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Houston's LGBT Magazine
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JANUARY 2011



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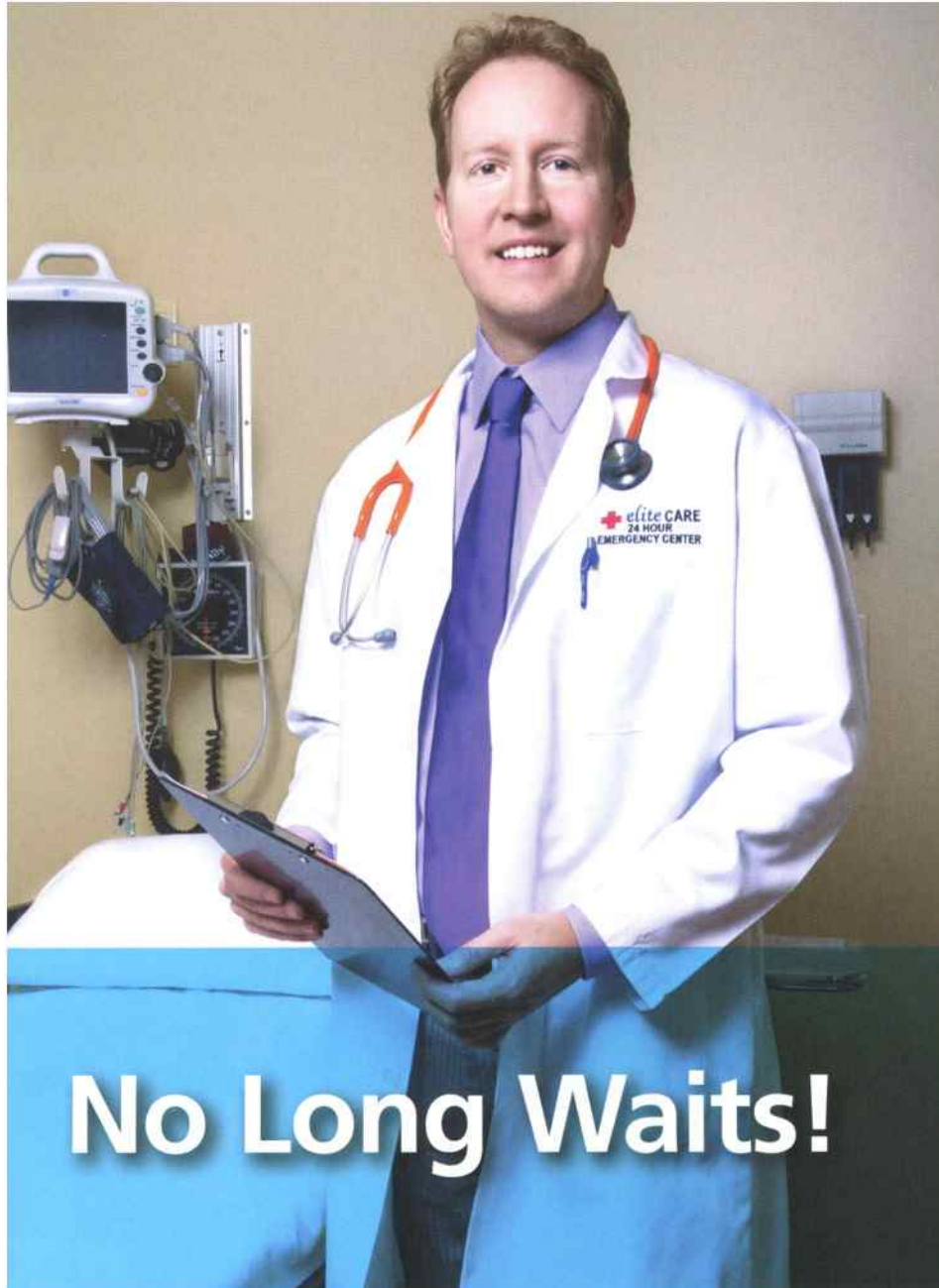
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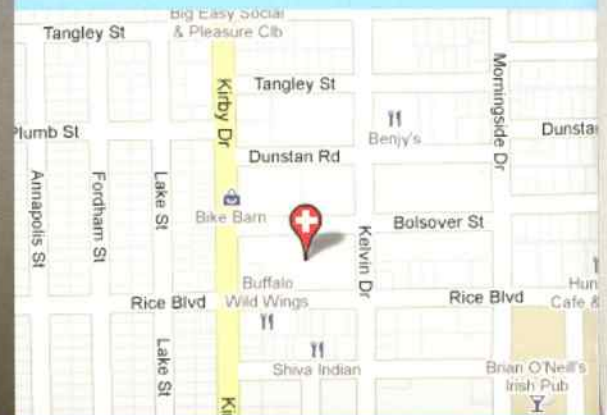
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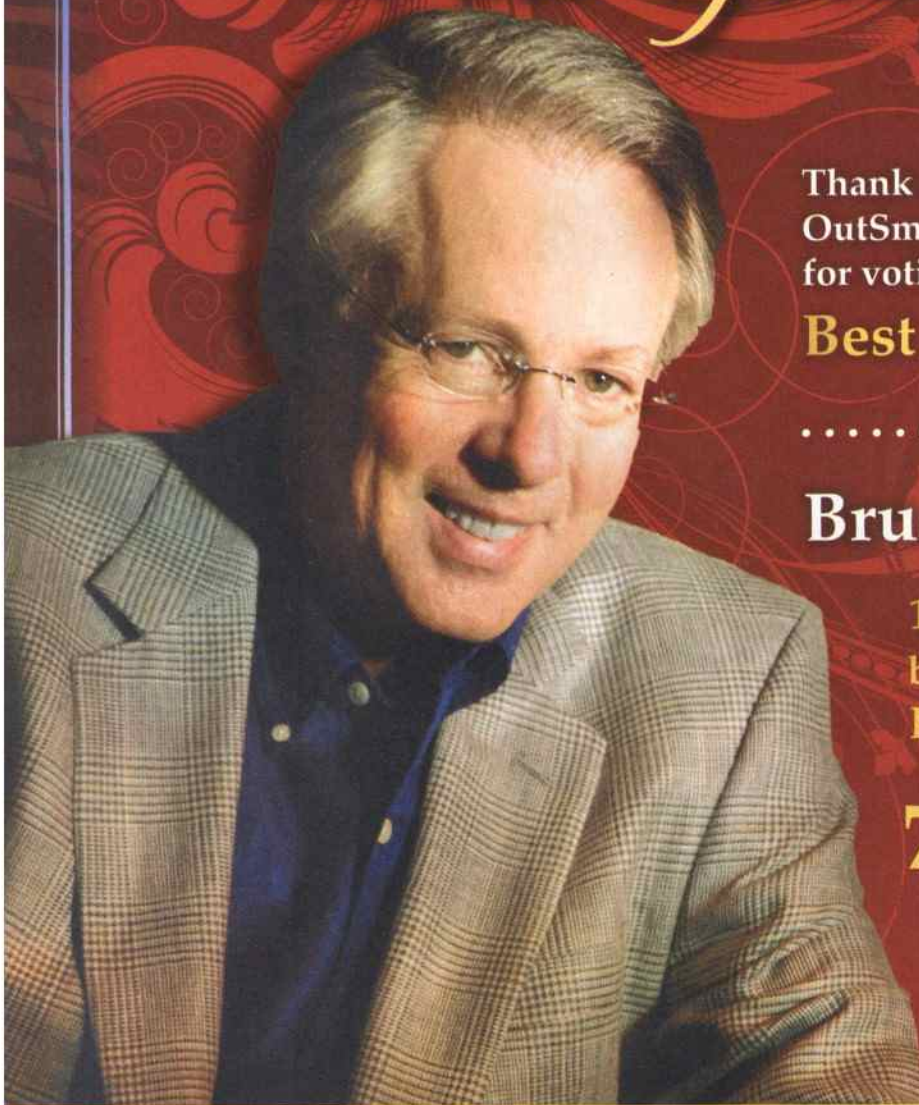
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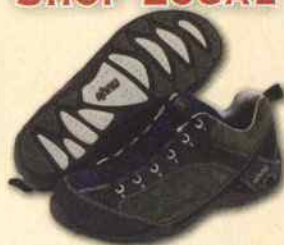
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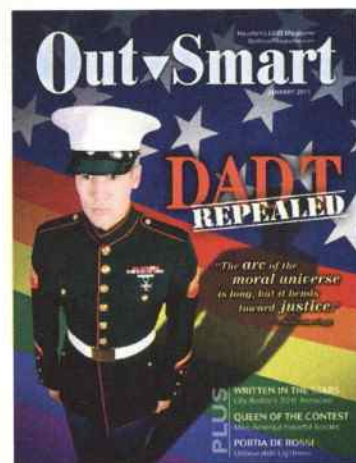
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A review of the book *Stuff That Makes a Gay Heart Weep: A Definitive Guide to the Loud & Proud Dislikes of Millions* by Freeman Hall.



About the cover:

"Don't Ask, Don't Tell" is repealed (see page 10).

Cover Design Caleb Smith



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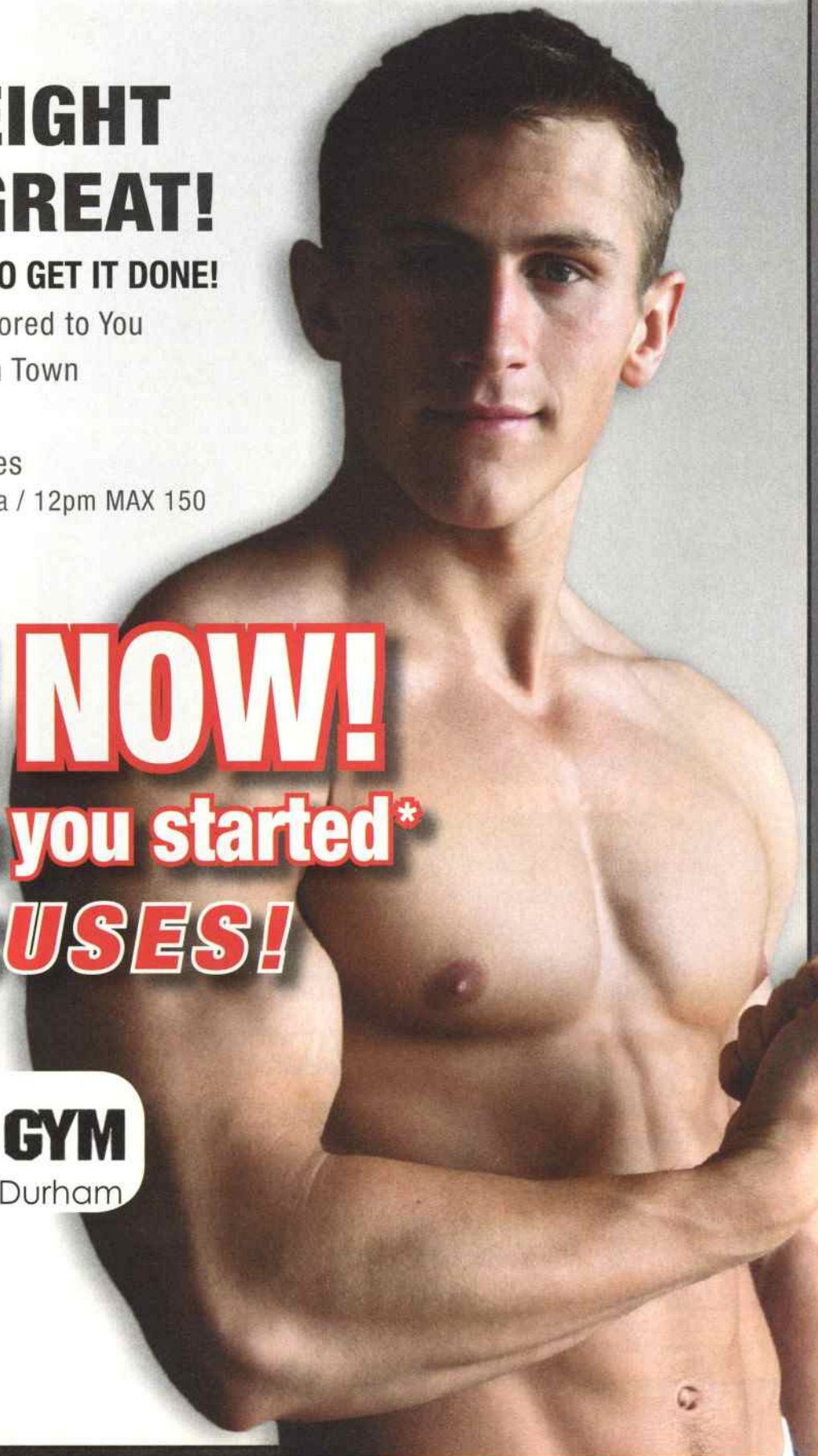
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'DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL' REPEALED

A victory for human rights in America



On December 22, 2010, President Barack Obama signed the bill repealing the ban of gays and lesbians serving openly in the military. The bill, commonly known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," goes into effect as soon as the certification process finishes.

"Today, the Senate has taken an historic step toward ending a policy that undermines our national security while violating the very ideals that our brave men and women in uniform risk their lives to defend. As Commander-in-Chief, I am also absolutely convinced that making this change will only underscore the professionalism of our troops as the best led and best trained fighting force the world has ever known."

—President Barack Obama, December 19, 2010

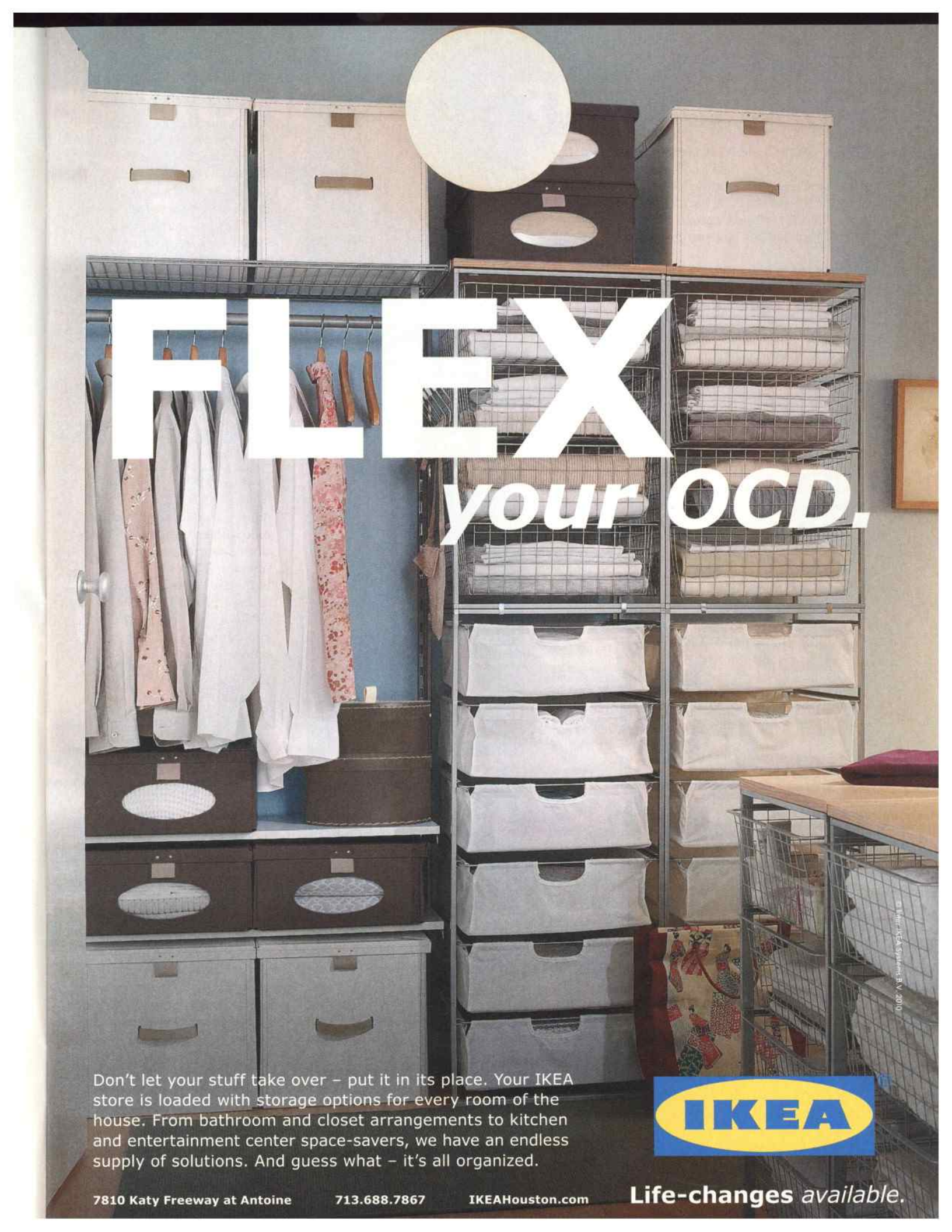
The Mattachine Society of Washington picketed the Pentagon in 1965 in opposition to military gay exclusionary policy," remembers pioneering activist Dr. Franklin Kameny. Forty-five years later, on Saturday afternoon, December 19, 2010, the United States Senate voted 65–33 to repeal the 16-year-old "don't ask, don't tell" (DADT) policy, clearing the way for full inclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender service members. The repeal bill had cleared the U.S. House on December 15, with a favorable vote of 250–175. On Tuesday morning, December 21, 2010, at 8:15 a.m. Houston time, President Barack Obama signed the bill into law.

Michael Bedwell, a close friend of Sgt.

Leonard Matlovich, who appeared on a 1975 *Time* magazine cover after his very public emergence from the closet, pays tribute to his friend's pivotal role in the history of the struggle: "I'm grateful to everyone that got us this far, but Sgt. Leonard Matlovich is worthy of being singled out. While it's ridiculous that it took us 35 more years, 35,000 more discharges, and seven presidents to get here, who knows how much longer it would have taken had Leonard not stepped forward in 1975 to first make the American public aware of how many gays were serving our country with distinction, and declared war on the ban." Bedwell also praised Rep. Patrick Murphy and Lt. Dan Choi.

Terry Hamman, who served in the U.S. Air Force from 1972 to 1976 as a

Bulgarian linguist, remembers, "I got on the bus to the induction center early in the morning in front of the draft board in downtown Plainview, Texas, with my bag with three changes of clothes. I didn't know anyone on the bus and scanned quickly to find someone I thought would be a good choice for the 1.5-hour ride to Amarillo," continues Hamman. "There were five of us at the induction center that bonded very quickly. It was kind of like a secret fraternity, and I began to realize that there were a lot more men like me than I had ever dreamed." Hamman studied at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California, and then worked for the National Security Agency (NSA) in Washington DC, with a top-secret security clearance, where he became acquainted →



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Gay and Lesbian Veterans Celebrate

Larry Lingle, legal clerk in the U.S. Army in Alaska, 1958–1966: One of my jobs was processing paperwork for discharging soldiers found to be gay. I handled 17 such cases, and fortunately I answered to a codeine-addicted colonel who would sign whatever I put in front of him. I saw to it that all 17 received honorable discharges, although I never met a single one of them during my service.

Harley Baade, first lieutenant in the U.S. Army Intelligence Corps in Germany, 1964–1966: I rarely heard the words “gay” or “homosexual” and didn’t know anyone who was gay. Training warned that communists would blackmail gays and therefore we were a security risk. I was in the Intelligence Service wearing civilian clothes working along the border with East Germany. Staying in the closet was yet another layer of secrecy.

Brenda Kruger, served in the U.S. Navy before and during “don’t ask, don’t tell”: Some of us felt the DADT rule was a vast improvement over what was before it. At least it cut down on the witch hunts so many of us had to endure. I was one of the lucky ones who survived at least two such hunts during my 16-and-a-half years on active duty, partly by having friends in some key positions. The repeal is one of the most monumental things that could happen to those who choose to serve their country.

H.B., served in the Women’s Army Corps: You can’t imagine how hard it was in the olden days, and I myself was the target of two separate investigations, as were most of us WACs. I know for an absolute fact that two of the directors of the Women’s Army Corps were gay, but had to go along with the straight charade. And why sexual orientation would affect job performance was indeed a mystery.

R.B., served in the U.S. Air Force: I was in the Air Force before “don’t ask, don’t tell” was in effect. During my time, they would send out OSI agents [undercover MPs] to the gay bars and have the civilians who worked on the base identify the active duty members who were there. I was married at the time, but went to a gay bar when my wife was out of town. They called my wife into the JAG office and asked her if our marriage was a cover-up for my homosexuality. And thus I was outed.

Bill Colburn, specialist fifth-class in the U.S. Army Combat Engineers, 1969–1971, including a tour of duty in Vietnam with the 937th Combat Engineer Group: Forty years ago I kept my mouth shut about my sexual orientation. I was reflecting on that a lot this past Saturday as the Senate conducted its two historic votes on repealing “don’t ask, don’t tell.” I got chills, goose bumps, and even misty-eyed.

J.D. Doyle (popular radio host of *Queer Music Heritage* on KPFT), served in the National Guard, 1970–1976: On the application for the National Guard there was that question about being homosexual, and I can still clearly picture myself sitting at that desk, answering it, and lying. I put up with the six months of training and two weeks a year playing soldier, hating every minute of it. I had pushed my gayness way back into my psyche, and didn’t deal with it at all.

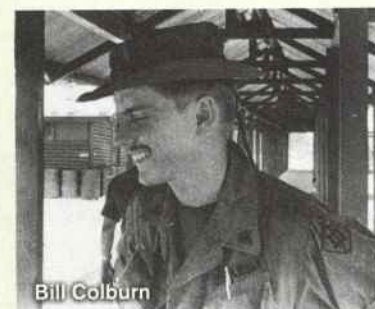
Rick Dickson, captain in the U.S. Army, 1990–2000, discharged under “don’t ask, don’t tell”: I feel the repeal of “don’t ask, don’t tell” has been long overdue. It will relieve a lot of stress for those already serving—they will not have to live in denial or under undue stress. Personally, it was very difficult to uphold the policy and teach classes about “don’t ask, don’t tell” while being a gay service member myself.



Larry Lingle



Harley Baade



Bill Colburn



Rick Dickson

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with a number of gay employees, both civilian and military.

“The gay Marines I knew were fairly tortured souls. They had joined to become ‘real’ men and lose these feelings they had,” he states. “I hated DADT from the beginning and didn’t think it was much of an



Terry Hamman (r) was a member of the U.S. Air Force when this picture was taken in 1972, with his boyfriend Denny in their dorm room.

improvement over the existing code with no acceptance. The world has changed so much from the 1970s when I was in the Air Force. I think what is tragic is that I have lived an out life for over 30 years, and there are young men and women who haven’t been able to do that because of the career they have chosen to serve their country. They give up who they are [in order] to serve, which is an even greater sacrifice and one that is so unnecessary and harmful to themselves as well as the military and country as a whole.”

Fairlee G. Skinner, who now goes by the name Lee



Lee Albin entered the Women’s Army Corps in 1961 as a private first class. This picture was taken during basic training at Fort McClellan in Anniston, Alabama.

Albin, was a sergeant in the Women’s Army Corps (WAC) in the early 1960s. “I am 69 years of age and so very grateful and happy that the ‘don’t ask, don’t tell’ is over and that gay women and men can now serve their country without the →

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DIED. Herbert Ross "Rocky" Atwood Jr.

Known to his many friends as "Rocky," Atwood passed away on December 3, 2010, in Houston at age 54. He was born in Baytown, Texas, to Herbert (deceased) and Betty Atwood on May 3, 1956. Employed in the banking industry, Atwood was most recently employed by Amegy Bank as senior vice president and chief technology officer. Recognized as an accomplished pianist, organist, and percussionist, Atwood performed at Resurrection MCC, Bering

Memorial United Methodist Church, and Metropolitan Baptist Church, as well as with the Houston Concert Band and various other groups. He was also active in a number of charitable organizations supporting Houston's LGBT community, including Cloverdale Foundation, The Executive and Professional Association of Houston, PWA Holiday Charities, Empire of the Royal Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star, and the Texas Gay Rodeo Association. A celebration of his life was held December 11 at Resurrection MCC Church. Memorial donations may be made in his honor to PWA Holiday Charities (P.O. Box 66849, Houston, TX 77266), Resurrection MCC Food Pantry (2025 W. 11th Street, Houston, TX 77008), or PFLAG/HATCH Youth Scholarship Foundation (P.O. Box 667010, Houston, TX 77266).



DIED. Dr. Peter Cort Marzio, director of the Museum of Fine Arts Houston for 28 years, died following a battle with cancer. He was 67. Credited with building the MFAH into a world-class art institution, Dr. Marzio more than quadrupled in size MFAH's permanent collection, growing it from 14,000 artworks to 62,000. A memorial service and celebration of Dr. Marzio's life is scheduled at the museum, organizers say, with the date not yet announced at press time.

News continued from page 12

constant fear of being turned in."

Albin remembers hearing President Kennedy say in 1961: "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." At the age of 19 she walked away from her junior year at the University of Florida in Gainesville and promptly signed up. During basic training at Ft. McClellan, Alabama, when she was a private first class, she had the honor of being the commander's flag-bearer during parades.

"When I first joined, it was extremely difficult to basically force myself to have multiple personalities," states Sal Bonaccorso. Bonaccorso served in the U.S. Navy from 1996

through 2007.

"The desire to serve my country superseded my personal wants and needs, and so I had to live two lives. After some time, the burden was too much, and I felt it was necessary to tell my division chief. He actually told me I was very honorable and promoted me to class commander that day. He was straight, so I presume he respected what it took for me to come forward

Shown in a recent photograph, Sal Bonaccorso served in the U.S. Navy from 1996 through 2007.



President Barack Obama makes Congressional calls from the Oval Office, Saturday, December 18, 2010.

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and knew that losing an asset would be more hurtful for the Navy.

"As every other partner nation in recent wars has done," Bonaccorso continues, "America has finally followed by allowing gays and lesbians to openly serve their country. It gives me personal pride to be able to defend this country against those who would want to cause harm. Finally, fellow servicemen

and women are able to be themselves and continue to honorably fight for this nation that grants them the freedoms to be equal among all."

Ray Hill, longtime Houston activist, reflects, "The issue about DADT was always a mystery to me because I remember watching the World War II gay vets grow old, many decorated, suffering the discrimination heaped on them by an ungrateful nation: captain Bill Wheland served honorably in three branches (Marines, Navy, and Army) and Merchant Marines, under different names, only to be discharged without benefits because he was gay; Jim Kepner, U.S. Army, fought in the Normandy landing and was discharged without benefits to become a founding father of our movement; and Arthur Werner flew bombing missions in Europe before overcoming a bad discharge to teach at Princeton Law School and write the first model criminal code without criminal sanctions against gay intimacy.

"Military life well suits many gay, lesbian, and transgender people," Hill states. "We have suffered the closet to serve admirably in every war in my lifetime and, according to Walt Whitman's poetry in the Civil War, on both sides. Perhaps, at last, we may proudly serve and even die for the freedoms we are just now achieving."

Longtime transgender activist Phyllis Randolph Frye thinks there more to come. "I am both moved and surprised that DADT was legislatively repealed," states Frye. "High school and college ROTC led to my commission in the Army during the Vietnam era, but I was medically expelled for being transgender before I went to Vietnam. While the repeal of DADT will not protect transgenders →

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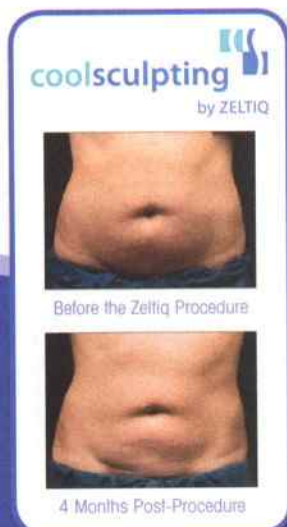
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News continued from previous page

from being medically expelled, it is a huge move for the civil rights of all LGBT people. I believe that, in a mere decade, transgenders will be accommodated in the military as well." —Brandon Wolf

Pharmaceutical Company Announces Once-a-Day HIV Treatment Tablet

GILEAD SCIENCES, INC., announced in late November that it has submitted a New Drug Application to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The company seeks marketing approval of the single-tablet regimen of Truvada combined with Tibotec Pharmaceuticals' investigational non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor TMC278 (rilpivirine hydrochloride) for HIV-1 infection in adults. If approved, this would be the second product that contains a complete HIV treatment regimen in a single once-daily tablet.

"Combination antiretroviral therapy has dramatically advanced the field of HIV medicine, but the need remains for new single-tablet regimens that are effective, safe, and well tolerated," said John C. Martin, PhD, chairman and chief executive officer of Gilead Sciences. "Gilead is committed to helping advance HIV treatment by pursuing both scientific research and innovative partnerships that will deliver more options to the healthcare community. We are pleased to work with Tibotec to bring this potentially important new therapy to people living with HIV."

Subject to regulatory approval, Gilead will assume the lead role in the manufacturing, registration, distribution, and commercialization of the single-tablet regimen worldwide, excluding the developing world and Japan.

Truvada/TMC278 is an investigational product and its safety and efficacy have not yet been established. gilead.com. —Nancy Ford

Public Television Producers Solicit Short Video Submissions for Stonewall Project

'AMERICAN EXPERIENCE' AND WGBH Lab have announced an open-call video contest entitled Stonewall Uprising and Gay Rights in 2011. Producers welcome work from all citizen reporters, journalists, video-bloggers, documentary storytellers, animators, and new media-makers illustrating where the legacy of Stonewall

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continues today.

Among the panel of judges is musician and equal rights advocate Cyndi Lauper, founder of the "Give a Damn" campaign that aims to raise awareness within the straight community about discrimination against those of LGBT orientation. Dan Savage, the journalist whose "It Gets Better" campaign works to boost the morale of gay teenagers who have experienced bullying and has created a national outpouring of support, also acts as one of the project's five judges.

Five cash prizes of \$1,000 are to be awarded, with the single best video selected by WGBH Lab and a panel of judges for a premiere on the PBS series *American Experience* following the April 25, 2011, television broadcast of *Stonewall Uprising*. Submissions are being accepted through February 14, 2011. thewgbhlab.org/open-call/stonewall. —N.F.

A Grammy Nominee's Main Gig

KEITH WEBER'S PROFESSIONAL BIO lists his many musical hats: "choral and orchestral conductor, vocal coach, choral clinician, organist, pianist, harpsichordist, and collaborator." Now, he adds "Grammy nominee" to the list with the announcement that Houston's Ars Lyrica has been nominated for their recording, *Hasse: Marc Antonio e Cleopatra* (Matthew Dirst, conductor; Jamie Barton and Ava Pine, principal singers). Weber served as the producer for the recording.

For years, however, Weber has been producing eclectic music concerts through Grace Song, Inc., a non-profit music organization he founded and for which he serves as artistic director. Before the Grammy Awards are announced on February 13, you have the opportunity to see Weber as pianist and conductor for *Canticle I*, the first of a five-year cycle of concerts built around one of Benjamin Britten's pieces of vocal chamber music.

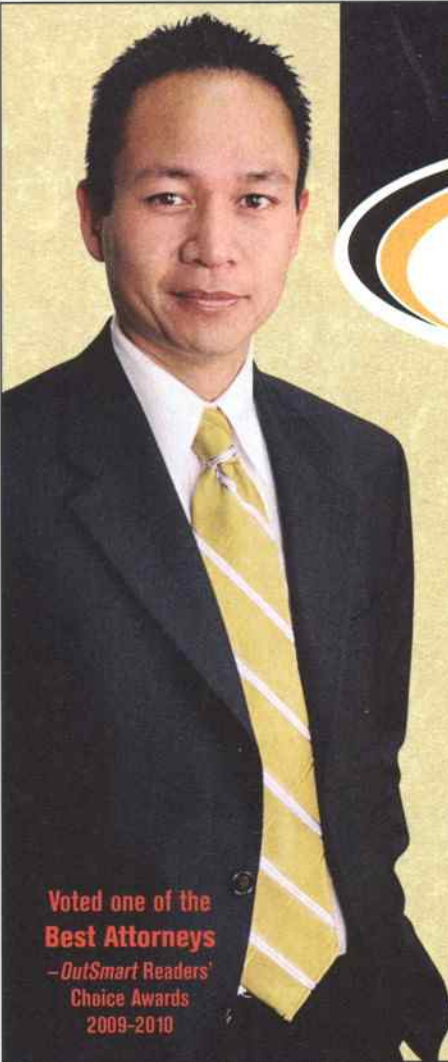
Canticle I will be presented on January 8, 7:30 p.m., Christ Church Cathedral, Latham Auditorium (1117 Texas Avenue in downtown Houston). The concert is free and open to the public.

Read more about Keith Weber, Grace Song, and *Canticle I* in an online exclusive at OutSmartMagazine.com. —Neil Ellis Orts

Man Slain at Bar Remembered as 'Unique Hero'

HOUSTON'S GAY COMMUNITY was shaken during the holiday season by the

continued on page 71



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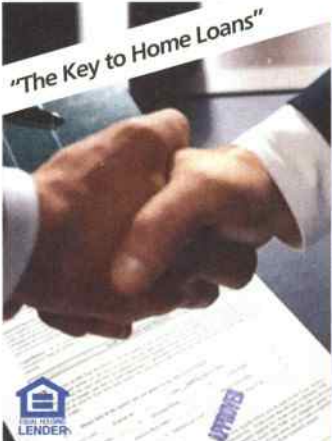
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THE FINAL FRONTIER

Hate the fat, not the fattie

Shortly after Bristol Palin's almost-championship appearance on last season's *Dancing with the Stars* made us eternally grateful that real elections aren't conducted on cell phones, a second Palin offspring also made headlines. Responding to a fellow Facebooker's negative critique of *Sarah Palin's Alaska*, her family's reality show, young Willow Palin tossed out an F-bomb.

Electronically calling a poster a "fag-got" and commenting, "That's so gay," the teen illustrated the oppressive sensibility that apparently passes as acceptable in her family's household—even though one of her mother's best friends is gay. (Remember that tidbit from the 2008 presidential campaign?)

The whole ugly incident occurred when the issue of teen bullying was a lead story in myriad media following multiple gay teen suicides.

In reality, Miss Palin dropped two F-bombs in that Facebook posting, only one of which was found to be worthy of cries of discrimination. In addition to calling the young man "a faggot," she also called him "fat."

In my universe, them's fighting words, too.

When the story broke, a huge outcry from the gay blogosphere condemned Willow for the "fag" slur, while barely a mention was made of the "fat" slam. The incident inspired me to ask several gay guy friends of varying poundage which would be the more stinging insult: to be called fat or to be called a fag? Their responses:

"Fag to fag is okay."

"Fag is uneducated, but fat is just mean."

"Fat would hurt more."

Dare I argue, it's more socially acceptable to be a fag than fat. Attach "fat" to any insult and the tension is automatically escalated. It begs the question, are overweight kids taunted less often than gay kids? Where, then, are the candle-light vigils and support groups for them? Where is the Fat Pride parade? Ever hear of PFFAT?

Hurt feelings aside, if you think fat people are denied employment and housing and dignity any less frequently than

gay people, think again: a 2008 Yale University study suggests weight discrimination is now as ubiquitous as race or gender discrimination. Further, a 2006 study at Western Michigan University found that weight discrimination affects all aspects of employment including hiring, salaries, and promotions.

I can hear it now. "You can't choose your race or gender," the familiar Exodusian cry for "normalcy" continues, "but you can always choose to drive past House of Pies."

True, it's rare that one chooses to be fat, but that's a much different non-choice than sexuality. If they choose, gay people can pretend to be straight. It's more dif-

If they choose, gay people can pretend to be straight. It's more difficult for a fat person to pretend to be thin.

ficult for a fat person to pretend to be thin.

Besides, wanton gluttony is not necessarily what causes one to be fat. Childhood trauma plays its role, as do class and poverty. And genetics. Adding incessant bullying to that mix can result in lifelong emotional issues that make the physical danger of obesity pale in comparison.

So be nice to us fat fags; it's hard enough trying to be jolly all the time.

Admittedly, I am sensitive to fat bullying. As one who has been blessed with a smaller than average appetite but cursed with a snail-like metabolism, most of my life I've carried enough excess mass to build another fully developed adult. It's like having an imaginary friend who always tags along for the ride, but never picks up a check. But the past year brought to my expansive world a new concern beyond my wildest, infrequent dreams.

A year or so ago, a prescription for Ambien finally addressed my lifelong sleep disorder, but I began waking to discarded food wrappers beside my bed. Seems I had a candy fairy with a sweet tooth. Soon, side effects from the sleep aid coupled with my lagging metabolism packed even

more pounds on my already plenty-ample frame. The gain, along with increasingly poor health, lack of energy, and wardrobe options limited to sweat pants, prompted me to make a change.

Instead of spending evenings nestled into my recliner in front of the flat screen, I began doing the back-and-forth thing on a glider that simulates the motion of cross-country skiing in the comfort of my own living room. I can enjoy all the visual stimulation of *Diners, Drive-Ins, and Dives* on the Food Network with none of the gastronomic blowback. To tone up, I installed one of those resistance bungee cord weight bench exercise machine thingies in my bedroom. (Its real name doesn't matter; it's only important that I use it for something other than a clothes rack.)

Despite what I'd seen on all those past-midnight infomercials, I believed it was absurd to think that as little

as 15 or 20 minutes of activity a few times a week would have any marked effect on my body. Seven months later and a small child's worth of weight lighter, seems I was wrong.

It's a new world. As part of my new healthier living regimen, I am learning to shop the perimeter of grocery stores, venturing down previously unfamiliar aisles: I'm a regular Babe in SoyLand. I find myself Googling questions like "How many calories are in a Claritin?" And as the pounds evaporate, learning more about my metabolism vs. caloric intake, I've calculated that I can lunch on a Schlotsky's double-cheese pizza slathered in ranch dressing if that same afternoon I walk from my office to the moon.

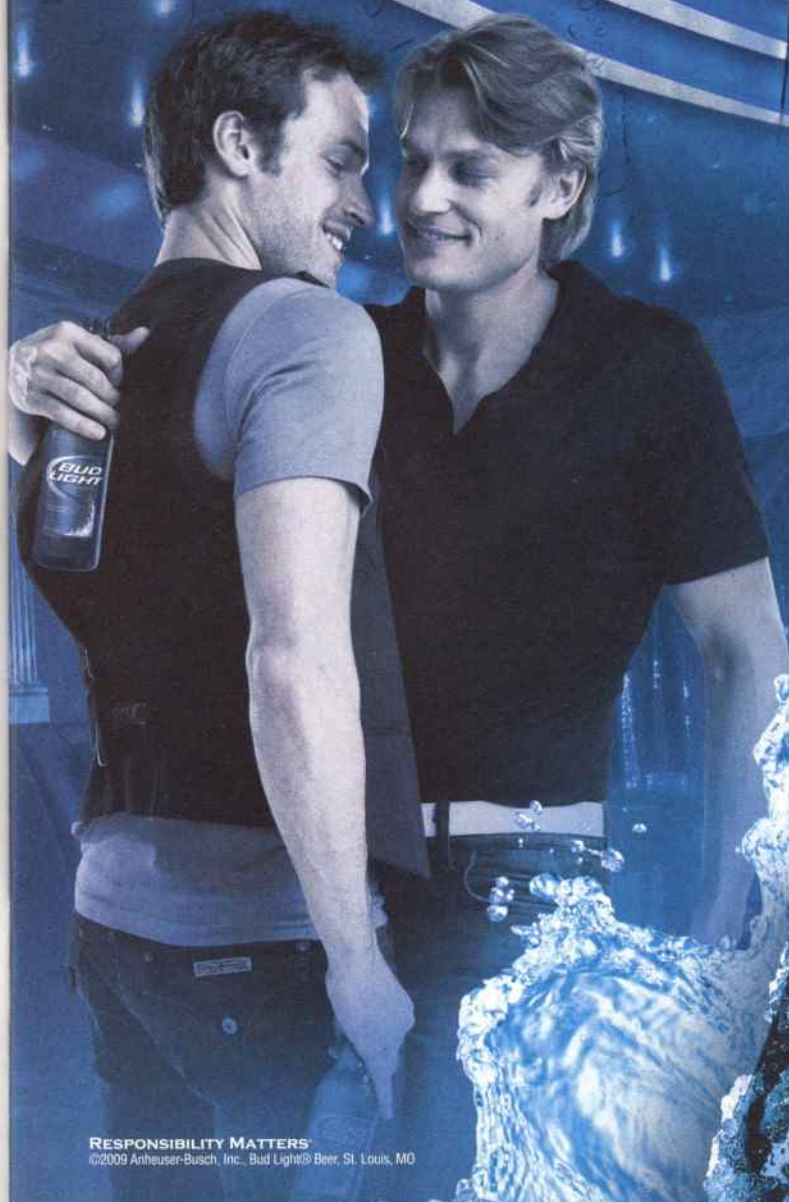
But my weight-loss impetus has not been a Facebook insult, traditional New Year's resolutions, or even the Kevin Smith-like threat of having to buy two airlines seats for my one ass. I just want to live. The added prospect of eventually no longer being recognized as a member of the most bullied class of humanity is, if you will, icing on the cake.

I'm still happily a fag, though. That will never change. Take that, Willow. ■

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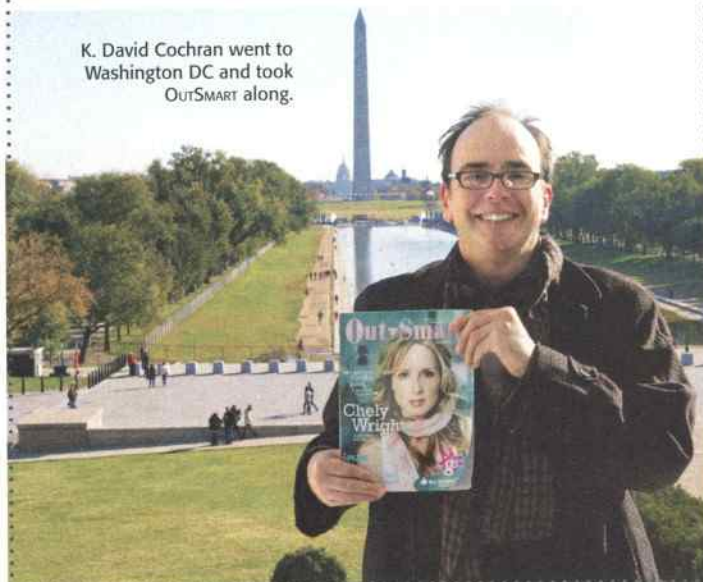
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January 16: Bunnies on the Bayou's SnowBunnies 2011 benefiting the Houston-area charities. INFO: BunniesOnTheBayou.org

January 22: Art 4 Life benefiting AIDS Foundation Houston programs. INFO: aidshelp.org/art4life

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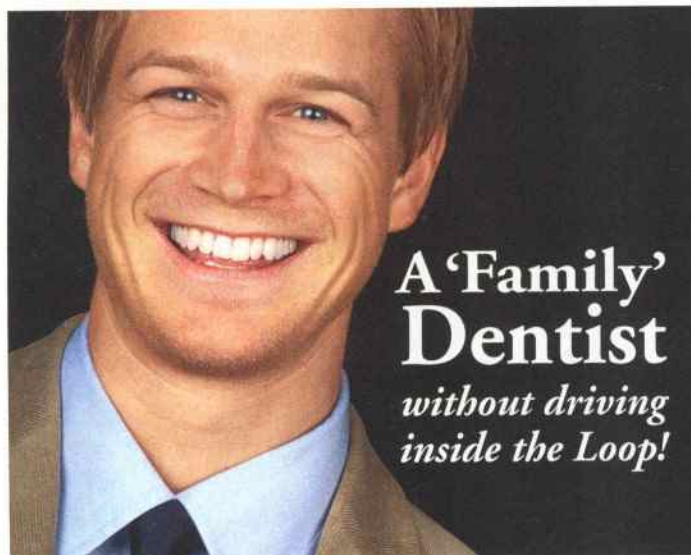
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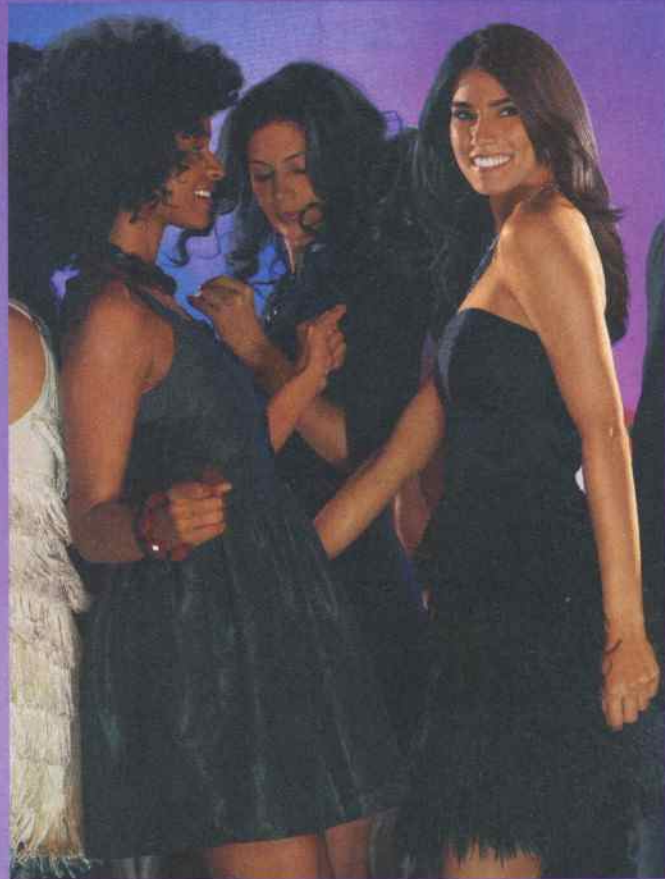
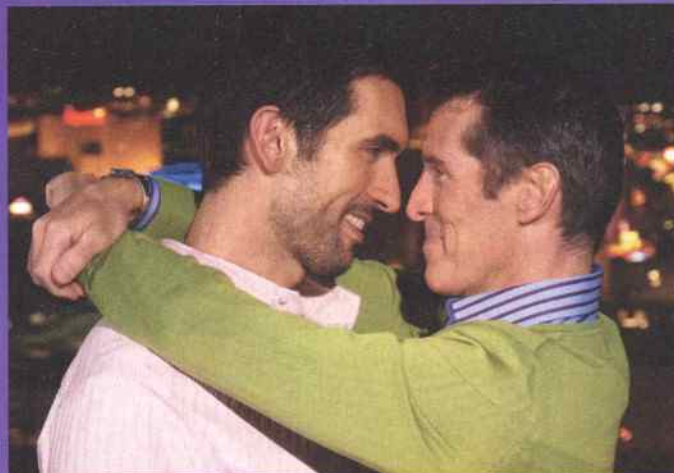
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2011

*What does 2011
have in store?*

by Lilly Roddy | Illustrations by

David Eduardo Flores Perez

Photo of Lilly Roddy

by John Conroy

ASTROCAST

In 2011, Mercury goes retrograde three times, as it does every year. These retrograde periods—March 26 to April 28, July 28 to August 31, and November 19 to December 18—are times to review the past, see old friends, go to work for previous employers, or even date someone you have dated before. These are never good times for starting new projects, having surgery, buying a car or any electrical equipment, or signing any documents. • Neptune changes signs this year as she moves into Pisces, which last occurred in 1848. This year Neptune enters Pisces on April 4 for a brief stay, and then returns to Aquarius on August 4. (Neptune will enter Pisces for a 12-year stay on February 3, 2012.) Uranus also moves into Aries this year for a seven-year visit. • When the outer planets such as Neptune and Uranus change signs, it represents a shift in human consciousness and direction. Neptune will increase our awareness of compassion, spirituality, and health issues. Uranus will renew the spirit of heroism in all of us, and there should be a renewal of the American Spirit, independence, and the welcoming of

competition. • The eclipses this year—on January 4, June 1, and June 15—are in Gemini and Sagittarius. This should add light and interest to communication processes, and there should also be interest in international boundaries, travel, and education. This light could be about exposing things that need to be examined more closely. • The signs that are having the most focus and pressure are Aries, Libra, Cancer, and Capricorn. Even if you don't have your sun in one of those signs, you are very likely to have at least one planet there. Those four signs are being pushed into change, whether they like it or not. It's best if you just get on board and don't fight it. Virgo and Taurus are doing better this year, and we should see better things for them. →

ARIES

March 21–April 19

This is going to be a very dynamic year for most of you. Many of the planets have been directly affecting you, and that will continue for the next two years. Expect to be looking at new career directions, renewing relationships or starting new ones, and re-energizing your life.

This year you are paying more attention to yourself and your personal needs, and there's an underlying sense of needing to renew or reinvent yourself. You will be open to all sorts of new ideas, including travel, school, expanding your social life, and paying a lot more attention to your physical body. You may seem very restless, scattered, or even overcommitted in the first half of the year. You'll want to break with tradition and really look at something new and fun to do. You may get reacquainted with old friends, but you are definitely looking for new friends and experiences. During this experimental time, you'll be looking for new things to add to your life.

Relationships are going through a big period of review and renewal. You should be looking at how you have built partnerships in the past. This is the part you'll be improving. People will need to fit into your new relationship pattern, or they won't be in your life. Those of you who are looking for a relationship will be in a no-nonsense mode. People have to be serious and bring their real intentions to the table, or you will not be interested in even having coffee with them. This will affect your romantic and business relationships, as well as your close friendships. For some, this will be a time when you draw a line in the sand and bring relationships to an end. March and April could be especially tense in this regard.

Career patterns are certainly in a process of change, especially for those born in the first 10 days of the sign or if you have planets in that location. Downsizing or mergers could be happening in your industry. You won't lose your job, but you will be considering whether or not you are happy there. Work changes will prompt you to look deep inside and determine if you are really happy with your job. Some of you may retire, while others will take some time for themselves before starting their own businesses. You won't be going it alone—you will draw someone to you who will want to be a part of this.

Home and family are on the back burner. You are working to get yourself, your career, and your relationships into shape. Your family could be a source of irritation rather than support this year. Your family's needs motivated you in the past, but this year you'll be looking elsewhere for motivation. Watch your spending in the last half of the year, as you will likely be more self-indulgent then.

TAURUS

April 20–May 20

Generally, your life will begin to lighten up this year. You are not out of the swamps just yet, but you will notice some improvement. The last half of the year will be very busy for you, so get ready.

This year you are paying more attention to your health, and you are noticing lots of things that you might have ignored in the past. This can be a good year to change the way you eat—and not just lose weight. You will be more sensitive to drugs and alcohol this year, as well as to your sugar intake. This is the beginning of an overall cleanup program that you are starting. You will see this happening in the workplace. You or your company may change locations, and they may even be changing some office equipment as well. In the month of June, expect a big surge in your energy, an increased sense of adventure, and a much more active social life. This will be with you from June and last for the next 12 months.

Your social and personal relationships really open up after June,



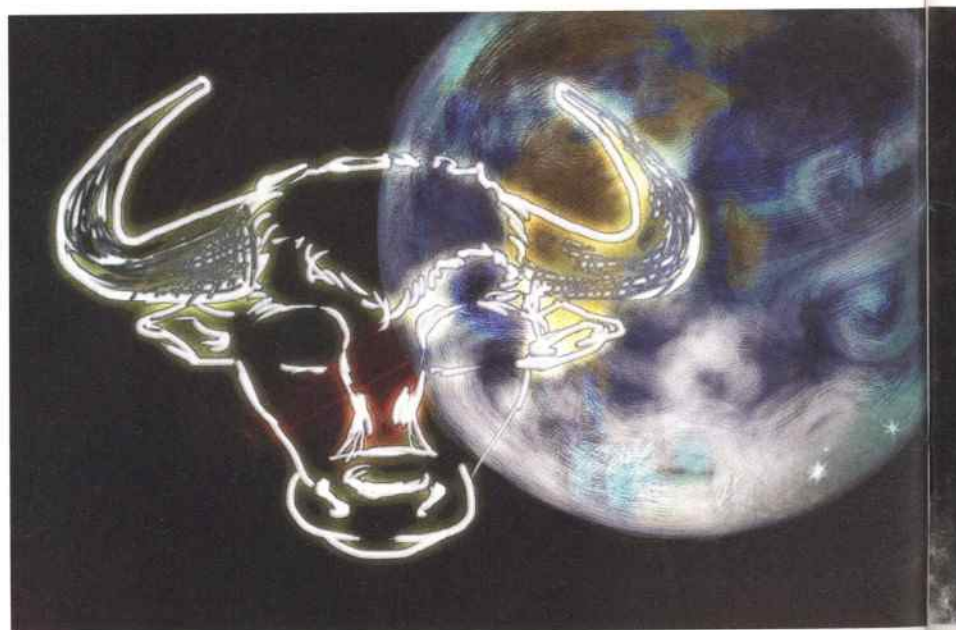
Aries: you will be open to all sorts of new ideas.

but they are improving even now. You have been in a self-contained mode for a number of years, perhaps choosing to live by yourself or making sure that you have plenty of quiet time. You have been more introspective and have taken the time to develop a better relationship with yourself. After June, you will be looking to step out and get reacquainted with the world. Your existing relationships will get a boost, and there will be a desire to have more fun. If you are single, you are much more magnetic at this time. This can be a great year to travel, to expand your business, or just to step out of the box that you have yourself in. Commitment might not be there, but the opportunities are.

You have not been in a stable career pattern for the last 12 years, but that is about to change. The best time of the year for a career adjustment is between April and early August. This will cor-

respond with some reorganizing going on with your job. It will be a time when you see things much more clearly, and you will want to address the issues that are being brought into your consciousness. You may see a lot of things you don't particularly like, but this is a time when you can address them and make some real changes. You will go back into a period of questioning again in the fall, but you'll be back on track by December.

In your home life, you may want to do some home repairs, remodeling, or redecorating—especially at the beginning of the year. Some of you may even move, but most will just try to make do. You are not so close with your family. A part of you feels isolated even when you are with them. You may be feeling some sense of abandonment or lack of appreciation. You may also be ignoring those who are supportive of you, but who are determined to harvest in less fertile fields. Remember, it's you who makes the choices about who your family is. Your friends may be better than your traditional family at providing support.



Taurus: you will be starting an overall cleanup program.



Gemini: 2011 will be a period of exploration that opens up new viewpoints.

GEMINI

May 21–June 21

2011 promises to be more of a mixed bag for you than it is for the other signs—as it should be, to let you make the best use of your natural juggling skills. During the first half of the year you are busy, upbeat, and productive. From April through August you'll become more indecisive, but then return to a more upbeat and productive time from August until February 2012.

As the year opens, you are in the midst of a rather social time. This can be a great time to get involved in group activities and make new social connections. You seem to be able to handle your obligations with a more playful attitude. You may even be trying to take a hobby and turn it into something that you can spend a lot of time on. Friends will be especially important during this time, to help provide some clarity about who you are and where

you are going. You will have less energy from April through August, when you'll be more sensitive to your surroundings and needing more quiet time for yourself. Use this time to look at changing your life so that it can better represent who you really are.

Romantic relationships are mostly positive this year, especially from January through March. Relationships have been somewhat testy over the last couple of years. You have been avoiding commitment and haven't been attracting anyone who was really available. That pattern shifts permanently after March 15, when you start to become a lot more open to commitment. In fact, you will want to be more open and connected than you have been to any previous partner. Your friends will change during 2011—some may seem too conservative for you, or just too scared to consider

change. You will be more attracted to Bohemian types.

Your career outlook is already beginning to shift, and you may feel bored, trapped, or uninspired in your current job. Rather than safely following the herd, you want to feel more connected to what you do for a living with a job that expresses your artistic or individual side. 2011 will be a period of exploration that opens up new viewpoints beyond anything you could have imagined. It's time to get in touch with the real you in the career area of life, especially from April through August.

You are beginning to feel a bit distant in your family and home life. Don't be surprised if you want to paint the inside of your home in more soothing colors. You will certainly be less tolerant of family drama as you seek time alone for spiritual retreat. Explore that option. Your older relatives could be crossing over this year. Old thought patterns from childhood are passing out of your life as you move away from outdated views and expectations about yourself. You may feel like you don't have a family any more.

CANCER

June 22–July 22

Like the other cardinal signs of Aries, Libra, and Capricorn, 2011 will continue to be a time of enormous change. Most of the Moon Kids I know are struggling to get back on track, trying to regain a sense of inner emotional stability. It will help to find a worthy project or cause to get involved in.

You are really working on several personal goals at the same time. One thing is boundaries—reviewing all of your commitments in every area of your life. If you aren't getting something back, you'll be withdrawing your support. You are interested in doing things that inspire you, or that help you to step out of the old version of you. You aren't holding on to tradition. In fact, you are looking at reinventing every aspect of your life, trying to find that passion and spark that makes you go. At the root of all this is your desire to assess your personal boundaries, relationships, and commitments. What will you be when this is done?

You are experiencing the most change in the area of relationships. This is especially true for Cancerians born in the first 10 to 12 days of the sign, or those with planets in those positions. Relationships in general are going through a big death and rebirth phase. That doesn't necessarily mean that you and your current partner will split. Rather, it could be that the ideals and principles that you have built your relationships on in the past need a massive overhaul. This turmoil can indicate stress in your relationships. You won't know exactly what you want, or what to say when your partner asks what he or she needs to do. For some, the repairs needed may be too extensive and the relationship may come to an end. Others will work through this time and have a much better version of their relationship when they are done.

There is a lot of activity in the career sector of your chart. You are looking for greater levels of inspiration and interest, so you might feel bored or trapped in your job. This is a great time to set out on your own, or take what you already do and reinvent it. Watch your commitments—you could be overly busy in the first half of the year. You are being offered a lot of opportunities, so you need to pick and choose. This is not the time to be safe. Make an investment in you.

Home and family, the joy and bane of every Cancerian's existence, is really undergoing some serious scrutiny. For some of you, it may be time to draw the boundaries on who is a member of your family and who isn't. Others may be taking on the maternal or paternal role in the family. Some will choose to separate from the craziness and create their own area of peace and harmony. You may be considering moving this year, or doing some work on your house. There is a sense that you need to do something to get your "foundation" in shape, both emotionally and physically. →



Cancer: you are looking at reinventing every aspect of your life.

LEO

July 23–August 22

This year begins a time of coming out and reentering the world, once again becoming socially active. This is strongest for you from April through August. You will have more energy, but you are still feeling sensitive and not ready to fully emerge until November.

As the year opens, you are already feeling more optimistic about life in general. You are more open to new ideas and expanding your general sense of the world and the people in it. You might make some new international friends. Health-wise, you are really looking at making some permanent changes in your diet and health regimens. You seem to be able to communicate and get your point across more easily. You are also becoming clearer about your own boundaries, and are no longer available to everyone at their beck and call.

Romantic relationships are tricky this year. You have not been very available, and your indecision has only drawn people to you who are also indecisive about their own relationship needs. Continuing to set boundaries as you have been doing will help to eliminate these people from your life. Clearly, you want to be closer and more available to those you are in relationships with, even though your abandonment and loyalty issues may get in the way. This can create problems with existing relationships because you may notice the emotional distance more than ever. This year will be your first chance to really fix the distance issues, if you can.

Your social and professional life picks up after midyear, and that will help you both in romantic relationships and opportunities for promotions. You may come to some sort of decision about all of this at the end of March. There may be some major overhauls going on at work, including a change in your office location. There could also be some minor power struggles as new people enter the work environment. Seeing them as allies rather than enemies will help you deal with them. Don't be afraid to take a lead role at work, especially after June.

You are in the early stages of rebuilding your family foundation. You have had a lot of changes in your family situation over the last five years, and you are about to bring some stability to that part of your life. You are past the mourning period you had to go through as you continue to rebuild your "family." Some of you may move, and others may seek more social activity at home. There may be a healing in your family, with everyone seeming to get along better. You really are more open this year, and that will help you to let go of the past and look toward the future with enthusiasm.

VIRGO

August 23–September 22

There are several different themes going on this year for you. In the financial area, you want to create more stable investments and also explore how you and your partner can have a more financially interactive relationship. In the area of spirituality, you are beginning an exploration about becoming more of a whole person.

You are taking a closer look at how you use your resources. As you find which things bring you the greatest return, you begin to pull away from the things that aren't worth it. You are evaluating your earning ability and just how you spend your money. This may lead you to change your spending habits, especially in March and August. You have some strong creative forces working to carry out your ideas, but you will choose to be safe this year and do your best to minimize risk. As you get better at setting



Leo: you will be open to all sorts of new ideas.

boundaries, you won't appear to be so blunt. You can do some investing, but you have to keep it conservative. You will be taking care of old financial issues this year. You might as well get to it and use this time to increase your resource base.

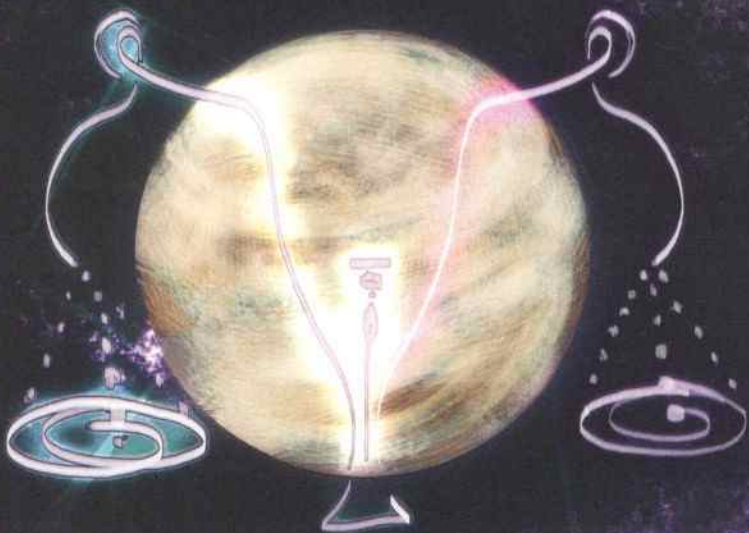
You definitely want more from your current relationship—more openness, more honesty, and more closeness. This will certainly let you know just how close you can get to your partner. As you continue to open up and expect more, this could be problematic if your partner isn't interested. This can be especially strong for those of you born in the very earliest degrees of the sign. If you are single, you'll be demanding more from the people you date. You are becoming clearer about this, and you are placing more value on yourself than ever before.

This is the beginning of an expansive time in your career that will last about two and a half years. You should be open to new opportunities, and even to changing job locations. You probably won't change careers unless you go back to school, which is certainly a possibility after June. During the last half of 2011, you will want more from life in almost every area. You are more open to new ideas about career and career choices. You are looking at things you would not have considered in the past.

Family issues are more complex this year. A part of you has been breaking away from your family and adjusting to a new role with them. They are expecting you to take on a different role, and you have been bucking this trend for some time. Some of you will not go back to your family. Your time with them is done, even if you try to reunite during the next couple of years. This separation won't necessarily be bad, and you may not even notice any turmoil.



Virgo: you are beginning an exploration about becoming more of a whole person.



Libra: make sure you look at what you've done that has made you satisfied.

LIBRA

September 23–October 23

Like the rest of the cardinal signs—Aries, Capricorn, and Cancer—you will be having an extremely dynamic 2011. This is generally a big reevaluation cycle going on, making many of you more serious and boundary-conscious. Big changes are on the way in the most significant aspects of your life.

Personally, you are taking a hard look at yourself and your past accomplishments, reassessing how you use your time and energy in every area of your life. Remember that you are going to be a very harsh judge of what you have accomplished in your life. You'll tend to dwell on what you haven't done, rather than seeing the whole picture and all of your accomplishments. Make sure you look at what you've done that has made you satisfied. Otherwise, you could be too harsh in your assessment.

Relationships fit into this picture as well. This is classically a time when you should either review your relationships and recommit to them with a new set of goals in mind, or bring some relationships to an end. This won't be an emotional drama if you can just be clear and do the right thing. If you are single, you will want someone different than you've had in the past. This is a great year to meet new people to date or even to form business partnerships. If you are in a relationship, this year is all about setting new goals or moving on. Keep a close eye on things in March and April.

In this time of reassessment, you are certainly looking at your career path and how far along you are. You will want a promotion or a change in position to one of greater responsibility. If you are not able to get that where you are currently employed, you will be looking

elsewhere. This may be a time when some of you want to start your own businesses. You are ready to do something on your own. Don't let that trapped feeling make you act out. You don't want to shoot yourself in the foot. Some of you may be relocating, and that could have something to do with where you work. Overall, you need a new project or you will be horribly bored.

The biggest changes this year are in the home and family areas of your life. This is a transitional time, so some of the older members of your family may be moving toward exiting the planet. This is where your role in the family shifts, and you have the option of taking on more of a maternal or paternal position. Remember that becoming a leader is a choice and not an obligation. You want to keep your sense of freedom and personal choice. Don't do things just because you are the best one for the job, or because no one else wants to do it. Some of you may be moving, and others will do a massive home makeover.

SCORPIO

October 24–November 21

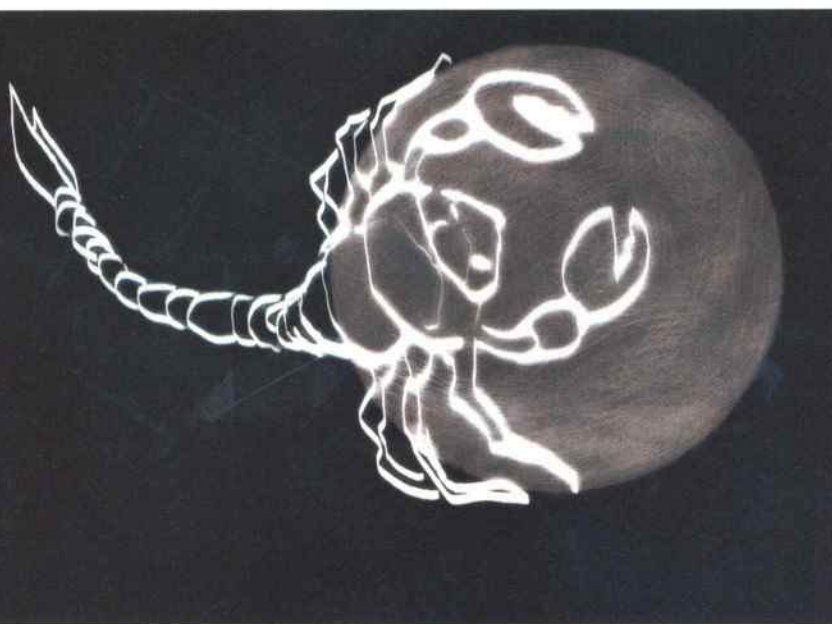
Santa filled your stocking with many different things for 2011. There is a lot of activity at work as things get in better shape there. And relationship energies really open up for you after June, enhancing both your personal and business life. You are laying low at work this year, and you may need more time off or just more time to yourself.

As the year opens, you are probably going to focus on your health and personal habits. This will be a big area of change this year, and you will be so willing to go for it. You'll want to get some time to yourself for thinking and meditation. You will need this break, as there are several decisions to be made about your company's direction. Some of your duties may shift as well. Co-workers are restless and may create more drama than you really want to deal with. Be sure to start a better exercise and nutrition program this year. This can also be a great year to break bad habits.

After June, relationships are in a very positive place for you. This will help existing relationships, or open the door for new partners if you are single. This same energy will help to brighten your mood and keep you more optimistic. You will be attracted to people of different ethnic origins, and even to companies that have international operations. This may also be a time when you take on more responsibility than you can really manage. You should be careful about this during the end of March and in August. You may be a bit scattered during those times.

Career and work aspects are driven by wanting to do more interesting things, rather than the desire to just stay busy. You are certainly ready for some new opportunities. You are a bit on the bored side, and you probably just need a new project. You could find this outside of work with a hobby or a class, even though you normally prefer to keep the number of things you juggle to a minimum. There should be some very positive things happening at work—perhaps a shakeup with management that really helps you. Avoid unnecessary drama with co-workers. If you find yourself going there, just walk away. You will already be doing better.

Finally, you are beginning to feel more settled in your home. All the problems with water leaks are finally coming to end. Your period of doubt does reenter the picture in the fall. This has been a confusing time emotionally. You haven't always known your own mind as ideas and thoughts have come to you from deep within. You have been discovering aspects about your family's history that you didn't know, and you realize you've had some assumptions that were based on a false premise. As you learn about all of this, you begin to doubt yourself in other areas as well. This will be your last look at this part of your life for a while—I hope you enjoyed the tour. →



Scorpio: you'll want to get some time to yourself for thinking and meditation.

SAGITTARIUS

November 22–December 21

Overall, this is a good year for the Sags, who are having mostly positive and supportive connections with the planets. You may not be very motivated to address any one particular agenda, but those who do will certainly have positive outcomes in their lives.

This is a great year for you to interact with friends or social organizations. There is a lot of dynamic energy there. You are looking to take a more active role in your community, and you won't want to be just an onlooker. And you are really enjoying yourself without having to try. The beginning of the year is a very playful time for you, and you won't be taking yourself too seriously. This would be a good time to interact with young people, or to just be more playful in general. You may be a bit self-indulgent in the first half of the year, but you will get a handle on that by June.

You are in a flirtatious mood as well. Anyone you meet, especially at those community groups, is very likely to catch your eye. If you are ready for that type of experience, it is open to you in the first half of the year. Relationship issues will surface for you during the times of the Mercury retrograde (see Astrocast introduction on page 22). The retrograde at the end of the year is the most difficult. It's not strong enough to break up a long-term relationship, but less serious ones may fall by the wayside. You shift your relationship focus to co-workers after June—be careful with that.

What direction is your career going? Part of you is thinking about how great it would be to have time alone and be at peace. Another part is being stirred by a desire to be more creative and fulfilled at work. Part of why you are seeking more social connections is that your work has not been as fulfilling as it was in the past, and you are looking for something to put in its place. This could be retirement time for some of you. Overall, your creative energies are going to be in control. If you are not ready to make a career shift, find an environment that gives you a creative outlet so you don't have to mess with your present career.

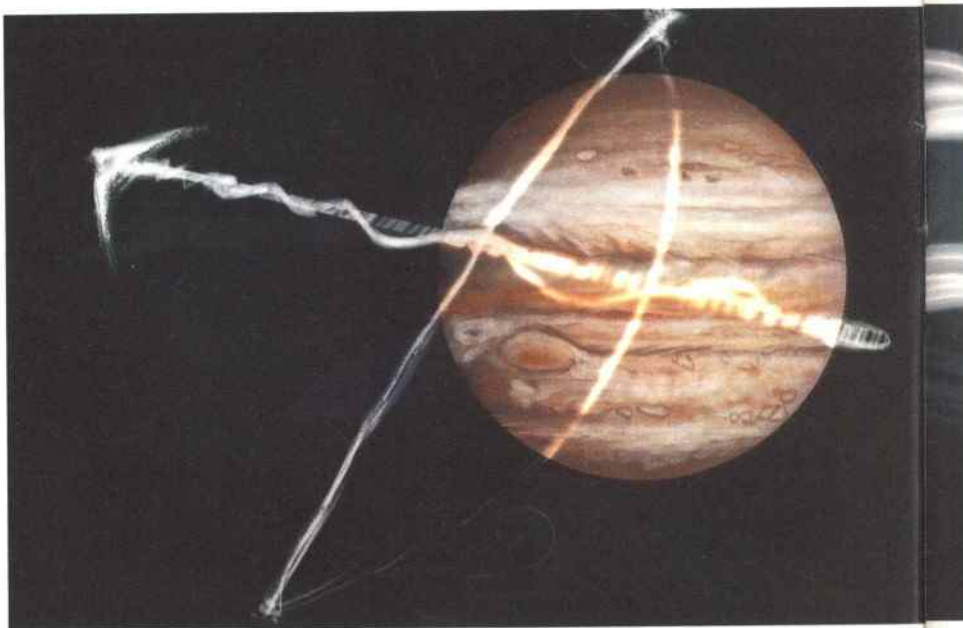
There are big shifts at home and with family. You may be learning some things about your family that you didn't know. Many of you will be looking for a vacation home this year—which means you want to run away from all of the family drama. You may feel that you just don't fit in with people as you once did, even with those you consider to be your family. If you have elderly relatives or parents, this could be a period when they seem increasingly frail. You should consider that some of those relatives are not going to be here much longer, so you may want to get more visiting in as soon as you can.

CAPRICORN

December 22–January 19

Capricorn is one of the busiest signs this year, so there is plenty on your plate. And wouldn't you know, a lot of activity involves your career. Who would have thought?

Pluto, the "dwarf planet" that rules the underworld, purging, and ultimate transformation, has entered your sign for an extended stay until 2024. No, she won't always be making contact—she moves slowly through the whole sign, taking a small bite each year. Pluto currently has the most impact on those of you born in the first nine days of the sign, or if you have planets at those degrees. This is a major cleanup time in your life—from the house you live in, the companies that you work for, to the body you inhabit. The more you can get to, the more pristine your life becomes. You will be more conscious of the seeds you sow with your choices and actions. This is a tough time for relationships, as you might imagine.



Sagittarius: your creative energies are going to be in control.

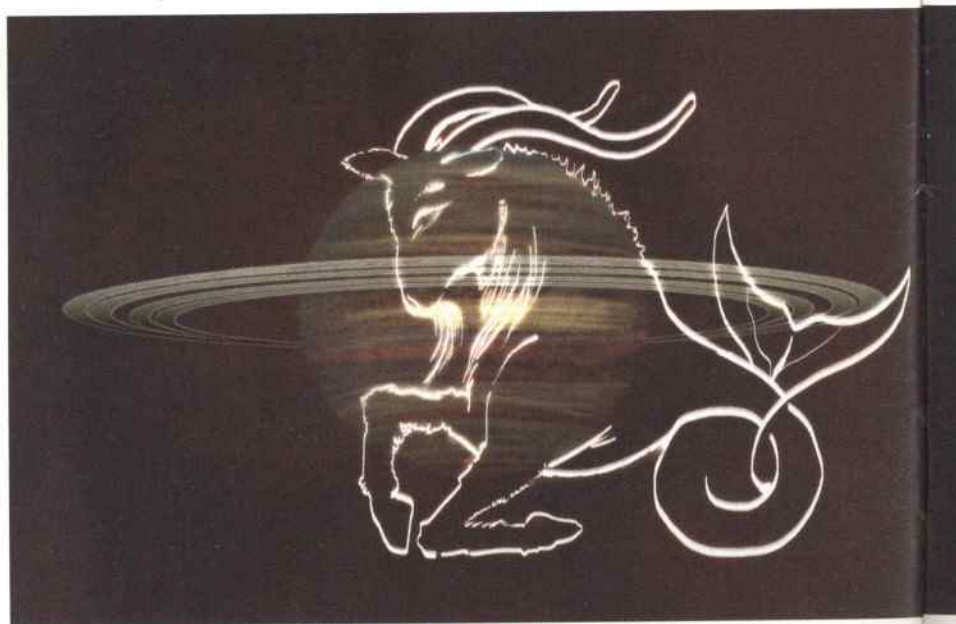
If you can work without a safety net, and be true to yourself and not worry about what others expect from you, you will do well.

Relationships are going to be part of this purging that you are going through. This may seem to come at you all of a sudden. This is a time when you need to overhaul your relationships from top to bottom. Some relationships will survive this overhaul, but it will require morphing into something that was never in the original contract. You are changing a lot, and quickly. Your partner may not want to continue after seeing how much you have changed. Both of you need to work on this in order to make the relationship last.

Those of you born in the first nine days of the sign are taking this same transforming energy and applying it to your career. Look for potentially massive shifts there. You may retire or find some other place to work. The rest of

you are dealing with a strong desire to be clearer about your career's direction. You are trying to focus on what you are going to commit to this year. You are also very clear about what you don't want to do. You are even less tolerant than usual with whiners. Your only advice for them: "Just grow up." Some of you will be starting your own business this year. It would be best to wait until after June, even though your motivation is strongest in the first half of the year.

This time of renewal also extends to your home and family. You are ready to move, rebuild, or downsize—and maybe all three! You don't want to be strapped down, so family or home responsibilities will just gnaw at you. You won't have much patience, and this is obviously not the best of times. You just won't have any tolerance for things that don't directly involve you. Your family is looking for you to take a leadership role, but you don't have to do that just because you are the most qualified. Others may not do as good a job as you could do, but you still don't have to take that on.



Capricorn: this is a major cleanup time in your life.



Aquarius: you will want to do things in your life that really satisfy you.

AQUARIUS

January 20–February 18

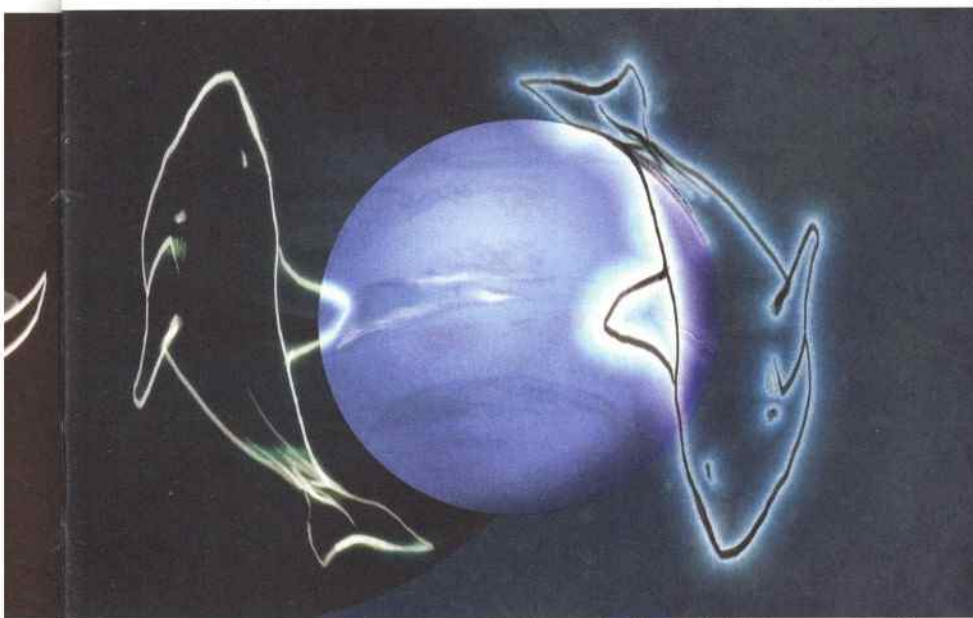
You are finally getting relief from some of the difficult times you've been in. That relief will be strongest from April through August, and then return again in February 2012.

Your difficulties are part of the reason that you have not been as clear about things, including what you want in life and the direction you want to take. Overall, this has prevented you from committing to things that you don't absolutely want to do. You have been spending more time with yourself and less time being social. This hermit period will slowly be coming to an end. Particularly as the new year starts, you have more energy than you have had in a while. You will want to do things in your life that really satisfy you deeply. If you tap in to your talent reserves, you could do some things that you have previously only dreamed about.

Relationships get back on track for you. If you are

single, you finally have the energy to get out there and be social. You are more witty and clever in your conversations, and people will be wondering where that new kid on the block came from. It's too early to get into a permanent relationship—that doesn't come until 2012. Those of you already in a relationship will need to set some new guidelines to help renew your commitment. Since you are optimistic about the outcome, you are more flexible here. Change your habits and patterns, and do something unexpected.

Your ideas about career have been building, but are still in the planning stages. You feel a bit disconnected about what you are doing now. You've been installing a major "upgrade," and you haven't learned how to use it just yet. That becomes more solid after June, but you will still be tinkering with the final product until 2012. You may want to keep your current job



Pisces: the first thing on your 2011 to-do list should be to rescue yourself.

while you are designing something new for yourself. Others will need to reinvent their current positions to make them more desirable. Your opinions will be listened to more and more, and this can be a great time for writing, publishing, or lecturing. Just remember you have plenty of time to get this right.

Home is busting out all over. You are undertaking a major redo at your house, inside and out. Keep your plans reasonable, or later on you may feel trapped. You are going to have a more social environment at home. You've been sort of hidden away at home for a while, so it will be nice to have friends in. You could also do some healing with old family issues this year, especially after June. You are more open to your family than you have been in the past. You may not be able to create the family warmth you've sought since childhood, but at least the bitterness will pass. Live in the present and not in the past.

PISCES

February 19–March 20

With your ruler, Neptune, entering your sign for the first time in 163 years, this is a big time for you. She'll just make a brief entry between April and August, but many of you will feel her wave-like energies throughout the year. Neptune will have the strongest impact on those of you born in the first couple of days in Pisces, or those of you with planets at these degrees.

Just so you will know, the last time Neptune was in Pisces was 1848. You may want to look at a historical timeline to see this big picture. Neptune's impact on you will greatly increase your psychic sensitivities. You may have to really learn how to use this talent that you have. This will spark an internal desire to really express who you are at the deepest levels. Neptune will slowly move across the whole sign over the next 12 years, so if you don't experience Neptune's tides in 2011, eventually you will.

The first thing on your 2011 to-do list should be to rescue yourself. As long as you come first this year, on every occasion, everything will be fine. Otherwise, you will not be able to hide your true feelings as well as you have in the past.

As you begin to ponder your ideal relationship, you need to make sure that your boundaries are clearly made known to the other person. This means you'll need to speak up, and not expect them to be as good at mind-reading as you are. Yes, you are able to know what people need before the thought becomes conscious to them. How can we live without you? Of course, this is the very thing that makes you feel trapped later on. You will want to find a partner who is as caring and supportive as you've always been to others. People in your life must adapt, or you won't want them around you for long.

In your career, you will want your work to become more satisfying, and you want a more protected environment to work in. You have to keep that area as healthy as possible. You may need more space to work alone in, or more time away from busy workplaces. Money takes on a new meaning in your life, and you want to indulge yourself more in physical pleasures. This will help you to put your creative ideas into action. You will find co-workers admiring your work and your knowledge. You are being listened to and actually heard, especially after June. Make yourself heard!

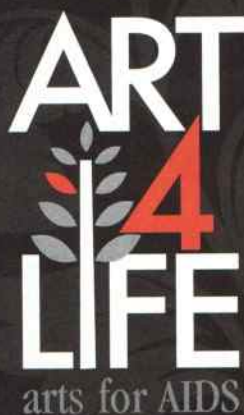
Your family situation is shifting and changing. The old has passed away, and that will be especially clear in 2011. You are questioning the core values and unconscious fears that usually drive you. Just the act of questioning sets you free and opens you up to a more expansive use of your creative energies. Some of this questioning comes from your desire to be more creative in your career. It frees you of old beliefs you may have had. You may not feel particularly comfortable with where you're living this year. During the last half of the year you'll be feeling more like your old self—but that's only because you'll be resting at a way station before you continue to release your past.

"Journey through the Signs, 2011" with Lilly Roddy, on January 5, 7:30–9 p.m. Cost: \$20. Reservations/more info: lillycath@aol.com.

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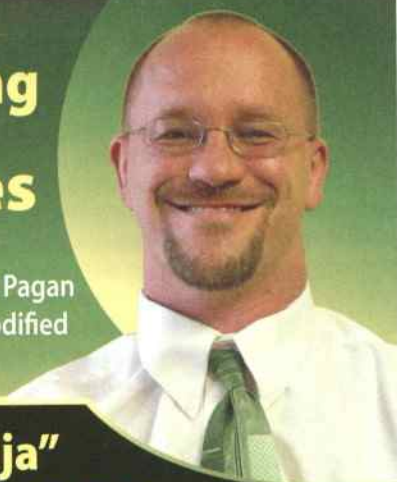
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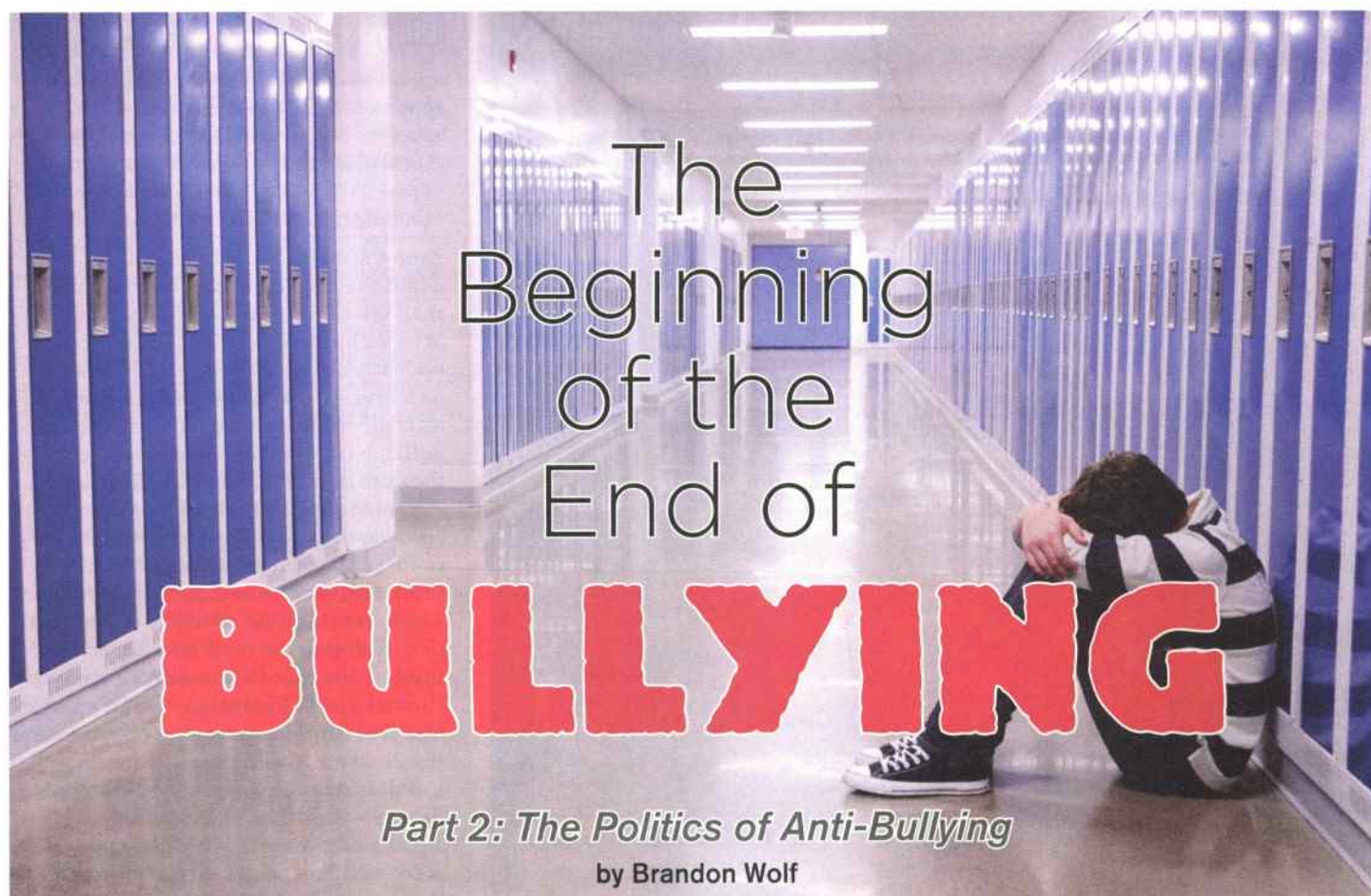
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Part 2: The Politics of Anti-Bullying

by Brandon Wolf

Last month, *OutSmart* featured “The Beginning of the End of Bullying—Part 1: The First Responders.” We focused on the Houston Independent School District (HISD), the seventh-largest school district in the country. HISD has proactively set out to train all its staff on what bullying is, what to do when it happens, and how HISD prioritizes these efforts. We also looked at HISD’s Jackson Middle School and their model anti-bullying program. This school has set a distinctive example that other schools could—and should—emulate. In this second of a two-part series, *OutSmart* explores the politics of anti-bullying.

Federal and State Anti-Bullying Legislation

The national mid-term elections on November 2, 2010, changed the political landscape. The U.S. House of Representatives is now controlled by the Republican Party, and the Texas Legislature now has the largest Republican majority in 140 years.

Anticipated federal anti-bullying legislation will most likely be proposed by Democrats, who are expected to insist on LGBT-inclusion. At both the federal and the state level, the passage of such legislation now remains seriously in question, as Republicans have not been generally supportive of LGBT-inclusive legislation. Nevertheless, Texas state representatives Garnet Coleman, Jessica Farrar, and Carol Alvarado plan to introduce legislation.

Houston Stonewall Young Democrats (HSYD) is planning a winter “Brunch Against Bullying” on January 16. A portion of the proceeds will go to The Trevor

Project (a national 24-hour, toll-free confidential suicide hotline for gay and questioning youth). Remaining proceeds will be used to charter buses to Austin for the annual Lobby Day in March. Working in conjunction with Equality Texas, HSYD wants to raise awareness of bullying in order to get traction on that issue in the current legislative session. Texas State Representative Ellen Cohen and Texas State Board of Education Trustee Anna Eastman will be in attendance at the brunch.

On the national front, Peter Messiah, director of HISD’s Safe and Drug Free-Schools initiative, indicates that his office has been asked to take leadership of a

bully focus group that will work closely with U.S. Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee’s office in crafting language acceptable for federal anti-bullying legislation.

Cindy McCain, wife of Republican Senator John McCain, may have provided a portent of the future of upcoming federal anti-bullying legislation. In mid-November, she appeared in a NOH8 campaign anti-bullying video, saying, “Religious

and political leaders tell our LGBT youth that they have no future.” Referring to the military’s current Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell policy, she added, “They can’t serve our country openly.” Within 24 hours, McCain did a head-spinning reversal, sending →



She loves us, she loves us not: Cindy McCain supports the NOH8 campaign, but...

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Bullying continued from previous page

out a Tweet explaining that although she supports the NOH8 campaign, she also supports her husband's efforts to kill the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell.

Mandatory Anti-Bullying Training

Even the most idealistic person will likely admit that mandates produce more action than attempts to elicit empathy. There is no such mandate currently in Texas; each school district presently follows its own leaders, traditions, and priorities. A legislative mandate would introduce anti-bullying training into all schools—not just the ones that have enlightened leadership.

Anti-bullying curricula were developed years ago, so there is no need to re-invent the wheel. Not surprisingly, these programs have come from groups who understand the effects of discrimination. Best-practice programs are available through the Anti-Defamation League; the Human Rights Campaign; the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network; and the Southern Poverty Law Center. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services also offers programs.

None of these organizations approach schools with a "one size fits all" program. Each school is evaluated individually, and the most realistic program is then built from a range of resources. For the more progressive schools, GroundSpark produces educator-acclaimed films such as *Straightlaced*, *It's Elementary*, *Let's Get Real*, and *That's a Family*.

Bullying Outside of Schools

Murray Newman, a criminal defense attorney and a former Harris County prosecutor, recently wrote on his Internet blog: "It seems that since the dawn of time there have always been bullies in one form or another. . . . There never seems to be a shortage of people who hold more power, strength, or popularity than someone less fortunate, who elect to use said power, strength, or popularity to abuse. Nobody should ever die over bullying. To paraphrase *The Once and Future King*, it should never be might that makes right, but right which makes might."

Ridding society of bullying will require the building of a new culture. There are long-held beliefs that children build character by dealing with bullies, and that boys need to endure bullying in order to "learn how to be a man." The taboo against reporting bullying is ancient. The old English nursery rhyme says, "Tattle-tale snit, your tongue shall be split, and

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every little dog in town will have a little bit." More modern taunts for tattletales such as *rat fink*, *stool pigeon*, and *snitch* derive from underworld lingo for criminals who cooperate with police.

The recent U of H Bullying Summit last November emphasized that bullying takes place in the classroom, on the playground, in the home, and in the workplace. As adults, it's easy to dismiss the problem as a simple school discipline issue. But children follow the adult examples they witness. Adults need to seriously look at their own actions and attitudes, and ask if they are promoting bullying by poor example.

Preventing Teenage Suicides

An important thing to remember about the recent wave of suicides is that these bullying victims were teenagers. The teenage years are a challenging period in anyone's life. Children begin to pull away from their parents and establish their own personalities, values, and attitudes. During this period, the most important influence on youth is their peer group, and the worst thing that can befall them is to be different—to be labeled un-cool and treated as an outsider.

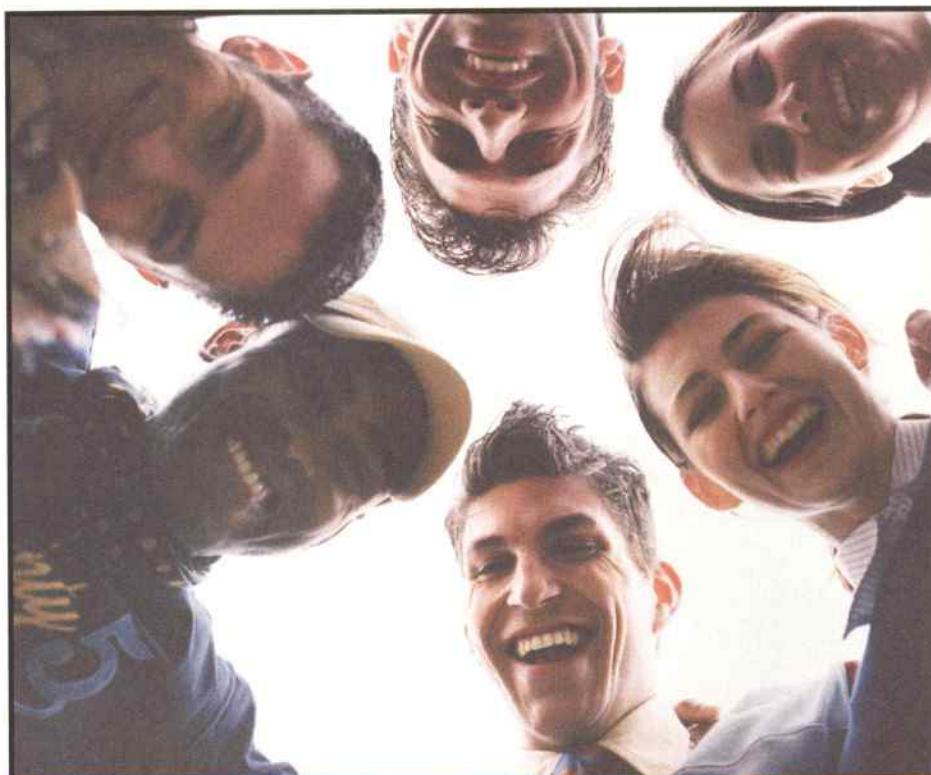
Teens pay close attention to their peers, and to the people their peers consider heroes. Thus, in order to deal with youth on their own terms, it's important to identify their heroes and work to recruit these heroes to the anti-bullying cause. Students would listen with rapt attention if players from Houston's football, basketball, and soccer teams visited local schools and urged their young fans to realize that bullying is un-cool, and that it's cool to try to intervene or to report bullying.

The success of appealing to teenagers through their heroes is most vividly evidenced by the success of rap star Eminem's anti-bullying video, "No Love." By mid-December 2010, the video had logged 25 million YouTube viewers. In comparison, the upbeat and bouncy "It Gets Better" video by young Broadway stars has logged only 250,000 viewers.

The "It Gets Better" campaign has generated a lot of supportive YouTube videos recorded by people from all walks of life, including many of the heroes of today's teenagers. These videos could be a hopeful sign that we are beginning to build a new culture of respect among our youth.

Influencing School Policies

Members of the LGBT community need to be aware that school district policies start at the top, with the election of school board members, and trickle down to each school →



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Bullying *continued from previous page*

in a district. Not everyone has the time or interest to work closely with anti-bullying programs, but everyone can vote. For the LGBT community, it is especially important to get to know your school district officials, whether or not you have school-age children.

Make it a point to know which district you live in and who your school board members are. Keep up with school district news and talk to parents of school-age children. Look for endorsements of school board members by local LGBT political organizations. Encourage good candidates to screen with these organizations.

On November 30, 2010, Juliet Stipeche, the candidate endorsed by the Houston GLBT Political Caucus, won a run-off race for HISD Trustee from District 8 by a mere 44 votes. She was sworn in on December 9.

Stipeche already has ideas about ending bullying: "A successful intervention program requires a district-wide commitment to implement a solid policy that changes and addresses bullying. First and foremost, everyone in HISD should be knowledgeable and committed to the enforcement of HISD's anti-bullying policy. Second, HISD must create a means of reporting, documenting, and tracking bullying within each school. An anonymous reporting option should be made available for students, teachers, parents, and HISD support personnel as a means of reporting and identifying 'hot spots' that require additional intervention, training, and support. HISD should partner with local community organizations such as HATCH, GLSEN, and HRC to assist in developing and implementing proper training programs."

The Atmosphere at Hamilton Middle

OutSmart talked with the parent of a Hamilton Middle School student to get an inside view of the school where gay teen suicide Asher Brown attended. This parent told us that the school sent home two letters, a week apart. The first letter reported that a student had died, and the second reported that the student had committed suicide. Neither letter mentioned Asher Brown by name.

"In the school cafeteria is a large banner that says 'No Place for Hate in Texas,' and then individual banners that name the years that the school participated in the program. The last banner was dated 2004-2005," this parent told us.

It's also been reported that the school yearbook staff proposed a memorial page for Asher, similar to one created for a student who died last year of a terminal ill-



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ness. The page was rejected by the school's principal. There is even talk that Asher's school picture, taken before his death, may not be included in the school yearbook.

Hamilton Middle School's response to the incident was to post one anti-bullying poster, our source stated. The poster reads "Bullying Hurts . . . So Don't." It shows one picture of a young student being threatened by another student with a clenched fist, then a second picture showing them shaking hands. The magical formula for the bully's transformation is unspecified.

"Asher tried so hard to fit in," says our source. "He even turned down being placed in advanced classes, because he felt he would be bullied for being smart."

The Darkness before the Dawn

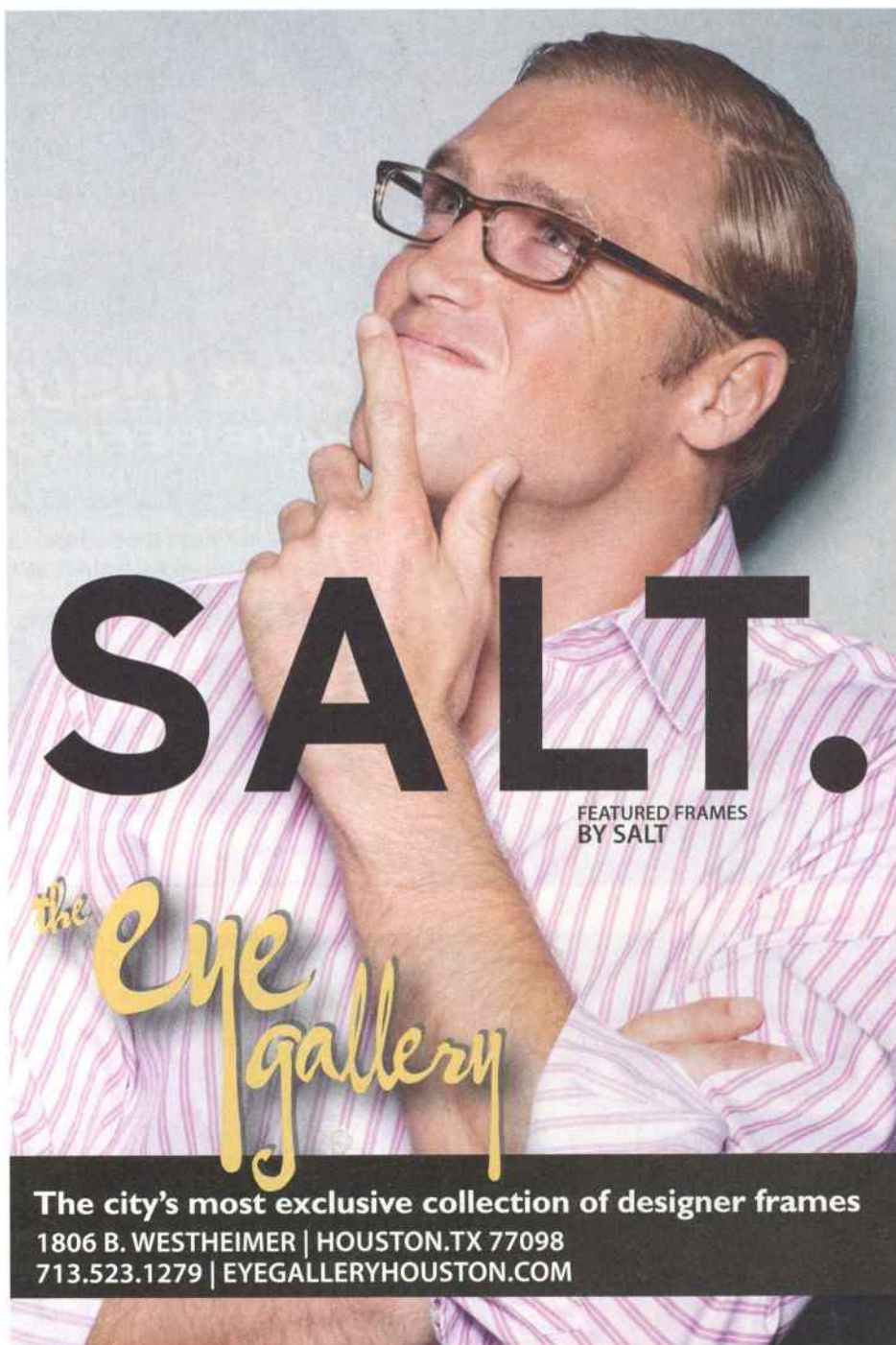
The recent media attention to bullying has raised the awareness of many Americans. But it has also revealed a heart of darkness that still exists. Following Asher Brown's death, a memorial page was set up on Facebook. Some of the postings were so vile and insensitive that Asher's parents finally shut down the page.

Clint McCance, a school board member in the Midland School District in northern Arkansas, responded to the October 20, 2010, Spirit Day with postings to Facebook: "Seriously they want me to wear purple because five queers killed themselves. The only way im wearin it for them is if they all commit suicide. I cant believe the people of this world have gotten this stupid. We are honoring the fact that they sinned and killed thereselves because of their sin. REALLY PEOPLE."

McCance also wrote that he would kick any of his children out of his home if he found out they were gay. Interviewed by Anderson Cooper on CNN, McCance later apologized, but avoided answering a question about whether he would kick a gay child of his out of his home. He also resigned from the school board.

In Fort Worth, KLIF 570 AM radio host Chris Krok launched a broadside attack on City Councilmember Joel Burns, who had delivered an emotional appeal to stop bullying of LGBT youth at the beginning of a Council session. He attacked Burns for being "self-centered" and "wasting the Council's time." Then he mocked Burns' comments with a pronounced lisp. He later issued an on-air apology after a protest by the Gay and Lesbian Alliance against Defamation.

In mid-November 2010, Bristol and Willow Palin engaged in a Facebook conflict with people who panned their mother's new television show. Sixteen-year-old Willow employed a string of homophobic →



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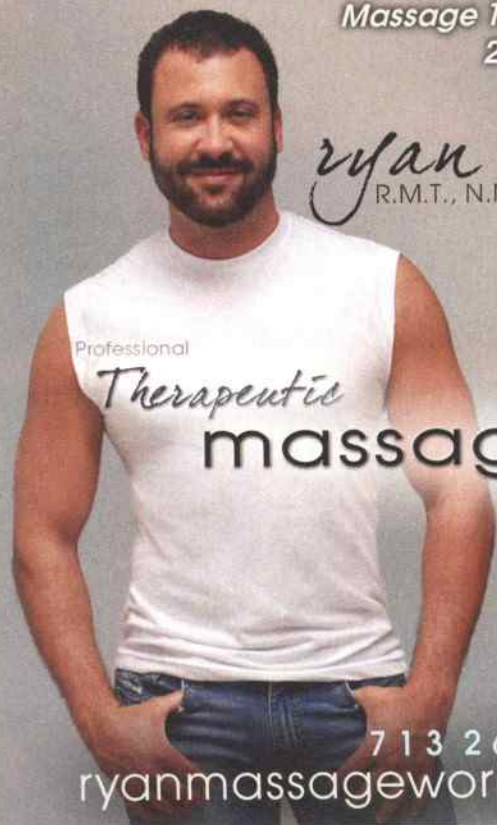


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Bullying continued from page 35

slurs in response to the negative remarks. At the time of the writing of this story, the only word about her remarks was from a family friend who said that Willow was just defending her mother and that she didn't usually talk that way.

A local Channel 13 news report on the Jackson Middle School Anti-Bullying Festival drew online criticisms. One reader commented, "Wow, glad the school can make budget cuts and spend what little is left over on 'bullying.' I guess it's better to graduate stupid children rather than bullied children?"

Another comment read: "The way to stop bullies is by hitting them square in the mouth. It worked when I was a kid. We 'baby' our kids too much these days instead of teaching them to stick up for themselves. By not teaching them to stand up, we are wimping our country out and when all these kids grow up and run the country, they will back down from a fight and let a foreign power take us over. Sad."

Asher's Parents Dedicated to the Cause

Of all the people affected locally by the suicide epidemic, David and Amy Truong,

Asher Brown's parents, have taken the biggest hit. It's commonly noted that nothing is harder to endure than for a parent to lose a child. "My family was destroyed," says David Truong. "We don't want that to happen to other families."

The Truongs accept most invitations to speak to anti-bullying audiences. Their presence brings a special poignancy to any gathering. Asher Brown is no longer just a media image. He's the son of real people—parents who have lost a beloved child. It is the Truongs who have to return to a home which was once brightened by Asher's presence. Now they can cling only to memories in photo albums and his bedroom as he left it. This past holiday season was their first without Asher.

The Truongs are still working with an attorney to file a lawsuit against Hamilton Middle School. Charges against classmates and school administrators are possible. A federal civil rights lawsuit is a potential, yet difficult, avenue for the family as well. But historically, lawsuits against school systems are hard to win.

The Road Ahead—Making It Get Better

Cultural changes don't happen overnight. They take years, even decades. But they

start with the first step, and it takes patience and perseverance to succeed. However, with the lives of LGBT youth at stake, there is no other option but to begin the process.

Despite all the recent awareness of bullying, tragedy struck again in early November 2010. Fourteen-year-old Brandon Bitner, an accomplished violinist, took his life by jumping in front of a tractor trailer. He left a note saying he was tired of being bullied.

As members of the LGBT community, each of us needs to support efforts to rid our schools of bullying. We need to look seriously at our local school systems and at our own lives. And we need to support anti-bullying legislation at federal and state levels.

In response to the recent tragedies, columnist Dan Savage launched the "It Gets Better" campaign, encouraging video messages to be posted to YouTube to tell LGBT youth that life gets better after high school. From this effort, another effort has taken life. The "Make It Better" Project takes the issue one step further, encouraging video messages that tell how individuals are helping to make it better.

It won't get better until we make it better.

Brandon Wolf is a frequent contributor to OutSmart magazine.

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Wherefore Art Thou, Riff?

Joseph J. Simeone gets Shakespearean in 'West Side Story'

by Donalevan Maines

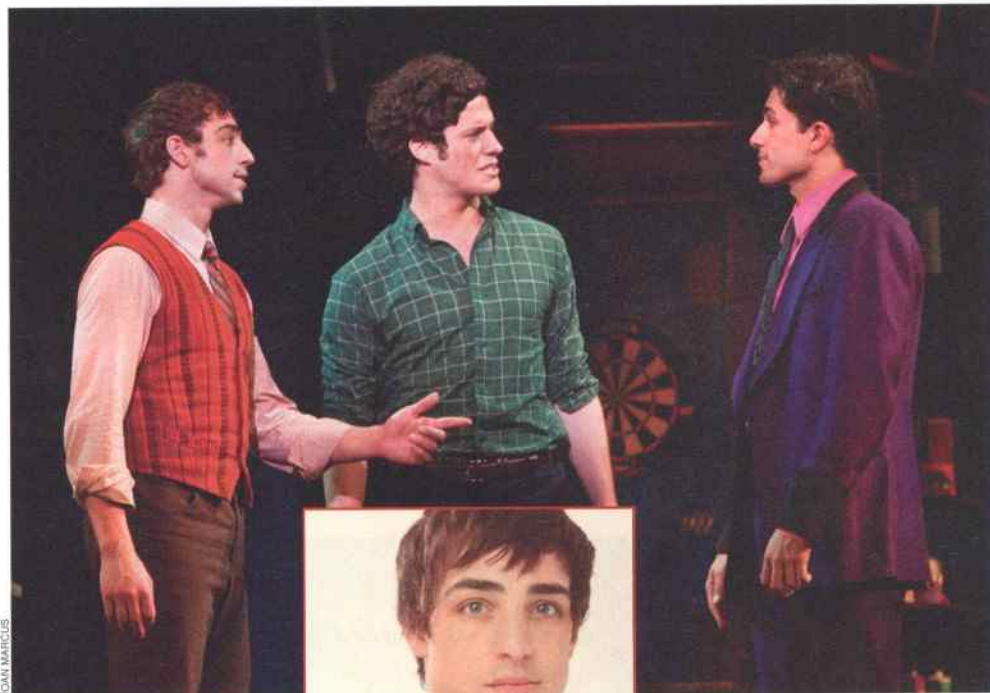
Joseph J. Simeone has gone ab-for-ab and cheek-to-cheek with Nick Adams and other stage gypsies with the most sculpted, nearly naked bodies in New York City for *Broadway Bares*. It's the annual bawdy burlesque show that has raised millions for the charity Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS.

But Houston will see Simeone featured in the national tour based on the current revival of *West Side Story* that plays January 12–23 at the Hobby Center.

For this revival, winner of last year's Grammy Award for best musical show album, Stephen Sondheim revisited the lyrics of this, his first Broadway outing. For sake of authenticity, he worked with Lin-Manuel Miranda (*In the Heights*) in translating some lyrics into Spanish for characters who are members of a Puerto Rican street gang, the Sharks.

"I think it adds to the realism of the play," says Simeone. "The Sharks are very recent immigrants and would most likely speak even more Spanish than is featured. However, I don't speak a word of Spanish and still understand everything that is happening in the show."

As Sondheim explains in his new book, *Finishing the Hat* (see sidebar), the notion of *West Side Story* is *Romeo and Juliet* transposed to New York City, 1957. He writes, "The Montagues and Capulets are two gangs, the Jets (white) and the Sharks (Puerto Rican). The lovers are Tony (Romeo) and Maria (Juliet), the sister of



Bernardo (Paris), leader of the Sharks."

Simeone says, "I play Riff, leader of the Jets, and best friend of Tony." Riff is the equivalent of Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet*.

When *West Side Story* opened on Broadway in 1957, Elizabeth Taylor played Francisca, one of the Puerto Rican girls. No, not that Elizabeth Taylor, but it shows how Anglo actors were cast in Hispanic roles. There was also a Frank Green, Noel Schwartz, Art Smith, and Arch Johnson in

the company. Natalie Wood played Maria in the 1961 movie.

"It was in the library of my grade school that I first saw the film version of *West Side Story*," says Simeone. "As the years passed, the experience stayed with me and I was very excited to see the revival currently on Broadway which thrilled me anew. →

Race relations: (l-r) Joseph J. Simeone, Kyle Harris, and German Santiago in *West Side Story*. INSET: Joseph J. Simeone.

Required Reading: Stephen Sondheim's 'Finishing the Hat'

Subtitled "Collected Lyrics (1954-1981) with Attendant Comments, Principles, Heresies, Grudges, Whines and Anecdotes," I couldn't have said it better, Mr. Sondheim. From *Saturday Night to Merrily We Roll Along*, with beloved classics such as *Gypsy* and groundbreaking shows such as *A Little Night Music* and *Sweeney Todd* amid what's in-between, Sondheim takes the reader lyric by

lyric through his storied career, complete with backstage insights. In his preface, he writes, "Content dictates form, less is more, God is in the details all in the service of clarity without which nothing else matters." Could it be explained any more simply? With *West Side Story* playing Houston this month, its chapter seems especially interesting, plus it was his Broadway debut, the show he says shaped his

professional life. While his initial meeting with composer Leonard Bernstein went well, he writes, "I left with mixed feelings: I wanted to be asked to the party. I just didn't want to go." Thankfully, his mentor, Oscar Hammerstein II, aka "the Norman Rockwell of lyricists," says Sondheim, convinced him to accept the gig. What Sondheim learned was that "the only chances worth taking are big ones." ■

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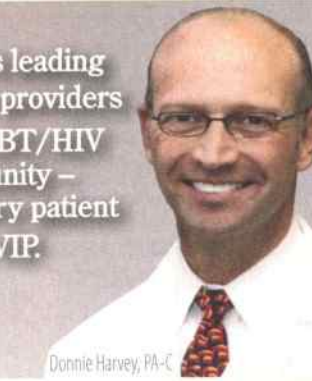
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Wherefore Art Thou, Riff?

continued from page 39

"As much as I loved these productions, I did not look to them for inspiration while creating my Riff," he adds. "I turned to the material itself, reading between the lines, relating Riff to the play's main theme: love struggling against bigotry and violence. David Saint, the director, was amazing in helping everyone in the cast create a unique character with a purpose and stake in the drama, which enriches every aspect of stage life throughout the evening."

Simeone says the show has a special appeal for the LGBT community. "Love struggling against all odds is a timeless aspect of the human condition," he explains. "We can all thank Shakespeare for the best material in the world as a launching pad."

Simeone "grew up happily" in Connecticut and graduated from The Juilliard School's dance division in 2004. He's danced with the prestigious Merce Cunningham Dance Company and American Ballet Theatre (ABT). "I think the theater community in New York City is relatively small and in my experience has a fun and inclusive vibe," he says. "Especially the people working for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. I've danced in two seasons of Broadway Bares and will continue to proudly volunteer every chance I get. I encourage anyone to support this organization."

Has he been to Houston before? "Never!" he exclaims. "And I can't wait! I hope you guys are looking forward to welcoming us!"

Regarding the tour, he adds, "I love it. We have an incredible cast that is not only dedicated and talented but also so much fun off the clock! We know how to have a good time and already accrued some unforgettable moments!"

Marital status?

"I am single," he says, "but list my contact info and maybe I'll get lucky!"

Like I say, Simeone will be in town from January 12 until the tour departs on January 23. That's just a few days before Simeone's next birthday.

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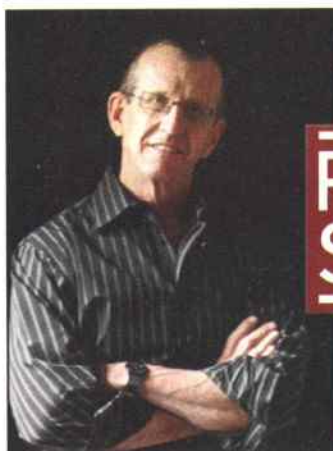
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The Quest for The Best

The Golden Globe and Screen Actors Guild awards' pre-season prepares us for the Super Bowl that is the Oscars

by Donalevan Maines

It just dawned on me that I don't remember a single thing about last year's Golden Globe Awards.

I always mark January by the Golden Globes, the way a sports writer rings in the New Year with bowl games and football playoffs.

But it turns out that last year I was otherwise occupied with a loved one who went blind. He had surgery (after surgery after surgery). It was months before they took off his last set of bandages, and he looked up (through the eye that was operated on) and told the surgeon, "So that's what you look like!"

Our ordeal was over. I came home. But "awards season" was an afterthought.

Enough backstage patter. Let's get to this year's nominees for two award-fests that often serve as reliable precursors of cinema's biggest night, the Academy Awards, as well as next summer's Emmy Awards.

The 68th Annual Golden Globe Awards.

Nominees are voted on by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, a handful of Los Angeles-based "journalists" who supposedly write for overseas publications. Their modus operandi is to nominate both bona fide stars and breakout stars-du-jour so they can walk the red carpet, appear on the telecast, and get plastered. The ceremony at the Beverly Hilton Hotel begins at 7 p.m. on January 16 on NBC.

The Golden Globes always promise a starry, starry night, and this year's slate of acting nominees forecasts that we'll see Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt in designer duds, along with Johnny Depp, Nicole Kidman, Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta-Jones, Halle Berry, Mark Wahlberg, and upcoming Oscar hosts James Franco and Anne Hathaway. However, nomination-deprived Leonardo DiCaprio might ignore the event, just as he snubbed the Oscars when he didn't make the cut for *Titanic* in 1998.

This year, it's both curious and fortuitous that *The Kids Are All Right* is nominated in the comedy or musical category.



And the nominees are: Annette Bening (l) and Julianne Moore in *The Kids Are All Right*, Chris Colfer (l) and Jane Lynch in *Glee*.

That means it doesn't have to compete against heavyweight Oscar-bait dramas. Also, both stars, Annette Bening and Julianne Moore, scored best actress nods.

It would have been thrilling to see Jim Carrey nominated for *I Love You, Phillip Morris*, but we'll always have Huntsville.

Among dramas, the big winner at major critics' awards, *The Social Network*, gained some stiff-upper-lip competition from *The King's Speech*. *The Fighter* came out swinging across the board, and *Black Swan*, which features Natalie Portman and Mila Kunis in a sex scene fraught with danger, won multiple nominations.

Prediction: A big night for *The Kids Are All Right*.

In TV categories, *Glee* repeated its Emmy splash with nominations for Matthew Morrison, Lea Michele, Chris Colfer, and Jane Lynch; *Modern Family* won nods for both Eric Stonestreet and Sofia Vergara; and Thomas Jane scored as the well-endowed coach on *Hung*.

Our town's Emmy winner Jim Parsons (*The Big Bang Theory*) is nominated for best actor in a TV comedy (for the first time), while Robert DeNiro is assured a trophy for the previously announced Cecil B. DeMille Award.

Now, on to the awards show that is set five days after Oscar nominations are announced on January 25.

The 17th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards. Nominees are chosen by a select group of the screen actors' union. All dues-paying members of the guild may vote on the winners, who become instant favorites for an Oscar. The ceremony at the Los Angeles Shrine Exposition Center begins at 7 p.m. on January 30, simulcast on TNT and TBS.

The Kids Are All Right joined the four major dramas as nominees for best cast, but Julianne Moore was bumped for best actress in favor of Hilary Swank in *Conviction*.

Golden Globe shutouts who bounced back with SAG's stamp →

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The Quest for the Best continued from previous page

of approval included Mark Ruffalo (*The Kids Are All Right*), Jeff Bridges and Hailee Steinfeld (*True Grit*), Robert Duvall (*Get Low*), and character actor John Hawkes (*Winter's Bone*).

Prediction: *The Social Network* will stake its claim to win best picture, and at least three winners in the four movie acting categories will repeat at the Oscars.

In TV, *Glee*'s Chris Colfer was promoted past Matthew Morrison in the best actor category, but *Modern Family*'s Ed O'Neill and Ty Burrell knocked out co-star Eric Stonestreet as well as Jim Parsons.

Jane Lynch and Sofia Vergara moved up to the best actress race.

Both shows won nominations for best cast in a comedy series.

This year's special honoree, winner of the lifetime achievement award, is veteran actor Ernest Borgnine, age 93. Many *Brokeback Mountain* fans still haven't forgiven Borgnine for allegedly participating in the successful bloc vote for *Crash* to win best picture at the Oscars in 2006 so that a "gay cowboy movie" wouldn't win. Borgnine admitted he hadn't even seen *Brokeback Mountain*. (Has he seen *Crash*?) I wish I could quit you, Mr. Borgnine, but I liked you in TV's *McHale's Navy* and the Oscar-winning *Marty*.

The Academy Awards broadcasts live on ABC on February 27. Folks, please remember that I missed awards season last year. In all the excitement, I'm liable to look dumbfounded and ask, "What is Mo'Nique doing at the Oscars?"

Donalevan Maines is a regular contributor to OutSmart magazine.

Behind the Scenes:

Larry McMurtry's 'Hollywood: A Third Memoir'

In events leading up to the 2006 Golden Globes ceremony, Larry McMurtry teased reporters that if he were to win for co-writing the script for *Brokeback Mountain*, he would say "something controversial." Really? The Louis L'Amour of our generation revealing something provocative about Hollywood's first gay love story set in cowboy country? What might he say? Well, McMurtry did win, but the big controversy? That he composed the script on a typewriter, not a computer. Whatever. Likewise, this memoir of his adventures in moviemaking isn't steamy at all. Its most "controversial" assertion is that a few readers think that cowboys Gus and Call in *Lonesome Dove* were gay. It seems slim pickings, too, for 50 years behind the scenes of classic, star-studded films such as *Hud*, *The Last Picture Show*, *What's Up, Doc?*, and *Terms of Endearment*. Some chapters are less than 60 words in length. —D.M.



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Her Sister's Keeper

For pageant queen Claire Buffie, equality is a family affair

by Donalevan Maines

For the first time in the 90-year history of the Miss America Pageant, a contestant is championing the cause of LGBT equality with her platform.

Even more surprising: she's not alone! Miss New York, Claire Buffie, has enlisted eight fellow state titleholders in the pageant that's as American as apple pie to appear in a video compilation of messages in support of gay rights.

Miss Texas *didn't* participate.

"It didn't surprise me," says Buffie.

Especially surprising to Buffie was the support she got from Miss Tennessee, who was one of 11 contestants who doesn't appear in the online video, but who contacted Buffie to say they are supporting her. Apparently their busy schedules kept them from taping messages.

"The door is always open to add to the video!" says Buffie, a straight ally who counts among her closest friends her older sister Sarah, who is a lesbian, and one of her roommates, Matt Rensker.

Fellow contestants who taped messages include those from the District of Columbia, Illinois, Indiana, Nevada, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Titleholders who nevertheless sent words of encouragement to Buffie were the contestants representing California, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Vermont, and Virginia.

Memo to Miss Texas: karma is a bitch.

OutSmart spoke with Buffie in December, on the day that her competition evening gown, a Giovanni, arrived from Regalia Magnificent Apparel in Florida. Often, it's that moment, when a state titleholder slips into her gown for the first time and sees herself in the mirror, that she says to herself, "I really can win this thing!"

Buffie says, "I just smiled." The moment she started to believe that she could win Miss America had come two months prior when, on October 14, the Empire State Pride Agenda feted her at its fall dinner with the 2010 Douglas V. Jones Leadership Award. Dinner hosts were Sarah Jessica Parker and Andy Cohen,



COURTESY CLAIRE BUFFIE

New era: Miss New York crown-holder Claire Buffie says she believes the struggle for LGBT equality is "the civil rights movement of my generation."

and speakers included New York governor David Paterson and U.S. senator Chuck Schumer.

"The channel through which I chose to be a leader is pageants," Buffie explains in her killer acceptance speech at <http://missny2010.blogspot.com>. You'll want to immerse yourself in Buffie's blog because it is packed with amazing appearances that she has

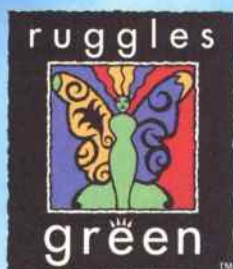
made on behalf of LGBT equality. Then compare it to blogs of other contestants, who show pictures of themselves waving in parades.

At the 2008 Miss Indiana preliminary to Miss America, Buffie placed third behind Katie Stam, who went on to become the first Hoosier to win the national crown.

Buffie declined the opportunity to →

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A portrait of support: "When Sarah came out a few years ago, my whole family came out in support of her—as straight allies," says Claire Buffie, Miss New York 2010. Buffie (c) is surrounded by her family (l-r): brother Sean and his fiancée Danielle; mom Jo Ellen holding Logan, Sean and Danielle's son; dad Bill; sister Sarah; sister Hannah; and Buffie's fiancée Joel.

Her Sister's Keeper continued from previous page

take over as the lame-duck Miss Indiana (the honor ended up going to the sixth-place finisher) partly because she had already moved to New York City and partly because her dream was bigger than a state crown.

"I felt that I would be settling, not so much for myself," says Buffie, "but cheating the opportunity. [LGBT equality] is the civil rights movement of my generation," a cause that she wants to champion as Miss America from sea to shining sea.

Referring to the community-service platform that's required of every Miss America contestant, Buffie says, "This isn't paperwork. This is my life."

Three other Miss New Yorks have won the Miss America title amid controversy and progress: Bess Myerson, the first Jewish winner, in 1943; Tawny Godin, who boldly advocated progressive ideas, in '75; and Vanessa Williams, the first black winner, in '83.

In June, Buffie scored swimsuit and evening gown trophies on her way to winning the Miss New York title on her second attempt.



Same-sex in the city: Buffie (r) at the Empire State Pride Agenda fall dinner with co-host Sarah Jessica Parker in October 2010.

Since then, she has been perfecting her talent presentation, a hallmark of the Miss America competition. Buffie will dance to "Bye Bye Blackbird" in an act that she promises will entertain with Bob Fosse-inspired flourishes.

Finals of the 90th annual Miss America Pageant will be broadcast live from Las Vegas on ABC-TV, January 15, beginning at 8 p.m.

Meanwhile, fans can cast votes for their favorite contestants by going to misamerica.org. Not surprisingly, the Miss America Organization hasn't adequately explained how this online poll might affect the outcome of the pageant.

Donalevan Maines is a regular contributor to OutSmart magazine.

Miss New York Talks about Bullying

In college I didn't date a lot, and I had short hair, and I had a lot of very close friends who are gay. People made fun of me and spread rumors, and I was called some really nasty names. It was more of a social and emotional thing. Bullying doesn't have to be traumatic. It's still bullying. I specifically remember being at a party and I gave my boyfriend a kiss. Someone said, "Look at the dyke faking again." I thought, "Really? Did you really just say that?" It gave me the opportunity to relate to being bullied because of the perception that I was gay. Look at Billy Lucas, the boy in Indiana who killed himself. He never came out. He was bullied by kids who thought he was gay. Was he gay or not? We'll never know. ■

In Other Pageant News

No less than three former *OutSmart* cover subjects appear in installments of *RuPaul's Drag Race*, now in its third season on Logo. Following a special "Casting Extravaganza" which introduces 12 new drag contestants vying for the top illusionist's spot, Vanessa Williams (*OutSmart* September 2009) leads the panel of judges in the January 24 season premiere. In "The Queen Who Mopped Xmas," contestants create fashions using thrift store finds and holiday decorations.

The following week's episode, "Queen in Space," finds legendary comic actor Lily Tomlin (*OutSmart* September 2007) judging contestants' attempts to shoot two sci-fi movie trailers. Former *Battlestar Gallactica* and *Caprica* star Alessandra Torresani appropriately aids Tomlin in the judging.



RuPaul: Lily Tomlin (l) is a judge on *RuPaul's Drag Race* this month.

You'll have to wait 'til April 4 for "Jocks in Frocks" when Margaret Cho (*OutSmart* September 2010) judges the queens' ability to transform manly athletes into girly girls.

Other non *OutSmart*-related notables joining RuPaul and the queens in upcoming episodes include Bruce Vilanch, Chloë Sevigny, La Toya Jackson, Eliza Dushku, Sara Rue, Johnny Weir, Wayne Brady, and many others.

RuPaul's Drag Race premieres Monday, January 24, at 9 p.m. on Logo (logotv.com).

—Nancy Ford



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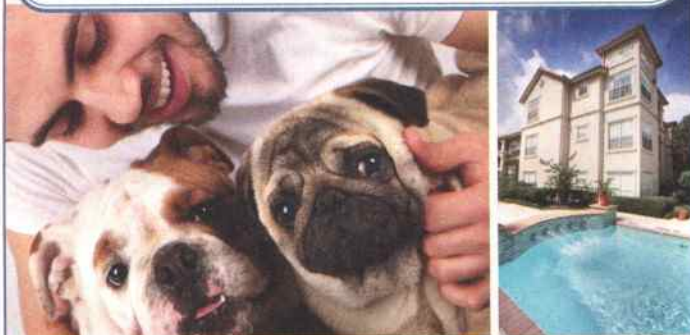
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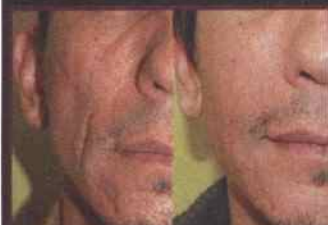
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Meet Marcelo Holzinger

An artist with heart

by Marene Gustin

Vibrant colors, thick brush strokes, and soulful designs populate the abstract paintings of Marcelo Holzinger. The 41-year-old Argentine artist is inspired by beauty and nature in creating his paintings, graphic designs, and interior decors.

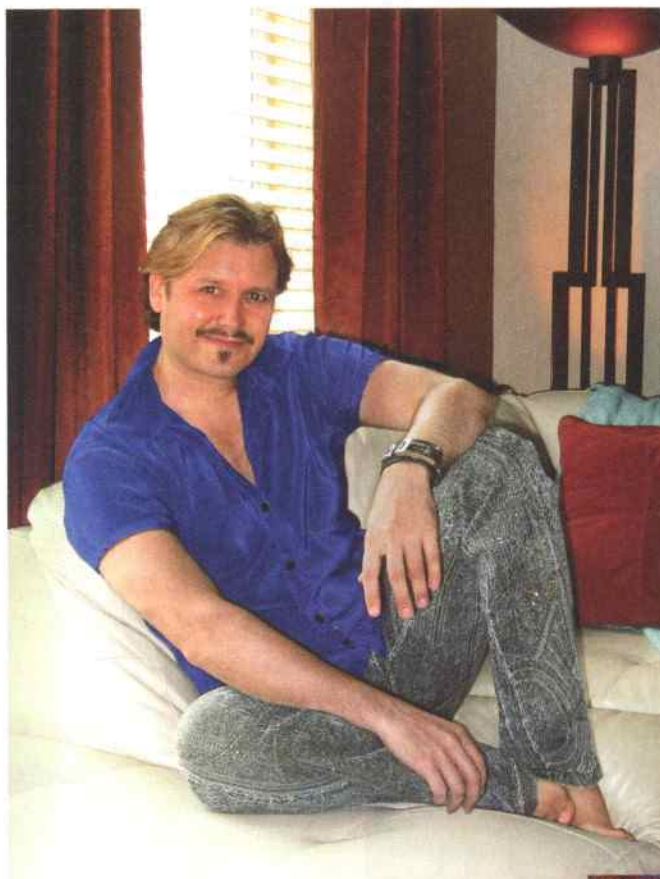
"I paint best when I'm happy, and I'm happy surrounded by nature," he says. "I dream it, I visualize it, and then I just do it. I see each project as a dream come true."

Perhaps his spirit comes from his mother, who told him and his brother, after separating from their father, that "Everything will be okay—we will overcome this challenge. Study hard, follow your dreams, and you'll have everything you want in life." And so he did.

His dream led him to Buenos Aires, where he earned a degree in advertising and art and worked his way up to art director of an advertising agency there. It then led him to New York City 15 years ago where he met the love of his life, David, at a spiritual retreat.

"I'd been here three months when we met," he recalls. "And we've been together ever since." They moved to Miami and then to Houston where Marcelo continued pursuing his art career, exhibiting his art and working hard while David pursued his psychotherapy practice. They spent five years in Houston before recently moving back to Miami—in part because the artist missed the ocean, but mostly, he admits, "because our family is here and we love them very much. We especially wanted to be near our nieces and nephews as they are growing up. But we had a great time in Houston—the people there are just amazing."

Now back in Florida, the couple has embraced the Florida lifestyle, and Miami has embraced Holzinger's art. He was recently feted at the annual Art Basel art



fair in Miami Beach, and has garnered good publicity and more recognition as an outstanding artist. And of course, they are also basking in family love and ocean vistas.

Holzinger is currently collaborating with The Eclectic Arts Movement (T.E.A.M.) and the No Boundaries Prosthetic Foundation to organize a charitable initiative benefiting the children of Haiti on March 12.

"I'll also be donating some of my paintings to the auction," he says, as well as garnering other artist donations. "It's heartbreaking when you see pictures of these Haitian children. So many of them suffered mutilation of their arms, legs, and hands after the earthquake last January." The nonprofit No Boundaries Prosthetic Foundation provides victims of natural disasters with prosthetic limbs, long-term followup care, communi-

ty-based rehabilitation services, and educational and vocational programming in the field of prosthetics and orthotics.

But this isn't the first time the artist has donated his time and talent to help a cause. He also helped raise funds recently to bring a Chinese baby with a cleft palate to America for adoption and medical care.

Between the yin and yang of charity work, building his stature as a fine artist, and dealing with life's everyday challenges, Holzinger finds a cosmic balance.

"I think everything we experience happens for a reason," he says calmly. "I always feel that something very positive will come from whatever I'm involved in."

Find out more about the artist at mholzinger.com.

Marene Gustin is a frequent contributor to OutSmart magazine.



From Miami with love: artist Marcelo Holzinger, in a relaxed mood, contradicts the passion of his "West Lava" painting (inset).



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Carrie Fisher (author, *Wishful Drinking*) on John Travolta (actor, *From Paris with Love*)

(Advocate.com, 12/10/10, Brandon Voss)

Brandon Voss: I know you and [John] Travolta go way back, so let's get really blunt here: does his legal team have any business demanding Gawker remove a recent post suggesting that he's given blow jobs?

Carrie Fisher: Wow! I mean, my feeling about John has always been that we know and we don't care. Look, I'm sorry that he's uncomfortable with it, and that's all I can say. It only draws attention to it when you make that kind of legal fuss. Just leave it be.

Jesse Tyler Ferguson (actor, ABC's *Modern Family*)

(The Nate Berkus Show, 11/29/10)

Nate Berkus: So in one episode [of *Modern Family*]... you were trying to fix stuff on the show. So I have to ask you, Are you really handy in real life?

Jesse Tyler Ferguson: Not at all. I mean I have like a little... what are the knives that have all the little things on them?

Like a leatherman?

Sure! I think I have one of those in a drawer somewhere.

Fran Drescher (actress, *The Nanny*; her talk show, *Fran*, premiered in limited release in November)

(The Philadelphia Inquirer, 11/28/10, Jonathan Storm)

[Fran Drescher and Peter Marc Jacobson] divorced in 1999, after Jacobson disclosed he was gay. . . . "We're happily divorced," says Drescher. "His gay boyfriend is very similar to my straight one. We have an oddball, extended family, and we just celebrated our wedding anniversary November 4 [2010]."

Alan Cumming (actor, CBS's *The Good Wife*)

(Entertainment Weekly, 12/10/10)

The openly bisexual Cumming on his role as Eli Gold, the "straight Jewish ballbuster" in CBS's *The Good Wife*:

I love playing Eli because he feels so different to me. I sort of feel like I'm in drag!

Jimmy Fallon (late-night talk show host)

(Late Night with Jimmy Fallon, 11/24/10)

It was just announced that *Grey's Anatomy* is planning a musical episode later this season. So, if you like *Glee* AND you like *Grey's Anatomy* . . . don't tell your commanding officer. (Unless he asks you.)

Brothers & Sisters

(*Brothers & Sisters*, 12/12/10, ABC)

Kitty (Calista Flockhart) to her gay brother, Kevin (Matthew Rhys) on ABC's *Brothers & Sisters*:

Mom couldn't be more gay-friendly if she twirled a baton up Santa Monica Blvd. in a Cher costume.

Annie Lennox (recording artist, *A Christmas Cornucopia*)

5 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

(The Advocate, 11/17/06, Kurt B. Reighley)

[My image] did seem to cause some kind of furor. The more reactionary slab of the American population reacted, in some ways, with horror. I remember once they asked me to provide my passport to prove that I was a woman and not a man.

Fran Lebowitz (author, Metropolitan Life)

(Public Speaking, 11/22/10)

In *Public Speaking*, an HBO documentary about New York City writer Fran Lebowitz directed by Martin Scorsese, Lebowitz gives her vocal opinions on gay marriage and gays in the military.

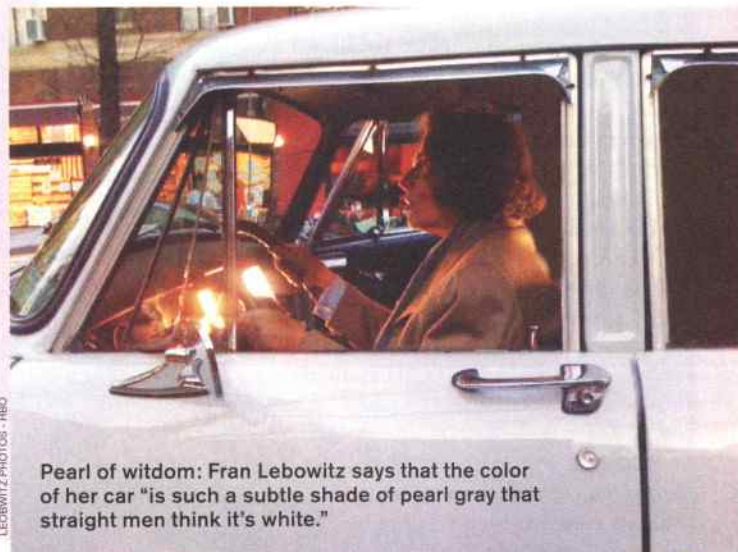
Lebowitz speaking at a public event: Do I think gay marriage is progress? Are you kidding me? This was one of the good things about being gay. I am stunned that the two greatest desires apparently of people involved in the gay rights movement is gay marriage and gays in the military. Really?! Cut to Lebowitz being interviewed for the documentary: To me it seems that these are the two most confining institutions on the planet—marriage and the military. Why would you be like beating down the doors to get in? Usually, a fight for freedom is a fight for freedom. This is like the opposite. This is like a fight for slavery. I find it completely shocking.

If it was on the ballot here [in New York], I would fight for it because I know people want it. But personally, not me. Nor do I want to go into the Army. People used to pretend to be gay to get out of going in the Army.



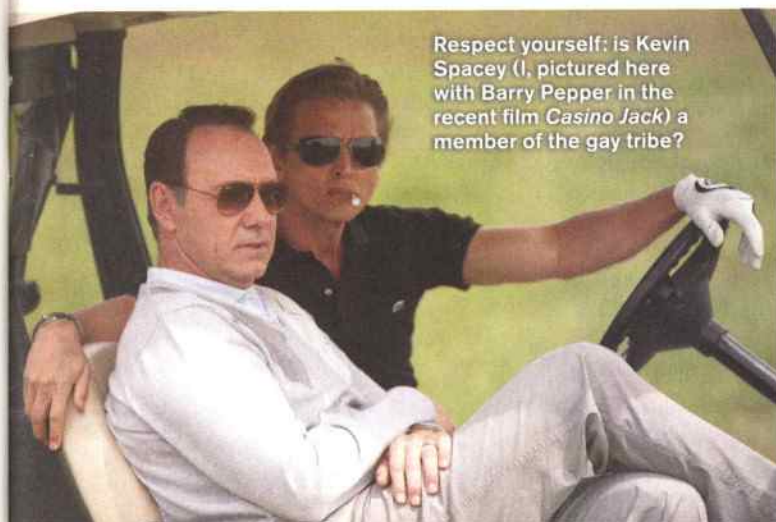
Queer Quotes

Compiled by Blase DiStefano



Pearl of wisdom: Fran Lebowitz says that the color of her car "is such a subtle shade of pearl gray that straight men think it's white."

LEBOWITZ PHOTOS - HBO



Respect yourself: is Kevin Spacey (I. pictured here with Barry Pepper in the recent film *Casino Jack*) a member of the gay tribe?

Kevin Spacey (actor, Casino Jack)

(TheDailyBeast.com, 12/10, Kevin Sessums)

Kevin Sessums: . . . We gay men have always proudly claimed you as a member of our tribe, and yet you don't proudly claim us back. Why?

Kevin Spacey: People have different reasons for the way they live their lives. You cannot put everyone's reasons in the same box. It's just a line I've never crossed and never will. . . . I don't live a lie. You have to understand that people who choose not to discuss their personal lives are not living a lie. That is a presumption that people jump to. Look, at the end of the day people have to respect people's differences. I am different than some people would like me to be. I just don't buy into that the personal can be political. I just think that's horseshit. No one's personal life is in the public interest. It's gossip, bottom line. End of story. . . .

Barbra Streisand

(actress, Little Fockers)

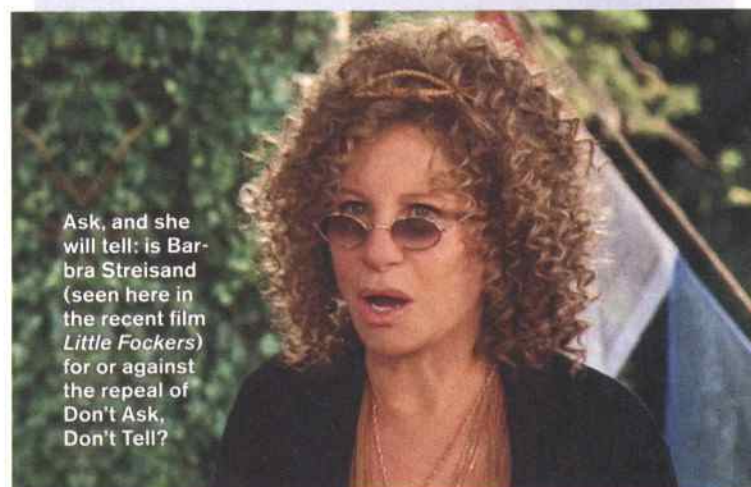
(Larry King Live, 12/15/10, CNN)

Larry King: You think we'll see "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" end?

Barbra Streisand: I'm not so sure in the near future. But I think it should go. Can you imagine, you have citizens who want to . . . fight for freedom. They want to fight for their country, and are willing to die for their country, and they're not allowed to? You know, it's interesting, because I think Alan Turing . . . broke the code in World War II.

Japanese code, yeah.

He was gay. George Washington's second in command was gay. What is the big deal? What is the big deal? Why should anyone's sexuality prevent them from being a great soldier? [DADT was repealed four days after this interview aired.]



Ask, and she will tell: is Barbra Streisand (seen here in the recent film *Little Fockers*) for or against the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell?

ACCEPT YOURSELF

'No Secret Anymore' shares the legacy of Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon

Del and Phyllis. Their ever-conjoined names roll off the collective tongue of the legions of their admirers in singular cascade. They are DelandPhyllis.

Dellis.

It's hard to remember which is which. In *No Secret Anymore: The Times of Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon*, we become acquainted with the two women who are almost single-handedly responsible for the freedom that many LGBT individuals—especially the L's—enjoy today. Not quite. But almost.

Together they laid out a set of footprints that millions of lesbians and gay men have traced pace-by-pace on the way to full equality. Already living as an openly lesbian couple in 1955, they launched Daughters of Bilitis, the first public organization for lesbians in America when conformity was the not just the norm, it was practically the law. In the 1960s, they wrote, mimeographed, and distributed *The Ladder*, the country's first lesbian publication. In the 1970s, they successfully lobbied the National Organization of Women to welcome gay women to the greater feminist table. In the 1980s, Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services in



Love is in the air: Del Martin (l) and Phyllis Lyon in 1998. **BELOW:** Lyon (l) and Martin in 1954.

San Francisco was named for them, due to their unfailing support of women's health and domestic abuse issues. In the 1990s, they were delegates to the White House Conference on Aging, providing expertise on seniors' sexual orientation. They were the very first same-gender couple to be legally married when California (first

legalized it. In 2004, prior to Del's death in 2008, the two were joined in marriage to the cheers of hundreds of gays and lesbian couples who were—that day, literally—waiting to follow in their footprints.

In the film, former assistant to President Bill Clinton, Virginia Apuzzo, summed up Dellis' impact on the generations that followed them. "Young lesbians don't have to fight for their right to be," she said. "They already pushed the door open. We came in behind them. They're at that spot precisely because of people like Phyllis and Del."

Where did they get their drive, their resolve, their courage in the face of overwhelming societal pressure? Phyllis herself puts it succinctly: "Ultimately it gets down to self acceptance. When you accept yourself, you don't give a damn what anybody else thinks."

Or maybe that was Del.

Bonus extras include an extended interview with Nancy Pelosi, footage of Del and Phyllis at the Castro premiere of the film, and more. Joan E. "JEB" Biren, no stranger to lesbian activism herself, directs. 2003. Frameline (frameline.org). ■

DVD Shorts *Reviews by Steven Foster*

Boys Life 7



The latest installment of the seminal gay film series proves a worthy successor to its six predecessors. Two of the shorts are stand-outs. *The Young and Evil* follows a damaged African-American bugchaser, while *First Date* is the often-hilarious tale of an Hispanic ex-con who'll do anything to keep his Internet hookup. Strand Releasing (strandreleasing.com).

Seeing Heaven



Seeing Heaven follows the (supposedly) enigmatic hustler Paul who, for some inexplicable reason other than his willingness to bend over, proves irresistible for everyone with whom he comes into contact. Even creepy visions of his twin brother, a masked stalker, and painful acting can't keep the rest of the bland cast

away from him. The movie casts no such spell. Breaking Glass Pictures (breakingglasspictures.com).

Altromondo (Anotherworld)



Quilting together a patchwork of monologues into a mesmerizing narrative, *Altromondo* is a riveting, often highly erotic pastiche of artistic power. The film's talking heads cover everything from embrace of edgy sex to dangerously deranged homophobia. This 'world spins on a fantastic axis of flirtatious honesty. Breaking Glass Pictures (breakingglasspictures.com).

The Stranger in Us



A minor festival hit, *Stranger* follows Anthony as he moves west with Stephen. As their relationship sours, Anthony drifts into San Francisco's seedier streets, his broken heart finding empty comfort with various sex partners. The film occasionally succeeds

in depicting the ache of a dying union. Breaking Glass Pictures (breakingglasspictures.com).

Rivers Wash over Me



After his mother's death, a sensitive Brooklyn teen moves to a secret-laden Alabama town. There, he is befriended by a girl who detects his true sexuality, and introduces him to her younger brother with whom he has far too much in common. *Rivers Wash over Me* is a brutal, low-budget wonder. Strand Releasing (strandreleasing.com).

Edie & Thea: A Very Long Engagement



Directors of *The Brandon Teena Story* turn their gifted documentarian gaze toward a subject as light as *Teena* was dark. The story of two lesbians meeting and falling in love in the still-closeted '60s, the film follows their 40-plus year romance with →



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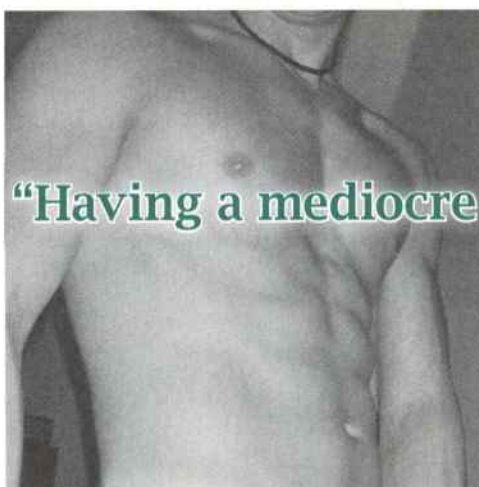
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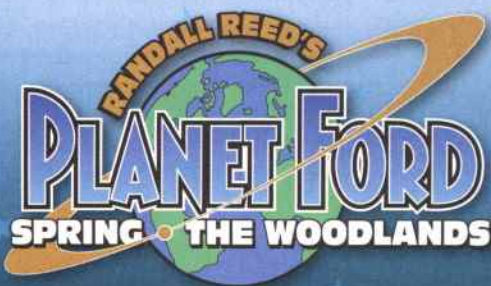
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DVD Shorts

continued from page 54

wistful and tender affection. Bathed in sun, glowing with loving nostalgia, this doc is a valentine to love, and a must-see. Breaking Glass Pictures (breakingglasspictures.com).

David Bowie: Rare and Unseen



With British host Russell Harty's restored interview as its lynchpin, *Rare* investigates the enigma and artistry of space oddity, dance crooner, and art rocker David Bowie. Those wanting a more comprehensive examination of the icon will find themselves unsatisfied. But true Bowie-files will revel in the additional interviews and insights into the influential performer. MVD Entertainment Group (mvd2b.com).

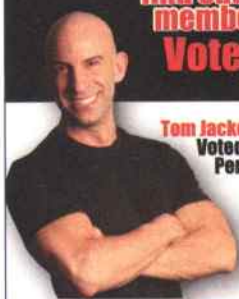
Back from Hell: A Tribute to Sam Kinison



Touchy listeners could not get past comedian Sam Kinison's screaming. But the acid-burning Holy Water wit and righteous rage against the machine of this ex-preacher turned rock-and-roll comic held audiences and comics in awe. Dennis Leary, George Lopez, Chris Rock, Kathy Griffin, Judy Tenuta, Lewis Black, and others pay their intelligent respects to a truly funny firebrand. Comedy Central Home Entertainment (comedycentral.com). ■

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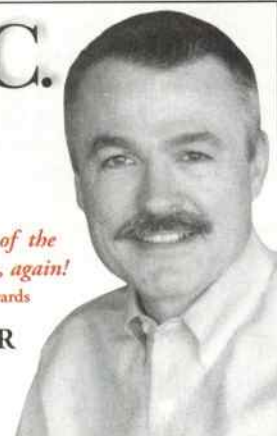
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Let's be honest: the song "Dancing on My Own" from Swedish dance goddess Robyn's *Body Talk Pt. 1* is probably a once-in-a-lifetime slice of pure dance perfection. That's not to imply that she won't get your body talking about *Body Talk Pt. 2* (Konichiwa/Cherry Tree/Interscope). A more original and instantly gratifying performer than Lady Gaga, Robyn deserves to get her due with this second installment. Kleerup collaboration "In My Eyes" is a visionary track—funky fresh dance-pop at its most persuasive. "Hang with Me" comes closest to capturing the mastery of "Dancing on My Own" and is a showstopper in its own right. "Love Kills" is reminiscent of Robyn's work with Röyksopp, and a Snoop Dogg guest spot on "U Should Know Better" isn't as questionable as it could have been.

It's worth noting that "Dance Yourself Clean," the opening track on *This Is Happening* (DFA/Virgin), LCD Soundsystem's follow-up to the acclaimed *Sound of Silver*, takes its sweet time in giving you a reason to do what the title suggests. Gradually gaining momentum over the course of its almost nine minutes, it takes more than three minutes before it serves up motion-

worthy beats. "One Touch" is all it takes to get a move on, and "I Can Change" changes the pace, but is no less appealing for the dance floor. "Pow Pow" packs a punch, and "Home" is a place to which you will want to return.

After teasing us with their EP, Deluka returns with the full-length *You Are the Night* (Vel). New track "Snapshot" sounds like they might have been listening to too much Ting Tings or The Sounds, but "Cascade," from their eponymous EP, is familiar improvement. "Nevada"

and "Come Back to Me" take a page from The Killers playbook. "Meanstreak" is an equal to "Cascade" in the way that it insists you

dance to it or else. "Waves" goes a bit retro-pop on us before "Morning Comes" and "Capital City" close out the disc in a sweaty sweep.

As unlikely dance sensations go, The Drums are fairly high on the list with their self-titled full-length debut disc on Downtown/Island. Not that the groundwork hadn't already been laid by vocalist Jonny Pierce and guitarist Adam Kessler in the even more new wave/disco-oriented *Elkland*. Beginning with the →



GrooveOut Shorts

Nicki Minaj *Pink Friday*



Chameleonic It Girl Nicki Minaj became the go-to guest star for rap's sizzurp-sipping royalty. Though her debut album fizzes toward pure pop on the second half, the first, including a scorching duet between her alter ego Roman Zolanski and Eminem's Slim Shady, is a rage-filled wonder guaranteed to piss off the gay PC crowd. Let 'em rant. This disc deserves raves. Universal Motown Records (universalmotown.com). —Review: Steven Foster

Nelly Furtado *The Best of Nelly Furtado*



Slinky and sly, R&B princess Furtado compiles a smart double-disc retrospective that bristles with energy and groovy beats. Playful production serves Furtado's giddy cool, her witty lyrics streetsmart

without ever straining credibility. Furtado plays like Jill Scott's rebel kid sister and Alicia Keys' feisty next-door neighbor, tripping down musical hip-hop hoods with a seasoned pop star's kick-back confidence. Geffen Records (interscope.com). —Review: S.F.

Josie Cotton *Pussycat Babylon*



Of course, our ear skipped over the first few cuts and went directly to the quirkily titled "Johnny R U Queer," sung from the perspective of an oblivious fag hag. Of the two versions that appear on this slickly produced electro pop dance album, we prefer Donnie Hotwheel's more-layered radio mix. Scruffy Records (eat.americanmusiccompany.com). —Review: Nancy Ford

Animal Prufrock *Congratulations; Thank You + I'm Sorry*

Indie rock genderbender Animal Prufrock is equal parts trance, dance, and Esquivel. The Ani DiFranco-produced



Congratulations wins points for tackling queer-centric subject matter but lacks the feral intelligence of, say, L7, or the bubbly musicianship of Uh-huh Her. Occasional flashes of cute musicality aren't enough to get this garage band on the road, much less out of the driveway. Righteous Babe Records (righteousbabe.com). —Review: S.F.

Kaci Battaglia *Bring It On*



A kaleidoscope-floored bump-and-grind for the pelvic-thrust club set, Kaci Battaglia's latest dance disc is a sometime-earnest attempt to plumb tawdry disco depths. Save for the rowdy "Body Shots" (guest vocal by Ludacris), the 21-year-old barely makes a splash. Katy Perry's dalliance with Elmo held more naughty charge than Battaglia's snooze-inducing bacchanalia. Curb Records (curb.com). —Review: S.F. ■

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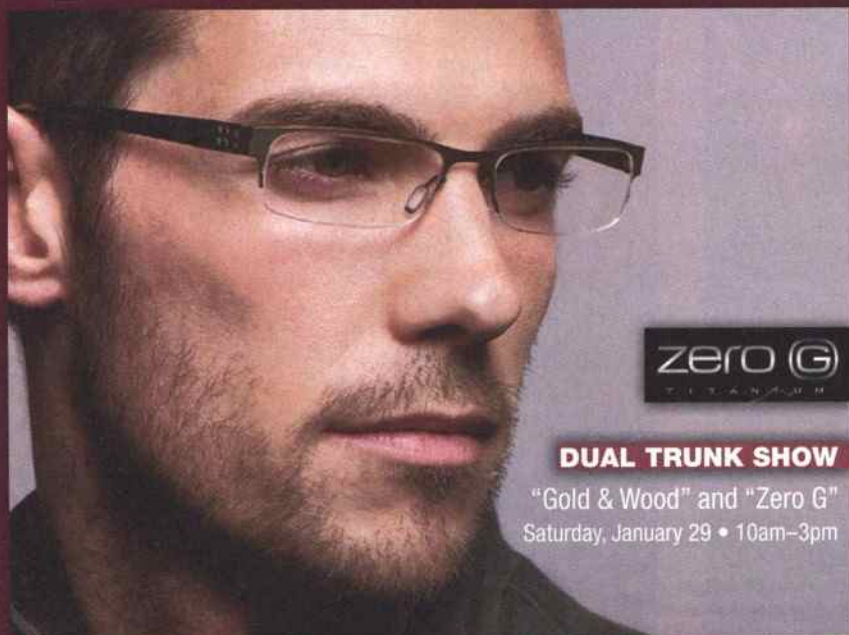
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GrooveOut continued from page 58

enticing (and virtually unavoidable) "Let's Go Surfing" (you'll recognize the whistle immediately), The Drums have made beach music for the club set. You're sure to find it impossible to keep still when you hear "Me and the Moon," "Best Friend," and the New Order-ish "Skippin' Town" and "Forever and Ever Amen." Not bad for straight dudes.

For a while there, you couldn't talk about electronic dance music without mentioning Underworld and The Chemical Brothers. Once they'd found their niche in the early 1990s with their commercial breakthrough *Beaucoup Fish*, Underworld slowly began to lose their footing. New disc *Barking* (Cooking Vinyl/Om) may not put them at the top of the heap, but it shows Underworld to be willing to make the effort on cuts such as "Always Loved a Film," "Scribble," "Grace," and "Diamond Jigsaw."

The Chemical Brothers arrived in the mid-1990s, after Underworld (and others) paved the way for them and proceeded to make their presence felt. However, *Further* (Astralwerks) is a good name for their new disc, because they couldn't be further from their heyday if they'd tried. A disappointment any way you dive into it, from the annoying blips that open the album on "Snow" and the nagging neighing on "Horse Power" to the considerable lack of wonder on "Wonders of Deep."

Even if you haven't thought about one-hit wonders Marcy Playground ("Sex and Candy") in a while, it's clear that others have. Leaving behind their initial musical identity, *Indaba Remixes from Wonderland* (Capitol) features a baker's dozen of remixes (by contest-winning fans and others) of a dozen songs from the band's 2009 *Leaving Wonderland*. . . In a *Fit of Rage* disc. Among the best dance-floor opportunities are "Memphis," "Blackbird," and "Gin and Money."

Of Montreal's *False Priest* (Polyvinyl) is the best Prince album "The Purple One" never recorded. Funny and sexy, often at the same time, *False Priest* is an honest-to-goodness good time, from start to finish. Princely excursions such as "Our Riotous Defects," "I Feel Ya Stutter," "Godly Intersex," "Hydra Fancies," "Like a Tourist," "Girl Named Hello," and "You Do Mutilate?" feel both crisply new and remarkably retro, making *False Priest* the perfect soundtrack for driving around town in your little red Prius.

Gregg Shapiro is a regular contributor to OutSmart magazine.

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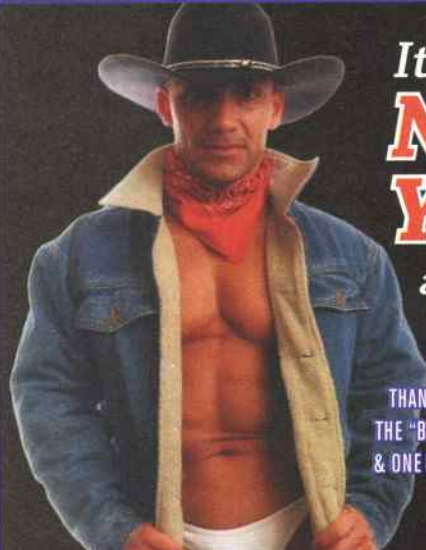
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Ellen's wife battles anorexia and the closet before finally finding happiness

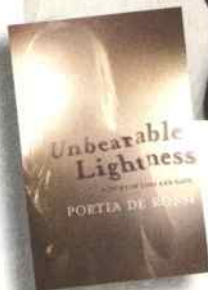
There's a fine line between "want" and "need." You didn't need another cookie, chocolate-dipped goodie, or brownie hiding beneath powdered sugar. You didn't need that creamy glass of eggnog with the holiday garnish. And definitely, you didn't need the calories.

But oh, you wanted them. So imagine denying yourself those treats, and almost all other foods. Imagine living on 300 calories a day. Then read *Unbearable Lightness* by Portia de Rossi.

Young Amanda Rogers always wanted to be "special." She was a smart kid and aspired to become a lawyer in her native Australia, until the modeling bug bit her and she quickly decided that the runway was the way to run.

She convinced her mother to drive her to an interview, and she convinced executives that, at age 12, she could handle the world of high fashion. Though she felt uncomfortable and self-conscious about perceived body flaws as compared with other models, she persevered. She changed her name to Portia de Rossi and worked part-time while attending school.

Later, when given the chance to be in a movie, de Rossi was surprised that she loved acting but wasn't confident about her beauty. She thought her face was too round, her cheeks too fat, her thighs too chubby. Her weight yo-yoed. Wardrobe tailors on the *Ally McBeal* set were kept busy with alterations.



Unbearable Lightness:
A Story of Loss and Gain
by Portia de Rossi
2010, Atria Books (imprints
.simonandschuster.biz/atria)
308 pages, hardcover, \$25.99

De Rossi was mortified.

But that wasn't her only source of personal loathing. Portia de Rossi had always known that she was gay, but it wasn't discussed. She married, but the union ended when her husband learned the truth at a couples therapy session. Co-workers weren't told because de Rossi feared for her job. She denied her feelings and lived in terror of being outed.

Embarking on a nutritionist-recommended low-calorie diet didn't quell the

diet demon in de Rossi's mind, so she went on her own "program." She meticulously weighed each ounce of food, fretted over hidden calories, and obsessively avoided anything that might add one single calorie to her daily intake.

Writing about the day she hit 82 pounds, she recalls that a celebration was in order, but "... first I had to silence the drill sergeant that reminded me of that extra inch of fat. First I had to get rid of that."

As with many memoirs like *Unbearable Lightness*, I had two very dissimilar feelings while reading it.

First, this book reeks with pain. Author Portia de Rossi is very clear about the bruising thoughts and negativity that she felt in hiding so many personal aspects of her life. Although this book has a make-you-grin, wonderfully happy ending, getting there hurts. Which leads me to the second issue: her book also hurts to read because sometimes it's slow. In the end, de Rossi's pantry held a paltry handful of items—a fact hammered home in many ways, many times.

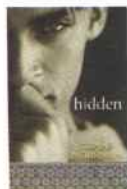
Still, if you've ever lived too long with a secret that ate you alive, read this. You won't just want *Unbearable Lightness*, you'll need it.

Terri Schlichenmeyer has been reading since she was three years old, and she never goes anywhere without a book. She lives on a hill in Wisconsin with two dogs and 11,000 books.

ReadOut Shorts

Hidden

Tomas Mournian



Ahmed, a young gay man, escapes from his family after a stint in a gay-to-straight treatment facility. Picked up by a couple of lesbianados, he enters the underground of youth hiding from the world, and further boot-camp hell, until he becomes 18. Here he learns about rules, bounty hunters, and predators. He also learns that rules are made to be broken, sex is not love, and life is truly scary and dangerous. This debut novel by Tomas Mournian is based on fact. And that alone should disturb any reader of this carefully crafted and disturbing tale of what teens will do to survive. • Kensington Publishing (kensingtonbooks.com). —Review: Angel Curtis

One Hundred Bottles

Ena Lucía Portela

Translated by Achy Obejas



One Hundred Bottles is a tale set in Cuba during the crisis of the 1990s. Z is an orphan trying to survive an insane boyfriend, the collapse of her dwelling, and a life without hope. Through it all, the friendship of all kinds of women, including those inhabiting the lesbian underground, burns away the inconsequential. Although not a "gay book," the depiction of lesbian characters in modern-day Havana is memorable. Part mystery, part allegory, and all brilliant, this book is so good that all I can say is "don't miss it." • University of Texas Press (utexas.edu/utpress). —Review: A.C.

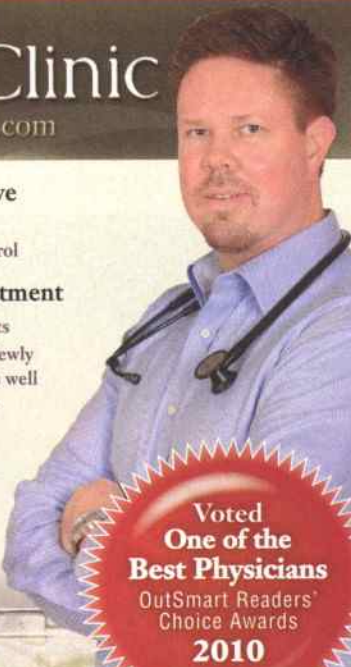
The World of Gloria Vanderbilt

Wendy Goodman



Anderson Cooper wrote the forward, but nothing will prepare you for the unimaginable luxury of his mother's life, illustrated with glamorous photographs and, to a far lesser extent, in text. My favorite part is fey Southern writer/gossip Truman Capote's entree into Gloria Vanderbilt's social cachet, from whence he based Holly Golightly in *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, then betrayed blue-blood confidences in *Answered Prayers*. • Abrams, New York (abramsbooks.com). —Review: Donalevan Maines ■

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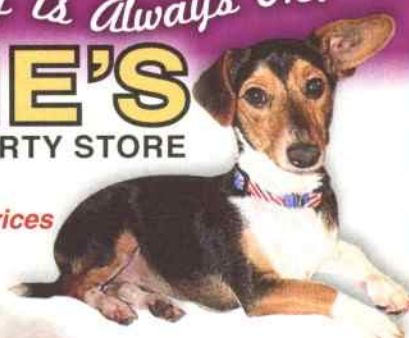
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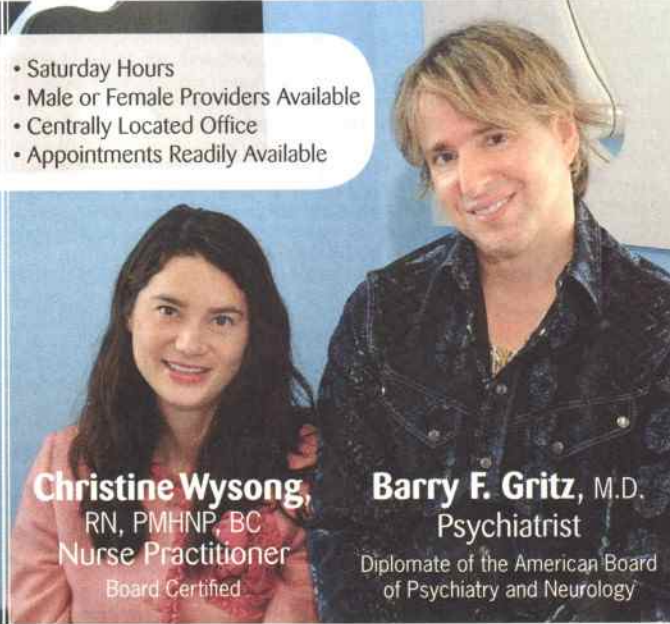
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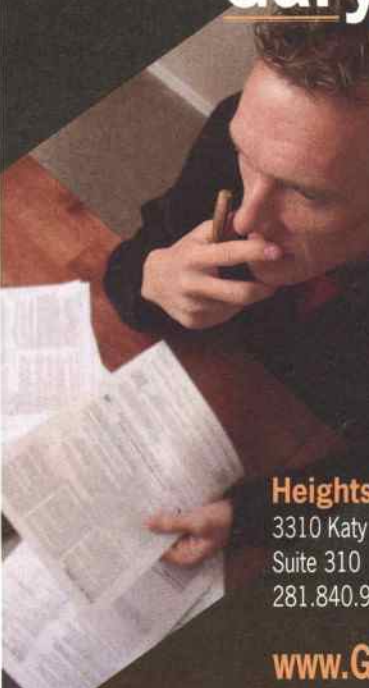
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Calendar of Events

Compiled by Nancy Ford

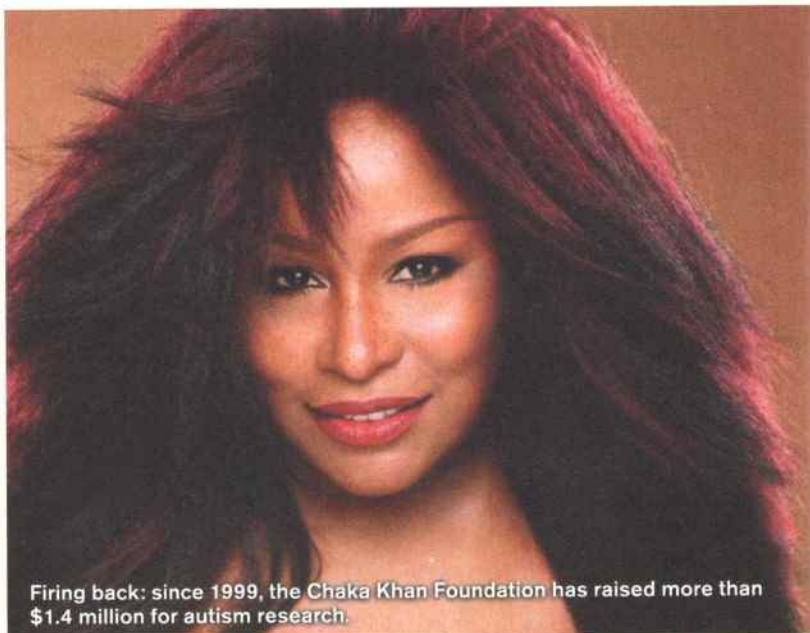
She Feels for You

Chaka Kahn headlines Legacy Community Health Services' Cabaret for a Cure

With construction well underway for its new Montrose-based facility at 1415 California Street, Legacy Community Health Services presents one of the most opulent events on Houston's social fundraising calendar: Cabaret for a Cure.

Kimberly and Frank DeLape, Brian H. Teichman, and Imperial Sugar's John C. Sheptor are the honorees at the fourth cabaret event, held annually to raise funds for Legacy Community Health Services. Local television personality Deborah Duncan emcees the evening that is headlined by Grammy Award-winning vocalist Chaka Khan.

A 10-time Grammy Award-winner, Khan has been a staple of the international music scene since the early 1970s. Fresh from her Broadway debut playing Sofia in *The Color Purple*, her most recent album, *Funk This*,



Firing back: since 1999, the Chaka Khan Foundation has raised more than \$1.4 million for autism research.

JANUARY

FILM

Wild Ocean 3D follows the fate of billions of sardines migrating up South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal Coast. Houston Museum of Natural Science, One Hermann Circle Dr. • hmns.org • 713/639-4629.

Erik the Viking. Terry Jones' 1989's fantasy/comedy. Jan. 11, 8:30pm. Domy Books, 1709 Westheimer • domystore.com.

Johan Grimonprez: It's a Poor Sort of Memory that Only Works Backwards, film-based work. Jan. 15–April 2. Blaffer Gallery, University of Houston's Fine Arts Building, entrance 16 off Cullen Blvd. • blaffergallery.org • 713/743-9971.

First Take: Okay Mountain. Film works by 10 Austin-based artists. Jan. 15–April 2. Blaffer Gallery, University of Houston's Fine Arts Building, entrance 16 off Cullen Blvd. • blaffergallery.org • 713/743-9971.

PERFORMING ARTS

A Fertile Holiday. The final in-house showing of RMT's classic "radio" comedy. Through Jan. 15. Radio Music Theatre, 2623 Colquitt St. • radiomusictheatre.com • 713/522-7722.

Plaza Suite. Neil Simon's hotel comedy. Through Jan. 22. Theatre Southwest, 8944-A Clarkcrest Dr. • theatresouthwest.org • 713/661-9505.

A Catered Affair, the wedding musical by Harvey Fierstein

and John Bucchino. Through Jan. 23. Main St. Theatre–Chelsea Market, 4617 Montrose Blvd. • mainstreettheater.com • 713/524-6706.

Jazz Night at The Arts Alliance Center at Clear Lake features Sparky Koerner and the Jazz Express and open mic. Jan. 6, 6:30pm. 2000 NASA Pkwy, Nassau Bay • taaccl.org.

Matt Dusk: Music of Frank Sinatra. Jan. 7–9. Houston Symphony. Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana St. • houstonsymphony.org • 713/224-7575.

Sex Please We're Sixty. Houston premiere of a farce about three menopausal women. Jan. 7–Feb. 5. Theatre Suburbia, 4106 Way Out West Dr. • theatresuburbia.org • 713/682-3525.

Steel Magnolias. Robert Harling's dramedy about the strength of women. Jan. 8–31. Stage Door Inc., 284 Pasadena Town Square Mall • stagedoorinc.com • 832/582-7606.

West Side Story. Jan. 12–23. Broadway Across America. Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, Sarofim Hall, 800 Bagby St. • broadwayacrossamerica.com • 713/315-2500.

God of Carnage. Yasmina Reza's savage comedy. Jan. 12–30. Alley Theatre. 615 Texas Ave. • alleytheatre.org • 713/220-5700.

Dance Month at Kaplan Theatre features performances by Houston Ballet, Koresh Dance Company, and others. Jan. 12–Feb. 12. IW Marks Theatre Center, 5601 S. Braeswood Blvd. • jcchouston.org • 713/551-7255.

Tchaikovsky's Winter Daydreams, plus works by Szymanowski and Mozart. Jan. 14–16. Houston Symphony. Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana St. • houstonsymphony.org • 713/224-7575.

Sonia and Suzy. Claire Hart Palumbo directs Nancy Geyer's play about adoption. Jan. 14–29. The Country Playhouse, 12802 Queensbury Ln. • countryplayhouse.org • 713/467-4497.

Guilty Conscience, a mystery by Richard Levinson and William Link. Jan. 14–Feb. 19. Company OnStage, 536 Westbury Square • companyonstage.org • 713/726-1219.

An Evening of a Carnival of Cirque features *Cirque Magique*. Jan. 16, 7pm. The Arts Alliance Center at Clear Lake, 2000 NASA Pkwy, Nassau Bay • taaccl.org • 281/335-7777.

Verdi's Requiem. Thomas Dausgaard conducts the Houston Symphony Chorus. Jan. 20–23. Houston Symphony. Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana St. • houstonsymphony.org • 713/224-7575.

Loplop. Peter Wittenberg Jr.'s play about schizophrenia in two acts. Jan. 20–29. Presented by Thunderclap Productions at Obsid-

ian Art Space, 3522 White Oak Dr. • obsidianartspace.org.

Deep Waters & New Horizons: Contemporary Expressions of the Earth. Works by Crumb, Reich, Osborne, Macdonald, Dancigers, and others. Jan. 22, 8pm. Aperio Music of the Americas, Zilkha Hall, 800 Bagby St. • aperioamericas.org.

Stefon Harris and Blackout. Jan. 22, 8pm. Da Camera. Wortham Theater Center, 501 Texas Ave. • dacamera.com • 713/524-7601.

Dead Man Walking. Jake Heggie and Terrence McNally's opera about crime and punishment. Jan. 22–Feb. 6. Houston Grand Opera. Wortham Theatre Center's Brown Auditorium, 501 Texas Ave. • houstongrandopera.org • 713-228-6737.

Oh, the Humanity and Other Exclamations. Regional premiere of Wil Eno's five new short works. Jan. 26–Feb. 20. Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Pkwy. • stagestheatre.com • 713/527-0123.

The Peking Acrobats' silver anniversary tour. Jan. 27–28. Presented by Society for Performing Arts. Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana St. • spahouston.org • 713/227-4SPA.

Don Carlo. Giuseppe Verdi's masterpiece about King Philip of Spain vs. Europe. Jan. 27–Feb. 5, 7:30pm. Opera in the Heights, 1703 Heights Blvd. • operaintheheights.org • 713/861-5303.

The Year of Magical Thinking. Regional premiere of Joan Didion's adaptation of her memoir. Jan. 27–Feb. 13. Main Street Theater–Rice Village, 2540 Times Blvd. • mainstreettheater.com • 713/524-6706.

Bus Stop. William Inge's comedy. Jan. 27–Feb. 20. Texas Repertory Theatre Co., 14243 Stuebner Airline Rd. • texreptheatre.org • 281/583-7573.

Lucia di Lammermoor. Donizetti's drama about religious and political conflicts between two ancient Scottish clans. Jan. 28–Feb. 11. Houston Grand Opera. Wortham Theatre Center's Brown Auditorium, 501 Texas Ave. • houstongrandopera.org • 713-228-6737.

Sarah Rothenberg's The Blue Rider: Kandinsky and Music. Jan. 29, 8pm. Da Camera. Wortham Theater Center, 501 Texas Ave. • dacamera.com • 713/524-7601.

Tango Buenos Aires: Fire and Passion of Tango. Jan. 29, 2 & 8pm. Presented by Society for Performing Arts. Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana St. • spahouston.org • 713/227-4SPA.

Gee's Bend celebrates quilting and the resilience of the human spirit. Jan. 29–Feb. 27. Ensemble Theatre, 3535 Main St. •

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. **E-MAIL INFO TO:** calendar@outsmartmagazine.com. **MAIL INFO TO:** OutSmart Magazine, 3406 Audubon Place, Houston, TX 77006. **FAX INFO TO:** 713/522-3275. **NO LISTINGS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE DEADLINE DATE—5 P.M., MONDAY, JAN. 10.**

won Best R&B Album at the 2008 Grammy Awards, with the album's hit single, "Disrespectful," a duet featuring Mary J. Blige, winning the statue for Best R&B Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocals.

Cabaret for a Cure also features performances by cabaret singers and musicians from Houston, New York, and Los Angeles, including Sheryl Lee Ralph, Mary Griffin, Riff Raff, Todd Honeycutt, and Tye Blue, with dancing to the Richard Brown Orchestra.

Tickets for the black-tie affair start at \$500, with "Tropicana" tables for 10 guests available for \$25,000. January 15, 6 p.m. cocktails and silent auction, with dinner and entertainment at 7:30 p.m. followed by dancing. Hilton Americas-Houston, 1600 Lamar St. • legacycommunityhealth.org. —Nancy Ford

ensemblehouston.com • 713/520-0055.

Hear the Future: 12th Annual Invitational School Chorale Festival. Jan. 30, 4pm. Houston Chamber Choir. South Main Baptist Church, 4100 Main St. • houstonchamberchoir.org • 713/224-5566.

A Little Day Music concert features pianist Timothy Hester and Friends. Feb. 2. Da Camera. Wortham Theater Center, 501 Texas Ave. • dacamera.com • 713/524-7601.

A Weekend with Pablo Picasso. World premiere by Herbert Siguenza. Feb. 2-27. Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave. • alleytheatre.org • 713/220-5700.

Jazz Concert by guitarist Lionel Loueke. Feb. 5. Da Camera. Wortham Theater Center, 501 Texas Ave. • dacamera.com • 713/524-7601.

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The Magician's Nephew responds to questions unanswered by The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe. Feb. 5 & 12. Main St. Theatre—Chelsea Market, 4617 Montrose Blvd. • mainstreettheater.com • 713/524-6706.

Freedom Train, a tale of a family's journey to freedom along the Underground Railroad, celebrates Black History Month. Jan. 31–March 11. Express Theatre, 446 Northwest Mall • expresstheatre.com • 713/682-5044.

RADIO

After Hours: Queer Radio with Attitude features the QMZ (Queer Music Zone) with Jimmy Carper. Sunday mornings, 1–4am. KPFT 90.1 FM • kpft.org • 713/526-5738.

Queer Voices. Features, news, music, interviews, reviews, and commentary. Monday nights, 9–11pm. KPFT 90.1 FM • kpft.org • 713/526-4000.

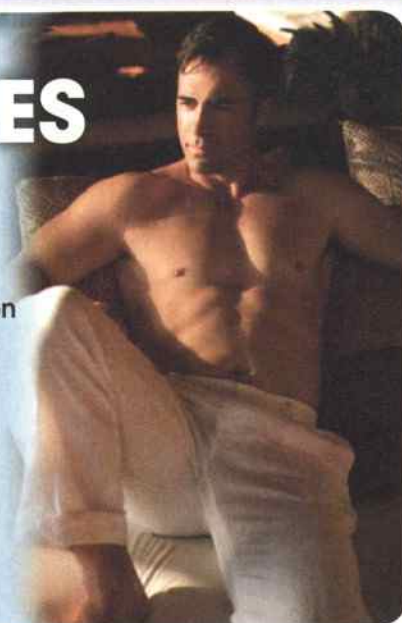
ART/PHOTOGRAPHY

Winter 2010 Open Juried Exhibition. Through Jan. 6. The Arts Alliance Center at Clear Lake, 2000 NASA Pkwy, Nassau Bay • taacd.org • 281/335-7777.

Bruce Brainard: Oil on Canvas. Through Jan. 8. Gremillion

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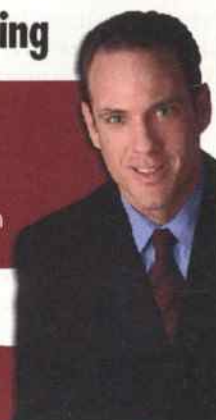
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Transformative New Year. Make a wish for the New Year at the GenderMyn's New Year Brunch, offering a traditional menu of black-eyed peas, cabbage, hush puppies, mimosas, and some not-so-traditional drag. **January 1, noon–3 p.m.** 2811 Washington Ave. • houstongendermyn.com.

Get Rubbed the Right Way as Regale NYE 2011 Bash's fun continues with Martinis & Massages & More, a New Year's Day party, **January 1, 6 p.m.** The day offers specials on full-body massages or 10-minute chair massages, sweet treats from the Chocolate Bar, and jazz music by the Best Known Unknowns. Houston Marriot Energy Corridor Hotel, 16011 Katy Frwy. • a2-40-euphoria.com.

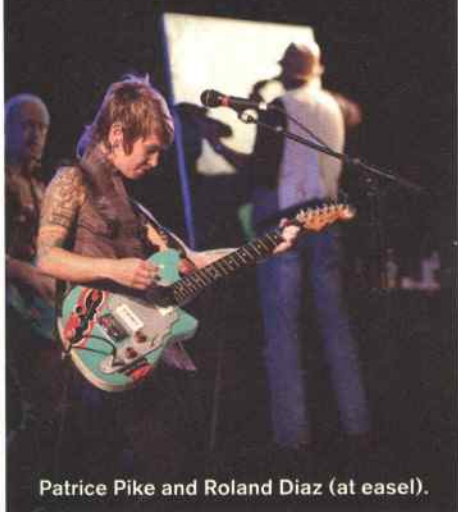
B-15 Years. Kicking off the Houston GLBT Community Center's 15th anniversary year, this month Queer Bingo moves to the second Saturday to avoid conflict with New Year's Day celebrations. **January 8, 4 p.m.** Benefits Houston GLBT Community Center. One's A Meal, 812 Westheimer Rd. • houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org.

Medieval Merriment. The flashy Krewe of Olympus gets its early Mardi Gras rolling with the 12th Night Party, scheduled **January 8, 7–10 p.m.**, at the GLBT Cultural Center in Montrose Counseling Center (401 Branard St.). It all leads up to the Krewe's opulent Ball XLI, scheduled February 12 at the George R. Brown Center (1001 Avenida De Las Americas) • mardigrastexas.com.

Walk On By. Each spring in March, thousands of Houstonians strap on their walking shoes for AIDS Walk Houston, in support of Houstonians infected with and affected by HIV and AIDS. But first they have to sign up. Register your team to participate in this year's walk, scheduled March 13, at AFH's annual kick-off party. The walk is presented by Marathon Oil Company and benefiting more than a dozen local AIDS service organizations. **January 12, 5–7 p.m.** Chelsea Grill, 4621 Montrose Blvd. • aidswalkhouston.org • 713/623-6796.

Some Like It Early and Inexpensive. Movie Night at The Arts Alliance Center Clear Lake screens *Some Like It Hot*, that 1959 tribute to drag and gender starring Tony Curtis, Marilyn Monroe, and Jack Lemmon that was way ahead of its time. Admission is free, but a \$2 donation is appreciated. Beverages and popcorn are available for \$1. **January 13, 6:30 p.m.** 2000 NASA Pkwy, Nassau Bay • taaccl.org.

Beyond the Music. Texas-based rocker Patrice Pike created the Grace Foundation of Texas to provide healthcare, education, and career training to homeless youth once they "age out" of the traditional support systems. This month, musicians Kristine Mills and Long Dive, as well as visual artist Roland Diaz, join Pike for the group's second annual awareness and fundraising gala. **January 28, 7 p.m.** Warehouse LIVE, 813 Saint Emanuel St. • gracetexas.org.



Patrice Pike and Roland Diaz (at easel).

COURTESY PATRICE PIKE

Court Coronation Marathon. The candyliciously nicknamed Empire of the Royal, Sovereign, Imperial Court of the Single Star (ERICSS) celebrates with a fun-filled weekend that extends **January 13 through 16.** King Fathers Larry Spriggs and Bob Bouton and Queen Mothers Crystal Rae Lee Love and Shy Anne kick off the weekend with the In-Town Show, **January 13, 8 p.m.**, at Brazos River Bottom, 2400 Brazos St. The court gathers the next day, **January 14, 1–4 p.m.**, to enjoy the hospitality of the host hotel, Sheraton North (15700 JFK Blvd.). Candidates for Emperor and Empress XXVII host the Out of Town Show, **January 14, 6:30 p.m.**, with buses for the bar tour leaving the hotel at 9:30 p.m. Hospitality begins **January 15, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.** The big event, Coronation XXVII: A Magical Journey through the Sound of Music takes place **January 15, 6 p.m.**, followed by an after-party 'til 4 a.m. The Sunday morning brunch hosted by Emperor XXVI Falcon and Empress XXVI Sheri Anne Bouton follows **January 16, 10 a.m.**, at the hotel. The weekend is capped **January 16, 4 p.m.**, by the Victory Party and Show at Brazos River Bottom, 2400 Brazos St., celebrating guests having made

it through the preceding three days and nights • ersicss.org.

Creative Caring. Nearly 50 renowned artists, including Rupert Garcis, Joe Havel, Donald Lipski, Joe Mancuso, Mie Olise, and others have donated works to create a unique collection for AIDS Foundation Houston's sixth annual Art4Life. Co-chaired by Barbara Davis, Heidi Schwarzwald, MD, and Bryan Rosenstrauch, the event also offers a silent auction, entertainment, dancing, and nibbles from Blue Apron Caters. **January 22.** Station Museum of Contemporary Art, 1502 Alabama St. • Benefits AIDS Foundation Houston • aidshelp.org.

Tattoo You. Several tattoo artists from the Houston area rev up their needles for charity with Tattooed for Good, a two-day tattoo festival offering 10-minute tattoos for \$40. Participating artists include Kat Adlerz, Christina Sparrow, Alex Cetina, and Brandon Madrid from Gaslight Gallery Tattoo (1416 Westheimer Rd.); Patrick Merryman, Miranda Quinn, and Dennis P. from Monster Ink; Peter, Vinnie, and Bryan Phillips from Bombshell Tattoo (604 Westheimer Rd.); Kevin Poon from Scorpion Tattoo (1401 Westheimer Rd.); and others. Also features live music, drink specials at local bars, a raffle, and more. Benefits AssistHers. **January 22–23, noon–midnight** • tattooedforgood@gmail.com • 832/594-6907.

PLANNING AHEAD

Looking Ahead. A number of events are scheduled for Freedom to Marry Week 2011, beginning **February 10, 6:30 p.m.**, with the Political, Religious, Legal Panel on Current Status of the LGBT Rights Movement at the GLBT Cultural Center (401 Branard St.). Texas' Big Gay Wedding Celebration and Protest follows **February 13, 1:30 p.m.**, at Resurrection MCC (2025 W. 11th St.). The observance concludes **February 14, 11:30 a.m.**, with the Valentine's Day Marriage License Protest and March to City Hall (Harris County Clerk's Office, 201 Caroline St.) • familymarriageequality.org.

Funny Girls. Lesbian Health Initiative–Houston moves to a new downtown location, the Doubletree Hotel, for its annual Celebration of Love dinner dance. Comedian Dana Goldberg headlines, with dance music provided by DJ Joy De La O. **February 12, 7:30 p.m.**, with silent auction, photos, and cocktails beginning at 6:30 p.m. • lhihouston.org. ■

Calendar continued from page 65

& Co. Fine Arts Gallery, 2501 Sunset Blvd. • gremillion.com • 713/522-2701.

Dynasty and Divinity: Ife Art in Ancient Nigeria. Through Jan. 9. Museum of Fine Arts Houston, 1001 Bissonnet St. • mfah.org • 713-639-7300.

Christie Coker and Andrea Wilkinson: Works. Through Jan. 14. Christ Church Cathedral's Cloister Gallery, 1117 Texas Ave. • archwaygallery.com • 713/522-2409.

Jill Moser: Editions features The Introvert, with poet Charles Bernstein. Through Jan. 14. Wade Wilson Art, 4411 Montrose, Ste. 200 • wadewilsonart.com • 713/521-2977.

Literary Effigies: Woodcuts by Charles Jones. Through Jan. 15. Museum of Printing History, 1324 W. Clay St. • printingmuseum.org • 713/522-4652.

Lawndale Art Center presents Maria Smits' *Adoration of the Mystic Dog*, David Sullivan's *Fugitive Emissions*, Rachelle Vasquez' *Where Pigeons Dare*, Kimberly Hennessy and Deb Karpman's *In and Out of Whack*, and Jill Wood's *Snack Projects*. Through Jan. 15. Lawndale Art Center, 4912 Main St. • lawndaleartcenter.org • 713/528-5858.

Michael Tole: Struck by Lightning More Than Once, She Didn't Yield. Photography-based paintings. Through Jan. 16. Galveston Arts Center, 2501 Market St., Galveston • galvestonartscenter.org • 409/763-2403.

Intimate Settings and Public Spaces: Impressionist and Post-Impressionist Drawings and Prints. Through Jan. 17. Museum of Fine Arts Houston, 1001 Bissonnet St. • mfah.org • 713-639-7300.

Benjamin Patterson: Born in the State of FLUX/us. Through Jan. 23. Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, 5216 Montrose Blvd. • camh.org • 713/284-8250.

Puuya Kuntha-Strong Heart, paintings by northern Queensland's Lockhart River's Art Gang. Through Jan. 26. Booker-Lowe Gallery, 4623 Feagan St. • bookerlowegallery.com • 713/880-1541.

Poems and Pictures: A Renaissance in the Art of the Book (1946-1981). Through Jan. 29. Museum of Printing History, 1324 W. Clay St. • printingmuseum.org • 713/522-4652.

The Color of Enamel: New Work by Leighelena. Contemporary jewelry. Through Jan. 30. Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, 4848 Main St. • craftthouston.org • 713/529-4848.

Form Follows Function: Celebrating 10 Years of the American Institute of Architects Design Collection. Through Jan. 30. Museum of Fine Arts Houston, 1001 Bissonnet St. • mfah.org • 713-639-7300.

Richard Misrach: After Katrina. Sixty-nine images. Through Jan. 30. Museum of Fine Arts Houston's Brown Auditorium Theater, 1001 Bissonnet St. • mfah.org • 713-639-7300.

Ready Made Africans, lithographs of hip-hop performers by David McGee. Through Jan. 30. Menil Collection, 1515 Sul Ross St. • menil.org • 713/525-9400.

Kurt Schwitters: Color and Collage. Through Jan. 30. Menil Collection, 1515 Sul Ross St. • menil.org • 713/525-9400.

Real Pirates: The Untold Story of the Whydah from Slave Ship to Pirate Ship showcases more than 200 18th-century artifacts from the pirate ship discovered in U.S. waters. Through Feb. 6. Houston Museum of Natural Science, One Hermann Circle Dr. • hmns.org • 713/639-4629.

Cosmopolitan Routes: Houston Collects Latin American Art celebrates the 10-year anniversary of the museum's Latin American art department. Through Feb. 6. Museum of Fine Arts Houston, 1001 Bissonnet St. • mfah.org • 713/639-7515.

Kissed by Angels: A Selection of Work from Southern California. Through Feb. 20. Menil Collection, 1515 Sul Ross St. • menil.org • 713/525-9400.

Forgotten Gateway: Coming to America Through Galveston Island. Through Feb. 20. Houston Museum of Natural Science, One Hermann Circle Dr. • hmns.org • 713/639-4629.

Vija Celmins: Television and Disaster, 1964-66. Through Feb. 20. Menil Collection, 1515 Sul Ross St. • menil.org • 713/525-9400.

The Workshop of Ernest F. de Soto, Master Printer. Through March 5. Museum of Printing History, 1324 W. Clay St. • printingmuseum.org • 713/522-4652.

Everything Has Its Place. Photography by 17 University of Houston students. Through March. City Hall, 901 Bagby St. • uh.edu.

Tony Smith: Drawings. Through April 3. Menil Collection, 1515 Sul Ross St. • menil.org • 713/525-9400.

More Than a Toy: Dolls from the Victorian Era. Through April 10. Heritage Society Museum, 1100 Bagby St., Sam Houston Park • heritagesociety.org • 713/655-1912.

Displaced Persons. Clemens Kalischer's photos of Holocaust refugees in the U.S. in the late '40s. Through April 17. Holocaust Museum Houston, 5401 Caroline • hmh.org • 713/942-8000. →

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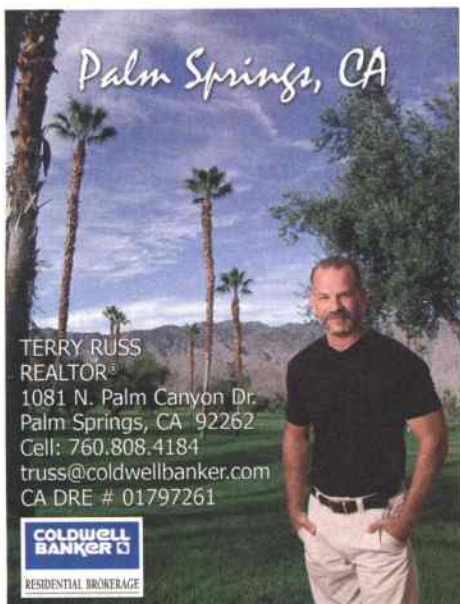
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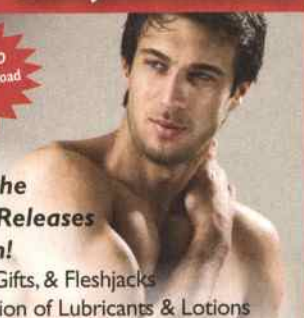
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Fragile Fragments: Expressions of Memory. Female artists examine the relationship between art and loss. Through June 5. Holocaust Museum Houston, 5401 Caroline St. • hnh.org • 713/942-8000.

Lucinda Cobby: Works and Sculpture by Joan Winter. Jan. 7-Feb. 5; reception, Jan. 7, 6pm. Wade Wilson Art, 4411 Montrose Blvd., Ste. 200 • wadewilsonart.com • 713/521-2977.

Annual Rodeo Art Exhibit showcases the artwork of students from Clear Creek ISD and Friendswood ISD. Jan. 13-27. The Arts Alliance Center at Clear Lake, 2000 NASA Pkwy, Nassau Bay • taaccl.org.

Galveston Hotel—Hotel Galvez's Centennial Art Competition. Local artists create works depicting the hotel. Jan. 14. chopkins@mitcheffamilycorp.com.

Parody of Light. Jan. 15-Feb. 27; reception, Jan. 14. Diverse-Works, 1117 East Frwy. • diverseworks.org • 713/335-3445.

Johan Grimonprez: It's a Poor Sort of Memory that Only Works Backwards. Jan. 15-April 2. Blaffer Gallery, University of Houston's Fine Arts Building, entrance 16 off Cullen Blvd. • blaffergallery.org • 713/743-9971.

Inverted Harmony: A Handmade Environment. Works in glass, lights, and textiles by Jenine Bressner. Jan. 22-March 13. Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, 4848 Main St. • crathouston.org • 713/529-4848.

DAILY

Daily (Mon.-Fri.)

HIV Testing. Free HIV testing, with no Gold Card or donation required or requested. 9am-1pm. HCHD Thomas Street Clinic, 2015 Thomas St. • 713/873-4157 • 713/873-4026.

Daily (Sun.-Fri.)

HIV Testing. Legacy Community Health Services offers free confidential rapid HIV testing using the OraQuick-Advance collection method with results available within 20 minutes. Free syphilis testing is also available. **MONDAYS:** EJ's, 2517 Ralph, 9pm-12am; GEORGE SPORTS BAR, 617 Fairview, 6-10pm. • **TUESDAYS:** BRAZOS RIVER BOTTOM, 2400 Brazos St., 6-9pm; 611 HYDE PARK PUB, 611 Hyde Park, 6-9pm; CLUB HOUSTON, 2205 Fannin St., 8pm-12am. • **WEDNESDAYS:** CLUB HOUSTON, 2205 Fannin St., 6pm-10am; EJ's, 2517 Ralph, 10pm-1am; MIDTOWN SPA, 3100 Fannin St., 4-8pm. • **THURSDAYS:** THE RIPCORDER, 715 Fairview Ave., 8pm-11am; GUAVA LAMP, 570 Waugh Dr., 6-10pm. • **FRIDAYS:** EJ's, 2517 Ralph St., 10pm-1am. • HIV and syphilis testing is also offered at 215 Westheimer Rd., Monday-Thursday, 11am-7pm, and Friday, 11am-5pm. 713/830-3070.

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 (Sundays)

The Women's Group, a feminist group for all women. 10:15am. First Unitarian Universalist Church's Sojourner Truth Room, 5200 Fannin St. • 713/529-8571.

Urban Harvest Farmers Market, presented by Central City Co-op. Noon-4pm. Discovery Green, 1500 McKinney St. • discoverygreen.com • 713/400-7336.

Weekly (Mondays)

TG Support Group. Helping TransGenders Anonymous is a facilitated support group for all transgenders, supporters, family, and significant others. 7-9pm. 604 Pacific St. • tgctr.org.

Fathers First. Houston's original gay fathers group supports gay dads who are dealing with coming-out issues and family challenges of life after being married to a woman. First three Mondays of each month, 7:30-9pm. Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1440 Harold St., room 230 • fathersfirstofhouston.com.

Gay Dads' Support Group helps gay men who are or were previously married to a woman and who had children within that relationship. 7:30-9pm. Grace Lutheran Church's parlor, 2515 Waugh Dr. • 281/608-8134.

Weekly (Thursdays)

Center HIV Support Group. New facilitated support group for HIV-positive individuals. 6pm. Houston GLBT Community Center, Historic Dow School, 1900 Kane St. • houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org • 713/524-3818.

GLBT-Friendly Depression & Bipolar Support Group. 7:15-8:30pm. Free. Eclessia Church, 2015 Taft St. • 713/526-1018.

Weekly (Sun., Wed., Sat.)

Love and Rackets. Houston Tennis Club welcomes players and enthusiasts of all skill levels. Sundays, 9am-noon; Wednesdays, 7:30-9pm; clinics, every Saturday 9-10:30am. Memorial Park Tennis Center, 1500 Memorial Loop. Annual membership, \$30; court fees, \$3 per session. houstontennisclub.org.

Weekly (Saturdays)

Recycling Saturdays. Bring your glass, paper, plastic, and aluminum. 10am-2pm. Discovery Green, 1500 McKinney St. • discoverygreen.com • 713/400-7336.

Monthly (1st Sun.)

Free Legal Consultations for PWAs. AIDS Foundation Houston and Katine & Nechman L.L.P. offer 30 minutes of free legal consultation on any legal issue to persons with HIV and AIDS, by appointment. Katine & Nechman, 1111 North Loop West, suite 180 • lawkn.com • 713/808-1000.

Monthly (1st Mon.)

Center Coming Out Group. Facilitated support group for LGBT individuals at any stage of the coming-out process. 7pm. Houston GLBT Community Center, Historic Dow School, 1900 Kane St. • houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org • 713/524-3818.

Monthly (1st Fri.)

First Friday Happy Hour. Northwest Corner, a social and civic organization for LGBT Houstonians living northwest of Loop 610, meets. Time and location TBA. nwcorner.org.

Monthly (1st & 3rd Fri.)

Positive Brothers Unite, a support/social group for HIV-positive men who have sex with men of color. 6pm. Montrose Counseling Center, 401 Branard St., room 110 • 713/454-7548 • csmithpbu@yahoo.com.

Monthly (2nd Tues.)

Center Dinner Night, hosted by the Houston GLBT Community Center. Diners pay for their own meals. 6:30pm. One's A Meal, 812 Westheimer Rd. • houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org • 713/524-3818.

Monthly (2nd Sat.)

AssistHers helps lesbians coping with life-threatening illnesses by providing non-medical assistance. Volunteers meet for fellowship and education followed by lunch at a local restaurant. 9:30am-noon. Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1440 Harold St. • assisthers.org • 713/521-4628.

Monthly (3rd Sun.)

LOAF Meet and Greet. Lesbians Over Age Fifty meet for munchies and fellowship; bring some of both. 2pm. 1034 W. 17th Street.

Monthly (3rd Tues.)

Center Seniors & Friends Potluck, organized by the Houston GLBT Community Center at Bethel Church UCC, 1107 Shepherd Dr. • houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org • 713/524-3818.

Monthly (3rd Wed.)

Bingo with the Divas, hosted by An' Marie Gill and Jessica Van Shelton. 8-10pm. Benefits Bering Omega Foundation. Tony's Corner Pocket, 817 W. Dallas St.

Monthly (3rd Thurs.)

Share with PFLAG Houston in a safe, confidential setting. 7-30pm. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church's Chatham Room, 1805 Alabama St. • pflaghouston.org.

Monthly (4th Sun.)

Share with the Clear Lake satellite of PFLAG Houston in a safe, confidential setting. 2-4pm. Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Church Fellowship Hall, 17503 El Camino Real, Clear Lake • pflaghouston.org.

Monthly (4th Wed.)

Lesbian Dinner Group. Single and coupled women come for a meal but stay for the camaraderie. 7:30pm. Cafe Express, 1422 W. Gray St. • lesbian.dinner.group@gmail.com.

JAN. 15

Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with an address by Rev. Jim Forbes, music by New Orleans jazz ensemble, and a re-dedication ceremony of the Broken Obelisk to Dr. Martin Luther King. 11am. Rothko Chapel, 1409 Sul Ross St. • rothkochapel.org • 713/524-9839.

Sugar Land Home and Garden Show showcases new ideas and latest products. Stafford Centre, 10505 Cash Rd. • sugarlandhomeandgarden.com.

JAN. 16

Brunch Against Bullying is Houston Stonewall Young Democrats' (HSYD) winter brunch. Portion of the proceeds go to Trevor Project, with the remainder used to charter buses to Austin for Lobby Day on March 7. Working with Equality Texas, HSYD is trying to raise awareness of the bullying issue to get some traction in the current legislative session. Texas State Rep. Ellen Cohen and Texas State Board of Education Trustee Anna Eastman will be in attendance. 10:30am. • houstonstonewallyd.com.

JAN. 23

Living the Questions. An exploration of progressive Christianity. Register via info@stpaulshouston.org or 713/528-0527. Info: swilliams@stpaulshouston.org. St. Paul's Methodist Church, 5501 Main St. • stpaulshouston.org.

JAN. 30

What's Color Got to Do With It? "A Spotlight on Interracial Coupledness" features Sehba Sarwar and others. Presented by Voices Breaking Boundaries. 5pm. Houston Institute for Culture, 708-B Telephone Rd. • houstonculture.org.

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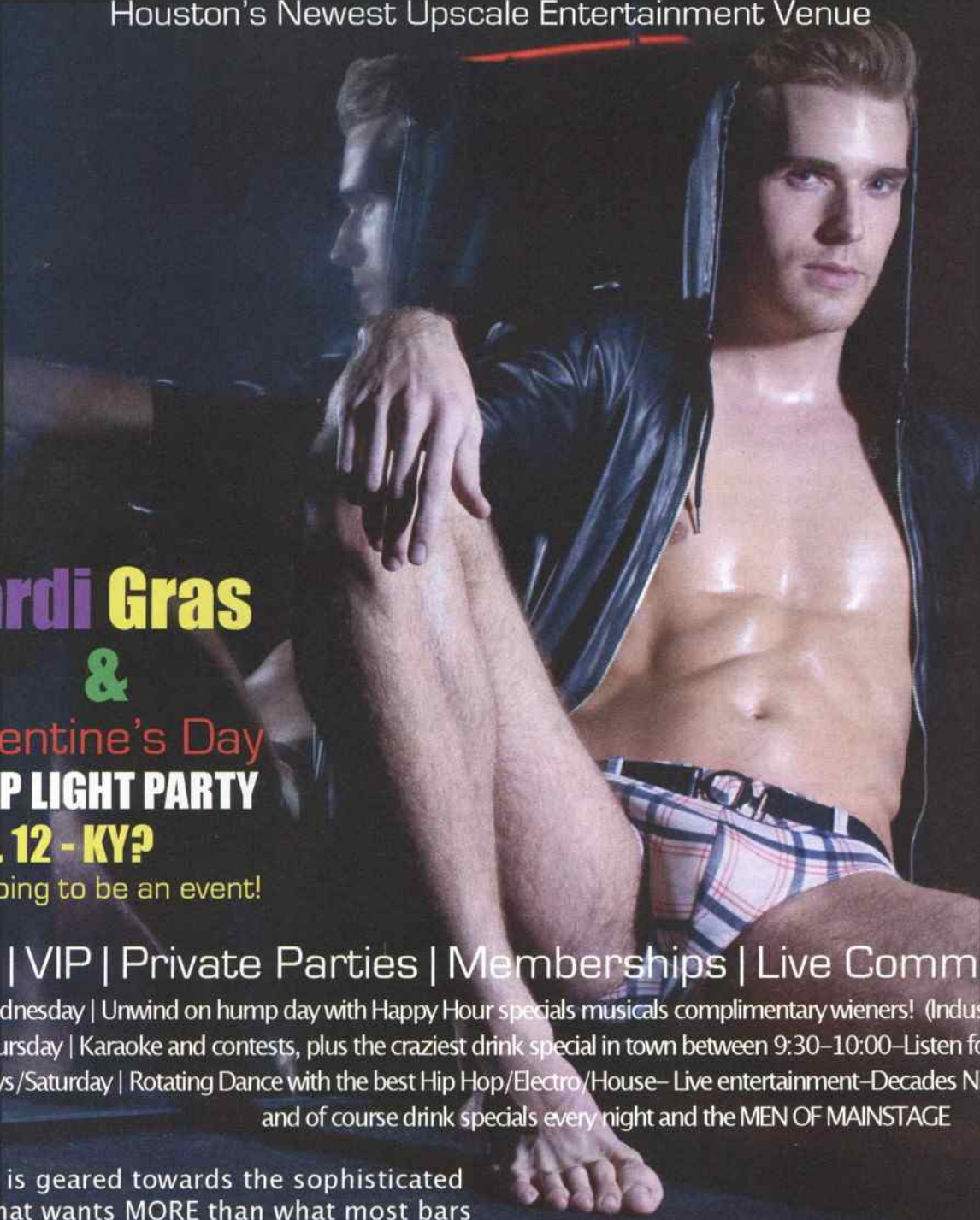


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brutal murder of a local gay man on the evening of Friday, December 10, 2010. Aaron Scheerhoorn, 28, was seen running down Crocker Street toward Pacific Street at approximately 11:30 p.m. Scheerhoorn was pursued by a man who caught him and stabbed him to death in the midst of the evening's Montrose nightlife.



Aaron Scheerhoorn

The attacker, Lydell Grant, was later apprehended and charged with murder. The Houston Police Department has released no information as to the motive, but says that the killing was "neither a robbery nor a hate crime." Numerous unexplained questions remain about the behavior of the people who were

closest to the scene of the murder.

Struggling to deal with the murder, Scheerhoorn's closest friends organized a candlelight service on the evening after his death, at the murder site. A week later, on Friday evening, December 17, a candlelight march moved from the corner of Taft and Fairview to the murder site. A banner was hung that read "Do Not Fear Evil Men—Fear the Indifference of Good Men."

A celebration of Scheerhoorn's life was held at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church on the afternoon of Tuesday, December 21. A reception and wake was



Flowers, teddy bears, and balloons are among the items left in the parking lot at 710 Pacific, on the spot where Aaron Scheerhoorn died.

then held in the home of his close friend Jon Pike. Videos of the candlelight memorials and photos of Scheerhoorn were shared at the reception as his friends con-

soled each other and shared their favorite memories of his life.

Scheerhoorn is described by his close friend Nancy McGinnis-Roberts as "someone who had the ability to love across any type of boundary. He had a zeal for life that was unparalleled and was absolutely contagious. He had so many dreams and aspirations, and so much care and love for any and all that he came in contact with. Sometimes you just need someone such as Aaron to tell you, 'You are unique, loved, and safe.' He was a unique type of hero. He came into the mundane portions of this life and made them eclectic and electric." —B.W. ■



A candlelight march moves down Fairview at 9 p.m. on Friday evening, December 17, 2010.

January 2011

New Year's Resolutions

- ① Quit smoking
- ② Quit drinking
- ③ Lose weight
- ④ Join gym
- ⑤ Go back to school
- ⑥ Pay off debts
- ⑦ Find new job

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Business News

by Nancy Ford

Alley Theatre Announces First Class of Fitzpatrick Interns.

Four recent college graduates joined the Alley Theatre staff in December as the first members of the Alley Theatre's Fitzpatrick Internship program. The program was created as a tribute to Bettye Fitzpatrick, who has been integral to the success of the Alley during more than 50 years as a stage manager, production manager, director of interns, and actor before her retirement in 2009. The Fitzpatrick Internship Program provides training and educational



Bettye Fitzpatrick on the cover of OutSmart.

opportunities to recent college graduates and students that will supplement a strong theatrical education and act as a bridge for early-career professionals. The Alley Theatre's 2010-2011 Fitzpatrick interns include Jaime Fruge, costumes intern; Kristen Smith, development intern; and Michael Weiss, lighting intern.

In the cover story of *OutSmart's* September 1997 issue ("Center-stage with Bettye Fitzpatrick" by Kyle Young), Fitzpatrick, who is openly gay, expressed her passion for supporting young students of the theater: "A lot of people have given me excellent advice in the journey that I've been on, and I realize that I owe those people. So the only way I can pay them back is to take time with the young people who are coming along and share. I like that. It is a way of giving back to a profession that has been very good to me." Applications for the 2011-2012 Fitzpatrick internships are due October 1, 2011. • alleytheatre.org.

Fringe News. After three years of individual fringe festivals produced separately by FrenetiCore and BooTown, representatives of BooTown have announced the theatrical group will no longer produce its annual Fringe Festival, most recently held in May 2010. "FrenetiCore will continue production of the Houston Fringe Festival, in addition to the other projects it regularly produces in its season," Rebecca French, FrenetiCore's executive/co-artistic director, said in a December statement to the press. "BooTown will focus energy on other projects over the course of its season. Both FrenetiCore and BooTown look forward to future years of The Houston Fringe Festival. We support each other, our respective endeavors, and we hope that the Houston arts community will continue the support it has shown to both companies in the future." • freneticore.net.

Operatic Leadership. At its December 8 meeting, Houston Grand Opera Association's board of directors elected Beth Madison as its new chair. A graduate of the University of Houston, chair-elect Madison has been an active member of Houston's philanthropic community for many years. At HGO, she has served on the board of directors as co-chair of the HGO Studio committee and chair of the Finance committee, among other duties. Glen Rosenbaum, whose term expires on July 31, 2011, has been chairman since September 2009; Madison's term as chair of the Houston Grand Opera Association board of directors begins August 1, 2011. • houstongrandopera.org.

Send your business news to *OutSmart*, 3406 Audubon Place, Houston, TX 77006, or e-mail to letters@outsmartmagazine.com.

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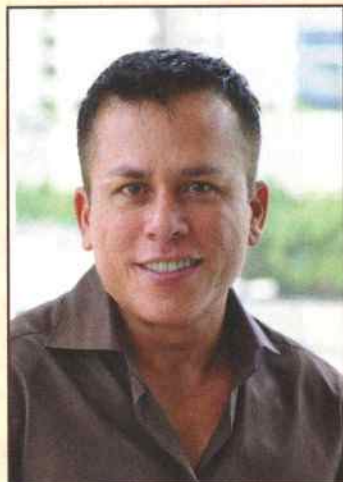


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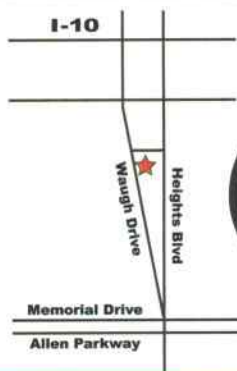
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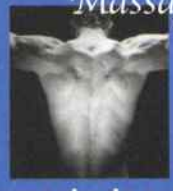
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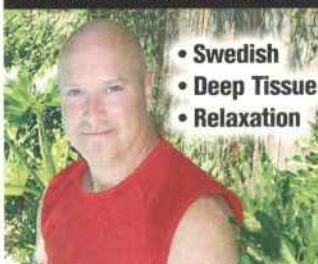
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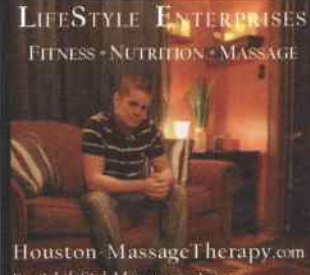
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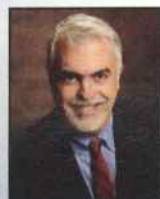
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AZTECA'S VIP LOUNGE

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BEER ISLAND

Tropical touches combine with Texas roadhouse chic at this comfortable Heights hangout. Beer is king, but the island is also becoming famous for their sake shots. 2631 White Oak Dr. • 713/862-4670.

BLUR

This multi-level dance club features an expansive patio upstairs lounge, and balconies that overlook the busy Pacific St. traffic. The ladies enjoy Wet and Wild Wednesdays, 18-year-olds are welcome on Thurs., resident DJ Lorenzo spins Wed.-Sat. nights, DJ Pollo spins Karumba Latin night on Sun. Happy hour, 8-10 p.m.; free cover before 11 p.m. 710 Pacific St. • blurbar.com.

BODACOS

Patrons enjoy dining on the deck at this cozy Menil-area Mexican restaurant that also accommodates special events, like charitable dinners for AIDS Foundation Houston and American Cancer Society. 1312 W. Alabama • 713/523-5230.

BOHEME CAFÉ & WINE BAR

Located deep in the heart of Montrose, this European-inspired spot showcases art within and without, featuring a 40-foot bar and a huge garden space. 307 Fairview Ave. • barboheme.com • 713/529-1099.

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 Thurs. night. 2400 Brazos • 713/528-9192 • brbhouston.com.

CLUB 2020

Located downtown near the Toyota Center, this urban club features Clubbers Friday with male and female dancers. Its 6,400 square feet also offers theater-sized viewing screens and VIP rooms. 2020 Leeland • 713/227-9667 • club2020houston.com.

CLUB ADAM AND EDEN

Serving the collective party needs of the Clear Lake area's gay men and lesbians, the adjacent clubs are open seven days a week, offering a large video lounge, a martini bar, pool tables, a private VIP area, and a 1,200 square foot dance floor. 522 W. Nasa Parkway • 281/557-0434 • clubadam.net.

CLUB CRYSTAL

If you miss the now-closed Inergy, you'll find many of its former staff, management, and décor at this two-room Latin/hip-hop club. Sunday evening drag shows rule the roost. 6680 Southwest Fwy, next to Colorado • crystaltheclub.com • 713-278-2582.

CROCKER

New ownership has taken over this durable Montrose nightclub that boasts "the longest happy hour in Montrose." Miss Jenny hosts Wii tournaments, with gay boxing on Wed. and gay bowling on Sun. 2312 Crocker • 713/529-3355.

THE DRAKE

This upscale, usually straight bar on the Washington strip goes LGBT for FREEdom Sundays, starting at 8 p.m. 1902 Washington Ave. • areyoufam.com • thedrakebar.com.

EJ'S

Located on the western front of Montrose, EJ's retains the charm of a colorful, local hangout. Frequent shows, including community benefits, pack the stage. The upstairs martini bar offers a quiet retreat. 2517 Ralph • 713/527-9071 • ej'sbar.com.

GEORGE

Regulars rule at this comfortable neighborhood sports bar, just like most other neighborhood sports bars in town. But George's occasional benefit drag show makes it a wonderful, campy alternative. Sports Saturdays start at 3 p.m. with dart and pool tournaments; Steak Night is Sun., 3-7 p.m. 617 Fairview • 713/528-8102.

GUAVA LAMP

The club left Shepherd Plaza and reopened with a larger space near Allen Parkway. Guava Lamp presents karaoke nights on Sun. and Wed. and offers a free happy hour buffet on Fri. 570 Waugh • 713/524-3359.

IN-N-OUT

Heights residents appreciate this nearby alternative to Montrose haunts with state-of-the-art large digital displays, Internet jukebox, comfy seating, and daily drink specials. 1537 N. Shepherd • 713/589-9780.

JR'S BAR & GRILL

With house emcee Kofi, OutSmart's Gayest and Greatest reigning drag champion, this Montrose standard offers shows Sun.-Wed., as well as pool tables, go-go boys, and karaoke. 808 Pacific St. • 713/521-2519.

BEHIND THE BAR

WHO: Mell Gamba

WHERE: The Usual Pub
5519 Allen St. • theusualpub.com
281/501-1478

WHAT'S UP: Now Houston's sole nightclub catering to lesbians, The Usual hosts a full day of Super Bowl activities on February 6.

LADY BARBARA'S CLUB TRUE COLORS

Lady Barbara and MC Zip, who previously held court at Bella Aida Gardens and Bartini, have opened this southwest club for "everyone in the community" featuring "Free For All" open mic on Sundays. 2727 Crossview Dr. • 713/266-6505.

METEOR

The men of Manwatch and Muscles in Action rinse down in the newly added "Meteor Shower" stall, with VJs Tad Dvorak and Joe Ross playing videos every night in this posh but comfy lounge on the downtown edge of Montrose. 2306 Genesee St. • meteorlounge.com • 713/521-0123.

MICHAEL'S OUTPOST

Jerry Atwood, Clay Howell, Neil Massey, Steve Wheaton, and Roger Woest take turns at the keys at this comfortable neighborhood piano bar. 1419 Richmond Ave. • 713/520-8446.

MONTROSE MINING COMPANY

Study 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.

PABLO'S BAR & GRILL

Formerly known as the Pasadena Sky Bar, this LGBT-friendly venue located on the eighth floor of the Camden Plaza Hotel boasts a brand-new dance floor and resident DJ. 114 Richey St. in Pasadena • pasadenaskybar.com • 832/884-7276.

RAINBOW ROOM

Every Thursday, Heather Moon hosts karaoke at this north Houston club. DJ Kenny supplies music on Fri. and Sat. 527 Barren Springs • 281/872-0215 • therainbowroombar.com.

THE RIPCORD

This well-kept, multi-roomed, leather bar for men and their friends boasts a busy patio, especially on the weekends. The Black Hawk Leather shop is located inside the club, providing BDSM essentials. 715 Fairview Ave. • theripcord.com • 713/521-2792.

THE 611

This neighborhood club is a popular spot with pool sharks. On Fri. and Sat., the 611 dishes up buffet dinners. Features include a garden-style patio. 611 Hyde Park • 713/526-7070.

SOUTH BEACH

This mega-danceclub is a frequent winner of *OutSmart's* Gayest and Greatest awards, with DJ Tucker playing pop and dance music videos on Fridays. *Billboard* contributor DJ Jimmy Skinner spins on Saturdays. Open Friday and Saturday with after-hours; 18 and older. 810 Pacific St. • southbeachthenightclub.com • 713/529-SOBE.

STATUS

DJ Ill Set spins for Lipstick Wednesday, a weekly "all girl" party at this lush and spacious dance club on the southern tip of downtown. No cover for 21+. 2404 San Jacinto St. • statushouston.com • 713/659-5400.

TC'S SHOWBAR

New owners, Tim and Corey, have revamped the deep-Montrose neighborhood bar, erasing any hint of its former occupant, Cousin's. Numerous flat-screen televisions and day-long drink specials highlight the updated décor. 817 Fairview • 713/526-2625 • tcshowbar.com.

TONY'S CORNER POCKET

This comfortable club located close to downtown has one of the friendliest bar staffs in town, both inside and outside at its patio bar. The raised stage where local charities perform also features an amateur dance contest each Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 11 p.m. Opens daily at noon. 817 W. Dallas • 713/571-7870 • tonyscornerpocketbar.com.

THE USUAL

Formerly a house of ill repute, this lesbian-owned neighborhood bar now has plenty of reputation, especially on Wednesday, when "Her Usual" night packs in the women. Enjoy drink specials, dancing, karaoke, and gazing at the downtown skyline from the spacious front deck. 5519 Allen St. • theusualpub.com • 281/501-1478.

VIVIANA'S

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

Spring

RANCH HILL SALOON

With its two pool tables, 52-inch plasma televisions, and large dance floor, the gayest spot on the north side also accommodates private parties, holy unions, and receptions. Enjoy Wii tournaments Fridays, 7-9 p.m., and Sundays, 5-8 p.m. 247041-145N, Suite 103 • 281/298-9035 • www.ranchhill.com • myspace.com/ranchhillsaloon.

Humble

WHISPERS

Northerly GLBTs meet at this comfy neighborhood bar that offers pool, darts, video games, karaoke Thursday, and dancing. 226 First St. • 281/359-2900 • whispersbar.com.

Galveston

3RD COAST DOWNTOWN

Just because its owners moved the club from its longtime Seawall location, it doesn't mean it's not still one of the most popular spots for Galveston's GLBTs. Its new "urban chic" look maintains its tropical flair. 2416 Postoffice St. • 409/765-6911.

BACCHUS WINE BAR

Nestled snugly within the Crows Bar and The Mediterranean Chef, this purveyor of rare international wines also offers a 30-foot bar and a pub atmosphere with a sumptuous menu. 2404 Strand St. • 409/765-9463.

THE PINK DOLPHIN

This friendly neighborhood club that has changed location a time or two since Hurricane Ike still offers drag shows, karaoke, and set-ups throughout the week. • 904 Avenue M • pinkdolphinsgalveston.com • 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 Sat. and Sun. nights, the Ladies of Lafitte show takes the stage. 2501 Avenue Q (at 25th) • 409/765-9092.

STARS BEACH CLUB

The island's newest entry into its ever-growing roster of gay bars is energized by visually stunning touches of light throughout. DJ Joe Rios spins for the spacious club, which also offers ample outdoor seating. 3102 Seawall Blvd. • 409/497-4113 • starsbeachclub.com.

Beaumont

ORLEANS STREET PUB AND PATIO

The place to hang for food, fun, and booze in a newly renovated pub, in good weather or bad. Open every night from 7 p.m.-2 a.m. 650 Orleans • 409/835-4243.

Bryan/College Station

HALO VIDEO BAR

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



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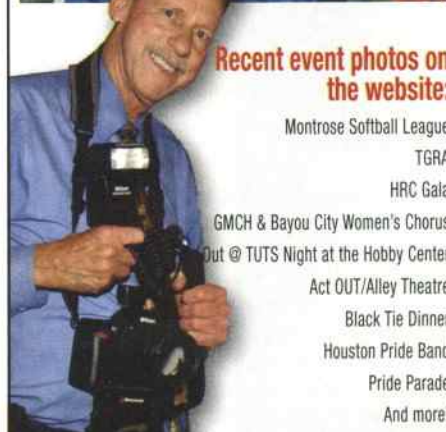
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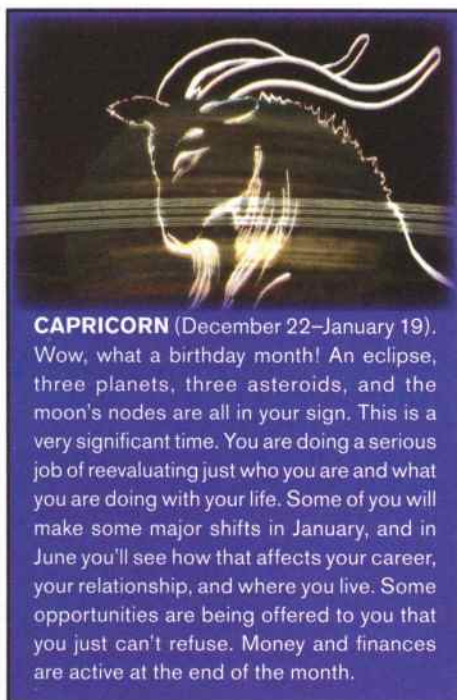
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What a busy month! The best news is that we are not under Mercury's retrograde influence. This will help to get 2011 off to a good start. On the 4th, we have a solar eclipse, and a special new moon in the sign of Capricorn. This will continue to shine the light on government, exposing decades of abuse by those in the highest positions of power. Personally, we are dealing with responsibility (or the lack of it) in our lives. There is a lot of activity around the time of the eclipse. Difficult situations will come to a head, so try to keep yours on straight. • Fun days this month are the 10th, 11th, 12th, 17th, and 19th. Days to wear your hard hat are the 4th, 7th, 18th, and 26th. The sun starts the month in Capricorn and enters Aquarius on the morning of the 20th. Mercury is flying through Sagittarius and is grounded in Capricorn on the morning of the 13th. Mars is dragging through Capricorn but is "free to be me" in Aquarius on the afternoon of the 15th. All the rest of the planets stay where they are—and what a happy bunch they are.

ARIES (March 21–April 19). Your public life and career are in the spotlight this month. This will feel like a big boost of energy. Things could be dicey at work. Your patience and tolerance will be very low. Take some time to think before you respond if you can. You will speak from your heart this month, and you will not want to hold back. Even though you speak the truth, you might experience some backlash and could end up being blamed. Others may take this career energy and start their own business. On the other hand, relationships are more fun and exciting, and you are enjoying them more than ever. Friends and community organizations take on a more important role at the end of the month.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20). Despite the intense conditions in the sky, you seem to be sailing along. This is a good month for you to expand your mind through travel or participation in discussion groups. You are open to new ideas. Health is still nagging you to improve how you nurture yourself. You may want to limit your contact with co-workers this year, as they may not be as trustworthy as you had originally thought. You are more grounded toward the end of the month. Relationships are still a bit edgy, but they are improving every day.

GEMINI (May 21–June 21). You are more serious than usual this month. On the relationship side, you are dealing with some trust issues in your life. You need more reassurance, and you can't seem to find that dispassionate air that you use so well. Some of this could have been triggered by a discussion about money and intimacy. Career energies are beginning to be in flux. Make sure you listen to your inner emotional voice and not your intellect. Even if you can't hear that voice, you know it is there. You lighten up by the end of the month, when you'll want to have a margarita.



CAPRICORN (December 22–January 19).

Wow, what a birthday month! An eclipse, three planets, three asteroids, and the moon's nodes are all in your sign. This is a very significant time. You are doing a serious job of reevaluating just who you are and what you are doing with your life. Some of you will make some major shifts in January, and in June you'll see how that affects your career, your relationship, and where you live. Some opportunities are being offered to you that you just can't refuse. Money and finances are active at the end of the month.

CANCER (June 22–July 22). Most of the planets are visiting your relationship sector this month, including the eclipse. This should put the focus on your partnerships. Your associates have some things to deal with, and you need to be there to be supportive. It could involve people who are shifting careers or taking on a whole new life project. It seems to be the ending and beginning of a lot of things for them. As for your personal relationship, it would be good to make sure that the two of you are operating on the same page. This is a period of rebirth, so enjoy it. Career looks very good if you're not too busy. Keep your hand on the throttle and don't go too fast.

LEO (July 23–August 22). The light is shining on your work and health arena this month, so expect to make some changes there. You could be dealing with new co-workers, a change of work location, and having to clean up after others. Don't hold your feelings in, or it will affect your health. Make sure your boundaries are clear so you don't end up harboring resentment. Don't overdo it—you need to conserve your energy this month. Relationships demand attention at the end of the month, which is a good and flirtatious time for you. Let that love light shine. We can feel the heat.

VIRGO (August 23–September 22). This is your month to play. Cyndi Lauper said it best: "Girls Just Want to Have Fun." You will be entertaining all of the subjects in your realm, and they will be happy to be in your presence. If you need to sell yourself or an idea you have, this is the month to do it. You are quick on your feet, and you aren't taking life too seriously. You are still redesigning your current relationship, and you might want to give it more time to gel before you change anything. At mid-month, the need to do some real work rears its head, and you try to avoid it as long as possible.

LIBRA (September 23–October 23). The planets are focused in your home and family area, and that could mean moving, redecorating, or just downsizing your home. There may be family issues that you must deal with this month and next. Don't be afraid to step in and take control—everyone else does. Your family needs leadership, and you are the one. With the eclipse here, it could be serious for elderly family members. Expect some shifts at work as well. You can breathe again at the end of the month. Take a deep one—you will need it.

SCORPIO (October 24–November 21). Your theme this month is clarity in communication. You will speak up and be heard. You are not in a kidding mood, and you could put some people off with your approach. You don't have to go in for the kill unless it is necessary. You will be especially aware of mistakes made by you and by others. Don't be too hard on yourself. This is a great month to get all those small projects taken care of. At the end of the month, you shift your attention to your home.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22–December 21). Finances hold your attention this month, and there could be some brand-new investments for you. On a personal level, you may be looking at yourself differently or using a previously hidden talent. You are seeing who you are in a better light. You are into getting rid of debt, especially toward the end of the month. You'll be reconsidering your participation in groups and organizations, and cutting some of them from your calendar.

AQUARIUS (January 20–February 18). You can feel it in the background: something is gestating and is about ready to hatch. You need more time to yourself, or at least time away from the drama. You may get some news about friends and their health toward the end of the month. In the big picture, you are doing a big overhaul on your spiritual beliefs. Career energies are good, and you can make a good impression on people even with the turmoil in the background. You are more yourself when your birthday arrives.

PISCES (February 19–March 20). The focus this month is on friends. Some of them will leave your life, some will renew their relationship with you, and there will be a lot of new people coming into your life. Some groups that you belong to will not see you returning as the new year begins. You have a different sense of things—you're ready to put the focus on yourself and not on others. Some new money-making ideas come to you at the end of January, and they continue well into March. You will need a nap by the end of the month.

Read Lilly Roddy's forecast for all of 2011, which appears on page 22 of this issue of OutSmart. For more astro-insight, log on to lillyroddy.com.



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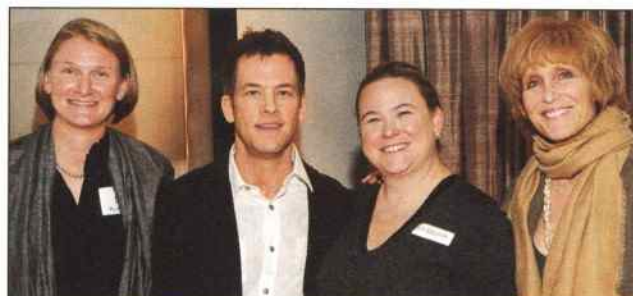
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Frank Billingsley (far left), **Chree Boydston**, **Bruce Culpepper**, **Marvin Odum**, **Don Pastorini**, and **Jesse Saldivar** after Billingsley's Golf Tournament benefiting Legacy, at the Redstone Golf Club, October 20.



Britt Kornmann, **Kevin White**, **Jen Bajorek**, and **Curry Glassell** at HRC's "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner," November 13.



Ben Montalbano, **Michael Collins**, and **Galye Collins** at the Legacy Community Health Services "Capital Campaign" kickoff, November 30.



Heidi Schwarzwald, MD, **Nathan Joel Kasselder**, and **Bryan Rosenstrauch** at the Art4Life kickoff, November 18.



(left) **Joe Milano** and **Stephen Milano** with sons **Ruben** and **Alex** at the HGLP gingerbread house building, December 11.



Bert Klyssmann, **Roy Hock**, **John Danielson III**, **Cindy Cuellar**, and **Tammy Tadlock** at the EPAH holiday party, December 12.



Lou Weaver, **Phyllis Frye**, **Maria Gonzalez**, and **Cristan Williams** during the "Houston Transgender Day of Remembrance," November 20.



Wade Wilson, **Barbara Davis**, **Anya Tish**, **Jaymes Alexander**, and **Steven Hempel** at the BCBC Red Carpet holiday party and AFH Red Ribbon Toy Drive, December 5.



The Kindred Spirits Group during the "Judy Garland Christmas Show and Sing-Along," December 5.

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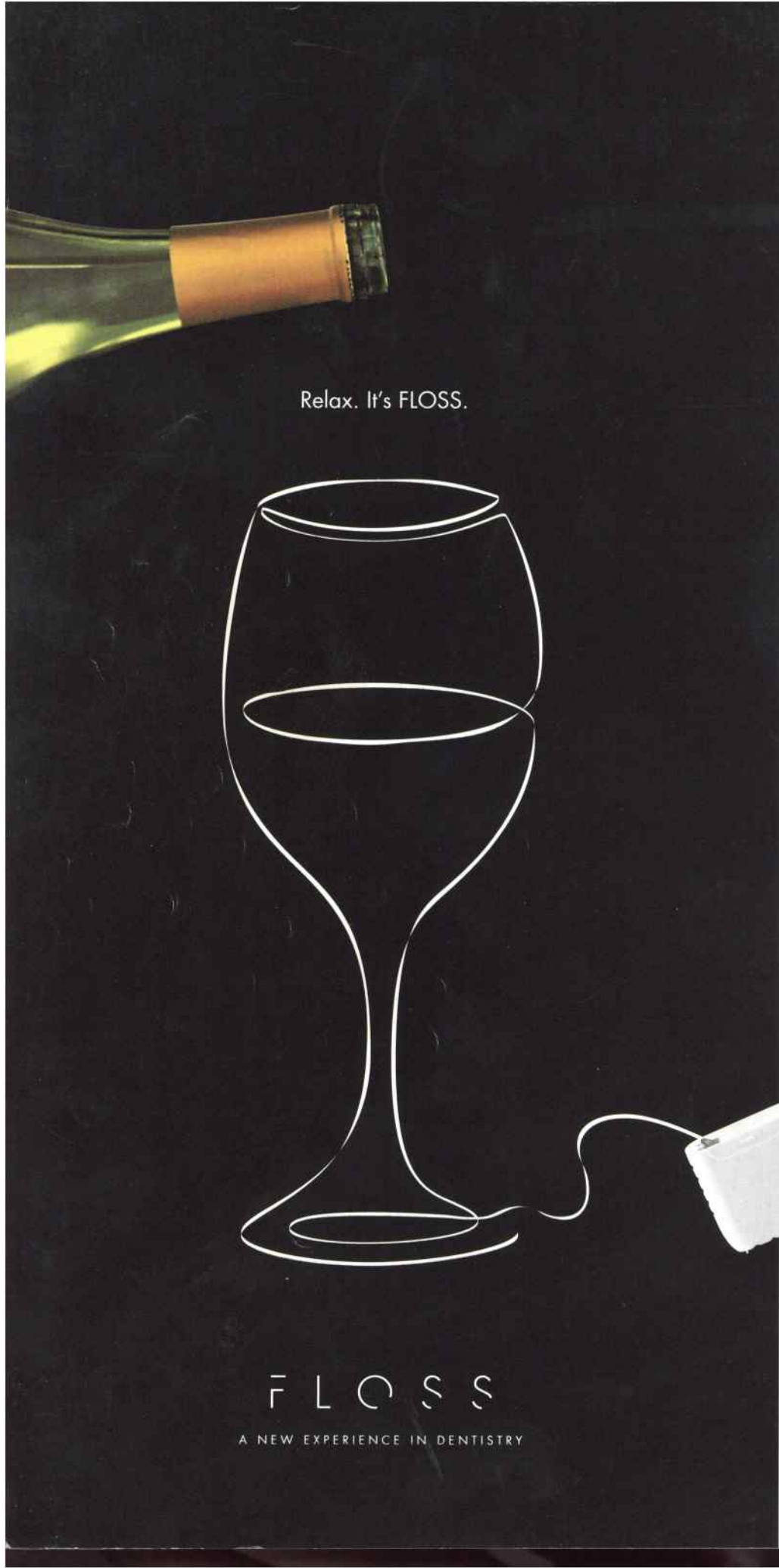
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