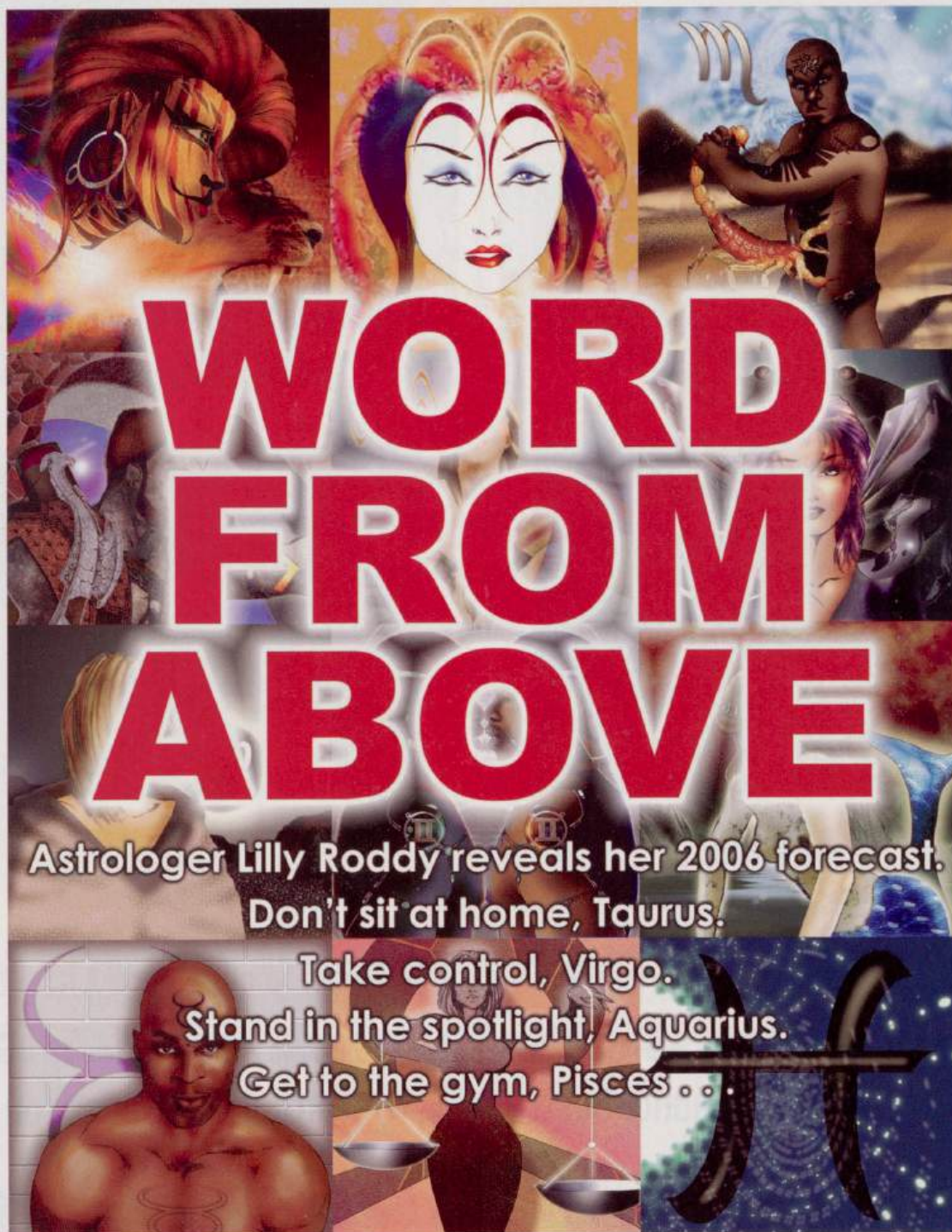


OutSmart

JANUARY 2006
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Houston's gay, lesbian, bi, and trans magazine



WORD FROM ABOVE

Astrologer Lilly Roddy reveals her 2006 forecast.
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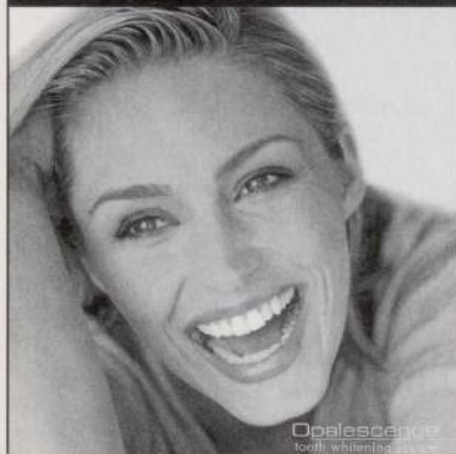
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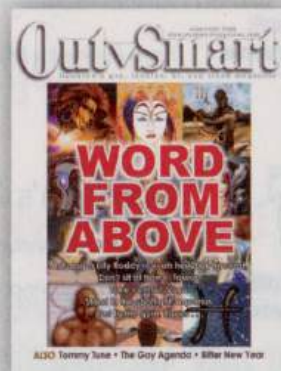
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About the cover:
Lilly Roddy's annual astrological forecast begins on page 42.
Illustrations: David Eduardo Flores Perez
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YOUTH MOVEMENT. Especially at this time of year, community leaders of a certain age tend to ask, "Where is the next generation?" Well, here are two examples of younger activists. Jennifer Poche (left) recently joined the board of the Houston GLBT Political Caucus at the request of president Maria Gonzalez. Poche, who works in a Montrose camera store, and partner Diana Chew, a restaurant manager, have volunteered with Houston Equal Rights Alliance—and its earlier incarnation, Equality Knocks—and the recent No Nonsense In November campaign. Poche, 28, and Chew, 35, also belong to Groove Girlz Productions, the women's social group whose next party is March 3 at Club 1415.

Photographed by Yvonne Feece



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ON THE RUN.

These four members of Frontrunners Houston will compete in the January 15 Chevron Houston Marathon: (clockwise from seated) Reinel Solano, Al Salinas, David Brackus, and Raul Martinez. Brackus (and fellow Frontrunner Richard Peoples) will run the 26.2-mile marathon, and Salinas, Solano, and Martinez (along with Rick Potter) will run the 15.5-mile half marathon. Race fans can watch the competitors right in the neighborhood: The course, which begins and ends at the George R. Brown Convention Center downtown, barrels up Montrose Blvd. The local Frontrunners are affiliated with the International Front Runners, the organization of GLBT running and walking clubs.

Photographed by Kelly Catchings



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Important Safety Information

WARNING: INVIRASE (saquinavir mesylate) capsules/tablets and FORTOVASE (saquinavir) soft gel capsules are not the same and cannot be used interchangeably. INVIRASE may be used only if it is combined with ritonavir, which greatly reduces saquinavir's metabolism to provide blood saquinavir levels at least equal to those achieved with FORTOVASE. When using saquinavir as the only protease inhibitor in an anti-HIV regimen, FORTOVASE is the recommended formulation.

- Taking INVIRASE/ritonavir with certain drugs could create potential for serious and/or life-threatening side effects. INVIRASE/ritonavir should not be taken with Pacerone®, Tambocor®, Rhythmol®, bepridil, quinidine, Seldane®, Hismanal®, ergot medications, Propulsid®, Versed®, Halcion®, rifampin, pimozide or products containing St. John's wort
- Garlic capsules should not be used while taking saquinavir as the only protease inhibitor, due to the risk of lowered saquinavir blood levels
- Taking INVIRASE with Mevacor® or Zocor® is not recommended. Caution should be used if HIV protease inhibitors, including INVIRASE, are used at the same time as other medications like these that are used by the body in the same way
- Discuss all medicines, including those without a prescription, and herbal preparations you are taking or plan to take with your doctor or pharmacist
- INVIRASE should not be taken if you have had a serious allergic reaction to INVIRASE or any of its ingredients
- INVIRASE/ritonavir should not be taken if you have serious liver problems. Tell your doctor if you have or have had liver disease, such as hepatitis

- People with severe kidney problems have not been studied when taking INVIRASE. Tell your doctor if you have or have had kidney problems
- In people taking protease inhibitors, increased bleeding (in people with hemophilia) has occurred as well as diabetes/high blood sugar
- Some people taking INVIRASE/ritonavir have had increases in cholesterol and/or triglycerides
- Changes in body fat have been seen in people taking anti-HIV medicines. It is not known if taking protease inhibitors causes these changes, and the long-term effects are not known at this time

INVIRASE is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. INVIRASE does not prevent the transmission of HIV.

INVIRASE and FORTOVASE are registered trademarks of Hoffmann-La Roche Inc. Ritonavir is manufactured by Abbott Laboratories. Though used in combination as part of a boosted protease inhibitor regimen, INVIRASE and ritonavir are separate prescriptions.

Other brand names appearing in this advertisement are trademarks of their respective manufacturers.

References:

1. Yeni PG, Hammer SM, Hirsch MS, et al. Treatment for adult HIV infection: 2004 recommendations of the International AIDS Society—USA Panel. *JAMA*. 2004;292:251-265.
2. Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in HIV-1-Infected Adults and Adolescents. Panel on Clinical Practices for Treatment of HIV Infection, US Dept of Health and Human Services; October 6, 2005.
3. Dragsted UB, Gerstoft J, Pedersen C, et al. Randomized trial to evaluate indinavir/ritonavir versus saquinavir/ritonavir in human immunodeficiency virus type 1-infected patients: the MaxCmin 1 Trial. *J Infect Dis*. 2003;188:635-642.

Please see accompanying summary of patient product information.

INVIRASE in combination with ritonavir and other anti-HIV medicines is used to treat HIV infection. INVIRASE should always be used with ritonavir.

Power

- Guidelines recommend Boosted INVIRASE when starting HIV therapy that includes a protease inhibitor¹

Tolerability

- INVIRASE appears to be much better tolerated in terms of stomach-related side effects than FORTOVASE® (saquinavir) soft-gel capsules²
- Cholesterol and triglyceride levels increased by less than 10% in patients taking treatment regimens that included saquinavir for a year³
- In clinical studies, the most commonly reported side effects of FORTOVASE of moderate or severe intensity were: changes in body fat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, feeling tired and pneumonia

Fewer Pills

INVIRASE (saquinavir mesylate) is available in a 500-mg tablet. Compared with older versions of saquinavir, the 500-mg form of INVIRASE means you get the same powerful treatment option in just **2 pills twice a day** when boosted with a low dose of ritonavir.[†]

[†] 200-mg formulations of INVIRASE and soft-gel Fortovase both require 5 pills twice a day.



Pharmaceuticals

INVIRASE[®] 500_{mg}
(saquinavir mesylate)

Ask your doctor about the INVIRASE 500-mg tablet—a treatment option that gives you power and tolerability in fewer pills.

You can also visit www.INVIRASE.com for helpful information about Boosted INVIRASE and about living with HIV.

Individual results may vary.

PATIENT INFORMATION ABOUT INVIRASE® (IN-ver-ase)

(saquinavir mesylate) Capsules and Tablets
Generic Name: Saquinavir mesylate (sa-KWIN-a-veer mes-il-late)

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

Please read this product information carefully before you start taking INVIRASE and each time you renew your prescription. There may be new information. Reading this information can help you take this medicine correctly. However, it is not a substitute for your doctor's advice about the safety and benefits of INVIRASE. You should talk to your doctor about INVIRASE as part of your long-term treatment plan for HIV before you start taking your medication and ask any questions you may have at regular checkups. Remember, you should remain under a doctor's care when using INVIRASE and should not change or stop your therapy without talking to your doctor first.

What is INVIRASE?

INVIRASE belongs to a class of anti-HIV medicines called protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitors. INVIRASE Capsules and Tablets in combination with other anti-HIV drugs are used for the treatment of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome).

How does INVIRASE work?

INVIRASE fights HIV as it grows inside cells by blocking an enzyme (protease) that HIV needs to reproduce.

How is INVIRASE different from FORTOVASe® (saquinavir)?

Both INVIRASE and FORTOVASe contain the same active ingredient—saquinavir. When INVIRASE or FORTOVASe are taken two times a day with ritonavir, a similar amount of saquinavir gets into the blood to fight HIV. However, FORTOVASe can be taken three times a day without ritonavir and the correct amount of saquinavir can get into the blood.

INVIRASE should never be taken without ritonavir. FORTOVASe may be taken without ritonavir if you are not able to tolerate even a small amount of ritonavir.

You should not substitute one for the other. If the medicine you receive does not look like the light brown and green capsule (INVIRASE), it is not the right drug. Talk to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you are not sure that you have the right medication.

Who should not take INVIRASE?

Anyone who has had a severe allergic reaction to INVIRASE or any of the ingredients in the capsule or tablet should not take it. The use of INVIRASE in patients under 16 years of age, over 65 years of age, or patients with severe liver problems has not been fully investigated.

How should INVIRASE/Norvir® (ritonavir) be taken?

- The recommended dosage of INVIRASE in combination with Norvir® (ritonavir) is INVIRASE 5 capsules or 2 tablets twice a day taken with 1 capsule of Norvir twice a day. In some combinations, your dose may change.

- INVIRASE must be taken along with Norvir (ritonavir).

- INVIRASE must be taken with meals or up to 2 hours after a meal—but it is easiest to remember if you take it with your meals. When INVIRASE is taken without food, the amount of INVIRASE in the blood is lower and may not fight HIV as well.

- When taking INVIRASE and other anti-HIV medicines, it is very important to follow the directions exactly and take your medication every day. If you skip doses—or take less than the prescribed dose—the medicine will not work as well, and your disease could get worse.

—If you miss a dose, you should take the next dose as soon as possible. However, do not double the dose.

What results have been seen with INVIRASE?

INVIRASE with ritonavir has been shown to reduce the amount of virus in the blood ("viral load") and increase CD₄ (T) cells when taken with other HIV therapy.

What are the side effects of INVIRASE?

People treated with INVIRASE in combination with Norvir may have side effects. The majority of these have been described as mild. In clinical studies of patients who received saquinavir in combination with Norvir and other HIV drugs the side effects seen most often were: body fat change (5.4%), nausea (10.8%), vomiting (7.4%), diarrhea (8.1%), stomach pain (6.1%), tiredness (6.1%), and pneumonia (5.4%).

Diabetes (new onset or worsening) and increased blood sugar levels have been reported with the use of protease inhibitors. In addition, increased bleeding in patients with hemophilia has also been associated with these drugs.

When saquinavir is taken with ritonavir, some patients may experience large increases in triglyceride and lipid levels. The long-term chance of getting complications such as heart attack and stroke due to increases in triglyceride and cholesterol caused by protease inhibitors is not known at this time.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking anti-HIV medications. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breasts, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs and arms may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

These are not the only side effects that can occur with INVIRASE. Your doctor can discuss with you a more complete list of side effects and laboratory abnormalities that may accompany this medication.

If any side effects or unusual symptoms do occur, contact your doctor immediately. Do not stop or decrease your dose on your own. Lowering the dose may make INVIRASE less effective in fighting HIV.

Are there other medications that I should not take with INVIRASE/Norvir (ritonavir)?

There are some drugs that should not be taken with INVIRASE. Before starting therapy with INVIRASE, be sure to tell your doctor all of the medicines—prescription medications, as well as over-the-counter drugs and nutritional supplements—that you are now taking or plan to take.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH INVIRASE

Drug Class	Drugs Within Class Not to Be Taken with INVIRASE/Norvir (ritonavir)
Antiarrhythmics	Pacerone® (amiodarone), Tambacor® (flecainide), Rhythmol® (propafenone), bepridil, quinidine
Antihistamines	Seldane® (terfenadine)*, Hismanal® (astemizole)*
Antimigraines	Ergot medications (eg, Wigraine® and Cafergot®)
GI motility agents	Propulsid® (cisapride)*
Sedatives, hypnotics	Versed® (midazolam), Halcion® (triazolam)
Antimycobacterial agents	Rifampin
Neuroleptics	Pimozide

*No longer sold in the US.

INVIRASE causes increased blood levels of these compounds. This can lead to serious or life-threatening reactions such as irregular heartbeat or prolonged sedation.

Taking INVIRASE with St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort is not recommended. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease INVIRASE levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to INVIRASE or cross-resistance to other antiretroviral drugs.

Garlic capsules should not be used while taking FORTOVASe as the sole protease inhibitor due to the risk of decreased saquinavir in the blood. No data are available for the co-administration of FORTOVASe and Norvir with garlic capsules or INVIRASE and Norvir with garlic capsules.

Your doctor may want to change your medicine if you are taking rifampin (known as Rifadin®, Rifamate®, Rifater® or Rimactane®) or Mycobutin® (rifabutin); these drugs substantially reduce the level of INVIRASE in the blood.

The following drugs increase blood levels of INVIRASE: Norvir® (ritonavir), Viracept® (nelfinavir), Rescriptor® (delavirdine)*, Nizoral® (ketoconazole), Crixivan® (indinavir) and Biaxin® (clarithromycin).

Talk to your doctor if you are taking lipid (cholesterol) lowering drugs and Viagra® (sildenafil citrate), Levitra® (vardenafil), and Cialis® (tadalafil).

Does INVIRASE cure HIV/AIDS?

INVIRASE does not cure AIDS, and it does not prevent you from getting other illnesses that result from advanced HIV infection. In addition, INVIRASE has not been shown to reduce the risk that you may transmit HIV to others through sexual contact or infected blood. You must continue to follow all of your doctor's recommendations for managing your illness.

What else should I discuss with my doctor?

Inform your doctor:

- If you are pregnant or become pregnant while taking INVIRASE. The effects of INVIRASE on pregnant women or unborn babies are not yet fully known. In addition, experts advise against breast-feeding if you are HIV positive, to reduce the risk of passing the virus to your baby.

- If you are taking anti-HIV medications. Your doctor may want to change one or more of your anti-HIV drugs in order to achieve the best results when you start treatment with INVIRASE.

- If you have diabetes or a family history of diabetes, or if you have hemophilia, hepatitis or other liver disease, your doctor should decide if INVIRASE is right for you.

- If you have ever taken FORTOVASe, discuss with your doctor whether INVIRASE is right for you.

How is INVIRASE supplied?

INVIRASE is available as light brown and green capsules in a 200-mg strength. INVIRASE comes in bottles of 270 capsules.

INVIRASE is also available in a light orange to greyish or brownish-orange tablet in 500-mg strength. INVIRASE comes in bottles of 120 tablets.

How should I store INVIRASE?

INVIRASE capsules and tablets should be stored at room temperature. The bottles should be kept tightly closed.

INVIRASE has been prescribed specifically for you, and only for a particular condition. Do not use it for anything else. Do not give it to anyone else. If you think you have taken more than your prescribed dose, seek medical attention.

Keep this medication and all other medications out of the reach of children. Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

This provides only a brief summary of product information about INVIRASE. If you have any questions about INVIRASE or HIV, talk to your doctor.

1 Below the amount that could be found using a standard test.

† Dosages greater than 100 mg twice a day of ritonavir when taken in combination with saquinavir were associated with an increase in side effects.

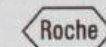
§ The safety and efficacy of INVIRASE in combination with these drugs has not been established. Dosage adjustments may be required.

|| Use of this combination should be accompanied by close monitoring of liver enzymes.

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DATEBOOK

Re-elected City Controller Annise Parker, newly elected City Council person Sue Lovell, and other municipal officials are sworn in at the Jan. 3 **Inauguration Day** ceremony, 10 a.m., at the Houston Police Officers' Memorial on Memorial Drive. Details: www.houstontx.gov.

Political consultant Max Beauregard speaks about "Results of the Prop. 2 Election: 2 Sides To Every Story" at the Jan. 4 **Houston GLBT Political Caucus** general meeting, 7 p.m., at the Houston GLBT Community Ctr. Details: 713/521-1000, www.houstonglbtpoliticalcaucus.org.

HATCH hosts a two-evening workshop on colleges and careers for GLBT and questioning youth, ages 13–20, on Jan. 6, 6:30–10 p.m., and Jan. 8, 5:30–9 p.m., at University of St. Thomas, Malloy Room 019. Register: Bill Alexander, 713/529-3590, ext. 3.

Houston Roughnecks RFC hosts the Victoria rugby squad on Jan. 7, 2 p.m., at The British School. Details: www.roughnecksrugby.org.

Houston GLBT Community Center hosts **GLBT Night at Hollywood Vietnamese & Chinese** on Jan. 10, 6:30 p.m. Details: 713/524-3818, www.houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org.

Jan. 11 is the deadline for bands to submit entries for the **Invasion of the GoGirls** showcase, presented by GoGirlsMusic.com and *Hyperactive Music Magazine*, during the Mar. 16–18 SWSX music event in Austin. Entrants must include at least one female member. Details: www.gogirlsmusic.com.

The band **Fluff the Kat** ("In Tune In Houston," Aug. 2005 *OutSmart*) performs in concert at Chances on Jan. 7, 10 p.m. \$5 cover. Details: 713/523-7217 Chances, www.fluffthekat.com.

Alley Theatre continues its Act OUT subscription-series evenings for GLBT theater fans with the Jan. 12 performance of *Culture Clash in AmeriCCa*. \$19–\$51, with discounts available (discount proceeds benefiting AIDS Foundation Houston AIDS Walk). Tickets: 713/228-8421, www.alleytheatre.org.

GLBT Behavioral Health Coalition meets on Jan. 13, 11 a.m., at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Spirituality is the topic. Details: Mike Migura, 713/529-0037, option 2.

The monthly **Women's Social** in Galveston hosted by Liz Aguilar ("OutFront," July 2005) takes place on Jan. 13, 5:30–9 p.m., at Mod Coffee & Tea. Details: Liz Aguilar, delaluz63@yahoo.com.

Make a date (top to bottom): 2005 Pride grand marshals Deb Murphy (l) and Weldon Hickey; Invasion of the GoGirls poster; re-elected City Controller Annise Parker (l) and new City Council member Sue Lovell; a still from *Xanadu*; *Culture Clash in AmeriCCa* cast; Kelly Keane at the 2005 Houston Marathon; Fund Run for Teachers logo.

Bunnies on the Bayou accepts beneficiary applications until Jan. 14 for the Apr. 16 event. Details: www.bunnies.org. Vincent Flickinger, 713/844-0172 day, 832/265-5834 evening.

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston and Starbucks present **The Beats of Basquiat**, the monthly entertainment night inspired by the current Jean-Michel Basquiat exhibition (through Feb. 12) on Jan. 14. The 8 p.m.–1 a.m. event includes a midnight screening of *Xanadu*. Starbucks provides complimentary coffee beverages. \$10, \$5 students, museum members free. Details: 713/639-7300, www.mfah.org.

Jan. 14 is the deadline for submitting a **2006 Pride Parade grand marshal** nomination to Pride Houston. Info: 713/529-6979, www.pridehouston.org.

The course for the Jan. 15 **Chevron Houston Marathon** includes Montrose Boulevard. Charities in the marathon Run For a Reason benefit program include the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation-Houston Affiliate. Details: 713/957-3453, www.houstonmarathon.com.

On Jan. 19, **Rothko Chapel** presents the second in its monthly series, "Twelve Moments: A Year of Meditation" at Rothko Chapel. Sat Kartar S. Khalsa leads Sikh meditation this month, noon–1 p.m. RSVP: 713/524-9839, www.rothkochapel.org.

Houston-based **Fund For Teachers** holds its first five-kilometer Fund Run on Jan. 21, 8 a.m.–noon, starting at Sam Houston Park. \$10–\$20 early registration by Jan. 6, \$15–\$25 late registration, with proceeds supporting grants for summer professional development opportunities for teachers. Details: 713/296-6127, www.fundforteachers.org.

"Broadway Bingo" is the theme for **Queer Bingo** hosted by the Houston GLBT Community Center on Jan. 21, 6–8 p.m., at Club 1415. \$15 standard game package, with proceeds benefiting the center. Details: 713/524-3818, www.houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org.

On Jan. 30, **Bering Support Network** begins a six-week grief group on Monday, 7 p.m., at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Register: Beryl Kaminsky, 713/526-1017 ext. 1208, www.beringsupportgroup.org.

Bering Support Network now offers **Latinos Apoyando Latinos**, a Spanish-language HIV support group, on Monday, 6 p.m., at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, Room 201. Details: 713/526-1017, ext. 211, www.beringsupportnetwork.org

More: www.outsmartmagazine.com

More News Briefs →

NEW YEAR, NEW IDEAS

To usher in 2006, we posed the following question to several community leaders and activists:

What is the one thing you think we could do, either as individuals or as members of a group, to improve our community?



Rev. Wm. Blake Rider

Rev. William Blake Rider

Get a handful of voter registration cards, give them to five people you know who are not registered, wait while they complete the forms, and then you mail the forms. On the next day we are voting on issues of importance to our community, give those five people a call, tell them what time you are picking them up, and take them to the polls.

Rider is canon residentiary at Christ Church Cathedral.

John Nechman

We need to forcefully kick ourselves in the asses in hopes that it will anger and awaken us into realizing that all our gains and "comfortable" lives mean little if we continue to passively accept defeats that eternalize us as second-class citizens. Our forefathers/sisters from Stonewall, the ACT-UP era, and Houston's Anita Bryant protest refused to settle for society's scraps, and the apathy of so many today is a slap in their faces. *Nechman is a partner in the law firm Nechman, Simoneaux and Frye PLLC and serves on the national board of Immigration Equality.*

Sonna Alton

Here in Houston we currently have a fabulous community of performers/fundraisers that are very passionate about helping those living with HIV/AIDS and fighting for equal rights for all. I fear the generations coming behind us are not committed to supporting these causes. Without the community support, many of the area nonprofits would truly struggle more. I would love to challenge the performers of our community to take the time to find someone to mentor, to educate, to get committed and become more involved in the helping the HIV and GLBT community. HIV/AIDS is not going away, and it affects all of us.

Alton is director of communications and events for Legacy Community Health Services, the new organization formed by the recent merger of Montrose Clinic and The Assistance Fund.

Mark Wood

Simple. Invest in yourself and what you believe in. Put your time and money where your mouth is so we can be free. If we each gave just 1 percent we could move mountains. The other

side does it. Their focus is scary but impressive. While you may think these hateful freaks need to get a life, the problem is the life they've decided to get is yours. They work systematically to deny us our rights. So we must be fierce. We must show our pride and fight back. This year give 1 percent of your time and money and see how good it makes you feel.

Wood is president of Stonewall Democrats of Houston.

Rev. Ralph Lasher

We need to encourage some young GLBT persons to step forward into positions of leadership. They can work as apprentices to some of the current leaders.

Lasher is development director of Amigos and Volunteers in Education and Service.



Bobby Allen

Bobby Allen

As an individual, be vocal and be known. Don't ignore disparagers of our rights and relationships. Take a stand and fight like hell!

Allen is president of GLOBAL, the GLBT student organization at the University of Houston central campus.

Zip and Barbara Short-Morgan

It's really ironic that you would want input on this subject. We are on a personal campaign to bring Unity In Our Community. What we mean by that is to bring together everyone in our community (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, white, African American, Mexican American, Asian, Middle Eastern, etc.). We are in the grassroots stages of trying to bring an event to Houston that will bring all of these different personalities together for a celebration of our lifestyle.

Short-Morgan own QueerAssGear and ZipArtGraphics, which design and produce Pride apparel and products. They also host Exquisite Wednesdays every Wednesday night and Passionate Sundays every second and fourth Sunday night at Bartini.



Barbara (r) and Zip Short-Morgan

ON THE WEB: Read more 2006 suggestions at www.outsmartmagazine.com.

"I have observed that it's always a handful of people involved in gay community affairs. And I equate this to what I call 'the gay caste system.'"

— Read the rest of Joe Watts's comment and other suggestions at www.outsmartmagazine.com

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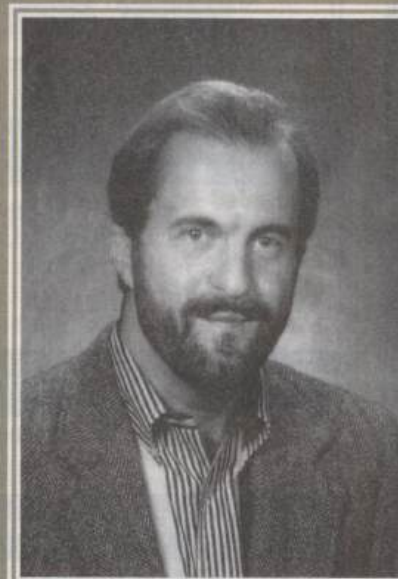
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TROUBLE ON THE RIGHT

Republican woes reflect the dangers of one-party government control

2005 was a banner year for Republicans. Their House majority leader was indicted and forced to step down from his leadership position. Their vice-president's chief of staff was indicted and resigned. And their Senate majority leader is under investigation by the Security and Exchange Commission.

Who knows how all the Republicans' problems will shake out in 2006? I don't need Tom DeLay to be convicted to believe that he is corrupt. I don't need Scooter Libby to be convicted to know that the White House punishes anyone who questions its motives for going to war. And I don't need Bill Frist to be indicted for unlawful financial greed to know that his political greed is palpable.

If every one of these individuals is exonerated for any alleged criminal wrongdoing, they still reflect what can go wrong when one party has unfettered control of the White House and both houses of Congress. In short, they represent how dangerous it becomes when no one is brave enough to tell a bully No.

Let's take DeLay. Through an abuse of power and the sheer force of his formidable will, he single-handedly engineered and implemented a redistricting plan to increase the number of Republican congressional members from Texas. DeLay's power grab was an unprecedented move in Texas political history.

Previously, the state had redistricted every 10 years, following the federal census, and had just completed a redistricting plan after the 2000 census. DeLay called for redistricting in 2003 for the sole purpose of gaining a partisan edge. When Texas Democrats tried to stop the redistricting plan by leaving the state to prevent a quorum, DeLay called on the Federal Aviation Administration to track their plane. When eight career Justice Department officials assigned to review the redistricting plan unanimously concluded that it violated minority rights guaranteed by the Voting Rights Act, political appointees at Justice trumped their objections and approved it anyway. In the end, DeLay got his way

and the makeup of the Texas congressional delegation went from 16 Republicans and 16 Democrats to 21 Republicans and 11 Democrats. So much for the rights of the minority party and minority voters.

Regarding Scooter Libby, who knows whether he outed Valerie Plame, a covert Central Intelligence Agency operative, to punish her husband for publicly criticizing the administration. What is undisputed is that the White House generally, and the vice-president specifically, have systematically targeted anyone who has disagreed with them about pre-war intelligence, the decision to go to war, and whether the administration selectively used or manipulated intelligence to make its case for war. Cheney has been the designated attack dog, going after anyone questioning the war as an "opportunist" or "unpatriotic." (Odd criticism from someone who got five deferments to avoid the Vietnam War.) So, it's not surprising that someone from Cheney's office

continued on page 20

AFTER THE VOTE

Now is the time to take a long-range view in the marriage fight

With the huge loss in Texas, we are now 0-19 in popular votes on gay marriage. Not one of those losses has even been close. What do we do now? First, try not to despair. We need to take a long, historical view of all this. Second, let's try to learn something from the losses. There are many more such votes to come, including probably an all-important one in California next year.

On November 8, with 76 percent in favor, Texans voted for a state constitutional amendment to define marriage as the union of one man and one woman. What more it might also be interpreted to prohibit will rest in the hands of the socially conservative and overwhelmingly Republican elected state judiciary, from whose "pro-gay" activist grip the amendment was supposed to save the state. The amendment has done lasting damage to gay couples and families in Texas.

There was a time just a couple of years ago when it seemed to many gay-marriage supporters that the fight would not only be

won but won fairly quickly. Private companies, cities, and even states were moving toward the recognition of gay relationships. The Supreme Court struck down sodomy laws. That was quickly followed by full gay marriage in Massachusetts. One national poll showed support for gay marriage around 40 percent, an astonishing figure given that the idea had barely reached national consciousness.

But polls are never trustworthy on controversial social questions, and opponents of gay marriage had a trump card: the voters. They have used the public's simmering anger at judicial activism to goad the states into passing sweeping amendments that have actually turned back the clock on the legal rights of gay families.

Despite this backlash, we have to take the long view of this struggle. Consider Massachusetts, the birthplace of gay marriage in the United States.

In the first half of the 20th century, Massachusetts banned contraceptives—even if

used for medical reasons and even if used by a married couple. Birth-control advocates tried in vain year after year to get the state legislature to repeal the law.

Finally, they succeeded in getting the issue put to a popular vote in 1942. During the repeal campaign, they faced a barrage of attacks from the Catholic church, including the slogan, "Birth Control Is Against God's Law. Vote NO." Birth-control advocates lost by a large margin, 58 to 42 percent.

In 1948, they lost again in a popular referendum by an almost identical margin. Not until 1966 did the Massachusetts legislature revise its anti-contraceptives law to allow married people to get them, and then only in response to a Supreme Court decision to strike down an almost identical Connecticut law the year before.

Today, the use of contraceptives is widespread and uncontroversial. Massachusetts is one of the most socially tolerant states in the country. →

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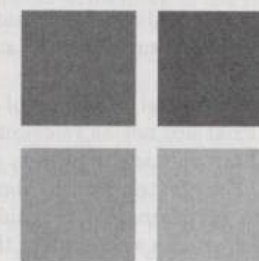
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"Still Not Happy?"

LeftOut continued from page 18

would be charged with outing an undercover CIA agent to punish a political enemy.

Meanwhile, Frist has been subpoenaed by the SEC to turn over personal records and documents related to the sale of his Hospital Corporation of America stock, which dropped in value just after he unloaded thousands of shares. Irrespective of whether Frist's financial greed motivated him to break the law, his political greed is compelling him to rewrite Senate rules to appease the far right to set up his own run for the presidency in 2008. Specifically, in an unprecedented attempt to install Bush's conservative appointees to the Supreme Court and other federal benches, Frist is threatening the "nuclear option" of ending the minority party's right to filibuster judicial nominees.

Frist's disregard for minority rights and history is astounding. The right to filibuster has been recognized in the Senate for more than 150 years and has been used repeatedly, often for offensive reasons. Indeed, Strom Thurmond filibustered against the Civil Rights Act of 1957 for 24 hours and 18 minutes, a record. Still, no one suggested terminating the filibuster.

Now, Frist threatens to end the right to filibuster judicial appointees, an unprecedented move in the history of the Senate. It is especially ironic that Frist proposes the ending of the filibuster in opposing judicial appointees, because he participated in the filibuster of a Clinton appointee to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, Richard Paez. When confronted with that small fact, Frist simply lied about it.

The personal legal problems of DeLay, Libby, and Frist are not as relevant as the problems their political methods pose to democracy. Their attempts to silence the minority are petrifying. As journalist Edward R. Murrow once said, "When the loyal opposition dies, I think the soul of America dies with it."

In 2006, irrespective of what happens to these individuals, the opposition party needs to find its voice. It's time for Democrats to stand up for something. It's time to teach the bullies the meaning of No. The soul of America is at stake.

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

The gay-marriage controversy is not exactly like the birth-control controversy, of course. Opposition to contraceptives was limited almost entirely to Catholics, whose faith taught that their use violated natural law; mainstream Protestant denominations had no problem with contraception. By contrast,

opposition to gay marriage is broad and deep in all mainstream Christian denominations.

But progress can be made. While a majority of the Massachusetts legislature voted to ban gay marriage in 2004, that majority had evaporated by the next year. Now Massachusetts may become the first state to approve gay marriage by popular vote if the issue ever reaches the ballot there.

Like other advocates of ideas once thought dangerous, gay-marriage supporters will lose many battles. Since no serious constitutional scholar believes the Supreme Court is going to hold traditional marriage laws unconstitutional anytime in the near future, we are likely in for a long slog unaided by much federal court intervention. We might as well prepare for it.

That leads to the second question: What can we learn from our losses? One thing that does not usually work is an attempt to change the subject. Like the anti-amendment efforts before it, the Texas No Nonsense in November campaign tried to make the vote about anything but marriage: the irresponsibility of the legislature, the sinister politics of the amendment sponsors, etc. At the end, some opponents of the amendment were even warning that the amendment banned marriage itself.

For voters, these ballot campaigns are about gay marriage. Until we're prepared to defend gay marriage on the substance, the voters will ignore us. (California may well present a more complicated case, about which I'll doubtless write more in the future.)

That's not to say we will start winning these campaigns by being more honest. Nothing we said could have saved us in Texas. But at least we can begin to inform voters about why gay marriage is a good idea. That is the necessary foundation for the long-term democratic support we must build.

The second thing we must do is enlist a broader spectrum of allies. Left-wing coalitions, like the one No Nonsense so proudly put together, are never going to win ballot fights over marriage. This means working especially hard to sign up as many moderates, conservatives, and people of faith as possible. It also means emphasizing the types of arguments that appeal to such people.

The race for gay marriage is far from lost. But it is a marathon, not a sprint. And it will require smarter running.

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.

BLOGGED IN

Dale Carpenter recently served as guest blogger on the subject of same-gender marriage for the conservative-leaning blog The Volokh Conspiracy. Read his October 31-November 4 commentary at <http://volokh.com>.

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by Annise D. Parker

ANNUAL REPORT

After a chaotic year, the controller lists some major achievements

Happy 2006! In my December 2004 column, I wished for a "quiet and constructive" 2005. No one would call 2005 quiet. Destructive, perhaps. Television images morphed from tsunami to war to hurricanes, New Orleans, the Gulf Coast, earthquakes, and, as always, back to war.

In my small corner of the world, however, the year was indeed constructive. The City Controller's office experienced one of its most productive years ever. Some of our accomplishments:

Audits. The office completed three comprehensive performance audits (on the 311 call center, the 911 emergency center, and the Houston Fire Department's Life Safety Division) as well as 33 other audits. The 911 audit, for instance, outlined \$6.8 million in potential savings.

Criminal probe. We recently announced a two-part audit of alleged criminal activity

involving Republic Waste Services and city garbage collection and disposal. Republic is accused of billing the city for collection and disposal of tons of garbage collected in other cities that also paid for the same collecting and disposal. The alleged criminal activity

The Parks Board is familiar to many, but you may not realize how many groups raise money for city projects.

was revealed in a series of investigative reports aired by Channel 13. Phase I of the audit will determine the extent of the alleged fraudulent activity and determine how much money the city is owed. Phase II will include a performance audit of the Solid Waste Management Department.

Financial planning. Since last summer, the controller's office staff has borne the brunt of the monumental year-long conversion to a new citywide financial system. Six staffers, including Deputy Controller Mary Ann Grant, are assigned full-time to the project. The conversion is at the halfway point.

Katrina housing. Already short-handed, the controller's office staff worked overtime to push through more than 3,500 landlord contracts so tens of thousands of Hurricane Katrina evacuees could live in apartments and payments to landlords could be processed. Unfortunately, this task slowed normal contract processing, but that should improve this month.

Pension oversight. I named investment expert Gilbert Garcia to represent the controller's office on the Houston Municipal Employees Pension System board of trustees. →

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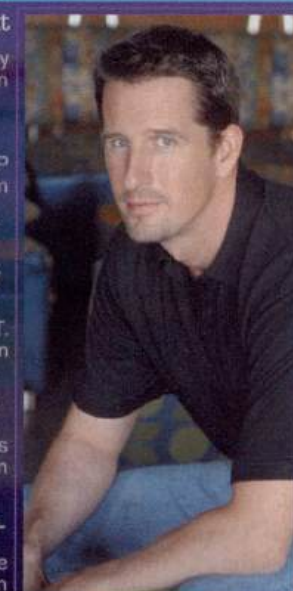
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FARMERS



Elijah Kabalka

InsideOut

continued from page 22

This is the first time the controller has had any oversight of city pension systems.

Bank fraud/identity theft. The controller's office started the year trying to sort out how city bank accounts had been illegally debited, working closely with the bank, the district attorney, and the Houston Police Department. All money was recovered and several perpetrators went to jail.

Nonprofits. The controller's office produced the first list of nonprofits that collect money on behalf of the city. The Parks Board is familiar to many, but you may not realize how many groups raise money for city projects (www.houstontx.gov/controller/sourceofcharitablefunding.pdf).

Thank goodness, I didn't have an opponent in the recent campaign and could devote more energy to my real job. (Don't get me started about how distracting campaigning every two years is. Give elected officials two four-year terms and people will get a lot more work done.)

Female Majority Council?

As I write this column, three open seats remain on City Council. Peter Brown has been

elected to my old seat (At-Large Position 1), but the new council could have a majority of females for the first time. We'll see!

I would like to pay tribute to the four outgoing council members: Mark Ellis, Carol Galloway, Mark Goldberg, and Gordon Quan. I had the honor to serve with all of them and know firsthand what dedicated public servants they are. I particularly hope that Ellis and Quan seek future public office through their respective political parties.

Mayor White and I are still working hard to maintain our cordial and professional relationship. He has handled some extremely difficult challenges, such as Hurricane Katrina evacuees, admirably.

TV Show

One of the greatest things about being controller is that I can still get involved in many aspects of city government, mainly through audits and my monthly Municipal Channel TV show (TimeWarner Cable 16).

One of my frustrations as a City Council member was having to spend time fighting deeper cuts in BARC (Bureau of Animal Regulation and Care) or fighting to restore funding. Traditionally, BARC has been one of the city's most under-funded divisions.

At BARC's request, the controller's office just completed an audit of its communica-

tions system. As expected, the audit revealed room for a great deal of improvement. The mayor is reviewing a report on the region's horrible record of animal euthanasia (80,000 a year).

Finally, Houston may be poised to address animal overpopulation upfront through better funding, education, and stepped-up sterilization, as is the case in other major cities. All pet owners have a personal responsibility in this matter.

BARC is still by far the cheapest place in Houston to adopt a dog or cat—only \$45. (713/238-9600, www.houstontx.gov/health/BARC).

For an update on BARC, watch the new Money Matters every Monday in January on the Municipal Channel. The program has been off the air for several months because of the station's election policy.

I hope you have a safe and productive new year. Perhaps if I wish for an exciting year, I'll have peace and quiet in 2006.

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

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The Gay Agenda

Yes, one really does exist

By Tim Brookover
Photos by Dalton DeHart

During the recent election cycle, some forces on the right wing muttered darkly about the gay agenda, in an attempt to sling mud at Sue Lovell's City Council campaign. Little did they know, such an agenda now actually exists.

The Gay Agenda is the document that resulted from the June 18 Con-



at the AstroArena. That seminal event for the community led to the creation of several now-prominent organizations, including Montrose Clinic (now Legacy Community Healthcare Services following a recent merger with The Assistance Fund), Montrose Counseling Center, and the Gay & Lesbian Switchboard (now a program of the counseling center).



Setting the agenda: Ray Hill (above, left) moderated the Conference on Houston's GLBTI Future (the I stands for intersexed) future on June 18. Resolution presenters included (clockwise from top) Sonna Alton, Phyllis Randolph Frye, Sally Huffer, Daniel Garces, and Brenda Thomas. Read the full agenda at www.outsmartmagazine.com.

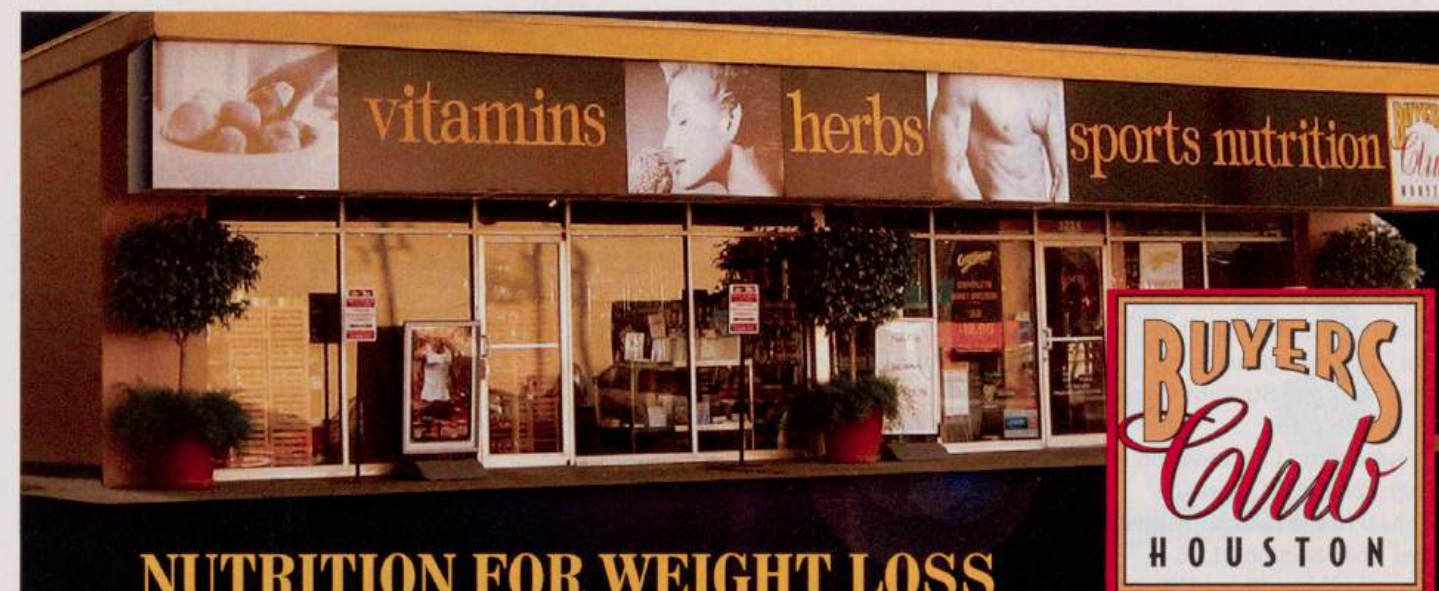
ference on Houston's GLBTI Future, held in conjunction with Empower, the annual community-and-business expo presented by the Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce. The conference was the culmination of several months' worth of work by an ad hoc group of community activists and allies, under the leadership of Ray Hill, Phyllis Randolph Frye, and Jack Valinski, which met regularly to draft resolutions on a range of topics, from political action to sports. These individuals came together at monthly meetings, beginning in November, at the Houston GLBT Community Center to plan the conference, inspired by the 1978 Town Hall Meeting



On June 18, more than 100 people gathered in an upstairs auditorium at the George R. Brown Convention Center to review and vote on the resolutions. The intent of The Gay Agenda is to "chart our future, to look beyond where we are," writes Frye, who edited the resolutions into the final document (see sidebar).

The Gay Agenda has 54 resolutions approved by the group. These resolutions include the following:

- The LGBT Community Looks Toward Its Future
- Bisexual Validity in Houston's LGBTI Community →



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The Gay Agenda

continued from page 26

- Freedom to Marry and Divorce—Not the Unequal “Jumping Over the Broom”
- Dedicated to Affordable, Accessible, and Affirming Elder Care
- Mentoring Task Force for Next Generation of Community Leaders
- Right of Transgenders and Intesexed to Access Homeless Shelters
- We Cannot Depend Solely on the Initiative of the Straight Community for Our Health Care
- Creation and Continuation of a Single Integrated Field Campaign
- Panel of the Unconstitutional Texas

- Formation of a Virtual Community and Internet Clearinghouse
- Non-Discrimination by Civil, Criminal, Juvenile, Family, Probate, and Appellate Court Judges
- Law Enforcement Must Respect Our Needs for Safety from Domestic Violence
- Creation and Growth of New Sports Groups
- Creation of a Metro Houston Sports Council for Our Community

On January 14, the Houston GLBT Community Center will host the first meeting of a working group that will begin considering a process for following

this writer is a member) will provide light refreshments. Individuals and organizations that participated in the planning for the conference, as well as people who did not, are welcome (those planning to attend can RSVP by calling the center at 713/524-3818). At the meeting, the group will hear from people who participated in Town Hall Meeting in 1978 about ways they implemented elements of their agenda more than a quarter of a century ago.

Know Your Agenda

The Gay Agenda is posted on these websites:
Houston GLBT Community Center

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

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T

all, talented Texan Tommy Tune's big break came in the '70s when he played a gay character in *Seesaw* on Broadway, a role that won him his first Tony Award. The dancer, choreographer, actor, and director has gone on to win eight more Tonys, eight Drama Desk Awards, two Obies, the *Dance Magazine* Award for Lifetime Achievement, an American Dance Award, a Drama League Musical Theatre Award, two Astaire Awards, the George Abbott Award for Lifetime Achievement, the University of Texas Distinguished Alumnus Award, the Jean Cocteau International Style Award, and, most recently, the National Medal of Arts. In 1991, Tune was inducted by Gwen Verdon into the Theatre Hall of Fame, and in 1994 he was honored with his own star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. And we mustn't forget that he was named to the Top 10 International Best Dressed List of 1992.

All this adulation, and Tommy Tune still seems to be one helluva nice human being. His office called the morning of the interview to say he was running about 10 minutes behind—just know that that's a rare occurrence in the celebrity-interviewing game. And in the middle of our conversation, Tune asked if I had read his book, *Footnotes*. When I told him I hadn't, he offered to send me one—he thought it might help me in writing the interview. I received it two days later—and it was autographed. Cool guy. Read on. →

*Broadway baby
and Houston boy
Tommy Tune—in
town this month for
the debut of the Dr.
Dolittle national
tour—chats about
the Tonys, labels,
playing gay, and
much more*

Gaily in Tune

by Blase DiStefano

Tommy, terrific: Of being labeled gay, Tommy Tune says, "It doesn't bother me at all. Call me anything but mean or cynical." Tune directs and stars in *Dr. Dolittle*, which begins its Broadway-bound run in Houston this month.

Gaily in Tune

continued from previous page

Blase DiStefano: You have such a great name.

Tommy Tune: I know. That's why I didn't change it. When I was under contract at 20th Century Fox, they wanted to change it. I had a seven-year contract with them, and when I first got there, they said, "Let's discuss your name," and they started picking... they had namers out there. They don't do that anymore, but that was the studio system.

Did you like your name when you were growing up as a kid?

Well, it was kind of embarrassing. There were all kinds of rhymes with it and [in a very high-pitched voice:] "Tommy Tune, Tommy Tune." But now it's kind of a blessing. It's memorable, and nobody believes it, and it sounds like somebody that should be doing what I'm doing with my life. *[Both laugh]*

Where are you calling from?

I'm calling from my new apartment at Union Square in New York City.

When did you move in?

Two weeks ago. I moved down from the chic upper East Side, down to this area that is just so alive. I feel like Dolly Levi. *[Tune bursts into song]* "I went away from the lights of 14th Street and into my personal haze." Anyway, I'm back, and it's just great. You go out on the street, and there's just so much life. My dog loves it when I take him out for a walk. They have this whole coterie of friends.

There's this farmer's market where fresh vegetables and produce are brought in three nights a week, so I just go and shop there and cook fresh. It makes all the difference. Getting fresh food in New York City is hard, compared to... where are you calling from?

Houston.

We had *supermarkets* in Houston. Here, the aisles are real narrow and mushed in, and you don't know how long it's been on the shelf.

I like to shop at Whole Foods when I can because at least their food is fresh.

We call that Whole Paycheck.

***[Laughs]* That's why I said "when I can."**

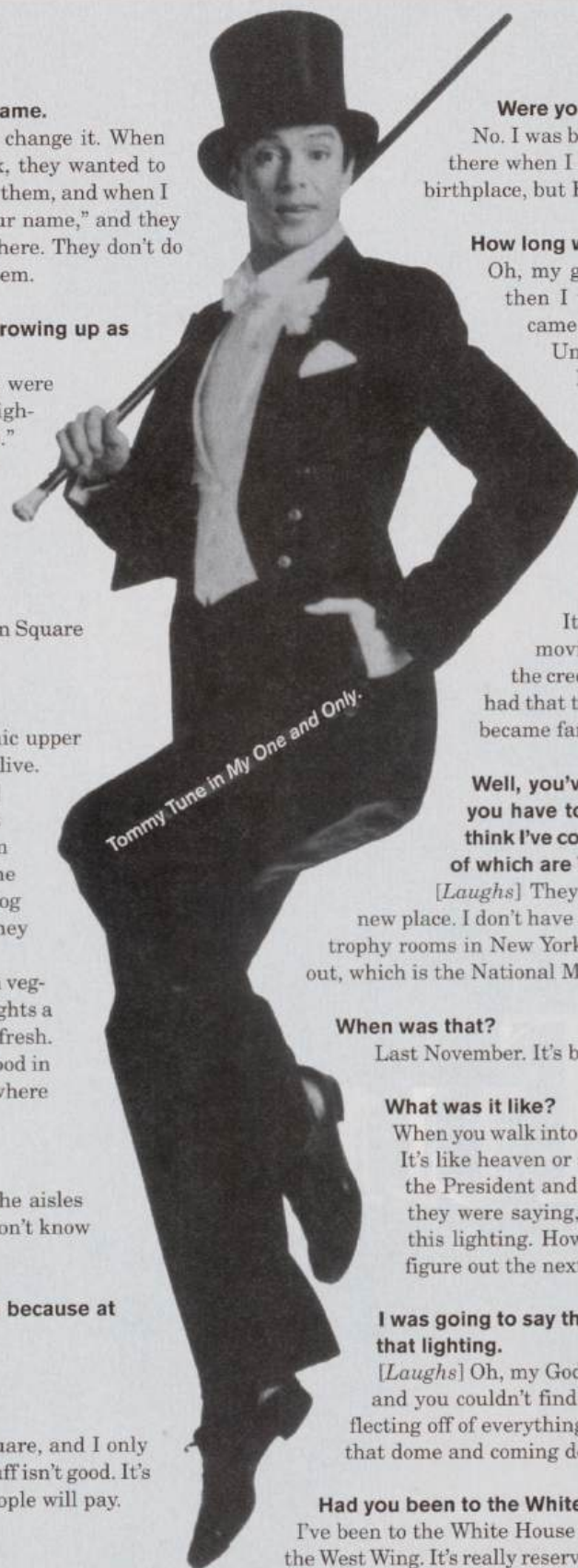
There's a Whole Foods right on Union Square, and I only go there when I have to. It's not that the stuff isn't good. It's just so over the top. But it's a huge hit. People will pay.

What is the weather like there?

It's gorgeous today. Clear, beautiful, just a couple of puffs in the sky, but cold. It's about 36 degrees, and with the wind chill it's a little bit colder than that, so the guy said to wear your winter coat.

It's gorgeous in Houston for a change, but it's not as cold as that. You went to Lamar High School, right?

I did.



Were you born here?

No. I was born in Wichita Falls, but we moved there when I was an infant. Wichita Falls is my birthplace, but Houston's my home.

How long were you here?

Oh, my gosh, all through high school, and then I went away to college and then I came back to do my master's work at the University of Houston. Then I came to New York.

Weren't you already involved in choreography in high school?

Yeah, but we didn't know that's what it was called. We didn't have that fancy moniker then.

Seriously?

It was called making up dances. In movies where you'd see their credits, the credit would say "dance director." They had that till Agnes DeMille did it, and then it became famous.

Well, you've certainly come a long way. Did you have to build a room for your awards? I think I've counted about 24 major awards, nine of which are Tonys.

[Laughs] They haven't found their home in this new place. I don't have a trophy room. There's not room for trophy rooms in New York apartments. But my latest one is out, which is the National Medal of Arts.

When was that?

Last November. It's been a year.

What was it like?

When you walk into the Oval Office, that room is golden. It's like heaven or something. I was trying to listen to the President and the First Lady and the nice things they were saying, but I was really thinking, "Jesus, this lighting. How do they do that?" I was trying to figure out the next show.

I was going to say that the director in you was noticing that lighting.

[Laughs] Oh, my God, it was so beautiful. It was golden, and you couldn't find the source. It was everywhere, reflecting off of everything. I think the light was shooting up that dome and coming down somehow.

Had you been to the White House before?

I've been to the White House many times, but I've never been to the West Wing. It's really reserved for something extra special. They do their ceremonies and functions and all that in other parts of the White House, but the West Wing is really high security.

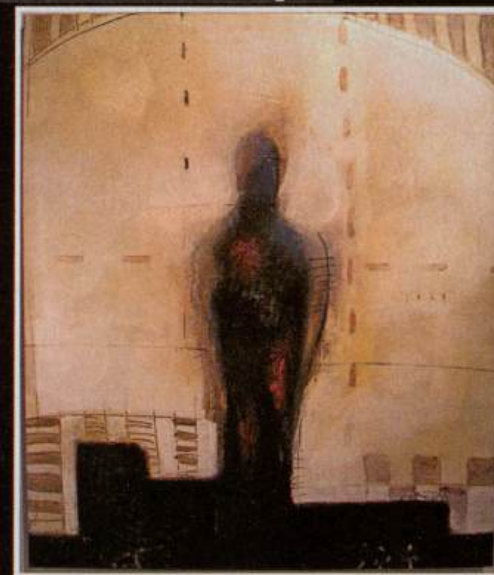
And you've been there.

I was there.

And I've talked to someone who was there! *[Both laugh]* →

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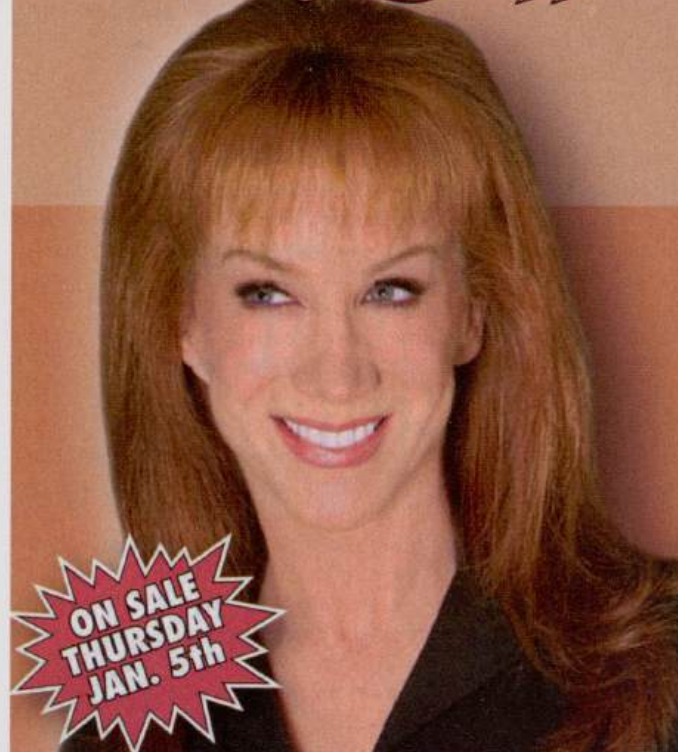
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Gaily in Tune

continued from page 32

You and Harvey Fierstein are tied for those who have won Tonys in four different categories. Nowadays, it's fairly common for people who are not zero on the Kinsey scale to be out at the Tonys, but not in the '70s. I have a photo of you and Suzanne Pleshette at the 1974 Tony Awards.

My first Tony.

Would you mind recounting that story about the night you won the first Tony and took your date, Michel Stuart?

Well, Michael Bennett asked who I was taking to the Tonys, and I told him I was taking Michel. He said, "Tune, you can't, you can't. Go with a girl. . . ." That didn't sound right to me, so I took Michel. I guess the producers of the Tonys got word of it, so on the last row of the downstairs of the Schubert Theatre, there is one chair and then there is a column and then there is a row of chairs. Get it? It's the last row. Behind that is where standing room would be.

Yes.

They placed me on the aisle, so in case I won, I could go down the aisle. And then there was this column, and on the other side of the column they placed Michel Stuart, so that when they had the camera on me for the nominees, you wouldn't see I had attended with a guy. Haven't we come a long way?

[Tune recounts the rest of this story in *Footnotes*, his 1998 memoir: "Suzanne Pleshette was the presenter of the best featured actor in a musical category. . . . As each nominee was named, the TV camera picked up their faces in the audience and we saw them on the monitors in the auditorium. When she said my name the camera stayed on her. Wow, I thought something must have gone wrong. Then she announced, 'And the winner is—Tommy Tune for *Seesaw*.' Was this a dream? No—I had arrived, but there was still that odd thing about the TV camera not picking me up in my seat—was it because of Michel Stuart? I've thought about this a lot, and I've decided the answer is yes—because of Michel Stuart."]

I'm so proud of it. That was *de rigueur*—you just didn't do that. Michel helped me with everything. . . . he had a great flair for clothes, and, until I had enough money, clothing was really a problem, because I couldn't buy anything to fit. With a 28-inch waist and a 37-inch inseam, where do you go? It's a little bit different now. I can occasionally find something snazzy, but most of my clothes have to be made, and then I just didn't have that kind of money. So Michel Stuart—to get back to him—knew what I should look like, and he would figure out and find places and get underground people to make me things. And he would kind of tell them how it would be, how it should be designed to cut fabric, and he had a real knack for that. So he dressed me, which was really good, before I knew how to do that. He had fabulous ideas. He found *Cloud 9*.

I didn't know that.

He found that play over in England and got me to direct it—which really made my directing career—and he produced *Cloud 9*. He was a major influence, so it wouldn't be right not to be with him. It wasn't that I was brave or an out activist, because I'm not made of that. There are other people who are much braver than I am. Harvey certainly is. I don't like to talk politics of any kind. I simply do not know enough, but I know what's right in my heart.

Tell me about playing the gay character in *Seesaw*.

Well, I was the first gay character in a legitimate musical. It was not done. I think we used the word *gay*. Up to that point, we were called queers, and that didn't ever show up on stage. *Gay* was a



First of nine: Tommy Tune received his first Tony (for *Seesaw*) from presenter Suzanne Pleshette in 1974. His awards-show date was a man—a big deal in the '70s.

secret word that we used, and it was a code word, as I remember. I'm so old, I remember when it came in. [Both laugh] And it was a code word, like "friend of Dorothy's," and *gay* was the other word. And people didn't know—"Oh yeah, he's happy." So that was a big step, and then it was like no big deal.

I had been in London and had just made *The Boyfriend* film. I'd been living in Europe for a couple of years and just got back, and I had acquired—just by osmosis—this sophistication which I didn't have when I left. So I was a stranger in a strange land. I've always been much more European than American. So I came back, and it was no big deal.

When the first preview came, people were gasping and there was some shock value, but not anything that was off putting, because I was so innocent about it. I believe that Michael Bennett, who directed it, was working his way with that element in a way to break down the barriers—not doing it in any kind of protest way, but to say this is the way it is.

In all the reviews, nobody ever made a big deal about the fact that I was playing gay. They just gave me good reviews for my acting and singing and dancing. They weren't giving me good reviews *and* the fact that I was playing a gay character. →

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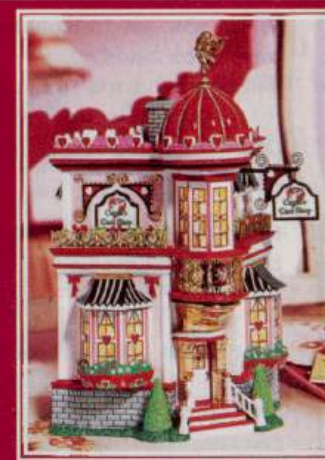
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SOCIETY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Gaily in Tune

continued from page 34

I read a quote of yours about sexuality, which I thought was just great: "I don't get the differences between the sexes much. People are people. I never thought I can't love you this way because you're a man or a woman. I've always just gone for the human being, and then we work out what the sexuality should be."

When did I say that?

When you wrote *Footnotes*.

That was in the book?

No, someone was interviewing you, and...

And that must have been my reply.

Yes.

Well, that's very well put. [Both laugh]

When I read that quote, I wondered if it bothers you to be labeled as gay, because...

I don't go for labels. I like to be labeled as "Tommy Tune" and then I go about Tommy Tuning around in the world. It doesn't bother me at all. Call me anything but mean or cynical. Please don't call me cynical.

I do believe we narrow our ability and our feel for loving if we decide we're going to be one thing or the other. You are who you are, and you just love who you love, so I don't think you're disappointing one group or another group by doing what you do when you do it. I just think we're so tight-assed about that.

But it's a weird kind of place to put that into words. When I read about people trying to put what we're talking about into words, I go, "Oh, yeah," but then I think, *Well, you're like that. Then maybe everybody is.* It's being taught these things. It's like being taught prejudice. There's a song in *South Pacific* that Hammerstein wrote, "You've got to be carefully taught." We are taught that this is right and this is wrong, and it's not necessarily the truth. It's fuzzy—lines blur.

I assume you're in rehearsals for *Dr. Dolittle*.

I am.

At what point are you now?

We're in pre-production. We stopped on page 32 yesterday, so we'll pick it up.

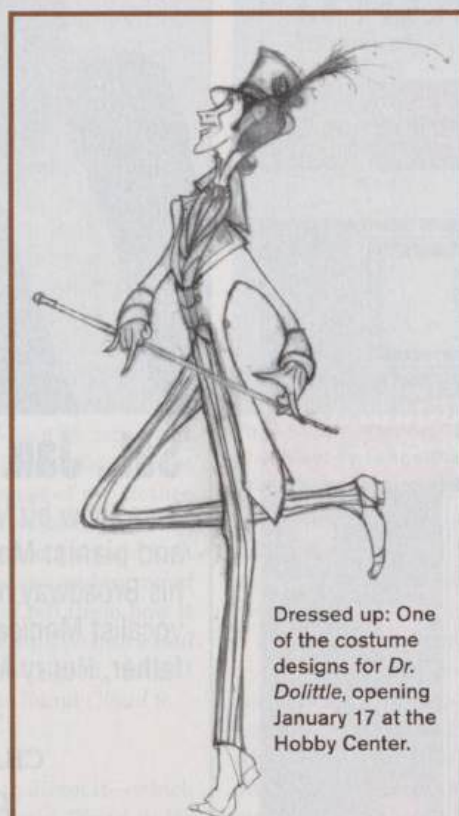
How many pages are there?

Gosh, we don't have all the dances written down. [He stops to check.] 63, so we're kind of at the halfway mark. We're so excited. Every show you do, you start from scratch and discover it. It's like you've never read

the book before, because the book hasn't been written. We keep being surprised about what we have on paper that when we go to put it up, it doesn't feel right so we... like yesterday, we made the adjustment of a tense—a tense of a verb—and once we made the tense, suddenly the whole scene worked. It's so peculiar how you have to have those feelers out all the time.

How did you decide on *Dr. Dolittle*?

I was painting in my new apartment, and the phone rang, and it was Jimmy Nederlander Sr., the scion of the Nederlander organization, who owns a huge amount of theaters on Broadway and in the world. He has always been a very strong supporter of my work, and I've always loved him and I always feel when I'm around him I'm part of his family. He's been that way for years. He was one of the producers of *Seesaw*. And out of the blue, he called. I don't talk to him often. He's 83 years old, sharp as a tack. He said, "Tommy, we've got this show called *Dr. Dolittle*, and it needs a star. Would you come play *Dr. Dolittle* for



Dressed up: One of the costume designs for *Dr. Dolittle*, opening January 17 at the Hobby Center.

Dr. Tune Comes to Town

Tune travels to Houston this month for the debut of the national tour of *Dr. Dolittle*, the musical that Tune is doctoring after a troubled production history. He also stars in the show, which features music and lyrics by Leslie Bricusse (*Jekyll & Hyde*, *Victor/Victoria*, *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory*). Theatre Under The Stars presents *Dolittle* January 17-29 at the Hobby Center.

me?" And I said, "Where's it playing?" He said, "It's in Philadelphia. I'll come pick you up and let's go have a look." So we drove to Philly and saw it, and I called him the next day and said "Jimmy, before I could play *Dr. Dolittle*, I'd have to play *Dr. Tune* and fix the show." He said, "I was hoping you'd say that." So I entered into it as two doctors, one a show doctor and one an animal doctor, but at least they're the same profession—fixing things that aren't well.

And you're directing and starring.

Yes, but I don't like to do that. I've had experience with that. I've never before elected to do that. It's something that at viewer hour I've had to take over, because things needed to be done.

But this was already up, and it's just a question of moving it around, putting it in order: Songs and dances were in the wrong place, the storytelling wasn't clear, the orchestrations were very, very poor—I had to start totally over on the orchestrations—but I've inherited the physical production.

It's like being given a color palette: You're given this many colors, and you have this brush and this canvas. Can you make a painting? And of course the answer is YES! Give me the colors and give me the canvas, and I'll make a painting. But I have to do this in my own way. And it seems like it would be easier to find someone to direct me, but I knew what needed to be done. And because it was kind of a boss part, I think it's going to be okay. But then I also have another Houston man that I've worked with, Bruce Lumpkin, and he's my associate director. So what will happen is that I'll direct the show with a stand in, and he'll direct me. He'll get me into it later. That's our process.

When you get to Houston, will changes have to be made?

You always have to adjust. That's part of the joy and frustration and thrill and the newness of every gig—to adjust the show for the particular theater.

In Houston, how much time will you have before the show...

No time.

That's what I thought you might say.

You do it the day. You get in the night before, and they work all night getting the set in and you run it and you're on. It gets easier once you've made a few stops. It will be a tighter show, but you gotta start somewhere. I swear I didn't choose Houston. We were supposed to be in Seattle, and it got rearranged and they suddenly say, "How would you feel about opening in Houston," and it was like, *Of course, that would be great.* Mind you, I've →

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Gaily in Tune

continued from page 36

never gotten a good review in Houston. I have to come to New York to get good reviews.

That's mind-boggling.

One of the worst reviews I ever got was in Dallas, and it was one of the shows I won a Tony for!

I wanted to ask one more thing: Is Michel Stuart still alive?

He's gone. He was killed in an auto accident on the Pacific Coast Highway quite a few years ago.

I'm so sorry, Tommy.

I've had a lot of loss. I was working when the first big wave, the mysterious wave of the plague, hit, and people that were my contemporaries and people that were younger than me were dropping like flies. The meds weren't in working order yet. But you just keep going. It's better than the alternative.

ON THE WEB:

Read more of the Tommy Tune interview at www.outsmartmagazine.com.

Blase DiStefano interviewed Tab Hunter for the September issue of OutSmart magazine.



No people like show people: Cathy Rigby and Jennifer Holliday presented the best-musical Tommy Tune Award to the Klein High School cast and crew of *Beauty and the Beast* in 2005.

The Tommys

Is there anything more fantastically queer than a high school musical? Nope.

For the fourth year, Theatre Under The Stars honors hard-working theater kids (a few of whom actually turn out to be—gasp!—straight) with the Tommy Tune Awards. During this school year, a team of theater pros has fanned across the Houston area to evaluate performances at 45 schools and determine winners. The May 1 awards ceremony at Hobby Center will feature musical numbers from nominated shows along with trophy presentations for performers, directors, choreographers, designers, and orchestras. Tommy Tune is scheduled to appear.

This month, musical-theater buffs can begin viewing the shows, which include two Broadway classics, *Pajama Game*, at Lamar High School (January 26–28) and *42nd Street* at Stratford High School (January 26–28 and February 2–4). For a complete list of participating schools and productions, see www.outsmartmagazine.com.

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Bitter New Year

Rather than make self-improving resolutions, our THOMAS BLANTON decides to seek ways to make other people miserable in 2006. Watch out, gays who don't vote. You, too, Paris Hilton

A few weeks back, and with much anticipation, Jack and I went to see the big-screen version of *Rent*. Contrary to the reviews of a bunch of heterosexist movie critics who wouldn't know Pure Art if it got them drunk and stole their wallets, the film was a masterpiece. We sniffled through the whole thing, and at least two points, we openly bawled. The only thing marring the experience was the gaggle of 13-year-olds infesting the front two rows of the theater.

Normally, I have a reasonable amount of tolerance for adolescents, but these brats were just plain annoying. Their cell phones kept going off, and they kept telling each other jokes, the punch lines of which always fell during crucial plot moments. The audience was starting to grumble, and emotions came to a head during the "I'll Cover You" number, in which the characters Angel and Collins, two men, share a tender kiss.

"Eeewww!" shrieked the teenagers. I lost it.

"Shut UP!" I yelled across the theater. "The GROWN-UPS are TRYING to watch a movie!"

There was a brief, tense moment of silence. Then the audience burst into applause, while the teenagers, cowed, slunk into their seats, and behaved for the rest of the film. Jack, on the other hand, buried his head in his hands and pretended not to know me.

Later that evening, over margaritas, Jack tried to explain to me that it's not always a good idea to discipline strangers in public

places, citing my anger-management issues and lax Texas gun-control laws. "Maybe that could be your New Year's resolution," he suggested. "You could resolve to not scream at people so much."

There were a couple of problems with Jack's advice. First of all, I don't scream at people anywhere near as much as I want to. And second, I usually make my New Year's resolutions on October 31, since, according to my New Age friends who reek of patchouli and say "Goddess bless you" whenever someone sneezes, Halloween marked the beginning of the new year on the old Celtic calendar. There are two benefits to making resolutions on this date: One, I get to rail against the Patriarchy in a quiet, passive-aggressive kind of way, and two, I have two whole months to realize that I'm not going to keep any damn resolutions. As such, I wake up on January 1 with a clean slate and a renewed sense of self to complement the hangover.

The downside, of course, is that I never actually do anything to improve myself. I spend the rest of the year watching acquaintances lose weight or learn to live without nicotine, and by the time Halloween rolls around again, I'm feeling as fat and bitter as ever. I sit down and make a brand-new list of resolutions, which I completely forget about by Christmas. In short, it's a vicious cycle, and I should probably do something to break it.

Having already tossed my Halloween resolutions into the psychic recycle bin ("I will stop eating cheese fries" and "I will not drink bourbon while watching movies that make me cry"), I decided to go in a different direction.

"Instead of looking for ways to improve myself, I'm going to look for ways to make other people miserable," I announced.

My normally patient and understanding life partner was less than amused. "That's insane," he said, eyeing my third margarita suspiciously. But I was not to be swayed. Within minutes, I had a nice, long list of people who annoy me, who deserve a little misery injected into their blissful, ignorant lives. Unsupervised teenagers. The population of Westborough, Kansas. Scientologists. Paris Hilton. Some previously suppressed vigilante side of me was rearing its head, and I had a mask and bat-wing cape all ready for it.

Jack, of course, being firmly grounded in such killjoys as "logic" and "rational thought," pointed out that there was very little I could do to destroy Paris Hilton's sense of self-worth. I think he was trying to convince me to let go of the whole idea, but instead, it just encouraged me to set my sights lower.

"Gays who don't vote," I declared, pounding my fist on the table for emphasis. "I will make the lives of gays who don't vote a living hell."

I could tell Jack wanted to reason with me, to talk me down out of the clock tower in which I was making a comfortable nest. But voting is Jack's big thing. Nothing made him more apoplectic than the aftermath of the Proposition 2 ballot, when a number of his acquaintances blithely mentioned, "Oh yeah, I forgot about that" and "It was going to pass, anyway, so why bother?" There are several trendy A-listers who need to thank their Higher Power every day that Jack has found a healthy outlet for violent emotions in online video games.

Realizing that I almost had him on my side, I quickly outlined my strategy. Based on the Sean "P. Diddy" Combs "Vote or Die" campaign, my efforts would be called "Vote or I Will Hunt You Down Like the Self-Loathing Traitor You Are and Make You Wish You'd Never Set Foot on God's Green Earth."

"It's pretty cut and dry," I explained. "Plus, it will look fabulous on a T-shirt."

Jack stared at me for a few seconds, and I could tell an emotional battle was raging inside his head. Finally, he spoke.

I'M NOT INTERESTED IN VOTING...

I'M JUST HERE FOR THE PHOTO-OP!

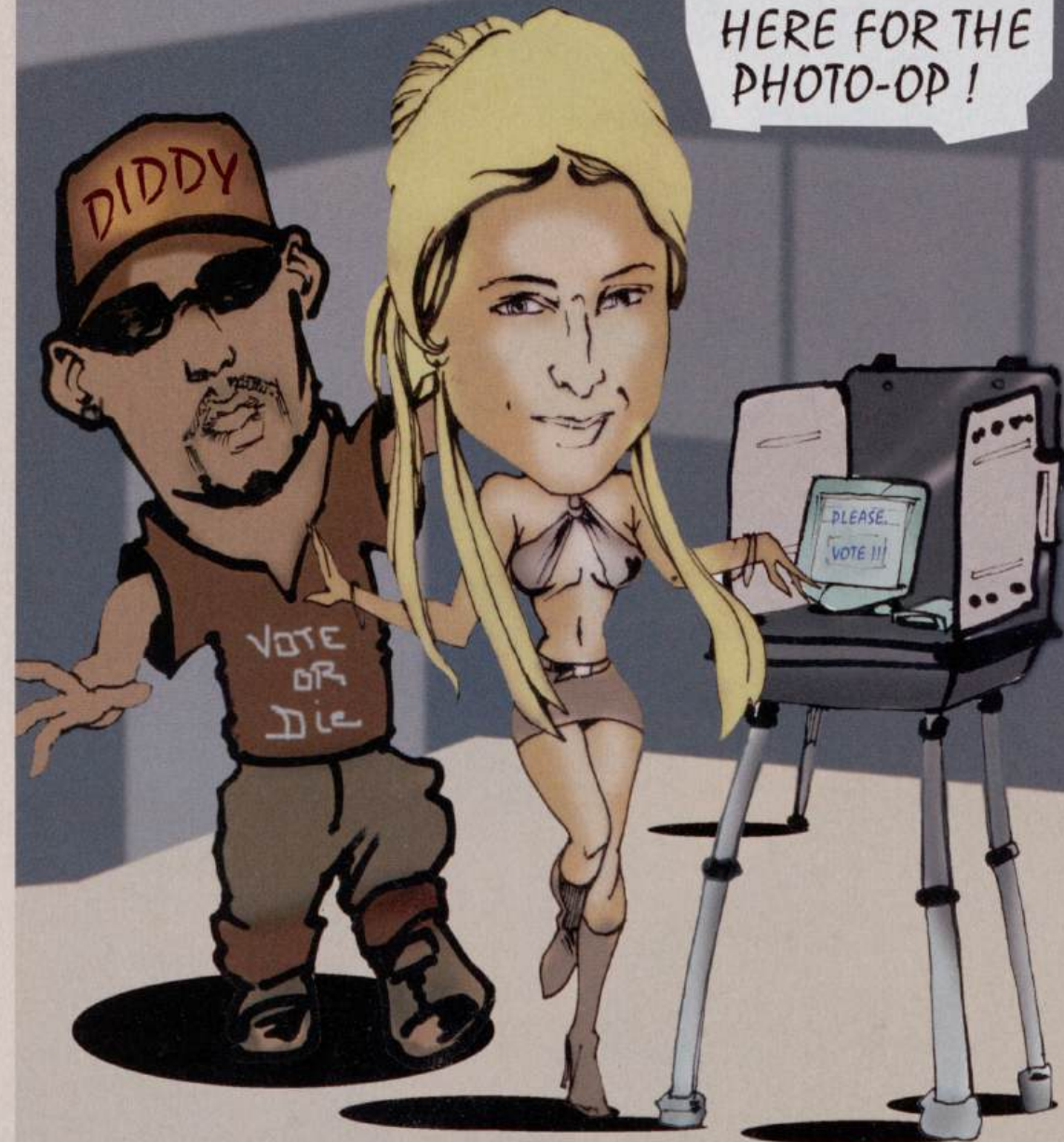


Illustration by
David Eduardo Flores Perez

"Take 'em down," he said.

We solemnly shook hands, then hunched over the table to start formulating plans. Eventually, though, reality won out. The sad truth of the matter is that when we as a community don't vote, we pretty much make our own lives miserable: We let our rights be taken away, or never granted to us in the first place. And it's kind of hard to torment people when you're oppressed right along with them.

In the end, I made a new resolution to

keep a healthy distance from margaritas, and Jack resolved to not let me trick him into supporting countercultural espionage. But despite Jack's suggestions, I did not resolve to stop screaming at people in public. If you make the conscious decision to not utilize the power of your vote, you may want to make an extra effort to stay out of my way.

Thomas Blanton contributed "Both Sides Now" to our June 2004 issue.



Prediction: "This time calls us to be more accountable for the choices that we make, both good and bad," Lilly Roddy writes. "For many of us, this will represent a time of endings and new beginnings."

WORD FROM ABOVE

Our favorite astrologer, Lilly Roddy, provides her annual forecast for the year ahead. Make soul-connecting love with your partner, Leo. Keep your Daytimer handy so that you don't over-schedule, Virgo. Get to the gym, Pisces

Illustrations by David Eduardo Flores Perez
Photo by Kelly Catchings

This year begins with a harsh arrangement between Saturn (structure/limitations), Neptune (illusion/secrets), and Jupiter (expansion/overindulgence) for the whole of 2006. On a worldwide view, we will see an increase in the number and size of summer and winter storms. We will also experience a sense of failure in governments and especially those who are holding onto their power by their fingernails. In a word, structures that we count on will have to be revamped or will be torn down. And we are likely to see a lot of this as the year begins in January and February. This will be very strong as well during the end of June, end of August, end of September, and end of October.

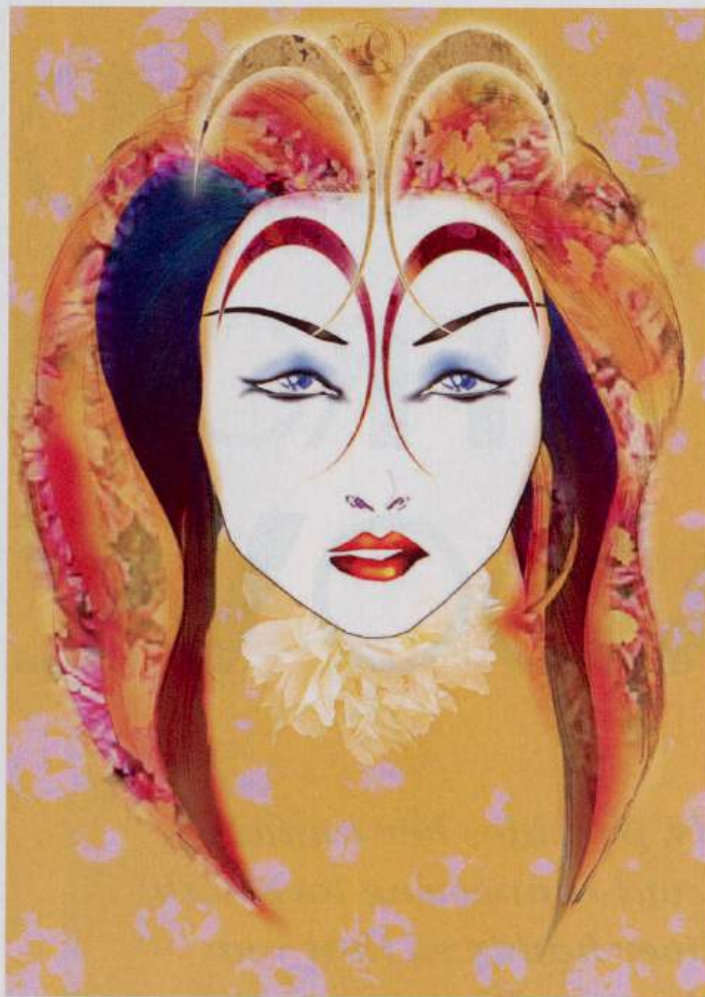
On a personal level, we can expect to find failure or disappointments in people or things in whose hands we have invested too much of our fate. This time calls us to be more accountable for the choices that we make, both good and bad. We are reassessing our long-term goals that represent our hopes, wishes, and dreams for the future. Some of us will come up very short and/or disappointed after the analysis. For many of us, this will represent a time of endings and new beginnings. Experiencing some depression and withdrawal from the people around us would not be uncommon. Some of this is good, so that we can obtain a better perspective. Too much of this

withdrawal will find us wallowing in our own pity party. Just get your party favors and move on.

Mercury retrograde dates this year—or when to finish up old projects and not start new enterprises—are March 2 through March 25, July 4 through July 28, and October 28 through November 17. During these times, do not sign documents, buy cars or electrical equipment, or travel to new places. You can clean up or finish any assignment that you have kept on the back burner.

Eclipses, which are always intensified times of emotional energy, take place on March 14 and March 21. During this period, people will be very aware of how much and how many things they actually need to make their lives comfortable and orderly. That means the eclipses will create a general grouchy period if people aren't getting those needs met. Additional eclipses will occur on September 7 and September 22. During that cycle, personal choices and sacrifices will be reconsidered, based on how much personal energy it takes to keep those commitments up. You can expect people to be doing a lot of back-pedaling and a lot of hurt feelings to go along with all that.

If I identified one concept as the most important for the year, I would say it was Be Real. Be sure that you are the primary recipient of your investments, or resentment will be knocking at your door. →



You are more sensitive to negative energy than usual, Aries.

Word from Above

continued from previous page

ARIES

March 21–April 19

Jupiter. The area that will want to grow this year is where your shared resources, personal intimacy, and sexual energies are located. You will find that you want all of your relationships, personal or business, to have a great sense of familiarity. Because one of the first signs will be that you are more emotionally hungry than usual, this can put a strain on an existing relationship, especially if your partner is not able to give more support than she does now. This will mean that you will have to open up to your partner, and she will have to be a better communicator. Lack of communication can have you wandering and looking for other people to meet your needs. However, used consciously, this can be a great year for planning for better financial conditions and using what you both have in a much better way. All of this will in turn increase your intimacy and physical desire for closeness.

Saturn. You will apply structure and ambition to your creative talents this year. Any inventive venture that you imagine will have to be well planned, practical, and have a long-term aim associated with it. This can be a very good time for you to consider going into your own business, since you are feeling more grounded than usual and can complete tasks easier and not get as distracted as you typically do. If you have children, they will be acting much more mature and some could even be entering into long-term careers or considering marriage and children. Overall, the projects you apply yourself to will have a successful outcome.

Uranus. Spiritually, you are reconsidering your entire belief system and are looking into alternative paths of enlightenment. In fact you may find that many of the people who you have associated with in the past seem to be more closed-minded than you were aware.

You will be distancing yourself from those who don't seem to be on the same path of enlightenment that you are. This could spill over into your career as you look for work that is more satisfying on a soul level and that seems to help uplift the people around you. You are just escaping the past roles that you have created for yourself that now feel restrictive.

Neptune. Following the theme of inspiration and compassion, you are looking for a group of friends and associates who are more innovative, non-conforming, and experimental. You have been paying a lot more attention to your intuition than you did in the past. You are very drawn to people who are artistic or have some way of expressing their emotions creatively. Intolerance and prejudice may even make you feel sick to your stomach. Take this as a message to get away from these people as fast as you can. You are more sensitive to negative energy than usual. This is strongest for those of you born April 5–9 or those of you who have planets at those degrees.

Pluto. You are being pressed to expand your cultural and world view this year. You are interested in educating yourself about others' cultures and seeing their worldviews. As you learn that you are finding inadequacies in your social dogmas, you are looking for situations that blast through your limited notions. But you welcome these discoveries as edifying experiences. This is strongest for those of you born April 12–16 or those of you with planets at those degrees.

TAURUS

April 20–May 20

Jupiter. You are certainly interested in having a relationship partner this year and generally improving your existing relationships. You will want your partner to be more active and take a decisive leadership role in the relationship. Staleness and the humdrum can really create some problems this year if one or both of you doesn't make a reinvestment in what you have. In business, you will draw more people to you who are open to what you have to offer. They will be automatically more receptive to you. This can also have a positive effect on moving or changing jobs. If you are in a committed relationship, your partner is likely to be more active at work, and we could even see her getting a promotion and a salary increase. If you are single, this is the perfect time to meet an eligible potential partner. Don't sit at home. Get out there and meet some new fun people.

Saturn. Family matters are also taking on a very realistic tone. You are reviewing your past decision about getting along with family and what role you want to take on this year. You will also want to update your home environment. This can range from some redecorating, to moving, to buying your place. You are in a major nesting time, and you are seeking stability in all areas of life. Even your career has to provide you with some assurance of long-term job potential or you will be looking for someplace that appreciates your loyalty. Everybody and everything will have to have a place in your future for the long term or you will be exorcising them from your life.

Uranus. Business associations, community organizations, and social groups will provide an escape as well as a new direction and inspiration for you. You are looking for people to connect to who have a more tolerant and compassionate attitude. Friends who can't step into this new category will be eliminated from your life. Also, look for these groups to provide excellent connections for business. This will be especially strong for those of you born April 29–May 5 or if you have planets at those degrees.

Neptune. This can be a year of career confusion, general boredom with your current career path, or a time when you seek a much greater level of personal satisfaction in your avocations. Some of you will try to dedicate yourself more to what you are doing, and that won't be enough. The lack of energy is the indication that you are not being fulfilled. Take that message and run with it. Don't be locked into what you are not happy with just because you have done that job for a long time. Take a more active path so that the Universe doesn't pull the rug from underneath you and make the choice for you. This will be especially strong for those of you born May 6–10 or if you have planets at those degrees.

Pluto. Honesty is a big topic for you this year. You are being dragged out in public and coerced into telling us how you really feel about things. Your ability to hide or mask your

true feelings is becoming increasingly more difficult to maintain. This will make you feel like more of a troublemaker, but you will get used to the role. At the core of this is learning how to be intimate with others and who you can really trust. The closest of relationships will be impacted the most. This will be especially strong for those of you born May 13–17 or if you have planets at those degrees.

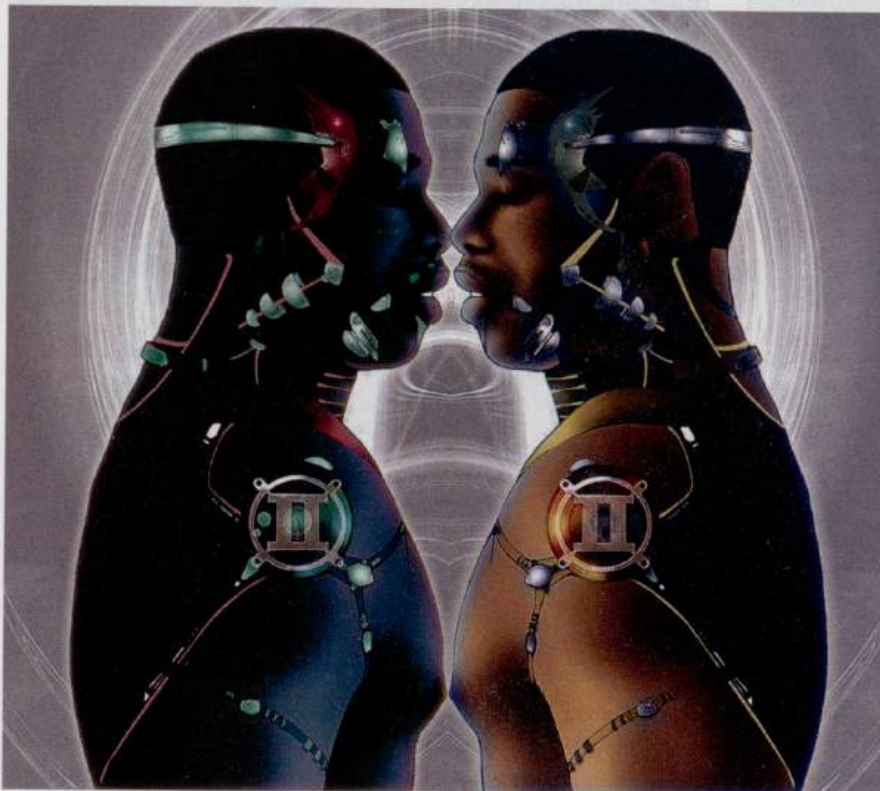
GEMINI

May 21–June 21

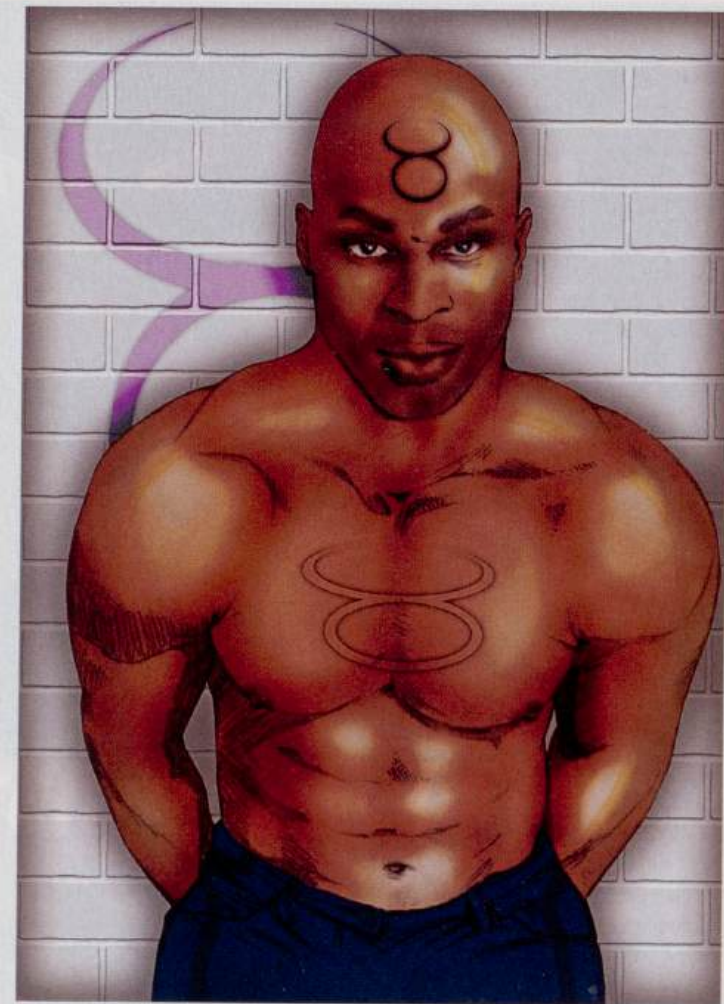
Jupiter. With Jupiter in your work sector this year, you can expect that you will be a lot busier than you have been, and you will be feeling more energized and optimistic by this increase in your workload. There will be new projects and new clients for you to come into contact with. All of these people will boost your optimism for the future of any project that you are working on. Don't be surprised if you have to travel for your work or people travel to your work environment. You are getting a larger picture of the world. Some of this positive energy will bleed over into your health sphere, and you will want to improve this part of your life as well. You will be drawn to philosophies or beliefs that you have not explored or have shunned in the past. A direct benefit: You will more enjoy working with your co-workers.

Saturn. Let's get those words and ideas into some sort of order. Initially, you will feel that you are literally tongue-tied. People are expecting more of what you have to say, and worse, they are listening carefully to what you have to say. The key theme this year is Responsibility in Speech. You are also using your time and energy more conservatively than you did in the past. You just don't seem to have as much time to do all of the things that you want to do. This can be an excellent year for college or continuing-education classes, since you want to know how to use better what you know. On the surface, others may find you not as flexible. This is just an indication that your boundaries are better.

Uranus. This year you are breaking through old, unconscious family patterns that have kept your scope and vision limited, especially when it came to career choices. One of the strongest talents in your life is your imagination, and yet you put all sorts of mental qualifiers on it. This comes from past family conditioning, where you saw creative talents being wasted and you choose a more cerebral choice. This is the year to break free of those chains and re-introduce yourself to your inner child, who is hungry for expression. This is strongest for those of you born May 30–June 5 or those of you with planets in these degrees.



Stay away from routines, Gemini. They will smother you.



Don't sit at home, Taurus. Get out there and meet some new fun people.

Neptune. Neptune is really helping you with your imagination this year. And you are more intuitive and psychically motivated with your thoughts and ideas than you have been in a while. Day-to-day activities can seem very boring if you don't have an alternative reality to dive into. Stay away from routines. They will smother you. Meditation, yoga, or tai chi will really appeal to you in 2006. If you are in a creative work field, you may be having some of the best ideas in years. This is strongest for those of you born June 6–10 or those of you with planets in those degrees.

Pluto. This year you are cleaning out those old and unproductive relationships and relationship patterns that you have been afraid to get rid of. You may not have much to work with or many people left around when she is done with you. On a soul level, this task will get you to a new place in your life where you attract people to you who are more open and accepting and less judgmental of who you are. Marriage and committed relationships are going to take the biggest hit from Pluto this year. Embrace her need for renewal, and your relationship will be stronger than ever. This is strongest for those of you born June 14–18.

CANCER

June 22–July 22

Jupiter. Your creative energies are flowing this year. You have so many new ideas and concepts that you may have a hard time deciding on just which ones you want to pursue. Be careful that →



Be careful that you don't overfill your dance card, Cancer.

Word from Above

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you don't overfill your dance card. You may get to dance with everyone, but your feet will be killing you at the end. If you have children, this will be an especially good year for them, and the first child in particular. This is a social and growth year for her, and she will be stepping out of the safety of her home environment. You will have to let go some of your control so that she can grow and you can put that creative energy back into yourself. Seek out new hobbies or work projects that can put those imaginative ideas into your relationships, life, and work.

Saturn. You are paying more attention to your financial conditions than you have in a long time. You are going to work to get rid of debt and any past financial encumbrances. You will not tolerate anyone who dismisses you or the things that you feel are important. You are more aware of your self-expression, and anyone or anything that diminishes it will feel the wrath of your crab claw. You are also going to use your personal resources and talents better than you have in quite a while. It is not that these ideas haven't been around in your brain. You just haven't put them to use.

Uranus. Your mind is so open this year. You are able to integrate very different views into your life. Your compassionate nature and mystic visionary senses will allow you to assist or lead others into a much more worldly view. And people will be drawn to what you have to say and think. This is a good year for writing, teaching, and attending classes. It would be good to have a cause or social movement for you to put your sympathetic nature into. This is strongest for those of you born June 30-July 6 or those of you with planets in those degrees.

Neptune. Intimacy is such an important concept for you this year. You really want to get past the idealistic boundaries that keep you apart from people around you. In your personal relationships, you want to be more in touch with your partner than you have ever been. You will want this sharing to be mutual. If you find that your partner is pulling away from you when you try to get closer, you will only try to understand her more and gradually pull her back in. You seem to find common ground, no matter what the differences are. This is strongest for those of you born July 7-11 or those of you that have planets in these degrees.

Pluto. Constantly seeking better ways to make your work and office environment perform better, you are on a mission to expand your services and at the same time be more

efficient than you have been in the past. You are ready to tackle new territories in sales or expand your skills in the office. You are ready to dump those habits and routines that are not working, and you will have little or no tolerance for those co-workers who can't seem to "get it." This is also a great year for any sort of health improvements. This is strongest for those of you born July 15-19.

LEO July 23-August 22

Jupiter. Home and family are emphasized this year, with Jupiter making his way through your solar fourth house. This can be a year of moving to a new location or remodeling where you are. You are wanting a lot more open space. This is more of an individual expression of your own ego not wanting to try to make so many others feel happy. You will want to do things as you see and may not be much into sharing your space with those who don't want to have you as the boss. You do know what's best for them, even if they don't. This stance can also help to mend fences between you and estranged family members. Be careful that you don't try to continue to push the idea that you were right all along. Otherwise, this good energy will go to waste. Plan some entertaining at your home or apartment this year. Your home will be more of a showplace, and you will want your friends to see this side of you.

Saturn. With Saturn visiting your sign for the next two years, this is a major year of self-evaluation on just every level of your life. Saturn

is primarily concerned with what is useful and valuable for your future. So that means that activities and people that don't fit into your view of your future will be eliminated from your life. And you will be expecting more people to be responsible with their choices and decisions. This also means that you will not want to clean up after others' emotional spills as you have in the past. Loyalty will be more important to you than ever before. Unlike the past, that means not how loyal you are to them, but how loyal they are to you.



Take acting lessons, Leo. Enroll in a painting class. Learn to play an instrument.

Uranus. Your sexual habits and tastes are changing this year. You are certainly going to need some spice in this arena of your life. This can be a real danger to long-term existing relationships if the couple isn't able to really talk about what is working and what isn't. You could view this as a real test to the intimacy of your relationship and your relationship skills. Past confines have to be blasted away with emotional subtlety. Trust yourself and enter into the realm of the not-yet-known. This is strongest for those of you born July 21-August 7 and for those you who have planets in these degrees.

Neptune. Disillusionment in relationships is being confronted this year. In the past, you held on to hope even when it didn't serve you. You just couldn't give up on the potential that you felt to be there even when it didn't manifest itself consistently. You will expect more responsible behavior from your partner than ever before. You may have to distance yourself from people to whom you have been connected in the past. No matter how right you are, you will still be sad for the loss of the potential. But you must move on and not continue to be mired in sticky promises. This is strongest for those of you born August 8-12 and those of you with planets in these degrees.

Pluto. Self-expression and pleasure will have to go beyond what you are used to. You are interested in the process transforming you and encouraging the essential you to cultivate a new vision of play. This is as intense as it sounds. Take acting lessons. Enroll in a painting class. Learn to play an instrument. Make soul-connecting love with your partner, and don't be afraid of your obsessions. The worst that can happen is that you will no longer want to wear your body armor. This is strongest for those of you who are born August 15-19 or those of you with planets in these degrees.

VIRGO August 23-September 22

Jupiter. You can expect a very busy year with lots of things to occupy your time every day. In fact, you will need to make sure that you keep your Daytimer handy so that you don't over-schedule yourself. You will certainly want to make your day-to-day routines different. In addition, words will flow from your lips like effervescent champagne. You may even find that you are teaching or lecturing more to people. The information that you have is important, and people want to hear what you have to say. If you have had any interest in writing or taking classes or going back to college, this is a great year. Your brain is a sponge and will absorb anything that comes into its path.

Saturn. Saturn is helping you to explore your subconscious motivations, past-life connections, and the real purpose the Universe has for you in this lifetime. So it is just a tea party with all of your delusions about universal purposes. As an aspect of the mundane, it is about revising your spiritual laws that you brought with you from other lifetimes and from your early childhood. Health issues will be a concern this year. Personal health problems will not be the issue; you will be supporting others who are not doing so well. Additionally, can you step outside of your own religious dogma to extend a helping hand to others, despite the →

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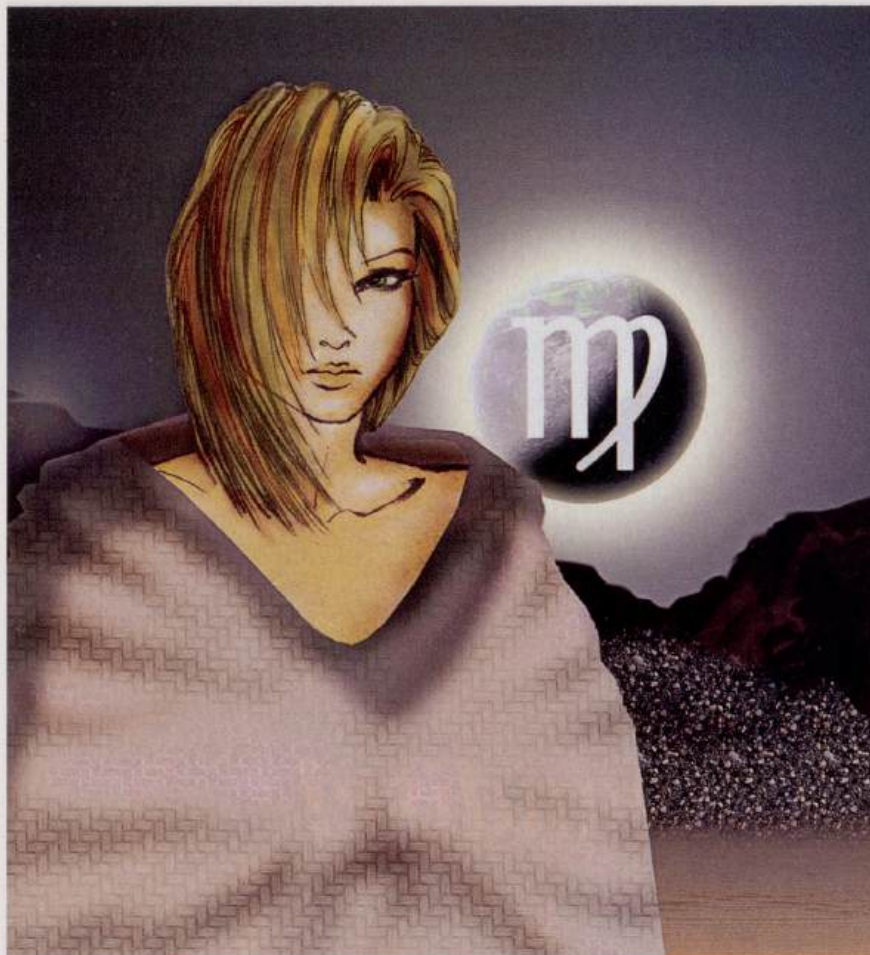
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Take control, Virgo, and make some proactive choices so that you don't feel powerless.

Word from Above

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choices that they made, especially for those people whom you see as making flagrantly stupid choices? Will compassion be a word in your dictionary this year?

Uranus. This planetary pass brings a real test to the viability of your relationships and your relationship aptitude. What is necessary is for you to take your current relationship model into the shop for a major overhaul. The first signs of problems will be boredom, feeling restricted by your partner, or wanting to shove your partner out of a fast-moving vehicle. This is the time for you to consider what it is you really want in a partnership and not just how you can improve the person you are with. Couples' therapy would be very helpful during this period. This is strongest for those of you born September 1-7 or those of you with planets in these degrees.

Neptune. Generally speaking, you just want your work area to be a more pleasant, nice, friendly, and calm place to be. As you actually wanted to take charge of making the workspace and saving your co-workers from themselves, this will not be your task this year. In fact, you will be doing just the opposite. Initially, there will be more chaos, since no one will really want to step up and do your job of rescuing. You will take steps to isolate yourself from the commotion. It is all in the best interest of your psychic health. This is strongest for those of you born September 8-12 or those of you with planets in these degrees.

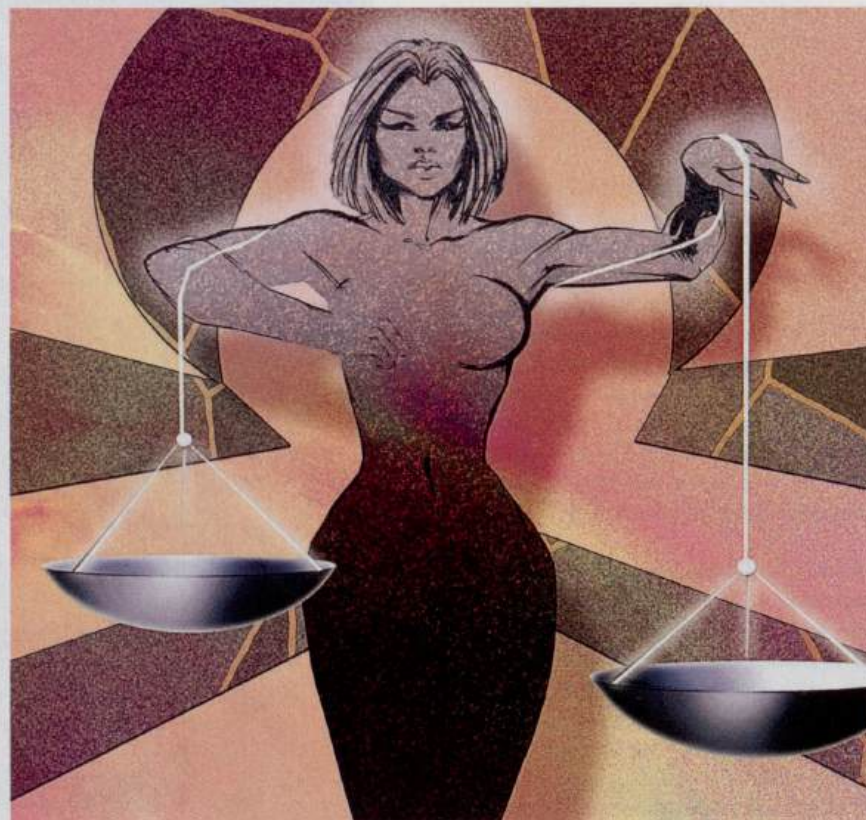
Pluto. Upsets in the home and family are on tap. You are being forced to really examine your past and clean out those emotional closets that you haven't looked at in years. This can also show up as you want to relocate, remodel your home, or purchase a fixer-upper. Separations with some parents can be the result of this Plutonian energy. Even at work, there can be a major merger or downsizing going on that is making you feel rather unsettled about your future security. Take control and make some proactive choices so that you don't feel powerless. This is strongest for those of you born September 15-19.

LIBRA

September 23–October 23

Jupiter. This year Jupiter will want you to expand your resource base, and you will want to spend more of that resource base. This can literally put you on a buying spree. So you will have to be cautious about how you spend your money, because you will want just about everything. With some forethought, this can be an excellent time to invest your money or resources into something that really increases your wealth and earning capabilities. In respect to business, this can be a time to start your own business or buy into an existing one. If you have dormant talents, this will awaken those creative interests, and you may be taking classes to reorient yourself to what you already know. You will be willing to pay more for quality this year even if it means you have to wait.

Saturn. A major reassessment of your friendships, business associates, and business organizations are called on with Saturn's visit this year. Everything has to have a place and a purpose so that it can fit into a neat little box or plan. You are looking for people who have common purposes or goals so that there can be a sharing



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of resources and ideas. Friendships will be tested this year. Some won't pass the test. You want more attention from friends than in the past. You will not be the one who is constantly giving just because it is being asked of you. In business, the company that you are working for will be tightening its money belt, wanting more for its investment as well.

Uranus. At work, there is new office equipment coming in and a reorganization of employee task and duties. Part of this is designed to encourage the imagination of the people there to make more of a commitment to being there. Some may feel threatened by this and want to make a hasty exit. There needs to be more of a community effort by everyone involved, and some people are just not team players. You can figure out which ones will be leaving. You are also ready to look at new health and exercise programs. You won't feel that you have to do this, but that you want to. Freedom is at every decision. This is strongest for those of you born October 1-7 or those of you born with planets in these degrees.

Neptune. This year you are supposed to do more nurturing of your inner child or creative spirit. Some activities that would be very good for you are taking trips to a health spa, meditation, long walks on the beach, and classes that encourage play and inventive use of your talents. In many ways, it is important that you are more childlike and enjoy the play you didn't get to enjoy as a child. The real sacrifice that is asked of you: Release some of your social obligations. Let someone else carry the ball. This is strongest for those of you born October 8-12.

Pluto. Speaking your mind is what is being asked of you in 2006 with this visit from Pluto. The real risks will be that you will upset the balance that you work so hard to keep. Imagine the peacekeeper being the person who creates the conflict. Yet this is what you will have to do, which will certainly take you out of your comfort zone. You will be more able to put your creative intellect into play and not just find a place for everyone else. Day-to-day conversations with everyone will be more intense and deep. You may not have the time to give to trivial chats that you had in the past. It may be time to write that book that you always talk about writing. This is strongest for those of you born October 16-20.

SCORPIO

October 24–November 21

Jupiter. Jupiter is visiting your sign this year. As a personal experience of this energy, you will want to grow beyond the existing boundaries that you have created for yourself. Some of this may feel like boredom or just a desire to have something that stimulates your brain. But the notion of growing is very indicative of this planet. This is an excellent time to travel or deal with foreigners or be involved with businesses that have global interest. Along with all this, you are going to feel and be more beneficent with people around you. You will be more willing to share your ideas, information, and even some of your resources. The primary drawback created by the Jupiter visit: You can easily take on too many tasks and find that you are running from →



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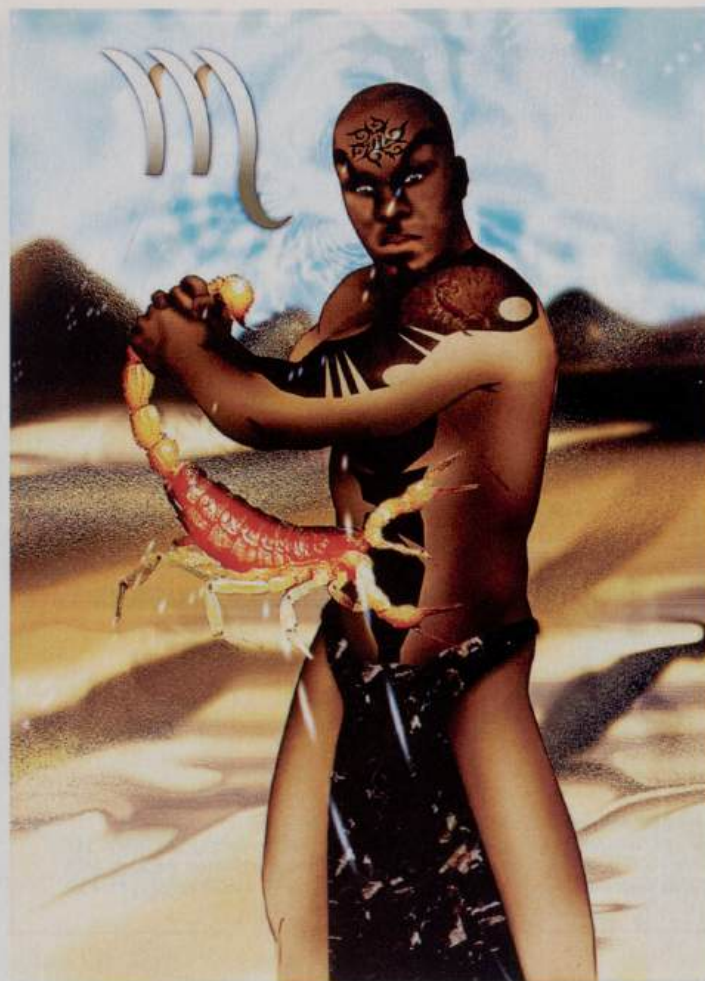


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one event to another and not really getting to enjoy the products that you signed up for. Saturn will help you with this dilemma.

Saturn. You have your eyes on your career this year. Where are you going with it? Have you achieved what you wanted to? What new projects are you interested in focusing on this year? Review, revision, and moving forward are your key ideas for this year with Saturn. Initially, you may feel that your career area is lacking or that you have taken it as far as you can. That only means you have to move out of your well-worn place of discomfort and make some investments in yourself. Otherwise, you will feel that you are being undervalued where you work, and the serpent of resent will come rising out of the mist. Be your own authority figure and do things to make yourself happy, not to prove yourself to others.

Uranus. Your creative juices are bursting through the dam. You need an outlet for this awakening of your sleeping artist. You may find that hobbies are a good release for this energy or that your own children are really expressing their original thoughts for you. Or through your work, you may find a channel for this experimental activity. As you do, you will find that you are connecting to your spiritual center and feeling more connected and purposeful than you have in years and years. This is strongest for those of you born November 1-7 and those of you who have planets in those degrees.

Neptune. Domestic matters and family roots are stimulated as you try to separate what was real and what was fantasy when you were growing up. A big part of you created a reality that allowed you to avoid dealing with the difficulties of your childhood. As a result, you have had problems in being intimate with your partner and a tendency to keep people at arm's length. Now you are looking at the reasons you are that way. Your ability to keep

people away is fading. You are making sure that only people who are sensitive to you are in your personal space. Anything less than this is not acceptable, as you may feel ill or just bad in having them around. This is strongest for those of you born November 9-12 or those of you who have planets in these degrees.

Pluto. You are continuing to look for ways to grow beyond your usual ways of utilizing your resources. There are three phases to this process: eliminating what you don't need, strengthening what you do have, and expanding on new ventures. The first phase began in September 2005, the second phase is in February 2006, and the third phase is in September 2006. You can look at this as a time of personal downsizing so that you will do better over time. The other side of this involves going beyond what is normal for you and taking some risks on things that you have always wanted to do but in which you didn't invest time and energy. This is strongest for those of you born November 15-19 or those of you who have planets in those degrees.

SAGITTARIUS November 22-December 21

Jupiter. This year is the time to extend your knowledge and scope about spirituality, the subconscious mind, and the belief of compassion and empathy. Normally, Sagittarians are a social and interactive group of people, but this year you will want to spend more time with your own company and that of your creative center/spiritual monad/karmic overlord. You are seeking to know what drives you and how to manifest your creative resources beyond what has seemed safe in the past. Latent or buried talents will show up during this year. You will have an extra interest in dreams, memories of the past, psychic abilities, and higher states of consciousness.

Saturn. Continuing the theme with Jupiter, you are looking for a way to ground your beliefs and make them more practical and useable and not just abstract mental matrices. The past way of responding allowed you to avoid taking action and keep the entire process in your



Be careful that you aren't drawn into other people's dramas, Sagittarius.

head. Saturn is here to make sure that it works in a day-to-day reality. You may come face to face with your own limitations regarding your personal philosophy. This can be a great year to go back to school or even attend school in a subject that you are truly interested in. This is not an experimental time, and you must have a goal in mind before you begin. All of this is based on your desire to give your self-esteem a boost, which it needs.

Uranus. This year you are cutting the umbilical cord with your family and your own personal history. In many ways, you don't want to be controlled by your past, especially since you don't remember having made the choices you are trying to live up to. So this is a time when you have more control over what makes you go, and with this you realize a great deal of freedom, which is so important to you. There may also be an ending associated with your nuclear family, so make sure that you stay in touch with them. Also associated with this is moving, rewiring your house, and putting in new windows that let in more light. This is strongest for those of your born November 30-December 6.

Neptune. Your day-to-day activities are being stimulated by an active imagination. The spoken and written word will be very important to you. You could benefit greatly from writing short stories or books or being in a speakers' group such as Toastmasters, although you have to be careful about who you spend time with, because you are more sensitive than usual. All of your communication will need to be about things with deeper content than usual. You are attempting to put spirituality into your life on a daily basis. Be careful that you aren't drawn into other people's dramas, because you are more susceptible to them. This is strongest for those of you born December 4-11 or those of you with planets in these degrees.

Pluto. This is a time when you are doing a personal transformation of death and rebirth. You are cleaning out the past, essentially detoxifying the parts of you that are in decay. Near the end of this year will be the time you will experience the rebirth. Expect to go through your attic, storeroom, closets, and brain, getting rid of all the extra matter that you no longer need. Some of the cleaning out can be painful. You are very attached to things even if you don't need them. This is strongest for those of you born December 14-18 or those of you with planets in those degrees.

CAPRICORN December 22-January 19

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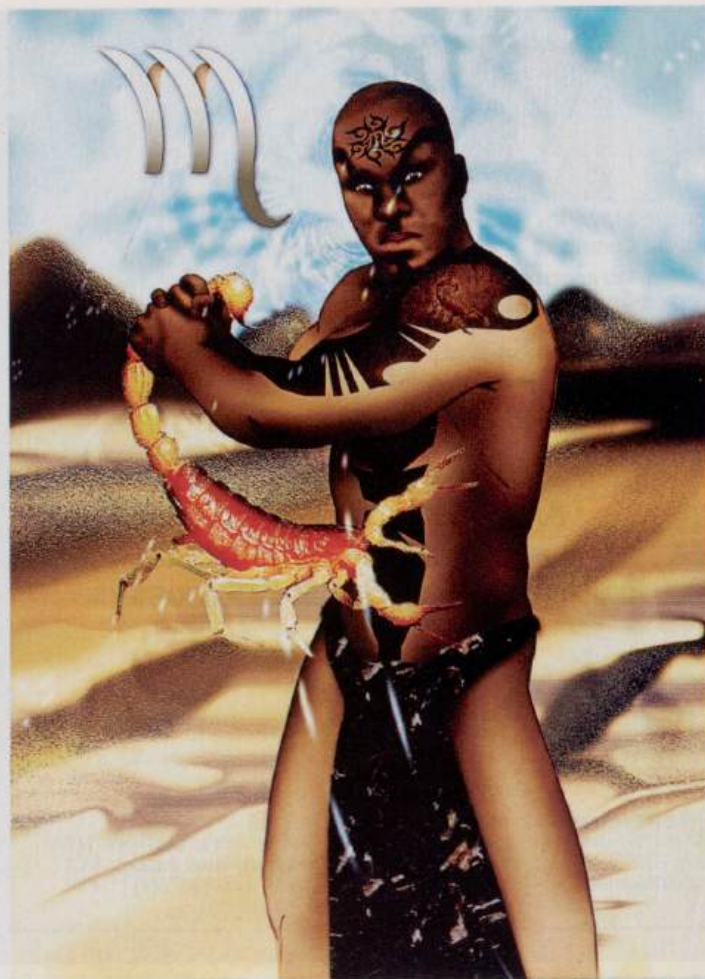
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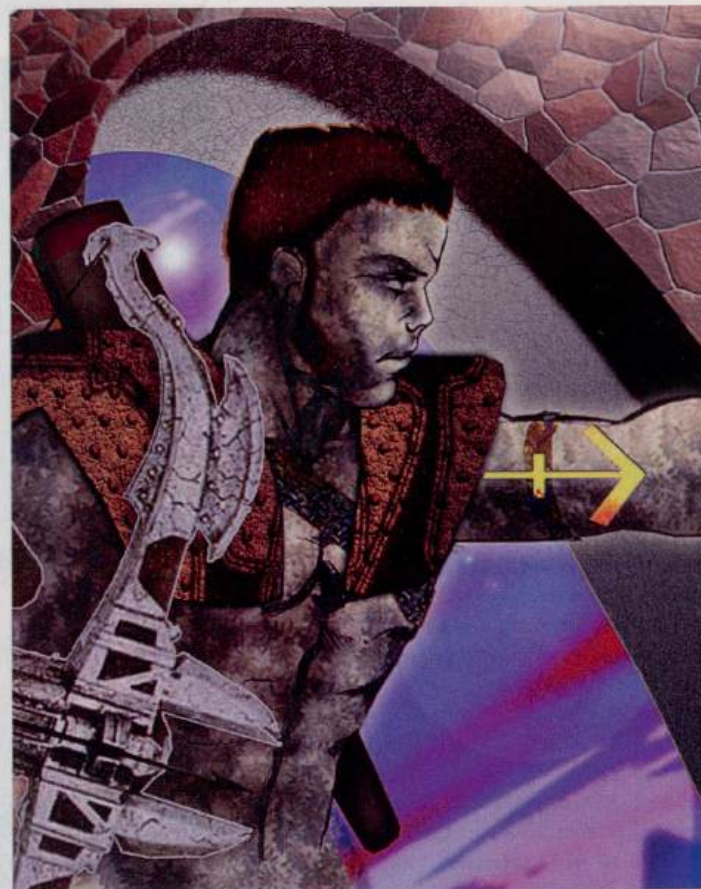
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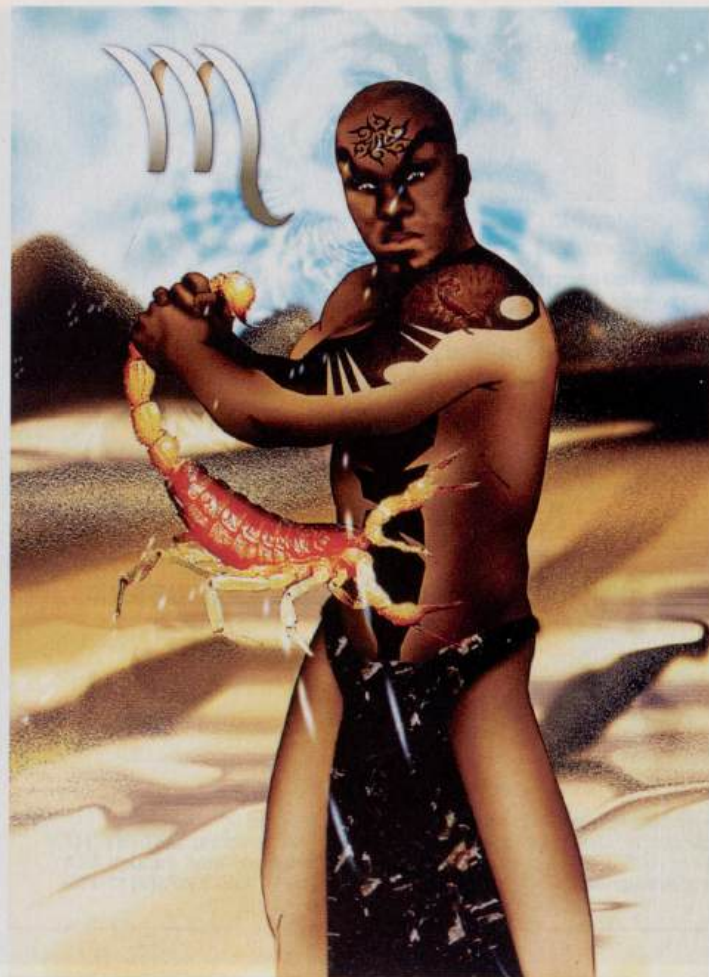
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Be your own authority figure, Scorpio, and do things to make yourself happy, not to prove yourself to others.

Word from Above

continued from previous page

one event to another and not really getting to enjoy the products that you signed up for. Saturn will help you with this dilemma.

Saturn. You have your eyes on your career this year. Where are you going with it? Have you achieved what you wanted to? What new projects are you interested in focusing on this year? Review, revision, and moving forward are your key ideas for this year with Saturn. Initially, you may feel that your career area is lacking or that you have taken it as far as you can. That only means you have to move out of your well-worn place of discomfort and make some investments in yourself. Otherwise, you will feel that you are being undervalued where you work, and the serpent of resentment will come rising out of the mist. Be your own authority figure and do things to make yourself happy, not to prove yourself to others.

Uranus. Your creative juices are bursting through the dam. You need an outlet for this awakening of your sleeping artist. You may find that hobbies are a good release for this energy or that your own children are really expressing their original thoughts for you. Or through your work, you may find a channel for this experimental activity. As you do, you will find that you are connecting to your spiritual center and feeling more connected and purposeful than you have in years and years. This is strongest for those of you born November 1-7 and those of you who have planets in those degrees.

Neptune. Domestic matters and family roots are stimulated as you try to separate what was real and what was fantasy when you were growing up. A big part of you created a reality that allowed you to avoid dealing with the difficulties of your childhood. As a result, you have had problems in being intimate with your partner and a tendency to keep people at arm's length. Now you are looking at the reasons you are that way. Your ability to keep

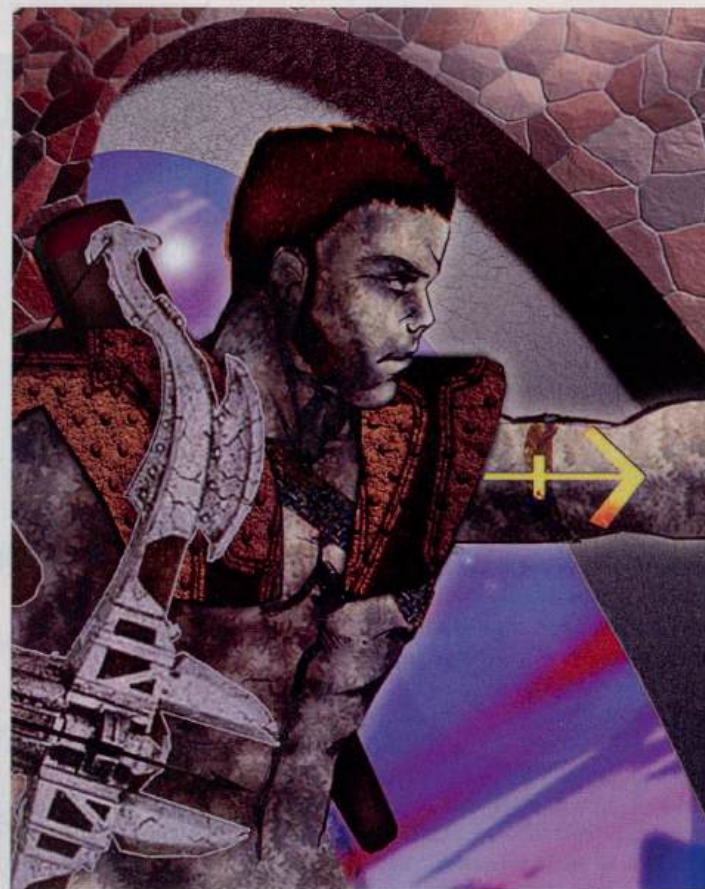
people away is fading. You are making sure that only people who are sensitive to you are in your personal space. Anything less than this is not acceptable, as you may feel ill or just bad in having them around. This is strongest for those of you born November 9-12 or those of you who have planets in these degrees.

Pluto. You are continuing to look for ways to grow beyond your usual ways of utilizing your resources. There are three phases to this process: eliminating what you don't need, strengthening what you do have, and expanding on new ventures. The first phase began in September 2005, the second phase is in February 2006, and the third phase is in September 2006. You can look at this as a time of personal downsizing so that you will do better over time. The other side of this involves going beyond what is normal for you and taking some risks on things that you have always wanted to do but in which you didn't invest time and energy. This is strongest for those of you born November 15-19 or those of you who have planets in those degrees.

SAGITTARIUS November 22-December 21

Jupiter. This year is the time to extend your knowledge and scope about spirituality, the subconscious mind, and the belief of compassion and empathy. Normally, Sagittarians are a social and interactive group of people, but this year you will want to spend more time with your own company and that of your creative center/spiritual monad/karmic overlord. You are seeking to know what drives you and how to manifest your creative resources beyond what has seemed safe in the past. Latent or buried talents will show up during this year. You will have an extra interest in dreams, memories of the past, psychic abilities, and higher states of consciousness.

Saturn. Continuing the theme with Jupiter, you are looking for a way to ground your beliefs and make them more practical and useable and not just abstract mental matrices. The past way of responding allowed you to avoid taking action and keep the entire process in your



Be careful that you aren't drawn into other people's dramas, Sagittarius.

head. Saturn is here to make sure that it works in a day-to-day reality. You may come face to face with your own limitations regarding your personal philosophy. This can be a great year to go back to school or even attend school in a subject that you are truly interested in. This is not an experimental time, and you must have a goal in mind before you begin. All of this is based on your desire to give your self-esteem a boost, which it needs.

Uranus. This year you are cutting the umbilical cord with your family and your own personal history. In many ways, you don't want to be controlled by your past, especially since you don't remember having made the choices you are trying to live up to. So this is a time when you have more control over what makes you go, and with this you realize a great deal of freedom, which is so important to you. There may also be an ending associated with your nuclear family, so make sure that you stay in touch with them. Also associated with this is moving, rewiring your house, and putting in new windows that let in more light. This is strongest for those of you born November 30-December 6.

Neptune. Your day-to-day activities are being stimulated by an active imagination. The spoken and written word will be very important to you. You could benefit greatly from writing short stories or books or being in a speakers' group such as Toastmasters, although you have to be careful about who you spend time with, because you are more sensitive than usual. All of your communication will need to be about things with deeper content than usual. You are attempting to put spirituality into your life on a daily basis. Be careful that you aren't drawn into other people's dramas, because you are more susceptible to them. This is strongest for those of you born December 4-11 or those of you with planets in these degrees.

Pluto. This is a time when you are doing a personal transformation of death and rebirth. You are cleaning out the past, essentially detoxifying the parts of you that are in decay. Near the end of this year will be the time you will experience the rebirth. Expect to go through your attic, storeroom, closets, and brain, getting rid of all the extra matter that you no longer need. Some of the cleaning out can be painful. You are very attached to things even if you don't need them. This is strongest for those of you born December 14-18 or those of you with planets in those degrees.

CAPRICORN December 22-January 19

Jupiter. You are going to focus some of that career drive on social activities and business and community organizations. Not only will you want to become a member of a business or community organization, but you will also take on a leadership role in one or more of these associations. Of course, your primary motivation is to help your career and financial security, but an altruistic side of you is rising to the surface. You will just want to make the world a better place to live. Friendships are going to be equally important this year. You will be looking to increase your circle of friends and acquaintances. You want to share your ideas and views and learn from those around you. →

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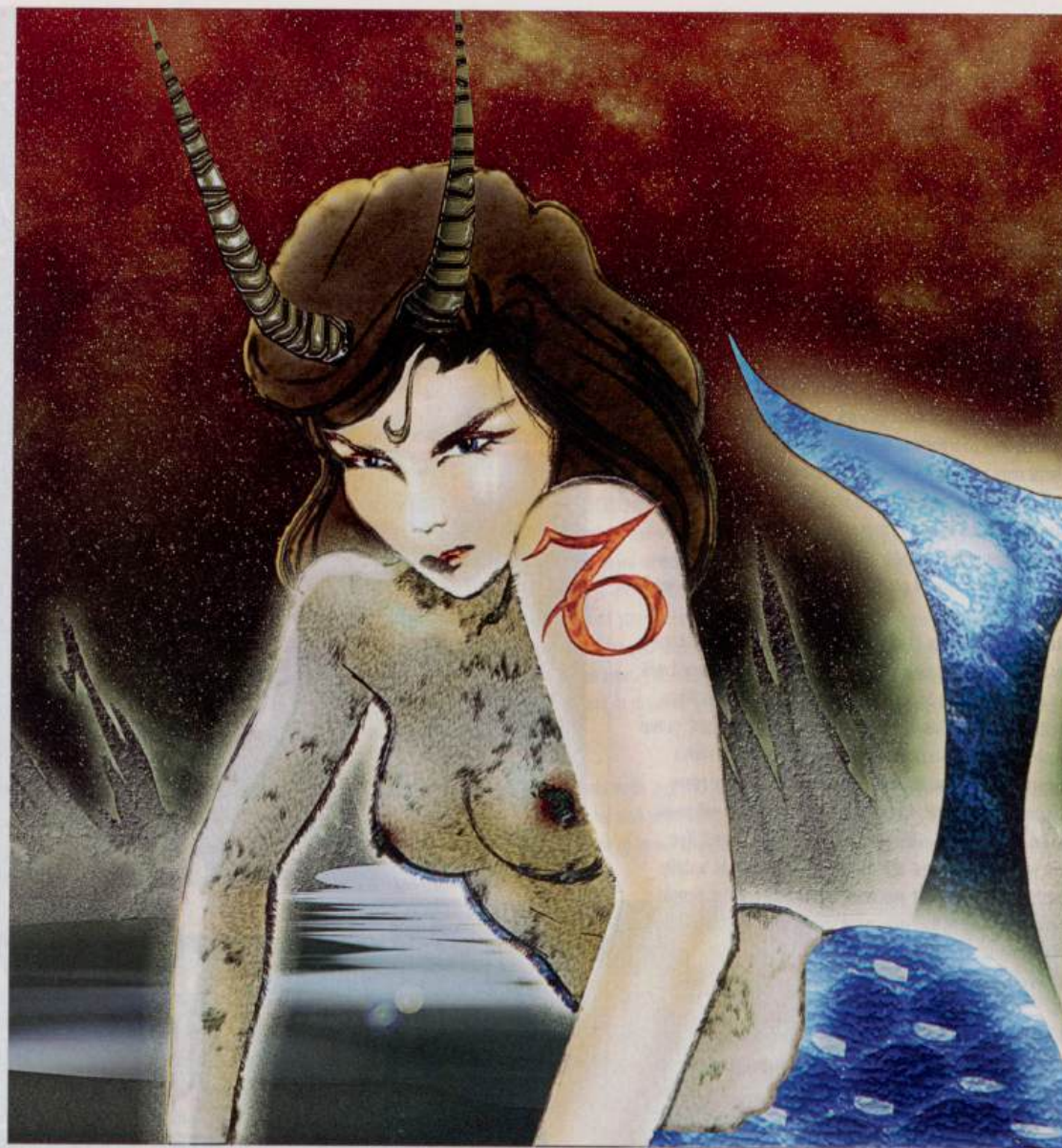
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Saturn. The area of your life that rules shared resources, sexual energies, and intimacy will be stimulated this year. As it is, you are looking into the areas that are blocked or restricted. Sometimes this shows up as your partner going through a difficult financial period or a decrease in libido response or even a sense that she is being distant. This is something of an alarm so that you and your partner will communicate about this issue and eventually increase the intimacy in your relationship by building trust. Of course, this is not a perfect world, and fear may block the way to this trust. Anger and greater suspicion will result. Couples' therapy and a better management of your financial base will certainly help. But both people have to participate in the healing. Otherwise, the problem of distance just increases.

Uranus. This planetary energy makes you want to break free of your routines and put some inspiration into your day-to-day existence. One thing you will notice first is that boredom has become one of your constant companions and is dulling your senses. You will have a hard time focusing on the task at hand. Clearly, you need a break. Take some time to get away from all the "have tos" in your life. This could be as simple as taking a walk through the zoo or around your favorite nature trail. You could also do some volunteer work to help stimulate your imagination and clear your mind of the cobwebs and make you appreciate where you are in your life. This is strongest for those of you born December 30-January 5 or those of you who have planets in those degrees.

Neptune. You are going through a time when your value system is being spiritualized. That means the ideals that drive your talents and make best use of your resources should serve a greater purpose. In addition, you want what you do to make a great impact on improving the world around you and the people in your environment. Sometimes this process can make you question why you are here and what you are doing all this for. When this happens, people sometimes try to work harder to fill that empty hold. This doesn't work. Introspection, meditation, or reconnecting to their spiritual center can be very helpful. Avoidance and escape only make the hold bigger. This is strongest for those of you born January 5-9 or those of you with planets in these degrees.

Pluto. The spiritual theme is repeated with Pluto, planet of death and rebirth and elimination, visiting your personal area of spiritual retreat. This can be a time of great personal searching of just what makes you go. First, you will go back to your roots and try to reconnect to your childhood religion. Most of you will find that satisfying at first but then later lacking in enough depth. By mid-year, you will be looking at alternative views of universal love and compassion. This would be a great time for a spiritual retreat. As we approach the end of the year, you will be feeling more grounded and ready to re-enter the



This would be a great time for a spiritual retreat, Capricorn.

so-called real world. This is strongest for those of you born January 12-16 and those of you with planets in these degrees.

AQUARIUS January 20-February 18

Jupiter. Your career energies are highlighted with Jupiter activating this area of your life over the next year. You will be more visible than you have been in quite a while. This is your time to take a leadership role at work or embark on starting your own business. You are ready to take on the responsibility that comes with this decision. You may feel the pressure of expectations that come from both within and outside of you. But as long as you make sure that you choose your commitments freely, you won't feel trapped and restricted by your choices. Another way to make sure you don't get roped into doing something that you don't want to do: Make sure that everything is explained to you up front so that you can assert your boundaries if necessary. Otherwise, this is the time to stand in the spotlight. Enjoy it.

Saturn. This year you are reassessing your relationships and whether or not they fulfill your needs. For those of you with long-term relationships, this is a period when you →

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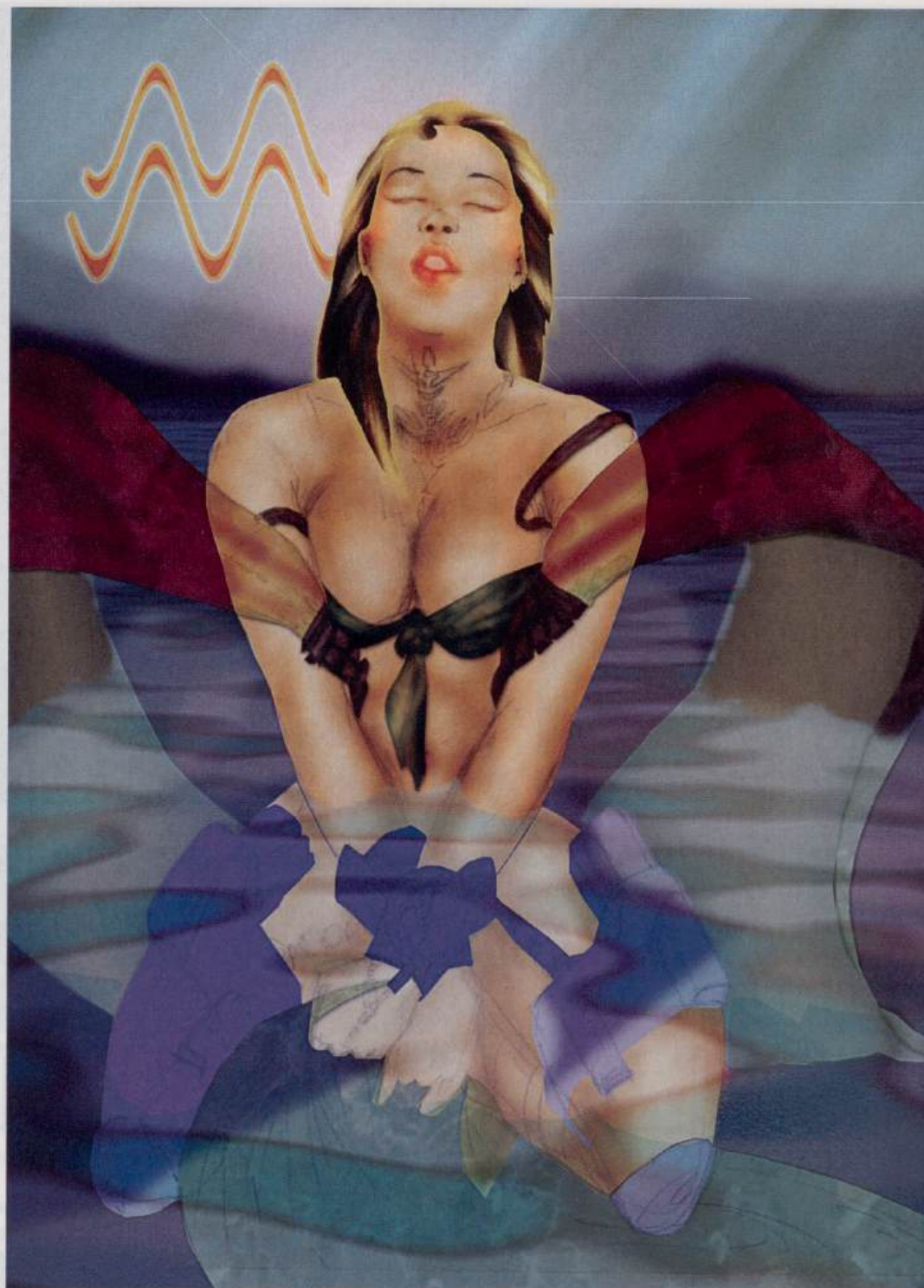
Word from Above

continued from page 52

and your partner need to take some time and look at where your relationship is headed for the next seven years. Basically, you have achieved the goals that you originally set for yourselves, and you simply need something else to give you a common goal and purpose. Some of you will find that the relationship is at an end, and there is no new goal that can revive it. This can have a very strong impact on business relationships as well as personal relationships. For those you without a partner, you are establishing boundaries so that you are better prepared for entering into a relationship, or you are learning that you're happy without that fabled soul mate.

Uranus. You are ready to take a new way to make money this year. The safe and sound ways that have worked in the past are not invigorating and are about what you did when you were younger. You need to be doing something that is all about you and who you are. You have always been there for other people in your life, supporting them with your organization skills, PR talents, and artistic imagination. Now it is your time to be at the top of your list. High-tech arenas or cutting-edge mediums of expression would suit you best. Let your originality shine. This is strongest for those of you born January 28-February 3 or those of you with planets in these degrees.

Neptune. With Neptune making an impact in your life, you will feel confused by what you have known and wonder if that is all there is to life. Sometime people experience a desire to go on a spiritual pilgrimage to look at what life is supposed to be. At some level, you have to do this. Now, this can mean going back to school or taking music lessons or engaging in any form of activity that takes you out of your realm of habitual behavior. You just don't want to live up to the roles that you have chosen for yourself. Any form of escape will be very healthful and allow you some sense of spiritual centering. You will know better



This is the time to stand in the spotlight, Aquarius. Enjoy it.

Lilly on the Air

On January 2, Lilly Roddy discusses her annual forecast on "Queer Voices," the weekly news program on KPFT-FM Pacifica (Monday, 7-9 p.m.). Programs are archived on the station website, www.kpft.org.

what you want to be when you grow up in February 2007. This is strongest for those of you born February 4-8.

Pluto. You are cleaning out friendships and group associations that have outlived their usefulness in your life. You just don't seem to have the same long-term goals and dreams in common anymore. You are ready to move on, and they seem to be swimming in their own juices. You are ready to get out of the pool, and they just want another drink with the tiny umbrella. Part of you feels a bit lost, because you feel that you don't fit into society, since you don't have a dream that you can show or share with others. You are a stranger in a strange land. But that won't stop you from finding that point of reconnection. This is strongest for those of you born February 11-15. →

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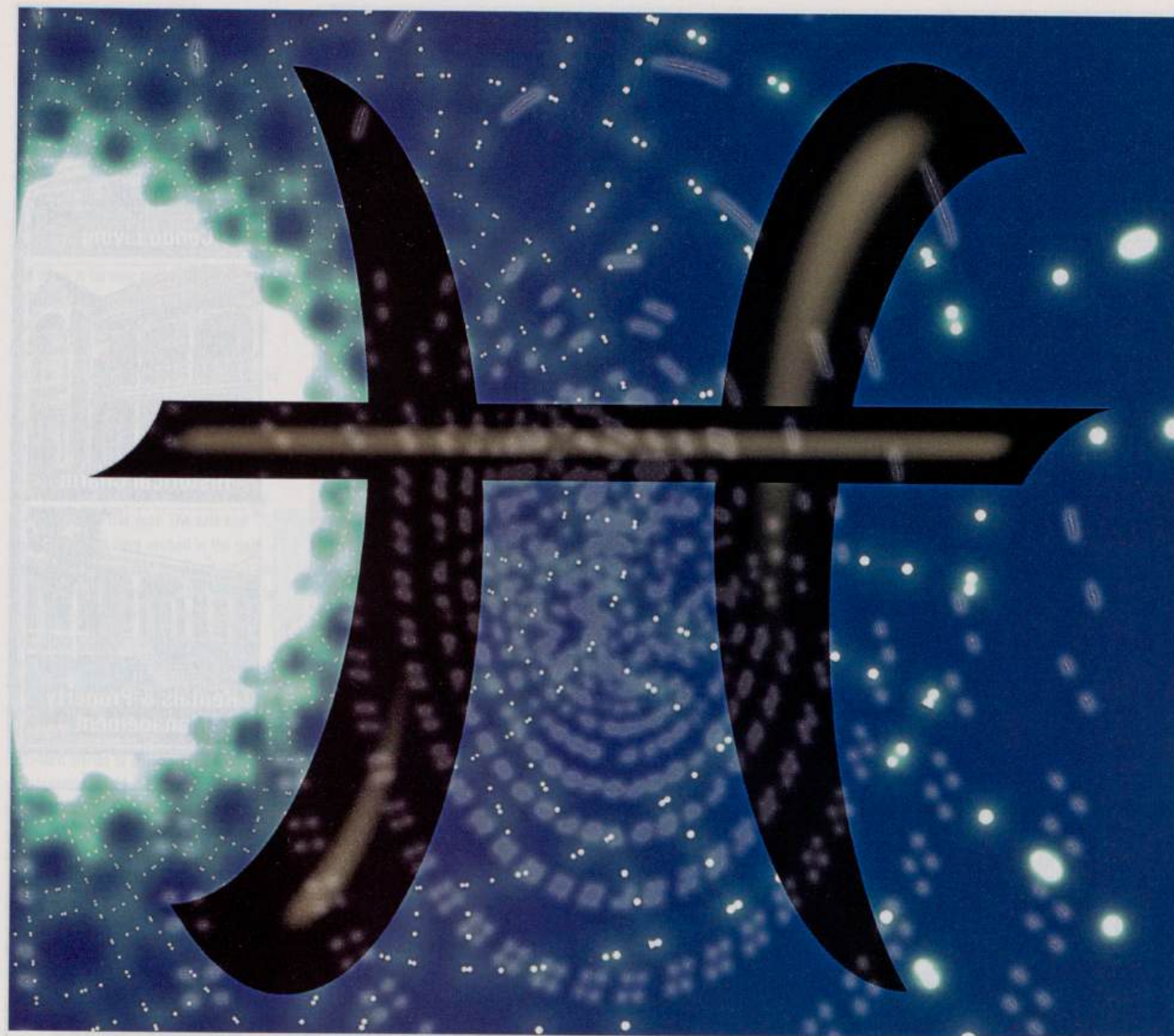
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Get those bags packed and your passport updated, Pisces.

Lilly Looks Ahead

Lilly Roddy presents her annual New Year's astrology lecture on January 12, 7:30 p.m., at 920 West Main. The fee is \$15 before January 5, \$20 at the door.

On January 21-22, Roddy teaches her Astrology 101 course. Students should provide the birth date, time, and location so that Roddy can prepare their astrological chart. The fee is \$65 before January 16, \$75 at the door.

Reservations: 713/529-5842,
lillycath@aol.com.

Word from Above

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PISCES February 19-March 20

Jupiter. With Jupiter moving through this area of your horoscope, you are presented with tremendous opportunities to broaden your horizons, intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually. If there was ever a time in your life that you were supposed to travel beyond the familiar, this is the year. This travel is about expanding the mind, so college or extended education is a possibility. As well as traveling to foreign countries and expanding your horizons in the physical sense, you are more than ready to open up to all sorts of mystical and psychic experiences. For you, Ms. Mermaid and Mr. Merman, you can actually ground some of the things you know but were not able to put into the physical realm. Get those bags packed and your passport updated.

Saturn. Your workplace is going through a time of renovation. In the beginning phase of this during the first part of the year, things may feel chaotic as new systems are put into place. But after mid-April, things will start to come together as you have to learn the new routines that are in place now. By September, you will have a handle on what is going on,

and there will be more order around you than you have had in a long time. You expect your co-workers to take on more personal responsibility and do their jobs better. If you work alone, you will expect your clients and your distributors to act more responsibly, or you will be firing them from your life. The overall plan is to make you and your life healthier by not taking on problems that don't really belong to you. Schedule some time for the gym or healthy eating. Otherwise, you haven't gotten Saturn's message.

Uranus. This planet is traveling through your sign. Her purpose is to break through past habits and routines and help you to re-invent yourself. Some may call this an awakening of the inner child or a breath of inspiration. But whatever you call it, you need something that rejuvenates you. Boredom is a sure sign that you are done with where you are. Relationships, career, friendships, and health patterns have to be revamped if they are to survive. Some things won't survive and will be eliminated from your life because they will feel like a ball and chain around your ankle. This is not a minor time in your life. The last time that Uranus was affecting your life in this way was 20 years ago. Reinvent and reinvest in you. This is strongest for those of you born February 27-March 6 or those of you with planets in those degrees.

Neptune. For one of the first times in your life, you are trying to make friends with your earthly life. Normally, you are caught in a struggle between trying to live in two planes of existence at the same time. One part of you wants to leave, and the other part wants to make the world a kinder place. And now for the first time, you have a chance to be at peace by being in both places without having to leave either. The inner faith that you have been looking for exemplified in the world seems to be manifest in each person that you meet. This can be a time for you to rid yourself of bad personal habits and addictions that have been temporary placebos. This is strongest for those of you born March 6-10.

Pluto. Your career sector is challenged at this time. You are happy to be free of the burden and at the same time not sure what direction you need to be going. For many of you, this could be a good time to just get a job and not look for some soul-satisfying, creative career choice. You certainly need to pay more attention to your boundaries by reading your job description and not overstepping what you are supposed to do. For many, this is a chance to begin life anew, since there is so much spiritual support for this life transition. The first phase, which began in September 2005, is about letting go and cleaning up. The second phase, which begins in March 2006, is about looking into new choices and testing the water. The third phase, which begins in September 2006, is about feeling comfortable with your choice and making the commitment to go for it. This is strongest for those of you born March 13-17 and for those of you with planets in those degrees.

Lilly Roddy contributes the monthly "SignOut" column (see page 88). Her website is www.lillycath.com. For the fourth year, artist David Eduardo Flores Perez illustrates Roddy's annual astrology forecast. ■



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KELLY CATCHINGS

DOG DAY. On January 29, Kyle Fu and Sandy Atha present a 4-7 p.m. exhibition at Mo Mong of 101 origami Dalmatians to celebrate the Chinese Year of the Dog. Potential paper-canine parents can adopt the dogs, each handmade and signed by the artists and accompanied by a birth certificate. Proceeds will support The Origami Museum, an innovative cultural institution that Fu and other local paper/fiber artists plan for the Houston Museum District. Following the Mo Mong reception, the Dalmatians can be acquired at Earth Gallery, Gallery X, Gallery 19, and Tansu.

GOOD WORKS. Organizations that want to apply for funds from the Bunnies on the Bayou party on Easter Sunday face a January 14 deadline, announces Bunny **Vincent Flickinger**. Details: www.bunnies.org.

Queer Voices co-host **Deborah Bell** hosts the first of a planned series of house concerts on January 13 at the Houston GLBT Community Center. Texas-based singer **Christy Claxton** performs. For the event, dubbed Sweet Savage Chocolate (also a Bell birthday fête), guests are asked to bring a choco-dessert to share and a \$10 donation. Funds will support the production of a Claxton CD sold to benefit anti-family violence programs.

Human Rights Campaign president **Joe Solmonese** joins HRC Houston gala chairs **Matthew Burrus**, **Fiona Dawson**, and **Alton LaDay** at a January 18 cocktail party at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. The evening, held in the *Basquiat* exhibition gallery, is a table sales event for the April 29 HRC Gala.

For its second Queer Bingo night, on January 21, the Houston GLBT Community Center has pegged a Broadway theme. Expect razzle-dazzle entertainment, promises

president **Christopher Bown**. **Chanel Cartier** hosts at Club 1415.

The same night, emperor **Christopher Garrett** and empress **Jackie Thorne** doff their Empire of the Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star crowns at the annual coronation ceremony held at the Marriott West Loop. Weekend activities for the charity-minded court include a Thursday-night Meteor show hosted by **Selena St. John** and **Woody Stiner**.

IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

Beginning February 3, dynamic Bishop **Yvette Flunder** guests in a three-day series of local events, reports **W. Jeffrey Campbell** of Fresh Start Church and St. Hope Foundation. The first is a luncheon for the launch of the new Kaletra tablet, sponsored by Abbott Laboratories and hosted by St. Hope. Flunder, founder of City of Refuge Church in San Francisco and a powerful presence on *Whosoever Believes*, the 2003 Transcendence Gospel Choir CD, performs in concert with Campbell and Houston's Voices of Hope at St. John's downtown on February 4.

Unhinged Productions presents **Everett**

Quinton's one-man comedy take on *A Tale of Two Cities* on January 6 at Stages.

MAKE A DATE. Photographer **Paul Stricklin** has produced a calendar featuring local lads. Stricklin, who snaps for *TXT Magazine* and *KPFT After Hours*, will donate \$1 from the sale of each calendar—available through his website, www.seeowl.net—to Bering Omega Community Services, Gulf Coast Archive and Museum of GLBT History, Montrose Counseling Center, and Pride Houston.

The Houston Buyers Club calendar of handsome men photographed by **David Lewis** and designed by **Rob Tomlin** ("OutFront," October) is sold at the Buyers Club and at Male U Wear. Proceeds support the nonprofit.

Allen Cole called to report that COPA Productions will sell the new *FACES* calendar ("OutFront," December) at the January 7, 3 p.m., signing party at Keys West. The previously announced venue, Crossover Gifts, recently closed. Proceeds from sales of the calendar, featuring local performers lensed by *OutSmart* photographer **Kelly Catchings**, will benefit a community group to be announced in 2006. ■

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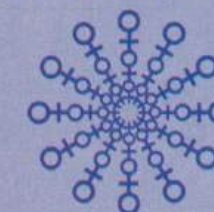
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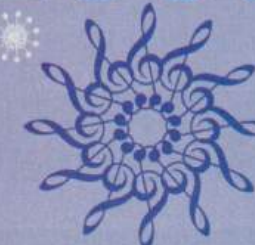


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George Takei

(Sulu in the original *Star Trek*)

(*Frontiers*, 10/26/05, Alexander Cho)

Alexander Cho: There definitely is a huge degree of introspection that goes along with this character, Dysart [the psychologist in *Equus*], that you're currently inhabiting. Has that influenced your life, or your decision to come out?

George Takei: This is something that I've mused on for a long time. I've been thinking on sharing it with the media, but the media is an ungovernable creature. [But] it's still a constraint in life, [and] you want to act on those constraints, like the marriage bill [AB 849]. Arnold Schwarzenegger is like some of those duplicitous Southern politicians who would say one thing and yet maintain segregation in the South. And that's what he's doing here. He's a dangerous politician, in the same way that Strom Thurmond or other politicians who say one thing in order to try to curry a broad base of support, and then when push comes to shove, they act in a segregationist way. You know, that's what Arnold Schwarzenegger is. When he first was mouthing the words he was mouthing I thought, "Hmmm, alright, let's see." And then this bill was passed, which was landmark, and it hung on him. And he failed utterly.

Rosie O'Donnell

(*CNN Larry King Live*, 11/17/05, Bob Costas)

Bob Costas: Last year, you married your partner Kelli in San Francisco.

Rosie O'Donnell: Yes.

Then a California court overrules that and says that's not legitimate. At least not yet.

Right.
Is it important that the word marriage be attached to a gay union, or is it OK if that union is respected and all of the legal and practical rights that would attach to that are there?

As long as all the federal rights are attached as well. And I don't know that that's possible without the word marriage. If you were to be in another country and [your girlfriend or boyfriend was] in the emergency room, God forbid, and you say, "Well, we're civil unionized"—what does that mean? . . . You know, I understand the reluctance of people to give up that word. I understand. But all the rights and protections and privileges that go with that are entitled to every American. And that's what this country is founded on—equality and human rights. As a nation, I think we have gone away from that.

Donald Trump

(*The Apprentice* via *Entertainment Weekly*, 11/18/05)

Re: Donald Trump's take on homosexuality.

That's why they have menus in restaurants, you know? I like steak. Someone else likes spaghetti.

Chris Meloni

(played gay in *D2*)

Three Years Ago This Month

(*Out*, 1/03, Michael Musto)

Michael Musto: . . . And while other actors who play gay roles go out of their way to say they washed their mouths afterward, you've always been very cool.

Chris Meloni: To each his own. I enjoyed it. I accepted it as a challenge and a place to explore. I viewed it as a privilege. I say, Jump in. See what it's about for you.

Queer Quotes

Compiled by Blase DiStefano

David Letterman

(*The Late Show with David Letterman*, 12/05, CBS)

Here we go—top 10 signs you're a gay cowboy.

Number 10: Your saddle is Versace.

Number 9: Instead of "Home on the Range," you sing "It's Raining Men."

Number 8: You enjoy riding, roping, and redecorating.

Number 7: Sold your livestock to buy tickets to *Mamma Mia*.

Number 6: After watching reruns of *Gunsmoke*, you have to take a cold shower.

Number 5: Native Americans refer to you as "Dances with Men."

Number 4: You've been lassoed more times than most steers.

Number 3: You're wearing chaps, yet your ranch is in Chelsea.

Number 2: Instead of a saloon, you prefer a salon.

And the Number 1 sign you're a gay cowboy: You love riding, but you don't have a horse.



Heath Ledger (l) and Jake Gyllenhaal's characters in *Brokeback Mountain* are the butts of David Letterman's (inset) top 10 jokes.



Carol Burnett does drag.

Carol Burnett

(*CNN Larry King Live*, 12/16/05)

Re: Bob Mackie's designs for Carol Burnett in the last month's TV special *Once Upon a Mattress*.

Carol Burnett: [Bob Mackie] did the four outfits that I'm in. And I asked Bob how he saw Queen Aggravain, the character that I play. I said, How do you picture her, Bob? . . . And he says, Well, I think she's kind of a cross between a medieval Joan Collins and a drag queen.

Bill Maher & Larry King

(*CNN Larry King Live*, 12/15/05)

Larry King: What do you make about this new website to let people know they have a sexually transmitted disease or I just fax you?

Bill Maher: You?

Or not fax you, I . . . not me, no, I just send you a note.

You can tell me, Larry. . . Look, Larry, I was a cowboy for a couple of years. We were on the range. We got lonely. A few things happened. I don't expect anything to come from it.

LESBIANS IN SHORTS

Lesbian shorts from the film festival circuit

The *Ultimate Lesbian Short Film Festival* features 10 of the best new lesbian shorts from the film festival circuit. The lineup:

- ***A Woman Reported***, directed by Chris J. Russo. Official Selection: Sundance Film Festival. Moira Kelly stars in this thriller about a woman's determination to escape a hate crime and return to the arms of her girlfriend.
- ***Dani and Alice***, directed by Roberta Marie Munroe. Yolanda Ross stars in this powerful indictment of lesbian domestic violence.
- ***Frozen Smile***, directed by Silas Howard. This comedy serves up a quirky portrait of a butch and her crazy family.
- ***Everything Good***, directed by Elizabeth McCarthy. Audience Award: Best Short, Fire Island Film Festival. A woman orders a call girl to fulfill her perfect sex fantasy in this bittersweet comedy.
- ***Saint Henry***, directed by Abigail Severance and starring Ashleigh Ann Wood. A girl enlists her gay pal to help search for her father in this moody drama.



Moira Kelly in *A Woman Reported*

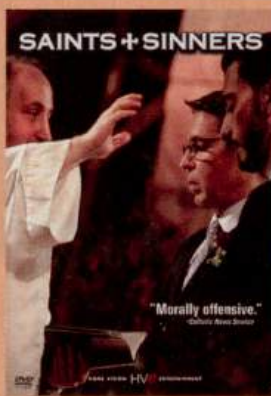
- ***Blow***, directed by Marie Craven. This Aussie short is the sweetest schoolgirl crush movie you've ever seen.
- ***Transit***, directed by Kerry Weldon. Enjoy the pleasures of lesbian cruising, subway style!
- ***Half Laughing***, directed by Michelle Ehlen. A butch lesbian faces her mother's homophobia on a trip home for Grandpa's funeral.
- ***Tina Paulina: Living on Hope Street***,

directed by Barbara Green and Michelle Boyaner. An inspirational documentary about a Latina lesbian living on the streets of downtown Los Angeles.

- ***The Black Plum***, directed by Meredyth Wilson. A poignant fantasy about a tomboy's journey away from her restrictive home. Stars Kip Pardue (*Loggerheads*).

Available January 31 from Wolfe Video (www.wolfevideo.com) or 1-800-GET-WOLFE. —Preview: Suzie Lynde

In September 2002 *The New York Times* became the latest in a growing list of daily papers to publish civil union announcements in their wedding section, which they chose to retitler Weddings/Celebrations. Two years later, Edward DeBonis and Vincent Maniscalco submit their announcement and the paper is stumped. Edward and Vincent are Catholic, you see, and they intend to avail themselves of the church's sacrament of Holy Matrimony. While the struggles of the *Times* are central to *Saints & Sinners*—especially the *Times*'s reluctance to anger the powerful Roman Catholic lobby—the more poignant story is of the personal battles Edward and Vincent face. Their families, formerly accepting of the couple, split over Edward and Vincent's decision to share in the sacrament



of marriage. • With even civil unions under siege in some states, Abigail Honor and Yan Vizinberg's documentary film is a timely and intelligent look at the obstacles confronting same-sex couples looking to formalize their relationship through marriage. It was only a year ago that referendums banning same-sex unions passed in eleven states. *Saints & Sinners* does little to explain the fear that drove so many to the polls last November, but it does much to reveal the depth and complexity of the issues surrounding this latest battle in the seemingly endless struggle for civil rights. • Scheduled release date is January 6, from Home Vision Entertainment (www.homevision.com). More info: Image Entertainment (www.image-entertainment.com). —Review: John Stiles

MORE DVD/VHS PREVIEWS/REVIEWS

Reefer Madness



Based on the original cult film from 1936 and the hit musical, *Reefer Madness: The Movie Musical* is a tongue-in-cheek raucous musical comedy about clean-cut kids who fall into a twisted, hilarious downward spiral of reefer, sex, and mayhem. A strait-laced high school lecturer played by Alan Cumming (see interview with Cumming in our

April 2005 issue) seeks to impart his wisdom to frightened parents about the "demon weed" by telling the frightful tale of two innocent teens who fall under its spell and quickly find themselves in a world of evil jazz music, dance, and madness. Filled with outrageously funny and musical performances, *Reefer Madness* also features Kristen Bell, Christian Campbell, Neve Campbell, Ana Gasteyer, Amy Spanger, Robert Torti, and Steven Weber. • 2005. Directed by Andy Fickman. • From Showtime Entertainment (www.sho.com). —Preview: Troy Carrington

The Judy Garland Show



It's been just over 40 years since the entertainment icon Judy Garland presented her weekly musical-variety series, a program that now serves as an outstanding video record of the legendary star. Two DVD volumes, a total of four shows, pair Garland with Tony Bennett, Steve Lawrence, Peggy Lee, and Ethel Merman, and feature appearances by the

show's resident comic, Jerry Van Dyke, and guest stars June Allyson, Peter Gennaro, Shelly Berman, and Dick Shawn. Bonus features include outtakes and audio commentary by the show's original producer, George Schlatter. • Available January 10 from Geneon Entertainment USA and Classic World Productions. —Preview: T.C.

Shirley Temple: America's Sweetheart Collection



The terrible Great Depression in the third decade of the last century brought about some massive hard times for a large segment of this country's population, but it's almost hard to believe it could have been all that bad when you consider some of the era's entertainment. For instance, in 1935 Mae West was the highest-paid woman in the United States, and only a year or so later little Miss Shirley Temple was the nation's top box-office draw. It's probably not necessary to explain the appeal of the bawdy Miss West to modern consumers, but the appeal and phenomenal success of that curly-headed moppet may be something of a mystery to anyone who isn't already a hardcore fan of 1930s cinema. If you really need to be convinced that little Shirley was the single most talented child star in screen history, there's plenty of evidence in three of her new-to-DVD films: *Baby Take a Bow* and *Bright Eyes* (both from 1934), and *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm* (1938). The kid just about owns every scene she's in, displaying astounding poise and charisma for one so young. But, of course, if the charms of little miss moppet are still lost on you, there are other somewhat more esoteric pleasures to be found in some of her films. Be aware that in *Bright Eyes*, villainous little Jane Withers asks her parents to buy her a machine gun for a present. And Shirley's leading man in *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm* is hunky Randolph Scott, a "roommate" of Cary Grant who nevertheless wound up more famous for riding a horse! The DVDs let you choose either the original black-and-white versions or the dreaded "colorized" versions. (Modern technology is truly a miracle, but honestly, if they're going to tamper with these classics, why don't they just leave them black-and-white and toss in a few Brad Pitt nude scenes.) • From Fox Home Entertainment (www.foxhome.com). —Review: Jack Varsi

The Mary Tyler Moore Show: Season Three



An independent woman living alone in the big city, Mary Richards' adventures both in and out of the newsroom were a touchstone of the late '60s and early '70s, depicting strength and humor and proving that, even in a man's world, women can "make it after all." Mary's heroic and hilarious antics are fueled, thwarted, and inspired by her famous and beloved supporting cast, including Ed Asner, Gavin McLeod, Ted Knight, Cloris Leachman, and Valerie Harper. The three-disc set includes all 24 episodes. • Available January 17 from Fox Home Entertainment (www.foxhome.com). —Preview: S.L. ■

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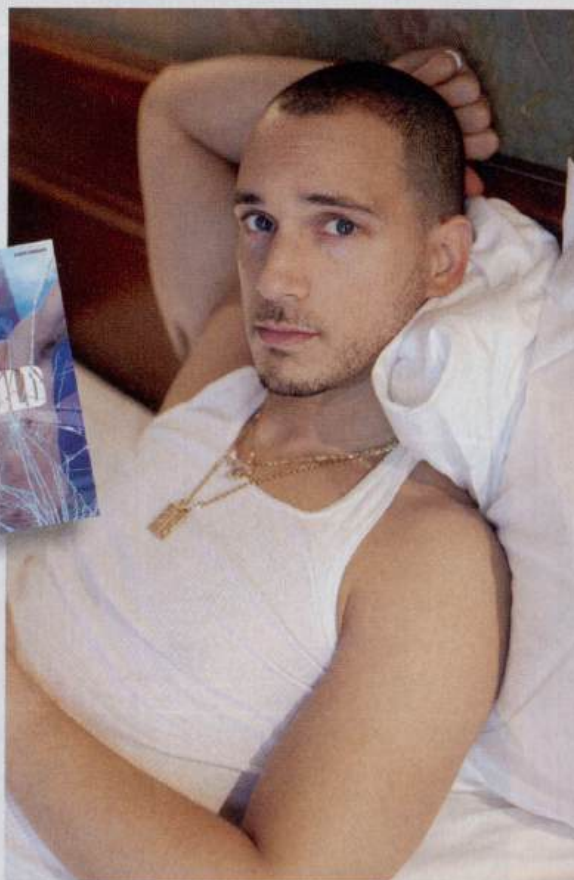


GOLD STANDARD

Sexy gay singer Ari Gold makes his mark on disc and on the page

The Ari Gold experience is both an audio and a visual one. Having sung and recorded from an early age, Gold has recently been making waves on the dance charts and in the queer music community. His album *Space Under Sun* received a 2005 Outmusic Award. The video for the song "Wave of You," an homage to photographer Herb Ritts, is in heavy rotation on Logo. Gold is also a natural in front of the camera, revealed by the newly published coffee-table photo book *Ari Gold* (Bruno Gmünder). In addition to the series of photos, and words of praise from original Village People cowboy Randy Jones and Boy George (one of the book's photographers), a remix CD is included with the book.

Gregg Shapiro: It seems like you can't turn on Logo without seeing your video for "Wave of You" from *Space Under the Sun*. How does it feel to have the video in such heavy rotation on the LGBT cable network?



Ari Gold: It's funny to me, because I wrote that song quite a while ago but never gave up on it, and the video that Guy Guido directed came out so great, considering what a limited budget we had. But better late than never! I'm just glad we have our own network now, because the other networks weren't playing it. One network actually requested it and then said they couldn't play it because they thought it wasn't suitable for their audience. But that only has to do with the fact that there are gay guys kissing each other. The video is very sensual, but it's far less raunchy or risqué than your average rap video or Britney Spears video. Maybe it was all the transsexuals in it, but I doubt they even got that part! [Laughs]

Space Under Sun was released on your record label Gold 18. Is the 18 in reference to the Hebrew letter Chai, which you also wear around your neck?

Yes! That's very perceptive of you, Gregg. Chai means *life* in Hebrew, and the two letters that make up the word Chai come out to 18 in →

GrooveOut Shorts

**Original Motion Picture Soundtrack
The Producers**



The movie classic that became a Broadway sensation now becomes a musical film—Mel Brooks's *The Producers* returns to the screen, starring Nathan Lane, Matthew Broderick, Uma Thurman, and Will Ferrell. The soundtrack includes most of the hit songs from the stage production, including "We Can Do It," "Keep It Gay," and, of course, "Springtime for Hitler." From Sony Classical (www.sonybmgmasterworks.com). —Preview: Troy Carrington

**Anthony Antoine
Closets on Fire**



Wake up to an out and proud artist. The highly innovative and provocative Anthony Antoine is an openly gay, black male pop artist. His music has justifiably been described as a voice for a silent and oftentimes silenced community. With over

15 years of music industry experience, Antoine blends pop, dance, and hip-hop to educate, entertain, and intervene for social change, especially with reference to the respect and acceptance of glibt people. Are mainstream radio and the music industry ready to address prevalent diverse themes and taboo issues about gay relationships and sex? Being a music pioneer with an activist spirit, Antoine has found his own audience by self-producing and distributing his music. From FlameBoi Records (www.anthoniyoantoine.com). —Review: Andrea Rodricks

**Mariah Carey
The Emancipation of Mimi: Ultra Platinum Edition**



If *The Emancipation of Mimi* was Mariah Carey's declaration of independence from the pop world, *The Ultra Platinum Edition* is her extended good-bye. From the opening claps on "It's Like That," that sound amazingly like gun shots, to her sexy panting on "So Lonely (One and Only Part 2)," this is Mariah with a "How ya like me now?" attitude. The *Ultra Platinum Edition* has all 14 songs from the original CD along with four new tracks, including a remix of "We Belong Together," with Styles P. and Jadakiss. The *Ultra Platinum Edition* also

has a deluxe edition, with a DVD featuring full-length videos of four songs. Get the deluxe edition, because the only thing better than listening to Mariah is looking at her. —Review: Olivia Flores Alvarez

**Original Motion Picture Soundtrack
Memoirs of a Geisha**



Oscar-winning conductor/composer John Williams is responsible for the original score to the international epic *Memoirs of a Geisha*. Williams employs world-renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma and violinist Itzhak Perlman as soloists on the album. The combined effort lends itself to a gorgeous soundtrack. The string performances with flute beautifully echoes back to the emotionally evocative film maintaining a strong sense of the Far East throughout. From Sony Classical (www.sonybmgmasterworks.com). —Review: A.R.

**Floetry
Flo'ology**

If Floetry's 2002 debut *Floetic* was their wet-behind-the-ears platter of naive early-20s energy, →

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GrooveOut

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Jewish numerology. I write a bit about it in the introduction to my book. I also like how the eight looks like an infinity sign, and the one looks like a straight finite line. I have it tattooed on my back. It's about the tension between the infinite and finite—life and death, the body being finite, the soul being infinite. I actually got the infinity tattooed first because my boyfriend at the time used to make a figure eight on my back when we were lying in bed. After we broke up I got the line underneath, and the whole 18 Chai thing took shape. It's all ooga booga and weird like that. [Laughs]

What can you tell me about the thinking behind making *The Remixes* disc available only with the Ari Gold photo book?

Well, the CD idea came at the same time as I had the idea for the book. I like going out to the clubs and listening to house music. People always want me to do remixes of my stuff, and I thought it would be great to get played in the big dance clubs. So, I quickly—and I mean quickly—gave a cappella to some remixers that I've always wanted to work with, and they turned it out, because the CD had to be ready in time with the book. The lead single, "Love Will Take Over," actually became my very first song to get on the American *Billboard* dance charts. And I've been reading *Billboard* since I was 12 years old, so it was very exciting to me.

What is the genesis of the Ari Gold book itself?

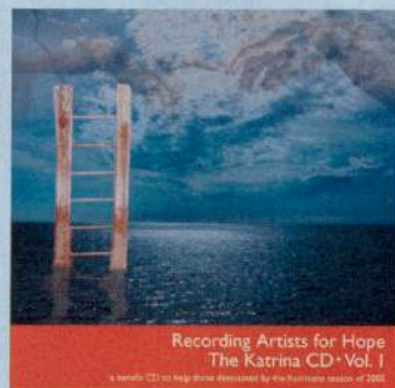
For me, it's a great opportunity because Bruno Gmünder has distribution in stores in over 25 countries, and distribution is probably the most difficult part as an independent artist. I thought since I've done so many photo shoots, with so many great photographers, why not put it all together in a book? I mean, the book is as much about the work of these artists and how they can all take one subject—that would be me—and interpret that same subject in their own way. I had the idea to do a remix album that comes with the book and to include the lyrics in the book as well. And then I got a few people, such as RuPaul and Kevin Aviance, who I am big fans of but who have also been very supportive of my work as well, to contribute.

The book contains the work of a number of well-known photographers, as well as photos by Boy George. How did you come to work with Boy George?

Boy George and I met because he was writing a piece on me for *AXM*. He is a true renaissance man. He did the interview, wrote the piece, took the photos, and put me in his original designs that he made especially for me. Can you even imagine? [Laughs] Here it is, you are going to meet one of your childhood idols, and he tells you that he designed an outfit for you? The shorts had a Jewish star on them, and the shirt said Solid Gold.

STORM AID

Ari Gold is one of the artists who contributed to the new CD *Recording Artists for Hope: The Katrina CD Vol. 1*, produced by Houston singer Christian Andréason (News Briefs, December 2005). Sales from the CD, available at www.katrinacd.com and at stores including Cactus Music & Video, benefit agencies that provide direct assistance to people affected by Hurricane Katrina.



When I told him that I would like to use some of the photos for my book, he was like, "We have to do another shoot because I've gotten so much better, and you have such gorgeous photos and mine have to be just as good!" Of course, I was thrilled to do another shoot with him because I loved the first one we did. But I love the new shots. One he calls Butch Military Drag, and the others I call

Clockwork Orange Meets Cabaret Meets Boy George. [Laughs]

Did he take the photos before or after you covered "Do You Really Want to Hurt Me?"

After. Which was, of course, hugely validating, especially after one music critic of a very popular gay magazine ripped my cover of that song to shreds. It was a dream come true. I never imagined that we'd work together after covering his song. We even started working on a couple of new songs together after we met.

In the introduction to the book you wrote, "I want the world to know that Jews can rock!" From Bob Dylan to David Draiman of Disturbed, I think we had a pretty good idea of Jews' ability to rock, but who knew they could have a body like yours? Can you say something about your process of developing your physical appearance?

[Laughs] Actually, I got that line from the title of a book that Madonna's manager Guy Oseary wrote called "Jews Who Rock." Like it says in that book, we don't usually tend to think of Jews as rockers, even though there have been many great ones. Aside from telling me I shouldn't be out, people in the industry have also told me to change my name, because it's too Jewish and doesn't sound like a pop star name. And then this HBO character comes out named Ari Gold (played by Jeremy Piven on *Entourage*)

who is exactly that stereotype of the sleazy, behind-the-scenes Jewish agent, and all my efforts to prove that Jews can be sexy pop stars go down the drain. [Laughs] So, I'm just trying to remind people who we can be. And that goes for my physical appearance as well, because as much as I think I look Jewish, people are always, like, "You don't look Jewish," and I'm, like, "What do Jews look like?" When I was a little kid in show business, I never got any on-camera work because I was considered too ethnic—and I was a cute kid! [Laughs] I guess this book is my great revenge. We are a hot people!

As far as "developing" my appearance, I work out and try to eat healthy, but still enjoy life. I call my look "shtetl fabulous." I thank my parents for the good Jewish genes. You know, we are at a very interesting point in gay history and politics and really the history of human rights in general. Right now, we need to give ourselves the license and permission to be as fabulous as we are in the face of homophobia and conservatism. The more people we have doing that, whether it's in film, music, books, whatever, the better off we are.

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

ON THE WEB

Read more of this interview with Ari Gold at www.outsmartmagazine.com.

GrooveOut Shorts

continued from page 64



then *Flo'ology* (their third full-length) is the duo's step into a grown-up light. Whereas the youth and vigor of London rappers Marsha Ambrosius and Natalie Stewart might have been the standout element years ago, they've now grown, and so has their music. Every track on this record is thicker, deeper, and more visceral than anything on their debut, with more biting stories, way better production and an overall different attitude. It's going to throw a lot of fans off, yes, but the ones who ride with them are probably the ones they wanted to take along anyway. From Geffen (www.geffen.com). —Review: Lance Scott Walker

Anoushka Shankar

Rise
Anoushka Shankar is a unique artist with tremendous talent and understanding of the great musical tradition of India. Stepping into new territory as a composer, she moves beyond the classical tradition mixing up a broad range of world music styles and



instruments. *Rise* is an unpredictable mix of jazz, pop, and pan-ethnic world-music. Shankar incorporates flamenco piano, Indian slide guitar, electronic sounds, and the sitar resulting in a modern yet traditional composition with a sensual sound. Shankar has an impeccable musical pedigree, but she deserves recognition as an independent musician bringing Eastern music to the West. From Angel Records (www.angelrecords.com). More: www.anoushka Shankar.com. —Review: A.R.

New Order



Singles
For a child of the '80s, combing back through a New Order's singles collection is like reading back through the angst-ridden writings of a heartbroken teenager etched into a tattered notebook. Every song not only brings with it a memory, but an immediate, defined emotion. These are quite literally perfect pop songs, with absolutely perfect flaws in them, and the fact that they easily hold up decades later says everything about New Order's longevity. What's interesting here is seeing what

songs were actually singles—from a band that wrote albums full of nothing but. Anthems for teen heartbreak? Yes, but unless your heart has gone cold, every song is still gonna get to you. From Rhino (www.rhino.com). —Review: L.S.W.

Angie Stone

Stone Hits: The Very Best of Angie Stone



Stone Hits features the best of Angie's chart-toppers, featuring cuts from her three solo albums and two new tracks, including the lead single, "I Wasn't Kidding." Her strong, soulful voice is rich and warm, and the music, with its captivating beats and plush melody, should be enough to get anyone up and dancing. —Preview: Leslie Claire

Morningwood

Morningwood
Some people are born with great, booming, perfectly raspy rock 'n' roll voices... Mick Jagger, Iggy Pop, David Lee Roth. Chantal Claret's accomplishments, neither in success nor in song, rival those of the rockers who have come before her, no—but the one thing she does have in



common with them is that she can wail. There are no groundbreaking pop songs here—instead, this Brooklyn band hovers right around generic rock 'n' roll, helmed by what is arguably going to shine as one of the great new voices of this generation. Her melodies are solid, her lyrics are only going to get better, and her stage presence is rumored to be the stuff of legend. We'll see. From Capitol (www.capitol.com). —Review: L.S.W.

Mazarin

We're Already There



Independent music's new pop auteurs, Mazarin explores the themes of oblivion, apathy, love, and obscurity on *We're Already There*. With masterfully melodic songs and sublimely blissful arrangements, Mazarin bursts forth with an overflowing bouquet of sounds: autoharps, synths, guitars, and even sitars. Creative force and principal writer Quentin Stoltfus delivers a familiar sound, yet also reaches new heights with the group's instrumental mechanical groove. —Preview: Suzie Lynde

Self Delusion

Happiness Hurts Me



With songs that capture the best elements of trip-hop, electronica, and emo pop, Spanish trio Self Delusion releases their first international album, *Happiness Hurts Me*. The eclectic album features many songs reminiscent of the '80s, with emotional compositions about love and loss layered over diverse backgrounds, beautiful collections of beats and melody. —Preview: S.L.

DJ Kimberly S.

Global Groove



With her second mixed CD, DJ Kimberly S. delivers a high-octane blend of progressive house, soaring vocals, and hip-shaking beats, which she says "really reflects today's West Coast sound." She explains that she combines upbeat disco house grooves with tribal beats "to represent the power the lyrics, rhythm, and melody can have together." —Preview: T.C. ■

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ReadOut

by Syd Rushing

MAGNIFICENT OBSESSION

Scott Poulson-Bryant tackles the matter of size

I don't know what provokes more fear and awe—vaginas or black penises." Eve Ensler, author of the *Vagina Monologues*, made this most fitting quote on breaking the myths around our sexual society and Scott Poulson-Bryant's searing literary offering, *Hung: A Meditation on the Measure of Black Men in America*. With the agility of a jazz musician, Poulson-Bryant riffs, harmonizes, and brazenly shatters the mythology of one of the earth's Seventh Wonders, the prodigiously endowed black penis. Warning to the curious readers though—the pages of this book are bulldozer brave and will slap your secret subconscious misconceptions silly.

Shhhh. Certainly, this revelation was centuries due for some courageous pen-packing scribe to tackle this hush-hush gossip Pandora's Box, so society could get it all straight in the once-and-for-all category. In taboo territory, however, Poulson-Bryant's book (from Doubleday) conceptually sprinkles a tablespoon of J.L. King's *On the Down Low*, a swig of Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*, and a mega-dose of truth serum into our sexual barometers.

But the author (a bisexual, African-American journalist and a founding editor of *Vibe* magazine) pushes the envelope a thousand kilometers further by braiding a steaming potpourri of uncomfortable prejudices, steel-belted hypocrisy, and even digging into a revealing examination of Mapplethorpe's most naughty photographs of the African-American male anatomy. It is here that Poulson-Bryant shines superb in deciphering whether Mapplethorpe's work is true art, experimental innocent exploration, or flat-footed exploitation. Prepare thee, because pages 126 to 136 will burn in your brain long after you lay the book down.

But wait, academic readers: The title *Hung* carries a disturbing double entendre, suggesting the phallic fixation, of course, but



also the hideous onslaught of merciless lynching against the canvas of the African Diaspora. Though the author's well-deserved history lesson on these heinous night murders are of immense value, they tend to recycle into a college textbook. Eventually, the over-exhausting pages of information forget the mythology behind the phallic fixation. We, in fact, forget the enticing argument, dwindling into several pages of unneeded material.

For the sexual-inclined reader, the author's high point evolves around a Cuban sexaholic hetero-flexible hustler with ambitions on conquering his trade. Nico is his name, and he resembles a modern-day Don Juan sexual vampire right out of the mind factory of Anne Rice. Sporting such lingo as "major trade" and an Adonis anatomy, Nico will flip, dip, bend, and dive in any direction as long as the cash is right. However, he professes to sell himself to his high-end clients by passing for black and then doubling the cash refund by promising the specialty of sporting a black dick. Here, the manhole comes off the sewer as we delve even further into an African-American male porn star that is prized, despised, and secretly sexualized by his white female counterparts.

Whether describing phallic jealousy, a rabid size queen, the Homo Thug, or boys checking each other's measurements in the locker room, Poulson-Bryant beats it with a white-heat fervor of truth. He tosses the salad across the sexual terrain of gay, straight, and anything that lies in between. In the end, the world wants a peephole into the trousers of black men for a number of various reasons. If only this meditation had more of direct focus, it would then meet up to the classics standards of *Brother to Brother*. Maybe we will wait for *Hung II*.

Syd Rushing reported on the 10th anniversary *Houston Splash*, the annual Black Pride celebrations, for the April 2005 OutSmart.

HUNG OUT ON THE WEB

From the November 29 posting on *Hung* author Scott Poulson-Bryant's blog, The SPB Q (www.ruhung.com, also <http://spbq.blogspot.com>): "Still getting work done on the script for *The HUNG Monologues*, or *HUNG: In Concert*, as I've taken to calling it every time I sit down at the computer. Hopefully I'll have a production up and running by the middle of February, in honor of Black History Month. My fingers are crossed, at least, which makes it a little hard to get any typing done, but then, there ya go..."



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NOT EXACTLY LADIES' NIGHT

Sally and friends try to educate a clueless waitress

I recently attended the college graduation of a close friend—and by close I mean I brought the sperm to her first insemination. I also coached her through her divorce from the woman she never in their 15-year marriage suspected had been having affairs with men.

Independence from her unreliable ex (the cheating has-bian) meant a huge reduction in household income. Darlene took weekend college classes, worked full time while raising their two daughters by herself, and eventually earned a bachelor's—or, in her case, spinster's—degree.

In honor of her amazing accomplishment, I drove with another two of Darlene's best friends up the interstate to join the proud families sitting through commencement. We whooped and cheered when Darlene's name was called and she stepped out of her class of 20-somethings to walk across the stage,

shake hands with the college president, and accept her diploma.

Darlene took us out to a post-ceremony dining experience at one of the city's fanciest restaurants. On her budget, it's a rare treat

Our server welcomed us and introduced himself as Tom (or possibly Thom). We looked at each other. Major mutual gay-dar moment.

to eat at an establishment with table settings you don't throw away when you're through. We would never have been able to afford this place without the huge gift certificate Darlene's employer gave her as a graduation present—possibly a hint not to expect a raise commensurate with her new credentials.

The place was packed with grad-night celebrants. Many still wore their caps and gowns, which, had we thought of it, might

have been a good strategy for getting a table. Darlene, old enough to have children the age of her classmates, did not look like your standard college grad. Our party of four would have to wait.

The hostess suggested we sit upstairs in the lounge until a table opened up. We might not have looked like a graduation party, but we must have looked like we could use a drink. We accepted.

The lounge was a mood-lit jazz bar. We took a seat on a velvet couch with a polished granite cocktail table. Our server welcomed us and introduced himself as Tom (or possibly Thom). We looked at each other. Major mutual gay-dar moment.

Tom (or maybe Tomm) brought our drinks and hung around to chat. We told him we had come from out of town, that we had been friends for 20 years, and that we were here to celebrate Darlene's college graduation.

While he couldn't possibly have known the dyke drama details that prompted our friend's college degree quest, he treated us as if he understood how special our special occasion was. He confided that it might be hours before we got a table on the main floor, but he could serve us in the lounge. We liked Tom (or perhaps Tawm).

He encouraged us to settle back and relax while he provided a guided tour through the fancy menu. He was good. We sampled all the exotic appetizers—and by exotic I mean foods none of us could pronounce.

I admitted to Tom (or was it Tahm?) that I didn't know the proper etiquette for eating satay, even though I could now pronounce it. "Are you supposed to hold it by the skewer and eat it like a corn dog?" I didn't want to offend.

He chuckled and patted my arm, "We aren't etiquette sticklers here." Tom (Taughm?) knelt beside our table. "I usually just push it off the stick with my fork." What a suave guy. My lesson in satay eating raised me out of my fine-dining novice status without any embarrassment.

We were just contemplating our next dish when the hostess from downstairs informed us our table was ready. We should have thought to say we'd rather stay with Tom (or Tomme). We thanked him for a good time and followed the hostess out of the bar.

Our new server appeared. No savoir-faire. None of the refined pampering we'd had from Tom (Talm?).

"Is this ladies' night out? Taking a break from the men? Hahaha."

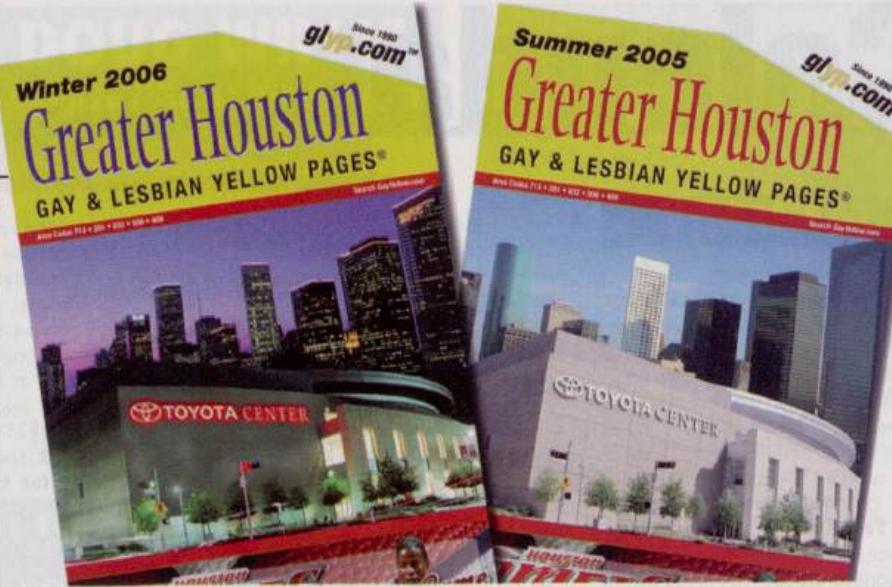
Jocelyn was gaydarless. To her, four women dining together couldn't possibly be anything other than het.

Here we were, four big, obvious dykes, slightly snookered from our upstairs soiree with Tom (Taam?), and not happy to be mistaken for escaped hausfraus. "We're always taking a break from the men," I said, feeling compelled to further Jocelyn's education. "Do any of us look like we are ever not taking a break from men?"

"I don't know what I was thinking," Jocelyn apologized, but it was hard to tell if she really got it.

Despite her cluelessness, we enjoyed our meal. When the tab came we added the requisite 15 percent—no point stiffing a hard-working server. But we agreed we should do something to make a lasting impression on Jocelyn. Turns out a large balance remained on Darlene's gift certificate. She signed it all over as an extravagant tip. For Tom.

Sheklow received both first- and second-place honors in the magazine column category in the 2005 Houston Press Club Lone Star Awards. She contributes a regular segment, "That Time of the Month," to the Air America radio affiliate in Eugene, Oregon.



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Will Fortune Smile On You in 2006?

Lilly Roddy, *OutSmart's* resident astrologer reveals the planetary spin for all 12 astrological signs on Thursday, Jan. 12 from 7:30-9:00 pm at 920 West Main. Cost is \$20 at the door, or \$15 before January 5. Space is limited. For reservations, please call 713/529-5842 or email lillycath@aol.com.

Learn about Astrology!

Upcoming Astrology Classes with Lilly Roddy

Astrology 101—Beginning Astrology: Signs, Planets and Houses

Saturday, Jan. 21 and Sunday, Jan. 22 from 10 am to 3 pm at 920 West Main. Cost is \$75 at the door, or \$65 before Jan. 16. In this class, you will become familiar with the Signs, Planets and Houses, the Astrological Alphabet. No previous knowledge of astrology is required. Please provide your birth date, birth location and birth time when you register so that a chart can be prepared before class.

Astrology 102—Natal Aspects

Saturday, Feb 18 and Sunday, Feb 19 from 10 am to 3 pm at 920 West Main. This is the follow-up class to Astrology 101, and is the rest of the Astrological Alphabet. Cost is \$75 at the door, or \$65 before Feb. 14.

**For reservations, call 713/529-5842
or email lillycath@aol.com.**



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Calendar of Events

Deadline for OutSmart's February issue is 5 p.m., Wednesday, January 11.

JANUARY

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-1am (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.

Daily (Sun.-Fri.)

HIV Testing. Planned Parenthood offers free anonymous or confidential testing at clinic locations throughout the area. To speak with an HIV counselor: 1-800-230-PLAN, Dickinson: 281/337-7725, Fannin: 713/831-6543, FM1960: 281/587-8081, Greenspoint: 281/445-4553, Huntsville: 936/295-6396, Lufkin: 936/634-8446 x223, Rosenberg: 281/342-3950, Stafford: 281/494-9848.

Daily (Saturday nights)

Heavenly Bodies, Up Close. It may be a little too early for the Oscars, but you can still see the stars every week thanks to the George Observatory's newest telescope, a world-class piece of equipment and one of the largest in the country available to the public. Viewing starts at nightfall till 10 pm at the George Observatory, in Brazos Bend State Park. Information: 281/242-3055.

7 & 8 (Sat. & Sun.)

What's New, Pussycat? The Houston Cat Club's 54th CFA Charity Cat

Show, themed "Cats Around The World!" celebrates our feline friends with more things than can be mentioned. The Feline agility competition, pet trick exhibition, and cat fashion show will likely provide a laugh or two. The show benefits the Houston SPCA, Citizens for Animal Protection (CAPS), the Homeless Pet Placement League (HPPL), The Houston Humane Society, and The Winn Feline Foundation. \$7 (\$4 kids under 12 and seniors over 65; kids under 4 free). Sat. 10 am-5 pm and Sun. 9 am-4 pm at George R. Brown Convention Center, Hall A, 1001 Avenue de las Americas. Info: www.houstoncatclub.com or 713/854-1940.

13 & 14 (Fri. & Sat.)

Accidental Nostalgia. In this new operetta, Cynthia Hopkins and her alt-country band, Gloria Deluxe, delve into the grey matter of selective memory with wit and grit. \$27-\$42. 8 pm at the Wortham Center's Cullen Theater, 500 Prairie at Texas. Reservations and information: www.spahouston.org or 713/227-45PA.

17 (Tues.)

Cha Cha Chiara. The Chiara Quartet is well-known both as an interpreter of the established quartet repertoire and as a champion of groundbreaking new works from today's most celebrated composers. Part of the Mukuru Concert Series, the quartet's performance raises funds for local HIV/STD prevention ef-

forts among Houston's youth community. Featured artists include Rebecca Fischer and Julie Yoon, violins; Jonah Sirota, viola; and Gregory Beaver, cello. \$150 per person, \$250 per couple. 7 pm cocktails, 7:30 pm concert begins, at a private home undisclosed at press time. Info: www.mukuru.org, www.chiaraquartet.com. Tickets: 713/623-6796 x 249.

22 (Sun.)

Lovin' Livin' for the Cure. The Foundation for Modern Music, an organization dedicated to the music of 20th- and 21st-century composers, presents Songs of Modern Life and Love, a concert of songs exploring the age-old themes of life and love in a contemporary context. Part of the Mukuru Concert Series, this performance raises funds for local HIV/STD prevention efforts among Houston's youth community. Composers include John Musto, Ned Rorem, and William Bolcom. Performers include Tracy Rhodus, soprano; Sonja Bruzauskas, mezzo-soprano; and Rodney Waters, piano. \$20 at the door. 5 pm at First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 2119 Avalon Place. Tickets: www.modernmusic.org. Info: www.mukuru.org or www.modernmusic.org.

22 (Sun.)

Hitler's Hit List. In his lecture, The Origins of the Final Solution: The Evolution of Nazi Jewish Policy, September 1939-March 1942, Dr. Christopher Browning discusses the complexities

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., JAN. 11.**

of Nazi decision-making, the determining role of Adolf Hitler, and the public reaction in Germany to anti-Semitism. Free. 6:30 pm at Herzstein Theater, the Holocaust Museum, 5401 Caroline St. Info: Tamara Savage at 713/942-8000, ext. 104 or tsavage@hnh.org.

PLANNING AHEAD

FEBRUARY

February 1 (Wed.)

A Little Day Music. Bring a lunch and treat yourself to a chamber music break while bassoonist Benjamin Kamins and friends wear away that mid-week stress. Da Camera's lunchtime series features live music and drawings for tickets to an upcoming Da Camera concert. Free. Noon in the Grand Foyer of the Wortham Theater Center, downtown, Texas at Smith. Info: 713/524-5050.

THE GAY GLOBES

So how gay are the Golden Globes? *Brokeback Mountain* received seven nominations (including a Best Picture nominee and noms for director Ang Lee and star Heath Ledger). Philip Seymour Hoffman is nominated for *Capote*, Felicity Huffman for *Transamerica*, S. Epatha Merkerson for *Lackawanna Blues*, and Cillian Murphy for *Breakfast on Pluto*. Openly gay nominees include Nathan Lane for *The Producers*, Cynthia Nixon for *Warm Springs*, and Tony Kushner (with Eric Roth) for the screenplay for *Munich*. And though *Desperate Housewives* isn't gay per se (it was created by openly gay Marc Cherry), the show and its four leads are nominated.

—Blase DiStefano



Heath Ledger in *Brokeback Mountain*

What: The 63rd Annual Golden Globe Awards
When: Monday, January 16, 7 p.m. **Where:** NBC

February 4 (Sat.)

Dance for Life. Mukuru Concert Series collaborates with Exclamation Dance Company to raise funds for local HIV/STD prevention efforts among Houston's youth community and to assist with National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. Artistic director Kenneth Epting of Exclamation choreographs his modern/jazz troupe with a focus on today's diverse lifestyles. \$20 at the door, students \$10 with valid ID. 8 pm at Heinen Theater, Houston Community College, Central Campus, 3517 Austin. Info: www.mukuru.org or www.exclamationdancecompany.org. Tickets: 713/623-6796 x 278.

February 17 (Fri.)

Mardi Gras Galveston 2006. More than half a million people will descend upon Galveston to celebrate the 22nd annual tradition of merrymaking and revelry. This year's unofficial theme is "A Salute to the Gulf Coast." Among the musical acts, New Orleans' Dr. John will perform. \$10-\$20. Fri., Feb. 17 & 24: 5 pm-midnight; Sat., Feb. 18 & 25: 10 am-midnight; Sun., Feb. 19 & 26: noon-6 pm. Tickets and info: any Moody National Bank location, 409/797-5157, www.mardi-grasgalveston.com.

PERFORMING ARTS

◆ **A Fertle Holiday!** Radio Music Theatre's 21st annual performance of a local cult classic. The comedically down and out Fertle family of Dumpster, Texas, must suffer gladly another disquieting family reunion. Though the cast is comprised of only three actors, the trio proficiently portrays a legion of well-developed characters. \$20. Through Jan. 14 at Radio Music Theatre, 2623 Colquitt. Reservations: 713/522-7722.

◆ **Baby: A Musical.** Three disparate couples all get the same news: you're going to have a baby. For thirty-somethings Pam and Nick, it's thrilling good news. For Danny and Lizzie, two unmarried college students, it's a shock. For Arlene and Alan, middle-aged parents of three grown daughters, it's a perplexing surprise. The couples sing their way through mood swings, fear, and joy. \$25-\$35. Through Jan. 15 at Stages Theatre, 3201 Allen Pkwy at Waugh. Reservations: 713/527-0123 or www.stagestheatre.com.

◆ **Barrymore.** Playwright William Luce takes us back to 1942, six months after Pearl Harbor, as a 60-year-old John Barrymore jokes with the audience and prepares for his "stunning comeback" in *Richard III*. While desirous of a return to the limelight, the socially conscious Barrymore realizes his ambitions pale in the shadow of a war-torn world full of uncertainty. Opens Jan. 25, 8 pm, and runs through Feb. 18 at Theater LaB, 1706 Alamo, just off the 2100 block of Houston Ave. For information: 713/868-7516.

◆ **Corazon Abierto: Heart Open.** In Chiapas, Mexico, CORE have developed this new multimedia dance piece. A new section of the piece, "Woven Clouds," will be performed at Mix It Up, part of the Jewish Community Center of Houston's Dance Month, Jan. 28-29, 8 pm, at the Jewish Community Center of Houston, 5601 S. Braeswood Blvd. Information: 713/729-3200.

◆ **Culture Clash in AmeriCCa.** As a cultural melting pot, the U.S. can be inspiring, upsetting, and sometimes just plain goofy. The Californian comedy troupe that brought us *!Cantinflas!* returns with a wry and wily look at class, sex, race, and politics. Interviews with people across the country are reenacted with a bent on the hilarious. Tickets start at \$19. Jan. 6-29 (previews Jan. 6-10) at the Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave. Reservations: 713/228-8421 or www.alleytheatre.org.

◆ **Doctor Dolittle.** Forget Eddie Murphy. Based on the 1967 Oscar-winning film starring Rex Harrison, the premiere of the new staged version revives the Academy Award-winning song "Talk to the Animals" and stars Tommy Tune as the good doctor. \$27-\$89.

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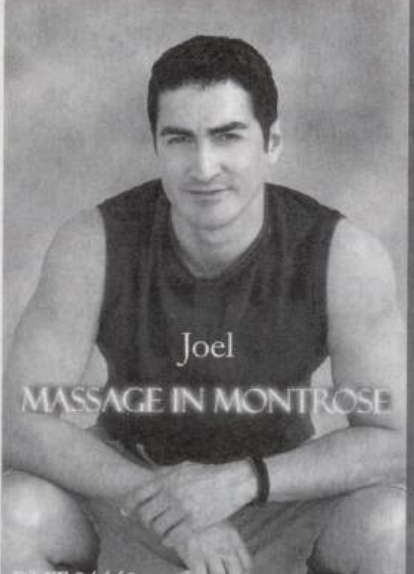
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Jan. 17–29 at the Hobby Center, 800 Bagby at Walker. Reservations: 713/558-3882 or www.tuts.com. (See an interview with Tommy Tune on page 30 of this issue of *OutSmart* magazine.)

♦ **Don Pasquale.** This comic opera about an obstinate old bachelor who just wants to get his groove back stars American bass-baritone John Del Carlo in his title role debut and American soprano Jennifer Welch-Babidge in her role debut as sexy young Norina. Jan. 21, 24, 27, 29, and Feb. 4 at the Wortham Center's Brown Theater, 501 Texas. Tickets: 713/228-6737 or 800/626-7372.

♦ **Girls' Night Out.** This group of women photographic and video artists share a revised approach to the issues of femininity. Their self-portraits, portraits of young women moving from girlhood to adulthood, and provocative looks at youth culture possess a quasi-documentary air. Jan. 21–April 1 at Blaffer Gallery, U of H, Fine Arts building. Information: 713/743-9530 or www.blaffergallery.org.

♦ **Hold Me.** Cartoonist Jules Feiffer's endearing comedy looks at urban living and all its pleasures and problems. Jan. 13–Feb. 18 at the Company OnStage, 536 Westbury Square. Tickets and info: 713/726-1219 or www.companyonstage.org.

♦ **Manon Lescaut.** Alluring Finnish soprano Kanta Mattila sings the title role in this tale of love and tragedy. Manon falls for the not-so-well-to-do Chevalier des Grieux all the while pursued by the opulent elitist Geronte. What's a girl to do? Sadly, Manon does not truly see the value of her love for Chevalier till she dies in his embrace. So, was St. Augustine right? Is it really "better to have loved and lost, than to have never loved at all"? Tickets start at \$15. Jan. 28–Feb. 11 at the Wortham Center's Brown Theater, 501 Texas. Tickets: 713/228-6737 or www.houstongrandopera.org.

♦ **Paolo Pandolfo.** Houston Early Music presents this Italian master of the viola da gamba. Pandolfo performs with the accompaniment of harpsichord and theorbo in this enchanting musical telling of tales from the court of Louis XIV. \$30, \$25 for seniors, \$10 for students, free for children under 15. Sat., Jan. 14, 8 pm, at Bethany Christian Church, 3223 Westheimer (free pre-concert talk at 7 pm with Dr. Matthew Dirst, U of H). Tickets and info: 713/432-1744 or www.HoustonEarlyMusic.org.

PERFORMING ARTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

♦ **King Midas and the Miraculous Golden Touch.** When does a king have too much gold? "Never!" if you ask King Midas, whose gift of a golden touch quickly becomes a sobering curse. Jan. 14–Feb. 18 at the Company OnStage, 536 Westbury Square. Tickets and info: 713/726-1219 or www.companyonstage.org.

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

♦ **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. Through Feb.

5 at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, One Hermann Circle Drive. Info: 713/639-4629 or www.hmn.org. Info in Spanish: 713/639-4603.

♦ **Eye on Third Ward: Yates School of Photography.** Approximately 60 high school students participate in this annual exhibition of student photography. The result of collaboration between the MFAH education department and Jack Yates Senior High School, the program encourages students to document Houston's historic Third Ward with eye-catching images. Through Jan. 29 at the Caroline Wiess Law Building of the Museum of Fine Arts, 1001 Bissonnet. For information: 713/639-7540 or www.mfah.org.

♦ **Glenn Ligon.** The gay African-American's works explore the relationship between American's identity and our country's socio-political history. Focusing on appropriated text from the likes of James Baldwin and the late Richard Pryor, Ligon looks at how language affects our values and colors our empirical world. Free admission. Jan. 14–April 2 at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, 5216 Montrose Blvd. For information: 713/284-8250 or www.camh.org.

♦ **Images of Texas.** Prints, broadsides, books, and ads rife with images of Texas display its beauty in the 19th century, from the building of the railroad to its prairies and wild horses. Look for the documents from the fight for state independence and the Civil War. \$5. Through March at the Museum of Printing History, 1324 W. Clay St. Info: 713/522-4652 or www.printingmuseum.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. Through Jan. 15, 2006, at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, 5216 Montrose Blvd. Info: 713/284-8250 or www.camh.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. Through Jan. 22, 2006, at the Menil Collection, 1515 Sul Ross. Info: 713/525-9400 or www.menil.org.

♦ **Texas Filmmaker's Showcase.** MFAH Films hosts the 12th annual celebration of short films by talented and imaginative filmmakers from across Texas. The MFAH screening features a special appearance by Alfred Cervantes, deputy director of the Houston Film Commission. Several of the showcase auteurs are expected to attend. Through Jan. 29, 2006, at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, 1001 Bissonnet. Information: 713/639-7540 or www.mfah.org.

♦ **When They Came to Take My Father.** Mark Seliger is one of the most well-known portrait photographers in the world. A Texan with family in Houston, his portraits of survivors such as brothers Max, Sol, and Sigmund Jukers as well as artist Alice Lok Cahana combine the experience of survivors with portraits capturing their personality. Jan. 13–April 2 at the Central Gallery, 5401 Caroline. Info: 713/942-8000 or www.hmh.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.

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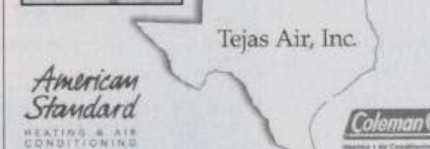
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Ty Counts posed with OutSmart in Skagway.

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Ty Counts toted his copy of OutSmart with him on a recent trip to Alaska.

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.



BOOKED FOR THE NEW YEAR

OK, you have decided that "Read more" is one of your New Year's resolutions. Picking up *Our Lives and Times*, our coffee-table book that compiles some of the best articles from OutSmart's first decade, would be a smart start. To give your resolve even more punch, we donate half the purchase price of each copy (only \$20) to nonprofit

GLBT organizations in Houston. Order: 713/520-7237 or www.outsmartmagazine.com.



A costume sketch for Dr. Dolittle.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Check out these events supported by OutSmart:

1/18 **Out at TUTS**, the regular Theatre Under The Stars night for GLBT musical-theater fans, during the run of *Dr. Dolittle*, featuring Tommy Tune (interview, page 30). OutSmart is media sponsor. Info: www.tuts.com.

1/21 **Queer Bingo**, the new monthly fundraiser presented by the Houston GLBT Community Center. "Broadway Bingo!" is the theme. Info: www.houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org.



Kimberly Marler posed with her Best Female Personal Trainer certificate at the October 19 Gayest & Greatest reception at South Beach.

WHO'S THE GREATEST?

Who did OutSmart readers name their community hero? Top businessperson? Favorite drag queen? Check all the winners of our annual Gayest & Greatest poll ("Gay to the Nines," October) at www.outsmartmagazine.com and find out.

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Affirmative Prayer Circles happen *Tuesdays at 7pm.* Bring your requests and join our practitioners as they speak the creative word. Everyone welcome!

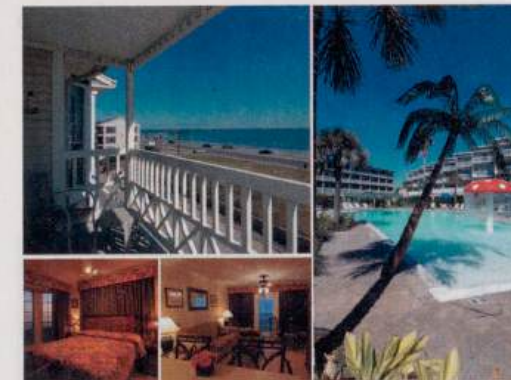
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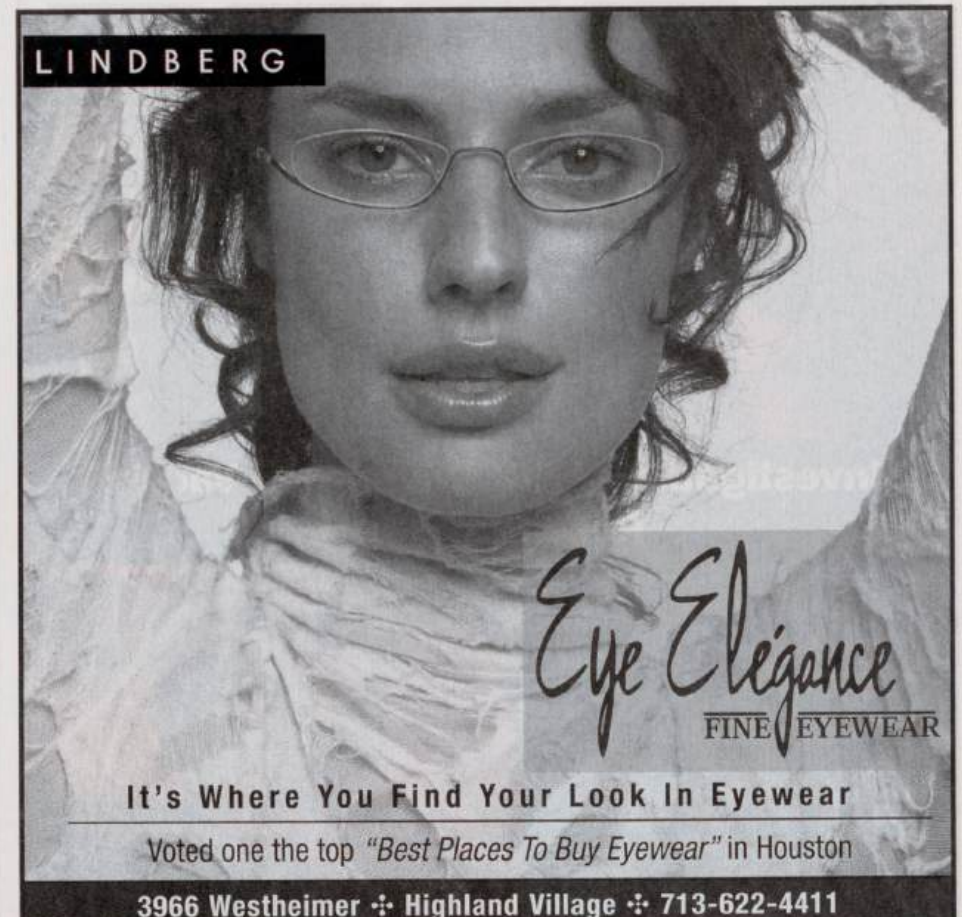
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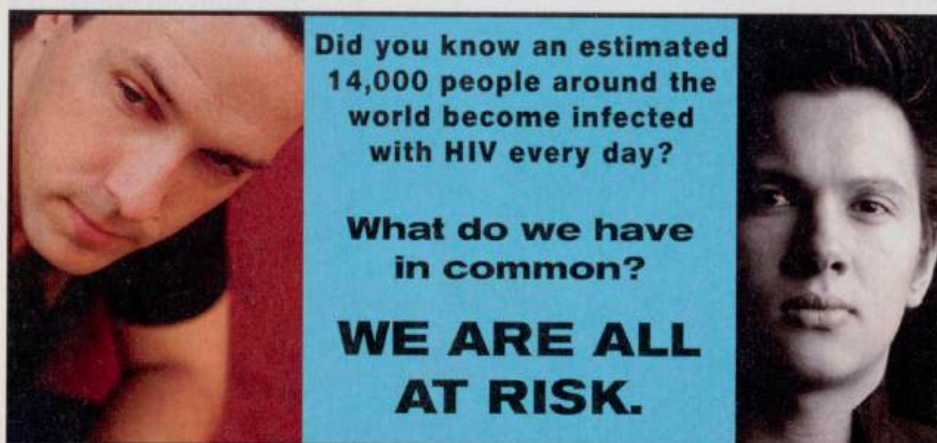


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Business News

Time Warner Cable launched **Q Television Network** as a premium channel on December 13. The gay-and-lesbian network—telecast 24 hours a day, 7 days a week—now has distribution in 5 of the nation's top 10 markets. Q Television is available on Time Warner Channel 537.



here! 

In January, Time Warner Cable begins offering a monthly subscription option for **here! TV**, the first gay television network. Content on here! TV is also available locally on a pay-per-view basis.

The local Time Warner website is www.timewarnercable.com/Houston. The phone numbers are 713/341-1000 and 888/750-7890. The Q Television website is www.qtelevision.com. The here! TV website is www.heretv.com.

Logo, the GLBT network launched last June by MTV (www.logoonline.com), a division of Viacom International, is available in the Houston area through the **DirectTV** (www.directv.com) satellite-delivered service.



With the recent merger of AllisonSpear.com with Prudential Gary Greene, Realtors, AllisonSpear co-founder and manager **Mike Spear** (above) has returned to real-estate sales full time, specializing in inner Loop properties. A licensed Realtor since 1987, Spear was ranked among the *Houston Business Journal* list of top 25 local real-estate agents for 10 years before he moved into management with AllisonSpear.com.

Spear is based in the Prudential Gary Greene office at 2900 Wesleyan, joined by his long-time assistants, **Kelly Williams** and **Leah Leggett**. The phone number is 713/961-1722. The website is www.garygreene.com.



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- Montrose Softball League
- Bering Omega Community Events
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- The Diana Foundation Events
- GMCH & HRC Events
- Art Car Parade
- Pride Parade & Related Events

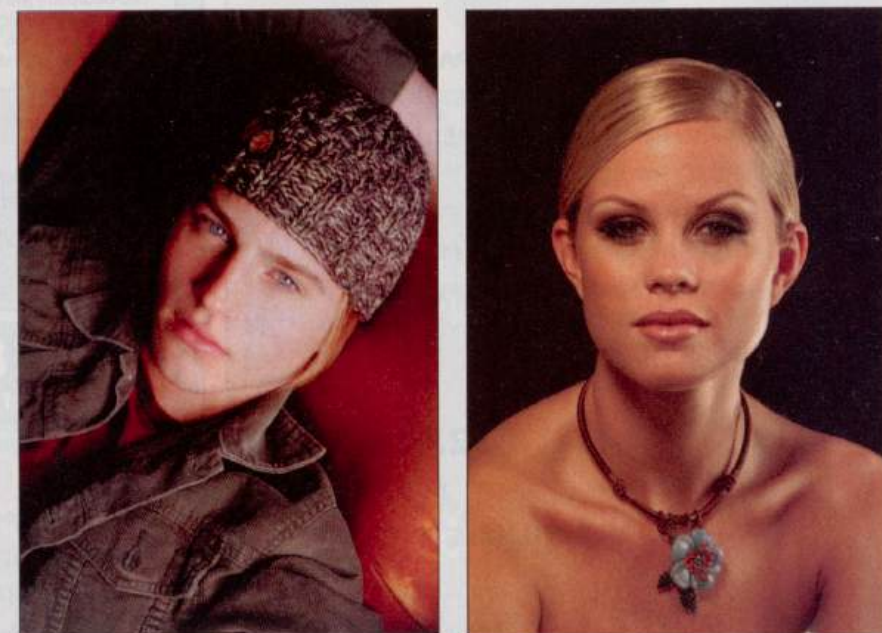
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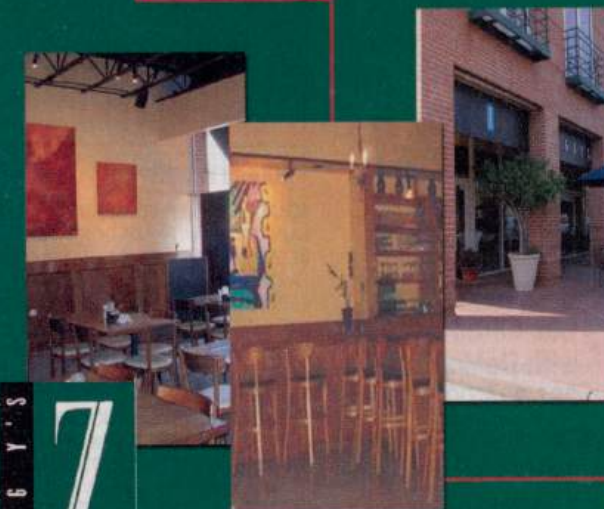
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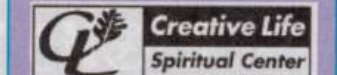
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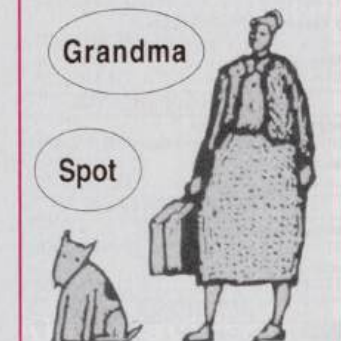
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BAR & CLUB GUIDE

HOUSTON

BARTINI

This club near the Westheimer curve now features a second ladies' nights, Passionate Sundays, on the second and fourth Sunday, in addition to the Exquisite Wednesdays ladies' night. 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 gay country-western bar, is located in Midtown, just outside Montrose. Expect to see some fast and fancy two-stepping. Southern Country dance club offers lessons on Thursday 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 • 713/528-9204.

LA CUEVA TEQUILA LOUNGE

Arluro Cohuiche 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, Cohuiche welcomes all tequila fans. 2312 Crocker • 832/203-8574.

DEAN'S CREDIT CLOTHING

DJ and promoter Gracie Chavez has moved Les Femmes du Nuit, the monthly women's DJ and vocalist night, to this downtown nightspot. Chavez reports that the crowd includes a growing contingent of queer folk. 316 Main • 713/227-3326 (Dean's), 713/858-6227 (Chavez).

BEHIND THE BAR

WHO: Leo Scott

WHERE: South Beach
810 Pacific,
713/529-SOBE

WHAT'S UP: The club features special events including Men of South Beach on Thursday, featuring DJ Mark Goebel



HOUSE OF FINESSE

Deirdre Sam recently announced that she is taking a break from hosting monthly men's and women's socials. She continues to offer her facility near the Texas Southern University campus for special events. 2912 Wentworth • 713/522-6074 • www.houseoffinesse.com.

JR's BAR & GRILL

The features at this Montrose standard include pool tables, go-go boys, and karaoke. Kafi, named favorite drag queen in the 2005 Gayest & Greatest reader poll, hosts popular shows Wednesday thru Sunday. 808 Pacific • 713/521-2519.

KEYS WEST

Named best piano bar in the 2005 Gayest & Greatest reader poll, this nightspot features regular performers

Sunday, 2209 Richmond • 713/523-3837 • www.eyesfirst.com.

G-SPOT

George Smith and his Icon Media pack the spot above Azteca's (known as Eve on Friday and Saturday) for 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 Waugh • 713/524-3359.

and guest entertainers. The deck provides a knockout skyline view. 817 West Dallas • 713/671-7870 • 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 Jamnz hosts karaoke night on Wednesday. 5742 Chimney Rock • 713/666-7472.

MARY'S

The oldest gay club in Houston, this is a legendary nightspot, though not as notorious as in days past. Mary's hosts many community fundraisers, including the Imperial Court of Houston's Jukebox Wednesday event. 1022 Westheimer • 713/527-9669.

METEOR

Weekly evenings at this Montrose video bar include Musical Theatre Night on Monday, Drag Queen Bingo on Tuesday, and Professional Women's Happy Hour on the first and third Wednesday. 2306 Genesee • 713/521-0123 • www.meteorhouston.com.

MICHAEL'S OUTPOST

This neighborhood hangout has become a sing-along piano bar. A regular roster of keyboardists, including Phil Hooper and Loun Goge, performs nightly Tuesday-Saturday. 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.

PRIVÉ

The patio of 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 Warren Springs • 281/872-0215 • www.rainbowroombar.com.

RICH'S HOUSTON

After a hiatus as a nongay music venue, Rich's has returned as the dance club you knew. The club now features Griz, a night of diva music (from Beyoncé to

Whitney) with DJ Joe Ross, on Friday, 2401 San Jacinto • 713/529-9606 • www.richs-houston.com.

RIPCORD

OutSmart readers named this spot the best place to show off your leather in the 2005 Gayest & Greatest poll. The Black Hawk Leather shop is located inside the club. 715 Fairview • 713/521-2792 • www.theripcord.com.

611 CLUB

On Friday and Saturday nights, this neighborhood spot offers great buffet dinners. Features include a beautiful garden-style patio. 611 Hyde Park • 713/526-7070.

SOUTH BEACH

In the 2005 Gayest & Greatest poll, readers named this spot the best club for dancing and JD Arnold their favorite DJ. Besides shirtless boys, special attractions include Café Con Leche with DJ Cubanito on Wednesday, 810 Pacific • 713/529-SOBE (7623) • www.SouthBeachTheNightclub.com.

VIVIANA'S

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

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 Conroe 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

This Strand spot features male dancers Friday-Sunday and karaoke hosted by Sukie-Sukie Queen Lisa on Monday and Wednesday. 315 Tremont • 409/765-5805 • www.thekontiki.com.

THE PINK DOLPHIN

Opened by Eldridge Langlinos, formerly the Paradise Guest House proprietor, this club in the old 3rd Coast Beach Bar location offers an expansive Gulf view. 9th and Seawall Boulevard • 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 Lafitte show takes the stage. 2501 Avenue Q (at 25th) • 409/765-9092.

3RD COAST BEACH BAR

OutSmart readers voted this Seawall spot the island bar with the best happy hour in the 2005 Gayest & Greatest poll. Thursday is karaoke night. 3rd Coast presents cabaret/Variety shows on Friday and Saturday nights. 31st and Seawall Blvd. • 409/766-6911 • 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

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As the month opens, we are in a Venus retrograde time. Occurring about every two years, this is a time when we are re-examining our values, desires, financial conditions, and our romantic connections. This is a time of assessment and not a time of moving ahead or starting a new relationship. Venus doesn't go direct until after February 6. So put off investing your resources until that time. This Venus retrograde period will have the strongest impact on Taurus and Libra. • The month should be a bit quieter since the holidays and the tougher planetary connections have passed. The only problem that may be obvious this month will be with personal relationships and business partnerships. • The full Moon on January 14 will be in Capricorn, prompting us to maintain our emotions at a more rational level. And there may be some judgment about those who can't keep themselves under control. The new Moon, on January 29, will be in Aquarius and will be the beginning of the Chinese New Year, the Year of the Dog. This new Moon will be promoting us to seek out friendships and fellowship. Generally, it is a good time to be at a Chinese New Year Party.

ARIES (March 21–April 19). You are in an organizing frame of mind as the New Year opens. Your career and the direction you are headed is at the top of the list. Since Venus is retrograde in your career sector, you are examining how much you are paid and appreciated where you work. You will certainly be considering new work locations. Business partnerships and relationships with co-workers could be very stressful. Toward the end of the month, you are looking for friends to give you an escape from the day-to-day grind. Business associations can be very helpful for work contacts this month. Just wait until February 6 to take action.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20). With your ruling planet, Venus retrograde, this extends the hurry-up-and-wait phase you have been in since September 2005. And you are not really ready to make all those New Year's resolutions. You are still in the holiday spirit of play. Try to get some time off to visit some of your favorite places this month if you can. The rest of the year is busy, and hard work is ahead. Romantic relationships are improving, but you will need to make sure you are happy with the choices you are asked to make. By the end of the month, it is time to get back to work. January 17, 18, and 19 are crazy days. Call in sick.

GEMINI (May 21–June 21). This is a fairly somber month for you. Relationship intimacy and shared finances are on the menu. You are more serious than we are used to, and we will wonder where the happy-go-lucky person went. Just tell people you are the other twin. Relationships can be a bit touch-and-go. If you are ready, you can cut through the co-ca and get to the core. By mid-month, you are ready for a break from all the commitments you have made. Keep your schedule light and take time for yourself.

CANCER (June 22–July 22). Looking forward into the future with your relationship partner is triggered by the planets this month. Existing relationships have to be re-evaluated, and new goals have to be set for the future. If no common goals can be found, this can



AQUARIUS (January 20–February 18). January is always your time of recovery after the holidays. You need more time to yourself and especially away from the crowds. You are, however, in a very creative time in which your imagination is just flowing. If you are an artist, this can be a very creative time. Some ideas that have been developing make their way to the surface. For the rest of us, it is a great time for some escape and to enjoy our more creative side. By mid-month, reality enters the picture, and you are feeling the pull of responsibility and duty. There is a lot of activity around the home. Keep that up and don't bury it. Anger will result if you do.

be a time of stress and potential breakups. For those of you who are single, this is a time to scrutinize your personal boundaries and the reason you either resist relationships or attract partners with commitment phobia. You want to be traditional, but in your core, you are very independent. Find a way to integrate both aspects.

LEO (July 23–August 22). The work environment is in the spotlight this month. You will not be able to handle the same amount of drama that you tolerated in the past. You will certainly want others to be more responsible and less childish. You are not going to be the one who is the Mom at work anymore. Your boss/clients are used to you being in this role and will wonder why you are doing it. Speak up. They can't read your mind. It will help them to see your new boundaries. By mid-month, your attention turns to relationships. You are not going to want to spend much time alone as the month comes to a close.

VIRGO (August 23–September 22). January is normally a creative time for you, and this is no exception. In fact, you will find that you are drawn to things you did in the past to express this side of your persona. You are not really ready for hard work or rigid schedules as the year opens. Make sure that you have fun projects to work on at your place of employment or you will be bored for sure. In your romantic relationships, you are looking for a new and different activity to reinvigorate the playfulness of the relationship. Near the end of the month, work routines and habits are calling you back like the sirens of days of old. Make sure you have January 26 and 27 off from any routines.

LIBRA (September 23–October 23). You are in your cave hibernating as the New Year opens. You like the holidays, family and all. You like them even better when they are over and you have your time and home back

to yourself. The holidays are extending themselves this year, and you are feeling a bit trapped by the whole process. Even your friends seem a bit distant. You will certainly lighten up by the middle of the month. It may be a good time for you to assess your time commitment to your friends and community organizations. The end of the month is a time of play. Make sure you have some. All work and no play make Jane a dull girl.

SCORPIO (October 24–November 21). This is a busy month for you, and this theme will continue until November 2006. Plan and use your time wisely. For you, this month is a great time to get organized. You are really ready to conserve your time. This may be a great time for an organizer or business planner or even a course on time management. You have big plans for the next two years and high expectations of success. Relationships are a bit tense. Don't leave them to tomorrow. You will have some real problems if you do. You are ready to act by mid-month, but keep a handle on long-term commitments until after February 6.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22–December 21). Financial concerns are high on your dance card this month. You may even seem a bit anal by people who know you. You just don't like to waste your money. Get your financial affairs in order and remove some fear and burden that are worrying you. You continue to want to cut the ties with the past that may have your family worrying. You may also want to move or remodel your home. Save these decisions until after February 6. By mid-month, you are communicating more clearly and seeing your objectives more clearly. Relationships are still a bit touchy. They will be better soon.

CAPRICORN (December 22–January 19). With Venus, planet of desire, relationships, and personal talents, retrograde in your sign, this is a birthday month of intense introspection. Keep your potential plans and ideas for the future to yourself. And make plans to start new projects after February 6. As the year progresses, you will be downsizing some aspects of your life. This is about clearing the way for your future plans. Romantic relationships can seem a bit distant and cold. Don't wait for them to just get better. They need a jump start or they will deteriorate. By mid-month, you focus more on money and personal resources. Who is really worth your time and efforts?

PISCES (February 19–March 20). Friends from the past come into your life this month with Venus retrograde. This is partially a time when you are continuing to experience the camaraderie of the holidays, but you are also in a period of reconnecting to the world around you. You have been a bit vacant over the last three years, and now you are really ready to return. Many of you are in a period of re-invention. By mid-month, you are ready for a break from all the activity. Take some time to be reflective. You are working on your personal employment and health habits at work and at home. They need revising to make things work more smoothly. Boundaries are needed so that you can have more personal freedom.

Read Lilly Roddy's 2006 forecast beginning on page 42.

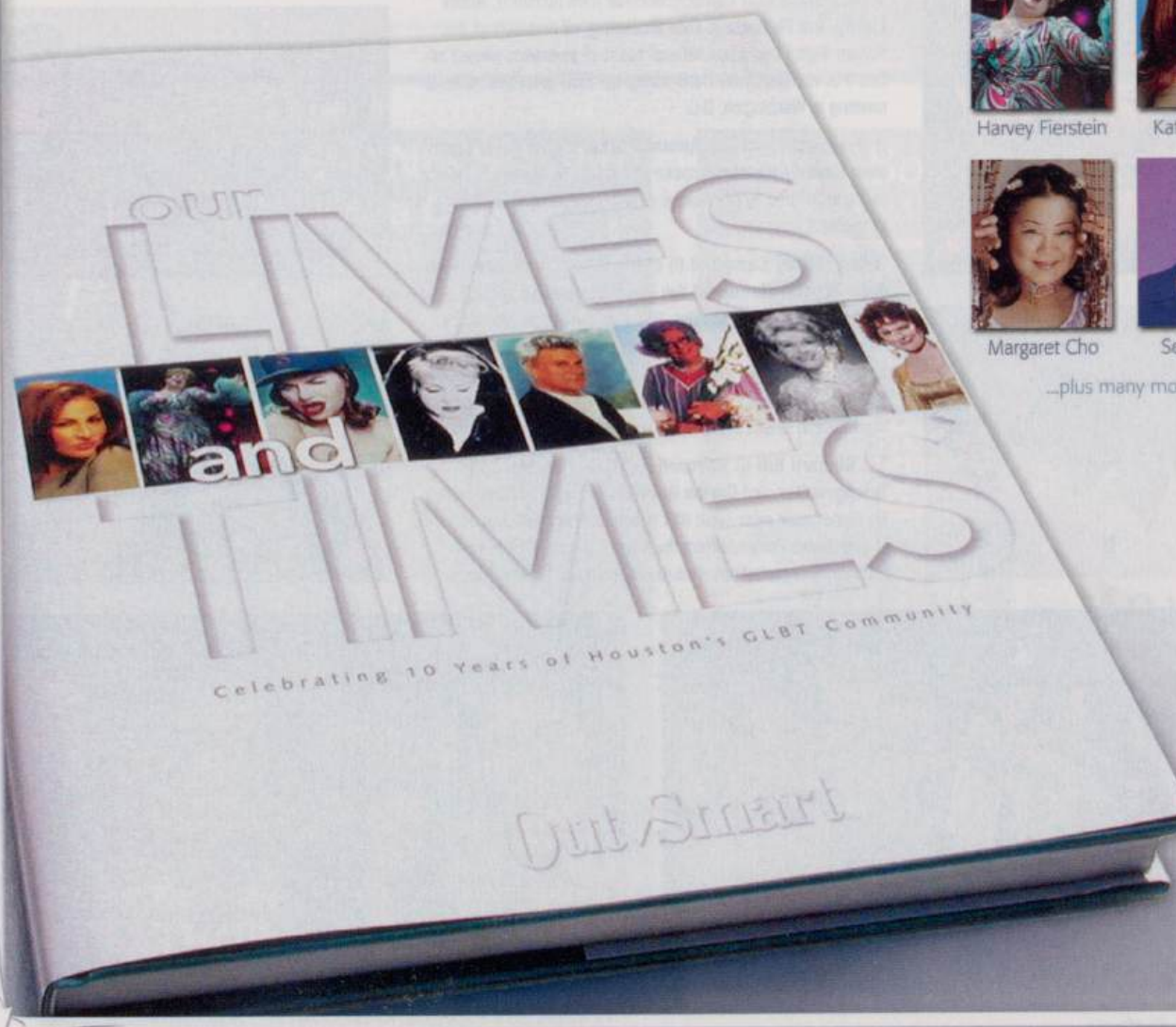
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OUT IN HOUSTON

1 Lawrence Denson (l) and Jarrett McDonald attended the Aug. 18 screening at Meteor of the movie *Brother To Brother* hosted by Human Rights Campaign Houston and Fresh Start Church.

2 Rev. Pat Farnan (r), pastor of Harbor Metropolitan Community Church in Galveston, congratulated Rev. Nancy Wilson, new moderator of the MCC denomination, after Wilson's Oct. 29 installation at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

3 Rodney Waters (r), Mukuru Art for AIDS series artistic director, greeted performer Kenneth Gayle (l) and AIDS Foundation Houston's Julie Eberly after the first Mukuru concert on Oct. 23 at Live Oaks Friends Meeting House. Proceeds from the series benefit the foundation.

4 Lori Williams (l-r), Janice Hutchinson, and John Humphries also attended the Aug. 18 *Brother To Brother* screening at Meteor.

5 On Oct. 19, Houston Astros fans celebrated at Meteor as the team clinched the National League title with a win over the St. Louis Cardinals.

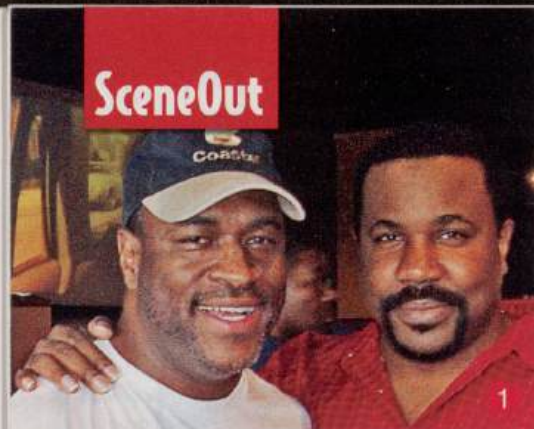
6 Lilly Roddy (l) and Phyllis Randolph Frye, the duo Transition, performed their first concert at Houston GLBT Community Center on Nov. 4. Proceeds benefited the center. Roddy is also *OutSmart*'s astrologer. Read her 2006 forecast, page 42.

7 Houstonians Jani Lopez (clockwise from bottom l), Alton LaDay, Joe Fields, and Tom Downing, all members of the Human Rights Campaign national board of governors, paused on Oct. 1 at the Mayflower Hotel during the HRC governors national meeting in Washington, D.C.

8 Houston city controller Annise Parker (l) and Harris County clerk Beverly Kaufman spoke at the Oct. 18 Women in Politics event, sponsored by the League of Women Voters, at University of Houston.

9 Rev. Jeffrey Campbell (l) of Fresh Start Church posed with Bishop Yvette Flunder of San Francisco, featured speaker at Reclaiming the Village, an Oct. 16 Dallas conference hosted by Abbott Laboratories and area AIDS service organizations, that focused on providing HIV testing and information for the African-American community. Rev. Flunder participates in Feb. 3-5 Fresh Start Church events in Houston (see page 58).

10 Richard Hill (l) welcomed (l-r) Cindy Garcia, Sally Teichgraber, and Carlos Reyes at the Sept. 7 Houston Black Tie Dinner table sales event that he and Mo Granda hosted at their home. Proceeds from the Nov. 12 dinner benefited six community organizations, including Uncommon Legacy Houston.



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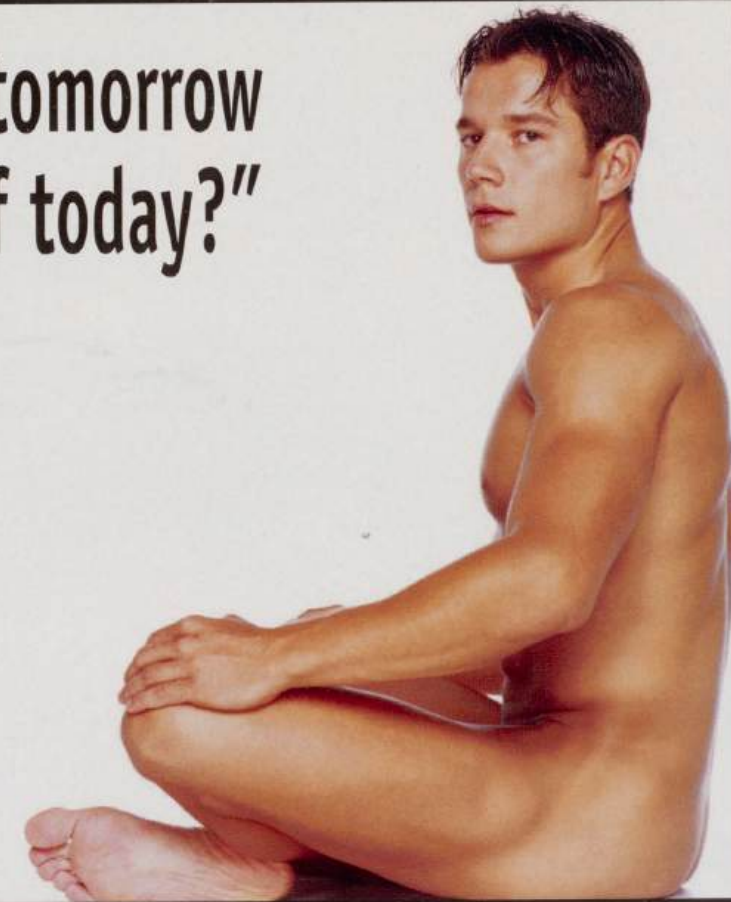
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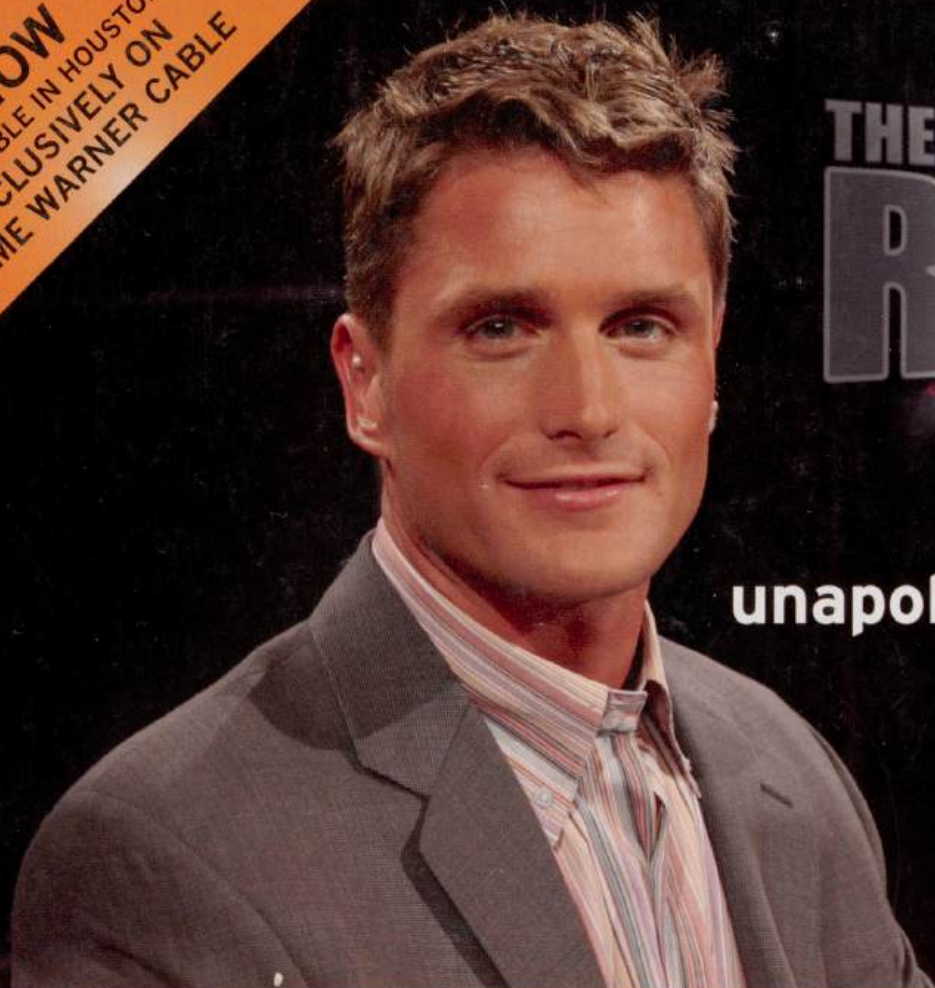
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