

Out▼Smart

AUGUST 2006



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CONTENTS

Vol. 13 • No. 7 • AUGUST 2006

News & Comment

- 8 Letters
- 12 News Briefs Five things to do this political season, Datebook.
- 20 LeftOut/Wayne Besen Exposing the hocus pocus of Focus on the Family.
- 21 OutRight/Dale Carpenter Why the federal marriage amendment failed—again.
- 24 InsideOut/Annise D. Parker Viva La Valinski! Thanking the Pride executive director.
- 28 What a World/Nancy Ford Grocery shopping gets political.

Features

- 10 OutFront Bet your bottom dollar at SpankFest. Photograph by Yvonne Feece
- 32 COVER STORY Animal Magnetism We love pets and their people.
Photographs by John Taton, Steven David, Yvonne Feece
- 40 From Meyerland to Musicals Director Brad Dalton traveled the world only to find happiness in his own backyard. By Donalevan Maines. Photographs by Jill Hunter
- 46 Redefining 'Normal' Director Joe Watts bets *The Normal Heart* is still relevant. By Nancy Ford. Photographs by John Taton
- 48 Pride 2006 Can you spot yourself in these Pride pictures?
Photographs by Dalton DeHart
- 58 OutSmart at Home There's no place like home theater, there's no place like home theater. By Tim Brookover

Arts & Entertainment

- 62 LookOut/Nancy Ford Nights in white linen.
- 64 Queer Quotes/Blase DiStefano Jimmy Kimmel, Kathy Griffin, more.
- 66 DVD/VHS/Eric A.T. Dieckman *Queer Duck: The Movie* quacks into your DVD archives. Plus *Valley of the Dolls*, film noir classics, more by Eric A.T. Dieckman, Jack Varsi
- 70 Movies/Joey Guerra A gay couple directs the new movie *Quinceañera*.
- 72 Televison/Nancy Ford The halls of Congress go gay with Sundance Channel's *The Hill*. Plus *TransGeneration Reunion*, more by Nancy Ford, Jack Varsi
- 74 GrooveOut/Gregg Shapiro Music to rock out by. Plus reviews/previews of CDs from The Dresdens Dolls, Ani DiFranco, Diana Ross, and more by Tim Brookover, Nancy Ford, Holly Glen Gearhart, Andrea Rodricks, Lance Scott Walker
- 80 ReadOut/Gregg Shapiro examines BookExpo America from cover to cover. Plus *Save Your Own*, more by Angel Curtis, Nancy Ford, Donalevan Maines

Out & About

- 84 OutLoud/Sally Sheklow Thankfully, it's only a dream.
- 88 Calendar Bering and Friends' *Twisted Fairies*, more.
- 102 Bar/Club Guide George Konar of George.
- 104 SignOut/Lilly Roddy
- 106 SceneOut

Advertisers' Index

- 96 Business News
- 98 Classifieds
- 100 OutSmart Advertisers



About the cover:

OutSmart commissioned artist Jim Tweedy to create the August cover with his well-known Friendly Doggies. Read more about the artist, page 30.

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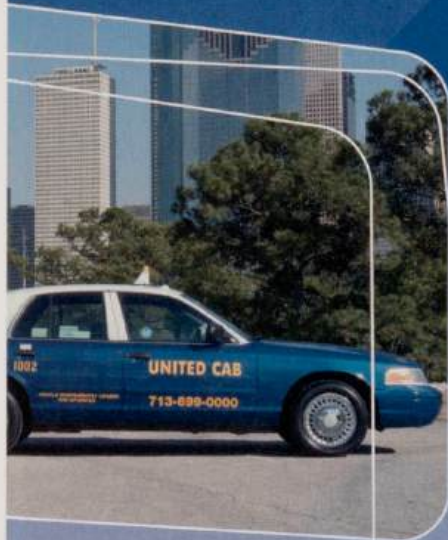
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HISTORIC PRIDE

Thanks to a great June/Pride issue. I liked hearing from and about Ray Hill ["Three Years of Freedom"] and the young activists that are carrying further such work that he and others have done. Houston is going strong, thank goodness.

You should know that author/professor Vern Bullough is near death. You reprinted a chapter of the book he edited, *Before Stonewall*, on Jim Kepner I think it was, a year or so ago. (He wrote many other books and has taught at Cal State, Northridge, USC, SUNY Buffalo, etc.)

Billy Glover
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

EDITOR'S NOTE: The scholar and civil-rights champion Vern L. Bullough died on June 21. We published the excerpt from his final book, *Before Stonewall: Trailblazers and Founders of the Gay and Lesbian Movement*, in our October 2002 issue ("Father Figure"). Bullough's many other books include *Homosexuality: A History*; *Cross Dressing, Sex and Gender*; *Gender Blending: Transgender Issues in Today's World*; and *Sexual Attitudes: Myths and Realities*, the latter three written with his wife and partner, Bonnie Bullough. He was a founder of the Center for Sex Research at California State University Northridge, a steadfast supporter of the American Civil Liberties Union, and an advocate of GLBT causes. Readers can learn more at www.vernbullough.com.

STAND UP

Hello all. I would like to see a reporter from your magazine step up to the plate and inform the people of this state why it is important that all homosexual people stand up for their rights in this country.

These three links are a possible example of what could very well happen in this country if we do not take a stand now. The immigrants in this country stood for their rights (over half of them don't pay taxes). Why can't we?
http://lavisoloway.blogspot.com/2006_05_01_lavisoloway_archive.html
http://www.gaypeopleschronicle.com/stories_06/march/0324064.htm
<http://forums.bluelemur.com/viewtopic.php?t=6354&>

Earnest Diaz
Houston

EDITOR'S NOTE: The blog and website links refer to articles on the fatwa, or legal pronouncement, advocating the killing of gay men and lesbians issued by the Grand Ayatollah Ali al Sistani on March 15. Sistani's office removed the call for the murder of gay men from his website on May 10 but did not delete reference to calls for the punishment of lesbianism. According to press accounts, that change to the website was made following protests to Sistani by the London office of Iraqi LGBT, the Iraqi gay rights organization. As journalist Doug Ireland reported in the May 18 *Gay City News*: "The fatwa itself, however, remains in force, and has not been publicly repudiated by the grand ayatollah, who is the

supreme religious authority for Iraq's Shia Muslims." Ireland wrote more about the murders and assaults faced by gays in Iran and Iraq in his article "Iran Exports Antigay Pogrom to Iraq" published in our June issue.

CORRECTION

In the June issue, we incorrectly indicated in one of the "SceneOut" captions that Mike Howell and Bruns Watts hosted the May 5 Kentucky Derby Party in Galveston. James Angel and Luis Guachichulca hosted the event.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Eric A.T. Dieckman, who edits the calendar section and regularly writes about entertainment for *OutSmart*, appeared in the cast of *A Fellowship of Excellence*, which received the audience-favorite award in the Houston competition organized by the 48 Hour Film Project in May. The spoof of the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy was directed by Adam White and Jack Cornett and produced by XL Films.

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POP CULTURE.

As that queen of all things fabulous, Madonna, warbled in her 1990 hit, "Hanky Panky," There's "nothing like a good spankee!" Elevating that sentiment to new heights, a group of hardy men have organized the first annual SpankFest, August 18-20. The weekend activities include events at The Ripcord, a Saturday night dinner at Riva's, and a Sunday cookout fundraiser hosted by the Houston Big Men's Club. Mike Guice and Jere "Ranger" Douglas (seated, left and right) are SpankFest organizers. Black Hawk Leather's Bob Houghton (standing) is a sponsor, along with The Ripcord, with assistance provided by Lonestar boys of Leather. Sorry, gals: SpankFest participation is restricted to guys, though women are welcome as spectators for most events. Intrigued? SpankfestHouston@aol.com.

Photographed by
Yvonne Feece



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News Briefs

DATEBOOK

Chances has changed its Thursday open mic to Rockstar: Fluff the Kat, "an invitational jam/live band karaoke format," in which the audience members are encouraged to perform with the band. If you want to add dinner to your show, Chances also offers Steak Night on Thursdays, 6-10 p.m. \$13 for a 16-ounce steak with baked potato and all the trimmings. Details: 713/523-7217, www.chancesbar.com.

John Painter is one of the 90 artists with work selected for The Big Show, the prestigious juried exhibition at Lawndale Art Center through Aug. 25. Details: 713/528-5858, www.lawndaleartcenter.org.

Photographer **David Lewis**, who is a regular *OutSmart* contributor, presents his "Boys of Summer" portrait collection at JR's Bar & Grill through August. Proceeds from sales benefit Camp Hope. Details: 713/240-5508, www.davidlewisimages.com.

The Women's Group, which has been meeting at First Unitarian Universalist Church every Sunday at 10:45 a.m. since Eve, presents Terry Hausner and Nancy Romano discussing "Long-Term Care: It's a Woman's Issue" on Aug. 6. On Aug. 13 the women kick up the meeting to 9:45 a.m. for a special Rape Aggression Defense program presented by Sandra Baylor. \$5 handbook charge. RSVP: Deborah Ball, thedivadeb@yahoo.com. Details: Iris Sizemore, 713/529-8571.

Join the women of **LOAF** (Lesbians Over Age Fifty) when the Houston Comets face the Connecticut Sun on Aug. 6, 5 p.m., at Toyota Center. The LOAFers have secured seats behind on the goals, which can accommodate assisted seating. \$12. Details: Charlotte Avery, 713/869-1482. Comets info: www.wnba.com/comets.

Local activists take the podium at the Aug. 6, 2 p.m., **PFLAG Houston** meeting at St. Paul's United Methodist Church. Discussing how their organizations work to ensure equal rights: Tammi Wallace, Houston Equal Rights Alliance; David Arpin, Gay and Lesbian Vic-

tory Fund; Eva Thibadeau, Equality Texas; and Jennifer Rene Pool, Houston GLBT Political Caucus. Details: www.pflaghouston.org.

The local chapter of **DIFFA** (Design Industries Fighting AIDS) revives its Take a Seat fundraiser, in which artists and others decorate chairs for



an auction, set for Nov. 11. On Aug. 9, DIFFA holds a kick-off reception, 6:30-8:30 p.m., at Jacques Antiques. RSVP: 713/528-0505.

She will survive. **Gloria Gaynor** performs with fellow disco legends **K.C. & the Sunshine Band**, **Sister Sledge**, and **Tavares** at the Aug. 11 KC's Boogie Blast concert, 8 p.m., at Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion. \$15-\$45. Details: www.woodlandcenter.org.

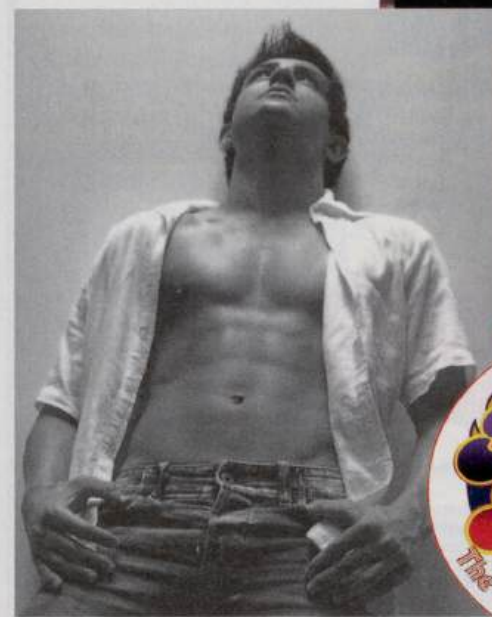
Following up on resolutions presented at the 2005 Conference on **Houston's LGBTI Future**, the Houston GLBT Community Center holds the next meeting of the conference working group on Aug. 12, 1-3 p.m., at the center. Details: 713/524-3818, www.houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org.

Trans activists **Vanessa Edwards Foster** is the guest at the Sunday History Series program presented by Gulf Coast Archive & Museum of GLBT History on Aug. 20, 1-4 p.m., at the Houston GLBT Community Center. Details: www.gcam.org.

The guys of **Houston Big Men's Club** host Convergence, the national convention of big men's organization, Aug. 31-Sept. 4, at the Marriott Medical Center and other locations. Details: www.houstonbigmensclub.com.

More: www.outsmartmagazine.com.

More News Briefs continued on page 14



From top: DIFFA takes a seat, Painter paints, David Lewis shoots, K.C. boogies.

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5 TO GET READY: A POLITICAL CHECKLIST

It's one thing for GLBTs to complain about lack of equal rights from the comfort of their Soloflex benches or barstools. It's quite another to put a little effort into the endeavor.

Here are five handy-dandy, relatively painless steps even the most inactive non-activist can employ to help ensure that the second Wednesday in November this year is a happier one than last year's.

1 REGISTER TO VOTE. Did you move recently? Change your name? Skip voting in the last election (or two or three)? If you answered yes to any of these queries, dearies, you probably need to re-register. Voter registration applications are available at Harris County Tax Office, located at 1001 Preston St., 2nd Floor, Room 200, in downtown Houston. For other locations, call 713/368-2200. Applications are also available at many libraries, post offices, Texas Department of Public Safety offices,

and Texas Department of Human Services offices. Additionally, you may obtain an application by calling 713/368-2200 or online at www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/reqvr.shtml.

Make sure you get it in 30 days before the Election Day—that would be Oct. 7—to be eligible to vote in that election. If you don't play, we can't win.

2 PAY ATTENTION TO HOUSTON GLBT POLITICAL CAUCUS CANDIDATE-SCREENING PROCESS. For almost every election cycle since 1975, the caucus has elected to do your pre-voting research by evaluating candidates

of all party affiliations to screen with its Political Action Committee, focusing on issues specifically affecting our community. Some of the candidates readily screen

with the caucus. Some mail in their replies. Some don't respond at all. Don't you want to know what your aspiring elected officials want to do for you? Or to you?

The caucus membership votes on endorsements, based on screening results, at its monthly meeting on Wednesday, August 2, 7 p.m.

at the Houston GLBT Community Center. Stop by and see democracy in action.

continued on page 16



On the campaign trail: As the political season begins, community organizations like the Houston GLBT Political Caucus...

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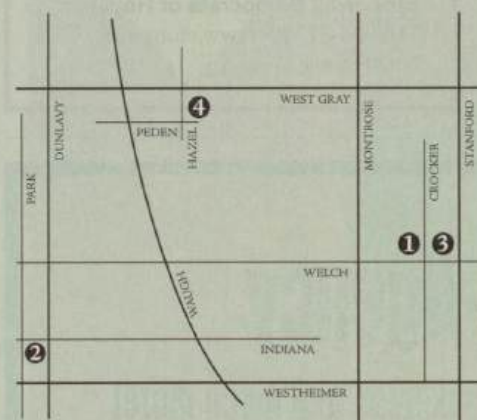
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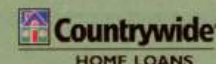


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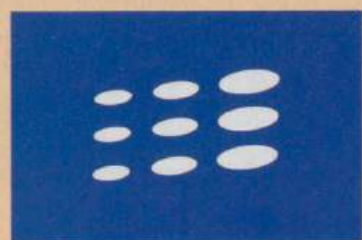
Prior to Election Day, the caucus makes public their endorsees via announcements, mail-outs, and forums. Make sure you take its recommendations with you to the polls—it's perfectly legal.

3 VOLUNTEER FOR A CAMPAIGN.

Phone bank calling, door-to-door canvassing, data entry, envelope stuffing—all are the foundation upon which a successful political campaign is based. Groups like the caucus, Houston Equal Rights Alliance, Stonewall Democrats of Houston, Log Cabin Republicans, League of Women Voters, and individual campaigns would love to get to know you. Get out there and dial, knock, peck, and stuff.

4 CONTRIBUTE TO A CAMPAIGN.

When it's time to order the pizza, do you pass the phone to your pie partner? Then knocking on a stranger's door to engage in a little up close and personal political conversation is probably beyond all realm of possibility, you shy little flower, you. That's fine. You can still help those who are comfortable engaging in these hand-to-hand, mouth-to-ear activities by writing a check to the campaign of your choice.



**Houston
EQUAL
Rights Alliance**



... and Houston Equal Rights Alliance are keeping track of candidates, including caucus-endorsed Ellen Cohen. (Look for an interview with Cohen in the October *OutSmart*.)

**Ellen
COHEN**
for State Representative Dist. 134

5 CARPOOL YOUR RESOURCES.

Protect your rights, save some gas. When that big day, Election Day, finally rolls around on November 7, load up your car with like-minded lever pullers and ride to the polls together. The extended family that votes together, gloats together.

—Nancy Ford

ON THE WEB

Read suggestions from local activists at www.outsmartmagazine.com.

POLITICAL SAVVY

Get involved with one of these groups:

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- **Houston Equal Rights Alliance.**
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- **Log Cabin Republicans of Houston.**
www.logcabin.org/logcabintexas/Houston.html
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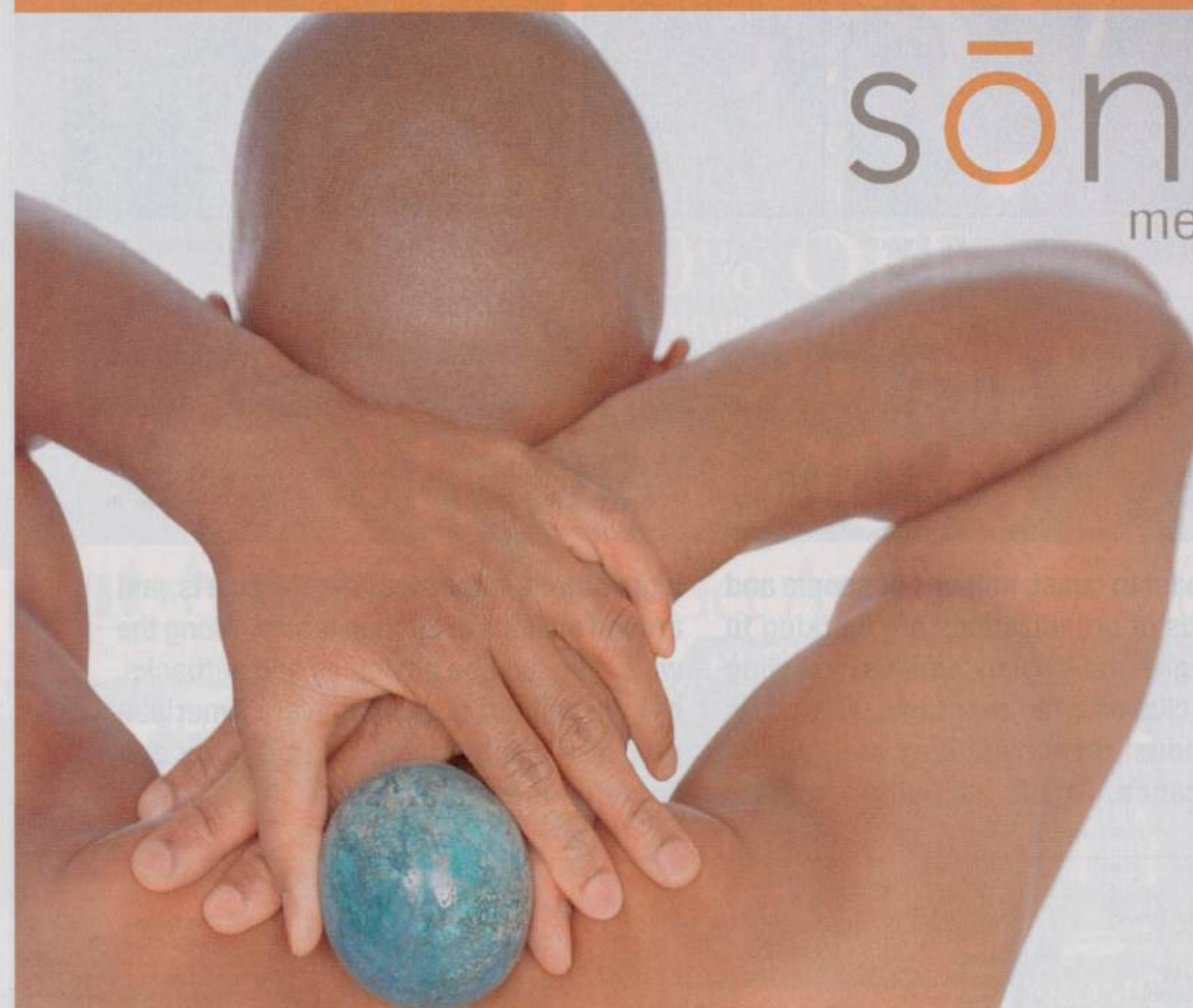
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legislatures, in the media, in the courts, and around millions of kitchen tables. Along the way, there will be advances and setbacks, but we will not stop until every American family is treated fairly, with dignity and equality under the law.

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Andrew W. Mellon Professor
of Hebrew Bible
Interdenominational Theological Center

David Bohnett, Chairman
David Bohnett Foundation

Julian Bond

Christopher Cabaldon, Mayor
City of West Sacramento, CA

Christine Chavez,
Former Political Director
United Farm Workers

David N. Cicilline, Mayor
City of Providence, RI

Dr. Elizabeth Clark,
Executive Director
National Association of Social Workers

COLAGE
(Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere)

Rev. Dr. Michael Eric Dyson

Equality Federation

Equality Texas

Melissa Etheridge and
Tammy Lynn Michaels

Family Pride

Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes Jr.,
Senior Minister
The Riverside Church in
the City of New York

Freedom to Marry

Margaret Fung, Executive Director
Asian American Legal Defense
and Education Fund

Kim Gandy, President
National Organization for Women (NOW)

Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders
(GLAD)

Gay & Lesbian Alliance
Against Defamation
(GLAAD)

Tim Gill, Founder and Chairman
Gill Foundation

Bob Haas, Trustee
Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund

Mary Kay Henry,
International Executive Vice President
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)

James C. Hormel
Former United States Ambassador
to Luxembourg

Dolores Huerta, President
Dolores Huerta Foundation for
Community Organizing

Alice A. Huffman, President
California State Conference of the
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Human Rights Campaign

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Ralph G. Neas, President and
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People For the American Way

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Karen K. Narasaki,
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Asian American Justice Center

National Association of Lesbian,
Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender
Community Centers (NALGBTCC)

National Black Justice Coalition

National Center for Lesbian Rights
(NCLR)

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

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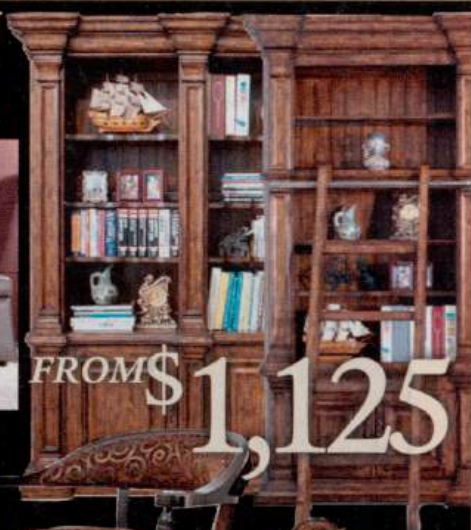
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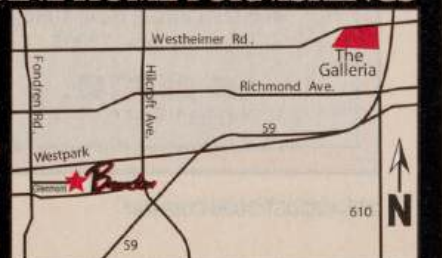
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THE FIB FACTORY

Focus on the Family once again bears false witness

I have yet to visit Focus on the Family's massive "campus" in Colorado Springs—a place so large it has its own zip code. But each year, thousands of fundamentalists traipse through this tourist trap to bow to King James. The people I know who have visited say that pictures of the group's leader, James Dobson, hang everywhere, and tour guides reverently refer to him as "Dr. Dobson."

A friend who did go there recently told me, "I felt like I was in North Korea, and Dobson was playing the part of Kim Jong Il. Call it what you will, but this was a form of idolatry."

While I'm sure the toady tour is mesmerizing, what I really want to do is slip past security and into the bowels of the building, where a trap door must exist that leads to The Fib Factory.

In this liar's lair, I picture a team of butch women and effete men—ex-gays in

their Homosexuality and Gender Department—hooked up to polygraph machines. These "experts" are asked by Dobson to say whatever comes to mind about homosexuality. Whenever a red light flickers, signifying a bald-faced lie, Dobson turns to his personal assistant and says, "Write that down. We have a new talking point."

This scenario is fiction, but so is this group's alarming propaganda. Dobson's maddening mendacity is only surpassed by his capacity for audacity. The hocus pocus from Focus is spreading like a plague of locusts, while their fallacies are finding their way into municipalities.

My organization Truth Wins Out recently caught the right wing's 800-pound gorilla in two white lies as large as New Hampshire's White Mountains. The group grossly distorted a study by a Canadian researcher that indicated that teenage lesbians had a higher rate of suicide attempts. Unconscio-

nably, Melissa Fryrear, a spokesperson for Focus on the Family, blamed gay activists for causing the deaths, saying that teaching self-acceptance caused the young women to be suicidal.

"Regrettably, they think they have to embrace homosexuality because pro-gay advocates told them that they were born gay," Fryrear said.

This interpretation of the data "baffled" Dr. Elizabeth Saewyc, the University of British Columbia associate professor who conducted the study.

"Nothing in the brief results we presented or in our overall study could lead to such conclusions," Saewyc said after I contacted her about the way Focus on the Family portrayed her study results. "Population surveys cannot determine cause and effect. They can only suggest possible links. Even so, other researchers have not found these sorts of

continued on page 22

AMENDMENT OF THE LIVING DEAD

Though killed, for now, the federal marriage amendment will haunt us

The defeat of the federal marriage amendment in the Senate in early June was welcome, if entirely expected. It was a nice surprise to see the amendment fall short of 50 votes even on a procedural motion (its total would have been lower had it come up for a substantive vote); to have seven Republicans vote against it; to hear even southern conservative senator John Warner of Virginia say he thought it went too far; and to realize that this probably set its high-water mark in the Senate. But there is a cloud behind this silver lining.

The federal amendment, already on life-support, is dead for the foreseeable future, barring one of three very unlikely events: (1) a Supreme Court "victory," ordering all the states to recognize same-sex marriages, a decision that, if it came in the near future, would trigger quick passage of a federal amendment reversing same; (2) unprecedented and overwhelming gains for the

antigay-marriage movement in the next few national election cycles; or (3) a proposal for a much narrower amendment that would, for example, simply strip courts of jurisdiction over the issue. Even a narrower amendment would probably fail, but things would get a lot more interesting.

We'll continue to be haunted by this amendment, of course. It will rise from its grave during national election years like a ghoul in a late-night horror movie that one repeatedly kills, only to see it rise again and stumble blindly forward. It's the living dead.

All of this is cause for some celebration. But it is a muted celebration, the way one celebrates an essentially defensive victory. The debate in the Senate was a defeat for the amendment, but it was not a win for gay marriage, which hardly any senator even hinted at supporting. If we had an up-or-down vote on gay marriage in the Senate, it would lose 98-2, or thereabouts.

And while many of the arguments directed at the amendment were quite good (emphasizing federalism, the overstated threat of judicial activism, and the overbreadth of the amendment), some of the arguments against the amendment were, shall we say, deflating. For example, we heard repeatedly that there were much more important issues that we needed to address, like gas prices and relations with the Principality of Liechtenstein.

I guess I have to agree with that in one sense. Any proposal is more important than one that should never have seen the light of day. Still, there was something baleful about cheering on people who were suggesting that anything related to the question of whether gays could marry was wasting our precious time. There was that not-the-gays-again tone in much of the person-on-the-street interviews seen on television, a sentiment some senators against the amendment seemed →

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LeftOut continued from page 20

links, and neither have we."

When the Canadian Press, a wire service, interviewed Saewyc, she expressed further alarm regarding the way her scholarly work had suddenly become culture-war fodder for the Focus foxhole. "The research has been hijacked for somebody's political purposes or ideological purposes, and that's worrisome."

Realizing that she was caught in a calumny, Fryrear invoked the work of Dr. Robert Spitzer, a Columbia University researcher who had published a 2001 study on sexual orientation. The Focus spokeswoman said in the article that Spitzer's research linked contemplating suicide to unwanted attractions to the same sex.

I contacted Spitzer the next day, and it turns out that his work had also been distorted. He sent me a statement outlining his dismay over the way Focus on the Family misrepresented his study.

"Unfortunately, Focus on the Family has once again reported findings of my study out of context to support their fight against gay rights," Spitzer said. "Although a third of the subjects in my study reported having had serious thoughts of suicide related to their homosexuality, not one of them blamed the gay rights movement's advocating a 'born-gay' theory of homosexuality as the cause of their suicidal thinking."

Fryrear essentially tried to dig herself out of a hole she created by distorting the work of one researcher by twisting the work of another. Isn't there something in the Bible about not bearing false witness? Just another day at the Fib Factory, I guess.

Focus on the Family has always been truth challenged and taken special delight in mocking science. Remember, this group also started The Family Research Council, a Washington lobby that ironically does virtually no original research.

On Focus on the Family's mammoth "campus" there are hundreds of employees. But is there a single person there who knows a centrifuge from a centerfold or a test tube from a boob tube? All they understand is the science of spin, which can lead to embarrassing sin, as James Dobson learned.

Wayne Besen, author of the book *Anything But Straight: Unmasking the Scandals and Lies Behind the Ex-Gay Myth* (Harrington Park), writes a weekly column published at www.waynebesen.com. He is executive director of Truth Wins Out, an organization that monitors the activity of so-called ex-gay ministries. Daryl Moore returns in September.

OutRight continued from previous page

implicitly to be exploiting.

Even my beloved federalism argument

can sound, in the wrong mouth, like "the states should be allowed to do this godawful thing if they want to." Forgive me for not finding much inspiration in that.

Then came the news, the very same day the amendment lost in the Senate, that Alabama had become the 19th state to ban gay marriage in its state constitution, which I suppose will stop dead in their tracks all those Alabama state court judges who have been seduced by pro-homosexual propaganda. Alabama and most of the other states that have passed constitutional gay-marriage bans (e.g., Texas, Oklahoma, and Mississippi) were unlikely to recognize gay marriage or anything else gay in the foreseeable future anyway, whether by legislative or judicial action, so not much is immediately lost.

But I get the sense that long after the rational debate over whether gay marriage harms anything has been resoundingly answered "no" that we're going to be stuck with many of these state amendments, adopted in a time when we didn't know any better. That will be true at least in those states where a repeal, like the original amendment, will require a super-majority in one form or another. More precisely, "we" won't be stuck with these state constitutional amendments. Gay families unfortunate enough to live in those places, with little means of escape, will be stuck with them.

With a federal amendment now effectively off the table, my guess is the antigay-marriage movement will redouble its efforts in the remaining dozen or so states that seem most likely to pass such measures. The probable result, after a few more election cycles, will be a nation where about 35 of 50 states will be unable to give gay marriage (or, in many of these states, civil unions or watered-down domestic partnerships) a try long after experience in other states and countries has shown it is a good idea.

Of the remaining 15 or so states, a few will move legislatively and judicially toward same-sex marriage, but their public-policy advances in this area will be effectively quarantined, at least initially. That's about the rosier realistic scenario right now for the next couple of decades.

It's not exactly the same as having a federal amendment, which would kill gay marriage in the whole United States for perhaps half a century, but it's the next worst thing.

So the federal marriage amendment is dead. Long live the amendment.

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.

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by Annise D. Parker

HE LOVES A PARADE

Following the annual June frenzy, an appreciation of Pride chief Jack Valinski

No one rains on our parade. No one would dare. Sure, we've fretted over a few feisty morning thunderstorms and one or two raindrops, but the Pride Parade has never been rained out.

Featuring entries from beautiful creations to corporate bank floats, each parade out-classes its predecessor. None of this would be possible without the herculean efforts of Pride Houston. The organization has become an institution, a true cornerstone of our community. Surely they have something to do with the perfect weather.

Behind the annual extravaganza are hundreds of volunteers devoting thousands of hours. Can you pick up a GLBT publication without reading about a Pride Houston fund-raiser?

Thank you, Jack Valinski. "Hundreds of people helped," he would say. The Pride Week executive director is far too modest. He doesn't exactly jump in front of cameras. This

unsung hero has contributed more than two decades of hard work to the community.

GLBT organizations come and go, but Pride Houston continues to thrive with veteran and young volunteers, all colors of the rainbow—and lots of them. Perhaps the clear goals and deadlines explain some of Pride Houston's astounding success. Jack and other Pride leaders make people feel welcome. Jack's dedication, openness, generosity, humility, and sense of humor have left their mark on this important organization, as well as others.

Close friend Ed Barnes says, "Jack loves a parade! He's thrilled with every new volunteer who shows up for Pride. He involves himself with everyone. I find him in the Pride office seven days a week and have to yell at him to arrange time for himself. He is so proud of his Pride family and often confides how so-and-so walked in the Pride office, worked on mundane tasks like stuffing en-

velopes, chaired committees, and performed janitorial duties.

"He notes how many of these new young volunteers, through their relationship with Pride, have achieved total self-acceptance by finding Pride a community of support and love."

If you received a Pride or GLBT Political Caucus mailing about candidates, that meant Jack and his volunteers had spent countless Saturdays and nights cleaning up the huge community mailing list. Jack has devoted himself to this critical—but thankless task—for more than decade.

"Few cities have a resource of this magnitude, and it is a great benefit to our organization and the community," notes Nick Brines, Pride Houston president.

Nick likes to joke that he has been with Jack, working side by side, for 12 years—longer than he has been with his own husband. "We have worked together so long we can →

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InsideOut

continued from page 24

share ideas and build off past mistakes to make each year's Pride celebration better and better."

But long before he threw himself into Pride Houston, Jack was hard at work building our GLBT infrastructure.

You might say Jack got me started in politics. In 1983, Jack and I both ran for the same GLBT Political Caucus board seat. I won. Fortunately, Jack was elected a few months later. In those days, vacant board seats meant fierce competition.

As with any political organization, in-fighting and external forces (like referendums and candidates) can take their toll, but through referendums, elections, and crises, Jack keeps his cool and keeps working. Oh, did I mention he is also the voice of the KPFT radio show, *Queer Voices*? The weekly program airs on Monday nights at 8 p.m.

As fellow KPFT radio host/reporter and longtime community activist Pokey Anderson notes, Jack has staying power.

Where would we be without leaders like Jack Valinski?

Where We Are

Despite stunning legal defeats like the New York Supreme Court's antigay marriage decision, the big picture doesn't look so dark:

- We just won in Arkansas, a unanimous court decision upholding the rights of GLBT foster parents.
- The Human Rights Campaign reports that half of the Fortune 500 companies offer domestic partner benefits, and about 85 percent have inclusive nondiscrimination policies (excluding Exxon, of course).
- Each decade, polls show GLBT issues gain about 10 points.

The shocking New York decision is forcing GLBT leaders to re-strategize. Someday the Supreme Court will make all this discussion irrelevant. For now, I hope we pursue "civil unions" loud and clear. Let everyone know that we don't want to force churches to marry us. Just let us get married at our courthouses like other taxpaying Americans.

How ridiculous the president and Congress looked trying to pass the constitutional ban on gay marriage. The country is spending \$5 billion a month on a war with no end in sight, and Congress discusses a hopeless constitutional amendment to appease the right wing. Keep up the good work.

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

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What a World

by Nancy Ford

WWJS

Where would Jesus shop?

All month I've been looking forward to writing a column about a trend rearing its sad, retro little head in our gay neighborhood lately: the pursuit of exclusivity, especially within nonprofit social circles. It's a curious trend, don't you agree, considering that equality, inclusiveness, and acceptance are the cornerstone of our community's legislative efforts?

Part of the discussion was to specifically focus on physical attractiveness—namely, fat: why it should or should not be condoned, how eating is often the focus of our fundraising endeavors, and how ultimately the size of one's butt is nobody's business except the owner/operator of said butt.

But now my attention has turned to a butt of another kind.

You may have already heard about the recent unpleasantness regarding a contribution to San Antonio's June PrideFest. The Herbert E. Butt family's H-E-B grocery chain generously donated \$300 to the Alamo City's annual GLBT celebration as one of its sponsors.

Thanks, we appreciate the sponsorship. And thanks, too, for taking part in Houston's 2006 Pride Parade, while we're on the subject.

But now religious conservatives, protecting their sensitive family values, are calling for a protest. They want no part of the money they spend there to be contributed—however indirectly—to promoting the nefarious Gay Agenda.

One vitriolic San Antonio radio talk-show host is encouraging his listeners to save the receipts from purchases they make at other grocery stores. At the end of the month, the grand total will be presented to H-E-B, illustrating how much far-right revenue the Big Butts have lost.

But in light of their adherence to biblical doctrine, these protestors should also take note of how many of those purchases were made on a Sunday, the Lord's Day. Literalists know that we're not supposed to shop on the Lord's Day. As in, "remember the Sabbath to

keep it holy"—an abomination that actually made the Top Ten. As in commandments.

Likewise, check those receipts for alcohol or tobacco purchases. We know what the Lord has to say about what those products do to the temple-body.

Got any Pepsi, Coke, or any other carbonated beverages on those receipts? They are spirits that moveth within the cup and therefore condemned. Better stick to Ozarka. At least there's an outside chance it'll turn into wine.

God forbid, literally, there should be receipts for condoms or other birth control devices. Google what the Lord hath to say about non-procreative seed spilling.

And put back that TV Guide. It glorifies heterosexual programs like *Teletubbies* and *Kathy Griffin: My Life on the D-List*.

Have the faithful purchased any hot dogs this summer? It ain't easy to build a coney without using meat-like by-products from animals with cloven hooves. Check your Leviticus, Spanky: Eating meat from animals with cloven hooves is bad. Very bad. And don't even think about peeling open a can of Spam.

Likewise, don't think you can kick your BBQ up a notch by foregoing the weenies and serving grilled shrimp: Shellfish is a big, big no-no, too. Better enjoy Pappadeaux's lobster and spinach au gratin now 'cause you're going to hell later.

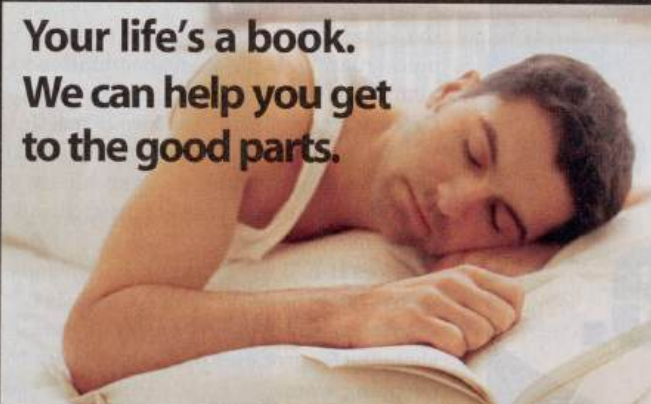
What about hair-care products? Deodorants? Razors with aloe strips that prevent breakout of sensitive skin? Toothpaste that whitens and brightens? Makeup of any kind? Doesn't the Lord have something to say about overt pride in one's appearance?

Purchases of foods containing sugars, starches, and fats should be limited to those families who can prove that those items will be consumed only by members who are not overweight. You know what the Lord says about gluttony.

And at the risk of being too biologically explicit, they better make sure that none of →

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What a World continued from page 28

the female checkers at the cash registers are menstruating. Is it not an abomination for a man to converse with an "unclean" woman? Grocery stores should be more respectful of the doctrine of their literalist shoppers and keep their menstruating clerks hidden behind the ammunition department, cramping to themselves.

Does H-E-B have an ammunition department? I bet the one in San Antonio does.

Wait a minute. Why would any *man* be shopping for groceries in the first place? Isn't shopping women's work? Should a woman not immediately subserve to the fact that it is her responsibility to gather and prepare the food the husband has toiled all week to purchase? Now get into that kitchen and rattle them pots 'n' pans.

We understand how easy it is for people who are insecure in their faith to jump on a boycott-like bandwagon, especially when called for by a bigot with a microphone. One of the quickest ways for anyone hoping to agitate the masses is to use the two G words: Gays and God. It works in radio, and it works in political campaigns.

Fortunately, there are two sides to every coin spent on groceries, and there are a slew of H-E-B stores in the Houston area. Inside the Loop, in fact, is the gayest grocery granddaddy of them all, the H-E-B-owned Central Market, at 3815 Westheimer at Weslayan.

Please join me in shopping at any of the H-E-B locations during August. Then staple your receipts together, writing the month's grand total on the front, and mail them to OutSmart (attention: WAW, 3406 Audubon Place, Houston 77006). At the end of the month we will present the gay grand total to H-E-B locally.

And anyone who has a problem with that can kiss my big butt.

H-E-B SPEAKS

On June 16, H-E-B representatives issued this statement:

"H-E-B values the opinions of all its customers. Our corporate donation policy has always been one of inclusiveness and focused on treating all our Partners and Customers with dignity and respect. Specifically, H-E-B's contribution to PrideFest amounted to a donation of \$300. This donation in no way represents a political or social stance. It's about respecting our Customers and Partners and supporting the communities we serve."



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Animal Magnetism

We love our pets. Our pets love us. It's a perfect match

What is it about pets and the gay humans who belong to them? Having been attached to several furry, finned, and feathered creatures over the years, we know that the bond is a strong one. On these pages, we feature some local two-legged animals and their animals they adore.

Bow wow WOW!

Perhaps it was genetically determined that artist Jim Tweedy—whom we commissioned to create this month's cover—would specialize in animal illustration: His father, Byron Tweedy, was an animator for Disney Studios.

After receiving training from both his father and famed former NASA illustrator Walter Labiche, Tweedy first found fame in 1992 with his Charlie the RedCat series, soon expanding into the canine realm with Jim Tweedy's Friendly Doggies.

His paintings (like the one at left), which Jim describes as "cartoons on canvas" are intended strictly "to put a smile on your face."

Tweedy and his wife of 16 years, Robyn, have four children and live just outside of New Orleans in Mandeville, Louisiana. His daughters are allergic to dogs, so the family's pets are limited to two "big ol' fat tabby cats, Charlie and Walter," Tweedy says.

The bulk of Tweedy's work is currently on exhibit in a Covington, Louisiana, gallery (and at www.friendlydoggies.com). Hollywood Frame Gallery carries Tweedy's creations locally. Hollywood will also soon begin carrying his line of humorous greeting cards and T-shirts. —Nancy Ford



THE DANCE OF THE SUGARPLUM LARRY



Got It Covered

You can own a signed copy of this month's cover illustration, created especially for OutSmart by Jim Tweedy. Hollywood Frame Gallery is making available giclée open-edition prints signed by the artist for \$50 each. Twenty percent of the proceeds from sales benefit Pet Patrol (see opposite page). To order, contact the gallery at 713/942-8885 or www.hollywoodframegallery.com. —Tim Brookover

Say Goodnight, Gracie

Amy Gilbert still can't believe she found her best friend at the Harris County Rabies and Animal Control office. Gracie Lee was only moments away from being eliminated, a sad inevitability for the four-legged guests of most animal shelters.

A systems and applications specialist at University of Texas-Houston Health and Science Center, Gilbert turned to the shelter nine years ago, originally looking for a cat trap.

"I had never had a dog before, or considered one," Gilbert says. While waiting for the trap, she heard the dogs barking. On a whim, she decided to take a look. She was petting a black poodle mix, a lap dog, when suddenly Gracie's little head popped up from the crowded pen.

"She was so cute!" Gilbert says. "I immediately said, 'I want to see that one.' Gracie bounded out, jumped up and gave me kisses. It was love at first sight."

Though small for a bearded collie, the breed that veterinarians eventually assigned to her, Gracie now more than fills Gilbert's lap.

Despite her previously homeless origins, Gracie has become very particular about where and how she sleeps, Gilbert says. Every night before she settles down, she jumps up and down on the bed like a child until the covers and pillows are arranged just right to suit her particular needs.

"She is such a friendly, funny dog," Gilbert says. "It's remarkable a dog this cute was at the pound." —N.F.



Photo: Steven David

Pet Patrol Keeps Love Alive

We all know that not just dogs, but all pets, are man's and woman's best friend. But what happens when a man or woman is too sick to care for that furry best friend?

Answering that question, the recently revived Pet Patrol organization has responded to the needs of these animals, caring and providing free food and care for animals when their loving owners can't.

In support of Pet Patrol (www.thepetpatrol.org), the Colt 45's Houston presents a benefit event, Talk to the Animals Part 2, on August 11, 7 p.m., at the Brazos River Bottom. Instead of paying a cover charge, individuals are encouraged to bring pet food, toys, and treats for the animals of Pet Patrol clients. —N.F.

More Pets →



Gay Dog About Town

All of the dogs profiled here were lauded by their owners as being exceptionally intelligent. But if Mensa introduced a club for canines, it's likely that Jack Everstijn-Strobel would be president of his local chapter.

This seven-year-old Welsh Corgie and Jack Russell terrier mix looks both ways before crossing the street, follows complex instructions that he has never heard before, and even waits until the credits roll at the end of a movie before asking to be let out for a walk.

"He's cute, too!" insists one of Jack's humans, Johan Everstijn. "You should see him in his black bow tie!"

Cute. Intelligent. What else could a gay couple ask for in a prized pet?

"He is a gay dog," Everstijn, a financial advisor for Prudential, adds. "He only goes after boy dogs in the park or on the street."

Despite his apparent roving eye (he prefers Great Danes, Everstijn says), Jack has a steady boyfriend, Kirby, a chow mix who lives down the street.

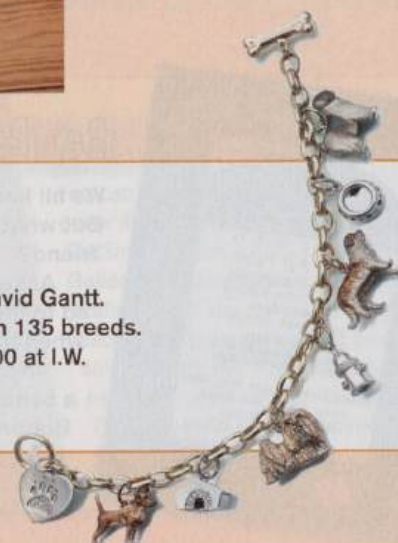
Everstijn, 38, and his partner, Roland Strobel, adopted Jack from a shelter in Cincinnati before moving to Houston. "No one wanted him, but he turned out to be the best doggie ever," he says. —N.F.

Photo: Yvonne Feece



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More Pets →



HAPPY TAILS DOG SPA OFFERS FULL-SERVICE GROOMING

Happy Tails Dog Spa, which opened its first dog daycare and spa facility in Texas in March, now offers full-service, professional grooming with the addition to its staff of Paul Savant. A native of Louisiana, Savant brings over 22 years of professional dog grooming experience to the new Happy Tails facility, located at 1315 Waugh Drive between W. Gray and W. Dallas. Prior to joining Happy Tails, Savant owned and operated grooming salons in Friendswood and Pearland for the past 17 years. His experience in grooming all breeds of dogs includes several years of professional show-ring grooming.

Savant is quick to point out his passion for his work saying, "Grooming is an art, and I enjoy the creativity of completing a cut to match each dog's personality." Savant achieves this through conversation with each dog's owner to understand their expectations and to get to know their canine companion.

When asked what drew him to Happy Tails Dog Spa, Savant replies, "I knew the moment I walked in the door that it would be a good fit."

"I'm excited about the opportunity to develop grooming

clientele for Happy Tails. Also, I knew right away that the people behind Happy Tails are the best."

The Happy Tails Dog Spa on Waugh is a gay-owned and operated business that caters to the GLBT community. Owner Don Puryear adds, "With Paul joining the business, we are able to provide full-service, show-quality grooming in addition to our dog daycare, boarding, and spa services."

In addition to dog grooming, daycare and boarding services, Happy Tails offers 6,000 square feet of indoor/outdoor play space in a safe, supervised environment. Canine clientele enjoy high-definition televisions in all play rooms, certified canine massage therapists, and specially priced "spa days" that combine daycare with spa menu selections. Their human companions enjoy an extensive retail boutique, live web cameras, multiple-dog savings, and convenient hours of operation

seven days per week.

Happy Tails Dog Spa welcomes visitors to stop by for a tour of the facility, after which they are certain that "if you had a tail, you'd wag it!"



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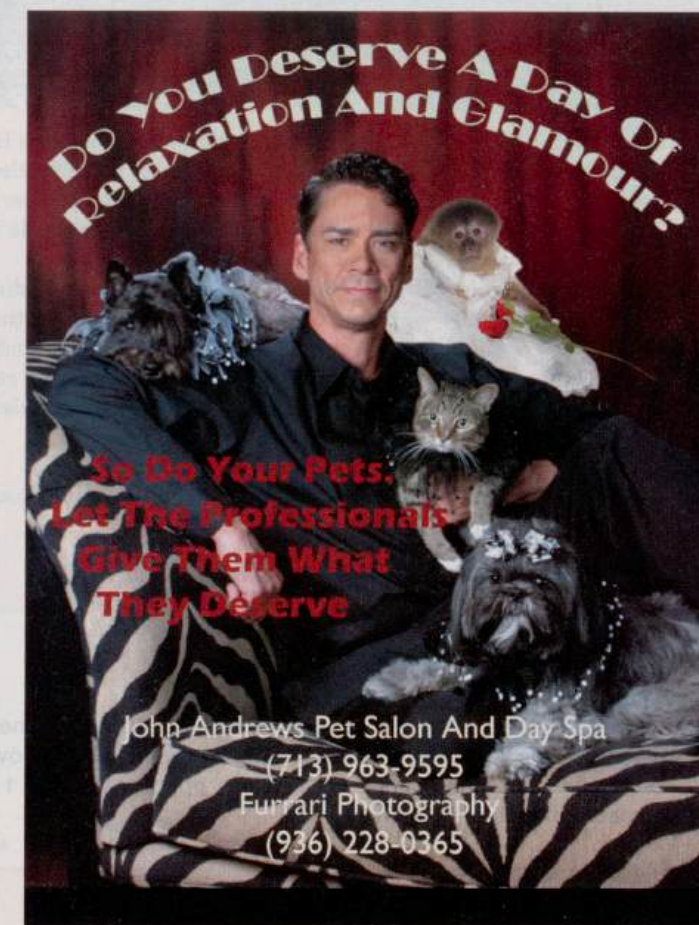




Photo: John Taton

Donise Whited (right) and Laura Overton have lived in Houston's Heights neighborhood for more than 8 of the 15 years they've been a couple, making a comfortable home for themselves and their four children.

In this case, the "children" are Ramsey Louise, age 10, a Cavalier King Charles mix; Topper Ann, 9, a Miniature Pinscher/Dachshund mix; and their 2-year-old Australian Cattle Dog mix, Sapphire Honeyduke (yes, so named for the bakery featured in the *Harry Potter* films).

Also part of the Whited-Overton brood is Bailey Jane, an exceedingly independent six-year-old Siamese/mixed-breed cat who was too busy prowling the neighborhood to pose for this family portrait.

Though they haven't officially come out of the closet, Ramsey and Topper exhibit distinct lesbian tendencies, the couple says. The two older "sisters" readily welcome other female visitors, whether canine or human, while treating males as though they were trying to crash the Michigan Women's Music Festival.

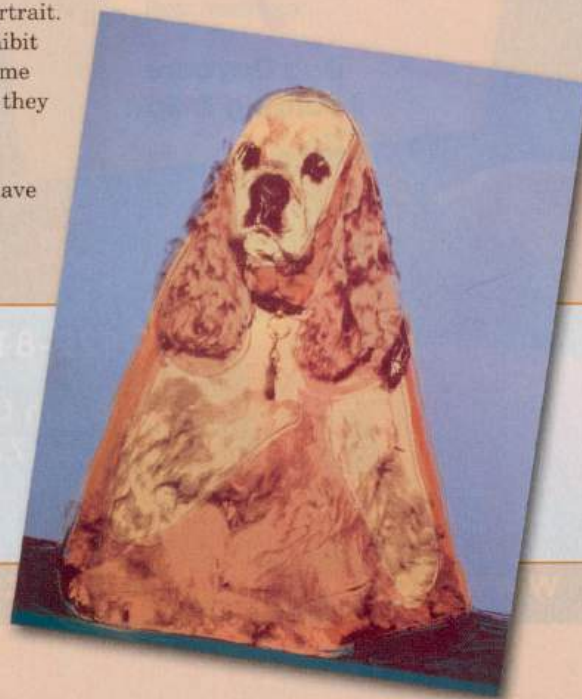
Sapphire's affectional orientation is another story, however.

"She's totally boy-crazy," Whited says, rolling her eyes. "It's a good thing we have a high fence around the yard." —N.F.

Ruff Art

Ginger, this 1976 silkscreen on canvas by Andy Warhol, is one of the works of canine-inspired art in the exhibition *Best in Show: The Dog in Art from the Renaissance to Today*, opening October 1 at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. —T.B.

More Pets →



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Animal Magnetism

continued from page 36

Amy's Bunny

After her pet rabbit Tattletail died a few years ago, Amy Sedaris obtained a new one, which she named Dusty. Sedaris, now starring in *Strangers with Candy* (and interviewed in our July issue), answered a few pet questions for OutSmart.

Blase DiStefano: Is Dusty male or female?

Amy Sedaris: She's female. Complete con-artist. She completely plays me, and I fall for it every time.

[Laughs] How long have you had her?

About three years. Last week I woke up, I swear to God, with her belly flying over my eyes. She was hopping over my face. One time I had stitches in my mouth, and it was really sore, and she jumped on my stitches, and then used it as a jump-off point, and I was in so much pain. [Both laugh]

You can laugh about it now.

Yeah, now.

Didn't Todd Oldham [openly gay designer and friend] build Dusty's...

A three-story hutch. And I'm working on this hospitality book [*I Like You: Hospitality Under the Influence*, due out in October], and I have a whole chapter on rabbits, and it's going to be completely boring for anybody unless they have a rabbit.

So it's not really a cookbook?

Cookbook, hospitality book—it's different ways to entertain. I have a section on entertaining when you have pets in the house. I happen to have a rabbit, so it's all rabbit care and how to clean a hutch and real boring information, not a joke in it.

How big is the hutch?

It's about five feet tall, and it has a ramp in it and three levels, so she can choose where she wants to hang out. It's never locked. She always goes there when she wants to get away from me.

[Laughs] That is so great. Have you always been an animal lover?

Yeah.

Did you have pets as a child?

We always had pets. We had cats and dogs and gerbils and hamsters and guinea pigs.

How did the rabbit come about?

It was an impulse buy. I always thought I wanted one, and I saw her in a pet store—you should never buy a rabbit in a pet store—and I was with [fellow funny

COURTESY AMY SEDARIS



person] Andy Richter, and I was like, *Oooh*, and I bought my first rabbit home. I learned. I'll always have a rabbit now. They're the best pets.

And I have a badge—I'm a house rabbit educator, so if you were to get a rabbit, I would come to your house and rabbit-proof it, and I would make sure you've ordered the proper hay and you have all the right contact numbers, and I would do a follow-up call.

That's fabulous. Since this is our pet issue, and since we're a gay publication, I thought I would ask you if you've ever had an openly gay pet?

Interesting. Openly gay pet. An openly gay pet. I never thought about it. I know there was one time with my first rabbit, there was a week where I thought maybe it was a boy, and it changed everything, it changed *everything*—the way it talked to me: "You bitch." And I was like, "Ohmigod! Tattletail!" He hated gay people, and David [Amy's brother, who is gay] would come over, and it would say, "Faggot. C--ksucker." And I would be like, "Tattletail, that's rude!" And David finally said, "Amy, I think that's starting to hurt my feelings." And I was like, "Oh, okay." So she went back to being female. [Both laugh]

—Blase DiStefano

ANIMAL ATTRACTION

We can't get enough of our pets. In fact, look for more in the September OutSmart.



Her love for animals isn't just all talk. In 2005, Sedaris's alter ego, Jeri Blank, puts her fur where her mouth is by posing for this PETA poster, shot by Todd Oldham.

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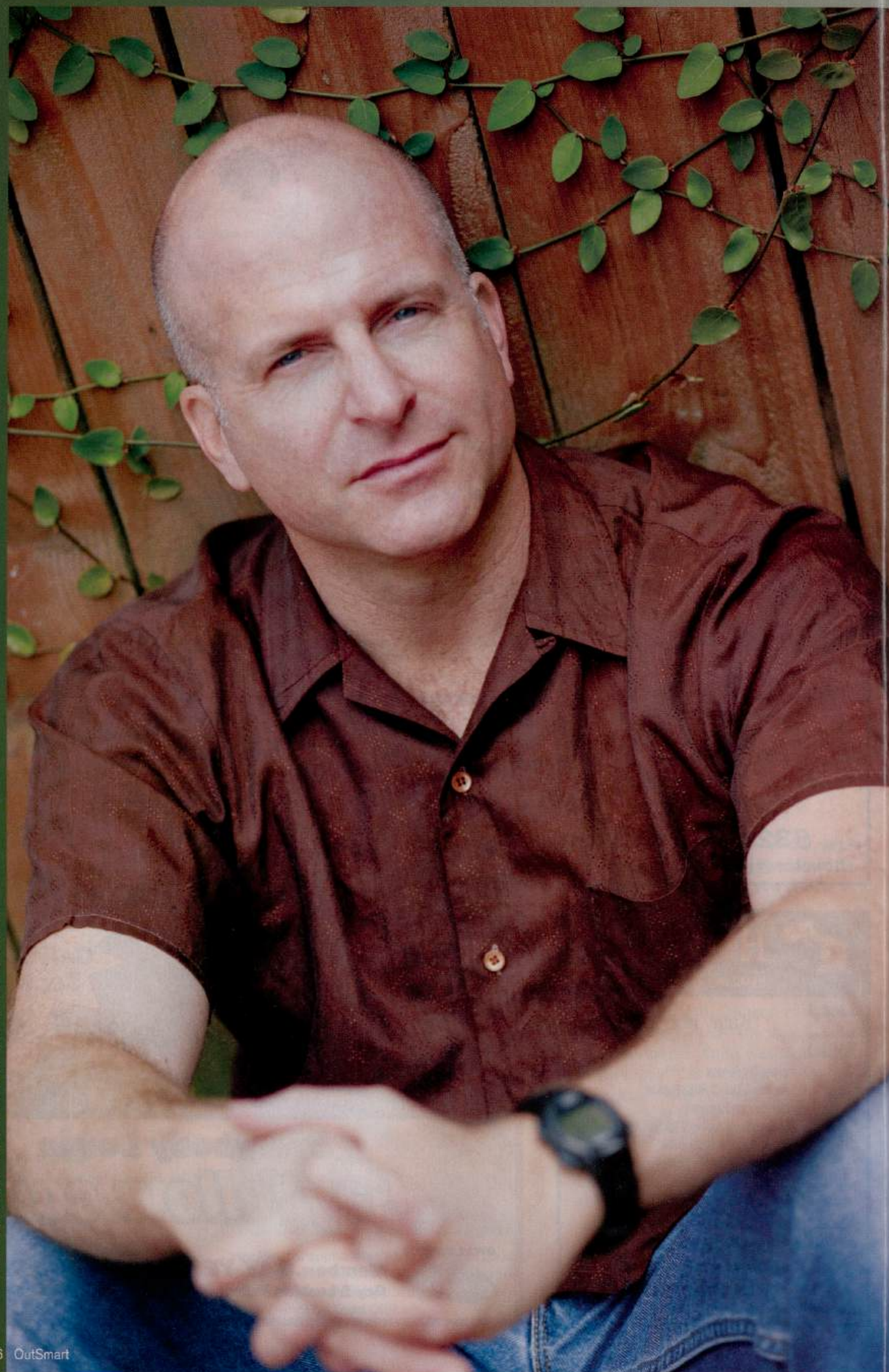
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Double-wide fun: Agoraphobia, adultery, '80s nostalgia, spray cheese, road kill, hysterical pregnancy, a broken electric chair, kleptomania, strippers, flan, and disco. Director Brad Dalton weaves them all together for Stages Repertory Theatre's country-rock and blues musical, *The Great American Trailer Park*.



From *Meyerland* to *Musicals*

Homegrown opera and theater director BRAD DALTON makes his mark in his hometown—and around the world

Growing up gay in Houston doesn't guarantee you will become a world-class stage director, but it hasn't hurt Brad Dalton, whose current production of *The Great American Trailer Park Musical* has opened the 28th season at Stages Repertory Theatre (playing through September 3).

Earlier this summer, Dalton wrapped up Stages' previous season by directing *Nickel & Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America*.

Both shows were blue-collar breaks from his burgeoning career as a much-in-demand director of more highbrow operas.

Now based in San Francisco, Dalton was born in Meyerland, the bookish younger brother of two Texas jocks. It's no wonder that macho expectations forced him to dig deep into himself "and gradually find out who I was," he says. While his brother's coaches hoped for a third daunting Dalton athlete, he began studying piano at age 8, adding violin to his repertoire four years later.

After graduating from Memorial High School, Dalton was in his senior year in college at Harvard when he realized, as he says, "I felt lonely in bed by myself, and I figured out that I didn't have to live that way."

"Coming out, telling my parents, it wasn't easy, but it wasn't going to go away, so we all did it," he says. "We put it all out there in the open: the prejudices and fears, all the ridiculous b.s. we all live with, and it became an incredible blessing to have to re-think our lives, everything, to re-learn everything and be able to see who you really are."

"How different it would be to never have to question things," he smiles. "But when everybody says there's something wrong with you, and you say, 'No, there's not,' it takes strength and courage. For me, it began a spiritual journey."

"My dad is a doctor, an obstetrician-gynecologist, and I was getting a degree in biochemistry," Dalton continues. "In the →

by Donalevan Maines

Photo by Jill Hunter

From Meyerland to Musicals

continued from previous page

science world, everything is black and white, but theater is so subjective. That was more fascinating to me—the gray areas. And just as I started really thinking about what is going to matter to me in the end, I was cast in a play, *A Soldier's Tale*. I was the soldier. Then I directed *The Glass Menagerie*. I was at the right place at the right time for realizing that theater was where I could work with what fascinates me about life."

Looking inside himself, Dalton discovered that he wanted to look outside, too, and see the world firsthand. "At one point [after graduating from Harvard], I had saved up a lot of money, and I took a trip to Europe and the Middle East," he says. "I spent 10 months backpacking, staying at youth hostels, trying to learn the history of art and civilization, not from books but with my own eyes."

"I also stayed with 31 families," he says, giving him the opportunity to see how people lived in the countries he visited.

When he ran out of money, Dalton returned to Houston, where he worked awhile as an actor at Stages. After attending a performance of the Houston Grand Opera, he immediately applied to be an assistant director. Two weeks later, an opening came up, and Dalton was hired.

Two productions in particular set him on his current course: *The Marriage of Figaro*, which made him laugh out loud ("It was so alive, so fun!" he remembers), and *Execution of Justice*, which hit home with its detailed rendering of events surrounding the slaying of San Francisco gay rights hero Harvey Milk.

Two of Dalton's own productions stand out as pinnacles of his success in the world of opera: his feverish, haunting, and overtly sexual take on Andre Previn's *A Streetcar Named Desire*, which soared from its debut at Austin Lyric Opera to an acclaimed rendering at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., then with the London Symphony Orchestra in the opera's Great Britain premiere; and Jake Heggie's *Dead Man Walking*, which won four Helpmann Awards Down Under, including a statuette for Dalton as best director of an opera for his staging at the State Opera of South Australia.

Dalton continues to surprise his fans, for example helping to create live percussion accompaniment for his fast and furious staging of *Nickel & Dimed* at Stages. He also endears himself to actors by drawing upon his many and varied forays into acting, soul searching, travels, and studies of life as it is actually lived in different parts of the world.

Luisa Amaral-Smith, an actress cast as both a Mexican man and two totally different female characters in *Nickel & Dimed*, gushed with enthusiasm when she described how attentive, detail-oriented, and compassionate Dalton seemed to her as a director.

"He has such great vision," said Amaral-Smith. "To work for him is a dream."

Donalevan Maines profiled paper-doll artist Gregg Nystrom in our July issue.



Brad Dalton (r) with his boyfriend John and their pet Winston.

Lost and Found

It's better to have loved and lost than to have never loved at all. But even better to have lost and found!

Brad Dalton was back in his hometown directing his third production at Stages Repertory Theatre when his boyfriend John joined him here in late May with a dog he had adopted from a shelter in San Francisco.

Winston, half Catahoula and half Fox-Wire Terrier, reportedly had fled last year's Hurricane Katrina and somehow made it to the California shelter.

On the dog's first day in Houston, Dalton took Winston with him to a car wash near the intersection of Montrose and Welch.

"Winston slipped out of his leash, and because he did not know me well, he ran away," Dalton explained. "He ran north on Montrose. I was wearing flip-flops and could not keep up with him."

He disappeared into the neighborhood and ran faster and faster.

"We spent seven hours putting up signs with his photo and combing the neighborhood over and over hoping to spot him," Dalton adds. "We visited the SPCA and the Humane Society, and we made numerous calls to vets in the area."

Sometime in the next week, two men caught Winston as he was being chased out of a restaurant on Montrose. The couple took Winston home with them and, eventually, to a veterinarian.

"The vet found the subcutaneous microchip on Winston and scanned it," Dalton said. "The chip had the number of the shelter Winston was adopted from. They called the shelter and the shelter called John."

Dalton and his boyfriend retrieved Winston, and, so far, the trio are living happily ever after. —D.M.

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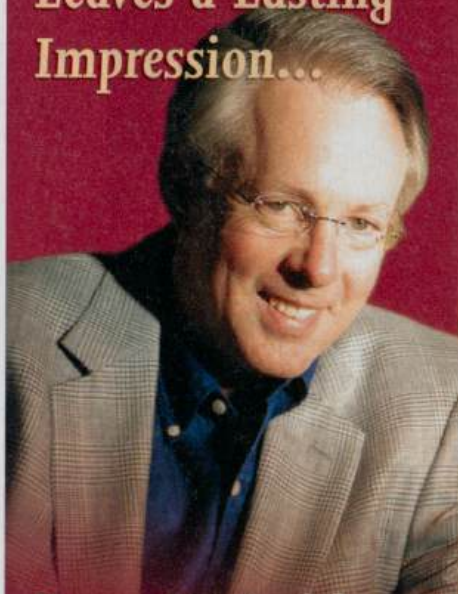
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The Normal suspects: The cast of *The Normal Heart*, which opens August 11, includes (clockwise, from top) Robert Martinez, Joseph Zollers, Wes Copeland, Lance Marshall, Steve Bullitt, Ryan Thomas Heitzman, Brett Cullum, Sage Holli Bara, and Glen Fillmore.

REDEFINING

More than 20 years ago, The Normal Heart confronted the early years of the AIDS crisis. Now Joe Watts revives Larry Kramer's groundbreaking play to reach a new generation touched by the epidemic

by Nancy Ford • Photograph by John Taton

In 1985, Houston mayoral candidate Louis Welch didn't realize his microphone was on when he offered this callous cure for AIDS: "Shoot the queers!"

Welch (who had already served as mayor from 1963 to 1974) was defeated in his run by the incumbent, Kathy Whitmire, but his comment was representative of the insensitivity surrounding the growing epidemic in that era.

That same year, Larry Kramer's *The Normal Heart* did much to begin countering that insensitivity, starting as many social trends do—in the theater. The play, the first to address the growing AIDS crisis in the United States, was hailed as "extraordinary" and "outspoken" by critics when it was introduced to New York audiences.

"No one who cares about the future of the human race can afford to miss *The Normal Heart*," theater critic Rex Reed wrote at the time.

More than 20 years after its New York debut, Theatre New West artistic director Joe Watts is presenting *The Normal Heart* in Houston. His production opens August 11 at Bering & James, a beautiful new gallery space in Montrose.

"In the summer of 1985 I saw the original production of *The Normal Heart* at Joe Papp's Public Theatre in New York," Watts says. "It was a life-changing experience for me. Its brilliance has haunted me ever since. I knew one day I would have to produce and direct this play."

After receiving critical acclaim last fall for his production of *Bent* at Holocaust Museum Houston, Watts began asking himself if this were the right time for a revival of Kramer's play: Would there be an audience, or was the work too dated and too depressing? Wasn't its message about practicing safe sex a worthy one? Wasn't reaching out to a whole new segment of the community, while serving as a reminder to others, also valid?

As Watts pondered these questions, an onslaught of media focused on the 25th anniversary of the identification of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

"There was a *Newsweek* cover story, 'The New Face of AIDS,' followed by a PBS four-hour *Frontline* documentary called *The Age of AIDS*. Then, on June 2, first lady Laura Bush gave a positive speech to the United Nations General Assembly about the AIDS campaign," Watts says.

"I knew all this, coming after my decision to produce this play, was an omen and confirmation, that I had, indeed, and absolutely, chosen just the right time."

The Normal Heart will be performed through September 30. Ticket information: 713/522-2204.

ON THE WEB: Read an excerpt from *The Normal Heart* at www.outsmartmagazine.com.

'NORMAL'



They Came, They Saw, They Said It Out Loud

Pictures from the GLBT Parade
Photos by Dalton DeHart

Politicians and PFLAG-ers, church groups and scantily clad dancing queens, service organizations and sports teams—they all were there. An estimated crowd of 200,000 lined Westheimer to cheer them on in their approximately 110 contingents, all vociferously joining in the spirit of the 2006 GLBT Pride Parade.

"The weather was perfect," Pride Houston executive director Jack Valinski said. "It was hot, of course, but we couldn't ask for better."

June 24 marked the 28th time members of Houston's GLBT community paraded in solidarity and celebration, this year led by grand marshals Phyllis Randolph Frye, Ray Ramirez, the Rev. Marilyn Meeker-Williams, and Bunnies on the Bayou.

Valinski said he was also especially happy to welcome Conroe High School's Gay Lesbian Straight Alliance as a parade entry. "That was the first time we had a high school in the parade," he said. Prior to the parade, nearly 6,000 attendees flocked to the festival headlined by songstress Taylor Dayne to enjoy displays and booths provided by local organizations and merchants.

Many, escaping the repressive heat of the afternoon, found refuge in pavilion-sized tents, all blessedly equipped with air-circulating fans and temperature equalizers.

"The festival was incredible," Valinski added. "I was especially proud of the Kellett Foundation's GLBT History Tent." That tent displayed historical objects →



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They Came, They Saw, They Said It Out Loud

continued from page 48

loaned by the Charles Botts Memorial Library/Archives, which is housed at Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church.

Possibly the only negative aspect that presented itself on an otherwise delightful day of celebration was finding adequate parking. The expanding crowd compelled one carful of celebrants to find parking as far away as 12 blocks from the Montrose/Westheimer hub of Pride activity.

"When we have 200,000 people in the neighborhood, that's to be expected," Valinski said. "That's something we need to work on for next year with Metro."

Before our memory of the festivities fade, *OutSmart* offers another look back at Pride celebrations, via the photography of Dalton DeHart. —Nancy Ford

BEST OF SHOW

Those paraders who were determined to have paraded the loveliest in the Pride Parade were honored in a ceremony the day after the parade at Blur:

- Judges' Choice: AssistHers, Houston Comets, and Houston Humane Society
- Stonewall (best social commentary): Harris County Democratic Party
- Aria (best creative sound): Inergy Club
- Fabulous (best costumes): Eros 1207
- Rainbow (best lighting): Krew of Olympus Texas
- Ruby Slipper (best walking): Asians and Friends Houston
- Judy Garland (best performance): Community Gospel Church
- Say It Out Loud! (best interpretation of the 2006 theme): Rich's Houston
- Pink Diamond (best float by a for-profit company): JP Morgan Chase Bank
- Priscilla (best float by a nonprofit group): Bunnies on the Bayou
- Spirit of Montrose (best overall): Charles Armstrong Investments

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**10TH ANNUAL
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2006**



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Look for all the results in the October issue of *OutSmart*.



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One ballot per person. All ballots must have a name and verifiable address and email address. Only OSM official ballots may be used, no reproductions. OSM reserves the right to disqualify ballots that appear to be reproduced and/or mass produced.

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Wed., August 9: JR's, 808 Pacific, Houston • 10 PM–Midnight with Kofi

Sat., August 12: Undercurrent, 2409 Market, Galveston • 10 PM–Midnight with The Gulf Coast Drag Mafia: Shelby St. John, SoFonda St. John, & Southern Comfort

Thurs., August 17: Chances, 1100 Westheimer, Houston • 9–11 PM with Fluff the Kat Band

Sat., August 19: GLBT Community Center's Pirates of the Caribbean Bingo Night, 1415 California, Houston • 6–9 PM

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HOUSTON

- Baba Yega—2607 Grant
- Chances—1100 Westheimer
- Community Center—3400 Montrose, Ste. 207
- Guava Lamp—570 Waugh
- Hollywood Bistro & Café—2409 Grant
- JR's Bar—808 Pacific
- Male U Wear—415 Westheimer

- M2M—3400 Montrose
- OutSmart—3406 Audubon

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*** PEOPLE ***

- | | |
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| 1. Community Hero (Male) | 14. Best Physician |
| 2. Community Hero (Female) | 15. Best Dentist |
| 3. Most Prominent Male GLBT Activist | 16. Best Chiropractor |
| 4. Most Prominent Female GLBT Activist | 17. Best Therapist |
| 5. Most Valuable Volunteer | 18. Best Male Massage Therapist (and where does he work?) |
| 6. Leading Male Fundraiser | 19. Best Female Massage Therapist (and where does she work?) |
| 7. Leading Female Fundraiser | 20. Best Male Personal Trainer |
| 8. Most Divine Drag Queen | 21. Best Female Personal Trainer |
| 9. Favorite Politician | 22. Best Veterinarian |
| 10. Best Male GLBT Business Person | 23. Best Astrologer |
| 11. Best Female GLBT Business Person | 24. Best Interior Decorator |
| 12. Best Attorney | |
| 13. Best Eye Doctor | |

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|---|--|
| 25. Best Male Insurance Agent | 9. Best Home Builder |
| 26. Best Female Insurance Agent | 10. Best Home Remodeling Contractor |
| 27. Best Male Real Estate Agent | 11. Best Landscaping Company |
| 28. Best Female Real Estate Agent | 12. Best Furniture Store |
| 28. Best Male Hairdresser (and where does he work?) | 13. Best Furniture Store on a Budget |
| 29. Best Female Hairdresser (and where does he work?) | 14. Best Grocery Store |
| 30. Favorite Community Photographer | 15. Best Specialty Food Store |
| 31. Best DJ (and where does he or she spin?) | 16. Best Catering Firm |
| 32. Best Male Bartender (where does he tend bar?) | 17. Best Liquor Store |
| 33. Best Female Bartender (where does she tend bar?) | 18. Best Gift & Accessories Shop |
| 34. Favorite Radio Personality | 19. Best Resale Shop for Clothing |
| 35. Best TV Guy | 20. Best Resale Shop for Other Treasures |
| 36. Best TV Gal | 21. Best GLBT TV/Cable Channel |
| 37. Favorite Male Pro Athlete | 22. Best Auto Dealership |
| 38. Favorite Female Pro Athlete | 23. Best Auto Detailing Service |
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| | 49. Best Gym/Place to Work Out |
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*** COMMUNITY ***

- Favorite Social Organization
- Favorite Philanthropic Organization
- Favorite Community Organization
- Favorite Benefit Event of the Year
- Favorite National GLBT Organization

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*** DINING ***

1. Best New Restaurant _____
2. Best Restaurant for People Watching _____
3. Best 24-Hour Restaurant _____
4. Best Restaurant for Elegant Dining _____
5. Best Restaurant for Cheap Eats _____
6. Best Restaurant for Outdoor Dining _____
7. Best Breakfast _____
8. Best Brunch _____
9. Best Lunch Spot _____
10. Best Dessert _____
11. Best Coffee House _____
12. Best Barbecue _____
13. Best British _____
14. Best Cajun _____
15. Best Chinese _____
16. Best Cuban _____
17. Best Greek _____
18. Best Hamburger _____
19. Best Indian _____
20. Best Italian _____
21. Best Mexican _____
22. Best Mediterranean _____
23. Best Pizza _____
24. Best Sushi _____
25. Best Soul Food _____
26. Best Thai _____
27. Best Vegetarian _____
28. Best Vietnamese _____
30. Best Mexican _____
31. Best Happy Hour _____
32. Best Margarita _____
33. Best Martini _____
34. Favorite Brand of Beer _____
35. Best Dining Category We Forgot (and Restaurant) _____

*** AFTER DARK ***

1. Best Club for Dancing _____
2. Best Club After 2 a.m. _____
3. Best Women's Bar _____
4. Best Piano Bar _____
5. Best Drag Show Bar _____
6. Best Place to Two Step _____
7. Best Club If You're Under 21 _____
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9. Best Place to Watch Male Dancers _____
10. Best Place to Show Off Your Leather _____
11. Best Local Band _____
12. Best Local Entertainer _____

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THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

Big-screen televisions and high-end media gadgets

A woman of our acquaintance, a major football fan, reminds us that pigskin season begins this month. (For those keeping score at home, the first preseason contest for the Houston Texans is August 12 against the Kansas City Chiefs.) She and other sports fans may want to welcome the big fall games by upgrading their home-entertainment options with some of the latest in big-screen television sets and other high-end gadgets that can really enhance the lives of armchair quarterbacks.



Biggest can be best: With a 65-inch monitor, the Sharp Aquos Liquid Crystal Television is billed as the largest commercially available LC unit.



Get the big picture: The Pioneer Elite 50-inch plasma monitor set "is arguably the newest and best TV," says Will Breau of Audio Video Design in Houston. The Pioneer, like all the products on this page, is available through Audio Video Design.

In control: With the Logitech Harmony 890 Advanced Universal Remote, you can control all of your media devices at once—even through walls and around corners. Now you need never get up from that recliner.



Sound advice: We love big sound but can't abide hefty speakers cluttering up the room. KEF offers a line of speakers that sit flush with the ceiling, then drop into position and angle toward the listening area when the big game (or music) is on.



Well managed: Have trouble keeping track of all those recorded games? The Kaleidescape system can store and manage movies, music, and more—the server (pictured), the heart of the system, can hold up to 824 DVDs or 10,000 CDs—and provide easy access to everything in your collection.



Get a lift: You want a massive TV, but your spouse fears its bulk will disrupt the decor of your impeccably furnished den. Put the set on a lift, allowing you to hide it from view when not in use. Auton Motorized Systems makes a number of devices, including this Monitor/TV Ceiling Lift, which lowers a set to any level at the touch of a button. ■

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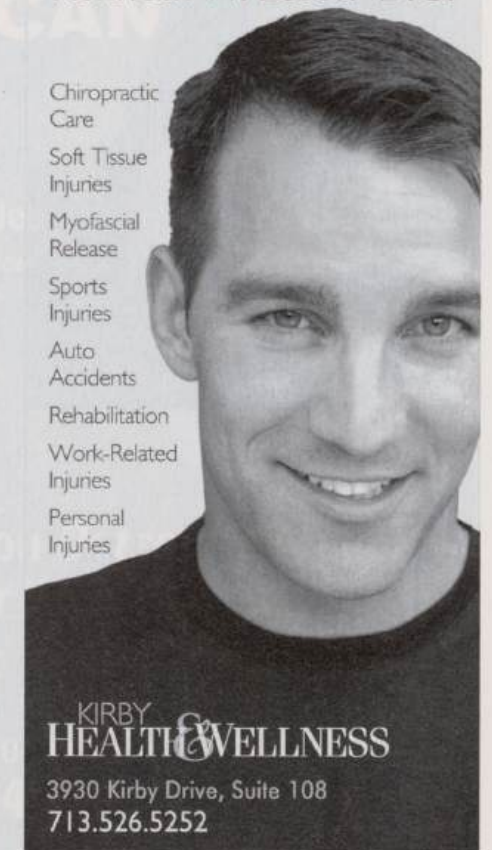
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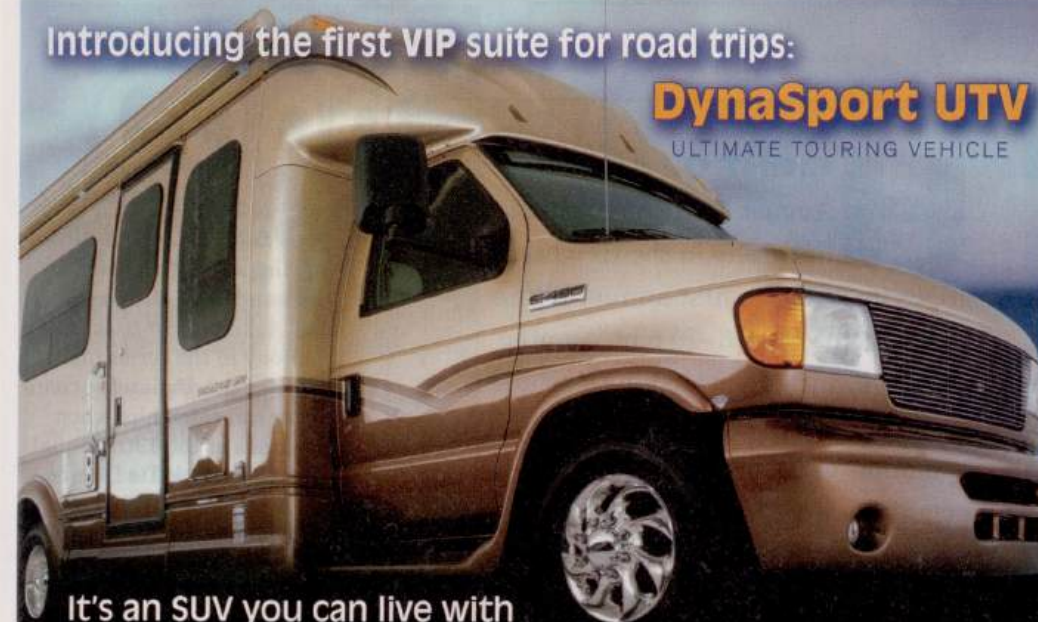
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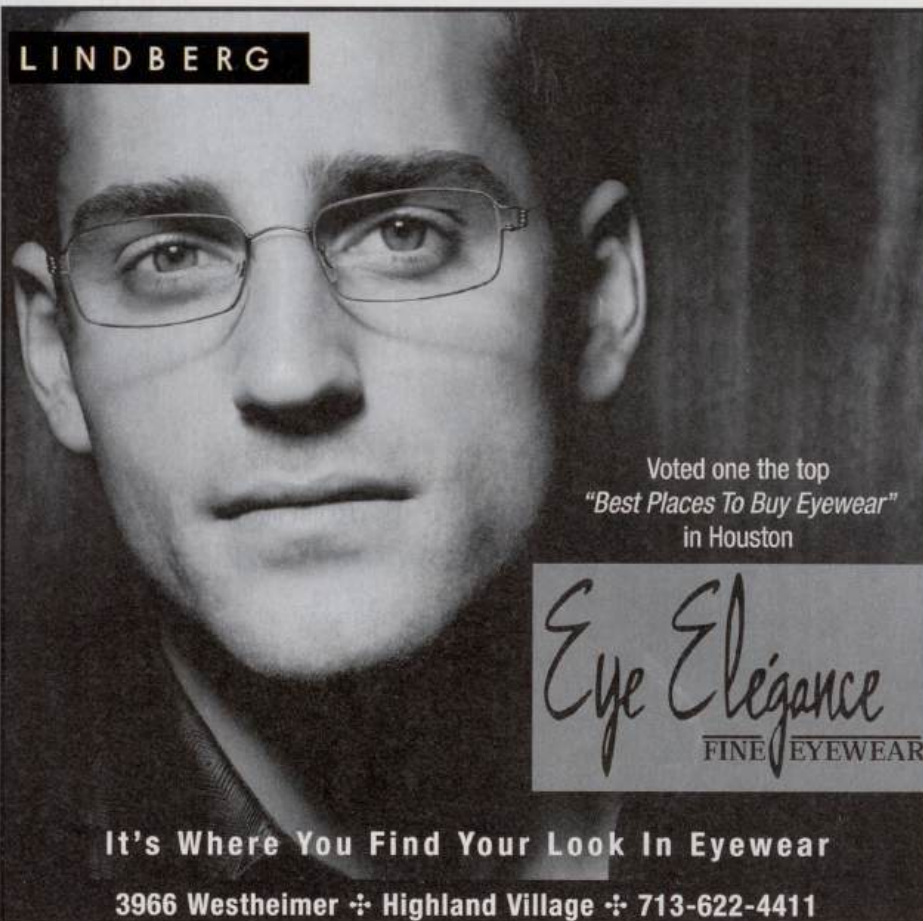
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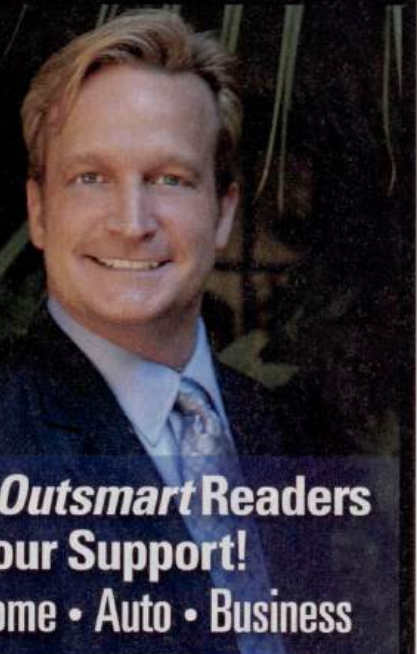
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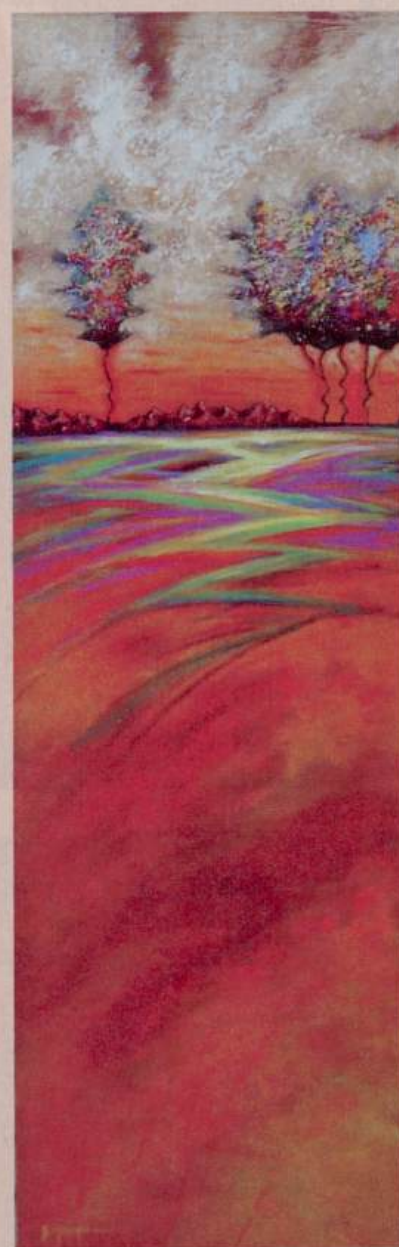


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H EIGHT OF ART. On August 5, the monthly First Saturday in the Heights grows up with the first annual White Linen Night. This 6–10 p.m. evening event will include art exhibitions and performances at shops, restaurants, and other venues throughout the neighborhood, linked by free trolley service. Participating artists include **John Mercado**, who will show paintings (including the piece, left) with more than 50 other artists at Yale Street Art Market, and **Bert Long**, who will be part of a Texas Printmaking Collaborative show at Redbud Gallery (one of his prints, below). Long is also the subject of one-man exhibition at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston through August 13. Details: www.heightsfirstsaturday.com.



MERCADO: COURTESY THE ARTIST; LONG: COURTESY TEXAS PRINTMAKING COLLABORATIVE

ROAD TRIP. A curator at the Texas Tech University art school, **Harmony Hammond**, recently announced plans for *(Homo)Made in Texas*, an exhibition of work by GLBT artists living and working in the state. The show will be presented at Texas Tech in Lubbock in fall 2007.

Artists may submit slides or high-resolution photos on CDs and other materials to Hammond at 5618 NM Hwy 41, Galisteo, NM 87540, until January 1, 2007. All slides must be labeled with the artist's name as well as the title, date, media, and dimensions of the work.

DRAMA QUEEN. Citizen provocateur and actor/playwright **Ray Hill** spent two

weeks in July at Williams College in Massachusetts, working on the script of his new performance piece, *The Miracle of My Unbelief*. The work, another of Hill's solo shows, focuses on the years Hill spent as a child evangelist.

Traveling to Massachusetts at the invitation of the C. S. Lewis Foundation's Summer Seminars, Hill once again worked with dramaturge **Mark Hallen**, chair of the drama department at Eastern University in Philadelphia. Hallen previously worked with Hill on his autobiographical *The Prison Years*, which played last September at the Philadelphia Fringe Festival, drawing rave reviews and capacity audiences.

SHORT AND SASSY. *Will & Grace* spoiler alert: The last time we saw **Leslie Jordan**, he was taking flight from his balcony in the series finale. Fans of the diminutive comic actor can catch him when he lands at the 19th annual Houston Black Tie Dinner on November 4. Headlining the dinner at the Houston Intercontinental, Jordan will perform pieces from his latest one-man show, *Like a Dog on Linoleum*, which closed on July 30 following an extended run in San Francisco.

Proceeds from the Houston Black Tie Dinner will benefit Bayou City Performing Arts, Center for AIDS, Houston GLBT Community Center, Lazarus House, Legacy Community Health Services, Lesbian Health Initiative, PFLAG/HATCH Youth Scholarship Foundation, People With AIDS Coalition of Houston, and Pride Houston.

SHARING OUR STORIES. In anticipation of World AIDS Day 2006, the National AIDS Memorial is getting personal. With the theme, "AIDS at 25," the project's board is asking individuals to identify a single year over the past quarter century since the identification of HIV and explain how AIDS has personally affected them.

Some of the submitted stories will be read on World AIDS Day on December 1 at the National AIDS Memorial Grove in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park, the only federally designated AIDS memorial. All submissions (due September 15) will be posted at www.aidsmemorial.org.



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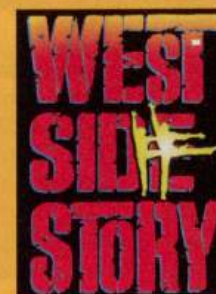
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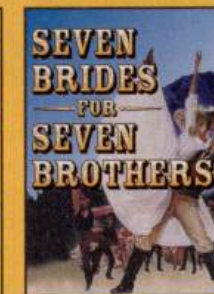
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David Johansen

(New York Dolls's lead singer)

(7/06, Peter Galvin)

When I was about 16, I joined up with the Ridiculous Theatre Company. I was still in bands, but I would help make costumes after school. I used to work in the basement a lot, and I started noticing that there were these really garish costumes down there, made with sequins and sparkles. So, I went to a rehearsal, and I met [Ridiculous founder] Charles Ludlam and [writer and performer] Bill Vehr, and they had a profound influence on me, as far as how to put on a show. . . . I was with them for a couple of years, and I just kind of, by osmosis, learned a lot about show biz presentation, and about different kinds of sexual and political ideas and attitudes. But also, at that time, in the East Village—it was the dawn of so many liberation movements. There was gay lib, there was women's lib. . . . And we were essentially the band of the East Village, so we were entertaining all of these people. And to me, the obvious place to go was to create a kind of "third sex," as far as self-liberation is concerned, being that everybody has male and female characteristics. We should be celebrating that as opposed to stuffing it. I thought that was good idea to celebrate onstage.

Read an interview with Johansen at www.OutSmartMagazine.com.

Jimmy Kimmel

(talk-show host/comedian)

(Jimmy Kimmel Live, 6/06)

President Bush has been hard at work trying to make it illegal for gay people to get married. It's a suspicious move for an ex-male cheerleader.

Toni Collette

(actress, *Murder, My Sweet*, *Velvet Goldmine*, *The Hours*, *The Sixth Sense*, *In Her Shoes*)

(Out, 8/06, Michael Musto)

Michael Musto: In *Connie and Carla* you were a hoot as a woman playing a man playing a woman. Wasn't this before *Felicity Huffman* in *Transamerica*?

Toni Collette: Yeah, we shot that in 2003. It was so much fun. The best part was hanging out with the local drag queens. They were so good at what they do and so accepting of me. One night they did a whole tribute to my career and country! It was such an honor.

1 YEAR AGO THIS MONTH

Gore Vidal

(openly gay novelist, playwright, essayist)

(A&U, 8/05, Dann Dulin) (A&U, 8/05, Dann Dulin)

Eagerly I ask what his take is on Bush and the current administration's role in the AIDS war. "Bush's response would be that he'd probably want to execute all homosexuals. 'No more AIDS,' he would say. . . ." Gore's voice trails off. "No," he adds in a low voice, "if there'd been an earlier recognition of the AIDS threat, the various cocktails would have come along much sooner. I'm sure the signs were all there, but there was just a veil of silence about the subject. It's not enough to say, 'Just say no' or 'Practice safe sex,'" he barks. "There should have been an all-out attack on it. But remember. AIDS was and still is associated with two hated minorities: the faggots and the Africans. This administration would LOVE it if they all died. And so you're up against ignorance and stupidity and malevolence, which is how I would describe our current government."



Kathy Griffin

(CNN *Larry King Live*, 7/10/06)

Strike a pose: Kathy Griffin (pictured here from an episode of her Bravo series *Kathy Griffin: My Life on the D-List*) performed for the troops in Iraq. If the 10-percent rule applies, don't ask if one of these 10 soldiers is gay.

Larry King: Do you want to [date] someone that's safe for you?

Kathy Griffin: My dream would be to have a marriage of convenience with an incredibly wealthy gay guy, right?

But what would you do for romance?

I'd look the other way while he bangs the pool boy, and I go shopping. . . .

You like performing for [gay people]?

Love it. Very open audiences—up for anything. Not unlike the troops—up for anything.

And Kathy's gay following and her time entertaining the troops in Afghanistan intersected briefly.

[Shows a video clip from one of her specials:]

Griffin: I'm at a mess hall in Kandahar, Afghanistan. Off in the corner there's this guy holding a tray, and this is all I hear. [She makes the sound of an exaggerated inhale.] I knew the minute I heard the gay inhale. And he literally goes, "Diva, what are you doing here?" It was heaven. I was like, I found

my gay even in Kandahar, Afghanistan. He plops down next to me, puts the tray down, puts his gun down. He's like, "Oh, girl, I'm on graveyard tonight. I am a wreck. I'm exhausted, my roommates are all snoring—ugh, they're pigs. Anyway, what's going on with Ben and J-Lo?"



Queer Quotes

Compiled by Blase DiStefano

Amanda Palmer of The Dresden Dolls

(Advocate.com, 7/06, Peter Galvin)

We definitely have our fair share of gay fans. I've gotten a lot of direct letters from people who are gay, bi, and transsexual. To me, it seems it's clear as day that this band would appeal to someone who was gay or sexually out of the mainstream. I figured out that I was bisexual when I was a teenager. I think Brian found out he was an actual textbook cross-dresser when he was like 12. And I've never met a more completely straight guy who is so passionate about cross-dressing than Brian. He does it occasionally on stage. He has a whole collection of clothes that he calls his Brian Boitano Collection. He's really into gaudy, sequined dresses and tops.

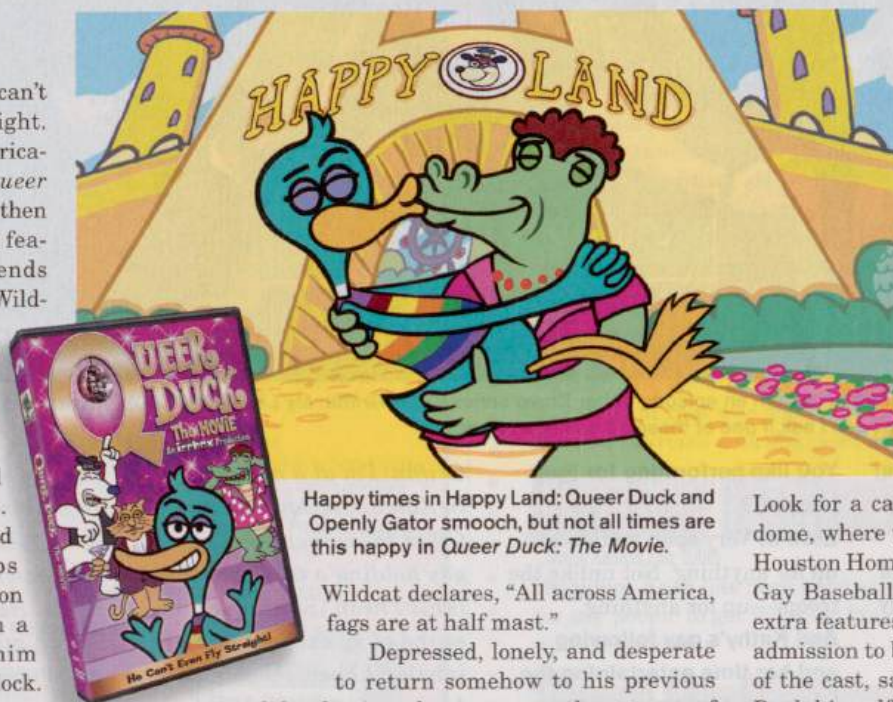
Read an interview with Amanda Palmer at www.OutSmartMagazine.com.

Cheeky: Does The Dresden Dolls's Brian Vigliani (r, with bi Amanda Palmer) cross-dress?

'QUEER DUCK: THE MOVIE'

It's OK, he's just fey. And his movie's totally gay!

He's so out, he can't even fly straight. The queer caricature phenomenon *Queer Duck*, from icebox.com then Showtime, has gone feature length. His friends Bi-Polar Bear, Oscar Wildcat, and especially his partner, Openly Gator, are shocked and disillusioned when their fiercely faggy feathered friend agrees to marry Ms. Lola Buzzard. Reverend Vandergelding helps him make the transition by force-feeding him a potion that turns him straighter than six o'clock. He becomes such a raging hetero that he literally screws the aging Ms. Buzzard to death. The entire GLBT community is so saddened by her passing, Oscar



Happy times in Happy Land: Queer Duck and Openly Gator smooch, but not all times are this happy in *Queer Duck: The Movie*.

Wildcat declares, "All across America, fags are at half mast."

Depressed, lonely, and desperate to return somehow to his previous life of gaiety, he summons the powers of Barbra Streisand, who restores his orientation with one touch of her magical (and titanic) nose. But all is not saved. Now that

Queer Duck has bought Happy Land with the fortune Ms. Buzzard left him and made it the world's first gay theme park, Reverend Vandergelding plans to spritz the playground with the aforementioned potion, claiming it to be a free round of Cosmopolitans.

Listen for the voices of Tim Curry, Bruce Vilanch, Conan O'Brien, and David Duchovny as Tiny Jesus.

Look for a cameo from the Houston Astrodome, where the Astros are replaced by the Houston Homos during the song, "Let's Play Gay Baseball." Among the surprises in the extra features is creator/writer Mike Reiss' admission to being straight, as well the rest of the cast, save Jim J. Bullock, the Queer Duck himself.

2006. From Paramount Home Entertainment (www.paramount.com/homeentertainment). —Review: Eric A.T. Dieckman

MORE DVD/VHS

You Are Not Alone



Twelve-year-old Kim (Peter Bjerg) attends a boarding school wherein his father is headmaster. Romance grows between Kim and an older boy, the 15-year-old Bo (Anders Agensø). In light of a student protest, Kim and Bo decide it's time to come out to the school and Kim's parents. They do so with a video, which ends with the two engaged in a long, passionate kiss. • 1978. Co-directed by Lasse Nielsen and Ernst Johansen, co-written by Lasse Nielsen. Danish with English subtitles. • From TLA Releasing (www.tlareleasing.com). —Preview: E.D.

Eighteen



Openly gay Ian McKellen and openly bi Alan Cumming star in this coming-of-age tale. Estranged from his family, Pip (Jason Anders) wrestles with life on the streets. He learns from the tales of his deceased grandfather (McKellen)—by way of a tape left to him—and finds commonality in his granddad's WWII

struggles. (Cumming plays a gay priest in the movie.) • 2004. Written and directed by Richard Bell. • From TLA Releasing (www.tlareleasing.com). —Preview: E.D.

Floored by Love



A Canadian lesbian couple and a family with a gay teen son share comic travails. The couple wants to get married but one partner hasn't come out to her parents yet. The family's freshly out teen is visited by his biological father, an openly gay actor, who upstages the support of the son's stepdad. • 2005. Directed and co-written by Desiree Lim. • From Wolfe Video (1-800-GET-WOLFE, www.WolfeVideo.com). —Preview: E.D.

Some Prefer Cake



An indie lesbian classic, this adventure follows Kira (Kathleen Fontaine), a promiscuous lesbian comic, and her friend Sydney (Tara Howley), a straight woman who finds cake more gratifying than sex (she's got an argument, folks). When Kira meets Robin (Desi

del Valle), she begins to think maybe the soul satisfies more deeply than luvn' (or pastries). • 1998. Directed by Heidi Arnesen. • From Wolfe Video (1-800-GET-WOLFE, www.WolfeVideo.com). —Preview: E.D.

The Film Noir Classic Collection Volume 3



Classic film buffs are probably going to want to pick up Warner Home Video's *Film Noir Classic Collection Volume 3* even though overall it's nowhere near as good as the first two volumes in the series. Still, it does contain at least one title that is a must-see: 1951's really peculiar *His Kind of Woman*, which starts off as fairly traditional noir with Robert Mitchum and Jane Russell heating things up at a remote Mexican resort, and then switches to farce with the introduction of Vincent Price's wildly flamboyant character midway through the film. Other titles in the set include 1946's *Lady in the Lake*, which has a cult following due to its then-experimental subjective camera, plus *Border Incident* (1949), *The Racket* (1951), and *On Dangerous Ground*, a 1952 oddity with Robert Ryan and Ida Lupino. A bonus →

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DVD/VHS continued from page 66

disc features the documentary *Film Noir: Bringing Darkness to Light*. From Warner Home Video (www.warnerhomevideo.com) —Review: Jack Varsi

Kyle Cease: One Dimple



"Kyle who?" you might ask. You know, the slow clapping guy from *Not Another Teen Movie*. Oooooohhh, that guy. Accompanying his stand-up CD of observational comedy is this DVD, a slice-of-life look at the sometimes dreary, sometimes hysteria-laced existence of a road comic. • From Comedy Central (www.comedycentral.com). —Preview: E.D.



Valley of the Dolls and Beyond...

Considering the rather substantial cult that has evolved around the screen version of Jacqueline Susann's landmark bestseller *Valley of the Dolls*, it's kind of hard to believe that many people considered it wretched and unwatchable when it was first unleashed in 1967. However, almost four decades later the film endures as a camp masterpiece, thanks to Cinema Classics' lavish two-disc Special Edition and also thanks to legions of fans whom one suspects must have somehow survived unsuccessful brain surgery. Barbara Parkins, Patty Duke ("Sparkle, Neely, sparkle!"), and Sharon Tate are the dolls who swallow dolls, and Susan Hayward, of course, replaced Judy Garland in the role of Helen Lawson, the Diva From Hell Who Sings Stupid Songs ("I'll Plant My Own Tree"—!!!). Superstars Martin Milner, Lee Grant, Paul Burke, and Tony Scotti are also in the cast, and, if you blink, you'll miss a very young Richard Dreyfuss. The Special Edition also provides a veritable cornucopia of extras, from behind-the-scenes featurettes to a truly scintillating commentary by star Barbara Parkins with TV's Ted Casablanca (who named himself after a "gay" character in the story). Incidentally, Cinema Classics has also made available Russ Meyer's *Beyond the Valley of the Dolls*, a non-sequel that really was wretched and unwatchable upon release in 1970—despite an X-rating and a screenplay by film critic Roger Ebert! With this one, proceed at your own risk. From Fox Home Entertainment (www.foxhome.com). —Review: J.V. ■



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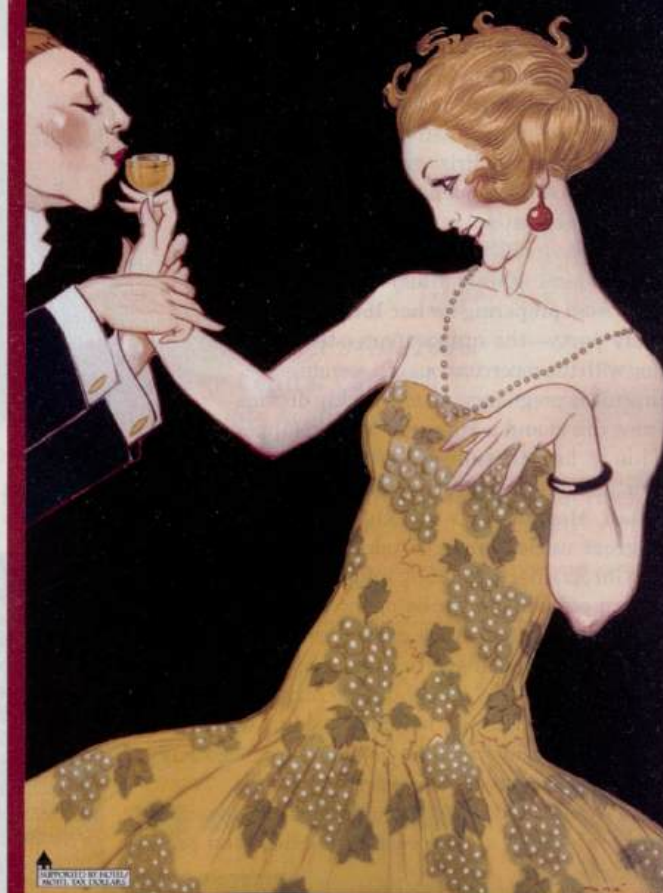


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by Joey Guerra

SWEET 15

Two gay men direct *Quinceañera*, a new film about a young Latina's coming of age

Religion, romance, *revolucion*—and pulsing reggaeton rhythms—collide beneath the blossoming canopy of *Quinceañera*. The film, which earned the 2006 Sundance Film Festival Dramatic Grand Jury Prize and the Audience Award, opens on August 18 in Houston.

Quinceañera follows 14-year-old Magdalena (Emily Rios) as she goes from preparing for her 15th birthday party—the quinceañera—to dealing with the repercussions of a seemingly miraculous pregnancy. All too quickly, dreams of a new dress and a Hummer limo disappear.

This is heartbreaking news for Magdalena's despondent mother and her overbearing, obstinate father. Not a girl, not yet a woman, Magdalena is quickly forced to move in with her kindly great-great uncle Tomas (Chalo Gonzalez) and Carlos (Jesse Garcia), her seemingly tough cousin who was also forced out of his home for being gay.

In the midst of so much drama are Gary and James (David W. Ross and Jason L. Wood, respectively), an affluent gay couple who are leading gentrification in Echo Park, the largely Latino neighborhood in Los Angeles. They own the property that houses the modest rental where Tomas has lived for several years.

All is well until Gary and James—who “love their Latin boys”—take an interest in Carlos, who readily reciprocates.

With all that drama, along with Magdalena's impending pregnancy and an increasing sense of rejection from her friends and family, *Quinceañera* could have easily become a tempestuous potboiler à la so many *telenovelas* (Spanish-language soap operas). Instead, it unfolds as a quiet, thoughtful character study.

Quinceañera explores clashes of every kind—cultural, racial, social, religious—with a quiet grace and a sly humor. Writer-directors (and real-life couple) Richard Glatzer and Wash Westmoreland call the film “a reinvention of kitchen-sink drama.” It's a genre that originated half a century ago in British cinema and combines adult storylines, gritty realism, political commentary, and sardonic humor.

Glatzer, who directed the films *Grief* and *The Fluffer*, and Westmoreland, whose credits include several adult films and the documentary *Gay Republicans*, had the idea for the film when they were



asked to be the official photographers for a neighbor's quinceañera in—you guessed it—Echo Park.

The directing duo was struck by the months of advance planning, the familial atmosphere, and the mingling of tradition and modern touches. A film was soon born.

The script was written in three weeks, the shooting done in 18 days. A cast of first-timers, including several locals, was incorporated into the film.

The directors even worked with a “quinceañera consultant,” who provided the filmmakers with “videos, dresses, thousands of fake flowers, and, most importantly, a group of her friends to play the quinceañera court.

Rios makes her feature debut as the film's central character,

ABOVE: Directing duo and real-life couple Richard Glatzer (l) and Wash Westmoreland. RIGHT: Jesse Garcia as Carlos. BELOW: Emily Rios as Magdalena.



and she inhabits Magdalena with a gritty, unaffected realism. Her expressive, inquisitive face provides many of the film's most poignant moments.

Garcia is excellent in the tricky, complicated role of Carlos. And while it's easy to see why Gary and James take a liking to the gruff *cholo*, it quickly becomes clear that there is more to Carlos than physical beauty.

Gonzalez, best known for his work with the legendary Sam Peckinpah, brings warmth, humor, and subtle emotion to the anchor role of Tio Tomas.

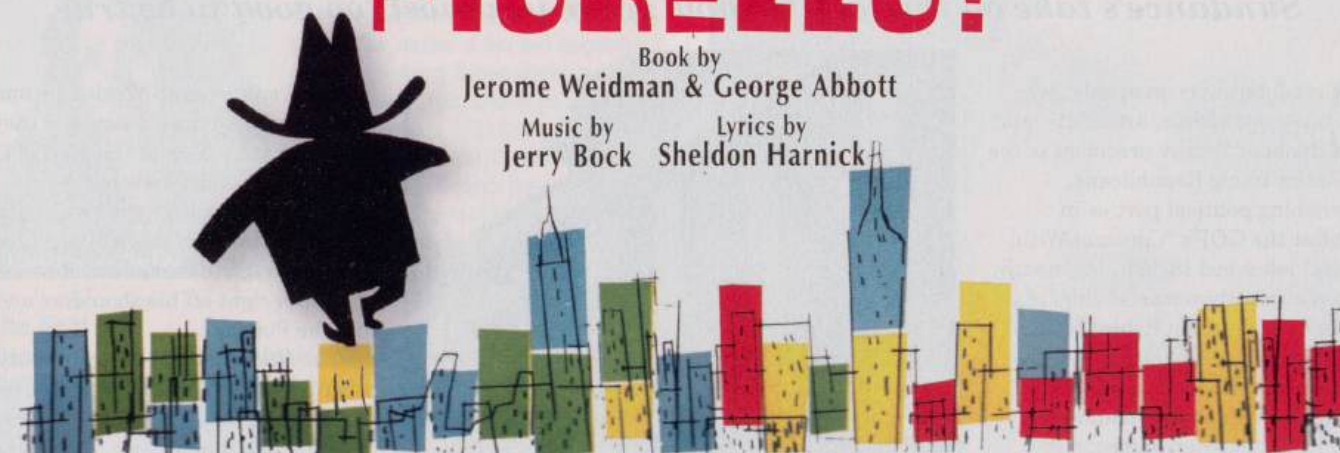
No need to RSVP for this *Quinceañera*, but frilly pink dresses and tiaras are likely welcome. Just leave the Hummer limo outside.

Joey Guerra profiled Gay Games/Outgames athletes in last month's issue.

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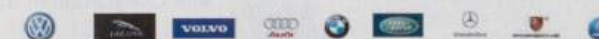


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by Nancy Ford

'THE HILL,' YOU SAY

Sundance's take on the reality show genre is almost too good to be true

Eric Johnson is an openly gay man, an affable, articulate, and dynamic former president of the Boca Raton Young Republicans.

Switching political parties in 1994 after the GOP's "Contract With America" left a bad taste in his mouth, Johnson currently works as chief of staff for Congressman Robert Wexler, a Democrat from Florida and key member of the House Judiciary and International Relations committees.

Johnson's partner, James, also works in Congressman Wexler's office. Together the couple have a young son, and are in the throes of building a new house.

Sounds like the premise of a wacky new sitcom or *West Wing*-y type drama series, right?

Wrong.

The Hill, a Sundance Channel-produced original documentary series, is the real deal. Johnson really is the openly gay chief of staff to real-life



ABOVE, l-r: Lale Mamaux, communications director; Eric Johnson, chief of staff; and Congressman Robert Wexler (D-FL).

LEFT: Eric Johnson, openly gay chief of staff to Congressman Wexler.

RIGHT: Ivy Meeropol, director of *The Hill*, knows her way around Capitol Hill politics: Her grandparents, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, were executed as cold war spies in 1953.



Florida Congressman Wexler, he and James really do have a son, and they really are knee-deep in the myriad challenges of building a new house.

So much gaygaygay, all within easy spitting distance of the White House... it's enough to make Karl Rove's head spin right off his shoulders and into the Potomac.

The Hill's staccato-cut, verité-style program literally tags along with Johnson, Congressman Wexler, and the cast of non-fiction, bi-partisan characters as they deal with John Roberts' ascension to the Supreme Court, the Valeria Plame/CIA leak, the impact of Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma on Wexler's constituents, the Darfur holocaust, and other timely topics.

Of particular interest is the premier episode, chronicling the staff's 2004 presidential election watch party. When it's over, you may want to switch to Comedy Central to cleanse your viewing palate.

But it's the behind-the-scenes view of the personal lives of Johnson and his fellow staffers that makes *The Hill* so compelling. Among the sub-storylines is Wexler communications director Lale Mamaux's tearful realization that her boyfriend is working on the 2004 Bush/Cheney campaign, just blocks from where she is stumping for Kerry/Edwards. Ouch!

Premieres Wednesday, **Aug. 23**, at 8 p.m., on Sundance Channel. To confirm schedule or for more information: www.sundancechannel.com.

MORE THIS MONTH ON SUNDANCE CHANNEL



Raci

TransGeneration Reunion

Principles of the GLAAD Award-winning documentary, *TransGeneration*, are revisited in this half-hour special debuting Monday, **Aug. 28**, at 9 p.m. Catch up with Raci as she meets her new fiancé in L.A., with Gabbie following her gender reassignment surgery in Boulder, and with Smith College graduate Lucas as he returns home to Oklahoma. That's a lot of reunion to fit into a half-hour.



Anthony Perkins

Play It As It Lays

Almost a decade before he depicted the horrors of enduring Joan Crawford's wrath in his 1981 screen adaptation of *Mommie Dearest*, director Frank Perry gave us the camp-free *Play It As It Lays* (1972), based on Joan Didion's bestseller about a world-weary starlet barely coping on the fringes of Hollywood success. Tuesday Weld is flawless as the really disturbed young actress (she won Best Actress at the Venice Film Festival), and Anthony Perkins is well-cast as her gay best friend whose (spoiler alert!) suicide she assists. Airing Sunday, **Aug. 13**, at 11 p.m. —Jack Versi

MORE TV IN AUGUST AND BEYOND

Don't Bogart That Remote

Mary-Louise Parker and friends return with *Weeds*



Mary-Louise Parker

On Aug. 14, Showtime's award-winning original series *Weeds* sparks up its second season. When last we left suburban housewife, mother of two, and burgeoning pot queenpin Nancy Botwin (Parker), she was still glowing from a roll in the hay with her new squeeze, a DEA officer. Talk about strange bedfellows. And it's old home week on the set: Nancy Botwin's live-in stoner brother-in-law returns in the second season, played by Parker's *Angels in America* co-star, Justin Kirk. More: www.sho.com.

The Real Bill

Real Time with Bill Maher begins its fifth season on HBO



Bill Maher

His post 9/11 comment about the lack of cowardice it takes to slam an aircraft into a tall building got him and *Politically Incorrect* summarily knocked off network television. But HBO executives in their infinite wisdom quickly snatched up that driest of dry wit, Bill Maher. His *PI-ish* series, *Real Time with Bill Maher*, begins its fifth season **Aug. 25**, providing us the premium-cable blessing of enjoying him and his guests in all their uncensored glory. Long live the first amendment. More: www.hbo.com.

Two by Two, Retold

Noah's Arc returns to LOGO for second season



Darryl Stephens

The first gay African American-centric television series returns to LOGO, answering the myriad questions raised in the first season's finale. Will Chances' new hobby recover from his concussion? Will Trey ever return from South Africa? Tune in on **Aug. 9** to find out. The complete first season of *Noah's Arc* is available on DVD on Aug. 8. More: www.logonline.com.

Blanching with Pride

Here! TV signs Rue McClanahan for sitcom



Rue McClanahan

You'll have to wait till 2007 to catch a glimpse of here! TV's *Ryan's Life*, a new half-hour original sitcom focusing on a gay teenager as he comes out. But it will be worth the wait. Just signed to star as Ryan's grandmother is Rue McClanahan (Emmy winner for her portrayal of the sexually insatiable Blanche in *The Golden Girls*). Described as "crazy and wise," McClanahan plays Connie Harris, presumably no relation to that other Floridian, politico, and chad-hanger, Katherine Harris. Meredith Kadlec, vice president of original programming at here!, signed the golden girl, stating, "We are truly honored that Ms. McClanahan has agreed to join us on this project. She is an icon with a strong and loyal fanbase in the LGBT community, and we know they will love her in this role." More: www.here.com. ■



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Gay rock band" is not the oxymoronic term it once was. From Pansy Division to Jinx Titanic, from Team Dresch to Erase Errata, the LGBT community is not only producing an amazing number of queer rockers, but they are also out and proud in their support of the scene.

Kevin Cahoon and Ghetto Cowboy don't waste a minute when it comes to both rocking out and being out on the disc *Doll* (Anchor C). The "last one picked for the team" also "played with dolls," but as Cahoon says in the album's catchy title track, "So what!" "Fashionista" and "Bitch" are driven by sheer punk rock energy and attitude, while "Good Time Gone Bad" has the kind of theatrical texture one might expect from someone who has appeared as Hedwig in *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*. "Mr. Curious" is a kick-in-the-balls-to-the-wall rocker that ought to send more than a few bi-curious boys packing. Cahoon's cover of "Could I Have This Dance" puts a queer punk spin on



Rocking out and being out: Kevin Cahoon "played with dolls."

the old Anne Murray country classic, and "Mirrorball Prophecy," with guest vocals by Broadway's Shoshanna Bean, closes the disc

on a dramatic, but no less rocking, note.

Tired of waiting for the new Scissor Sisters disc? So am I. Thankfully, we have *State of the Ark* (Virgin) by The Ark to hold us over. The 11 tracks on The Ark's latest (and first domestic) disc certainly owe a debt to the glam rock scene, but they also have a contemporary electro vibe that transcends the need for nostalgia. Opening cut "This Piece of Poetry Is Meant to Do Harm" is a good example of the way The Ark blends the past with the present with an ear cocked toward the future. "Rock City Wankers" rocks on in an electro vein, and "Clamour for Glamour" polishes up the glitter. The bubbly "One of Us Is Gonna Die Young" belies its message, and "Let Me Down Gently" has a Fischerspooner vibe to it. The gorgeous "No End" took me pleasantly by surprise, but album closer "Trust Is Shareware" demonstrated what keeps The Ark afloat.

Veterans of Queercore Blitz, Homo-A-Go-Go, and Ladyfest, among others, queer quartet Triple Crème doesn't disappoint with its album *This Might Hurt* (triplecreme.com). The blistering electric guitar work on tracks such as "Brooklyn" and "Hurricane" →

GrooveOut Shorts

The Dresden Dolls Yes, Virginia...



With tracks titled "Sex Changes," "My Alcoholic Friends," and "Mandy Goes to Med School," what's not to love about The DD's sophomore (though not sophomore, mind you) punk cabaret outing? Available from Roadrunner Records (www.roadrunnerrecords.com). —Preview: Nancy Ford
Editor's note: The Dresden Dolls' Amanda Palmer talks about her cross-dressing partner Brian Vigliani at www.outsmartmagazine.com.

Patricia Barber Mythologies



This Chicago-based siren has the finest vocals I have heard since the jazz great Peggy Lee. A few reviews compare Barber to Diane Krall, another Canadian of note, but not nearly as talented as Barber the way I see (hear) it. Krall is talented, but not moving; Barber's voice is sultry, smoky,

inviting. Barber's piano licks thoughtful and deliberate, not studied, as are Krall's. Barber's fingers search for the right notes on the piano keys with perhaps the same intent as one would imagine she would stroke the cheek of a lover. Barber makes no bones about her sexual orientation—she is an out lesbian. After years of wonderful Womyn's Music, we have a new road of jazz to explore—dark nights at a black piano in a club, a glance from the pianist that gives one a thrill. Available Aug. 15 from Blue Note (www.bluenote.com). More: www.patriciabarber.com. —Review: Holly Glen Gearhart

Ani DiFranco Reprieve



Omnisexual angst-rockers Ani DiFranco had barely begun recording *Reprieve* when Hurricane Katrina interrupted her. As a result, all 13 of *Reprieve*'s tracks reflect the frustration, sadness, and sense of displacement she experienced as she was forced from her New Orleans home, as were thousands of other evacuees. But get this: "Millennium Theater," with its prophetic "get out there and buy that water and gas... as New Orleans bides her time" was written and recorded months before Big K hit the Gulf Coast. Freaky,

Available Aug. 8 from Righteous Babe Records (www.righteousbabe.com). —Preview: N.F.

Kaki King ...until we felt red



Mature guitar work and a lilt-ing soprano voice highlight this lovely, layered work from this out lesbian. Expect to hear the crisp, intriguing "Gay Sons of Lesbian Mothers," an instrumental, on J.D. Doyle's Queer Music Heritage radio show on KPFT. Available Aug. 8 from Velour (www.velourmusic.com). More: www.kaking.com. —Review: N.F.
Editor's note: Read an interview with Kaki King at www.outsmartmagazine.com.

New York Dolls One Day It Will Please Us All to Remember Even This



New York Dolls are back together, and they're not going to let you forget it. This record is a lot tamer than their previous back catalog of fearless, blues-drenched rock 'n' roll, but the boys themselves don't seem to have slowed. "I don't care if this →

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delivers a hurt that lingers. But "Team Queen" and "T.N.T.," with their consistent beats, could easily inspire more than a few listeners to do more than thrust their fists into the air.

Acoustic-electro duo **Nekked**, consisting of JC Faust and Michael Flyte, perform five originals and one cover on their self-titled EP. The kilt-and-leather-jacket-clad pair dreams big on opening track "A Boy Can Dream." They switch gears on the country-punk of "How Come You Don't Love Me," a song about self-love that contains the line "without a



Narcotic & addictive: Placebo defies categorization.

doubt/if I could do myself you know I'd never leave the house." I'm still undecided about the electro version of Simon & Garfunkel's "The Boxer," although the harmonies were pleasing. The synthesizers were far more effective on "Sleeping with the Lights On" and "Breathe."

That's transgender drummer Rikki Bates you hear keeping time on the six songs of **Mascara's** new EP, *Spell* (Mr. Fibuli), which is both heavy ("Great Divide," "Percy's Revenge") and heavenly ("Frostbite," "Time Is a Lie"). If you're concerned about your Mascara running, don't play this disc at full volume.

When a band releases a singles compilation, it can signify a number of different things, including the cessation of a relationship with a record label. In the case of **Placebo**, featuring bisexual Brian Molko and gay Stefan Olsdal, the trio had already moved to Astralwerks when their 2004 collection *Once More With Feeling* was released. Their latest, *Meds* (Astralwerks), finds them working their same narcotic and addictive effect on 13 edgy tracks that rock as hard as anyone else out there, but still manage to defy categorization.

A couple of years after first hearing it, I still often refer to the song "Never Getting Married" from Roy's 2004 disc *Big City Sin and Small Town Redemption* as one of the most beautiful and moving songs about gay marriage ever written or recorded. Out and visible openly gay member Brian Cook (also of These Arms Are Snakes) and his fellow band-mates continue to stretch the limits of the alternative country sound on *Killed John*



Kilt & leather: Nekked wants self-love.

Train (Lujo). Beginning with the plaintive "Reno, I'm Coming Home" (have you ever heard such a mournful harmonica?) and continuing through the Wilco-like "In My Defense," the humorous drive of "Jesus in a Trans Am," and the gorgeous and stripped down "The Redcoats Are Coming" and "Hotel Congress," Roy's latest is one of the most unforgettable discs of the year.

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

the music her own, especially on the languid "He's Funny That Way." From Motown (www.motown.com).

—Review: Tim Brookover

Bananarama Drama



The sound of this '80s girl group is unforgettable. The former trio, now a duo with Sara and Keren, release their latest album with a retro-vibe that recalls the disco era. The up-tempo Euro pop album is a mix of danceable electro beats and even the occasional ballad. Bananarama continues to sell out in clubs like G-A-Y, and they recently headlined Rome Pride in Italy. From Fuel 2000 Records (www.fuel2000.com). More: www.bananarama.co.uk. —Preview: Andrea Rodricks

Nelly Furtado Loose



Nelly Furtado is an artist with an obvious passion for music. The Portuguese-Canadian singer-songwriter's latest release showcases an eclectic mix of musical styles. *Loose* is a groundbreaking release with sounds of R&B, Latin-infused pop, and a remix of "Maneater."

The album is a creative collaborative effort between Furtado and well-known hip-hop producer Timbaland. From Geffen Records (www.geffen.com). More: www.nellyfurtado.com. —Preview: A.R.

Bjork

Surrounded (seven-DualDisc collection)



This collection would only be more complete if Bjork had announced her retirement in concurrence with its release. It covers virtually every corner of her solo career: All six of her studio albums are in this box set—remastered and expanded—and every video that goes with each respective album on a separate DVD. The seventh disc is a release of the soundtrack to the film *Drawing Restraint 9*, on which Bjork and her life partner Matthew Barney collaborated in 2005. It almost makes you hope she doesn't make another album. From Rhino (www.rhino.com). —Preview: L.S.W.

Waking Ashland Telescopes

There's something vaguely Rufus Wainwright-y about Waking Ashland. This EP offers the lilting, plaintive piano solo-voiced tracks R.W. has made famous, especially with its initial cut, "Julian." Then, track four, "Flowers →

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GrooveOut Shorts

continued from page 74

record is a hit," said guitarist Sylvain Sylvain, "just as long as every man, woman, and child buys it." Realistically, it's probably not going to be a hit—not in today's rock 'n' roll landscape—but lead crazyman David Johansen sounds as crusty, weathered, and bright-eyed as he did two or three decades ago, and that's good enough for me. From Roadrunner (www.roadrunnerrecords.com).

—Review: Lance Scott Walker

Editor's note: Read an interview with the very gay-friendly Johansen at www.outsmartmagazine.com.

Diana Ross Blue



That a star of Ross's stature made this jazz-tinged album for Motown during the *Lady Sings the Blues* period only to see it shelved for more than 30 years is one of those show-business mysteries. At last,

the house that Gordy built has released the disc, and while the product isn't quite the album Billie Holiday never made (as the breathless liner notes indicate), it is a pleasant addition to the Ross catalogue. Several tracks are more adult-contempo than *Lady Day*, but on the second half of the disc Ross seems to relax and make

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GrooveOut Shorts

continued from page 76

on a Wall," gets real Cold Play-y (not that there's anything wrong with that). Also contains two bonus videos. From Immortal Records (www.immortalrecords.com). More: www.wakingashland.com. —Review: N.F.

Barry Manilow
Live: Legacy Edition



This 2006 collection of Manilow hits is a restoration of the 1990 abridgement of the 1977 double LP of his 1976 Broadway concert. For someone who claims to write the songs that make the whole world sing, Barry sure doesn't seem to feel the need to write any new ones. That said, this two-disc set is a must-have for Manilophiles. From Arista/Legacy (www.arista.com, www.legacyrecordings.com). More: www.manilow.com. —Preview: N.F.

Brian Stokes Mitchell
Brian Stokes Mitchell



Tony Award-winner Brian Stokes Mitchell has enjoyed a rich and varied career on Broadway, television, film, and in some of America's great concert halls. On his self-titled debut album, the premier leading man of Broadway takes on popular jazz and Broadway standards. His musical versatility and strong yet smooth vocals have won him a broad fan base. He produced the CD, wrote the arrangements for several songs, and even conducted the orchestra on a couple of tracks. From Playbill Records/Legacy (www.playbillrecords.com, www.legacyrecordings.com). More: www.brianstokes.com. —Preview: A.R.

Robert Earl Keen
Live at The Ryman



Bridging the gap between new country and old country is all but impossible. That's why it's refreshing to hear someone like Robert Earl Keen. That's not to say that his sound is necessarily that of the new country ilk—in fact, he pledges more allegiance to rock 'n' roll than anything—but new country fans can easily embrace what he's doing, no matter how rough it is. To fatten up that acceptability on the historic end, Keen recorded this 14-song live disc at Ryman Auditorium in Nashville, which just happens to be the site of the original Grand Ole Opry. Excellent renditions of his very excellent hits. These aren't songs for crying in your beer to—these are songs for drinking beer. From Koch (www.kochrecords.com).

—Review: L.S.W.

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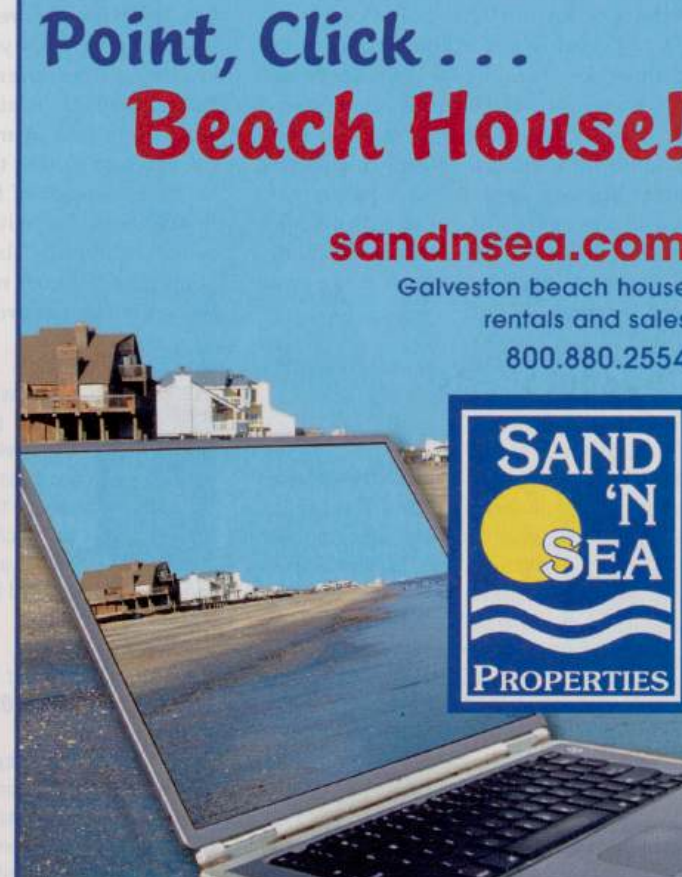
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MAKING BOOK

New titles by GLBT writers spice up BookExpo America

I went to the 2006 BookExpo America in Washington, D.C., and got more than just a lousy T-shirt. In fact, I got four of them. One was promoting the new memoir by Tommy Chong (one half of Cheech & Chong); another was for the book *Bunnica Meets Edgar Allan Crow*, featuring a sinister graphic of the titular characters in profile; one was for the book, as well as the book tour (encompassing the 13 colonies), for *What Would the Founders Do?*; and yet another, for the book *High Tech Trash*, boldly asked "Are You Trash?" I also got a baseball cap from Mapquest.

Of course, T-shirts and baseball caps are only a small part of what BookExpo America is really all about. There are also numerous varieties of stylish, sturdy, and eye-catching book bags. There are buttons and keychains, pens and pencils and erasers, coffee mugs and cups, pennants, fly-swatters, notepads and Post-it notepads, letter openers, squirt guns, rubber bracelets, mirrors and compacts, snack bag clips, roll-up calculators, bumper stickers, bookmarks, squeeze novelties in the shapes of dollar signs, books, turkeys, alligators, the Statue of Liberty, and, of course, balls. In essence, it is a swag lover's bonanza.



Mystery woman: Alicia Gaspar de Alba wrote the Lambda Literary Foundation-honored *Desert Blood: The Juárez Murders*, published by Arte Publico Press of Houston.

All of these items, and much more, have been created in the name of promotion—as tools for publishers and distributors to get their wares onto the shelves in bookstores and libraries. Before it evolved into BookExpo America a few years ago, the event was known as the convention for the American Booksellers Association, and for the most part, that is the primary audience to which the event continues to cater.

As a member of the LGBT press, I like BookExpo because it affords me the opportunity to inquire about forthcoming titles of interest to queer readers. The LGBT festivities began the evening before the official

May 19 start date with the 18th annual Lambda Literary Awards, presented by the Lambda Literary Foundation. Held at the Human Rights Campaign headquarters, it was a less formal event than Lammy Award ceremonies that I have attended in the past in Chicago. On the whole, the ceremony had a spirit of good fun and humor, which was enjoyed by the more than 200 attendees. Awards were presented in 20 categories by presenters that included publishers John Scognamiglio and Don Wiess, cartoonist and graphic novel author Alison Bechdel, writers Greg Herren and Radclyffe, and legendary novelist Andrew Hol-

leran, among others (see sidebar on page 82 for a list of winners).

Putting in eight hours a day, all three days of BookExpo America, is the kind of workout to which I am not accustomed. Nevertheless, the rewards are plentiful. Swag aside, the contacts I made with publishers, publicists, and the like will provide me with interview opportunities to last for months. In addition to the usual outlets queer readers have come to expect to provide us with reading material, including queer presses such as Alyson and Bella Books, and those with LGBT imprints, such as Kensington and Haworth, major publishing houses →

ReadOut Shorts

Save Your Own
by Elisabeth Brink

Houghton Mifflin (www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com)



A decision to be true to her own vision takes Gillian places she never imagined she'd be, rewarding her with a life that rings true. This debut novel features great characters (including a charming butch impossible to dislike), a wondrous plot, good prose, and superb storytelling. I can't wait for Brink's next offering. —Review: Angel Curtis

Tomorrow They Will Kiss
by Eduardo Santiago

Back Bay Trade Paperback (www.twbookmark.com)
Three women struggle to make a life in America



after leaving Castro's Cuba. Bolstered only by the hope they get from the telenovelas, they fondly remember the Cuba of yesterday as they move through the drudgery of today. Though not specifically gay, this family of the heart is one to which we can all relate. Renewal, redemption, and hope are the order of the day here. —Review: A.C.

The Average America: The Extraordinary Search for the Nation's Most Ordinary Citizen
by Kevin O'Keefe

Public Affairs (www.perseusbooks.com)

Most Americans are tolerant of gay and lesbian relationships, everyday Americans regularly embrace diversity, and the average American considers homosexuality an acceptable alternative lifestyle. Perhaps most surprising:



70 percent of most Americans believe that gay marriage is "inevitable." These are findings that marketing consultant Kevin O'Keefe reached after he scoured the country in a fascinating search for "the nation's most ordinary citizen," a journey that led him to a surprising destination. This fascinating, thought-provoking book debunks a lot of what politicians and the media would have us think about our friends and neighbors, both gay and nongay. —Review: Donalevan Maines

Every Visible Thing
by Lisa Carey

William Morrow (www.harpercollins.com)

This offering is yet another tedious novel about yet another tediously dysfunctional family. Read this →

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ReadOut Shorts continued from page 80



one only if you want a flashback to the 1950s gay pulp novels, sans sex. Good writing carries the lousy story, but the book misses any emotional target. Carey, usually quite good, simply missed the mark this time.

—Review: A.C.

The Lesbian Kama Sutra

by Kat Harding

Thomas Dunne Books (www.stmartins.com)



Sisters: If doin' what comes naturally doesn't come naturally—or if it doesn't come at all—fret not. *The Lesbian Kama Sutra* by Kat Harding is a handy how-to guide for the gay woman (and those who want to have sex like one), to achieve the

most from the les. The intention of the Kama Sutra was to unravel the ancient mysteries of lovemaking, teaching "the expression of uninhibited pleasure through sex." This most recent incarnation of the ancient text is packed not only with Roger Payne's realistic pencil illustrations, but also with erotic 19th-century reproductions. In addition to its descriptions of various sexual positions, it also provides 21st-century information on toys, STDs, and how to cope with rejection. Nary a word though about that greatest of threats to lesbian sexual intimacy: Lesbian Bed Death. Talk about your ancient mystery. —Preview: Nancy Ford ■

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ReadOut continued from page 80

have much to offer. Regan Books, a division of HarperCollins, for instance will be releasing *The Confession* by former New Jersey governor James McGreevey, and Overlook Press is releasing *The Collected Plays of Edward Albee*, and acclaimed gay writer Allan Gurganus edited the 2006 edition of *New Stories from the South* for Algonquin Books.

Advance readers' editions of forthcoming books are splendid, but the ultimate coup is the chance to have a book signed by the author. As in the past, book signings at either the publisher's booth or the designated autographing area rank among the highlights of the BookExpo America. Among my signed-books haul, I have autographed copies of books by LGBT writers including Holleran, Bechdel,

and Jay Quinn. Mainstream writers signing books included Richard Ford, Alice McDermott, Joe Meno, Temple Grandin, Tommy Chong, Michael Pollan, Mark Z. Danielewski, and "For Better or Worse" cartoonist Lynn Johnston, among others. Other autographing highlights involved meeting and speaking with Tracey Ullman (for her knitting book) as well as Patricia Neal and Marni Nixon, both signing their autobiographies.

Once I returned home, my lower back hurt less than it did when I was hauling bags of books around the Washington Convention Center floor. I have also had the chance to actually read some of the books (Holleran's *Grief* is simply brilliant).

Gregg Shapiro also reports on new releases from queer rock bands for "GrooveOut" in this issue.

GOOD BOOKS

THE LAMMYS

These authors and their books were among those honored at the Lambda Literary Awards:

Anthology

Freedom in the Village: 25 Years of Black, Gay Men's Writing, edited by E. Lynn Harris (Carroll & Graf)

Biography

Sherrill Tippins, *February House* (Houghton Mifflin)

Gay Men's Debut Fiction

Vestal McIntyre, *You Are Not the One* (Carroll & Graf)

Gay Men's Fiction

Dennis Cooper, *The Sluts* (Carroll & Graf)

Gay Men's Mystery

D. Travers Scott, *One of These Things Is Not Like the Others* (Suspect Thoughts)

Humor

David Rakoff, *Don't Get too Comfortable* (Doubleday)

Lesbian Debut Fiction

Ali Leibegott, *The Beautifully Worthless* (Suspect Thoughts)

Lesbian Fiction

Abha Dawesar, *Babyji* (Anchor Books)
Helen Humphreys, *Wild Dogs* (W. W. Norton)

Lesbian Mystery

Alicia Gaspar de Alba, *Desert Blood: The Juarez Murders* (Arte Publico Press)

LGBT Studies

Susan Ackerman, *When Heroes Love: The Ambiguity of Eros in the Stories of Gilgamesh and David* (Columbia University Press)

Nonfiction

Thomas Glave, *Words to Our Now: Imagination and Dissent* (University of Minnesota Press)

Transgender/GenderQueer

Charlie Anders, *Choir Boy* (Soft Skull Press)

MORE WINNERS

On May 11, the New York-based Publishing Triangle presented its 18th annual awards. The winners included the following:

Edmund White Award for Debut Fiction

Mack Friedman, *Setting the Lawn on Fire* (University of Wisconsin Press)

Judy Grahn Award for Lesbian Nonfiction

Tania Katan, *My One-Night Stand with Cancer* (Alyson Books)

Randy Shilts Award for Gay Nonfiction

Martin Moran, *The Tricky Part* (Beacon Press)

Ferro-Grumley Award for Fiction: Women

Patricia Grossman, *Brian in Three Seasons* (Permanent Press)

Ferro-Grumley Award for Fiction: Men

Barry McCrea, *The First Verse* (Carroll & Graf)

The Publishing Triangle presented a special Leadership Award to the Oscar Wilde Bookshop, the independent bookstore in Greenwich Village founded in 1967 by gay activist Craig Rodwell. Houstonian Larry Lingle, who owned the local, now shuttered Lobo Books, owned the Oscar Wilde from 1996 until 2003.

ON THE WEB:

See the complete list of winners at www.outsmartmagazine.com.

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DREAM A LITTLE DREAM

Of elephants, donkeys, and Penney's, oh my

I sat up in bed and checked the clock—3 a.m. Dream images swirled in my half-awake head. I'm never up at this hour, at least not since we've stopped watching the news before bedtime. If I'm going to dream of bush, it better not be the president.

I slid out of bed, careful not to disturb my sleeping wife, and scuffed to the bathroom, rehashing the dream's details: A deserted JC Penney customer service counter; a blind guy shouting at a small elephant; the elephant, supposed to be his guide animal, cringes.

Who dreams of a cowering pachyderm and a blustery blind man? I was too groggy to interpret the symbolism and would have to make sense of it in the morning when my rational mind reboots. I climbed back under the covers, curled around my beloved's warm body, and returned to slumberland.

In the morning I woke to the sound of the shower and Wifey humming a happy tune. If I'd had my wits about me I would have joined her or at least treated myself to some sunrise eye candy. But my sleepy head was still sorting through the Penney's dream and

Was there some importance to the boy, the money, the door? And what about that booby prize?

now a second nocturnal vision.

In this new scene, I had been explaining *Let's Make a Deal* to a young boy. There was an urgency about the task, as if huge stakes were riding on my explaining it correctly. Monte offers you \$4,000, which you can keep or trade for a door. You could get the donkey

booby prize or a ten-million-dollar dream house. Wifey's humming pulls me awake, but these details stay with me. What could they represent? I lie under the comforter, grasping at meaning. Was there some importance to the boy, the money, the door? And what about that booby prize?

Wifey traipses past the bed, all fresh and clean, her hair turbaned in a bath towel. She steps into a pair of turquoise underpants and snaps the elastic teasingly. On a normal day, I'd enjoy the show, but this morning I'm preoccupied.

She turns for my help to tug down the back of her sports bra, which I sit up and do from force of habit, but I'm too distracted to cop a feel. My dreams don't usually stay with me like this, so last night's must be especially significant—but of what?

I scooch over to make room on the edge of the bed for Wifey to sit, lotion her →

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OutLoud continued from page 84

feet, and pull on her socks. This is a time we usually share our plans for the day, but my mind is elsewhere.

Had something happened that my subconscious needed to work out? What did I do yesterday, anyway? Fed the cats. Biked across town. Talked to my counselor about my writing career—marketing a lesbian humor column is stressful, but does it play out as *Let's Make a Deal*?

Last night Wifey and I fixed dinner and talked. We did the dishes, then watched *The L-Word*—Shane and Bette and the gang in another sexy, steamy, surreal romp, but nothing about circus animals or beasts of burden. At bedtime, our pillow talk had been sweet and gentle—no mention of an elephant or a donkey.

Hey, wait a big political minute! Elephants and donkeys? Republicans and Democrats? What the heck is the U.S. government doing in my dreams? No fair! I'm the victim of warrantless dream tapping.

It all comes back to me now. Yesterday in my counselor's waiting room I picked up a *Time* magazine. (Remind me not to do that again.) Among other biased crock and spin, in this issue John McCain ragged on Barack Obama for siding with the Dems on a bill for which the Republicans had counted on Barack's promise of bipartisan support. (And people make fun of soap operas.)

Now I get it. Penney's signifies life on a budget, which the Bushies have not balanced because military boondoggles and tax cuts for the rich have spent us into a multi-trillion-dollar deficit. The blind man is us, the people, with the wool pulled over our eyes, demanding real leadership from a puny elephant, a.k.a. the cringing, ineffectual Republican Party. *Let's Make a Deal* symbolizes explaining to the younger generation the risks this administration is taking with their future. The donkey is the Dems, the booby prize we're stuck with—a far cry from the revolutionary resistance we need to counter the power-mad Republican NeoCons.

No wonder I woke up troubled. But this morning I'm safe at home with my beloved, who is styling her cute hair in front of the mirror.

"I had the weirdest dream last night," I croak in my morning voice and share my interpretation, then crawl out of bed for my goodbye hug.

Wifey kisses my furrowed brow. "Maybe you should avoid politics today."

Dream on.

Sally 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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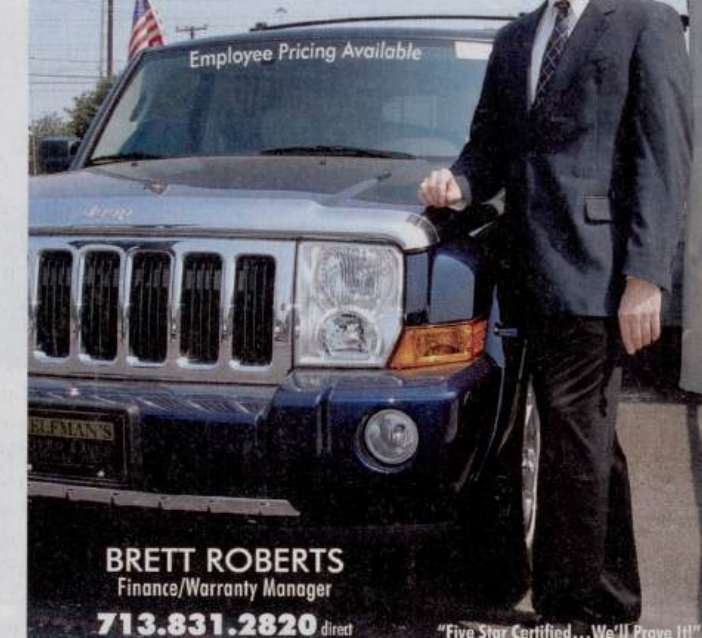
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Calendar of Events

Deadline for OutSmart's September issue is 5 p.m., Thursday, August 10.

AUGUST

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.

Weekly (Thursdays)

Depression & Bipolar Support Group. Don't let depression or bipolar disorder dig its bleak claws into what little hope you've managed to hide from the shadows. Bering Support Network helps those in need to connect with others who are learning to cope. You are not

alone and can benefit from the experience of others. Take a step away from the dark. GLBT friendly. Free. Groups meet at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1440 Harold, Room 232, 7:15-8:30 pm. Info: 713/526-1018.

Weekly (Fridays)

Talk Nerdy to Me Tonight. Houston's so cool, our museums double as nightclubs. With "Mixers, Elixirs, and IMAX," you can dance and drink under the majesty of dinosaurs. Dinner and a movie? Try hors d'oeuvres and IMAX instead. Every week brings a live DJ from Club Opus and a different style of live music, from Latin to R&B to '80s and Beatles tribute bands. Through Aug. 25, 6-10 pm, in the Grand Hall of the Museum of Natural Science. Cash bar. Tickets for the event are \$10 for museum members, \$12 per person, and include a cash bar and an IMAX ticket. ID is required. Info and schedule of bands: www.hmsn.org or 713/639-4629. Spanish: 713/ 639-4603.

Weekly (Saturdays)

Saving Animals partners with the City of Houston to save loving, adoptable animals from the pound and find them permanent homes. Adoptions take place

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—THURS., AUG. 10.**

at Northwest Mall every Saturday from 10:30-4:30 near entrance B. Information or to volunteer: 713/527-4490 or www.savinganimals.org.

Monthly (Tuesdays)

The Houston SPCA Pet Loss Support Group provides a professionally facilitated, supportive, and safe environment for people to grieve the loss of a beloved companion. Free. First Tuesday of the month, 7 pm, at the Houston SPCA, 900 Portway Dr. For more information, call 713/869-7722, ext. 127, or visit www.houstonspca.org.

6 (Sun.)

Stung by the Jazz Bug. Now in their 25th year, jazz icons Yellowjackets play

till their stingers go numb. \$35-\$55. 8 pm at Verizon Wireless Theater, 501 Texas Ave. Tickets: www.verizonwireless.theater.com.

8 (Thurs.)

Icy Illusions. Skip Elsheimer of AV Geeks helps viewers fight the August heat by thinking colder thoughts with "Dag, That's Cold," a chilly collection of educational and instructional films. Titles include "How to Build an Igloo" and "Surviving the Cold." 8:15 pm at Aurora Picture Show, 800 Aurora St. Information: 713/868-2101, www.aurorapictureshow.org or www.avgeeks.com.

13 (Sun.)

This Funky Ol' House. The Orange Show Eyeopener Tour's Visionary Houses Tour takes you on an exploration of Houston houses that stretch the imagination. Caroline Huber's metal home, David Kaplan's "shot trot," Art Car artist David Moore's dynamic dwelling, and Houston's beloved "Flower Man" (Cleveland Turner's home) are all included in this eye-popping tour. 12:30-6pm; \$35 members/\$50 non-members. Tours depart from The Orange Show, 2402 Munger, at 12:30 pm sharp. Reservations: 713/926-6368 or oranges@orangeshow.org.

16 (Wed.)

Think You're Funny? ComedySportz is holding auditions for ensemble players ages 18 & up who have already graduated high school. 7:30 pm at the ComedySportz Arena, 901 Town & Country Blvd. (at I-10 West and the Beltway). Info: 713/868-1444.

19 (Sat.)

Lady Sings the Jazz. Miller Outdoor swells with songs from the Billie Holiday songbook. 8 pm at Miller Outdoor Theatre. Info: www.milleroutdoortheatre.com.

23 (Wed.)

FORE! The 1st Annual Houston Amputee and Open Guest Golf Tournament benefits the Texas Amputee Golf Association. \$150 entry fee, \$100 for seniors 70 and older (box lunch and mixed grill included). Shotgun start at 10 am at Black Horse Golf Course, North Course, at 12205 Fry Rd., Cypress. Info/registration: 281/304-1747, www.stateoftexasloans.com, or www.blackhorsegolfclub.com.

24 (Thurs.)

Mix and Mingle. The Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce hosts a Chamber networking event. Trade some business cards, make some contacts, build that business, baby! Info/location: 713/523-7576 or www.TheChamberHouston.org.

25 & 26 (Fri. & Sat.)

Arias and Aerosol Off. Get your mosquito repellent. *Carmen*, one of the world's most famous operas, graces the outdoors. 8 pm at Miller Outdoor Theatre. Info: www.milleroutdoortheatre.com.

26 & 27 (Sat. & Sun.)

Experimental Celluloid. The 44th Ann Arbor Film Festival Tour serves as an inclusive introduction to a variety of genres of experimental media. 8 pm Saturday (Program 1) and 3 pm Sunday (Program 2) at Aurora Picture Show, 800 Aurora St. Info: 713/868-2101, www.aurorapictureshow.org, or www.avgeeks.com.

29-Sept. 1 (Tues.-Sun.)

Femme Fatales and the Private Dicks they Love. A celebration of 1940s Film Noir flicks darkens Hermann Park. 8:15 pm at Miller Outdoor Theatre. For specific film titles: www.milleroutdoortheatre.com.

PLANNING AHEAD

SEPTEMBER

September 2 (Sat.)

FLY Fiddles with Film Noir. As an extension of Miller Outdoor's Film Noir series (see 29-Sept. 1 in the Daily section above), FLY Dance Company explores the film genre through movement, narration, and multimedia. 8 pm at Miller Outdoor Theatre. Information: www.milleroutdoortheatre.com.

TWISTED FAIRIES

'Once Upon a Time: Fairy Tales with a Grown-up Twist'



The twisted cast of *Once Upon a Time* at rehearsal.

Who doesn't enjoy seeing a kids' story gone wrong? When Eddie Murphy did the "Mr. Robinson's Neighborhood," a send-up of *Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood*, on *Saturday Night Live*, everyone went wild. Bering & Friends, a musical theater troupe, moves to the Alley's neighborhood for their lucky 13th show, *Once Upon a Time: Fairy Tales with a Grown-up Twist!* The troupe assists Bering Support Network (BSN), a network of support groups and mental health services serving the GLBT community. Wake up the little kid in you and tell him a dirty joke. If demented childhood narratives aren't enough to take home with you at the end of the deranged evening, there's a silent auction to give you the opportunity to take something physical with you as well. But will the auction have a grown-up twist as well? Good little boys and girls never tattle. —Eric A.T. Dieckman

The What: *Once Upon a Time: Fairy Tales with a Grown-up Twist*

The Where: Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave. **The When:** Friday and Saturday, August 11 and 12, 8 p.m.

The Wherewithal: 713/526-1018, www.beringandfriends.org, www.beringsupportnetwork.org

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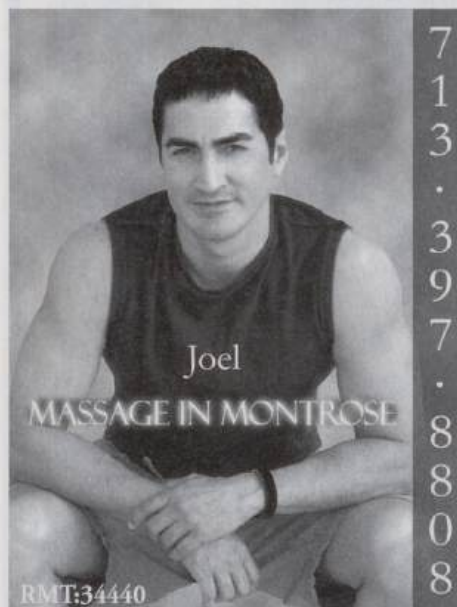
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September 3 (Sun.)
Bollywood Blast. Delve into a dazzling evening of Indian movies, 8 pm at Miller Outdoor Theatre. Information: www.milleroutdoortheatre.com.

September 13 (Wed.)
HIV Empowerment Social Group. Nelson Vergel of salvagetherapies.org discusses new HIV treatments, methods of avoiding viral monotherapy, maximizing virus control, new research studies in Houston, and how to participate in them. To be included in the free dinner at Lovett Inn, RSVP to michaeljemigan@roche.com.

PERFORMING ARTS

◆ **The 10 x 10**—a showcase of top writers who submit plays 10 minutes long—has been held annually for the last 16 years. The plays are judged by professional judges. Ten plays are shown each night which each last 10 minutes, thus "The 10 x 10." You watch professional actors act out a script, and every play is directed by a professional director. A couple of the plays include a little gaiety: *Who's Afraid of Edward Albee?* has a gay twist, and *Cookies* has an uncle and nephew selling cookies door to door... in drag. Fridays & Saturdays, Aug. 18, 19, 25, & 26, at 8 pm; Sunday, Aug. 20, at 3 pm. \$12 (seniors \$10). Reservations 281/785-0487. Arrive early for refreshments from Julie Victoria Cafe.

◆ **The Girl in the Tutu or The Villain Kept Her on Her Toes.** Eddie Cope and Carl Williams' melodrama follows a ballerina from Boston on her search for a lost relative, and all the trouble that befalls her along the way. Aug. 4-26 at Theatre Suburbia, 1410 West 43rd St. Reservations: 713/682-3525.

◆ **The Great American Trailer Park Musical.** Finally! A musical you can enjoy while washing down a microwavable pot pie with a Pabst Blue Ribbon. Through Sept. 3 at Stages Theatre, 3201 Allen Pkwy. Reservations: 713/527-0220 or www.stagestheatre.com. See interview with openly gay director Brad Dalton on page 40.

◆ **Hotter Than Houston.** In this kooky comedy romp, Stan, a Californian who has lived life to excess, dies in a car wreck in 1977. When he arrives at the pearly gates, St. Peter can't decide whether to send him to heaven or hell—so he sends him to Houston. It's a nostalgic trip for Houstonians and indoctrination for newcomers. \$20. Through Sept. 2 at Radio Music Theatre, 2623 Colquitt. Reservations: 713/522-7722 or www.radiomusictheatre.com.

◆ **Speeding Motorcycle.** In response to demand, Infer-

nal Bridegroom Productions supplies summer audiences with three more chances to take in the spectacle of Daniel Johnston's rock opera. Thursdays-Saturdays, Aug. 10-Sept. 2, at the Axiom, 22524 McKinney. Info/reservations: 713/522-8443 or www.infemalbridegroom.com.

RADIO

◆ **After Hours.** Sunday mornings, 1-4 am. Featuring the QMZ (Queer Music Zone) with Jimmy Carper. KPFT 90.1 FM, 713/526-5738.

◆ **Queer Voices.** Mondays, 8-10 pm. Features, news, music, interviews, reviews, and commentary. KPFT 90.1 FM, 713/526-4000.

◆ **Reach Out in the Darkness.** Houston's only transgender radio host and her partner present selected music from the '60s, played like it was in the '60s, exclusively from vinyl pressings. Every Wednesday morning, 3-6 am, KPFT Pacifica radio (90.1 FM).

ART/PHOTOGRAPHY

◆ **Body Worlds 3: The Anatomical Exhibition of Real Human Bodies.** You've seen the curious, creepy billboards and wondered, "What the Hell?" Now's your chance to find out and marvel at the wonder of Dr. Gunther von Hagens' works of plastination, wherein bodies are perfectly preserved after death. According to Doctor Death, this particular exhibit takes this amalgam of art, science, anatomy, and the macabre to its greatest heights yet. \$13-\$22. Through Sept. 4 at the Museum of Natural Science, One Hermann Circle Dr. Info: 713/639-4629 or www.hmns.org. Información en español: 713/469-4603.

◆ **Chance Encounters: The Formation of the de Menils' African Collection.** Since the Menil Collection's opening in '87, only a small component of the de Menil family's important collection of African art has been on display. Until now. Through Sept. 10 at the Menil Collection, 1515 Sul Ross. Info: 713/525-9400 or www.menil.org.

◆ **Courbet and the Modern Landscape.** The landscape paintings of 19th-century French artist Gustave Courbet are intense, dramatic, and radically innovative. The MFA takes a look at the controversial artist's contribution to landscape painting and its important place in the history of modern painting. Through Sept. 10 at the Museum of Fine Arts' Audrey Jones Beck Building, 5601 Main St. Info: 713/639-7300 or www.mfah.org, en



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♦ **Frank Stella 1958** tracks Stella's growth by presenting together for the first time 18 previously neglected paintings; a majority of the work he made during 1958. During this critical year of rapid growth, Stella moved from exuberant experimentation with monumental size, vivid color, and bold stripes and brushwork to the taut, monochromatic "black paintings" at the year's end, which pioneered works of Minimalism. Through Aug. 20 at the Menil Collection, 1515 Sul Ross. Info: 713/525-9400 or www.menil.org.

♦ **Gee's Bend: The Architecture of the Quilt.** Following the great success of *The Quilts of Gee's Bend*, an exhibition of original works by the women of Gee's Bend, Alabama, that premiered at the MFA in 2002, this exhibit examines the resurgence of interest in quilting in the Gee's Bend community and documents the development of key traditional quilt patterns through the presentation of outstanding examples created from the 1930s into the 21st century. Through Sept. 4 at the Museum of Fine Arts, 1001 Bissonnet. Info: 713/639-7300 or www.mfah.org (en Español: 713/639-7379).

♦ **George Lorio: Recent Work.** Metaphorical wood sculptures of this Brownsville artist are exhibited. Through Aug. 20 at The Galveston Arts Center. Info/directions: 409/763-2403 or www.galvestonartscenter.org.

♦ **HPG Cameo.** Houston's newest ceramics nonprofit organization presents the exhibition of works in the medium of clay with its first Emerging Artists Show. August 1-31 at Houston Potters Guild Shop & Gallery, 2433 Rice Blvd. Info: 713/528-7687, houpots@yahoo.com, or www.houstonpotters.com.

♦ **Light My Fire.** New York artist Lisa Hoke makes Rice Gallery's fourth Summer Window installation, on view through the gallery's front glass wall while the gallery remains closed for the summer. Hoke describes the piece as an "intoxication of color." Information: 713/348-6169 or www.ricegallery.org.

♦ **Perspectives 152: Four Artists Four Stories** features recent work by Houston-based artists Michael Bise, Darryl Lauster, Janaki Lennie, and Soody Sharifi, all in their first museum exhibition. Through Sept. 10 at Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, 5216 Montrose Blvd. Information: 713/284-8250 or www.camh.org.

♦ **Remembering Ala.** "My life, like my art, has been strongly influenced by my childhood experiences in the Nazi Holocaust," says Miriam Brysk. Her artwork on exhibit was actually inspired by a 2002 trip when she returned for the first time to the ghettos and camps of her childhood. Her photographs are manipulated through a series of processes and strengthened by the addition of other elements of Holocaust history. Free. Through Sept. 3 at Holocaust Museum Houston, 5401 Caroline St. Info: www.hmh.org or 713/942-8000.

♦ **Shared Vision: Texas Artists Then and Now.** This traveling exhibition pairs early Texas artists to their influence on contemporary Texas artists. Through Aug. 20 at The Galveston Arts Center. Information and directions: 409/763-2403 or www.galvestonartscenter.org.

♦ **Watercolor Ends the Summer.** Watercolor art in a wide range of styles adorn the walls (and yours if anything strikes your fancy) in this summertime show. Aug. 11-Sept. 1 at the Watercolor Art Society-Houston, 1601 W. Alabama. For more information: 713/942-9966 or www.watercolorhouston.org.

♦ **Yale Street Arts Market** is an exciting Heights market created for local artists to display and sell original works of art. Local musicians entertain all day. It's a mini art festival in the Heights! Every month on 1st Saturday. Now at 548 West 19th at Wind Water Gallery's parking lot. Info: www.YaleStreetMarket.com. Be sure to visit The Artful Corner at 3423 White Oak Blvd., 713/426-4ART. ■

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Ken Calcote posed in front of St. Peter's with OutSMART.

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TAKING STOCK

OutSMART is a media sponsor for the 2006-2007 Gay/Lesbian Consumer Online Census, a joint project of the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University and OpusComm Group, the gay-owned media relations firm. This is the fifth survey of demographics and spending habits of the GLBT community. Results of previous surveys have been widely quoted in the media and considered by corporate America. Take the census at www.glcensus.org.



OUTSMART PRIDE

Magazine staff, friends, and loved ones joined the famous Pink Sheep of the Family for the June 24 Pride parade. Planet Ford again provided the official OutSMART truck (left, with Rudy Gonzalez of the dealership service department). Order a Pink Sheep of the Family t-shirt at www.OutSmartMagazine.com.



OUTSMART CRUISE GIVEAWAY

Gayest & Greatest respondents can enter a drawing for a cruise aboard the 2,674-passenger Diamond Princess (ship's registry, Bermuda). Details, page 53.

10 GAY YEARS!

This year marks the 10th anniversary of our Gayest & Greatest readers' choice survey. To celebrate a decade of listening to the community, we are offering our readers a chance to win a RSVP Vacations Mexican Riviera Cruise for two (October 28–November 4) by completing the 2006 Gayest & Greatest ballot. Gayest & Greatest results will appear in the October OutSMART. Cast your vote by August 25, 5 p.m., in one of these ways:

- Vote online at www.OutSmartMagazine.com.
- Fill out the ballot included in this issue (page 55). Ballots are also available with any of the Gayest & Greatest ballot boxes at 10 locations in Houston and Galveston. Drop your ballot at one of these spots (see ballot for information).
- Join us at one of our Gayest & Greatest ballot parties.

JR's Bar & Grill

Wednesday, August 9, 10 p.m. • Host: Kofi

Undercurrent/Galveston

Saturday, August 12, 10–midnight • Hosts: Gulf Coast Drag Mafia

Chances

Thursday, August 17, 9–11 p.m. • Host: Fluff the Kat

Club 1415

Saturday, August 19, 6–9 p.m. • During Queer Bingo, hosted by the Houston GLBT Community Center

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Check out this event

sponsored by OutSMART:
August 19. **Queer Bingo**, presented by the Houston GLBT Community Center.
August theme: "Pirates of the Caribbean."
Info: www.houstonglbtcommunity.org.

Time Out

OS ON THE WEB

HELP OUTSMART SAVE A TREE

And then, there's that whole Al Gore, global-warming thing. Be a conservationist—log on to www.OutSmartMagazine.com to read the expanded version of the print copy of OutSMART you are now likely holding in your very hands. This month's online edition includes:

'DREAMGIRLS' REVISITED



It's been a full 25 years since *Dreamgirls*, that thinly veiled back-story of Diana Ross and The Supremes, first appeared on Broadway. Christopher Cappiello interviews Bill (Gods and Monsters, Kinsey, Chicago) Condon, the film's director in "A Long Time Coming: Dreamgirls Goes from Stage to Screen."

PLAYING WITH DOLLS



Need a little Dadaist vaudeville to go with your neo/glam/torch/punk cabaret? Check out Peter Galvin's conversations with The Dresden Dolls's Amanda Palmer ("All Dolled Up") and New York Dolls's David Johansen ("Once a Cross-dresser").

KAKI KING SPEAKS OUT



Success seems to be unraveling before Kaki King's very eyes—but in this case, that's a good thing. Peter Galvin talks to the emerging musician, an out lesbian, in "Kaki, Light and Dark" about her latest release, *...until we felt red*.

'SEX AND THE CITY' AND THE BOYS



We all know and love the girls of HBO's now-retired hit series, *Sex and the City*. But now that TBS has claimed the best episodes of SATC to air in syndication, they've also put together a new special, *Let's Talk About Sex and the City*. In it, the girls get a rest and the guys (you know, Mr. Big, the Russian, Stanford [Willie Garson, pictured], etc.) turn to dish about the behind-the-scenes and their most memorable moments.



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Joel Icenhower

Joel Icenhower, who worked for Laser Ink for the last 10 years, died on April 30, 2006.

Joel grew up on a farm near Paris, Texas. He served in the Navy and saw the world. He worked as a certified carpenter and spent most of the 1970s building houses in Dallas. When he decided he wanted a cooler, inside job, he switched careers and worked as an award-winning hair stylist. In the last decade, he worked for Laser Ink, initially rebuilding toner cartridges, then taking phone orders inside the office.

Joel was an important part of numerous AIDS-related fundraisers, both as a performer (Depila Debris) and as an organizer. He will be missed by many.

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Business News



Noted Galveston realtor **V. J. Tramonte** (l) has been honored by the Galveston Chamber of Commerce and Galveston Chamber Partnership with the Chamber Business Leadership Award. Tramonte received the award at the groups' annual Business Leadership Award Luncheon held June 15 at the Tremont House.

Tramonte is owner of **Joe Tramonte Realty** (1802 Broadway, Suite 122, 409/765-9837).

Now there's no excuse not to know. Elevating HIV testing to a new height of convenience, the Houston franchise of the **Know Now Organization** has announced the launch of its innovative rapid HIV -testing service. The physician-based organization provides HIV testing with 20-minute results in the client's own home or location of choice.

For \$100, the in-home test can be ordered by calling 1-877-411-TKNO (8566). Within a few hours after calling, professional medical staff arrives to perform the confidential oral HIV antibody test. Pre- and post-test counseling along with information on local resources are provided. More info: www.tkno.org.

The Lovett Inn, long known for its outstanding accommodations for travelers as well as being a popular site for local social and charitable events, has recently undertaken another function. Now called Lovett Inn Boutique Hotel, the inn also displays works by local artists. On exhibition at Lovett through August 8 is A Summer Artshow,



featuring works of 14 emerging and established artists.

Held by **Todd Partridge** (above, l) and **Dan Lueken**, Lovett Inn Boutique Hotel is located at 501 Lovett Blvd. The phone number is 713/522-5224, and the website is www.lovettinn.com.

The name isn't the only big change **Legacy Community Health Services** has recently undergone. The ever-expanding facility, formerly known as Montrose Clinic, now houses a full-service **Walgreen's** pharmacy. Pharmacists working at the location, which is open to the public, are specially trained in HIV and AIDS medications.

Legacy has always operated with a "client-centric" approach to health care, executive director **Katy Caldwell** says. "Many of our clients must rely on public transportation as their major mode of travel. Legacy's clients will now be able to see their healthcare provider and medication specialist and receive their medication all in one visit at the same location."

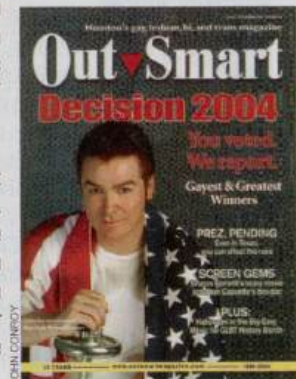
Pharmacist **Christie Yasuda** (above) manages the Walgreen's, located inside Legacy's main facility at 215 Westheimer (713/830-3000).



Adrienne E. Brown (l), private banker at **Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.**, was recently honored as the top licensed private banker in the Texas region for April 2006. Brown was selected for the award at a district meeting out of a field of nearly 100 private bankers across Texas.

Brown has worked with Wells Fargo (www.wellsfargo.com) since 2003. She also heads up the Pride Houston team member resource group for the bank, which provides community outreach and advises upper-level management regarding GLBT issues.

Muscle Mechanics has announced it has moved to a new 3,300-square foot home located in the Greenway Plaza area. In operation since 1993, the gym has upgraded its amenities to include a private putting green, meditation gardens, a wireless Internet lounge, and a European rain shower. It continues to specialize in personal training. Owner **John Aaron** (pictured at right on our October 2004 cover) has been voted Best Personal Trainer in *OutSmart's* Gayest & Greatest reader poll for the past three years. 3334 Edloe St. Details: 713/963-0899, www.musclemechanics.com.



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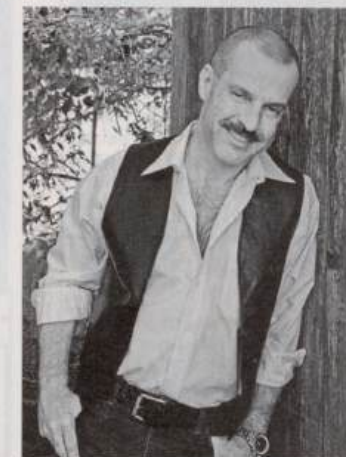
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Prudential Financial/Johan A. Everstijn

	713/960-5081, Ext 6127
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Houston Gym	
1501 Durham	713/880-9191

Fitness Exchange

4040 Miam	713/524-9932
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The Coach Kimmie Sports Studio

Kimberly Marler, Personal Trainer	832/443-FIT
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Wes Rose, Personal Trainer

Muscle Mechanics/John Aaron	832/767-2609
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TRK Fitness/Steve

4676 Beechnut	713/667-7072
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bodyenvyhouston.com	713/398-4321
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Laser & Cosmetic Surgery Center of Houston, The

3819 Buffalo Spwy, Ste 1202	713/622-1770
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White Salon & Skincare Center

Michael Streitmann, MD, FACS	
320 W Gray	713/524-7100

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Alternative Health & Wellness Ctr/Dr Jackie Doval	
404 Westheimer	713/627-WELL

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3033 Chimney Rock	713/781-3344
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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.

BLUR

This new, multi-level dance club doesn't charge a cover and features an upstairs lounge, balconies, expensive patio, and happy hour 8-10 p.m. daily. Sundays pack the dance floor with Trash Disco and drink specials; Wednesdays are ladies' night with drink specials. 710 Pacific St. • www.blurbar.com.

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.

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 2nd-floor club space. Papi Chulo night on Thursday features amateur strip contest. Fridays-Sundays are special-event nights. 1415 California • 713/522-7066.

CLUB BIG YO

Woman-owned and -operated, the Southwest Houston nightclub 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, mainstream dance, and hip hop. Sunday is 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

Arturo Cahuiche 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, Cahuiche welcomes all tequila fans. 2312 Crocker • 832/203-8574.

DEAN'S CREDIT CLOTHING

DJ and promoter Gracie Chavez presents Les Femmes de la Nuit, the monthly women's DJ and music night, at this downtown nightclub. Chavez reports that the crowd includes a growing contingent of queer folk. 316 Main • 713/227-3326 (Dean's), 713/858-8227 (Chavez) • www.myspace.com/lesfemmesdelanuit.

BEHIND THE BAR

WHO:

Owner George Konar (as Kiffae LaRue)

WHERE:

George, Your Country Sports Bar (617 Fairview Ave., 713/528-8102)



WHAT'S UP: What's up at George is exactly that—up on the ceiling. George's big news is the recent installation of two new and highly effective smoke-eaters, making this friendly, neighborhood bar even friendlier and more neighborly.

NANCY FORD

GEORGE

Long known as Bricks, the club recently took a new name and retooled as a country-and-western sports bar. This neighborhood joint still boasts a jukebox with country music and active pool tables. Regulars rule at this low-key spot. 617 Fairview • 713/528-8102.

HOUSE OF FINESSE

Deidre Sam 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.

MARY'S, NATURALLY

The oldest gay club in Houston, this is a legendary nightclub, though not as notorious as in days past. Mary's hosts many community fundraisers, including the Imperial Court of Houston's Jukebox Wednesdays 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 Wednesdays. 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 Lauri Gage, 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

Sturdy male dancers bump and grind every night at this leather/denim spot. The two-tier back patio bar provides a perch for viewing the Pacific Street scenery. 805 Pacific • 713/529-7488.

PRIVE

The patio at this second-floor spot overlooks the lively Westheimer/Montrose intersection. The mixed crowd includes smartly dressed gays as well as nongays. 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.therainbowroombar.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 • 713/759-9606 • 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.

The 611

This neighborhood club is a popular spot with pool sharks. On Friday and Saturday, the 611 dishes up buffet dinners. Features include a 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 favorite DJ. Besides shirtless boys, special attractions include Café Con Leche with DJ Cubanita on Wednesday. 810 Pacific • 713/529-SOBE (7623) • www.SouthBeachTheNightclub.com.

VIVIANA'S

This club, in a new location, appeals to fans of Latino music and drag alike. 4624 Dacoma • 713/681-4104.

Note: Swoopes 22 Sports Bar & Nightclub did not open in May, as the owners had announced (and as we reported in "News Briefs," April 2006). In June, the owners of Jefferies renamed their club Blur. Bricks II has been renamed George. Xscape has closed.

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 as well as Wednesday karaoke and Saturday and Sunday shows hosted by CC Ryder. 315 Tremont • 409/765-5805 • www.thekontiki.com.

THE PINK DOLPHIN

Opened by Eldridge Langlinis, formerly the Paradise Guest House proprietor, this club in the former 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, with cabaret/variety shows on Friday and Saturday nights. 31st and Seawall Blvd. • 409/768-6911 • www.3rdcoastbar.com.

THE TREMONT HOUSE

Smart Island visitors stop by the atrium bar in the Strand district hotel to enjoy cabaret music at the grand piano. 2300 Ship's Mechanic Row • 409/763-0300.

UNDERCURRENT

Marvin Grenier and Keith Curry have moved their club 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.

Note: Jesse Garza, owner of Garza's Kon Tiki, died on April 19. Though the club is under new ownership, Garza's name remains part of the name. Oma Galloway, the longtime pianist at The Tremont House, died on May 22 at age 74. From our July 2003 issue: "Galloway doesn't merely tickle the ivories. He performs." A Tremont House spokesman reports that a pianist will continue to perform in the hotel atrium.

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

Located in the downtown entertainment district, this club received extensive damage during Hurricane Rita and is currently closed. Local sources have informed OutSmart that the owners plan to reopen. 497 Crockett • 409/835-4243.

Bryan/College Station

HALO VIDEO BAR

The only GLBT dance club in Bryan/College station, this sleek spot is open Thursday-Saturday. Smack in the middle of Aggieland, our venue is always packed with the hotties, the owners promise. 121 North Main • 979/823-6174 • www.halobcs.com.

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OUT IN HOUSTON



1 Jerry Simoneaux went Brokeback cowgirl at the Mar. 18 Wild West installment of Queer Bingo, the monthly Houston GLBT Community Center fundraising event at Club 1415. Bingo this month is Aug. 19.



2 Community service award winners **Brandi Williams, Cindy Davis, Paige Mahogany**, and BP's **Donna Zimmer** posed at the Apr. 15 Houston Transgender Unity Banquet, at the Westchase Hilton.



3 **Candi St. James** (l) was named Miss Houston Pride Royale 2006 at the May 28 COPA Productions pageant at Keys West. Pictured with her: **Gia**, Ms. Houston Pride Royale 2006.



4 AIDS Foundation Houston executive director **Kelly McCann** paused after the March 12 AIDS Walk Houston. The event raised more than \$700,000 for local HIV/AIDS service organizations.



5 On July 12, a standing-room only crowd gathered at First Unitarian Universalist Church for a screening of *A Blinding Flash of the Obvious* followed by discussion. The documentary details the 12-year struggle to overturn antigay legislation in Cincinnati. Serving as panelists: (seated, l-r) **Tammi Wallace**, Houston Equal Rights Alliance; film producer **Rev. Steven Baines**; City Controller **Annisie Parker**; Joy Author, People for the American Way; (standing, l-r) Foundation for Family & Marriage Equality founder **Jerry Simoneaux**; and moderator **Deece Eckstein**, People for the American Way.



6 Members of the **Gay Men's Chorus of Houston** displayed their might during their June 10 concert. Turtle Creek Chorale of Dallas joined the local singers for the Jones Hall performance.



7 **John Nechman** (left), **Salangi Legacy**, Rep. **Senfronia Thompson**, and **Coy Tow** attended an April 4 Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce dinner where Thompson was honored for her eloquence in opposing the antigay state constitutional amendment on marriage.



8 Members of Tau Chi and other transgender groups received safety tips from Houston Police Department officer **Cathy Burnett** (in uniform) at an April 22 seminar at the Houston GLBT Community Center.

9 On May 16, PFLAG Houston members met with regional directors for U.S. senators Kay Bailey Hutchison and John Cornyn in May to express opposition to the Federal Marriage Amendment (l-r): **Burton Bagby**, South Main Baptist and Covenant churches; **Jeffrey Dorrell**, Human Rights Campaign Houston; **Sarah Berel-Harrop**, Unitarian Fellowship of Houston; **Jay Guerrero** of Cornyn's office; **Alice McCarthy**, Rothko Chapel; **Rabbi Shaul Osadchey**, Congregation Or Ami; and **Michele Hoffman**, PFLAG Houston.

10 Revelers gathered around the pool at The Royalton at River Oaks at the June 16 Pride Houston 2006 kick-off party.



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PHOTOS: 1-7, DALTON DEHART; 8 & 9, NANCY FORD; 10, YVONNE FEEGE

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