bar/club news to
clubguide@outsartmagazine.com.

LIBERTY CAB Co. Inc.



Transportation
Shouldn't Be Scary -
Reserve Your Halloween
Transportation Now

HOUSTON OWNED & OPERATED

Call and Set Up a Corporate Account Today

713 695-6700

Excellent 24-Hour Service Since 1981

www.libertycab.net

1 or more
Same Price!

Flat Rate
To And From
Houston Airports

2ND LARGEST
FLEET IN
HOUSTON



WE ACCEPT RESERVATIONS



All Vehicles are independently leased & operated by Independent Contractors. Rates regulated / City of Houston



BEHIND THE BAR

WHO: Sam Echols

WHERE: Undercurrent,
2409 Market, 409/750-8571

WHAT'S UP: OutSmart readers named Undercurrent best Galveston club in two Gayest & Greatest categories (see page 26).

the new Wet Wednesday hip-hop night and again on Sunday. 2209 Richmond.

GUAVA LAMP

The club left Shepherd Plaza and recently reopened with a larger space near Allen Parkway. Guava Lamp presents karaoke nights on Sunday and Wednesday and offers a free happy hour buffet on Friday. 570 Wough • 713/524-3359.

HOUSE OF FINESSE

At her private-events facility near the Texas Southern University campus, Deldre Sam hosts socials for women on the first Thursday of the month and for men on the second Wednesday as well as special events. 2912 Wentworth • 713/522-6074 • www.houseoffinesse.com.

JR's/SANTA FE

The features at this Montrose standard include pool tables, go-go boys, and karaoke. Kofi, named best drag queen in the 2004 Gayest & Greatest OutSmart reader poll, hosts popular shows Wednesday thru Sunday. 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, and pool tables. DJ Kenny Jammz hosts karaoke

Hour on the first and third Wednesday. 2306 Genesee • 713/521-0123 • www.meteorhouston.com.

MICHAEL'S OUTPOST

The neighborhood club has become a piano bar. A regular roster of pianists includes Phil Hooper, and the club books talented keyboardists from out of town. 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.

PRIVE

The patio at this second-floor spot overlooks the lively Westheimer/Montrose intersection. The mixed crowd includes smartly dressed gays as well as non-gays. 910 Westheimer • 713/522-2542.

RAINBOW ROOM

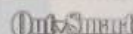
Every Thursday, Heather Moon hosts Karaoke Night at this north Houston club. DJ Kenny supplies music on Friday and Saturday. The club has begun presenting live music. 527 Barren Springs • 281/872-0215 • www.therainbowroombar.com.

RICH'S HOUSTON

After a hiatus as a nongay music venue, Rich's has returned as the dance club you knew. The refurbished

Would your business like to profit from this space?

Monthly Gay & Lesbian Spending Patterns
• Dines Out 4-5 times per week • Attends Live Performances
2-3 times per month • Goes to a Club or Bar 2 times a week



Call 713.520.7237

FLUFF THE KAT

THURSDAYS
9pm-1am

Chances

OPEN MIC

www.myspace.com/fluffthekat
www.chancesbar.com
www.fluffthekat.com

Galveston Island's
Largest and
Best Dance Club

Best Place
to See Male Dancers

OutSmart
Readers' Choice Awards 2005

2409 Market
Multi-Level • 15,000 Square Feet

UNDERCURRENT

Every Day: Happy Hour 2-5 pm
Power Hour: Fri & Sat 9-10 pm:
\$2.50 Mixed Well
\$1.50 Domestic
\$2 Premiums

Sundays: T-dance 4pm-2am
All day: \$2.75 Drafts; \$1 Well Vodka,
Mimosas, Shiners & Mich Ultra

Check our Web site for upcoming events
www.undercurrentgalveston.com

409.750.8571

Have you ever
come back from the
beach stressed?



Helping Houstonians relax since 1974

GALVESTON RESORT RENTALS AND SALES
800.880.2554 • WWW.SANDNSEA.COM



October is certainly an active and busy month, astrologically speaking. First, on the 1st, Mars, the yang planet of action, goes retrograde. Typically, this means that people's ability to take a risk or confront an issue is turned way down low. And Mars stays in retrograde until mid-December. Neptune goes direct on the 26th, as its yearly cycle dictates. You can expect hidden issues to be revealed in the news. Expect some of that news to concern oil companies. Finally, we have a Solar eclipse on the 3rd at 10 Libra and the Lunar eclipse on the 17th at 24 Aries. These will trigger increased awareness in relationships and problems associated with them, both business and personal. Expect renewal or resolutions in your relationships. • Good days to be alive are October 4, 5, 7, 12, 21, and 22. Days to stay in and eat chocolate are October 1, 3, 14, 15, 17, 18, and 28. • The Sun starts the month in Libra and slips into Scorpio, almost unnoticed, on the 23rd. Mercury speaks so kindly in Libra and becomes more honest and sarcastic as she enters Scorpio on the 8th. Lovely Venus ends her journey through Scorpio and rushes into Sagittarius on the 7th. Mars will be grinding his way through Taurus until mid-February. Jupiter finishes her journey through Libra and enters Scorpio for the next year on the 25th. Saturn is in Leo, Uranus is in Pisces, Neptune is in Aquarius, and Pluto is in Sagittarius.

ARIES (March 21–April 19). Relationships are highlighted this month. You will want to spend free time with close friends or your romantic partner. If you are single, this will attract people. If you are business minded, this will help your interaction with clients or potential clients. You are also very focused on resources, which will remain a theme for about five months. This is a great time to get finances in order. You may be looking at investments as well. Better to invest in December than now.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20). Lately, things have been a bit edgy for your Bulls and Cows. With Mars on an extended visit in Taurus, this is not likely to ease soon. Now is the time to confront issues that have loomed in the past, pay attention to your health, and set some boundaries. If you turn this energy inward, you are going to explode later and at the wrong person or situation. New relations are just on the horizon, so working on boundaries will help. Home and family issues remain. Choose where you want to participate and you won't be resentful.

GEMINI (May 21–June 21). This is the month to utilize your creative skills and talents. You are better at putting your ideas to constructive application than in the past. You are still restless with your work, and boring will be your new word unless you have a new project to work on. You will be looking for a new place to work if you don't have a new undertaking. By the end of the month, you are interested in getting your life, workplace, and home in better order. Don't get caught up in the bickering at work. You may end up getting blamed even though you are just trying to help.



SCORPIO (October 24–November 21). You are in a more laid-back or restful mode than you were last month. Even though your career drive stays strong, you probably won't feel as motivated until the end of the month. Try to keep your commitments to a normal limit. You are a bit more sensitive than usual, and crowds can take their toll. Take some time to get your life and your surroundings in order, because, as Jupiter enters your sign for the next year, you are going to be one busy person. Be sure you set some clear goals. With all the upcoming extracurricular activity, you will have a hard time completing them.

CANCER (June 22–July 22). Thoughts and feelings drift to home and family. You may be feeling nostalgic. A trip home will certainly help you to feel more secure. For those of you born without a navel, creating a strong family around you for the support that you certainly need is important. Issues of money and finances are still roving around in your brain. Get a handle on that problem so you don't feel overburdened. If you would just get started, you could have it all done in no time at all. The fear that you have about what you will find is much worse than what you will find. By the end of the month, you are more playful.

LEO (July 23–August 22). With Saturn, planet of re-evaluation, in your sign for the next two years, we know what you will be doing with every part of your life. With anything that is not working, Saturn will help to define that issue so that you are totally unable to avoid it, no matter how hard you try. The more you address issues, the better. You are especially good at communicating your views this month. You are telling people more about what you want rather than doing for others, hoping that they will return the favor (which they usually don't). Work tends to be edgy and possibly hostile. Don't take a rigid stand unless you have some other place to work.

VIRGO (August 23–September 22). This is a financial and resource month. It is a great time to reassess what you do, how well you utilize your resources, and how you apply your talents to create a strong economic base to operate from. Relationships are far from stable. Long-term relationships will be tested to rid you of boring or limiting relationships. If you are in a relationship and you want it to last, there has to be some renewal now. The end of the month gets very busy. Get all of your ducks in row, because you won't have time later.

LIBRA (September 23–October 23). Happy birthday to the Libras. This is your month to focus on yourself without any guilt or repercussions. With every yearly birthday cycle, it is a great time to review the past year and plan ahead. One area of strong focus this month will be your relationships with friends and groups. For any organization that you belong to, you will be determining its significance for you. You will not be renewing memberships in many of those groups. You expect your friends to be much more supportive. If they aren't, you will be eliminating those friendships. Next month, you will be focused more on finances and resources.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22–December 21). Two areas of your horoscope are activated, friendships and social activity and improving health and work habits. You may have already placed extra focus on health. With Mars making an extended stay in your health area, you should be able to address diet and exercise and follow through with it. The same can be said about your work place and co-workers. Get rid of the fat and excess. This is a great month to spend in any kind of social activity, situations, or groups, which can help to rest your mind from all the work you are doing.

CAPRICORN (December 22–January 19). The planets are traveling through your career sector your favorite place for planets to move. It is a great time to promote yourself or business or look for another place to work if you are unhappy. Your partner's resources are a bit tight, and we are depending on you to pull us through. On the lighter side, this is going to be a really active social time for you for until next October. This will also help your business contacts. Activity will pick up at the end of the month.

AQUARIUS (January 20–February 18). As an intellectual sign, you are into thinking and looking at the big picture this month. You will have an excellent view of how things work and how it all fits together. And at the same time, you are putting energy into your home, fixing and repairing. It wouldn't hurt to have some social activity there, too. But you are a very private person, and only the very special get invited to the castle of the Queen of Hearts. Work and career activity pick up at the end of the month. Be ready.

PISCES (February 19–March 20). This month, you will want and need a relationship or a very close friendship. Because you will want someone to share the deeper parts of your soul, you will need a good mirror to yourself. You have been feeling a bit detached from your environment and the people around you. You are ready to make some re-connections. Pay attention to your health through the fall. It wouldn't hurt to have a check up. By the end of the month, you will be ready for a lighter view of life and maybe even some travel.

A professional astrologer for 20 years, Lilly Roddy (www.lillyroddy.com) counsels individuals and teaches classes. Read her annual forecast, which appeared in our January issue, at www.outsmartmagazine.com.

Thank you, OutSmart Readers...

For choosing **Premier Wireless**
as the
Best Cellular Phone Provider!



—Lea Bogle
President Premier Wireless

Save on a range of **NEXTEL** phones
with two-year agreement.

Features include: walkie-talkie, Web access, multimedia messaging, color screen, speakerphone, GPS capability.



i265 by Motorola*

Buy One, Get One Free*

Buy 2 phones for \$49.99 each, get
the price of one back after \$50
mail-in rebate.



i275 by Motorola

Buy One, Get One Free*

Buy 2 phones for \$99.99 each, get
the price of one back after \$100
mail-in rebate.



i836 by Motorola

\$174.99*

Reg. \$324.99
Save \$150



i860 by Motorola

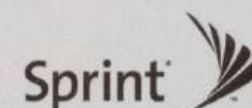
\$249.99*

Reg. \$399.99
Save \$150

**Your phone: Powerful.
Your incoming calls: Free.**

FREE Incoming Plan
All incoming calls are free. From anyone.
From any network. At any time. From Nextel.

Plans start at
\$49.99 per month. Other monthly
charges apply. See below.



Together with NEXTEL

Authorized Representative

*All phone offers require new activation, two-year subscriber agreement and trial Nextel Data Service Pack subscription per phone.

Freedom Rings

**Premier
WIRELESS**

12220 MURPHY ROAD

FREE DELIVERY! CALL (281) 575.8500

Offers expire November 12, 2005 unless otherwise noted or while supplies last. Featured phone offers require two-year service agreement per phone, credit approval, new activation and data service subscription (\$10-\$20/month). Data service is free for one month, after which a monthly charge will apply unless canceled during trial period by calling customer service at 800-Sprint-1. Mail-In Rebates: Forms must be postmarked no later than November 25, 2005 and received no later than December 2, 2005 for i265 and i275 Buy One, Get One Free offers. Allow 8-12 weeks after phone purchase, activation and mailing in of a complete and valid rebate form to receive rebate check. One rebate per phone purchase. May not be available in all markets. Full terms and conditions on rebate form or visit nextel.com/rebates. Additional Fees: \$200 early termination fee after 14-day trial period (30 days in CA). \$36 activation fee per phone. Other Terms: Nextel reserves the right to cancel/extend offers without notice. Offers may not be available in all markets. The Nextel National Network reaches over 263 million people. ©2005 Sprint Nextel. All rights reserved. SPRINT, the "Going Forward" logo, the NEXTEL name and logo, the FOCUS ON DRIVING logo and other trademarks are trademarks of Sprint Nextel. MOTOROLA and the Stylized M Logo are registered in the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office. All third-party product or service names are property of their respective owners. All rights reserved.



OUT IN HOUSTON

1 Jason Wilson (r) and Chris Alanis threw a housewarming party on July 30.

2 On Aug. 13, brothers Bobby Pinard (r) and Johnny Pinard were among the Houston Gay & Lesbian Parents family that enjoyed a day as Six Flags AstroWorld, which closes this month.

3 On Aug. 9 at the monthly GLBT Night at Hollywood Vietnamese & Chinese Restaurant, Houston GLBT Community Center president Christopher Bown (l) presented a certificate to Hollywood owner Danny Denh in thanks for contributions to the center's An Art Affair benefit event in March.

4 Parents at the July 22 Houston Gay & Lesbian Parents' Parents Night Out event at Steak & Ale included Laura Lackey (l) and Karen Morrey.

5 The crowd at the annual Denim Party on July 31 at Brazos River Bottom included (l-r) Charles Sanford, Tom Sue Bessire, Mike Dowdy, and Darwin Prescott.

6 Christine Rook (r), brand-new Texas A&M University graduate, posed with proud mom Sara Rook, the Houston Transgender Unity Committee board member, after the May 14 commencement in College Station.

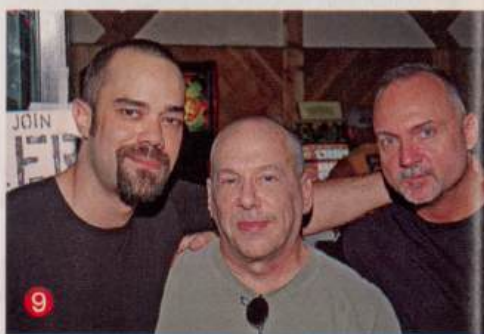
7 Kaye Sedilla (a.k.a. Tim Martinez) was one of the hopefuls in the July 17 Miss Mint Julep contest benefiting Montrose Clinic at Club 1415. Kendra Dior (a.k.a. Keith Vyvial) claimed the title.

8 Houston GLBT Political Caucus president Maria Gonzalez presented the new inclusive logo at the Aug. 3 caucus PAC endorsement meeting at the Houston GLBT Community Center. See caucus endorsements for the November 8 elections on page 57.

9 BJ Smith (l) welcomed Alan Hurwitz (c) and Kermit Kurtz at his Aug. 7 Internet Rescue event at The Ripcord. Smith plans a second event for November.

10 Chrissy Gephardt, political activist and openly lesbian daughter of former congressman and presidential candidate Richard Gephardt, spoke at the Aug. 7 Uncommon Legacy Houston Extra Mile Awards Banquet at the Intercontinental Houston.

11 On Aug. 20, HATCH held a carwash at Mary's to raise money for a trip to Dallas to participate in the Alan Ross Freedom Parade. On the job were (l-r) HATCH youth services worker Deb Murphy (l) volunteer facilitator Mitch Rainey, Sam Duplechain, Chris Vasquez, Jeremy Lewis, Andy Bishop (member of SeaShell, the GLBT group at Shell, who had his car washed), Michelle Harris, and Colleen Herndon.



"I'd do anything to look just like him, except eat right and exercise."
— Comedian Steve Martin at the Academy Awards

Getting in shape isn't easy, but it can be done. Our staff is trained to design effective exercise programs, and give you all the motivation you need to reach your goals!

Take the first step toward looking your best, and call now for your free consultation.

MUSCLE MECHANICS

THE GYM FOR PERSONAL TRAINING

WWW.MUSCLEMECHANICS.COM 713-523-5330

Thank you, OutSmart readers, for voting me **Best Personal Trainer** for 3 consecutive years!
—John Aaron

We Welcome Drips

FEATURING

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

with Pride

SANTEC

U-PLUMB-IT

1424 MONTROSE 77019
713.942.2277

TANKLESS
GAS WATER HEATERS

NORITZ
ALWAYS HOT

BRIGHT LIGHTS BIG CITY ★ ★ ★ ★

November 12, 2005

InterContinental Hotel
Dinner, Silent & Live Auction

Entertainment: Kathy Griffin

Music: Rotel & The Hot Tomatoes

HOLLYFIELD POLITICAL

HONOREE
Randall Ellis

HUMANITARIAN HONOREE

Tori Williams



2005 BENEFICIARIES

AIDS Foundation Houston

AssistHers

Bering Omega Community Services

Casa De Esperanza

Montrose Counseling Center

Uncommon Legacy Houston

Tickets Now Available

www.houstonblacktiedinner.org

Walgreens

**STATSCRIPT
PHARMACY**

The Hollyfield Foundation
HUMAN RIGHTS • AIDS ADVOCACY

**Continental
Airlines** 