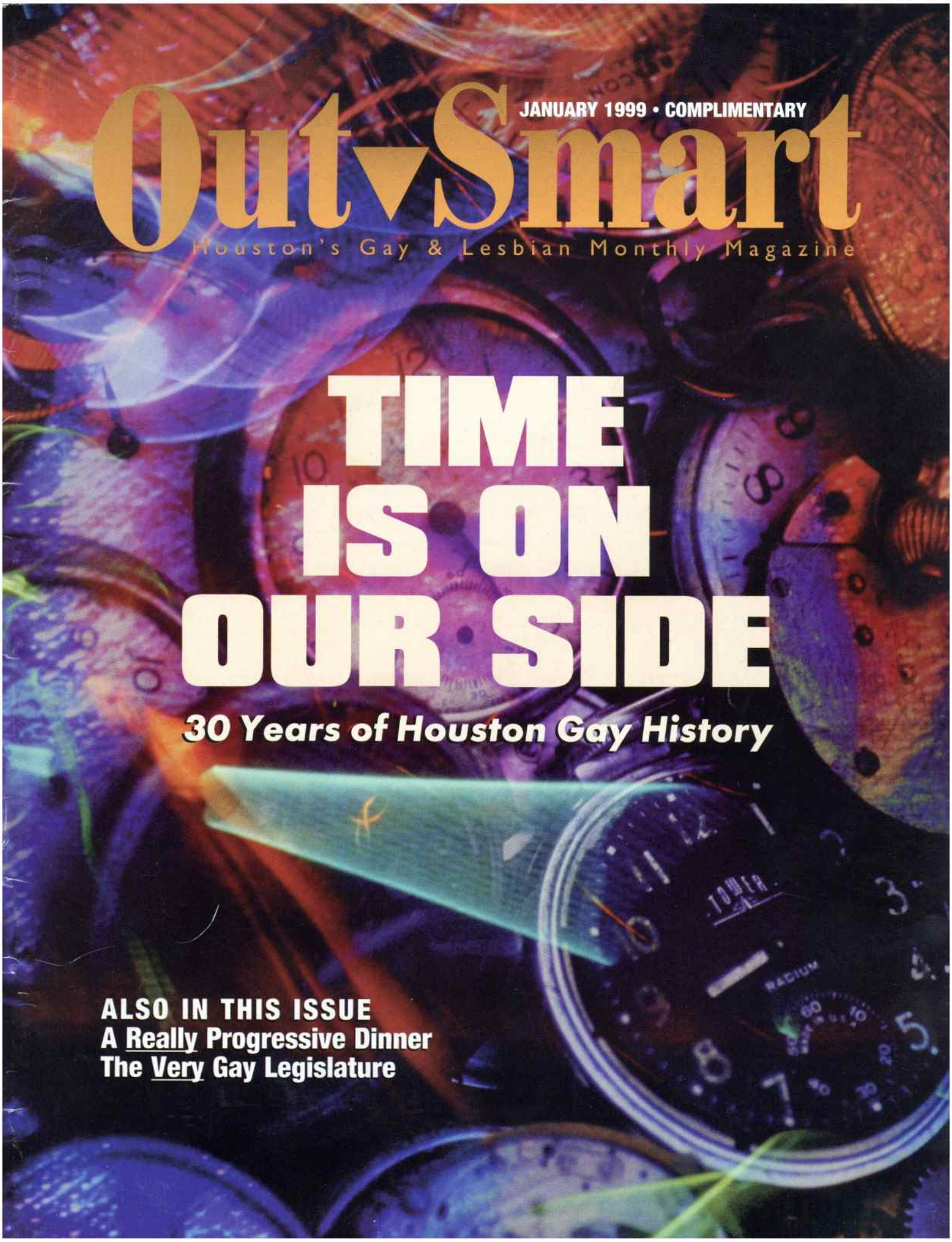

JANUARY 1999 • COMPLIMENTARY
OutSmart
Houston's Gay & Lesbian Monthly Magazine
TIME IS ON OUR SIDE
30 Years of Houston Gay History
ALSO IN THIS ISSUE
A Really Progressive Dinner
The Very Gay Legislature

Do the Time Warp

Where We've Been in 30 Years

by Melissa Valenzuela

It's astounding. Time is fleeting. Madness takes its toll—and it has for the gay community in the past 30 years. In the beginning—the very beginning—there were drag queens. From the dazzle of the Diana Foundation's beautiful, flamboyant she-sters of the 1950s to the roaring political quests of today, the gay community has been through it all. But the gay community did not peek much from behind the closet doors until the 1970s, when *OutSmart* begins its look at where the gay community has been.

YEAR: 1970

MILESTONE: Integrity Houston founded

HAPPENING: Even as political allies dwindled to a short demise, Integrity survived and thrived, in part because of its honest realism that a radical calling to restructure society was too ambitious during this confining era. Members of Integrity met faithfully at the old Holy Rosary Church on Travis where they mounted assertive political strategies for homosexual rights.

YEAR: 1973

MILESTONE: Houston Gay Political Coalition

HAPPENING: Making political waves of its own was the GPC, a painful nag to City Council. On two occasions, members demanded an end to job discrimination and police harassment, recognition of gay minorities by the Human Relations Council, and a proclamation designating June 24-30 as Gay Pride Week. They were met with impudent resistance, including these words from Councilman Frank Mann, "You're abnormal. You need to see a psychiatrist instead of City Council."

YEAR: 1975

MILESTONE: Texas Human Rights Foundation challenges sodomy article 21.06

HAPPENING: With no hope that Texas legislators would repeal 21.06 during this year's legislation, the foundation filed Baker vs. Wade in the U.S. District Court. Its handpicked plaintiff, Donald Baker, went up against Dallas' elite Christian devotee Henry Wade. Baker filed suit claiming 21.06 violated his constitutional right to privacy and equal protection under the law. His case was not heard until 1981, when the court unanimously ruled in favor of Wade.

YEAR: 1977

MILESTONE: Human Rights Rally

HAPPENING: More than 3,000 gay and lesbian protesters gathered in the Depository Bar parking lot on McGowen Street and marched by candlelight to the Houston Public Library to protest Anita Bryant's visit to Houston. The Oklahoma beauty queen, known for her antigay crusades, sang with patriotic gust at the Texas Bar Association's annual dinner at the Hyatt downtown. The demonstration has been touted as the gay community's first collective political act.

YEAR: 1978

MILESTONE: Town Meeting I

HAPPENING: Sponsored by the GPC, political guru Ray Hill co-organized Town Meeting I in the Astroarena, where 4,000 gays and lesbians set resolutions dealing with homosexual issues. Main speaker Frances "Sissy" Farenthold, twice Texas gubernatorial candidate, told the crowd, "No one is free unless we are all free." This spirited idealism quickly dissipated with controversy surrounding media actions in the arena. Roaming cameras poked fear into many participants who still lived the closeted life.

Timeline

1953
- Diana Foundation

1963
- Roaring Twenties (closed 1975)

1965
- Albatross

1966
- Galleon Bar

1967
- Roaring Sixties (lesbian bar, closed 1975)
- Tumblebugs (became T.H.E.M.)

1968
- Golden Nuggett
- Promethean Society
- Red Room Bar
- Texas Homophile Educational Movement (T.H.E.M., first gay nonprofit organization to be chartered)

1969
- Miss Camp America
- Texas Riders

YEAR: 1979
MILESTONE: First Gay Pride Parade
HAPPENING: Commemorating the famous Stonewall Riots, Larry Bagneris co-organized the community's first concerted effort from protest to pride. More than 20,000 people attended the landmark event, but discrepancy haunts this annual celebration. Roughly 200 members of the now-dead Gay Activist Alliance of the University of Houston marched down a two-block stretch in 1976, staking claim to the first gay pride parade.

YEAR: 1980
MILESTONE: Mary's Lounge raided
HAPPENING: Just as Gay Pride Week began, Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission and Houston police officers raided Mary's Lounge, arresting 61 people and using what the then-manager called "Gestapo tactics." Asst. Police Chief Tommy Mitchell said police responded to calls from the public, and the arrests were routine enforcement of the law. Congressman Mickey Leland accused the department of harassing gays; all charges were dropped.

YEAR: 1982
MILESTONE: AIDS Foundation Houston opens
HAPPENING: When AIDS mysteriously began to plague American livelihood and HIV-case management remained scarce, AIDS Foundation Houston emerged as the first community-based organization solely dedicated to HIV-related issues. In a reactive stance against AIDS, AFH set out to reduce the transmission of HIV and to remain one step ahead of this deadly disease.

YEAR: 1985
MILESTONE: Born into Heaven
HAPPENING: Heaven, with its glowing lava lamps, sunken dance floor, and hard-bodied go-go dancers, opened its doors to the wild, the prep, the young, the old. Tragically, this Pacific Square milestone met its fate in 1997. A burning building sent screaming queens out the doors, but loyal patrons have nothing to worry about. Rumor has it that the booming club will soon resurrect as South Beach.



YEAR: 1988
MILESTONE: Inklings
HAPPENING: Tucked in a renovated red-brick house on Richmond, Inklings Bookstore was the peril of co-owners Annise Parker and Pokey Anderson. It stood as the only lesbian-specific bookstore. And in its 10th year, the owning duo reluctantly sold this female haven to Texans living in Salt Lake City, Utah, subsequently blessing Mormons with their first gay and lesbian bookstore.

YEAR: 1991
MILESTONE: The Paul Broussard murder
HAPPENING: The community received a wake-up call when 10 young men from The Woodlands beat and killed Paul Broussard after he left a popular gay nightclub. Gay activists mobilized for swift punishment against the men, but only one received jail time while the others each received 10 years probation.

YEAR: 1992
MILESTONE: *Texas Triangle*
HAPPENING: This brainchild of publisher and editor Kay Longcope was recognized for its sharp journalism standards and staunch resistance of sex and bar advertisements. Longcope's commitment to this "cleanliness" cost her in 1996, when the newspaper fell to financial woes, and big gun Todd Cunningham of Angle Media rescued this failing newspaper. With his entrance came the sex advertisements and Longcope's exit.

YEAR: 1993
MILESTONE: Texas Association of Transsexual Support
HAPPENING: TATS was formed to meet the specific needs of transsexuals, either male-to-female or female-to-male, and those who have yet to make

1970
- Integrity/Houston
- KPFT Radio Station
- Krewe of Olympus - Texas
- Nuntius Publication (discontinued 1977)
- Round Table Bar (closed 1973)
- University of Houston Gay Liberation Front (folded in 1973 and did not have official university sanction)

1971
- Hi Kamp

1972
- Dignity/Houston (Catholics)
- Houston Motorcycle Club
- Mary's Bar
- Montrose Gaze Community Center (September 1972)
- Poppa Bear (tourist drag show bar on Market Square, closed 1973)

1973
- Gay Radio Show (8 weeks of programming)
- Houston Council of Clubs
- Houston Gay Political Coalition
- Just Marion and Lynn's Bar
- Metropolitan Community Church Study Group of Houston (predecessor of MCCR)

1974
- Contact
- Texas Gay Task Force

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

Imagine the results of 1 million members working for gay and lesbian equality.

Join HRC today at www.hrc.org

SPONSORED BY ZEPHYR DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

They say it's nice to have a man around the house. Allow us to suggest this one.



Meet Joseph Mader, one of Mortgage Associates' top mortgage brokers. Joseph combines both impeccable service with a can-do attitude to get you the best mortgage rate for your home. Friendly, knowledgeable, personable, Joseph can make your mortgage process simple, comfortable, and surprisingly easy.

No, you may not need Joseph around when you're in your home. But he's real handy in helping you get there.

Mortgage Associates of Texas

5311 Kirby Drive, Suite 203 • 713.524.1850 • www.mortgageassoc.com

such operative changes. It's not all about fun for these guys/gals; the group assists graduate students with research and practical experience about transsexuals.

YEAR: 1995
MILESTONE: The Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce
HAPPENING: The chamber helped gays and lesbians move into the big-business, networking mecca of Houston. It furthered the community's economic spirit when it mixed big business and small entrepreneurs during Empower, a gay business expo.

YEAR: 1997
MILESTONE: First Nighttime Parade
HAPPENING: Houston made national history with the city's first nighttime parade. Gays and lesbians were "glowing with pride" as decorated floats and cars streamed down the Westheimer strip, celebrating both homosexuality and relief from the blistering June heat.

YEAR: 1998
MILESTONE: Mayor Appoints Gay Liaison
HAPPENING: Mayor Lee P. Brown made gay history when he appointed Matthew Eastus as the city's first gay liaison. Bearing the responsibility of helping Brown mix with the gay locals, Eastus shared some glory with Annise Parker as she gained notoriety as the city's first lesbian City Council member at the end of 1997.

Information obtained from the Charles Botts Memorial Library of MCCR and the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center. Research assistance provided by Steve Brown. Next month, OutSmart *continues with more of Houston's gay and lesbian timeline history.*

1975

- Gay Activist Alliance (University of Houston)
- Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus
- Lambda Center A. A.
- Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection (MCCR, Houson chartered)
- Point Blank Times (continued until 1978)
- Southwest Courier
- Swamptrash
- This Week in Texas (TWIT)
- Update Weekly (aka Update Texas Weekly)
- Wilde N' Stein Radio Show (became Gay and Lesbian Voices)

1976

- First Gay Parade in Houston (June 20, sponsored by the Gay Activist Alliance)
- Colt 45's
- Ducks Softball Team
- Integrity (Episcopalians)
- Leathermen
- Montrose Star
- R.E. Search Warrant

1977

- Anita Bryant Protest March (June 16, Houston Human Rights Rally)
- Ray Hill Becomes First Openly Gay Candidate for Houston City Council
- Gay Unitarian/Universalist Caucus
- Houston Human Rights League
- Lutherans Concerned for Gays
- Texas Conference of Clubs
- Wilde and Stein Bookstore

WHERE WE ARE GOING

What community organizations are doing in 1999

by Melissa Valenzuela

Just as triumphant and grand as where we've been, where we're going screams "out with the old and in with the new." As community organizations leap into the new year, expect some changes, whether it's expanding old services or creating some new ones. *OutSmart* takes a look at some of these growing organizations and how 1999 will lead them into the next millennium.

SISTERS

In 1999, the gay community's African-American sisters are moving—literally.

SISTERS, an African-American women's organization, is relocating its monthly meetings from the Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection to the Hollyfield Foundation Conference Center, 2700 Albany. President Shirley Gray said the move is a direct result of the group's growing membership in the past year.

"We want to be somewhere where everyone can reach us. We have members throughout Houston, and the Hollyfield Center is a more central area," said Gray.

Beginning strong in the new year, SISTERS will hold a "How to Love Yourself" presentation with guest speaker Sue Long of the Montrose Counseling Center on Jan. 10, in conjunction with the group's monthly meeting. Then, on Feb. 19, just a few days after its 6th anniversary celebration on Valentine's Day, the group co-sponsors the Lesbian Health Fair.

With 100 current members, Gray anticipates SISTERS will continue to grow in 1999. The group's agenda includes completing its request for nonprofit 501(c)(3) status, expanding its outreach services, creating a Web site, and conducting a membership drive. SISTERS provides African-American women outreach support on health-care issues, spirituality, legal and financial matters, and other services. It also hosts game and movie nights.

"We want to contribute to a more diverse community," said Gray. "We are primarily an African-American organization, but it creates a safe, comfortable environment for all women to share, nurture, and foster kindness."

SISTERS meets every second Sunday of the month, 5-8 p.m. For more information, call 713/801-0027.

AVES

In 1989, Amigos Volunteers in Education and Services, Inc. (AVES), was created to counter an increase of AIDS/HIV in Latino/a gays and lesbians. What began as a small, disease-prevention service, AVES is now a fully operational educational and advocacy organization which tries to strengthen cultural awareness about Latinos/as within the gay community.

"For Latinos/as, there really are no culturally specific services in the community. We try to be a liaison for the Latino community. We want to give them access to services that are queer specific, linguistically specific, and culturally specific," said Alex Morua, the organization's client services administrator.

1978

- Houston Town Meeting 1 (June 25)
- Ray Hill wins Hill vs. Houston law case in U.S. Supreme Court
- Bunnies on the Bayou
- EPAH (Executive and Professional Association of Houston)
- Gay Resources Services of U of H (formerly Gay Activist Alliance)
- Gulf Coast Transgendered Community
- Houston Pride Band
- It's About Time
- LXIX (bar publication)
- Montrose Activity Center
- Montrose Counseling Center
- Montrose Mining Company Bar
- Montrose Patrol
- PFLAG - Houston (Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays)
- Houston Pride Week Calendar
- Upfront Amercia (aka Upfront)

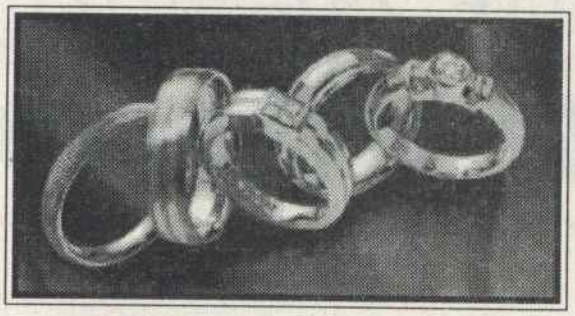
1979

- Beginning of Gay/Lesbian Pride Week Parades With Celebration of Tenth Anniversary of Stonewall (June, first co-chairs Carol Fennema and Bill Puryear)
- Organizational Office for First National March on Washington, D.C., established in Houston
- A Capella Caucus (Church of Christ)
- Astro Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf
- Church of Christian Faith
- Gay Men's Chorus of Houston (Montrose Singers)
- The Main Event
- We Are Women

1980

- Black and White Men Together (Houston)
- CHE (Citizens for Human Equality)
- I/H, Inc. (formerly Integrity Houston)
- Insight
- Kindred Spirits Bar
- Montrose Softball League
- Montrose Sports Association
- The Montrose Voice (now the Houston Voice)
- Pegasus
- Pride Committee (organized as year-round group)
- Texas Bay Area Gays

Holy Union Experts

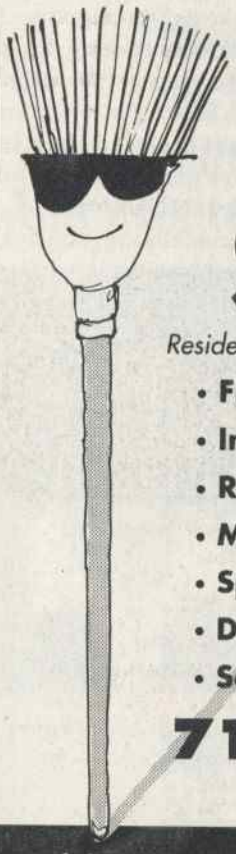


Custom Jewelry Designs • Appraisals • Estate Jewelry
Expert Repairs • Dealer in Fine Watches

REINER'S
Fine Jewelry
Since 1918 Family Owned

Mon-Fri 9:30 am-6 pm • Sat 10 am-5 pm

2210 Westheimer • Houston, TX 77098
(713) 520-1212



MAID IN THE SHADE

Residential & Commercial Cleaning Services

- Free Estimates
- Insured and Bonded
- Regular or One Time
- Move-In / Move-Out
- Spring & Deep Cleaning
- Dependable & Professional
- Satisfaction Guaranteed

713 665 6243

6210-A Royalton

making people happy since 1988

For 1999, AVES' agenda includes creating a teen clinic. Financed by a $100,000 grant, the clinic will provide HIV-positive female adolescents with educational services related to HIV/AIDS treatments, sexuality and birth control information, as well as obstetrics/gynecological services and a clerical training and job placement program.

AVES, which provides services to an 11-county area, also expects to expand its mental health services, specifically for same-sex domestic violence victims.

In 1997, AVES served more than 20,000 people. Most of the group's outreach success comes from its mobile street program, where the Latino gay community is directly hit by AVES volunteers. The organization also provides case management, early intervention, support groups, crisis intervention, food vouchers, and limited financial assistance for individuals and families affected by HIV/AIDS.

"1999 is really also about building on our previous programs, more about expansion," said Morua.

AVES is located at 4126 Southwest Frwy, Ste. 1717. For more information, call 713/626-2837.

PFLAG

The legacy of Parents and Friends of Lesbians And Gays (PFLAG) is not unknown. From mounting a simple, yet effective billboard campaign in 1996 to showing pride in the annual parade, PFLAG's contributions to the gay community have been nothing less than monumental. And in 1999, the group undoubtedly continues with such kind efforts.

Just before its first meeting of the new year

Your Gay Child

needs you. Your gay sibling, aunt, cousin, friend needs you. Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) is dedicated to keeping families together. To begin your journey of reconciliation, call our help line at 713-867-9020.

PFLAG
Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

www.pflaghtx.org

PFLAG explodes with an advertising campaign in 13 community newspapers.

1981

- Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Houston
- Montrose Clinic
- The Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star

1982

- First Safe Sex Pamphlet in U.S. Published in Houston
- AIDS Foundation Houston
- Club Scene
- Community Gospel Center
- Gay Fathers/Fathers First
- JR's Bar and Grill
- New Freedom Christian Church
- Outrage
- The Ripcord Bar
- Silver $ Times (publication)

1983

- Montrose Directory
- Out In Texas
- Rich's Dance Club
- Texas Gay Rodeo Association
- The Group (Theater Workshop)

on Jan. 10, PFLAG explodes with another advertising campaign in 13 community newspapers, including the *Katy Sun*, the *Clear Lake Sun*, the *Kingwood Observer*, the *Pasadena Citizen*, the *Alvin Journal*, and the *Village News*. The ads will run throughout February.

"We want to let people know we're present, whether they come to the meetings or not," said Jeanne Edmonds, co-president of PFLAG. "It's important for people to know that we're out there, that there is support."

Foremost on the group's agenda is community outreach. PFLAG, with 325 current members, will be visible at church gatherings throughout the Houston area, even extending to the Woodlands, Tomball, Conroe, and Beaumont.

"In 1999, we would like to reach more parents and family members with love, acceptance, and celebration. Reaching parents is still very important to us; it is the basis of our foundation," said Edmonds. "We're going to be working within churches and going through ministers and people active in their churches."

PFLAG will also dive into the political arena during the upcoming legislation in January. Although it has yet to formulate anything concrete, the group is trying to find a way to be most helpful against the anti-gay adoption proposal.

To consummate the group's activities in 1999, PFLAG will host a conference to educate school administrators and teachers of area independent school districts about homosexuality. The conference will enlighten educators about gay youth and serve as a supportive resource, Edmonds said.

PFLAG meets every first Sunday of the month at the Christ Church Cathedral, 2 p.m. For more information, call 713/867-9020.

ASIANS AND FRIENDS OF HOUSTON

Co-founder and former president Kurt von Richthofen describes Asians and Friends as a social and educational organization that serves as an alternative to the bar scene. Yet the group also uniquely maintains a social conscience while broadening cultural diversity within the community.

Since its inception in 1992, Asians and Friends has promoted diversity by presenting monthly educational programs on multiculturalism and opening its organization to all people regardless of their nationality or ethnicity.

"This is a good organization, so certainly we want to concentrate on making this an even better organization, but there really isn't anything particular," said von Richthofen. "This is really a positive experience for people. It's a chance to make people feel better about themselves."

The group currently has 100 members, but it is quickly growing. Members have aggressive recruiting efforts to take well into 1999, including posting fliers, hosting regular Friday night movies, and holding Sunday brunches. They also work closely with other organizations, such as AIDS Foundation Houston, to make themselves more visible while giving back to the gay community.

For more information and meeting location, call 713/772-3757.

MONTROSE COUNSELING CENTER

On the heels of its 20th anniversary in December, the Montrose Counseling Center (MCC) is expecting great things for the coming year. While continuing to focus on the needs of the gay and lesbian community, the center also plans to create new service positions and increase funding.

MCC hopes to add a case manager to its LIFE Program to assist women with chronic illness or victims of hate crimes, sexual abuse, or domestic violence. The center currently offers case management for people with HIV/AIDS.

"We need a continuum for those clients in the LIFE Program going through counseling so that a case manager may help them with various psychosocial crises," said Sean Carter, development and marketing manager. "With this program addition, the client would not have to spend


Montrose Counseling Center

1984
- Adoption and Repeal of Ordinance to List Sexual Orientation on City Employment Discrimination
- Four Seasons
- FrontRunners Houston
- Houston Outdoor Group (HOG)
- Lavender Letters

1985
- AIDS Interfaith Council
- HeartSong
- Heaven Dance Club (closed 1997)
- Houston Forum
- Houston Pride
- Texas Forum
- The Wand (aka Womynspace)

1986
- LOBO Bookstore
- Omega House
- PWA Coalition

1987
- Bering Community Service Foundation
- DIFFA/Houston (Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS)
- H.A.T.C.H. (Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals)
- Lady Victoria Lust PWA Holiday Fund (became PWA Holiday Charities in 1997)

MINGS CAFE'
Cuisine of the Orient
Proudly Serving the Community
Thank you for voting us #1 Choice Chinese!
713.529.7888
fax 713.529.8687
2703 Montrose @ Westheimer
Houston, TX 77006

DiverseWorks Artspace, the Jewish Community Center & The Asia Society present an evening of contemporary Japanese dance.



Buto-Sha Tenkei

Wednesday & Thursday
February 9 & 10, 8pm
Jewish Community Center
Kaplan Theater
5601 South Braeswood
24 Hour Ticket Line
713/228-0914

Continental Airlines

counseling time dealing with issues such as eviction, physician visits, medication assistance, etc."

MCC also wants to develop its Lesbian Health Outreach Program, which reaches lesbians in Harris and surrounding counties, by moving its current part-time outreach worker into a full-time position.

"Education and prevention have become very important in the lesbian community," said Carter.

On Mar. 12, MCC will host its annual fund-raiser, titled "Bringing in the Green." The event will be held at the Waldo Mansion and is expected to raise $20,000. The donations will be used for services not funded by the government.

For more information about MCC and its many services, call 713/529-0037, or visit the center at 701 Richmond.

H.A.T.C.H.

Since its inception 11 years ago, the Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) has emerged as a top resource for gay and lesbian youth. And recent membership trends suggest the group will continue to grow in 1999.

"We have a lot planned for 1999. We're anticipating all kinds of big change. It's just going to be an explosive year," said Carol Petrucci, the group's first newly appointed program director.

"We've already seen an increase in the number of teens served, so we'll look at increasing our volunteers, and get a better coordination of our training efforts, as well as make a stronger connection with the schools," she added.

The foremost priority for H.A.T.C.H. is creating ongoing training efforts for its current group facilitators. Approximately 40-50 teens attend Friday night H.A.T.C.H. meetings, Petrucci said.

H.A.T.C.H. also wants to expand its outreach efforts by continuing to build relationships with school counselors and by opening its mentoring opportunities to involve parents and leaders in the community.

"We want to work on doing the best that we can with what we have to stabilize the organization," said Petrucci. "In January, we will be looking at long-range planning for the next 3-5 years and at the priorities for the organization."

For more information and meeting location, call 713/942-7002.

1988

- Amiga (group for Latina lesbians)
- The Assistance Fund
- Body Positive
- FIRM (Foundation for Interfaith Research & Ministry)
- Inklings Bookshop (closed 1998)
- NAMES Project Houston
- Pacific Street Bar

1989

- American Option
- AVES (Amigos Volunteers in Education and Services)
- Houston Wrestling Club
- Kolbe Project
- Santa Fe Bar & Patio
- Texas Invitation Tournament

What We Must Do

POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS PREPARE FOR THE 76TH LEGISLATURE

by Melissa Valenzuela

During the 76th Legislature, opening on Jan. 12, local gay and lesbian political organizations will lobby against several antigay proposals, as well as push for stronger legislation in support of gay rights. With the recent slaying of James Byrd in Jasper, the arrest of two Houston men accused of violating the sodomy statute, and the fearful consequences of Rep. Warren Chisum's (R-Pampa) antigay adoption proposal, these organizations will mount aggressive 1999 legislative agendas.



State Sen. Rodney Ellis

From gay marriages to job protection for transgenders, they have targeted gay issues expected to ignite controversy between the two political parties. *OutSmart* takes a look at the legislative agendas of four local organizations and the Austin giant the Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas (LGRL) as they spearhead antigay legislation to garner wins for the gay community.

THE HOUSTON GAY AND LESBIAN POLITICAL CAUCUS

When Clarence Bagby was elected as the caucus' president, he enacted the Legislator Matching Project, which pairs constituents throughout Harris County with their district legislators. Since then, the project has resulted in an increase of constituent-legislator communication.

"It is far more meaningful for one or several constituents to call their district legislators than for some president or leader of an organization to call them," said Bagby. "This way, through the program, legislators hear directly from constituents whether they support or disapprove of a certain proposal."

The caucus will use this proactive network system to combat upcoming legislative issues, specifically hate crimes. During the past two legislative sessions, efforts to include sexual orientation and other identifying characteristics of groups such as race and ethnicity dissipated with political bureaucracy and conservative opposition. Teaming with Sen. Rodney Ellis (D-Hous.), who helped pass the hate crimes statute in 1993, the caucus expects legislators will consider passing stronger legislation to end hate crime violence because of the slayings of Byrd and Matthew Shepard in Wyoming.

"We believe that of all the items on our legislative agenda, the hate crimes bill is definitely going to be one to get a lot of attention," said Bagby. "It is going to be a lot harder to not pass this bill when you have the sister or mother [of James Byrd] asking legislators to pass it."

1990

- The Gentry Bar (closed 1998)
- Houston Gay & Lesbian Yellow Pages
- Lambda B.S.RAG
- Lambda Roller-skating Club
- Lesbians Over Age Fifty (LOAF)
- Prime Timers

1991

- Houston Voice
- LiB (Lesbians in Business)
- Q-Patrol
- Rotheudt/Dizinger Foundation

1992

- Asians and Friends
- Bayou City Boys Club
- BiNet Houston
- Crossroads Market
- John Steven Kellett Foundation
- Log Cabin Houston
- Texas Triangle

1993

- AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area
- Black Tie Dinner - Houston
- Just For Us
- Lesbian Health Initiative (L.H.I.)
- Milam House
- National Leather Association - Houston
- Texas Association for Transsexual Support
- Steven's House

1994

- Hollyfield Foundation
- Houston Area Bears
- It's Time, America (Transgendered)
- OutSmart
- Rainbow Ranglers
- SISTERS (group for African-American lesbians)

Premier Victorian Homes



New Construction
Victorian Homes in the
Historic Houston Heights

Large front porches, wide plank wood floors,
antique detailing with
modern amenities.

Call Paul Gomberg at 713.862.7999.
Web: www.premiervictorian.com

Payle$$ Insulation

The Best for Less.

Since 1977

RESIDENTIAL
Specialist in:
- Re-Insulation: Attics[Walls[Floors
- Removal
- Noise Reduction
- Storm Windows & Doors
- Existing Custom Homes
- Lifetime Written Warrenty

COMMERCIAL
Spray On:
- Insulation
- Acoustical
- Fireproofing
- All Types of Buildings
- Noise Reduction
- Small Jobs Welcome
- 5 Yr. Written Warrenty

713 868-1021
FREE ESTIMATES

Fully Bonded & Insured for Your Protection Including Workmen's Comp.

Certified Minority Contractor
City of Houston, State of Texas
HISD, METRO

Lynda M. Kornbleet, Owner

MasterCard DISCOVER VISA

The caucus released a one-page legislative agenda that also includes preventing the passage of the Chisum proposal; protecting Texans from discrimination based upon sexual orientation or gender identity in employment; pushing for legislation that allows hate crime victims the opportunity to sue for civil penalties; and increasing funding for AIDS/HIV services.
To volunteer or for more information, call 713/521-1000.

LOG CABIN REPUBLICANS OF TEXAS

On the right side of this legislative battle stand members of the Log Cabin Republicans of Texas (LCR). While they continue to be discounted by other lesbian and gay political organizations for their party preference, LCR has mounted a legislative agenda to persuade legislators under the elephant tent to repeal anti-gay legislation.

"We've learned in Washington, D.C., that the most effective way to begin to lobby Republicans on gay issues is to be a Republican," said Rich Tafel, executive director of the group's national office.

With that premise in mind, LCR has appointed Steve Labinski as the group's registered lobbyist for the legislation.

"We intend to have an active lobby presence during the session because it is so important that Republicans understand that equal rights is an American virtue that should be upheld by all political parties," said Labinski, also the group's president.

LCR has created a mammoth legislative agenda to lobby against proposals that "promote government-enforced discrimination against gays and lesbians." It will, however, specifically target Chisum's anti-gay adoption proposal.

"Our number one priority will be to stop the proposed bill that would prevent gays from adopting children," said Labinski. "This sweeping ban against adoption of children by gay men and lesbians would be outright government intrusion into family decision-making."

LCR will also lobby against the anti-gay marriage bill, which Labinski describes as "a gratuitous slap in the face for all gays and lesbians, since existing laws already prohibit same-sex marriage."

LCR has chapters in Austin, Houston, Dallas, and San Antonio. For more information about the group's legislative efforts, call 512/467-9797, or check your local listings for area chapters.

STONEWALL DEMOCRATS

Although the Stonewall Democrats are just beginning to assimilate into something substantial, it has jumped on the legislative bandwagon to combat anti-gay proposals.

1995
- African American Lesbian and Gay Alliance (AALGA)
- Center for AIDS
- Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce
- Uncommon Legacy - Houston

1996
- AssistHers (care group for lesbians)
- Chase Bank of Texas, N.A., P.R.I.D.E. Team (Chase Employees Group)
- Garden and Yard Society (GAYS)
- Lesbians United in Coalition (L.U.C.)
- Queer Artists Collective (QuAC)
- SEAShell (Shell employees Group)

In January, just days after the Legislature opens, Stonewall will elect its officers for 1999 and create a legislative committee with a primary focus to identify legislative issues affecting gays and lesbians and to coordinate lobbying efforts. With a committee in place, the donkeys will determine which legislators to push and which legislators to support, especially on issues related to the current sodomy statute and job protection for transgenders.

"We have to make sure we have a presence and let our legislators know the gay and lesbian community is watching," said Francisco Sanchez, secretary of the Harris County Democratic Party. "Our legislative efforts have got to make an impact, especially to the not-so-gay-friendly representatives."



Stonewall Democrats combat antigay proposals.

Stonewall's legislative agenda will require a lot of grunt work for members. The group is currently building a local program to identify and pair constituents with their district legislators. Then, on Jan. 27, the group teams with the Texas Gender Advocacy and Information Network to lobby on transgender issues. Group members will travel to Austin, distribute information packets, and visit with legislative officials and their staffs. Stonewall also will join LGRL for its "Lesbian Gay Lobby Day" on Mar. 22.

For more information or to volunteer, call 713/521-4539 or 713/739-7785. The group's next meeting will be held Jan. 18, 7 p.m., at Grace Lutheran Church, 2515 Waugh.

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN-HOUSTON

The Human Rights Campaign in Houston (HRC) is supporting the battle against anti-gay Texas legislation in a different way—with money.

HRC will provide much needed financial support for the Lambda Legal Defense, which is providing lead attorneys for

continued on page 61

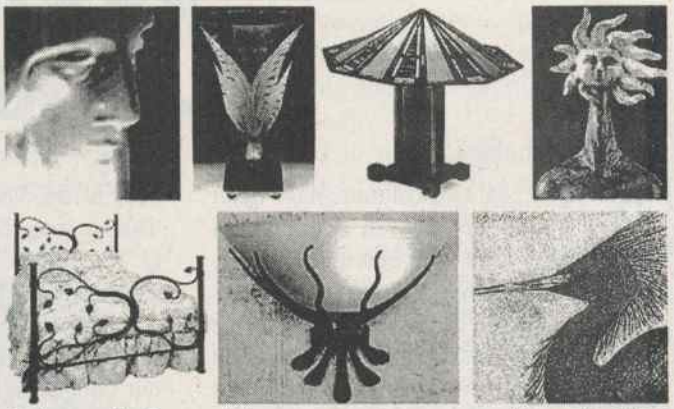
1997

- Annise Parker Election to City Council
- Empower '97 (gay and lesbian business exposition)
- Evening Gay/Lesbian Pride Parade
- G.A.N.G. (Gay Alumni Noon Group over 40s)
- Houston Gay and Lesbian Film Festival
- Human Rights Campaign - Houston
- PWA Holiday Charities (began in 1987 as Lady Victoria Lust PWA Holiday Fund)
- SPECTRUM (Southwestern Bell employees group)

1998

- First Gay Liaison Advisor to Houston Mayor Appointed
- Stonewall Democrats
- Hollyfield Conference Center
- Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center
- Montrose TV
- Gold PAC

Furnishings for the Fabulous. Shopping for the Smart.



Online galleries and showrooms. Incomparable collections.

Decor Sculpture
Paintings Prints
Art Glass Crystal
Furniture Lighting

ArtistSquare
www.ArtistSquare.com/smart

Wholesale inquiries welcomed.
ArtistSquare is a division of ErgoCom, Inc., Houston, Texas.

Please call at (713)869-0456 • (713)459-1705 pager

Swilley Hudson
& ASSOCIATES INC.–REALTORS

"The Spirit of Excellence"



Alan Morlan • Realtor®/Associate

Health

continued from page 25

Two years ago, when I began treatment, Dr. David Ho famously suggested that early drug therapy could eradicate—cure—HIV infection. Few now believe that antivirals alone will cure this disease. But Dr. Walker is proposing something different, if only slightly less dramatic. He's saying that early therapy might not cure the infection, but it might place the virus in "remission."

Is that what's happening to me? Is my virus in remission?

I haven't been off therapy long, and most observers—and not just the hardened skeptics—would say my situation is tenuous, that it's far too early to draw conclusions. In an e-mail reaction to this news, a close friend and ex-lover wrote, "Perhaps one shouldn't get over excited too soon." He's right.

I'm reluctant to share this experience. I don't want HIV-infected people to make analogies between my situation and theirs and then decide to stop treatment. Most people with HIV don't start therapy until well after the resolution of acute retroviral syndrome, and therefore aren't subject to Dr. Walker's hypothesis. (In fact, since I started treatment after I'd become HIV-antibody-positive, I may not be subject to it myself.) I also feel awkward, embarrassed by the success of this little experiment, even if its results should prove transient. Perhaps as many as half of the people on treatment are either failing it, or never responded in the first place. And of those, many have struggled with this disease, lived with its painful consequences, far longer than I have.

But if there is any truth to Dr. Walker's theory, that's good news for all of us. It means that HIV is not, always and everywhere, a fearsome bastard from which there is no relief. If there are any circumstances under which the virus can be pounded into submission, this tells us something useful. Our common enemy is vulnerable. After two decades of thinking of the virus as unassailable, we can begin to think something new, something that, in Ralph Waldo Emerson's words, may serve to "encourage and fortify" us.

Paul Simmons, a registered nurse board certified in HIV/AIDS nursing, is director of information and advocacy at The Center for AIDS. His e-mail address is NursePaul@aol.com.

TravelOut

continued from page 45

Venice is world famous for glass-blowing and art, but most of the furnaces are now over on Murano, an adjacent Island. Good buys and exceptional quality is everywhere, but the short trip to Murano provides the opportunity to see the city from the lagoon.

After Venice, we headed to Bologna. We didn't have much time in Bologna, but did see an excellent Egyptian exhibit and an Etruscan and Villanovan collection at the archeological Museo. The evening we arrived, we walked a few of Bologna's many covered sidewalks. Bologna claims to be the most archaic city in the world. On our "passegiatta" (evening stroll) we came across the spectacle of the Duomo being blockaded by riot cops. The night before, a house full of immigrants had been evicted from the home they had been sharing, and during the day they entered the church and demanded sanctuary. Bologna is a university town (the world's oldest and the hotbed of all things liberal, leftist, and even communist). A crowd of students had gathered to show support for the immigrants.

From Bologna, we traveled to Ravena. The mosaics in Ravena are known as the world's best, and they certainly impressed me. The color palate used by the artists was as subtle as the palate used by any painter. Unlike oil paintings though, the mosaics give the scenes a luminosity that painters can only envy. The renditions of the saints, Magi, and life of Jesus were incredibly lifelike. The characters' cheeks even had a rosy blush in them.

We left Ravena in the rain and headed to Umbria where we kept a much slower pace, even though our days were as full. But those are a tale for another day.

What We Must Do

continued from page 43

two men accused of violating the Texas sodomy statute. By pleading no contest to sodomy charges and paying an appellant bond, the two men and their legal defense team have begun to intensely and ambitiously challenge the 119-year-old law.

Strategically, HRC will push for legislators to repeal the sodomy law in similar lobbying efforts as other political organizations. But David Muck of the HRC Houston Steering Committee believes the group is most helpful raising legal funding.

"What we're going to be doing is going to affect legislation at the local and state level," said Muck, who is also co-chair of the group's Federal Club, responsible for fundraising.

HRC, with approximately 5,000 local members, is expected to raise more than $300,000 in 1999 by hosting several monthly social events, including the annual HRC dinner on Mar. 20 and a private performance of *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde* at the Alley Theatre on Apr. 1. The majority of revenue, however, will come from the Houston HRC Winter Gala.

HRC's local efforts mirror the long-time legislative campaigns against anti-gay legislation on national levels. The group is equally concerned with job discrimination, gay marriage issues, and hate crimes at all three levels of the political system.

For more information or to join HRC, call 202/628-4160, or visit http://www.hrc.org.

LESBIAN GAY RIGHTS LOBBY OF TEXAS

In the past year, lobbying giant LGRL has prepared for the upcoming legislation by continuously urging constituents to contact their legislators, distributing hate crime pledge cards, and conducting lobby training days for volunteers. Its primary focus for the upcoming legislation is to just keep working.

LGRL released a similar legislative agenda as the caucus and seems to be tackling all the issues set forth by legislators. Its agenda includes lobbying proposals about hate crimes, AIDS/HIV, gay adoptions, gay marriages, transgender issues, and non-discrimination in employment and education.

With its own Legislative Matching Project, LGRL mobilizes outreach efforts in each district in Texas when a proposal or bill arises affecting gay and lesbian rights. However, the group needs more volunteers for the program.

"With enough committed volunteers participating in programs such as LGRL's legislative matching, we will have a strong, comprehensive grassroots lobbying effort," said Dianne Hardy-Garcia, LGRL executive director.

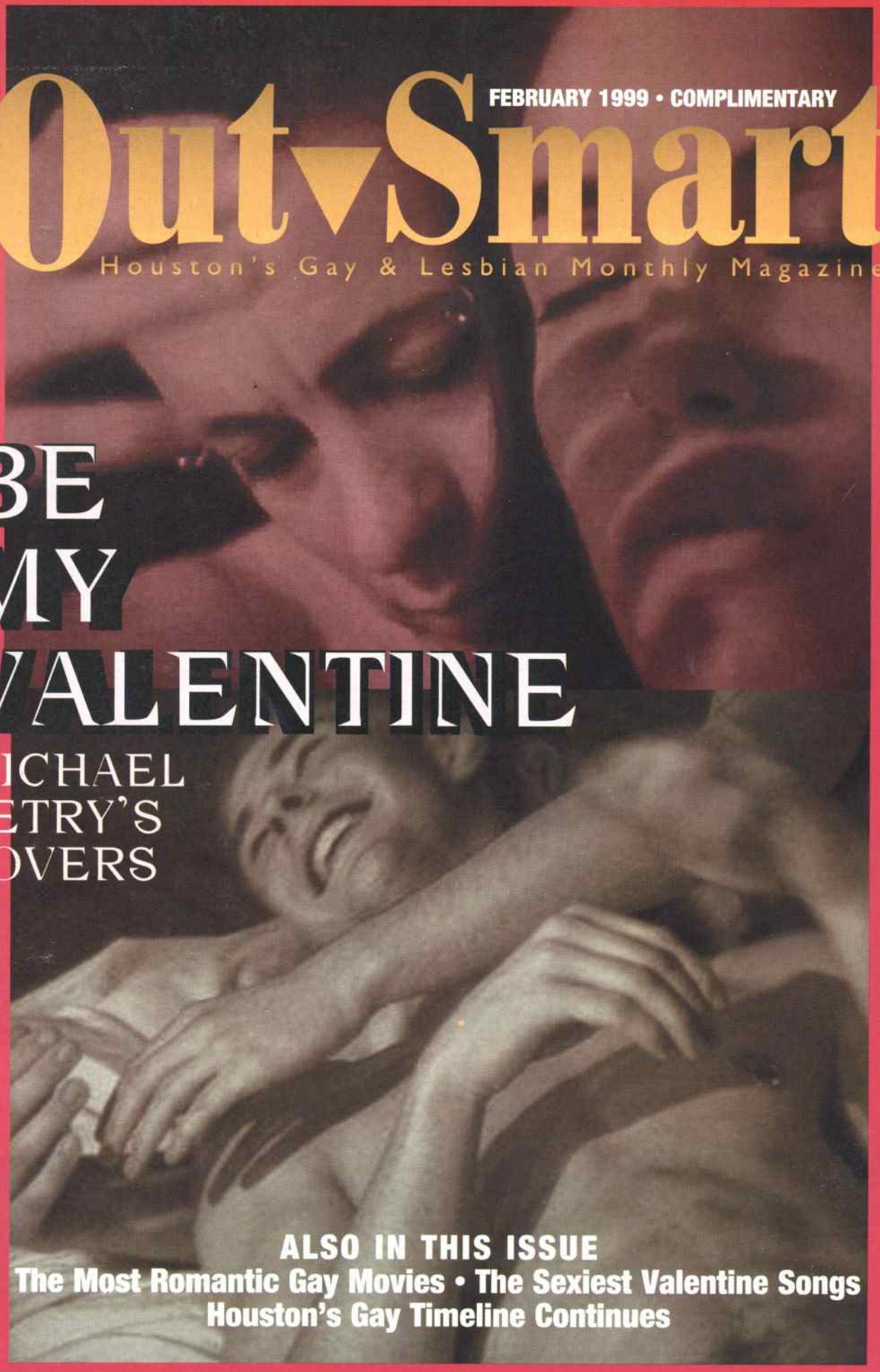
The group is also sponsoring the "March for Our Families" on Mar. 21, followed by the "Lesbian Gay Lobby Day" on Mar. 22. LGRL encourages all supporters to visit Austin on those days to lobby their legislators.

For more information, call 512/474-5475, or visit lgrltexas@aol.com.

FEBRUARY 1999 • COMPLIMENTARY

OutSmart

Houston's Gay & Lesbian Monthly Magazine



BE MY VALENTINE

MICHAEL PETRY'S LOVERS

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

The Most Romantic Gay Movies • The Sexiest Valentine Songs
Houston's Gay Timeline Continues

Letters to the Editor

PATCHING THINGS UP

I would like to comment on the article in *OutSmart*'s January issue regarding 30 years of Houston gay history. I applaud your staff for giving us some history of what has been accomplished in Houston; however, I would be remiss if I did not point out what I consider to be major omissions.

In my opinion, a major part of Houston's gay history has happened at a little neighborhood bar in West University, known as the Briar Patch. The BP has been in the same location for 30 years now and during that time:

1. The BP has become the oldest gay bar in the city, and I am told the oldest bar in Texas.

2. The only Houston softball team to win the Gay World Series was sponsored by the Briar Patch.

3. *Out & About* magazine named the BP as one of the best eight piano bars in the country, and No. 1 in Texas in 1998.

4. Perhaps the most important part of our history is our support of Stone Soup Kitchen, having raised more funds for this worthwhile charity than any other Houston club.

While I'm happy [Melissa] Valenzuela was kind enough to mention the support that gay bars have made in the history of Houston, I do wish she had done her homework just a little better. I might add that there were several other names in Houston that made such a contribution, and while I know she could not include everyone, the names omitted were certainly a big part of helping the community achieve the success it has today.

I hope you will not think of this letter as "sour grapes," but I did stop counting the names of other bars at 14 and did not see the Briar Patch mentioned at all. We at the BP are proud of our past and will always strive to do more for the future.

—Wayne Gray
Houston

MAD DOG? GOOD DOG!

In response to your time warp article, I was appalled that every social service agency I started, TV show produced, shelter opened, activist group founded, and contribution I made for gay people with AIDS was completely ignored in the historical archives.

I have put together a list of groups and agencies that made a historical contribution and would respectfully request they be included in any future archives. If you need more information I would be glad to tell you the rest of the story.

1. 1992: Formation of the TSHCC/Thomas St. Healthcenter Citizens Council—founded by Act-Up and Queer Nation members. This group was responsible for creating one of the most powerful PWA advocacy groups in the nation. TSHCC renovated the building, started a model volunteer program with



over 400 members, reduced waiting times, increased HIV meds funding, brought about sensitivity training, hired patient liaisons, etc. Founding chair and co-chair Steven Bradley and Matt Locklin.

2. 1993: Harris County Hospital Districts Council-at-Large—council of all hospital district clinics, including reverends and people from every ethnic background. It elected first openly gay person with AIDS as executive officer: Matt Locklin.

You listed Montrose TV but forgot:

3. 1993-96: AIDS Talk Houston TV—over 300 hours of AIDS (we sneaked in gay rights, too) education on TV with your host PWA Matt Locklin. This show spawned: HIV Positive! TV 1994; Montrose Clinic TV 1993; and Life Today! TV 1995.

You listed Milam House and Steven's House:

4. 1994: TLC House Emergency Shelter, a gay-positive AIDS shelter—founded by Matt Locklin and Joe Dan Harper.

5. 1995: AIDS Housing Coalition—incorporates and assumes control of TLC House emercengy shelter. Founded by Richard Rancier and Matt Locklin. Has served over 300 residents to date without government funds!

6. 1996: Montrose 77006 TV—openly gay programming with your host "Mad Dog Matt" Locklin. M77006 was the model for Montrose TV.

These are just some of my contributions to the gay community, and yet I never received a penny in salary, an award, or cushy job. At least I could be remembered in history, if you please.

—Matt Locklin
Houston

Editor's Note: Retracing history—especially the history of homosexuality in Houston, Texas—is a daunting task at best. OutSmart *regrets these two very important omissions to which you have drawn our attention.* OutSmart *would like to point out that, in the first time in our thirtysomething history, we have had no formal Gay and Lesbian Community Center to become a focal point for such historical knowledge as you, Mr. Gray and you, Mr. Locklin, have so generously provided. It is our sincere hope that you both will provide such information to the center (an invaluable supplier of information for the Timeline piece), so present and future generations will benefit. No historical record will contain every event, every moment. However, with your information—and the information of others—perhaps, for the first time, Houston's gay and lesbian movement will have a more accurate vision of the past with which to carry forth our vision of the future.*

PUTTING ANOTHER LOG (CABIN) ON THE FIRE

This is an open letter to anyone affected by the hateful assault on gays and lesbians by the Republican Party. Unfortunately, once again, so-called community leaders (i.e. Log Cabin Republicans, and local and national writers, specifically *Out* magazine's John Cloud for his "Taking the Initiative" piece in February) suggest we, gays and lesbians, are to blame for the assault on ourselves, and we should stop insisting on equality and be thankful that we are allowed to live, period. We are reading suggestions that if we would just stop fighting for equality, things would be better. That is the stupidest thing possibly ever uttered!

Gays and lesbians aren't fighting to keep the equality they've acquired; they never had it! We're supposed to be fighting for it now!

The Bush family, with longtime pal Pat Robertson, is largely responsible for the recent antigay assaults. When the Bush campaign deliberately launched its family values (re: antigay) campaign in 1992, let us not forget the Mosbacher resignation. It is completely implausible to think that they didn't know they were opening the door to a full-scale assault on gays and lesbians. They knew and didn't care. Now we have a Bush as governor, pushing for a further assault on gays and lesbians. You can almost count on Bush to attempt to cover up his hatemongering antigay adoption bill with a meaningless, watered-down, back-to-compassionate discrimination public relations snowjob, the kind the Bush Republicans do so well.

We would like to support the Log Cabin Republicans. Unfortunately, they have spent more time and effort aiding the assault on pro-gay equality Democrats than stopping the assault on gays and lesbians by their own party. If they are serious about stopping the antigay Republican attack, why aren't we hearing about breaking up the Republican Party? Instead of stopping this assault and fixing the damage they've done, what we are hearing is that if gays and lesbians shut up and go back in the closet and hide, the powerful right-wing Republicans will go along with the pretense that we don't exist. That doesn't work for us! We won't do that.

continued on page 64

Send your letters and comments to: *Outsmart Magazine, 3406 Audubon Place, Houston, TX 77006.* Fax: *713/522-3275.* Or you can e-mail us at: *Letters@OutSmartMagazine.com.* Please include a phone number for verification.

April 4 @ Holocaust Museum Houston, 5401 Caroline St., 713/942-8000.

• **Mexico Ahora: Punto de Partida/Mexico Now: Point of Departure** features 13 emerging Mexican artists whose work is characterized by invention and force of expression. The exhibition reexamines the traditions of Mexican art and charts new creative territory through photography, sculpture, & installation in exciting contemporary works. Through Feb. 14 @ Contemporary Arts Museum, 5216 Montrose Blvd., 713/284-8250.

• **Rhapsodies in Black: Art of the Harlem Renaissance.** Long regarded as a key period of African-American art history, the Harlem Renaissance remains one of the most fascinating periods of 20th-century culture. More than 100 paintings, sculpture, photographs, jazz recordings, & films will be on view through Feb. 14 @ the Caroline Wiess Law Building, 1001 Bissonnet (between Montrose & Main). Info: 713/639-7300; Spanish 713/639-7379.

• **Working Class Heroes: Images From the Popular Culture** features 70 large-scale fiberglass sculptures, maquettes, paintings, drawings, & prints that showcase artist Luis Jiménez' favored social & aesthetic themes. Through Mar. 28 @ Blaffer Gallery, University of Houston, 713/743-9530.

CALENDAR DEADLINE
for *OutSmart*'s March issue: 5 p.m., Friday, February 12.

"YES, THERE IS LIFE AFTER BREAST CANCER. AND THAT'S THE WHOLE POINT."
–Ann Jillian

A lot of women are so afraid of breast cancer they won't practice breast self-examination or ask their doctor about a mammogram. And that's what frightens me.

Take it from someone who's been through it all: Life is just too wonderful to give up on.

But to enjoy it, you do have to give up being afraid to take care of yourself.

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

Get a checkup. Life is worth it.

Letters

continued from page 7

What we will do is have absolutely nothing to do with anyone supporting the Bush Republican attacks on our lives. It is a complete lie to say this isn't personal. It is very personal. That is why we have chosen to disown any relative or friend who supports the antigay Bush assault on gays in any way. This was truly relative to us since we have actual friends and relatives in the Bush attack on gays and lesbians. Perhaps even worse is the fact that we shall have to cease relations with family members who are Republicans in general. They are Bush supporters and do know about the Bush assault on gays and lesbians. After all, if they wanted us as friends and family, they couldn't support the Bush attack on us.

We are being told we need to try a new strategy. Let's try doing nothing, they tell us. Well, that's been done to death long ago. Remember the 12 Reagan-Bush years? The subject of gays was never mentioned in public. Wouldn't it be better to stop asking for the hatemongers to accept us and instead refuse to accept them as family and friends? Truly there is no such thing as compassionate discrimination. Maybe one of the Log Cabin Republicans could inform their new compassionate friends of this.

—Greg Knight
Terry Hughes
Bellaire, TX

CORRECTIONS

Since time truly heals all wounds, the following blunders in last month's issue will inevitably become history:

• The correct number for Asians and Friends is 713/626-6300. Ask for Albert Carpio, current president.

• *OutSmart* reported that all charges were dropped in the 1980 raid of Mary's Lounge. However, attorney Jim Kuhn represented 33 of the 61 patrons arrested in trial cases; only four were convicted.

• Five of the 10 men charged with the murder of Paul Broussard in 1991 received jail time; the remaining five received probation. We reported nine received the latter sentence.

Making Love

continued from page 56

The film's negative reviews usually criticized the storybook world of its characters, as all were extremely beautiful and held well-paying, prestigious jobs. But the characters' backgrounds were intentional. "We all wanted the characters to be very successful," Hamlin explains. "We didn't want them to be in any way downtrodden because we didn't want to give the audience the chance to say, 'OK, that's why he's a homosexual.'"

Jackson agrees, noting that "it was important to show them as successful and goodlooking so audiences would like them that much more. We didn't want to frighten the audience because of the subject matter."

The ending of *Making Love* is both hopeful and sad, as Claire and Zack meet briefly three years later. The audience mourns with Claire, and wonders if she has truly healed; after all, we learn that she has named her first son Rupert. At the same time, the audience cannot help but feel joy for Zack.

Seventeen years after *Making Love* premiered, the film still holds up well. And it's not surprising that the film's players remain pleased of their work and its place in history.

"I was very proud of that movie and everyone's work in it," says Jackson. "I feel very, very lucky to have been part of that experience."

Adds Hiller: "I loved this picture's story when I read it, and I still have an emotional reaction to it. It remains a beautifully romantic film."

"Many, many men have told me that they were able to come out to themselves, to their family, and even to their wives," says Sandler, who received an avalanche of mail from gay men praising his work. "To this day, people come up to me and say 'That movie changed my life' or 'After I saw your film, I felt a certain pride and dignity that I didn't before.' To be able to use one's ability to create a movie that's going to touch those nerves in people is amazing and rare. That *Making Love* moved and affected so many people has been extremely gratifying."

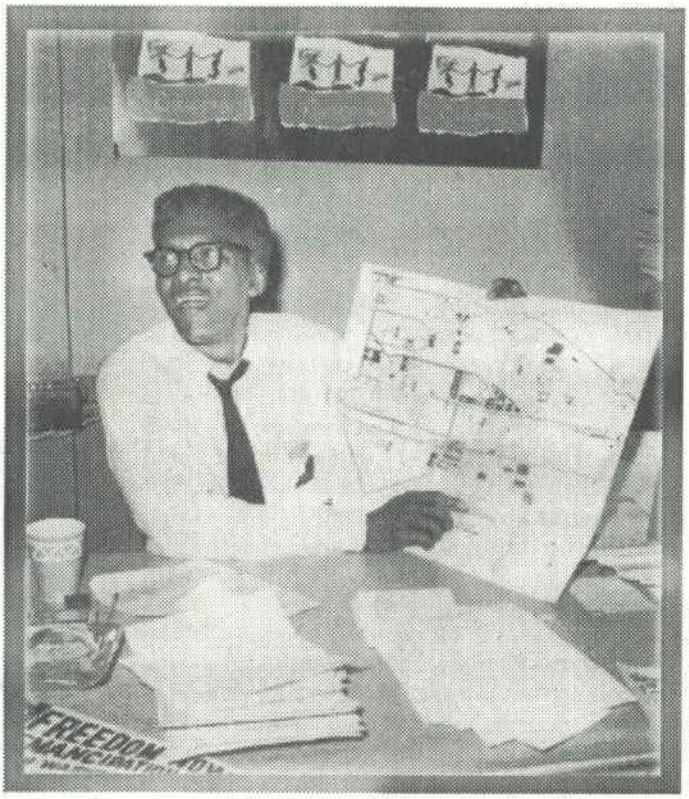
Scott Seomin is GLAAD's entertainment media director. GLAAD, the nation's lesbian and gay media advocacy organization, promotes fair, accurate, and inclusive representations of individuals and events in the media as a means of combating homophobia and all forms of discrimination based on sexual orientation or identity. For more information, log on to www.glaad.org. To report discrimination in the media, call 1-800-GAYMEDIA.

TIME OUT

REMEMBERING WHEN GAY AND BLACK MADE HISTORY

by Melissa Valenzuela

In February, many African Americans remember, and invoke others to remember, their black history—from heroic figures such as Rosa Parks, who dared to challenge segregation laws, to the horrible suffering of countless martyrs who were victimized simply because they were black. But some AfricanAmericans were haunted by another stigma: being homosexual. This month, we remember them.



AP/WIDEWORLD PHOTOS

Bayard Rustin, deputy to the March on Washington director.

Radical pacifism led to Bayard Rustin's contributions to black and gay history. But his former ties to Communism and homosexuality were stigmas that burdened him throughout his career.

Rustin, a spirited black man, provided the impetus to Dr. Martin Luther King's 1963 milestone in American history: The March on Washington. Along with longtime friend Philip Randolph, Rustin planned to lead a mass demonstration for black economic power. However, as more people became involved, including King, the focus shifted to civil rights.

King became the march's undisputed leader, and Rustin was appointed as deputy to Randolph, who became the march director. Though he remained relatively unseen during the march, organizers believed he was essential to bringing together this massive undertaking.

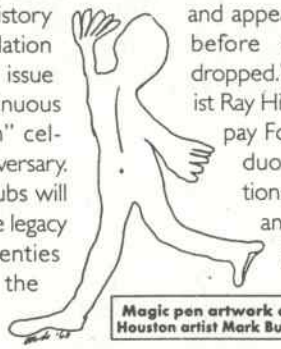
Still, the Pennsylvania native, with his high-pitched voice and flamboyant New York Greenwich Village friends, was considered a liability to his fellow march colleagues and a target for antigay slurs from conservative political leaders; attacks always made reference to his "morals." (The term "gay" or "homosexual" was rarely used at this time.) Rustin's involvement with the Young Communist League from 1936 to 1941 also was used against him.

continued on page 36

TIMELINE 1953-1968

Each month OutSmart will feature sections of Houston's gay history timeline.

1953 Decades after the Diana Foundation's inception, the "Dianas" still dazzle audiences with their glittery and glamorous on-stage performances for local fundraisers. Take a look at the history of the Diana Foundation in *OutSmart*'s March issue as "the oldest continuous roast in the nation" celebrates its 45th anniversary. **1963** Bars and clubs will come and go, but the legacy of the Roaring Twenties peaked well into the mid-'70s, even after it closed. Andy Ruth introduced this "dance" club on W. Dallas, and manager Rita "Poppa Bear" Wanstrom turned it into a lesbian haven. When Ruth called it quits in 1965, Wanstrom took the lead and opened the Roaring Sixties. **1965** Gay publications got moving with Bob Eddy's card-stock artistic magazine *The Albatross*. The "flying" *Albatross*, published by Reuters of Houston, hit the stands in August, when at least 13 gay-oriented bars and clubs existed (including Houston's proudest The Pink Elephant). This short-lived creative quarterly featured prose, poetry, and the "Magic Pen" artwork of Houston artist M. Burke. **1966** Captain M.C. and First Mate Les of the Galleon ran a tight ship for gay men looking for live music and drag shows. The two treated their guests to homemade Friday evening buffets and romping Sunday beer busts. The Galleon was often filled beyond capacity, and many patrons were sadly turned away by the crew. Those lucky enough to get in were witness to grand organist Ethel Smith's seaworthy performances. The owning duo welcomed aboard many clean-cut men before selling this Richmond Avenue nightspot. **1967** Days before New Year's Eve, police raided the Roaring Sixites, a lesbian bar, and charged owner Wanstrom with wearing clothing of the opposite sex (pants). Strong-arm attorney Percy Foreman took the "under-dog" case and appeared in court four times before charges were finally dropped. Wanstrom and gay activist Ray Hill founded Tumblebugs to pay Foreman's $2,500 fee. The duo solicited private donations, sponsored drag shows, and sold Tumblebugs paraphernalia. **1968** Hill and Wanstrom's concerted effort spilled over into political activism. With David Patterson and other community leaders, they formed the Promethean Society, the first homosexual political organization in Houston. But internal conflict between Hill and Wanstrom and lack of support from the community weakened this aggressive organization, and it ceased to function. Subsequently, Wanstrom co-founded the Texas Homophile Educational Movement (T.H.E.M.) to "dignify human rights, all rights." Wanstrom claims that T.H.E.M. was the first gay nonprofit chartered organization in Texas. It fell to community apathy in the early '70s. Socially, the gay scene was plentiful. In "Twelve Fighting Years," Bruce Remmington writes that a 1968 bar guide listed 26 Houston homosexual taverns, including J.V.'s Cabaret on Westheimer where queen Jerry Vanover performed "Mention My Name in Sheboygan" or Hadley Street's plush Red Room where Eddie Foster played host. But imagine, all this was just a ruffle in the wave of fun yet to come in the 1970s. Pick up *OutSmart*'s March issue for what happened between 1969-1973.



Magic pen artwork of Houston artist Mark Burke.



Jerry Vanover prepares for a performance at J.V. Cabaret

Timeline provided by The Houston Gay and Lesbian Community Center and Steve Brown of the MCCR Botts Memorial Library.

PHOTO: THE ALBATROSS, 3RD ANNIVERSARY EDITION 1968

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

- Meal Center
- Nutrition Center
- Organic Produce
- Wine Chiller
- Floral Shoppe
- FTD Worldwide Floral Delivery
- Pharmacy
- Deli/Pastry Shoppe
- Self Service Seafood
- Sara Lee Sandwich Shoppe
- Rotisserie Chicken
- Flame Grilling

Kroger Signature STORE

3300 Montrose Blvd.
Phone: 713-526-7865
Pharmacy: 713-526-1239

Kroger

You might just save your life

Two community programs

"Taking Those !@#%&!! Pills:
Sticking to Your HIV Drug Regimen"
Margaret Chesney, Ph.D.
Thursday, February 11, 1999

"From Salvage to Remission:
Update on the Retrovirus Conference"
Joseph C. Gathe, Jr., M.D.
Thursday, February 25, 1999

Museum of Health & Medical Science
1515 Hermann Drive
Reception - 7:00 pm Presentation - 7:30 pm

THE CENTER FOR AIDS HOPE and REMEMBRANCE PROJECT

BeringOmega Community Services

Continental Airlines

This community forum series is partially underwritten by The Hollyfield Foundation. Registration required for social work CEUs. This series has applied to CEUs through the University of Houston Graduate School of Social Work Office of Continuing Education. Please provide 48 hours notice for each event if sign language or Spanish language interpreting is needed by calling 713.527.8219

continued from page 34

South Carolina's pro-segregationist senator Strom Thurmond and North Carolina's outspoken Jesse Helms led an attack against Rustin in a plan to sabotage the March on Washington. Thurmond denounced Rustin's homosexuality on the Senate floor, while Helms expressed his disgust outside a Republican convention. The credibility of the march weakened as Rustin's homosexuality overshadowed his abilities as a black leader.

Many of Rustin's colleagues sought his resignation and disassociation from the march, but King came to his defense, noting that Rustin had taken his share of beatings long before anyone else. His colleagues relented.

Rustin managed the logistics and preparations for the event. He was in command of the grunt work: directing volunteers, making route fliers, releasing press passes, providing water and medical supplies, and getting portable toilets. Another civil rights leader, John Lewis, remembers Rustin squeaking in a British accent: "Now we *cawn't* have any disorganized *pissing* in Washington."

On the day of the march, Lewis and Rustin were rewording Lewis' speech, and they missed the beginning of the march. They were escorted by car to the Capitol, but large crowds blocked the streets. Rustin got out and joined the "sea of humanity."

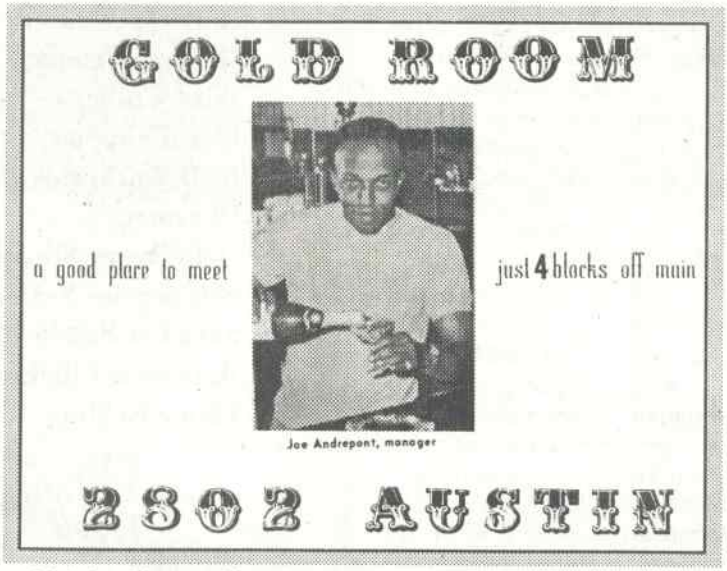


PHOTO: THE ALBATROSS

Original Gold Room ad from the 1968 3rd anniversary edition of *The Albatross*.

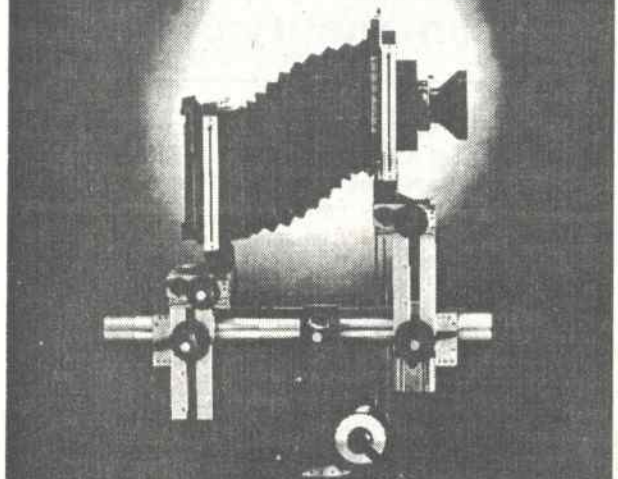
And the rest of the march is history.

Small civil movements in Houston mirrored the work of Rustin. Black community leaders and students staged protests at Texas Southern University and sit-ins at government offices. Fred Freelow, a gay black civil activist, rallied support for his own "freedom movements."

Freelow and all black gays faced a social menace—segregation. A "common bond" among homosexuals was not enough to unite the two races. "There was segregation within the gay community. Whites didn't go to black bars, and vice versa," said Jim Cass, who believes black bars were not located in the Montrose area until Studio 13 opened on Westheimer more than 10 years ago.

A short time after the historical march, Joe Andrepont

WOODALLEN PHOTOGRAPHY



ADVERTISING PHOTOGRAPHY
SINCE 1946
713/526-1747

LOVING
It Takes Heart
A Relationship Series
Thursdays at 7 p.m.
February 11,1999, through March 18, 1999
Presented by
Rev. Dwayne Johnson • Rev. Carolyn Mobley
• Rev. Ralph Lasher •
(This series is free and open to the community.)
Please call 713-861-9149, to sign-up!
Series Focus:
Relationship Foundations, Making A Commitment, And The Ground Rules For A Long-Term Relationship.
Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection
713-861-9149 • 1919 Decatur, Houston, Texas 77007
www.mccr-hou.com

opened the Gold Room on Austin Street, dubbed by former patrons as the city's first gay black bar. The interior of this gray old house (once the Golden Nugget), nestled behind a high fence for semi-privacy, was adorned with sharp-gold drapes that shimmered from small stage lights. Only a handful of white gays, who were "curious," visited this black bar, Cass said.

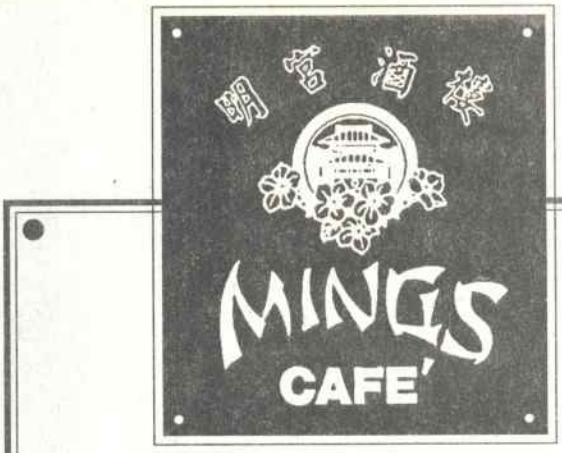
On Friday and Saturday nights, nearly 120 patrons were treated to the Gold Room's high-energy performances by voluptuous drag queens in beautiful costumes, including "The Supremes" and "Eartha Kitt." They were also pampered by feature bartender Delois Gaines on Sunday afternoons, when Andrepont hosted his wiener roasts.

Police raids and arrests were frequent at the Gold Room, as they were at all gay bars during this decade. Patrons were often verbally and physically harassed when police officers with flashlights combed through the crowd. Rarely did anyone challenge police authority.

The Gold Room thrived until the late '70s, before Andrepont moved to Seattle, Wash. His bar was more than a social outlet for black gays; it validated being black and being gay during a time when both seemed socially repulsive. And this month, black gays remember these stigmas as history.

Join community advocate George Rimmey next month when he takes a look at the history of the Diana Foundation and its upcoming 45th anniversary.

Information obtained from Walking in the Wind *by John Lewis with Michael D'Orso, and research assistance provided by Roger Ward.*



Cuisine of the Orient

Proudly Serving the Community

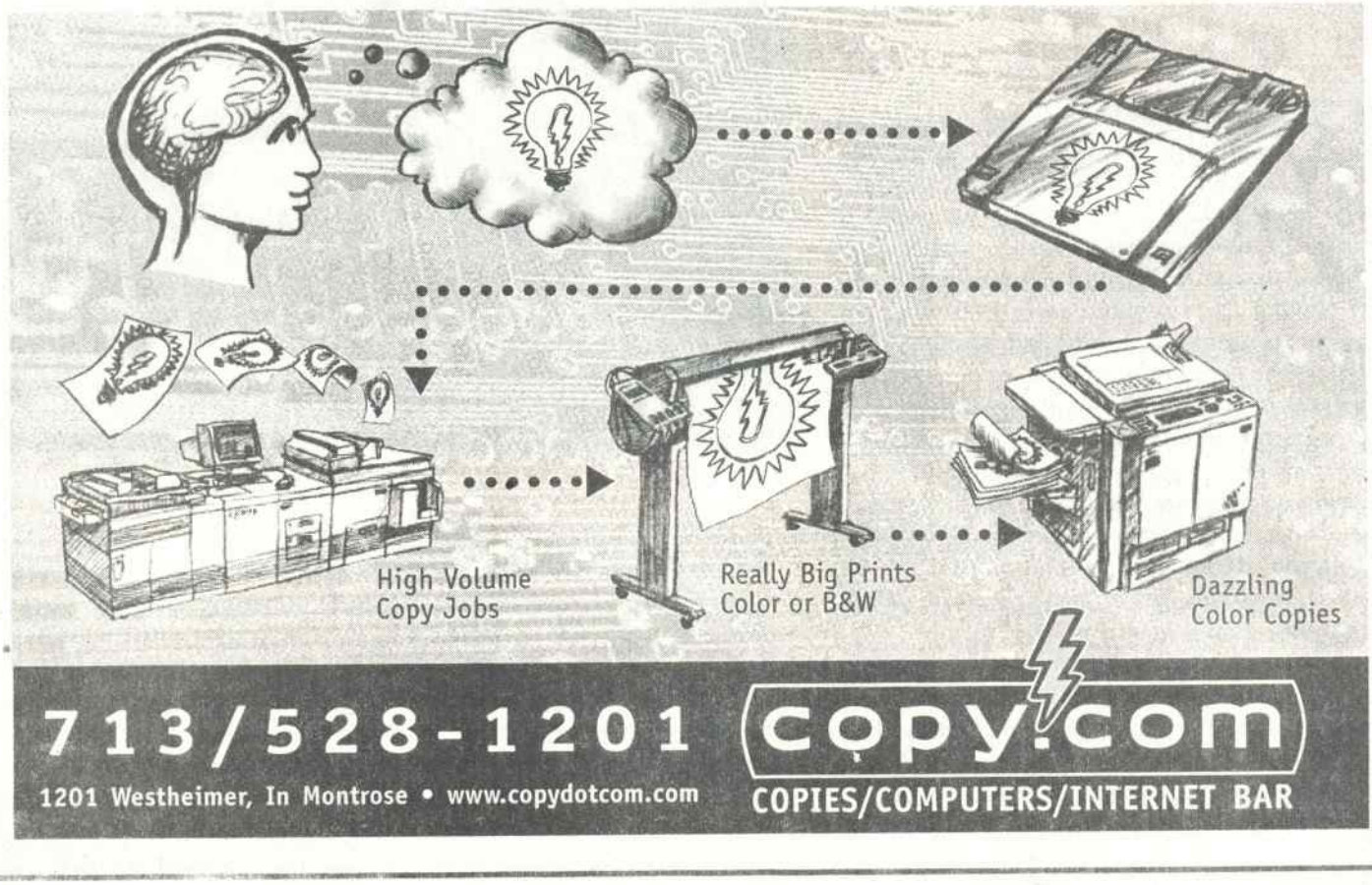
Thank you for voting us #1 Choice Chinese!

713.529.7888

fax 713.529.8687

2703 Montrose @ Westheimer

Houston, TX 77006



MARCH 1999 • COMPLIMENTARY

OutSmart

Houston Gay & Lesbian Monthly Magazine



MARCH 21-27, 1999

equality begins at home

GAY & LESBIAN TEXANS MARCH FOR EQUAL RIGHTS IN AUSTIN

aLso: tv montrose • HIV vaccine • andrew tobias • the dianas

THE DIANAS-First of a Kind



UNCREDITED

Famous "Mommie Dearest" Number, 1983

by George Rimmey

The year was 1953. McCarthyism was in full swing, and thousands of gay government workers left the District of Columbia for the West. Houston was a pit stop on their way to California.

This was a very dark period for gays in Houston. Since many gay bars had opened in the 1940s, Montrose was developing into an enclave of the right people. Baptists and conservative leaders did not take kindly to our progress. Persecution of gays was a top priority and raids were an everyday occurrence. The police entered bars, lined up patrons, and took every other person to jail. The police also invaded private homes to arrest homosexuals. Gays were treated like common criminals and charged with "drinking after hours at an alleged homosexual gathering." These tactics only ended with the civil rights and hippie movements in the 1960s.

In the midst of that background of terror, and the fact that it was open season on gay people, a dozen or so friends met at the home of David Moncrief. It was the night of the annual Academy Awards, and it was not so common then, nor is it today, for a group of our community to get together to enjoy that festive night. Since Houston was becoming a mecca for gays, and more and more outrageous and/or elegant events in our community were becoming common occurrences, the group decided that Houston needed to have its very own Academy Awards.

Leader Charles Hebert and the group decided that an annual "Academy Award" would be given to the most outrageous and/or most ridiculous performing "gay star" of the year in Houston. There was no formal organization established at that time. It was simply a group of friends getting together to have fun.

The annual event was first held in private homes, with more and more people joining in the fun each year. Even though some of the group were still caught in raids, the annual Houston Academy Awards had a charmed existence in this unhappy era.

Others in the community soon noticed the fun and revelry of this group of well-educated individuals with a lively interest

TIMELINE 1969-72

Each month OutSmart will feature sections of the Houston gay history timeline.

1969 Couple David Stewart and Pat Petty started the outlandish, sometimes comic Miss Camp America Pageant in their home, where Petty often crowned himself with the dubious title. This spoof of the national pageant was founded as a social club for those who had "a natural penchant for theatrics," but evolved into a nonprofit foundation in support of AIDS-related charities. Don't miss the entertaining queens at the Deb-U-Not Ball at Picasso's, Mar. 7, followed by Rhinestones & Studs in July, a pre-party to the annual beauty pageant in September. **1970** Shimmering entertainment continued when Krewe of Olympus co-founders Ben Jones and Bill Walters hosted this royal bead-tossing Mardi Gras-esque celebration. This royal presentation of rich costumes and festive fashions in February has blossomed into a premier black-tie event supported by fundraisers held throughout the year, including the popular FoDoDo Party. The Krewe first made headlines in the *Nuntius*, a monthly gay rag founded in the same year by editor Paxton Goff (alias Phil Frank). But these frolic starts of the disco-era shared the glory with community activism. In response to the Stonewall riots in New York during the previous year, young radicals of the Houston Gay Liberation Front demanded an end to local police harassment. The group met on the University of Houston campus but never gained official university sanction because of its controversial nature. It hosted a gay pride conference featuring gay activist Frank Kameny, who proclaimed that "Queen Victoria was dead, the Puritans long gone, and now was the time to move toward a more balanced notion of morality." Swaying from this radical calling to restructure society was Integrity Houston, which survived and thrived for more than a decade. Just as the Gay Front began to fold, Integrity was at the peak of its political movement, which included a meeting with mayoral candidate Fred Hofheinz. **1971** The Hi Kamp bar featured some drag queens with raw, sassy talent who performed in masses. Former loyal patrons still remember this dizzy little place near Downtown, just one block from Main Street, as one of the campiest hotspots ever. **1972** Located at Fairview and Whitney, the Montrose Gaze Community Center was a promising attempt to serve the community. But over-ambitious goals and financial difficulty led to the anarchic center's immediate demise. Although the gay community had social and political outlets, it was lacking spiritual resources. Escaping the same destiny as the short-lived center, Dignity Houston focused on spiritual development and education for gay and lesbian Catholics. Its simplistic goal to foster social progress has contributed to its lasting existence today. Even Mary's Bar survived past the strong-willed group. This Westheimer landmark near Waugh still caters to the riskiest and wildest of men, some probably of the former Houston Motorcycle Club, founded during the same time. For even more highlights of the gay community, pick up *OutSmart*'s April issue for what happened between 1973-1975.


the NUNTIUS 40¢
& OUR COMMUNITY
HOUSTON, TEXAS
TEXAS PRISONS X GAY MAIL
DALLAS GAY PRIDE PARADE SUCCESS
Stonewall vs Times

Cover artwork for *The Nuntius*, July 1972

Timeline provided by the Houston Gay and Lesbian Community Center and Steve Brown of the Botts Memorial Library of MCCR. Research obtained from "Twelve Fighting Years" by Bruce Remmington.

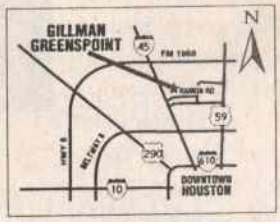
UNCLOTTED

SINCE 1938
Gillman
ACURA MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Wake Up And Drive.


HAL BURRIGHT

START THE NEW YEAR OFF WITH A NEW
Gillman
ACURA OR MITSUBISHI
IT'S STILL THE ONLY WAY TO GO!

GREENSPOINT
Rankin Rd. @ I-45 North
Exit 62 - Exit North of Greenspoint Mall
(281) 821-1100
Toll Free 800-288-9180
www.gillmanauto.com



Premier Victorian Homes



New Construction
Victorian Homes in the
Historic Houston Heights
Large front porches, wide plank wood floors,
antique detailing with
modern amenities.

Call Paul Gomberg at 713.862.7999.
Web: www.premiervictorian.com

in the theater, ballet, and the arts (which brought them all closer together).

Many outsiders soon established, in their minds erroneously, that this was an elite gay social group, since the group often met in bars and were often seen together. Jealousy reared its head, and outsiders dubbed these individuals as the snobbish "A Group." Nothing could have been further from the truth.

To erase this stigma, group members searched for a name to honor its annual celebrations. Original member Tom Adams' self-appointed title as "Diana, Goddess of the Hunt" helped give birth to the group's notorious name: the Dianas.

With a real name, the Dianas began to grow, and private homes became too small to hold the annual event. The award show had become so large and popular with elegant costumes and sets, coupled with the hiring of professional directors and choreographers, that tickets to the event had to be sold to defray costs. Some of the early shows were held at the Windmill Theater at the Town and Country shopping center; an adult movie house in the Village; the Sheridan Lincoln Hotel; and the Tower Theater.

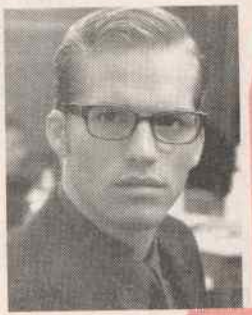


Kathy Whitmire number in 1985

The Dianas annual show also became a black-tie event. There are many black-tie events in Houston today, but the Dianas was a first.

The annual show began making a profit early on and the group, even though they were not a nonprofit organization, donated proceeds from the event to the community. One of the first recipients was the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. Many of the members enjoyed being on that selection committee. It was always their hope that a student who received a

spectacles
ON MONTROSE



GRAND OPENING

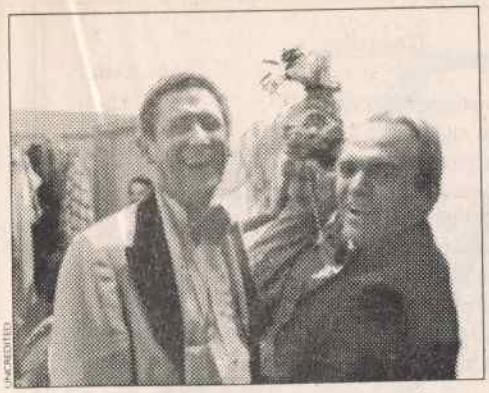
Distinctive Eyewear
eye exams • contact lenses
Dr. Evan L. Mapes
4317 Montrose Blvd. #2
713.529.EYES

TRAVEL THE WORLD
Phone: 713.682.4972
JIM JADLOSKI

NEW ORLEANS
Gay owned Guest House just outside French Quarter. 1 Bedroom Suite: $75.00 the first night, $60.00 for each additional night. Suite contains Living Room, Bedroom, Private Bath, Private Entrance, refrigerator, microwave & breakfast basket. Also available: 2 Bedroom, 3 Bedroom, or the entire house, which sleeps up to 22 people. Owner is great resource.

SOUTH BEACH, MIAMI & KEY WEST
Unbeatable packages, great locations, Air & Hotel. Call for prices.

MEMBER IGLTA, GHGLCC, TAG



UNCREDITED

David Moncrief (l), in whose house the first Diana Awards was held, is seen here with Wayland Flowers (r) and Madam.

Going to a Diana show is like going to party at Auntie Mame's. If you enjoy making fun of yourself and have a sense of humor, the show is a must. I've always felt making fun of life is not an insult, but a sign of maturity.

The 45th Diana Awards Show will be held this year on Mar. 27, 7 p.m., at the fabulously restored Crystal Ball Room at the Rice. The cabaret-theme show includes a seated dinner and live entertainment featuring Samantha Samuels, an Edith Piaf twin. Proceeds from this year's award show will be donated to Body Positive. To purchase tickets starting at $95, call 713/639-2000.

Don't miss this event; become a part of one of the longest continuously run gay shows in America.



UNCREDITED

"Ava" (center), perennial star of awards show, with fans.

scholarship from the Dianas would go on to fame and fortune just to come back and support the Dianas.

The Dianas was an early buyer of bricks at the Wortham Center, and soon the awards show was held at that opera house. That event drew the largest gay black-tie crowd in Houston history and was capped off with a midnight dinner at the Hyatt Regency. The record number of people attending that event has yet to be duplicated.

Hebert also held the annual "Barbecue at Tara" at his home until his death in 1987. This event evolved into what is now the Dianas annual country dinner held in October at the Polo Grounds inside the park at 610 and Memorial Drive. Live bands, fantastic barbecue, dancing, and an evening when everyone is a cowboy or cowgirl—it's a not-to-miss ticket.

When AIDS appeared on the scene, the Dianas became a nonprofit foundation distributing its profits from the annual award show and country dinner to various AIDS organizations. The Dianas was instrumental in establishing the McAdory House, the first AIDS Hospice in Houston, and also helped form the Assistance Fund.





George Rimmey, pictured at his high school prom in 1946 (top), and at a recent community function, is a community advocate with a long history of charitable involvement. He can be reached care of this publication at George Rimmey@outsmartmagazine.com.

Volunteers Needed For Clinical Trial

HIV VACCINE TO PREVENT HIV



Research volunteers are needed for clinical trials to test a synthetic vaccine to prevent and immunize against HIV (the virus that causes AIDS). You cannot get HIV infection from this synthetic vaccine.

VOLUNTEERS MUST BE:
- 18-60 years of age
- Gay or bisexual males at risk for acquiring HIV
- Females at risk for acquiring HIV
- Negative for HIV by HIV-screening test
- Willing to accept safe-sex counseling

The study involves a double-blind administration of receiving either vaccine or placebo. The chances of receiving active vaccine versus placebo are 2 to 1. HIV testing is anonymous and FREE.

For more information call
The University of Texas Medical Branch Center for Clinical Studies
Houston (281) 333-2288
Galveston (409) 772-1641

UTMB

Voted Nation's Best Gay & Lesbian Local Magazine Vice Versa Award

APRIL 1999 • COMPLIMENTARY

Out-Smart

Houston's Gay & Lesbian Monthly Magazine



I Don't

BERING MEMORIAL CHURCH SAYS "NO" TO STRAIGHT MARRIAGES

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

- Actor-Turned-Director John Feltch Takes on Oscar Wilde •
- HIV-Infected Patients Feel the Effects of a Medicare Cap •
- Gay Issues in the 76th Texas Legislature •
- Comic/Actor Jason Stuart Tells Almost All •

KREWE of OLYMPUS

-Mardi Gras, Texas Style

by George Rimmey

Back in 1970 the Krewe of Olympus established itself by hosting one of the first gay Mardi Gras balls in New Orleans. Although heterosexual Mardi Gras balls were in existence for hundreds of years, it was unheard of for a gay group to host such spectacular feats.

There were several straight krewes in New Orleans that carried an almost sacred allure. Their members were carefully selected and highly restricted. Many of them, not wanting to upset the status quo, held very quiet balls with plain or simple costumes. However, the Krewe of Olympus, fighting convention, was one of the first gay krewes to use rhinestones and feathers, putting them in a class of their own.

Ben Jones joined the Krewe in New Orleans in 1974. His life partner Bill Walters joined in 1978. Their interest in the Krewe and its growth became an intrinsic part of their lives. When Ben and Bill moved to Houston in 1980, they continued to rent an apartment in New Orleans so they could return and continue full participation in the Krewe's activities. But in 1991 the Krewe of Olympus suffered from a dwindling membership. Many of its members left the city or suffered from the effects of AIDS in the community.



Reigning King Denise Martin and Queen Weldon Hickey 1999

The Krewe was down to just three members when Ben and Bill effectively moved the Krewe to Houston in 1991. Their leadership since has increased membership to more than 60 members and massive events at the Edwin Hornberger Conference Center, with more than 800 members in attendance.

The first Houston ball was held in 1992 at the Ramada Inn Northwest in its grand ballroom. Nearly 20 members dressed in elegant and fabulous costumes for the show's 250 guests. A convention for the Goat Ropers, in town for the annual Houston Rodeo at the time, were having a conference in the room next to the Krewe's pageant. It wasn't long before these rough and ready cowboys sensed something strange was going on, and it was impossible to stop them from crashing the party. The members' vim, vigor, and enthusiasm excited everyone, and the first Houston Mardi Gras show was off with a bang.

The Krewe of Olympus ball is a tableau, meaning it is a theme-costume presentation by the members and requiring black-tie attire for the guests. Each year the theme is unique. There is no charge for admission to the ball; guests must be invited by a member of the Krewe.

Each year a "captain" is elected by the membership. The captain's authority over the ball is absolute. He determines the theme, picks the king and queen, and determines the table arrangements and seating assignments. Every member gets 10 invitations. However, the captain can increase the number when a member gives extra effort and work. The captain's table

TIMELINE 1973-75

Each month OutSmart *will feature sections of the Houston gay history timeline as featured in the January issue.*

1973 Political unity within the gay community began to crystallize when the **Houston Gay Political Coalition (HGPC)**—led by **Billy Walker**, **Chuck Berger**, **Bob Osborne**, and **Randy Thomas**—entered onto the political stage. Calling the former **Hope Mission for Alcoholic Women** building at 504 Fairview its home, HGPC was organized to provide such basic needs as legal council, to educate parent groups, and to provide other services lacking within the gay and lesbian community. And although HGPC did not draw much support from other community groups, it appeared before City Council twice in May, when it demanded a halt to job discrimination and police harassment. It also demanded that a liaison group be established with the police department and that the **Human Relations Council** recognize gays as a minority group. Refusing to take action, **Mayor Louis Welch** walked out during the second Council meeting "on the pretext that he had to greet visiting Japanese mayors."



Pokey Anderson

ence in the community, including top-notch **Marion Pantzer**. With her partner, she opened the lesbian bar **Just Marion & Lynn's**, where many patrons flocked to hear lesbian poet **Judy Grahn**. The event was a mere highlight of the many cultural events held at the bar. During the mid-year, though, politics took over from the social scene. **The Gay Political Caucus (GPC)**, borrowing its name from the **Women's Political Caucus**, announced its formation at a press conference. Leading the GPC's efforts was **Integrity**'s **Jerry Miller**; **Reverend Robert Falls**, the first pastor of the newly formed **Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection**; **Pokey Anderson**, lesbian community representative; **Hugh Crell**; **Keith McGee**; and **Bill Buie**. (Certain accounts also recognize well-known homosexual activist **Ray Hill** as a co-founder of GPC.) The caucus' demands included the introduction of new legislation prohibiting discrimination against gays in the workplace and the right for gay couples to jointly file tax forms. A major issue for the caucus, however, was the repeal of Article 21.06, which classified the act of sexual intercourse between two individuals of the same sex, even private, consensual contact, as a class C misdemeanor and now punishable by a fine of up to $500. Look for *OutSmart*'s May issue, where we will spotlight certain historic events that helped to strengthen Houston's gay and lesbian community during 1976-1978.

—Steve Poruban

1974 **Henry McClurg** founded the news publication ***Contact,*** which had distribution nationwide despite its deep Houston roots. And although it may have only published 17 issues before being absorbed by ***The Advocate*** in 1975, it served as the catalyst for a myriad of other news-based publications geared to inform, empower, and unite Houston's gay and lesbian population.

1975 ***The Pointblank Times***, founded in March by **Linda Lovell** and **Alison McKinney**, was the city's first lesbian periodical. Although snubbed by many of its surrounding peer publications, the *Times* addressed feminist and lesbian subject matter until it encountered financial difficulties in 1978. Big-business lesbians continued their growing pres-

Timeline provided by the Houston Gay and Lesbian Community Center and Steve Brown of the Botts Memorial Library of MCCR. Research obtained from "Twelve Fighting Years" by Bruce Remmington.

When you need help with your spring cleaning...

IMAGE CLEANERS

ALL WORK DONE ON SITE

• Alterations
• Shoe Repair
• Leather & Suede

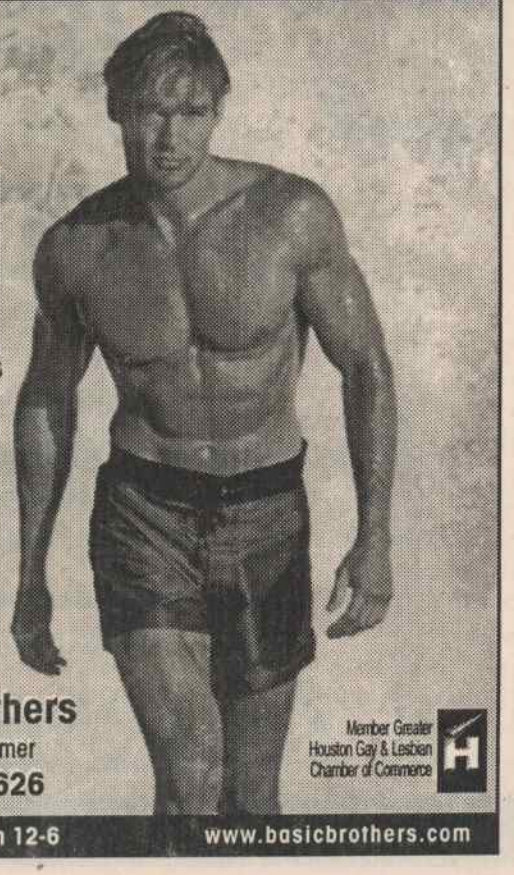
Mon-Fri 7am-7pm • Sat 8am-5pm

One-day service available Mon-Sat
In by 9:30, ready by 4:30

3407 Montrose Blvd., Ste. B4
713.527.0880 • Fax 713.527.0119

YOUR OUT AND PROUD CLOTHING STORE

BASIC BROTHERS



Basic Brothers
1232 Westheimer
713.522.1626

Member Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce

M-Sat 10-9 • Sun 12-6

www.basicbrothers.com

GREENWHITE
ADVISORS



Bill Green, CPA, CFP
Sandy White, CFP, CFS

WORTH Magazine
"...one of the Top Financial Advisors in the country for the 3rd Year in a row!"

713.869.1144

1225 N. Loop West, Suite 1030 Houston, TX 77008
www.moneysmart.com

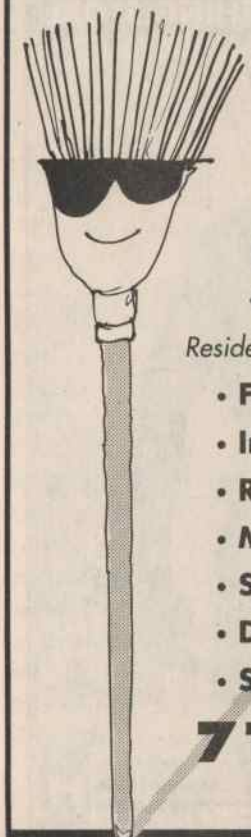
- Financial Planning
- Investments
- Retirement Planning
- Estate Planning

seats about 50 and is reserved for his friends, event underwriters and sponsors, and community leaders; it is a great honor to sit at the captain's table.

Since the ball's theme changes from year to year, guests come prepared for surprises. At the beginning of the ball, the king and queen present themselves to the guests and walk the length of the ballroom showing their fabulous costumes. After they take their seats of honor to reign over the ball, members come out in resplendent costumes in accordance with the theme, some worth nearly $3,000. (We all know rhinestones and feathers do not come cheap.) They too walk the length of the ballroom, and the throwing of the beads begins. Members throw out beads to guests, who scurry to get as many as they can. Attending the Krewe of Olympus Ball is like going to the Belle Arts Ball in Paris!

During the ball, a collection is taken for designated community charities, and guests respond with an outpouring of donations. In a matter of minutes, thousands of dollars are collected. Last month during the Krewe's "Games People Play" Ball, $16,000 was raised for AIDS services and gay-oriented organizations such as the Thomas Street Clinic, the PWA Holiday Charities, and the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard. Past recipients have included Q Patrol and Pet Patrol.

Sands Stiefer, this year's captain, stated, "The purpose of the Krewe of Olympus is not only working toward increasing needed monies for charities in our community but also to preserve and extend the traditions of the gay Mardi Gras ball."



MAID
IN THE
SHADE

Residential & Commercial Cleaning Services

- Free Estimates
- Insured and Bonded
- Regular or One Time
- Move-In / Move-Out
- Spring & Deep Cleaning
- Dependable & Professional
- Satisfaction Guaranteed

713 665 6243

6210-A Royalton

making people happy since 1988

TRAVEL THE WORLD
Phone: 713.682.4972
JIM JADLOSKI

NEW ORLEANS

Gay owned Guest House just outside French Quarter. 1 Bedroom Suite: $75.00 the first night, $60.00 for each additional night. Suite contains Living Room, Bedroom, Private Bath, Private Entrance, refrigerator, microwave & breakfast basket. Also available: 2 Bedroom, 3 Bedroom, or the entire house, which sleeps up to 22 people. Owner is great resource.

SOUTH BEACH, MIAMI & KEY WEST

Unbeatable packages, great locations, Air & Hotel. Call for prices.

MEMBER IGLTA, GHGLCC, TAG

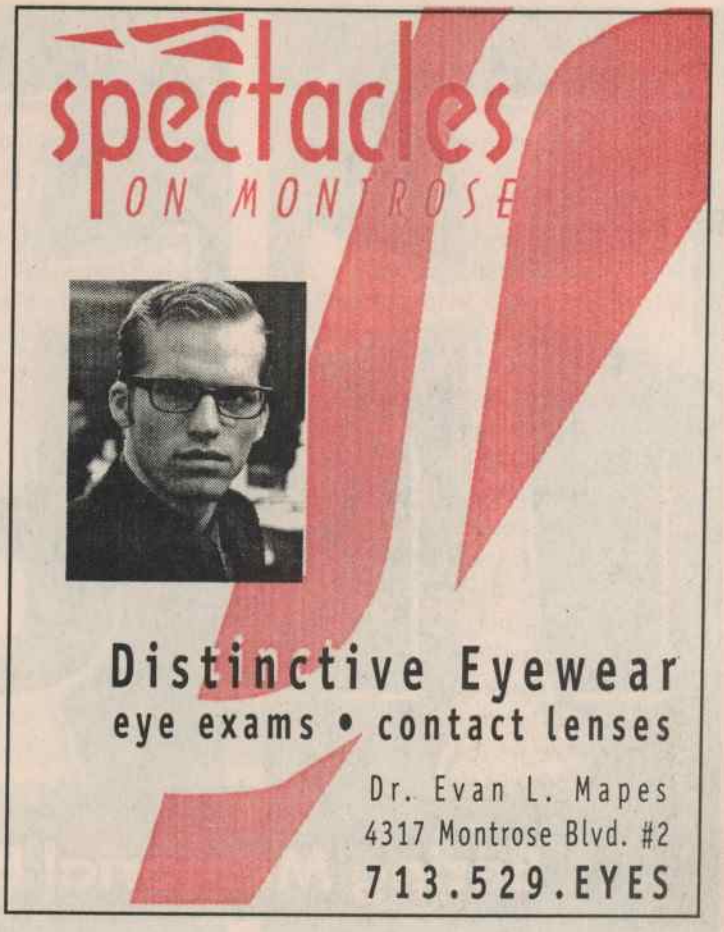
Since members pay for their own costumes, three fund-raisers are held throughout the year to raise money for the ball's expenses, including the hall rental. Any money raised in excess of the expenses is also donated to the ball's designated charities. The three fund-raisers are the Fais Do Do Party, the Bastille Day Party, and the 12th Night Party.

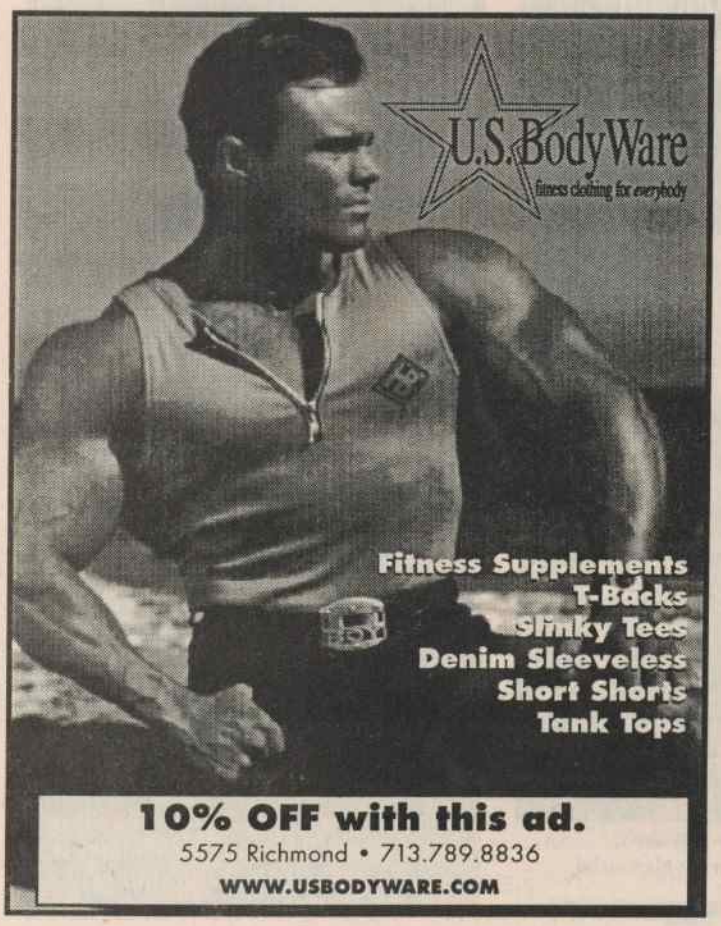
The Fais Do Do Party (country) is always in October, and it is a Cajun Festival. Zydeco music rings out, and there is Creole food like Houston has never seen. The French-style Bastille Day Party is in July. It is a celebration of freedom which features a headless Marie Antoinette cutting and serving cake, and leather-clad executioners monitoring a guillotine.

The Krewe also hosts the 12th Night Party, in recognition of the Feast of the Epiphany held on the 12th night after Christmas, which marks the beginning of Mardi Gras season. The Krewe of Olympus gives an elegant cocktail party on that day.

And speaking of cocktails, Briar Patch's own Wayne Gray takes full control of the bar activities at the balls. Many of the guest ball bartenders are leading members of our community, and are at the splendid mercy of Gray's training. The ball is always followed by a cast party at the Briar Patch.

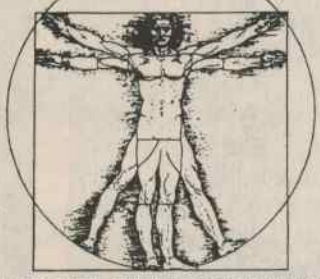
Krewe members make up a delightful team, with no motivation other than to provide entertainment to a grateful crowd. Their efforts are strictly for the enjoyment of their guests. In fact, none of the members sit in the audience to view the show, making the Krewe of Olympus a unique group of men and women, both gay and straight of all minorities, a constant pleasure to the party eye.





◆ Every Body is Important ◆

RESULTS



PERSONAL FITNESS TRAINING

A certified trainer who cares about your results:

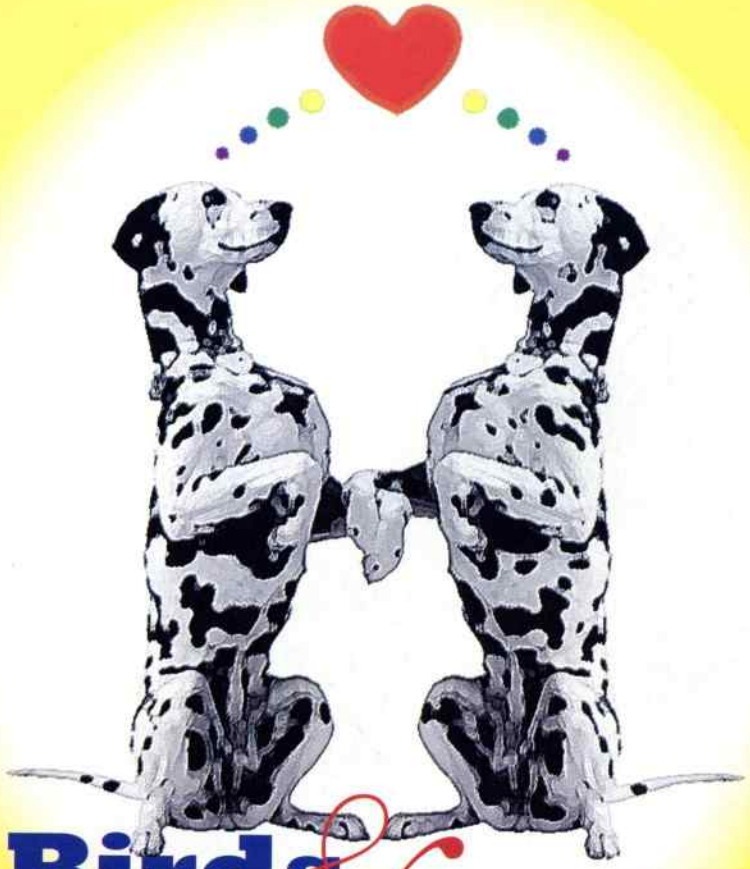
- ◆ Guaranteed Results
- ◆ Nutritional Counseling
- ◆ Personal Diet Program
- ◆ Weight Training
- ◆ Encouragement
- ◆ Better Mental Health

JEFF ALONZO
713·913·9976

MAY 1999 • COMPLIMENTARY

Out Smart

Houston's Gay & Lesbian Monthly Magazine



The Birds & The Bees

Gay Love and Lust in the Animal Kingdom

Houston's 3rd Annual Gay & Lesbian Film Festival

ALSO: Gay Sports • Ballet's Dominic Walsh • Texas Lesbian Conference • Colt 45's

THE COLT 45's

a brotherhood of charity

by George Rimmey

In 1976 a group of 13 gay men organized a self-styled "Western charity club" called the Colt 45's. Although they came from all walks of life, in the early years no gals were allowed, no fussy cosmopolitan-type gents, no tennis club groupies, nor golf-green types either.

In order to join the organization Glenn C. Smith, an early member, said, "You not only had to want to do good works, but you had to own a pair of black and a pair of brown cowboy boots, a black and a brown leather vest, and felt and straw cowboy hats." In other words, to be a member of the Colt 45's you had to be an easy-going cowboy type or an Old West buff who could rope-'n'-ride and was interested in doing what the Lone Ranger called "good works."



UNCREDITED

Colt-45's 1981 Ripcord Anniversary: (l-r) Becky Pitner, Jim Moore, Ron Anderson, Ben Moore, Floyd Irvine, Marty Single, Rodney Smith, Daryl Butler, and Randy Chamble.

Colt 45 members did indeed make striking figures going about from place to place in their Western garb collecting money for various charities and people in need. Much of the Colts' early contributions were raised at an annual Country Carnival held at the Brazos River Bottom. The carnival was always very successful, mixing an evening of ring throwing, darts, wheel of fortune, and raffles with fund-raising.

Proceeds from the carnival were donated to community organizations, including Goodfellows, Variety Boys Club, and the Ronald McDonald House. The Colts did not receive any of the proceeds; all their administrative costs were out-of-pocket, as they still are today.

In 1981 the Colts became a nonprofit organization, and when AIDS appeared on the scene, they were ready to face this terrible catastrophe. Members distributed collection boxes marked "Aid for AIDS" throughout the community. It was almost impossible to go into a bar, restaurant, store, or any other business that served the gay community without seeing those collection boxes.

Not only did the Colts collect funds, but they also set up a processing procedure to disperse the money to those in need. The Aid for AIDS campaign was the impetus to the Colt 45's AIDS Trouble Fund.

The Colts were concerned about people diagnosed with AIDS and their inability to afford housing and utility bills after paying costly medical bills. The Colts allocated funding through the AIDS Trouble Fund to qualifying PWAs (either on disability or living on a limited income) to assist with rent payments and bills.

Since the Colts' membership was limited to 25 at the time, the process of screening and funding applicants was a monumental task only accomplished by strict dedication. The Colts have distributed approximately $393,000 in direct assistance to more than 1,300 clients in the past 11 years.

Many organizations in the community began raising funds to fight AIDS in the mid-'80s: Miss Camp America, the Dianas, the Royal Sovereign and Impe-

Gillman SINCE 1938

HONDA NISSAN NISSAN mazda

IN ROSENBERG
"Just 5 Miles South of Sugar Land"


Scott Smith

Let Us Help You With All Your Automotive Needs!

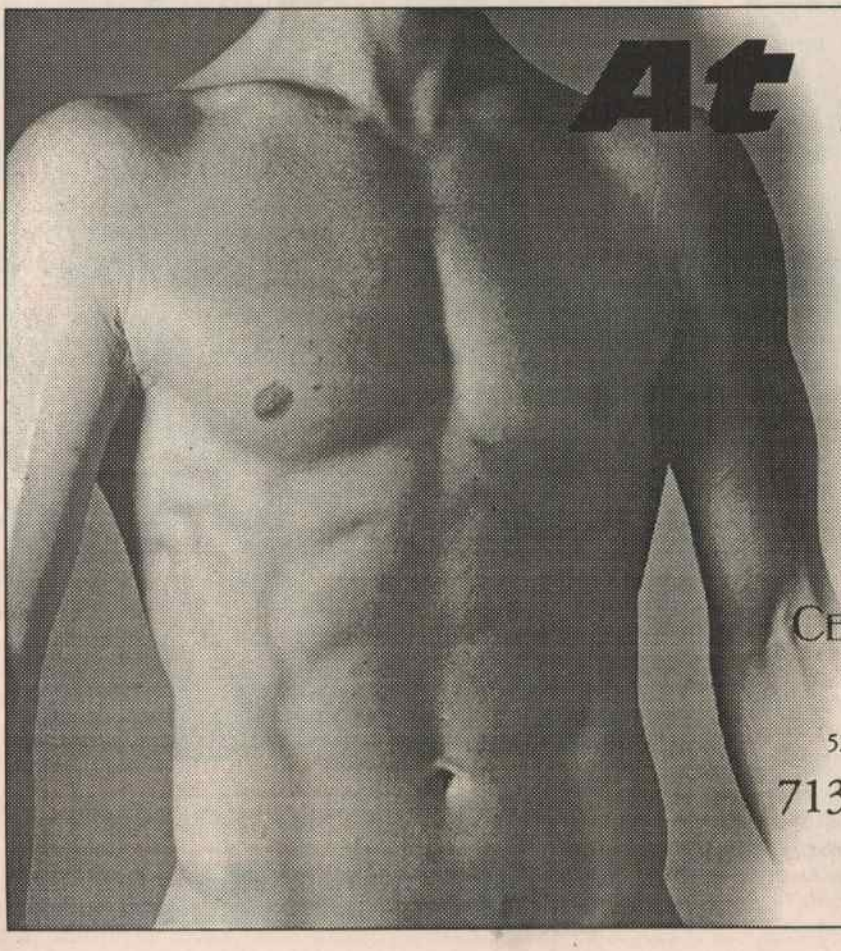
(281) 341-2277
or Toll Free 1-800-825-7923
26029 SOUTHWEST FRWY.
RICHMOND, TEXAS 77469
www.gillmanauto.com

rial Court of the Single Star, the Krewe of Olympus, A Christmas Songfest, and the Texas Gay Rodeo Association. All of the organizations wanted to raise money but were not set up or prepared to distribute funds directly to those affected by AIDS. The organizational efforts of the Colts were recognized by these groups, which contributed a portion of their fund-raising revenue to the AIDS Trouble Fund.

The Colts always stressed a masculine appearance; members in the early days would never consider appearing in "drag." However, in 1985, a very special person appeared on the scene: Lady Victoria Lust (Marvin Davis). Davis was a retired drag queen who, although sick himself, began performing again to raise funds for AIDS. It was his idea that during the Christmas season special attention should be given to those who were ill in order to brighten up their lives. He put all his tips together made during performances and distributed them in $20 increments to needful PWAs. Lady Victoria Lust also contacted his friends to raise funds through performances of their own.

The Colts, liking what they saw, incorporated Lady Victoria Lust charitable work into their organization, thus giving his performances and money-raising efforts nonprofit tax status. They also absorbed all of his expenses. The Lady Victory Lust Fund, though, expanded into what is now called the PWA Holiday Charities. Amazingly, before this happened more than $100,000 had been distributed to those in need. Lady Victoria Lust is long gone, but her legacy lives on considering the PWA Holiday Charities continues to financially contribute to the Colt 45's.

With their assistance, and other community organizations, the Colt 45's are able to maintain the AIDS Trouble Fund and two other main financial assistance programs: the Stone Soup Food Pantry Fund and the Till Thacker III Memorial Fund.



At Last!...

An effective hair removal treatment

EpiLight™
Hair Removal System
eliminates embarrassing unwanted hair!

Backs • Chins • Underarms • Faces
Lips • Legs • Necks • Bikini Lines

CENTER FOR IMAGE ENHANCEMENT
A Medical and Aesthetic Center
Gayle Rothenberg, M.D.
5373 West Alabama, Suite 120, Houston, Texas 77056
713.774.6243 • 713.77.IMAGE
1.888.664.IMAG
Call Today For Your Private Consultation

The Colts distributed approximately $183,000 through its Stone Soup Food Pantry Fund, which is used to pay wholesale food vendors who supply fresh fruits, vegetables, and meats to the food center. The Till Thacker III Memorial Fund was established in loving memory of a cherished Colt 45 member and respected community leader. Grant recipients from this fund are generally AIDS- and HIV-related organizations that support other worthy community efforts. Also allocated from this fund is financial assistance for burial expenses to families who have lost someone to AIDS. More than $200,000 has been distributed.

The community's confidence in the Colt 45's has been supported by letters of commendation from both President Bill Clinton and Gov. George W. Bush. Former Houston Mayor Bob Lanier also proclaimed June 15, 1996 as "Colt 45 Day" in honor of its 20th anniversary.

Colt member Jim Moore said, "The closeness and friendship among the members, along with the promotion of the Western image and the community confidence makes it all worthwhile."

For the first time, this year the grand marshal for the Gay Pride Parade was chosen by an open community vote. The Colt 45's have been selected as the 1999 Organizational Grand Marshal, recognizing the hard work and commitment of this worthy organization.

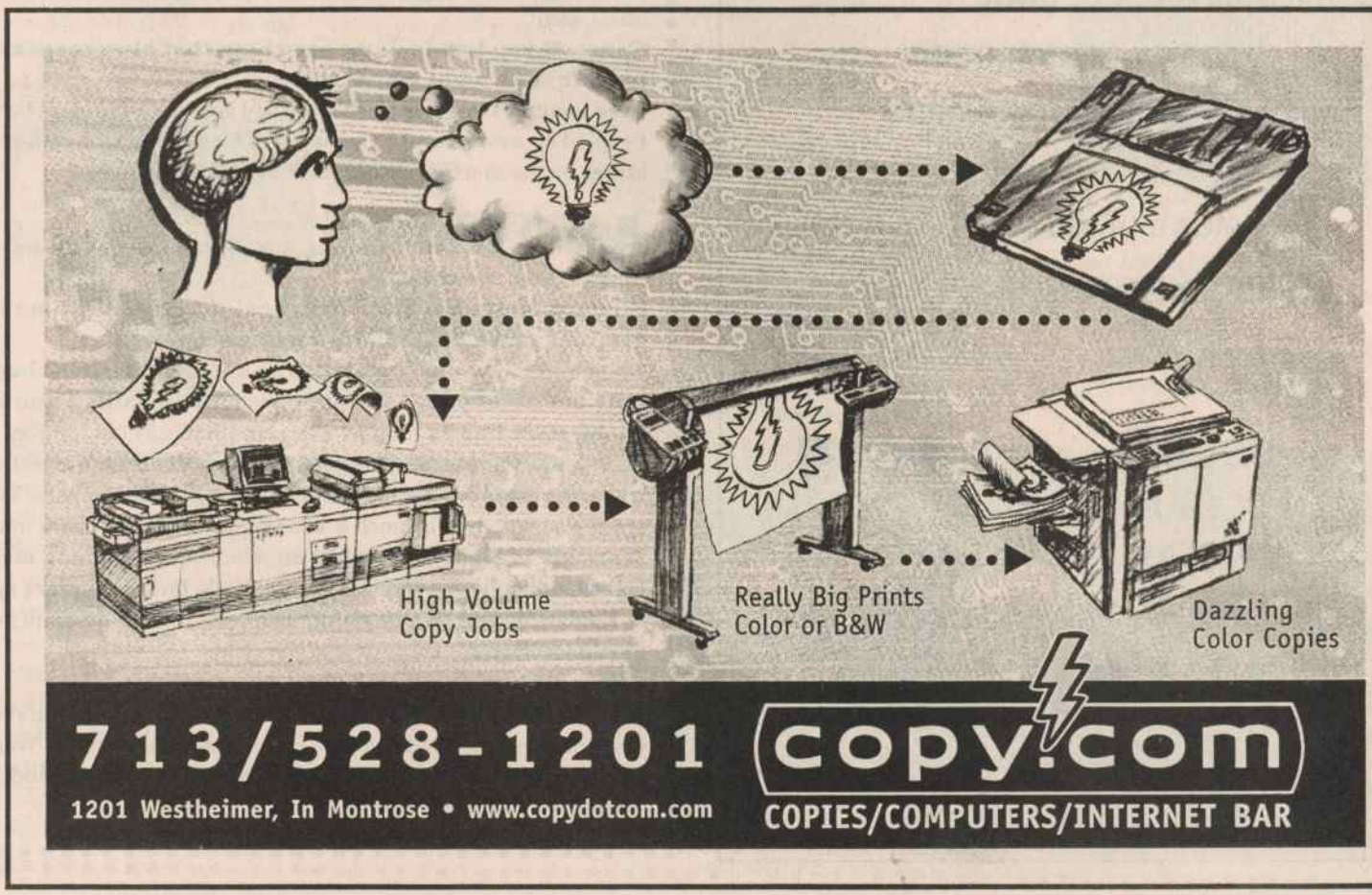
Dan Lindquist, the current president of the Colts, said "We will continue to raise funds and distribute as much money as the community will entrust us with to people living with AIDS."



One thing is for sure: If you're a Colt 45, you're a very special person.

George Rimmey is a community advocate with a long history of charitable involvement. He can be reached care of this publication.





TIMELINE 1976-78

Each month OutSmart will feature sections of the Houston gay history timeline as featured in the January issue.

1976 A perfect marriage of socialization and charity was attained through the formation of the Colt 45's. Since its humble beginnings, the group, which initially limited its membership to just 30 people, have sponsored a suite in the Ronald McDonald House on La Concha Street and have entertained at St. Anthony's Convalescent Home on Almeda. In the Jan. 1981 issue of *Upfront*, a description of the organization was published: "The club's aim is to do good works for the gay and straight community to show people what gay people can do." Also, Henry McClurg, who had founded the relatively short-lived *Contact*, launched the *Montrose Star*. From the very first issue of the newspaper, which appeared in July, McClurg sought after a stronger, news-oriented format than was present in other gay and lesbian publications of the time. Many Houston publications can be viewed to this day at the MCCR archives. **1977** In July, Charles Gillis opened Wilde and Stein Bookstore—named after outlandish English playwright Oscar Wilde and feminist writer Gertrude Stein—on Richmond Avenue. The store peddled books, periodicals, and both fiction and nonfiction literature about homosexuality and the gay rights movement. Gillis reportedly launched the store due to his hindered gay upbringing in east Texas in the early 1960s—the public libraries at the time yielded no books about any gay topics of interest. Wilde and Stein served the Houston gay and lesbian community by offering easily accessible (and positively presented) materials to a needy gay and lesbian public. Also, the bookstore served its purpose as a meeting place, serving as a template for stores of its type yet to come. **1978** The first issue of *Upfront* appeared in April, taking on a more critical and substantial view of gay and lesbian issues. Gary van Ooteghem, the first president of the Gay Political Caucus, established the newspaper, which two years later morphed into *Upfront America*. According to reports, *Upfront*'s founder used the publication, more or less openly, to fill a void that was lacking in the coverage of gay issues he thought to be most important. In its first issue, *Upfront*'s editorial outlined van Ooteghem's concern for more relative and topical gay publications: "One of the primary goals is to raise the awareness and consciousness of our community through provision of information about issues of national, state, and local concern. Many of us exist in a vacuum, unconcerned and unaware of the serious and dangerous conditions that confront us in the larger community." Another attempt at organizing Houston's community was through the startup of the Montrose Activity Center (MAC) in July. The board of directors of the newly founded MAC—which ran for nonprofit in an acquired 18,000-square foot edifice on Holman Street at the corner of La Branch—professed the center's purpose "to provide a facility for gay groups and organizations at a minimum cost." And used it was, by such influential organizations as the Gay Political Caucus; the social-political group, Integrity; Church of Christ homosexual support group, A Cappella Chorus; gay theater ensemble, the Montrose Players; and the Montrose Marching Band. MAC eventually closed due to insufficient funding. Pick up June's issue of *OutSmart*, when some of Houston's gay and lesbian history highlights are revealed for 1979-1981.



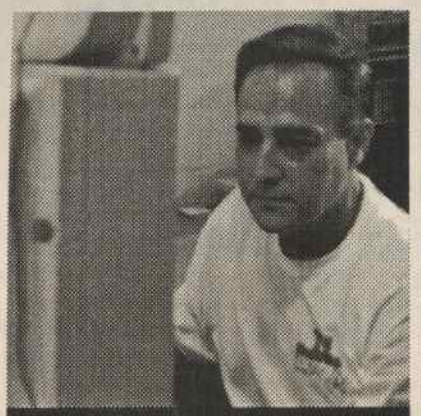
Gary van Ooteghem

Timeline provided by the Houston Gay and Lesbian Community Center and Steve Brown of the Botts Memorial Library of MCCR. Research obtained from "Twelve Fighting Years" by Bruce Remmington.



OFF THE AIR

TV Montrose signs off with sad good-byes



Montrose TV shows last episode.

All good things must come to an end, and TV Montrose has said its good-byes. In late April—just two months after the Houston show's one-year anniversary—regular viewers were witness to "the final show" of the weekly gay television program, in which producer Steve Baker (pictured above) sadly let go of his financially burdened and understaffed birth child.

Despite the show's financial instability, Baker gave life to the show and even considered expansion in the state's big cities, morphing the community-based show into TV Texas. But disagreements with a Dallas partner ended that collaboration, and Baker was forced to tune into a long-coming "terminal fate."

In a released letter, Baker explained the plight and fall of TV Montrose, offering gratitude and apologies to the community that he believes is "fractured in shocking ways that are far from the definition of unity." Citing some big problems in the community—apathy, lack of cooperation, and big business "cattle barons" who use the gay dollar to control the community—Baker maintains his commitment to gay and lesbian unity.

Hindered by bankruptcy status, Baker is uncertain about his professional future although he would like to continue producing community projects. He is certain, however, that his decision to terminate the show is far "better than the struggle and pain to keep the show on life-support from month to month."

THE BIG PICTURE

Get GLAAD about the century's 20 best gay films

Now is your chance to show your appreciation and gladness about some of the hottest gay films of the 20th century. Vote for your favorites for GLAAD's (the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Anti-Defamation) year-long balloting initiative to determine the 20 best lesbian and gay films of the century.

GLAAD has teamed with Absolute Vodka and ***Entertainment Weekly*** to commemorate the first 100 years of lesbian and gay films and filmmaking. Winners will be announced at the GLAAD Media Awards 2000. The 166 ballot choices feature a mix of mainstream hits (***Philadelphia***, ***In & Out***) with independent successes (***Fire***, ***Velvet Goldmine***).

GLAAD will be distributing ballots throughout the year at upcoming events and pride celebrations, or vote on-line at www.glaad.org.

Even better, one lucky person will have a chance to shine like a star. Each voter will automatically be entered to win two round-trip tickets to any GLAAD media awards ceremony, where the likes of Whoopi Goldberg, Roseanne, Ellen DeGeneres, and Sharon Stone have made appearances. The winner will also stay two nights at any top hotel in Los Angeles, New York, or Washington, D.C., where the ceremonies are typically held.



Whoopi gets a "glaad" wrap ... from Anne Heche (l) and Ellen DeGeneres. Also pictured: Jehan Agrama (far left), Michael Keegan, Joan M. Garry.

ENGLISH TWIST

Lesbian erotica is a big deal

Looking for a little lesbian English erotica? Virgin Publishing has a taste of some sexy—even raunchy—erotic fiction that would have had sweet Margaret Thatcher a bit dissolute. The edge-standing publishing company has broken through the lesbian taboo with its erotic series *Black Lace*, *Nexus*, *Idol*, and now the shining *Sapphire*.



The first short story of the Sapphire series is the sexy, gender-bending "Big Deal" (late-May release). Author Helen Sandler, who has written gay male erotica under a pseudonym, mixes "high-quality, explicit lesbian erotica with a variety of themes and settings" in this dyke tale of promiscuity and sexual fantasy.

Following Sandler's sharp story is "Rika's Jewel" and "Millennium Fever" (to be released in June and July, respectively). The Viking-themed "Rika's Jewel" should entice those Xena fans who wonder just what could happen between the bold soldieress and Miss Gabrielle. And "Millennium Fever" will have you burning—and yearning—for sapphic adventures with women.

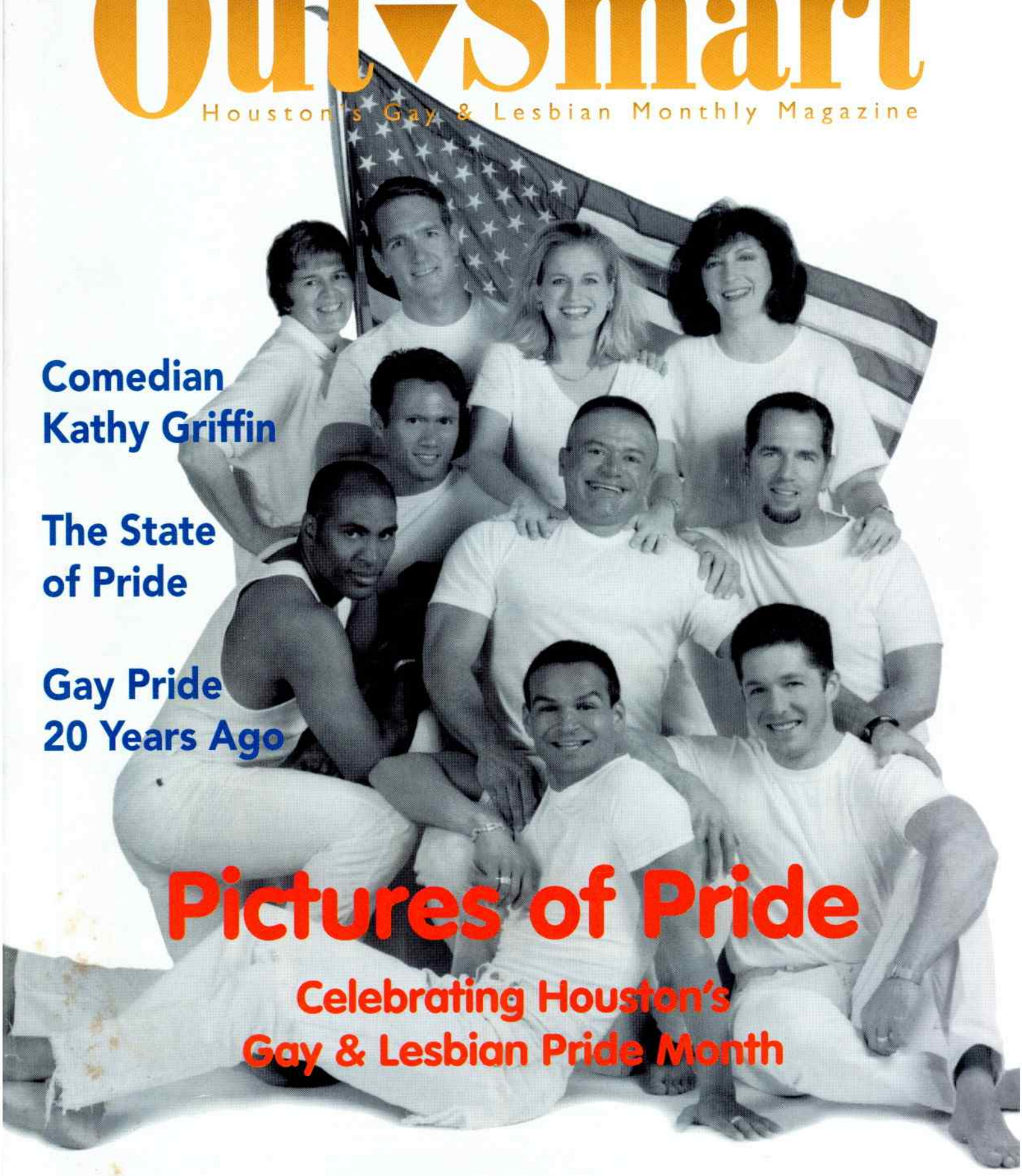
To get your pretty hands on these stylish erotica tales, keep a lookout in your local gay bookstores.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: MELISSA VALENZUELA; GLAAD; SAPPHIRE BOOKS

JUNE 1999 • COMPLIMENTARY

OutSmart

Houston's Gay & Lesbian Monthly Magazine



Comedian
Kathy Griffin

The State
of Pride

Gay Pride
20 Years Ago

Pictures of Pride

Celebrating Houston's Gay & Lesbian Pride Month

Contents

Vol. 7 • No. 5 • June 1999



FEATURES

Pictures of Pride.....9
See who made face in *OutSmart*'s annual pictures of pride.

The Red Zone.....44
Liar, liar Kathy Griffin is on fire in the red zone. *by Blase DiStefano*

Houston Pride Turns 20.....48
This month's TimeOut takes a look back into history. *by Steve Poruban*

Gay Pride Calendar.....52
A complete listing of this year's pride celebrations.

ON THE COVER: *(Top, l-r)* Marion Coleman, Pete Sharpe, Amanda Barhost, Trudy Denny *(Middle, l-r)* Nelson Valena, Nelson Virgil, Allen Glander *(Bottom, l-r)* Derek Hopkins, Todd J. Ramos, Tim Baker
Photo by Evin Thayer

THIS PAGE: Gay Pride 1980 *(see page 48)*
Photo by Blase DiStefano

Departments

Letters.....9
In&Out.....10
Business News.....26
Calendar.....32
Queer Quotes.....42
Health.....62
The Source.....71
Classifieds.....76
OutSmart Advertisers.....78
SceneOut.....82

Columns

GrooveOut/Chris Sill.....37
Inside Hollywood/Romeo San Vincente.....40
Left Out/Daryl Moore.....60
OutRight/Dale Carpenter.....61
Simon Says/Simon LeVay.....64
TravelOut/Sandra Wilkins.....66
WorkOut/John-Aaron.....68
SignOut/Madilyn Stein.....80

HOUSTON PRIDE Turns 20



• by Steven Poruban • photographs by Blase DiStefano •

This year marks the 20th anniversary of Houston's gay and lesbian pride parade and celebration. And this year's theme—"Pride, Power, and Pizzazz"—seemingly highlights the core elements underlying the community's overall achievements and long-time survival.

The presence and power of the gay and lesbian community has grown noticeably strong over the last 20 years and the community is, as it should be, extremely proud of its accomplishments. Plus, no other group of individuals seems better able to really put on a party than the gay and lesbian community. In the words of the first pride celebration's co-organizer Larry Bagneris at a rally following the first organized parade: "I'm beginning to think that only gays can do everything right."

There exists a discrepancy in Houston about how and when pride was started. In 1976, about 200 members of the now-defunct Gay Activist Alliance marched down a two-block stretch of road. Discovering the significance of this event and its placement in Houston's gay history merely depends on who is asked.

It would seem that no single incident sparked the first community-concerted observance of pride in Houston. Of course, the event's organizers intended, in part, to commemorate the infamous Stonewall Riots, then 10 years old. The riots still serve as a pivotal point in gay history, when the community spoke up and out with demands for fair and equal treatment. But the pride celebration in 1979 went beyond remembering. And the momentous occasion set a precedent for all future pride events to follow.



"Disco Grandma" Mary Thelma Hensel (l), the parade's grand marshal, and gay activist Ray Hill celebrate Gay Pride in 1979.

Around the time of the first organized pride event, gays and lesbians were moving to the Houston area in droves. Billed as the newest "Gay Mecca," Houston was quickly becoming a strong urban force, and the sense of community was a healthy one.

The theme of that first organized happening was "Proud to Be." With an estimated crowd of about 20,000, the all-gay parade was routed along Westheimer, starting from Shepherd and continuing to Bagby. A police escort accompanied the 20 floats along their passage through what was dubbed the "Great Gay Way of the Montrose."

"Disco Grandma" Mary Thelma Hensel acted as the parade's grand mar-

TIMELINE 1979-81

Each month OutSmart will feature sections of the Houston gay history timeline as featured in the January issue.

1979 Commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Stonewall riots in New York City, June saw the first organized efforts toward the start-up of Gay and Lesbian Pride Week Parades. The week-long event instilled a sense of pride and community that are still apparent in Houston today (see related story on previous page). The Gay Men's Chorus of Houston (GMCH) began and continues through to this day, performing at least two major concerts every season. The chorus' membership is comprised of both singing and non-singing members and invites members of both sexes and any sexual preference. Its mantra remains: "GMCH strives to instill community spirit though a mixed repertoire of formal, popular, and empowering music."

1980 In May, the Montrose Sports Association (MSA) became a Texas nonprofit organization appealing to gays who enjoyed organized competitive sports. The core idea behind the group was summed up in Article 4 of incorporation: "The specific and primary purpose is to foster sports competition among the membership for the pleasure and recreation of its members, with special interest for the gay community." MSA's first assistant director Patrick McIlvain said of the organization, "MSA is an alternative to bars, baths, and bookstores, centered around sports with a natural social outgrowth. The camaraderie generated by exercise is a lot more genuine than that mustered by martinis."

1981 Kathy Whitmire was elected mayor with gay and lesbian backing. Previous Whitmire campaigns for city controller were staffed with lesbian volunteers. The Montrose Clinic got its start through the work of Ruth Ravas, or "Mother Ruth" as she was known in the gay and lesbian community. Ravas helped to run a program that screened the homosexual community for venereal disease, which was becoming a growing concern. Initially, Ravas "in her own very ingratiating way, got herself into the bars" to screen the Montrose populace and then, later, was aided by a used mobile unit. Realizing the necessity for the service yet conceding to its shortcomings, the Gay Political Caucus' Medical Committee, under the stewardship of David Bonuelos, made plans toward a "free-standing medical clinic in the Montrose area that would be free [and] would serve the predominantly gay population." With the onset of HIV and AIDS, the clinic still plays a vital role as a nonprofit, low- or no-cost healthcare facility, serving the gay and lesbian community. Next month, *OutSmart* will highlight certain events that helped shape the Houston gay and lesbian community during 1982-1984.



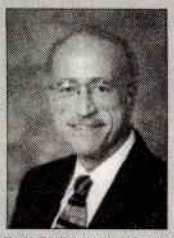
From all walks of life: 1980's Gay Pride Parade began with this proud banner.

Timeline provided by the Houston Gay and Lesbian Community Center and Steve Brown of the Botts Memorial Library of MCCR. Research obtained from "Twelve Fighting Years" by Bruce Remmington.

Pictures of Pride



NAME: Ian Leffler **AGE:** 40 **HOMETOWN:** Moline, IL **GAY OR STRAIGHT?** Gay **YEARS OUT:** Since birth **MOM AND DAD KNOW?** Yes **GAY HERO:** Tinky Winky **GAY ZERO:** Rev. Falwell **ADVICE FOR NEWLY OUT:** Play safe. **PET PEEVE:** Stereotyping **RELIGIOUS OR SPIRITUAL?** Both **Y2K: HYPE OR HELP!** Over it already! **GAY STEREOTYPE THAT FITS YOU BEST:** See pet peeve. **GAY PREDICTION FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM:** People of all races, sexual preferences, and sexes will become closer and accepting. *Ian can be found at Basic Brothers clothing store.*



NAME: Richard Wiederholt **AGE:** 57 **HOMETOWN:** Maryville, MO **GAY OR STRAIGHT?** Gay **YEARS OUT:** 20 **MOM AND DAD KNOW?** Father died before I "came out." Mother knew before she died. **GAY HERO:** First drag queens at Stonewall who fought back. **GAY ZERO:** Anyone who believes God made homosexuals to be hated. **ADVICE FOR NEWLY OUT:** Come on out and join the rest of us. It's a great life. **PET PEEVE:** Gays and lesbians who refuse to get involved in our community. **RELIGIOUS OR SPIRITUAL?** Spiritual **Y2K: HYPE OR HELP!** Help **GAY STEREOTYPE THAT FITS YOU BEST:** I don't believe in stereotyping. **GAY PREDICTION FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM:** Slow but definite progress in not only being recognized but being appreciated. *Wedding bells still ringing. Richard and Ian (above) are celebrating pride month as recent newlyweds.*



NAME: Sean D. Carter **AGE:** 28 **HOMETOWN:** Garland, TX (suburb of Dallas) **GAY OR STRAIGHT?** Gay! **YEARS OUT:** 8 **MOM AND DAD KNOW?** Yes, probably before I did. **GAY HERO:** Olympia Dukakis **GAY ZERO:** Martha Stewart **ADVICE FOR NEWLY OUT:** Respect the older members of our community. They had it rough and made it easier for us. **PET PEEVE:** Men who juggle other men. **RELIGIOUS OR SPIRITUAL?** Buddhist (spiritual) **Y2K: HYPE OR HELP!** Blah, blah, blah! **GAY STEREOTYPE THAT FITS YOU BEST:** Swish! **GAY PREDICTION FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM:** Sequin tube tops, butterfly collars, and feathered hairdos will be hip again! *Sean is the development and marketing manager at the Montrose Counseling Center and is one of this year's proud grand marshals for the Gay Pride Parade.*



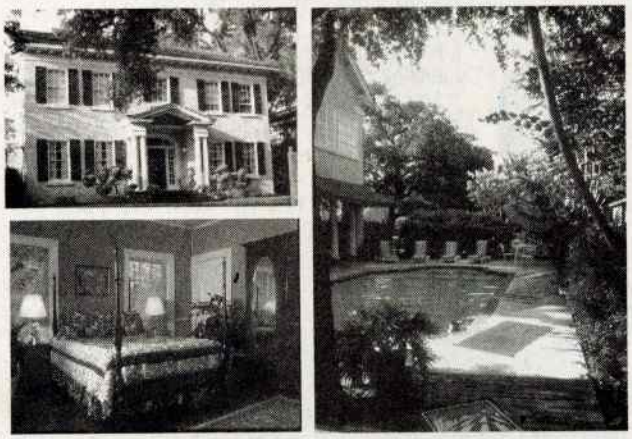
NAME: Caroline Burum **HOMETOWN:** Houston **GAY OR STRAIGHT?** Gay **YEARS OUT:** 9 **MOM AND DAD KNOW?** Yes **GAY HERO:** M. Dietrich **ADVICE FOR NEWLY OUT:** Find a support group like H.A.T.C.H. or Twenty Something **PET PEEVE:** When people accidentally out someone. **RELIGIOUS OR SPIRITUAL?** Spiritual **Y2K: HYPE OR HELP!** Just relax—it'll be Jan. 2 soon. *Caroline is the proud owner of Toopees Cafe.*



NAME: Bridgette Chambers **AGE:** 29 **HOMETOWN:** Houston **GAY OR STRAIGHT?** Gay! Is there any other way to be? **YEARS OUT:** 6 **MOM AND DAD KNOW?** Yes. Dad is supportive; mom is out; sister is out. **GAY HERO:** Robert Sadler **ADVICE FOR NEWLY OUT:** Relax and breathe. It will all work out. **PET PEEVE:** When people chew ice. **RELIGIOUS OR SPIRITUAL?** Both. This is something that me and my partner share and keep at home. **Y2K: HYPE OR HELP!** Hype. Nonetheless, I am still going to go to the ATM machine on New Year's—just in case. **GAY STEREOTYPE THAT FITS YOU BEST:** Let's see—there are typically two lesbian stereotypes: 1. Butch (I hate the word dyke) and 2. A lipstick lesbian. I am somewhat in between—clearly further from the lipstick stuff. **GAY PREDICTION FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM:** In the near future, gays and lesbians will enjoy federal protection at the workplace and protection from hate crimes. *The optimistic Bridgette connects us all as a wireless consultant.*

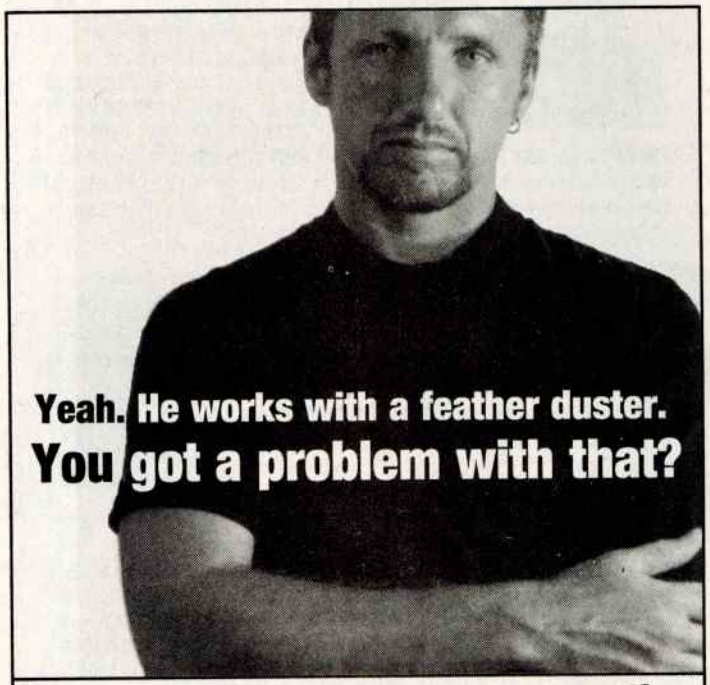
THE LOVETT INN

Distinctive Lodging and Catering Accommodations



Historic Accommodations • Corporate Meeting Rooms • Banquet Facilities • Jacuzzi Suites • Pool/Hot Tub • Near Downtown, Museums and Medical Center

501 Lovett Blvd. Houston, TX 77006
(713) 522-5224 • (800) 779-5224
Fax (713) 528-6708 Lovettinn.com
YOU'LL LOVE IT!



Tony Akin and
Man-Maid Cleaning Services.
To you, it's just a little feather thing.
To dirt, it's a sledgehammer.

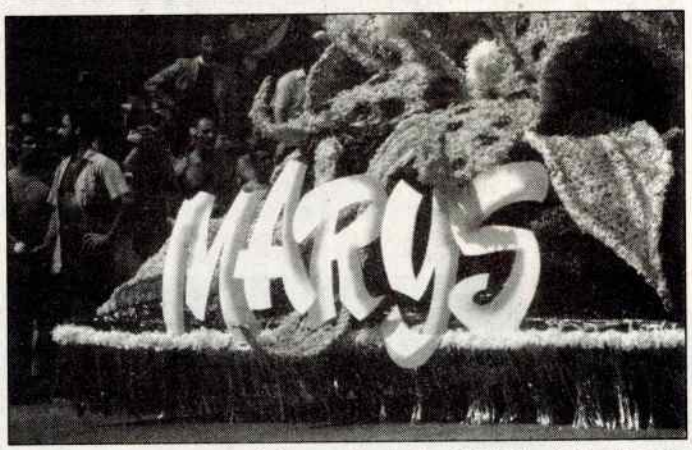
***Call:* 713.993.9737 *Page:* 713.949.1861**

MANMAID SERVICES

shal, led down the street by the MAC marching band and drill team. En route, she blew kisses to the crowd as they cheered wildly.

The floats were judged along the way. Mary's Lounge's float, titled "Proud to Be Beautiful," was awarded top prize.





Mary's Lounge was awarded top prize in the 1979 Gay Pride Parade.

Midtowne Spa turned out a second-place entry, while Dirty Sally's landed third place.

The parade was followed by an "Expressions of Freedom" rally at Spotts Park at the intersection of Memorial Drive and Waugh. The rally, which was presented by the Gay Political Caucus (GPC), reportedly attracted several thousand gay and lesbian participants. At the time, the GPC and Pride Committee worked together to sponsor the event.

The rally featured activist Ray Hill and GPC president Steve Shiflett, both of whom introduced the guest speakers. The speakers' respective topics addressed the issues of the time. The speakers included Tony Lazada, commenting on the 10th anniversary of Stonewall; Kathy Whitmire, making an appearance to vie for the gay vote; Jean O'Leary, co-founder of the National Gay Task Force, speaking about the national organization; and Midge Costanza, a former White House advisor to President Carter, commenting on the affluence and strength of the American gay minority. *This Week in Texas* (*TWT*) noted Costanza as saying, amusingly, that she had sat in the president's chair and that "it fit!"

Following the rally, $2,500 worth of fireworks were launched above the gathered mass of onlookers.

This year's pride celebration is bound to give previous years' events a run for their money, declares Brian Keever, Pride Committee of Houston, Inc. board member and banner district chair. "To me," he says, "Pride Week is just as important to our community as Thanksgiving or Christmas or anything else."

On the important function that pride serves within the community, Keever noted: "We have another generation of young gay men and lesbians that have no clue what 'Stonewall' is unless you educate them.

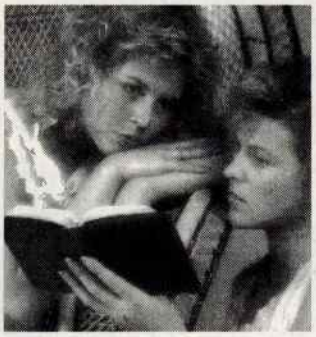
"It also helps people 'come out' because they see other people having a good time, it might give them the nudge to say, 'Wow, I could actually do that.'"

With that, Happy Pride, Houston! To quote Larry Bagneris, once again: "Remain gay, proud, and most of all, yourself."

Steve Poruban is a community writer and newly dubbed TimeOut historian. He can be reached care of this publication.

Getting the Love You Want

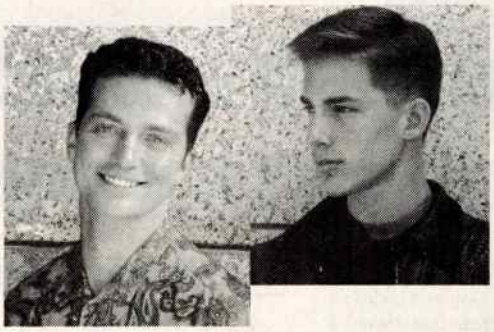
A Workshop for Lesbian and Gay Couples



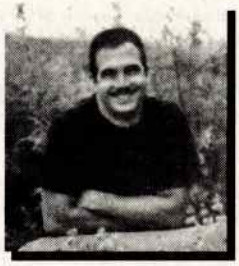
An Intensive 20-hour experience for couples.
The unique design of this workshop is appropriate for you if:

- You want to enrich, deepen or revitalize a good relationship.
- You want to nurture a new relationship.
- You are in a difficult relationship and want to end a long-standing impasse.
- You are near break-up and want to decide if the relationship can be saved.

1999 Workshops:
August 6–8
November 12–14



Enrollment limited!
$500/couple *(deposit required)*
For more information and to reserve a space, call Patrick J. Vachon, 713.524.1771, voice mail #1



A Personal Experience for Change and Growth
presented by
Patrick J. Vachon L.M.S.W.-A.C.P.
Certified Imago Relationship Therapist
Houston, Texas

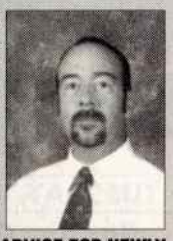
Pictures of Pride



NAME: Bruce Burgner **AGE:** 36 **HOMETOWN:** Houston **GAY OR STRAIGHT?** Gay **YEARS OUT:** 8 **MOM AND DAD KNOW?** Yes **GAY HERO:** Mitchell Anderson **ADVICE FOR NEWLY OUT:** Take your time and explore all the facets of gay culture. **PET PEEVE:** Those who do not realize that "gay" is a culture, equal to that of any other. **RELIGIOUS OR SPIRITUAL?** Lutheran **Y2K: HYPE OR HELP!** Hype **GAY STEREOTYPE THAT FITS YOU BEST:** Southern preppy **GAY PREDICTION FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM:** That gays and straights will be governed by the same laws. *Bruce is the host with the most for one of Houston's hearty restaurants.*



NAME: Kathy (Joe) Marie Goodwin **AGE:** 19 **HOMETOWN:** Houston **GAY OR STRAIGHT?** Lesbionic **YEARS OUT:** Little over a year. **MOM AND DAD KNOW?** Yes, yes, oh yes! I have gay pride. **GAY HERO:** Ellen **GAY ZERO:** Bush or Clinton (take your choice) **ADVICE FOR NEWLY OUT:** Follow your heart. Homosexual people exist everywhere, and keep on comin'! **PET PEEVE:** When someone says "Uh, hey Kathy Joe, umm...do you umm...uh, never mind." **RELIGIOUS OR SPIRITUAL?** I don't believe in organized religion, but I'm very spiritual. **Y2K: HYPE OR HELP!** Hype, help—only the future knows. **GAY STEREOTYPE THAT FITS YOU BEST:** The reason why I have my tongue pierced, soft butch, I scare Republicans. **GAY PREDICTION FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM:** We will rise from oppression. *Kathy is a "starving artist" working at Toopees, where she should eat something.*

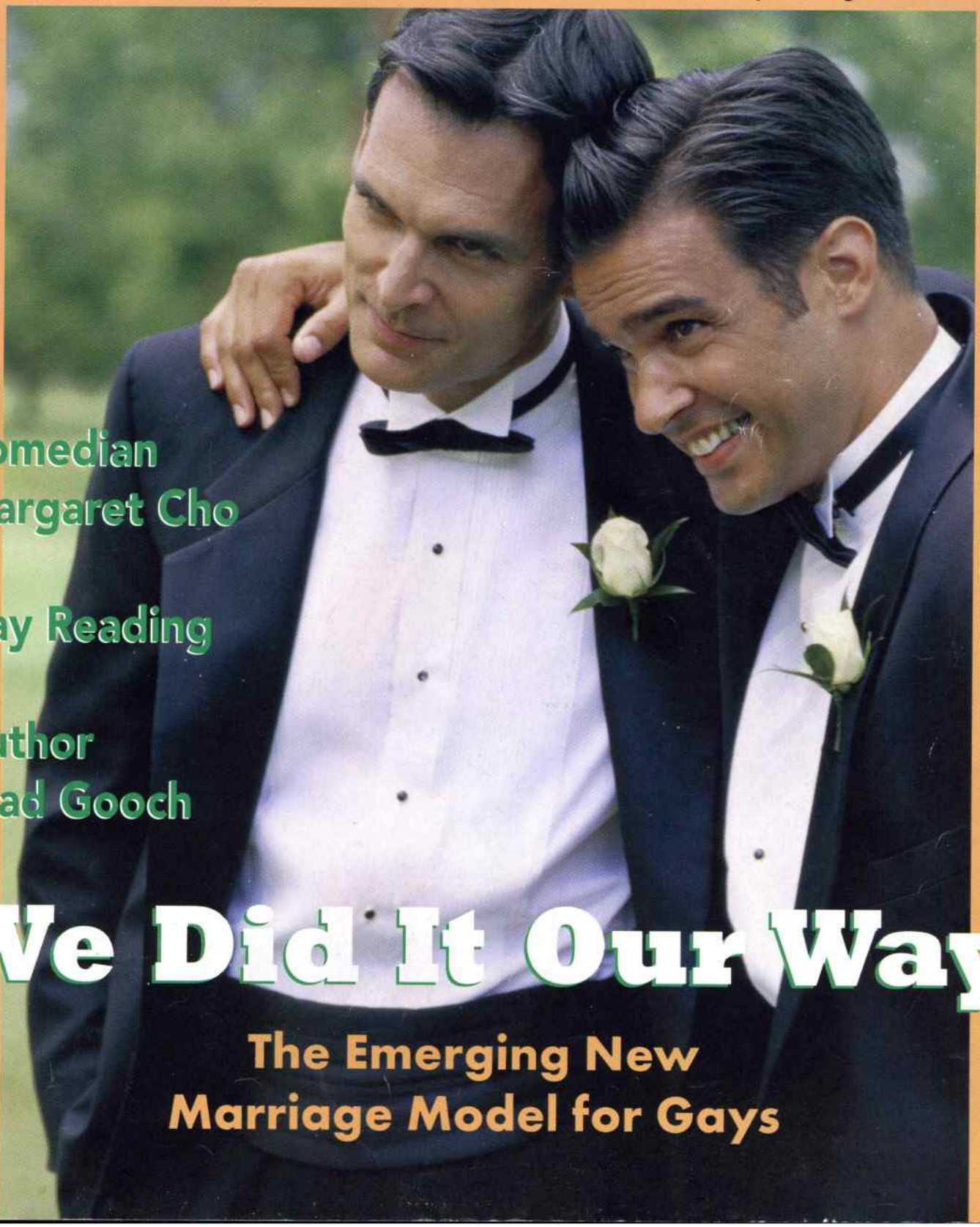


NAME: Daniel Impastato **AGE:** 44 **HOMETOWN:** Buffalo, NY **GAY OR STRAIGHT?** Gay **YEARS OUT:** 26 **MOM AND DAD KNOW?** Yes. They are very supportive and loving. **GAY HERO:** James D. Sapienza, my best friend who died in '89. **GAY ZERO:** Fred Phelps **ADVICE FOR NEWLY OUT:** Dance your ass off. Play safe and don't be in a hurry to couple up. **PET PEEVE:** Gay citizens who do not vote. **RELIGIOUS OR SPIRITUAL?** Spiritual **Y2K: HYPE OR HELP!** Hype. I've got a Mac! **GAY STEREOTYPE THAT FITS YOU BEST:** Interior decorator **GAY PREDICTION FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM:** First openly gay mayoral candidate in Houston (no, Sylvester Turner does not count!). *Daniel educates you adults in bilingual education.*

JULY 1999 • COMPLIMENTARY

Out▼Smart

Houston's Gay & Lesbian Monthly Magazine



Comedian
Margaret Cho

Gay Reading

Author
Brad Gooch

We Did It Our Way

The Emerging New Marriage Model for Gays

TimeOut

by Steve Poruban

AIDS FOUNDATION HOUSTON

...Working Until It's Over



Stone Soup Food Pantry was moved to 608 Westheimer on Valentine's Day as pictured in 1985.

In Houston in 1982, as in countless other cities around the world, an increasing number of people were becoming infected with, and subsequently dying from, the then little-understood HIV virus. It was around that same time, too, that a group of civic-minded Houstonians and medical professionals joined forces to aid in making a difference and hopefully to save some lives.

The end result was a nonprofit agency committed to "improve the quality of life in the greater Houston community through HIV/AIDS education, health care, social services, and volunteerism," better known to most of us as AIDS Foundation Houston (AFH).

"AFH has really evolved over the years," explains Ken Kelly, AFH's director of communications. "It started out with a group of people trying to make a difference and has grown into a $4.2 million agency. We currently have a complete array of client services and our education department is very much out there in the community and abroad, and has won numerous awards."

And Kelly couldn't be more correct. AFH is one of the most multifaceted organizations in the Houston area, if not in the country. And like many nonprofit agencies, at the core of the wide success and continued growth of AFH is its volunteers, who, after attending a one-day training program, are placed in one of many client service areas. Programs such as Stone Soup and the AFH hotline are completely volunteer-driven services.



The McAdory House was the nation's first privately funded residence for people with AIDS and the home of Stone Soup Pantry in 1984.

"Bragging on our staff here," says Kelly, "we have an incredible volunteer department. They do a really good job in managing and having a good relationship with all of our volunteers. Plus I think that they see that, with the work they do, they really do make a difference."

Education has been at the center AFH's work since its inception. In 1982, AFH created the first educational booklet on AIDS, the AIDS-Talk manual, which is still used to this day, albeit in an updated form.

"I think that's why it was significant, because it was the first," recalls Kelly. "And it's my understanding that it was just so well written." So well written, in fact, that the Texas Department of Heath recommends the booklet as "the model prevention curriculum for Health Education/Risk Reduction service providers in Texas."

Every year, AFH's education department, also started in 1982, reaches as many as 50,000 individuals. The department's current project is AFH's gay men health initiative, Project CAESAR (Community Advocates for Education, Safer sex And Risk reduction).

"Recently, we are working within the prison system," said Kelly. Working with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, AFH is training inmates to become trainers for peer-based education and to teach about HIV and AIDS transmission. "It has proven to be quite successful so far," says Kelly. The program, like many of the services provided by AFH, already has a waiting list filled with interested participants.

TIMELINE 1982-84

Each month OutSmart will feature sections of the Houston gay history timeline as featured in the January issue.

1982 A group of medical professionals and other civic leaders joined forces against the growing crisis of HIV and AIDS in Houston, forming AIDS Foundation Houston (AFH). For more information on its genesis, see related column, opposite page. Now in its 17th year, Basic Brothers was founded by Richard Wiederholt. Now retired, Wiederholt and his first lover, Jerry Prox—who has since passed away in 1989—opened



Basic Brothers first location at 1624 Richmond Ave.

up a 400-sq. ft. shop at 1624 Richmond Ave. that featured resale merchandise such as antiques, bricabrac, and clothes—particularly Army clothes and combat boots. The couple chose the name "Basic Brothers," says Wiederholt, "because we didn't know what we were going to be doing, or which direction we were going to be headed." About 12 years ago, the store was moved to its present location on Westheimer, at which time the couple abandoned resale completely and began to carry new clothes, including drag gear. The store's key to success? "You need to listen to your customers," Wiederholt told *OutSmart*, "because they know the market as well as we do, and they know what they want." Besides listening, Basic Brothers also is involved in the community: selling tickets to countless community events and donating gift certificates to numerous of Houston's nonprofit organizations. "I've always felt, from the time we opened the store, that the more we give to the community, they're going to give it back to us," notes Wiederholt.

1983 Texas Gay Rodeo Association (TGRA) started as a nonprofit organization, which helped to raise funds for charities through events preceding and including the Houston rodeo, held every year in November. The slogan of TGRA members, comprising both men and women, is "to accomplish the common goal of community spirit, public benefit, and a better gay profile overall." Starting as a Halloween party, Outrage Inc. was organized to "put on fabulous events to raise funds for Houston area HIV/AIDS charities." Since that time, Outrage has put on its Hallowween Party event, raising more than $93,000 for local charities through 1997. Outrage now produces the Construction Party, one of the hot events during Pride.



Basic Brothers (l-r) Richard Wiederholt, Cody Holt, Ken Claude, and Bill Pearse.

1984 Two social organizations formed to add to the realm of recreational activities for gays and lesbians: Frontrunners and the Houston Outdoor Group (HOG). While the former of the two promotes competitive and recreational running for men and women, the latter is all about roughing it through camping, hiking, biking, and other outdoor-related events. And things get even busier from 1985-1987, so look for the happenings of these times next month.

Timeline constructed from personal interviews, personal recollections, and from information found in the Houston Gay & Lesbian Yellow Pages.

Gay & Lesbian™ INSURANCE AGENCY OF TEXAS

FARMERS INSURANCE GROUP®

Dale Englefield
Agent

Ask Around

We are the best, most truth-telling, promise-keeping, stand-by-you, get-it-right-the-first-time (well, you know . . .), do-right, watch-your-back insurance agency you are ever gonna' run across. Now, it might sound like we're stretching the truth a bit. But you know what? Don't take our word for it . . .

Just ask around.

888-439-1700
Toll-Free Nationwide

713-439-1700
In Houston

Auto Home Small Business Renters Life Financial Services

Discounts for Couples

You will be proud of us.

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

Imagine the results of 1 million members working for gay and lesbian equality.

Join HRC today at www.hrc.org

SPONSORED BY ZEPHYR DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

SHANNON T. WARREN
AND ASSOCIATES



A LAWYER WHO MAKES THINGS HAPPEN

IN PRACTICE FOR 23 YEARS

TAUGHT LAW AT THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW

HANDLES ALL YOUR LEGAL NEEDS

BOARD CERTIFIED IN PERSONAL INJURY TRIAL LAW BY THE TEXAS BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION

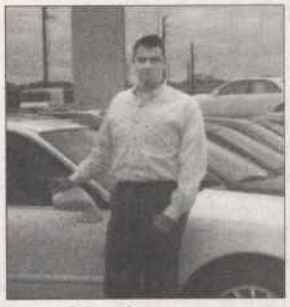
VISA

(713)-523-0420

1210 HAWTHORNE HOUSTON, TX 77006 FAX (713) 522-8992

SINCE 1938
Gillman

ACURA MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Wake Up And Drive



HAL BURRIGHT

START THE NEW YEAR OFF WITH A NEW
Gillman
ACURA OR MITSUBISHI
IT'S STILL THE ONLY WAY TO GO!

GREENSPOINT
Rankin Rd. @ I-45 North
Exit 62 - Exit North of Greenspoint Mall
(281) 821-1100
Toll Free 800-288-9180
www.gillmanauto.com



Also helping "get the word out" about HIV and AIDS is AFH's hotline, started in 1983. Today, the service responds to 2,500 callers every year. "When we answer the phone," explains Kelly, "we not only answer questions about our services we offer or programs we are involved in, but it's a complete resource guide to anybody who can call in. Anything from, 'How do you get HIV?' to 'What is HIV?' to 'Where can I get a test done?' to 'What services are in areas outside what we do here at AFH?' It's a wealth of information."

AFH has discovered over the years that working toward conquering AIDS, oftentimes, takes more than education. Its housing programs, for example, set a precedent for many such programs around the country. The latest of these, Project LifeRoad, is a multi-leveled program that combines several services offered by the agency.

"LifeRoad is becoming an incredible model," says Kelly. "We feel here at AFH that, the 'AIDS system' throughout the country has set up an incredible system of taking care of HIV-positive individuals and those with AIDS with regard to shelter, food, and drug-assistance programs. I think that LifeRoad encapsulates all of these elements.

"It's really anything that anybody who is HIV positive and homeless could hope for. You have your housing, furnishing, medical care, psychosocial care, job and educational training, substance abuse support groups all encompassed in a collaboration between eight other agencies," says Kelly.

These agencies are: Bering-Omega Services, CASA, Milam House, People With AIDS Coalition-Houston, Steven's House, The BLOCK, Vita Living, and Sage & Associates.

Kelly notes: "We already have some folks going through the different levels, and people that want to work the program, it really works out really well for them. We've actually had at least two people returning to work through our partnership with Vita Living. The goal is to get the people with HIV empowered, get them, first of all, cleaned up and off of drugs and alcohol, get them stable, get them on the proper HIV medication, and then empower them to get their life back."



Groceries for Stone Soup are collected from the Houston Food Bank and private donations.

The work remains challenging for organizations like AFH. At the top of the list of challenges for the new millenium? The increasing

number of HIV infections continues to climb, even with education programs such as these.

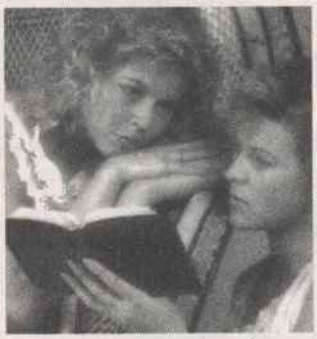
"If you look at the increasing rate of new HIV infection and couple that with people with HIV living longer—which in itself is incredible news—it puts a strain on those organizations like ours because we're having to take care of both ends," explains Kelly.

"We're getting new people each month and still taking care of the existing clients. So it continually puts a strain on our resources to provide food or shelter or whatever. That would be our challenge, I think, keeping pace with the growing numbers, and unfortunately they're growing."

Are we close to finding a cure for AIDS? Kelly would like to be more optimistic:

"There has been incredible amounts of progress made in cocktail therapies, and progress made toward an AIDS vaccine but there is still no cure and it's important for people to understand that."

Getting the Love You Want



A Workshop for Lesbian and Gay Couples

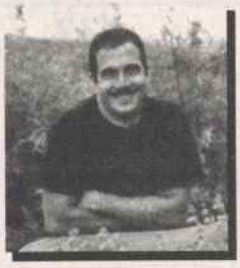
An Intensive 20-hour experience for couples.
The unique design of this workshop is appropriate for you if:

- You want to enrich, deepen or revitalize a good relationship.
- You want to nurture a new relationship.
- You are in a difficult relationship and want to end a long-standing impasse.
- You are near break-up and want to decide if the relationship can be saved.

1999 Workshops:
August 6–8
November 12–14



Enrollment limited!
$500/couple *(deposit required)*
For more information and to reserve a space, call Patrick J. Vachon, 713.524.1771, voice mail #1



A Personal Experience for Change and Growth
presented by
Patrick J. Vachon L.M.S.W.-A.C.P.
Certified Imago Relationship Therapist
Houston, Texas



Robert Derr

Old 6th Ward IS *HOT*
Don't miss out!

IT'S A WHOPPER!!!
Built in "Neartown" around 1880, this 3,500 sf hom[illegible] great [illegible] for the person that needs r[illegible] Call me today to see this great home. Only $249K
SOLD

BUILT IN 1898!
A great example of turn of the century architecture in Houston's *HOTTEST* neighborhood just a minute from downtown. Original trim IS AWESOME, 2,000 s.f. 3 bedroom 2 bath. Only $230K

BEAUTIFUL VICTORIAN!
Built in "Neartown" at the turn of the century, this 1,900 s.f. has been lovingly restored by owner/renovator. New roof, foundation, wiring, centrals & more! Back deck has view of DT! Only $219K

GREAT VIEW OF DT!
HUGE Victorian has an INCREDIBLE view of the downtown skyline. This 2,200 s.f 2 story home is a great opportunity for remodeler with vision!. Only $158K

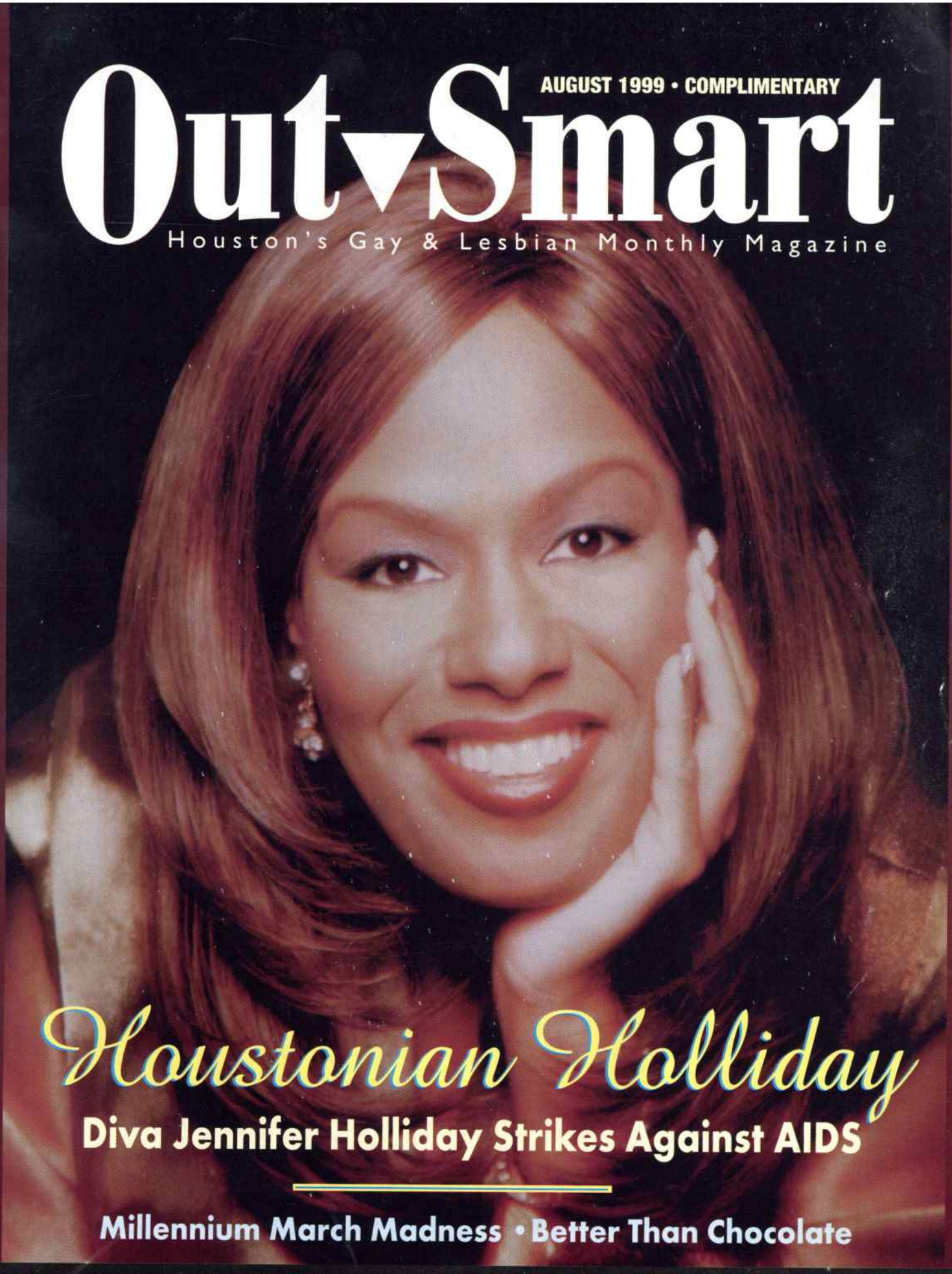
VICTORIAN W/POOL
Great floor plan and beautiful view of downtown from [illegible] story balcony. High ceilings, [illegible] & more. Needs work to be grand again! $158K
SOLD

KAREN DERR
& Associates Realty
www.KarenDerr.com
713-862-1600

AUGUST 1999 • COMPLIMENTARY

OutSmart

Houston's Gay & Lesbian Monthly Magazine



Houstonian Holliday

Diva Jennifer Holliday Strikes Against AIDS

Millennium March Madness • Better Than Chocolate

TAKE OUR GAYEST & GREATEST READERS' SURVEY



CONTENTS

Vol. 7 • No. 7 • August 1999

FEATURES

Houstonian Holliday
Diva **Jennifer Holliday** returns home and strikes against AIDS.....**36**
by Blase DiStefano

Sweeter Than Chocolate
Director/lesbian/mother **Anne Wheeler** talks about her new film *Better Than Chocolate*....**40**
by Blase DiStefano

OutSmart's Gayest & Greatest
Readers, cast your vote for the gayest and greatest of them all in Houston.....**41**
by OutSmart Readers

Millenium March Madness
Why leaders are divided over plans for next year's **March On Washington**.....**58**
by Bradley David

DEPARTMENTS

Letters 7
In&Out 8
Business News 20
Calendar 26
Queer Quotes 33
The Source 67
Classifieds 72
OutSmart Advertisers 74
SceneOut 78

COLUMNS

TimeOut/*Steve Poruban* 22
GrooveOut/*Chris Sill* 31
Inside Hollywood/*Romeo San Vicente* 32
LeftOut/*Daryl Moore* 52
OutRight/*Dale Carpenter* 53
Simon Says/*Simon LeVay* 56
WorkOut/*John-Aaron* 59
TravelOut/*Sandra Wilkins* 62
SignOut/*Madilyn Stein* 76

Cover Photo: Jennifer Holliday - Uncredited
This Page: Montrose Marching Band at the 1979 March on Washington - Blase DiStefano

TimeOut
by George Rimmey

MISS CAMP AMERICA

Fast Becoming a Houston Legend



The Red, White & Blue Closing Act 1995

UNCREDITED

If you were to pick one trait typical of the gays in this millennium it probably would be our sense of humor and clever repartee we have all come to call "camp." At the beginning of the century Oscar Wilde was the master of camp. He was soon followed by Noel Coward and later by many other notables. Camp was established as a special brand of humor and joy to gays facing almost unendurable persecution. "When you can laugh at yourself and your problems—they disappear." Through the 1950s camp was an important part of gay life, since most of our socializing was at small private parties behind closed doors.

In the 1960s the sexual revolution was going full force. Blacks were striking out for civil rights, and hippies were creating havoc everywhere. Consequently, police harassment of gays pretty much came to an end. Gays were now able to expand into many fields. The first political movements, newspapers, magazines, and a variety of social clubs were begun. Energy was soon diverted from trying to be the most clever, the most funny, or what was called the campiest gay person to advocacy and the activism still present in gay society.

However, in September of 1969 "two newlyweds," Pat Petty and David Stewart, would take steps to see that camp would continue to thrive and keep going strong in Houston. Petty, with a special talent for organization, had been conducting a series of small-town beauty pageants throughout the state, in addition to his job as a salesman. He decided that month that he would have his own gay pageant to coincide with the Miss America Pageant in Atlantic City, and he and David invited eight friends to their apartment to participate. With David and his eight guests, he had the necessary 10 contestants to vie for the Miss America Crown. However, one of the guests showed up with a friend, and the number was now 11. Not wanting to exclude any of their guests from participating, Petty crowned himself Miss Camp America 1969 and relinquished the crown an hour later when the new Miss Camp America was picked by a draw among the other 10. A crown, robe, and scepter was furnished, along with a very long speech covering the duties of the new Miss Camp America—Coretta Scott King.

The following year 50 people were invited to the newlyweds' apartment for the pageant and each was given the name of a state, with a script that covered that state. The format began to take on the structure of what has today become the annual Miss Camp America Pageant.

In the years that followed, the pageant was held in a series of small clubs. Then, in 1976, things changed when Bill Halbert, with his unique talent for design and construction of theater sets, became a member of the organization. That year the event was held at the Sheraton Hotel, complete with sets, props, scenery, and even a revolving stage. Miss Camp America was now on its way to becoming one of the most popular drag shows in America.

Over the years the Miss Camp America Pageant has been held at the now-shuttered Tower Theater and Music Hall, the Alley Theater, and Cullen Performance Hall at the University of Hous-

TIMELINE 1985-87

Each month OutSmart continues its timeline series on the past 30 years of Houston gay history.

1985 The gay and lesbian community continued to emerge with the formation of organizations such as the **AIDS Interfaith Council, the Houston Forum**, and **Houston Pride**. However, it was the explosive opening of the **Heaven Dance Club** that got people moving. Unfortunately, Heaven couldn't sustain the heat of being the hottest dance club; it closed in 1997 when it caught fire and sent screaming queens prancing out the door. Heaven was expected to resurrect as South Beach last year, but everyone is still waiting....

1986 **Bering Omega Community Service Foundation** began when then 76-year-old Eleanor Munger, while visiting local AIDS patients at Jefferson Davis Hospital, decided to seek out a place for a residential hospice for medically indigent, terminal-phase AIDS patients. Munger sought out space for the proposed center, attaining only one hospital bed at first, and Omega House was born. The housing eventually grew to three beds, and today, the nonprofit, volunteer-supported foundation serves hundreds in the Montrose area. Omega's list of services has also grown over the years and now includes centers for financial assistance, psychosocial support, dental care, daycare, as well as providing a support network. **PWA (People With AIDS) Coalition** also began to provide direct services and support for those with HIV/AIDS. Today, the coalition serves more than 1,600 people in Harris and neighboring counties. Some of the key coalition services include the warehouse program, which provides furniture and household goods to indigent PWAs free of charge. Other coalition programs include case management, the volunteer program at Thomas Street Clinic, emergency rental, and utility assistance. The coalition prides itself as being "the only Houston organization of, by, and for people living with HIV/AIDS [in which] 51 percent of its executive board is HIV positive."



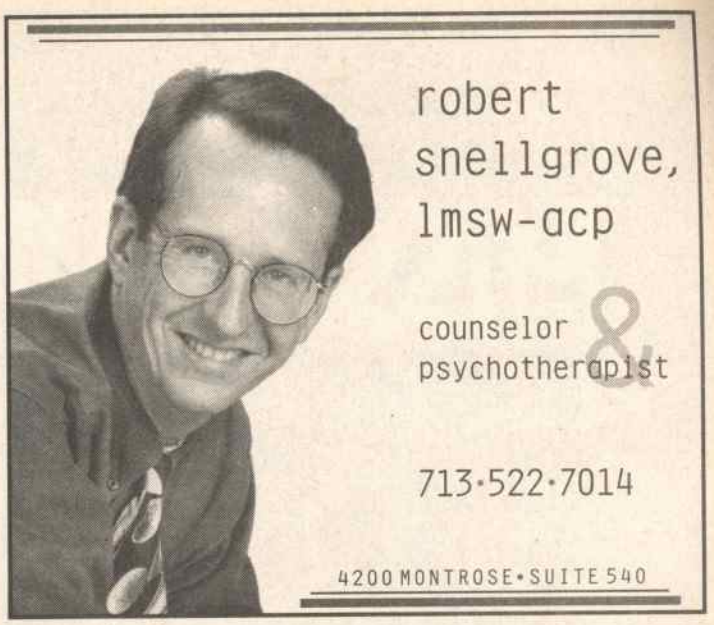
Bowlers have fun at past Strikes Against AIDS, one of the PWA Coalition's largest fund-raisers.

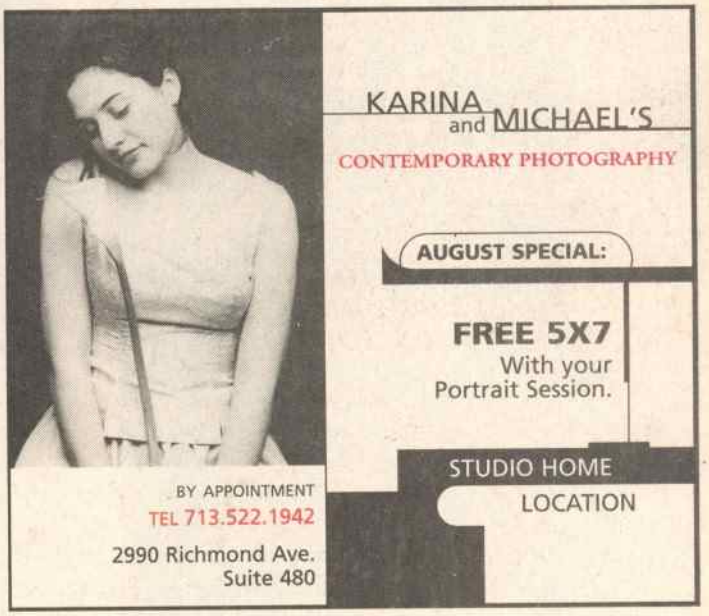


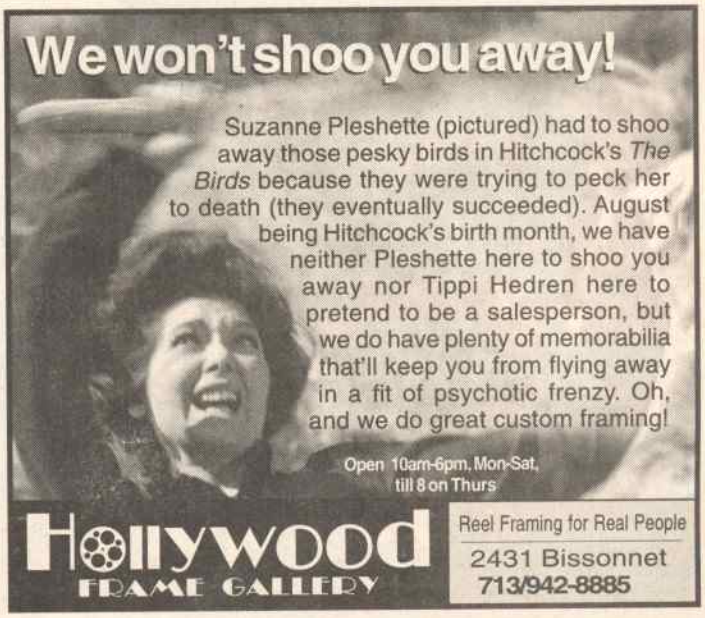
1987 **DIFFA/Houston (Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS)** boasts itself as "the largest source of private dollars for AIDS care in the greater Houston area." Since starting up, DIFFA/Houston has provided more than $2million for HIV/AIDS care, research, treatment, and preventive education, according to the organization. **H.A.T.C.H. (Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals)** was started to provide sponsorship and role models for Houston's gay and lesbian population between the ages of 15-21. "It is the goal of H.A.T.C.H. to enable youth to be positive contributors to the gay and lesbian community and to society as a whole," says H.A.T.C.H.'s mantra. The organization holds weekly meetings, which "provide peer support, esteem-building activities, educational and motivational speakers, social and recreational opportunities, small group discussions, and HIV/STD information."

Timeline constructed from personal interviews, personal recollections, and documented information.

UNCREDITED







A Mortgage is too Important to trust to an Amateur.

Meet the Decision-Maker!



Marc Archuleta

20 Minute Loan Approvals!

Low Rates
Rapid Decisions
Honest Answers
On-Time Closings

RESULTS!

*Loan Approval is subject to proper documentation & credit worthiness

Home Loan CORPORATION

1717 St. James Place, Suite 200 • Houston, Texas 77056

713.297.8000

ton. Performances held at the Music Hall attracted nearly 2,000 patrons.

The pageant closely follows the format of the Miss America Pageant in Atlantic City. The participants compete in evening gown, swimsuit, and talent presentation. When two-piece swimsuits and bare feet were permitted in Atlantic City, Miss Camp did as well. The only difference in the format of the two is that contestants in Miss Camp were picked by a drawing process; thus the words "BEAUTY CONTEST" went out the door. A Miss Camp America contestant can be six feet tall, anorexic, or a full-figured beauty of undescribable girth. The humor and bizarre antics seen and heard on stage during a Miss Camp America Pageant make it a league of its own. There is always a surprise around the corner.



Vegas Showgirls 1993

UNCREDITED

In 1993 during Desert Storm, a contestant wearing a military evening gown came on stage riding a camel. The overfed camel soon began "pooping" all over the stage, and the other contestants ran for the hills, leaving the sole contestant by himself. The following year history repeated itself when the same contestant appeared in evening gown presentation with a 12-foot boa constrictor, rather than a feathered boa, wrapped around his neck and arms. Yep, he gained control of the stage for himself once again.

The pageant each year also has several major production numbers which are performed by the entire cast. You will see more feathers, rhinestones, and sequins during those numbers than most people see in a lifetime. Another highlight of the pageant is the presentation of the Princess Paza Marcella Borghese Taylor Award, which was created in 1984 in memory of Jim Taylor, the first MCA member lost to the battle against AIDS. The award recognizes the Miss Camp America member who best exemplifies the fine art of camp. Winners are selected by the membership.

In June of 1992 Miss Camp America became a non-profit organization and begsn raising funds for AIDS. In that year alone the pageant raised $14,000 for local organizations. During the years 1997-1998 a combined amount of $150,000 was raised. To date Miss Camp America has distributed in exess of $359,500 to some of the most important AIDS support groups in Houston.

In addition to the pageant, Miss Camp America has two other fund-raisers for AIDS each year, both in keeping with the theme of camp—the "Deb U Not Ball" in February and "Wigs on Fire" in June. The Deb U Not Ball introduces new MCAF members to

the public. A "coming out" party, so to speak. If you have never been to a debutante ball (or a coming out party) this is not to be missed. Wigs on Fire is a party where everyone attending has an opportunity and is encouraged to participate. The most outrageous, bizarre wigs, hats, crowns, or whatever else someone can get on top of his head appear at this party. There is no way to describe this one. Plan to attend.

In 1988, the reigning Miss Camp America Lana Love created a projectcalled "Care Bear" that was quickly embraced by the membership Four times a year the Miss Camp America membership contributes its time, talent, and own money to decorate stuffed bears and to present them to HIV/AIDS patients in area hospitals and hospices.

The Miss Camp America Pageant in recent years has hired professionals to help with the evening's entertainment. Ms. Stephanie Mitchell now does the choreography and Mr. Danny Williams has been the master of ceremonies for the past few years. Willams, who normally commands impressive fees for his talent, waived his fees upon hearing of MCA's role in raising funds for AIDS charities.

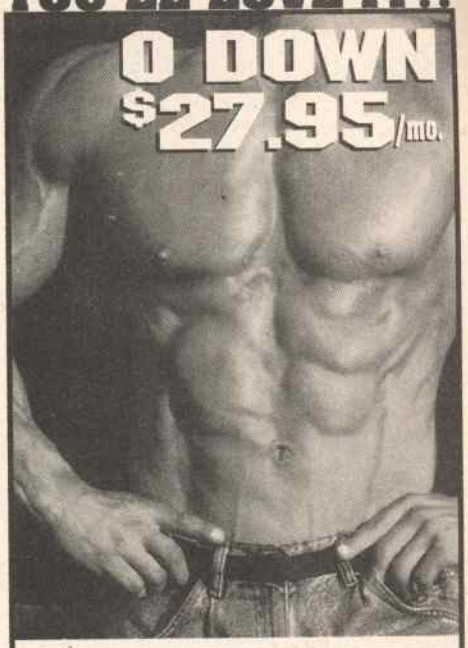
Of the many awards received by the organization over the years, the most cherished are the letters of commendation from governors Ann Richards in 1994 and George Bush in 1995, acknowledging the Miss Camp America's annual evening of joy and laughter and important fundraising for AIDS-related charities.

Harold Myrick, the current Miss Camp America president, said, "Not only the joy and laughter, but the funds for AIDS makes all the hard work worthwhile." He said that this year's performance will cover a period from the 1920s to the end of the millennium.

The 1999 pageant will be held at 8 p.m. on Sept. 18 at the Lilly and Roy Cullen Theater at the Wortham Center. Tickets may be purchased by calling 713/940-STAR. If you want to have a laugh of a lifetime, don't miss this "camp" event.

George Rimmey, is a community advocate with a long history of charitable involvement. He can be reached care of this publication at GeorgeRimmey@outsmartmagazine.com

YOU'LL LOVE IT!!



HOUSTON GYM
713.880.9191

233 Birdsall Near Memorial Park and Downtown

M-F 6-10 • Sat. and Sun. 10-6

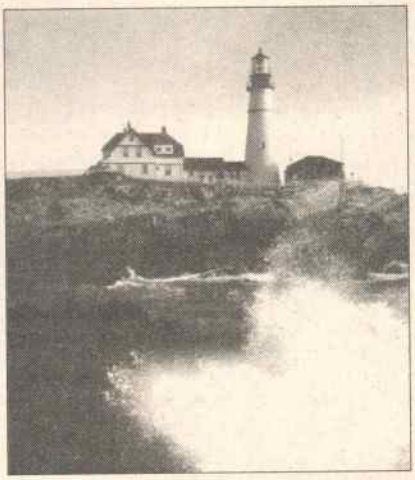
TRAVEL OUT AND SMART!

Join Sandra Wilkins & The Memorable Millennium Tour:

Nomads in New England

December 28, 1999- January 2, 2000

Visit Providence, RI; the mansions of Newport, RI; Mystic, Connecticut's Aquarium and Seaport. Enjoy the world's largest casino "The Foxwoods" in the Connecticut woods. Join our private Millennium Recovery Party on January 1, 2000 at playwright Eugene O'Neill's private home. Party on New Year's Eve with New England "family."

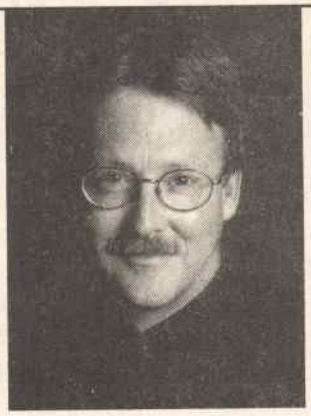


Tour includes:
- Roundtrip air from Houston to Providence.
- Private van transfers from airport to the all-suite Niantic Inn (5 nights accommodation with continental breakfast daily).
- Mid-size rental car for 4 days.
- Private lunch at S&P Oyster Company in Mystic.
- Tickets to Mystic Aquarium.
- Recovery Party on January 1st.

• Space is very limited •

Tour cost, per person
$1228 double, $1069 triple, $1028 quad.

THE TRAVEL PARTNERSHIP
Sandra Wilkins
713/526-4471
E-mail: OutTravl1@aol.com

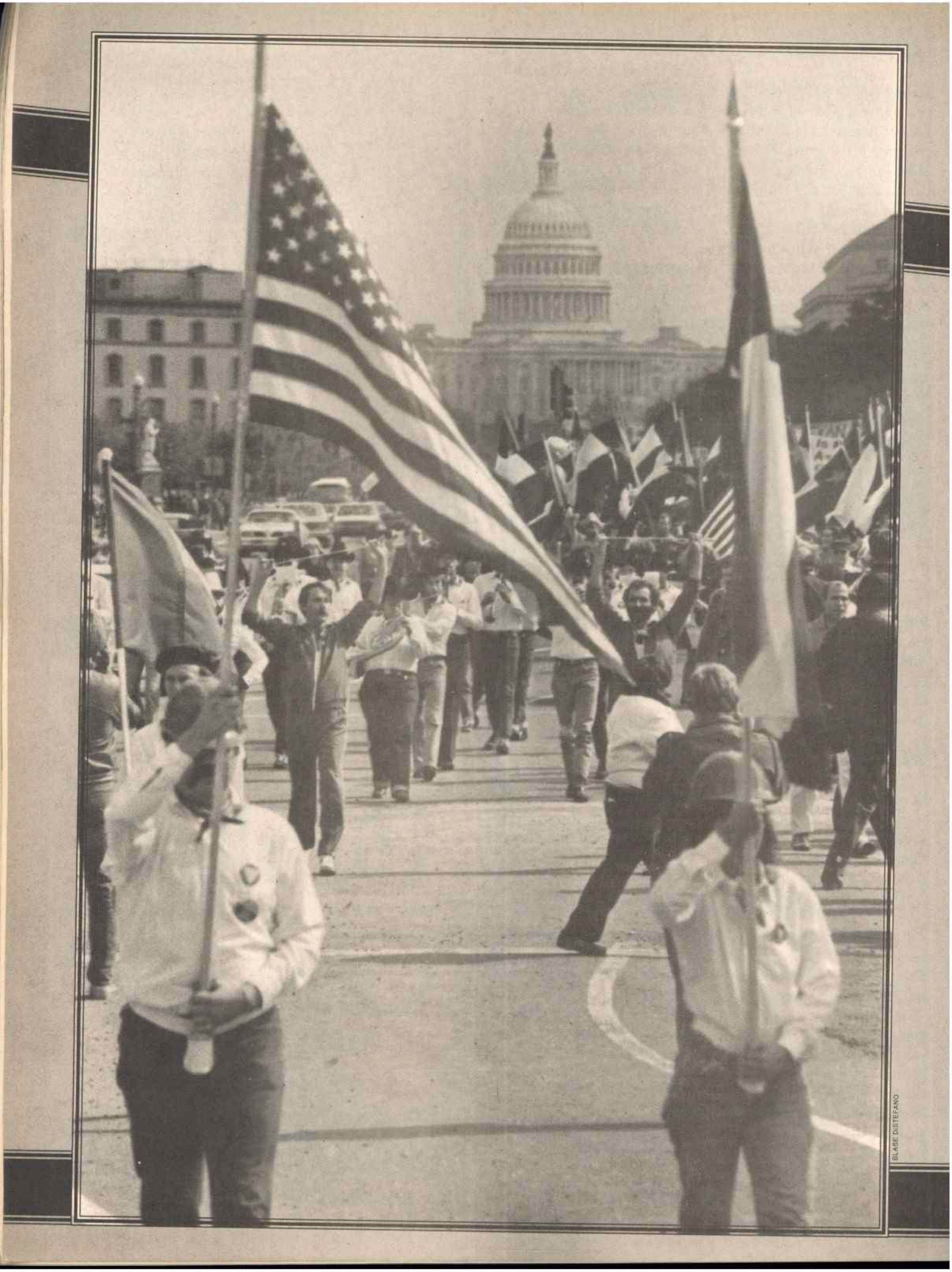


Brad Brager, MA, LPC
Psychotherapy & Counseling

- Licensed Professional Counselor
- 18 years mental health experience
- Individual, couples & group therapy
- Interpersonal problem resolution

Museum District & Galleria locations
Evenings & Saturday appointments available

713.318.4788


BLAISE DISTEFANO

MARCH MADNESS

Why local and national gay leaders are divided over plans for next year's Millennium March On Washington

by Bradley David



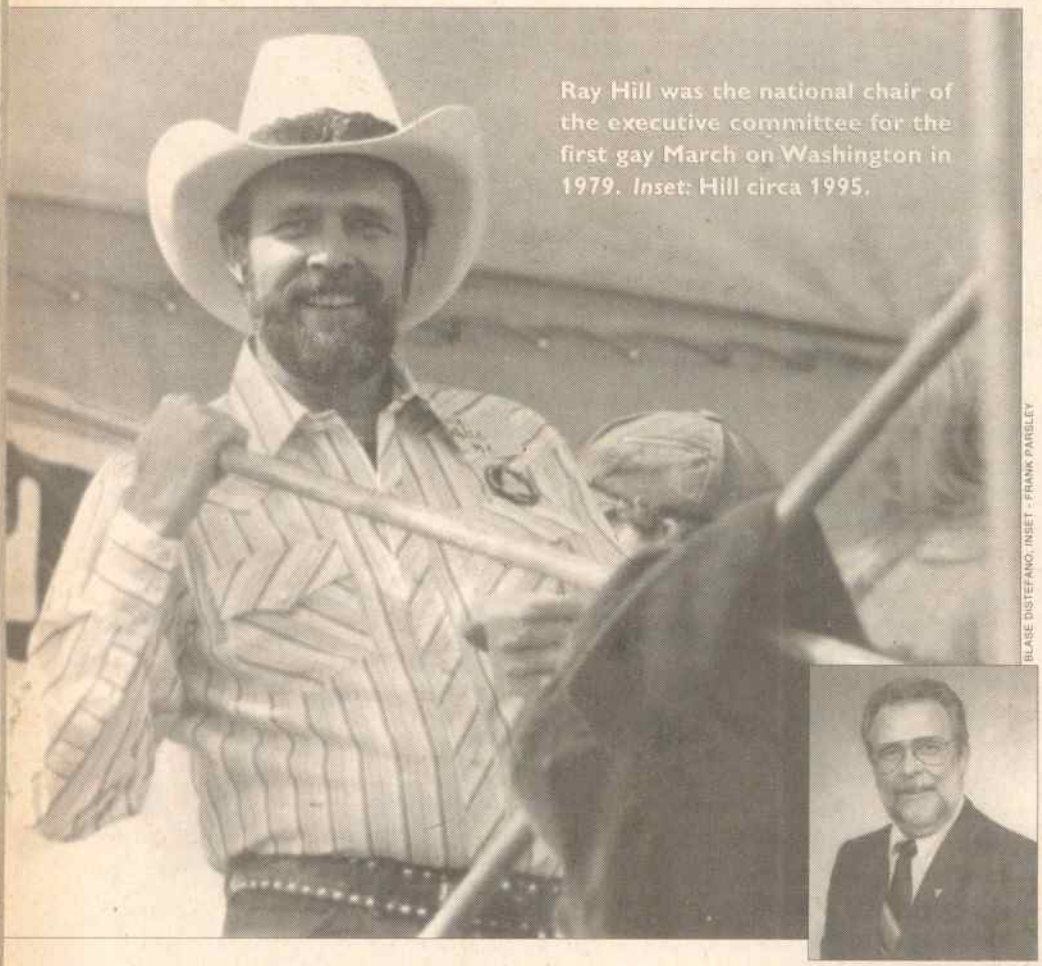
While the world waits with anticipation to see if the technological doomsdayers are correct in their forecasts of mass chaos at the stroke of midnight on January 1, 2000, the gay community may be faced with a Y2K problem of our own. Ambitious plans for a Millennium March on Washington—scheduled for April 30, 2000—have been met with extreme opposition, even from some of our movement's most high-profile movers and shakers.

U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, the highest openly gay elected official in the country, has called the march "a diversion of resources" and "not a good idea."

Other activists complain that, unlike previous marches in '79, '87, and '93, this one is being run by a small group of elitist national leaders who decided on the theme and focus of the march before inviting activists at the grassroots level to be involved.

Robin Tyler co-emceed the 1979 March on Washington. *Inset:* Tyler is executive producer of the 2000 March.

"Each of the three previous marches had a process that involved lots of different kinds of grassroots organizations and leaders, and that's what you need for a national march to work," says Urvashi Vaid, the dynamic lesbian visionary and orator who currently heads the New York-based Policy Institute of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF). "You need discussion. You need smart people from all over the country giving input about how the march will impact key issues that are being addressed at the local level."



Ray Hill was the national chair of the executive committee for the first gay March on Washington in 1979. *Inset:* Hill circa 1995.

BLASE DISTEFANO; INSET - FRANK PARSLEY

The NGLTF, the oldest national organization in the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) movement, withdrew its initial support for the march in April when NGLTF executive director Kerry Lobel resigned her seat on the march's board of directors. In her letter of resignation, Lobel stated, "The board has largely ignored the fundamental issues that led me to become involved: why we should march, the agenda, and the involvement of the entire GLBT community. I cannot serve on a board that will not open itself to greater input and scrutiny from the communities we claim to represent."

Political marches on our nation's capital have been a hugely important tradition in American history. When people think of the suffrage movement, they automatically replay in their minds the grainy black and white film footage of suffragettes, dressed in white, marching on Washington, and demanding the right to vote. The massive march against the war in Vietnam allowed TV viewers across the country to see just how passionately so many Americans felt about bringing an end to the carnage overseas. Martin Luther King's famous "I Have A Dream" speech at the civil rights march in 1963 forced many Americans to acknowledge the righteousness of that movement's efforts.

But more importantly, marches are empowering and often life-altering experiences for the individual marchers.

"It doesn't make a damn bit of difference on Capitol Hill—we do this for ourselves," says longtime local activist Ray Hill, who calls himself "the old man of the Houston movement." Hill says the purpose of marches "is to reinforce your own troops and to build your own movement."

While he plans to attend the Millennium March, Hill has been critical of corporate involvement in the event. Unlike previous marches that have refused to accept corporate sponsorship (often resulting in massive debt after the marchers have gone home), the Millennium March will be sponsored by PlanetOut, which has pledged $250,000 in cash and plans to carry the event on a live worldwide cybercast.

"If we convert from marches based on grassroots politics to marches that are merely commercial enterprises, the future of our movement will be for profit and not for principle," says Hill, who was national chair of the executive committee for the historic first gay March on Washington in 1979.

Hill also has problems with the event's executive producer Robin Tyler, with whom he emceed the rally at the '79 march.

"She stands to make several million dollars off of this," Hill alleges, referring to Tyler's booking of 3,000 Washington hotel rooms through her own travel business to re-sell to march participants.

Tyler, a pioneer in the gay rights movement as well as the world's first openly gay or lesbian comedian, says that any profits made from the brokering of hotel rooms will go back to the march.

"As a tour operator, I knew to call and secure these rooms," says Tyler. "I think it was a great idea because apparently the last march only collected $15,000 in revenue from hotel rooms, and we'll be able to collect almost a third of a million dollars. People have also said that I'm getting the T-shirt money, but all of the proceeds go to the march and all of the contracts are in the name of the march."

Another of Tyler's detractors is Houston activist Deborah Bell, who spent 10 months in Washington as national organizer of the '93 march and is now a member of the Ad Hoc Committee For An Open Process, an organization formed specifically to pressure Millennium March organizers for more inclusive planning. Bell had a run-in with Tyler in May at the Texas Lesbian Conference in Dallas, where Tyler, a featured speaker at the event, objected to Bell handing out anti-march flyers rather than following the conference rule to place leaflets on a designated literature table.

"It's just an example of the way these people behave," Bell says of the march organizers. "You have to question what's going on here, that they're not willing to be open."

Tyler says she thinks the march's vocal critics are small in number, citing a recent poll in *The Advocate* indicating that 86 percent of respondents hope to attend the march.



TOP - TERRY GYDESEN; BOTTOM - GREG JEU

Top: **Lisa Sullivan, Nancy Ford, and Greg Jeu demonstrate their pride at the 1993 March on Washington.**
Bottom: **The Houston, Texas, contingent make their mark in Washington, D.C. at the March on Washington in 1993.**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CLINICAL TRIAL

HIV VACCINE TO PREVENT HIV



Research volunteers are needed for clinical trials to test a synthetic vaccine to prevent and immunize against HIV (the virus that causes AIDS). You cannot get HIV infection from this synthetic vaccine.

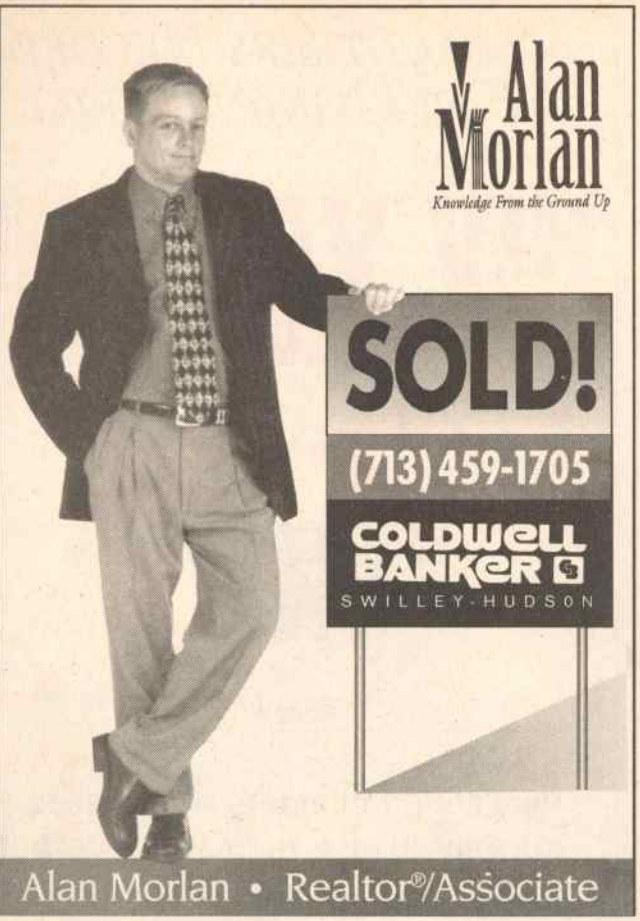
VOLUNTEERS MUST BE:
- 18-60 years of age
- Gay or bisexual males at risk for acquiring HIV
- Negative for HIV by HIV-screening test
- Willing to accept safe-sex counseling

The study involves a double-blind administration of receiving either vaccine or placebo. The chances of receiving active vaccine versus placebo are 2 to 1. HIV testing is anonymous and FREE.

For more information call
The University of Texas Medical Branch
Center for Clinical Studies
Houston (281) 333-2288
Galveston (409) 772-1641

UTMB

(713) 520-8888 • (713) 459-1705 pgr • morlanwhittle@sprynet.com



Alan Morlan • Realtor®/Associate

OPEN LINES OF COMMUNICATION

MMOW distributes community ballot for platform preparations

Over the next several weeks, supporters of the Millennium March On Washington (MMOW) are launching "the largest grassroots polling operation in the history of the glbt justice movement," said Jim Birkitt with MMOW communications.

As part of the platform preparations for the Millennium March On Washington—the 4th national glbt march and the first human rights march of the new millennium—MMOW organizers have created a ballot to determine what areas of interest will be addressed at the march. Thirteen key issues have been identified on the ballot as predominant concerns for the community.

In past marches, participants had to travel to designated cities to participate in the platform preparation. Now, for the first time, members of the community have the opportunity to have a direct vote and voice in the platform of the upcoming march on Washington. The platform survey ballot will be distributed by volunteers and grassroots activists across the country, or participants can vote on-line at www.mmow.org.

Platform Survey Ballot

Cast your ballot for the platform of the Millennium March On Washington for Equality April 30, 2000, Washington, D.C.

You can help make history! For the first time, every member of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender communities—and our families, friends, and allies—has the opportunity to vote for the



Because Every Woman Needs an OB/GYN

Sterling H. Weaver II, MD

Specializing in

- Prenatal Care
- Management of Adult and Adolescent Gynecological Health
- Reproductive Infertility Evaluations
- Family Planning
- STD Prevention, Treatment and Counseling

Monday-Friday
9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Medicaid and Most Insurance Accepted
1140 Westmont Street • Suite 200
(713) 451-3030

"I think it's a few people and they've just been allowed a voice," Tyler says. "I think when some people talk about diversity, they mean diversity as long as it fits in with their political agenda. The majority of gays and lesbians in this country are not highly to the right or highly to the left. They're essentially like everybody else; they're moderate or they're centrist. We have to be able to work around what we agree on and not kill each other over what we don't agree on."



UNCREDITED

Houston activist Deborah Bell, a national organizer of the '93 march, is pressuring Millennium March organizers for more inclusive planning.

Tyler calls the infighting among activists "extremely dysfunctional," and says "it's the pathology of oppression to do this to each other. It's like fighting within a family—it becomes so crazy that you don't even remember what you're fighting about. Continuing to waste our energy by fighting with each other is very sad and extremely self-serving, and I believe it is why leftism has seen such a demise in this country."

The march board tried to be inclusive, says Tyler, by creating a Leadership Coun-

continued on page 66

March on Washington platform.

Take a moment to make your voice heard by casting your vote. While all of the issues below are important to the glbt communities, please vote for only your five of top concerns.

Ballots must be completed in full to be counted, including name and address. All information will remain confidential. Names and addresses will not be used, released, or sold to any other organization or for any purpose other than MMOW. They will only be used to follow up with 1) those interested in serving as march volunteers and organizers, 2) those interested in lobbying Congress during the march, and 3) those indicating they have not yet registered to vote.

Ballots will be collected through Nov. 30.

VOTE
for up to five issues:

___ Hate Crimes Legislation
___ Right to Marry
___ Non-Discrimination in Employment
___ Right to Serve Our Country
___ Lesbian Health Issues
___ AIDS/HIV Issues
___ Child Custody and Adoption Rights
___ GLBT Aging Issues
___ GLBT Youth Issues
___ Immigration Rights
___ Overturning Anti-GLBT Laws
___ Right to Privacy/Choice
___ GLBT Global Issues
___ Other: _____

Name _____
E-Mail Address: _____
Mailing Address _____
City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Do you plan to attend the march on Washington?
__Yes __No __Not Sure

Are you willing to serve as a volunteer in your community for the march? __Yes __No

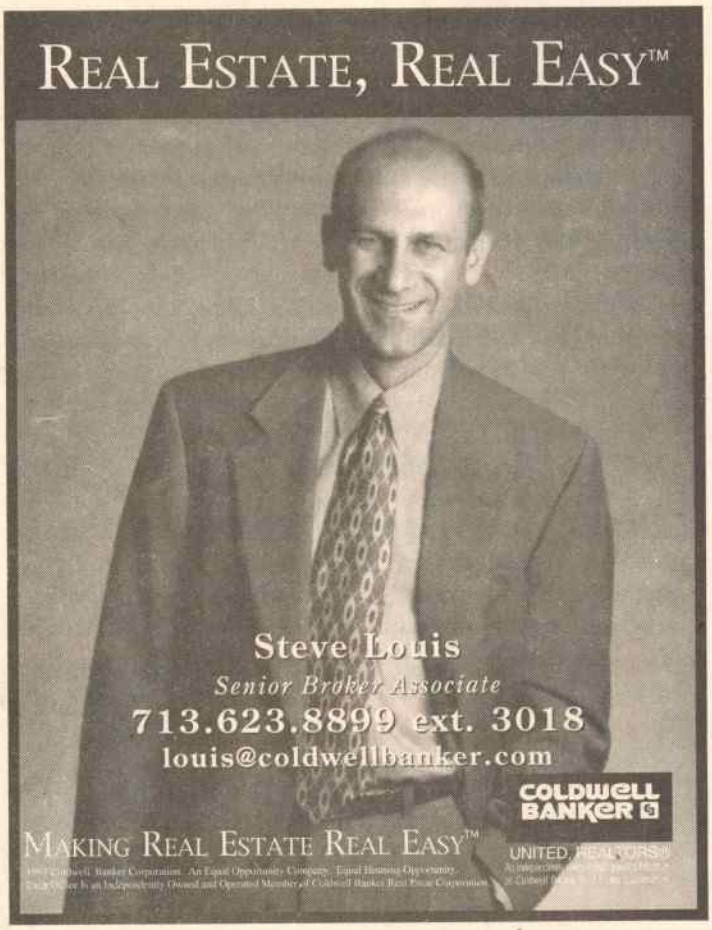
Are you registered to vote? __Yes __No

Would you be willing to visit your Congressperson while attending the march? __Yes __No

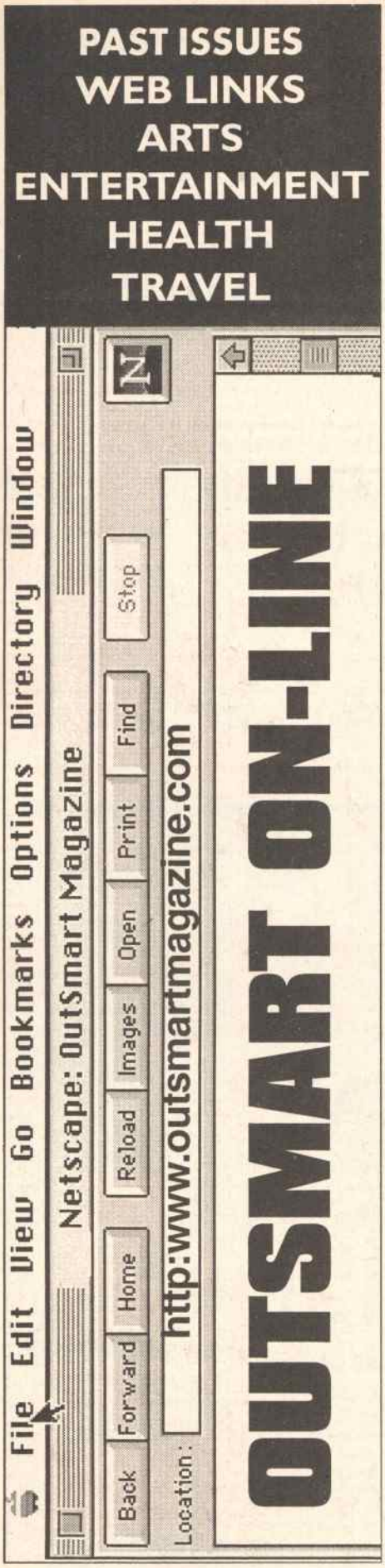
I self-identify as:
__Lesbian __Gay Male __Transgender
__Bisexual __Straight __Other

An e-mail version of this ballot is available by writing to MMOW2000@aol.com. You may reproduce and distribute this ballot in your community. Ballots may be faxed to 818/893-1593 or mailed to:

Millennium March On Washington Platform Ballot
15842 Chase St.
North Hills, CA 91343







March Madness

continued from page 50

cil and inviting every organization in the country to designate a representative. Also, she notes, the march's board is 50 percent people of color, including Dianne Hardy-Garcia of the Austin-based Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas.

"I had originally had some issues with another national march, but I really think this march has made great strides in making sure that this event benefits our community on the state and local levels," says Hardy-Garcia. "I was a part of tense meetings where many of us said we wanted some of the money that's raised to be given back to state organizers so we can help build our statewide organizations. We got a commitment from the board for raising a minimum of $300,000 that will go back to state organizations and another $300,000 to go to people-of-color organizations."

Hardy-Garcia says the march will be pivotal in mobilizing our troops to influence next year's elections.

"We have a crucial 2000 election that will decide our fate for like 10 or 15 years to come because of redistricting," she says. "The Texas Legislature will redraw not just our state legislative districts but also our U.S. congressional seats. If there is a right-wing sweep of Texas, we could lose up to 10 congressional seats. And we could lose a majority in the legislature, which would surely mean the passage of legislation like the antigay and lesbian adoption bill and the antigay marriage bill, which we were able to fend off this year. It's extremely significant for Texas—especially when we have George W. Bush running so strongly for president—to have a major voter turnout."

Houston activist Clarence Bagby, former president of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus and currently a national board-member of the NGLTF, says that despite philosophical differences with march organizers, the NGLTF will have some kind of presence at the event.

"We're not going to pass up the opportunity to be in contact with folks," says Bagby. "We will continue our dedication to statewide organizing and people-of-color organizing, and we believe that's the finest legacy we can leave."

Bagby was involved in the NGLTF's hugely successful Equality Begins At Home campaign, which resulted in demonstrations and grassroots organizing events in all 50 state capitals around the country in March.

While most activists on both sides agree that this behind-the-scenes squabbling probably won't affect the turnout for the march, many feel that the controversy is a great opportunity for the GLBT movement to take a hard look at why we remain so splintered.

"Part of what we've been trying to do all year is to view the problems we see with the march and the whole process around it as the jumping-off point to talk about the state of the GLBT movement more generally," says Leslie Cagan, a New York activist and member of the Ad Hoc Committee For An Open Process.

The Ad Hoc Committee operates an elaborate Web site (MillenniumMarch.com), which acts as a forum for dissenting voices. Many articles on the site criticize the influence of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and the Metropolitan Community Church, who together put up $17,000 in seed money for the event. The HRC has come under heavy fire from activists for its endorsement last year of incumbent Republican Sen. Alfonse D'Amato in New York.

Perhaps the biggest irony in all of this internal ideological bickering is the fact that an event of this scale transcends politics.

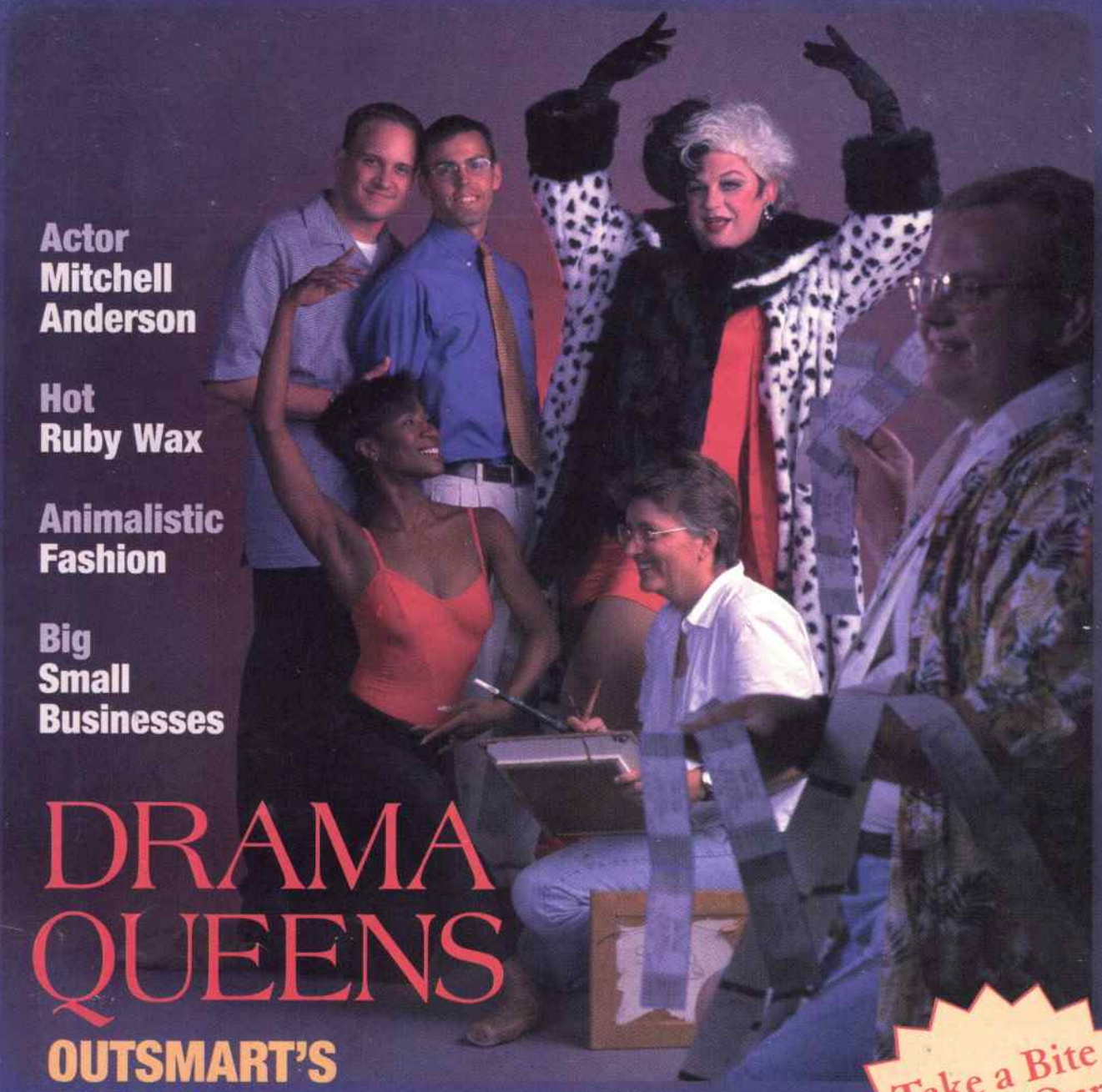
"It's not just about changing the laws, though we have only barely begun to change the laws," says Vaid, whose significant other is lesbian comedian Kate Clinton. "The phase of the movement we're in right now is a cultural transformation in our country, shifting how our culture thinks about homosexuality, gender, and even the broader issue of sex. The biggest obstacle right now in our struggle is the mischaracterization of homosexuality as immoral."

Bradley David is a freelance journalist based near Dallas.

SEPTEMBER 1999 • COMPLIMENTARY

OutSmart

Houston's Gay & Lesbian Monthly Magazine



Actor
Mitchell Anderson

Hot
Ruby Wax

Animalistic
Fashion

Big
Small Businesses

DRAMA QUEENS

OUTSMART'S ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT ISSUE

Take a Bite Out of Our New Dine-Out Section

Lesbians Over Age 50



Arden Eversmeyer and Charlotte Avery



LOAF at the 1994 Gay Pride Parade

Older Lesbians Find Solace in Sisterhood

About a decade ago, when Arden Eversmeyer was faced with the loss of her partner of 33 years, she discovered something: Houston didn't have anything to offer in the way of support for her kind—a recently singled gay female, in her mid-50s, and very isolated. "This is the kind of isolation I'm talking about," she explains. "All of a sudden, you're out there, by yourself and saying, 'What am I going to do?'" That's when she took a little trip excursion to the West Coast in pursuit of some answers.

"I was looking for community," recalls Eversmeyer. "I was looking for women my age [and] I was already in my mid-50s, and they just were unavailable."

It was in San Francisco that she got her hands on some really good information from a couple of senior organizations, including GLOE (Gay & Lesbian Outreach to Elders). She also wrote New York City's senior social and service group, SAGE (Senior Action in a Gay Environment), and again, got some more ideas.

"And with that," she said, "I came back to Houston and with some younger women in the community, we did a little brainstorming." And with that, Lesbians Over Age Fifty (LOAF) was born. The group held its first meeting on the third Sunday of October in 1987. Six women attended.

"The organization, pure and simple, is a social networking and support system for lesbians 50 years of age or older and their partners, should they be under 50," Eversmeyer told *OutSmart*. "We have one social [event] a month, usually hosted by a member of LOAF, and we do all kinds of different activities. We do lots of potlucks. It's a good way to get together."

And LOAF has held its meetings ever since, always on the third Sunday of the month. Over the last 5-6 years, the group's membership has hovered at around 100, with a 50:50 mix of single and coupled women. "There's no restriction on being singled or partnered," quips Eversmeyer, "and it's not political. As a matter of fact, a lot of these women are apolitical." LOAF's oldest member is now 83.

So, why an organization of lesbians over 50? "Frequently," Eversmeyer explains, "the issues and interests of women under 50 are different from those over. Our needs are different." In addition, Eversmeyer finds that many older gay and lesbian individuals tend to be very closeted. She explains, "It is very definitely true of old, gay women because it's just been so necessary to be discreet in terms of family and job...and if it's always worked, why should they change?"

"Basically," she adds, "I think the big thing is to try and provide some kind of a networking system because so many of these women are isolated. It's very, very difficult at that age to start peeking out of the closet a little bit."

But LOAF has been more than a way to socialize with other lesbians over 50. Over the course of LOAF's existence, Eversmeyer has witnessed some truly memorable moments. "We've had six or seven women over the years who have become ill and subsequently died, and it's been really nice to watch the way the women have been there to assist in any way that's possible."

"[LOAF] has probably connected with somewhere around 400-500 women in the last 12 years. And [the organization] isn't meant to be the end-all for everybody. A lot of times, women will connect, and because they have found us, they subsequently find other things too, and some of them have become very active in the community, and some of them will find a partner and start nesting. We won't see them [anymore]. But I think that's kind of a normal situation," said Eversmeyer.

OutSmart
Houston's Gay & Lesbian Monthly Magazine

Your vote has been counted...

Don't miss OutSmart's *Gayest & Greatest Reader's Choice Awards in October.*

For advertising or subscription information, call 713/520-7237.



THE Gayest & Greatest THE
READERS' CHOICE AWARD SURVEY

I'd really feel more comfortable with a female doctor

OK



SOUTHAMPTON
MEDICAL ▼ GROUP

4101 Greenbriar Suite 355

(713) 520-5537

JULIA A. KOVACS, MD
INTERNAL MEDICINE



LOAF Members at the 1st Annual LOAF Camp out! 1989

Although she doesn't find it to be a common occurrence for LOAF's members to cross-over memberships into other 50-plus gay organizations, Eversmeyer finds herself the exception to the rule. In fact, she has just returned from San Francisco, where another senior organization—this one much more issue-oriented—was holding its second annual conference.

The group is Old Lesbians Organizing for Change, or OLOC. One must be 60 to join. OLOC is an anti-oppression, politically based organization that fights ageism. Eversmeyer explains her involvement as such: "I think if a woman has been political to some extent, it might be comfortable [for her] to become political in the gay community. But, if you don't have that kind of bent to begin with, I wouldn't think that it would be just the normal thing to have happen. However, sometimes they get inspired by somebody, you know?"

LOAF basically promotes itself through word of mouth. "LOAF has become pretty well known," explains Eversmeyer. "We've done radio programs; of course, we're in the [Pride] parade [as we] have been for 10 years now; we have a flyer out with gay-friendly therapists; we are known at the women's center. People know or have heard about LOAF and that's just because we've been around for a long time now."

And if you happen to be or to know a lesbian over age 50, perhaps LOAF may have something to offer you. Eversmeyer says: "Listen, [LOAF] saved my life. I had been in a relationship for 33 years and my partner died, and even though I had a very good strong friendship group, I didn't even know there was community."

Living in Houston since 1952, Eversmeyer says that younger gay and lesbians within the community enjoy a visibility that wasn't available to her, or people like her, when she came out. "When I came out in the '40s, first of all, we didn't even have a vocabulary and there certainly weren't any organizations."

So lesbians then didn't even know what to do themselves?

"That's it."

TIMELINE 1988-90

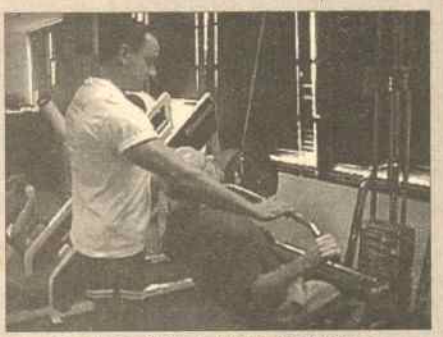
Each month OutSmart continues its timeline series on the past 30 years of Houston gay history.

1988 Hoping to relieve certain costs involved with the treatment of HIV-positive individuals, **The Assistance Fund** was founded. The organization helps to pay medical insurance premiums and emergency prescription drug expenses for persons with HIV until they qualify for Medicare coverage. "The cost of caring for persons with AIDS," says the organization, "creates an extreme financial burden for the patients, their families, and employers. Often patients lose their jobs and are left without any financial means to establish their medical needs." More than a decade later, The Assistance Fund continues to assist HIV-positive individuals with an all-volunteer board of directors. **Body Positive/Houston** began, says director and creator of the organization's wellness center Nelson Vergel, as a support group run by those with HIV for those with HIV to help them to die with some dignity. But over the last two years—just as improved treatments and medications have lengthened the life spans of those with HIV—the center's focus has shifted to helping individuals live healthier lives. "We are truly pioneers," said Vergel of the treatment advocacy program, which is run from the 6th floor of 3400 Montrose. The wellness center is often one of the first places a newly diagnosed HIV-positive individual contacts for support and information. What began in San Francisco as a type of "folk art" to memorialize those who had fallen to the AIDS epidemic, **NAMES Project Houston** grew into one of the most visible displays of community strength and support in the nation. The organization's Pete Martinez explained that the AIDS Quilt was first displayed on Mother's Day. The Quilt will have its next showing in Washington, D.C., in April 2000. And Houston will host a panel dedication on Nov. 30—on the eve of World AIDS Day—at the Museum of Fine Arts. The panels continue to be used as a method to instruct those about AIDS in area schools, businesses, and houses of worship, "to help put forth the names behind the statistics."



Volunteers of the 1st showing of the quilt display at the George R. Brown Convention Center.

1989 **AVES** (Amigos Volunteers in Education and Services) added its name to the list of those organizations providing social and healthcare services to HIV-positive individuals. The **Kolbe Project** started, distinguishing itself as "a Franciscan Ministry of loving, caring, and sharing to persons who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or trangendered and to persons with HIV/AIDS as well as their families and caregivers." The group welcomes those from all faiths, it says, or those with no religious affiliation. Kolbe sponsors monthly potlucks with speakers on topics concerning the gay and lesbian community. It also holds other various workshops, hosts a women's group, and shows movies every other Friday night in a smoke-, drug-, and alcohol-free environment.



Body Positive helping individuals live healthier lives.

1990 **Houston Gay & Lesbian Yellow Pages** is still used to this day to assist in the location of gay-owned and gay-friendly businesses and community

Timeline constructed from personal interviews, personal recollections, and documented information.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CLINICAL TRIAL

HIV VACCINE TO PREVENT HIV



Research volunteers are needed for clinical trials to test a synthetic vaccine to prevent and immunize against HIV (the virus that causes AIDS). You cannot get HIV infection from this synthetic vaccine.

VOLUNTEERS MUST BE:
- 18-60 years of age
- Gay or bisexual males at risk for acquiring HIV
- Negative for HIV by HIV-screening test
- Willing to accept safe-sex counseling

The study involves a double-blind administration of receiving either vaccine or placebo. The chances of receiving active vaccine versus placebo are 2 to 1. HIV testing is anonymous and FREE.

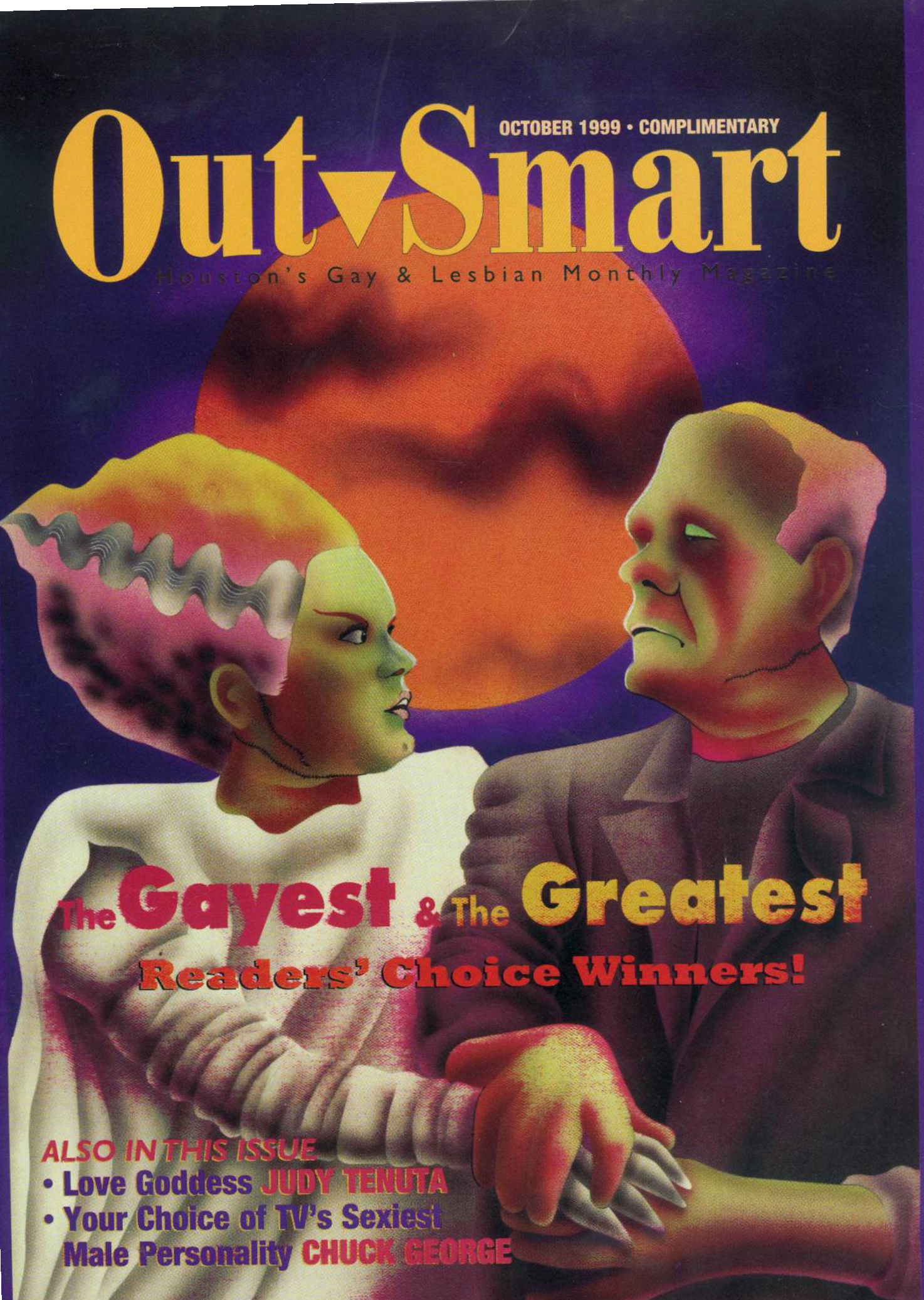
For more information call
The University of Texas Medical Branch Center for Clinical Studies
Houston (281) 333-2288
Galveston (409) 772-1641

UTMB

OCTOBER 1999 • COMPLIMENTARY

OutSmart

Houston's Gay & Lesbian Monthly Magazine



The Gayest & The Greatest
Readers' Choice Winners!

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE
- Love Goddess JUDY TENUTA
- Your Choice of TV's Sexiest Male Personality CHUCK GEORGE

by Steve Poruban

Houston's Nonalcoholic Gay Hot Spot
CROSSROADS MARKET

Before Crossroads Market became what it is today—a neon-lit storefront teeming with a mixture of gay and lesbian faces: perusing popular gay literature, consuming caffeinated libations, and chatting it up, all the while checking out incoming patrons—there were numerous hurdles to surmount. The place, after all, did not become "the place" overnight.

For example, the original Crossroads Market actually has its roots in Dallas, our sister city to the north. And, it was in existence for about 10 years before business partners Joe Ramunni and Tom Kane purchased the 3,000-sq. ft. space in 1991.

The store was already dubbed "Crossroads Market" because of its location—at The Crossroads, the core of Dallas' gay scene. And, it was a much larger venue than the bookstore that Houston's gay and lesbian patrons have come to know so well. It resembled more of a marketplace than a bookstore and café.

"The name...is really a good indicator of what the store originally was when we bought it," explains Ramunni. "It was a large space... that was occupied by about 10 gay men and lesbians, each of whom had a booth within the store." It was from these booths that the peddlers sold books, health food, and even antique furniture to Dallas' gay and lesbian community.

"We basically bought [the Dallas store] for the location," he recalls, "but the name was pretty well embedded in the community, so we completely reformatted it over the following three years."

After about a year, the partners worked to open a Crossroads store in Houston, but they had difficulty in finding the right location. "Houston, unlike Dallas, doesn't really have a gay epicenter. In Dallas, everything is very concentrated, so there was really no equivalent here," Ramunni says.

The corner where the current Houston store stands—at bustling Westheimer and Waugh—was identified early on as an ideal location, and the partners eventually purchased the space. But it took about four years to move the store to its current plot from its first location on West Alabama.

It was at this time that the café portion of the store was added. "We had the idea to serve coffee for six years, but again it was an issue of location," Ramunni says. "We couldn't do it in Dallas, because we didn't have the space and because of parking restrictions. It took us literally six years to get that going in Dallas by the time we got the city approvals and the additional space. So, the Houston thing happened first because we were able to get that corner and because there was sufficient space. That was always our design, we just didn't have a place to put it."

The Houston store very much resembles its Dallas counterpart. The open setting and bright illumination reminds one of a fishbowl more than a store—a design that took some getting used to for both the gay and straight community. Some people expected something more "back alley" and without "full exposure."

"Every time a gay and lesbian establishment opens up and it has no windows or it has few windows, the immediate thought, especially amongst gay men and lesbians, is: 'well, you know what kind of place that is,'" Ramunni says. "And, among straight people, I mean, forget it."

Ramunni admits that there was one event that occurred even while the new edifice still had paper taped over its massive storefront windows.

Ramunni tells the story: "I get a phone call in my office one day from a very prim and proper man, who said, 'I have been designated by a group to speak to you about something. We've been looking at your store, and we would like to know where the entrance is going to be?' And I told him that it would be right under the marquis, in the front.

"He says, 'Will there be a rear entrance?' And I said, 'No.' And he said, 'Quite honestly, my friends and I are very concerned about the amount of glass and the location of your entrances.

"We are not the traditional 1960s, 1970s gay and lesbian, back-street, back-alley store. We're very open, we try to maintain a look and feel that no one, absolutely no one, should be ashamed to come in."

TIMELINE 1991-93

Each month OutSmart continues its timeline series on the past 30 years of Houston gay history.

1991 The early '90s were marked by the gay and lesbian community continuing its efforts to assist in the AIDS crisis. The '90s also were marked by a continuance of speaking out for the rights that other groups so enjoyed. **LiB (Lesbians in Business)** began to provide area lesbians with a forum to confront issues in their places of work. The group also assists to "empower lesbians to lead proud, positive, and integrated lives in the workplace and the world at large." Through charitable and service-oriented work, LiB increases the visibility of lesbians within the community, while projecting a positive image of lesbians beyond the gay community boundaries. Members of LiB possess different abilities and interests and come from various races, areas of employment, and educational backgrounds. Helping to curb the rise in hate-related crimes, **Q-Patrol** was formed. The group, affiliated with the Houston Police Department's Citizens on Patrol program, is made up of volunteers who monitor the Montrose bar areas looking for suspicious and malicious activities. Q-Patrol accomplishes its goal through the use of "noninterventionist" techniques, watching out for potential threats to gay and lesbian safety, usually on the weekends. When suspicious activities are spied, the police are notified and, following an offense, the appropriate actions are taken. Q-Patrol also actively educates the public in self-defense techniques as well as first aid and CPR.

1992 **Asians & Friends of Houston Inc.** (A&FH) was formed as a nonprofit organization for gay men and lesbians of Asian or Pacific Islander decent. A&FH accomplishes this goal though numerous activities, including cultural and educational programs; discussion groups, which feature topics of importance to its members and to the gay and lesbian community; and various social functions. Social events vary from viewing movies at the home of an A&FH member to dim sum Sunday brunches at Asian and non-Asian restaurants. A&FH also provides the community with AIDS educational materials in numerous Asian and Pacific Island languages. **Log Cabin Republicans-Houston** was begun in Houston to ensure that "the Republican Party fulfills its promise to be a party of principles, a party of ideas, and a party of inclusion." The group also tracks the Grand Old Party candidate's position on gay and lesbian issues.

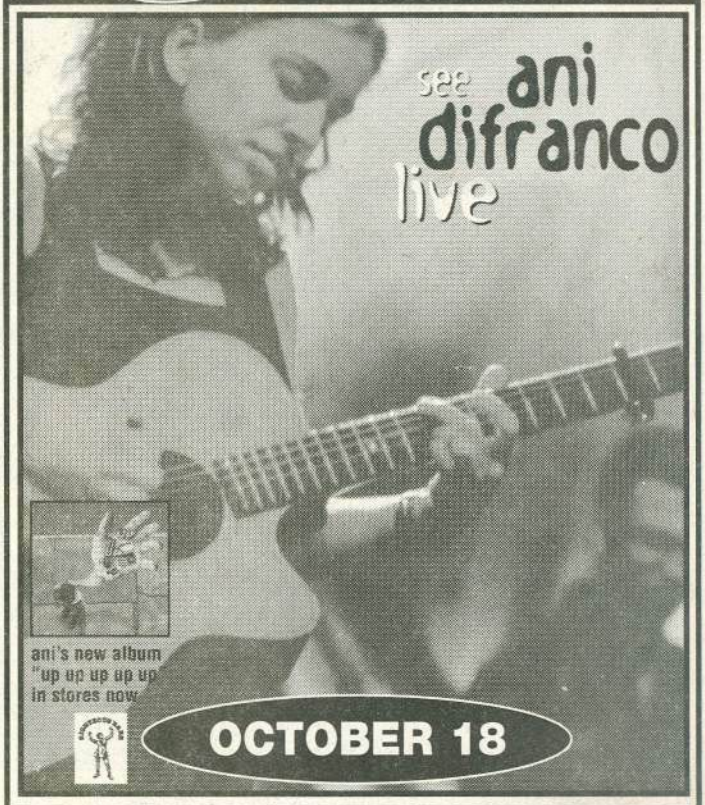
1993 **Just For Us** began as a spin-off of Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents as a social and support group for children in 6th-12th grades with gay or lesbian parents. Joining the ranks of growing AIDS/HIV services, **Steven's House** was started after receiving an initial grant to help obtain and operate a facility for up to six people for one year. The organization provided intermediate care for the daily living activities of its residents free of charge. Steven's House intermediate care residences help chronically sick individuals—usually those recently discharged from area hospitals—to "renew themselves physically, spiritually, and emotionally before resuming independent activities." Trained nurse's aides provide caring and companionship in a nurturing home-like environment, says the organization. "It is the combination of skills and experience that makes Steven's House a viable and valuable community service agency," the organization says.

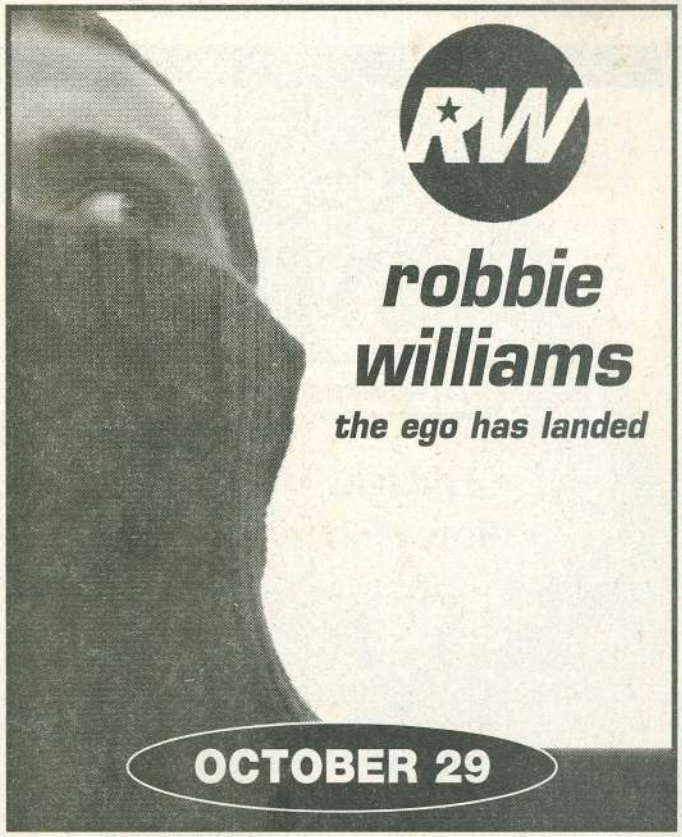
Timeline constructed from personal interviews, personal recollections, and documented information.



Hello Merchants,
Let OutSmart bring you new customers for the holidays... Ask about our special advertising packages. Call 713/520-7237

Aerial COMMUNICATIONS **Theater**
www.aerialtheater.com





TICKETMASTER (713) 629-3700
FIESTA • FOLEY'S • KROGER www.ticketmaster.com
713-625-AMEX
SFX LAS VEGAS
Aerial Theater Box Office 520 Texas Ave. 713-230-1600
Houston Chronicle

Many of us are very prominent in the community and have very important jobs, and we would not want any of our associates who may be, say, going to Ruggles, to see us sitting in the window or going into the store.'"

Needless to say, Ramunni was a bit taken back by the phone call, almost breathless. "That attitude is such a throwback and this man was perfectly serious and very concerned," says Ramunni. "He wanted a back door!"

It is for that reason that Ramunni thinks that Crossroads is more defined by what it is not. "We are not the traditional 1960s, 1970s gay and lesbian, back-street, back-alley store. We're very open, we try to maintain a look and feel that no one, absolutely no one, should be ashamed to come in."

And although it may be most convenient to call Crossroads a bookstore, in reality, it's much more. "It's a gay and lesbian meeting place," says Ramunni. "We are very non-traditional from a gay and lesbian point of view in terms of our approach. We think that there's a lot more to the world and a lot more to going out and seeing people than looking at pornography, for example."

And, this is the very element that Crossroads invites through its doors. Patrons who aren't afraid to sit in the store's window and have coffee across from their partners and reach over to hold their hand or perhaps even give them a kiss. "People do that in our store all the time," says Ramunni. "And that's what we want."

Crossroads has been labeled, more than just a few times, a nonalcoholic JR's. "I've heard it called that over and over and over, and...as I look at the clientele and what they do, it really is a nonalcoholic gay bar," says Ramunni. "They stop there on their way to the bars; they will stop there because they don't want to drink or because they don't want to smell the smoke."

And, so far, after the initial obstacles were hurdled, the hard work has paid off. Ramunni attributes much of the store's success to a strategy of

continued on p. 67

People talk about Premier Paging & Wireless...

Great pagers and great prices!
—Richard Hill
Realtor

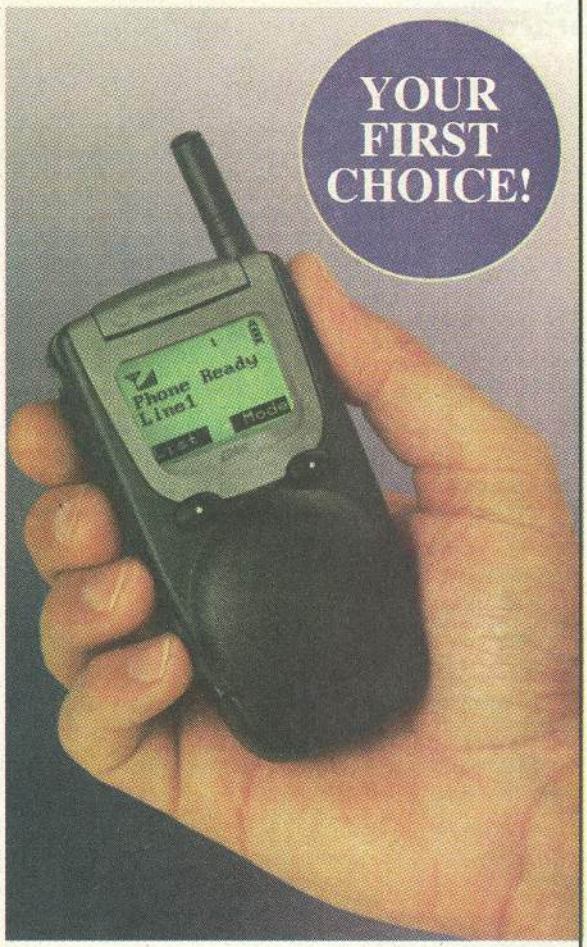
Premier Paging & Wireless saved my day with quick and efficient service.
—Dan DiDonato
Preferred Graphics

It's a pleasure doing business with Premier Paging & Wireless. Outstanding service and great prices too!
—Greg Jeu
OutSmart Magazine

I love my Premier Paging & Wireless pager. When I wear it on my belt I feel sooo butch. It's my little vibrating tool!
—Vicki Shaw
Comedian

It's great to do business with a woman entrepreneur. Lea, you provide nothing but top-notch service for us.
—Caroline Burum
Toopees Cafe

Premier Paging & Wireless is known for superb customer service and satisfaction.
—Lisa DeHart



The gay community's first choice for pagers and wireless phones.

Call Premier, we come to you!

Premier Paging & Wireless carries Aerial, PrimeCo, Nextel and Sprint PCS phone services, in addition to a complete line of pagers and paging services. This means Premier will help you choose the service that is right for you! Premier Paging & Wireless guarantees the lowest possible prices, the best service and the most knowledgeable staff in town! Call Premier today and learn for yourself why Premier is already number one with so many people and so many Houston-area businesses.

SAVE $50

Receive $50 worth of phone accessories with the purchase of any wireless phone. Your choice of car chargers, leather carrying cases, batteries or any other in-stock phone accessory.

Expires 10/31/99

Premier PAGING & WIRELESS

12220 MURPHY RD
(281) 575-8500

TimeOut

continued from page 19

constantly changing to suit its customers, who have changed considerably over the years.

"When we got into this business," he explains, "there were lots of gay and lesbian bookstores across the country, but there were only two big chains: Lambda Rising in Washington, [D.C.], and A Different Light, which has stores in several cities.

"Well, Lambda Rising has been getting beaten about the head really badly and A Different Light [according to an article in a bookseller publication] is now considering closing their stores, because they are losing money.

"Crossroads Market has now become the No. 2 gay and lesbian bookstore in the U.S.," Ramunni says. "Between the two cities, we now sell more gay books than probably...we're probably on par with Lambda Rising."

So, what's the draw to the store if all the material contained within the store is available on the Internet at Amazon.com? "Even though this stuff is available everywhere else, it's not available in the quantity and variety that we have and it's all in one place," says Ramunni.

"There's a big sense of gratification in knowing that people are enjoying what you're doing. And, I think, in our small way, hopefully we have an impact in providing people with something other than a bar to go to and sit down and be able to do what they want to do."

Steve Poruban is a community writer and newly dubbed TimeOut historian. He can be reached care of this publication.

MINGS CAFE'

Cuisine of the Orient

Proudly Serving the Community

Thank you for voting us #1 Choice Chinese!

713.529.7888

fax 713.529.8687

2703 Montrose @ Westheimer

Houston, TX 77006

Want answers to your profound questions?



Yes No Maybe

THANK YOU!

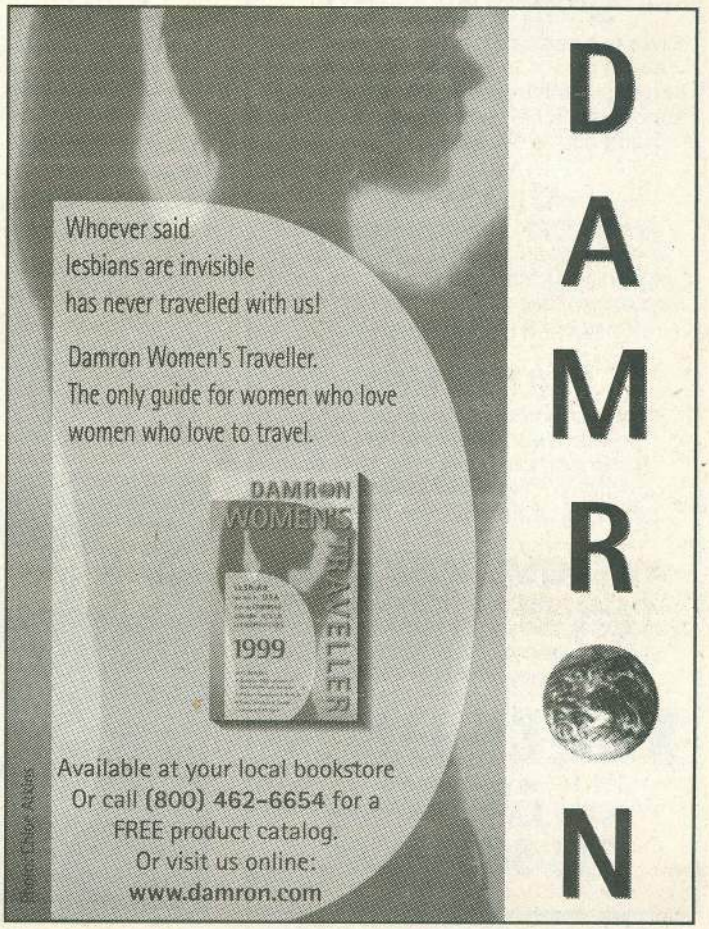
For voting me best Female Psychic

Gift Certificates Available • Call for an appointment.

astrologer/psychic advisor

Madilyn Stein

713-622-7232



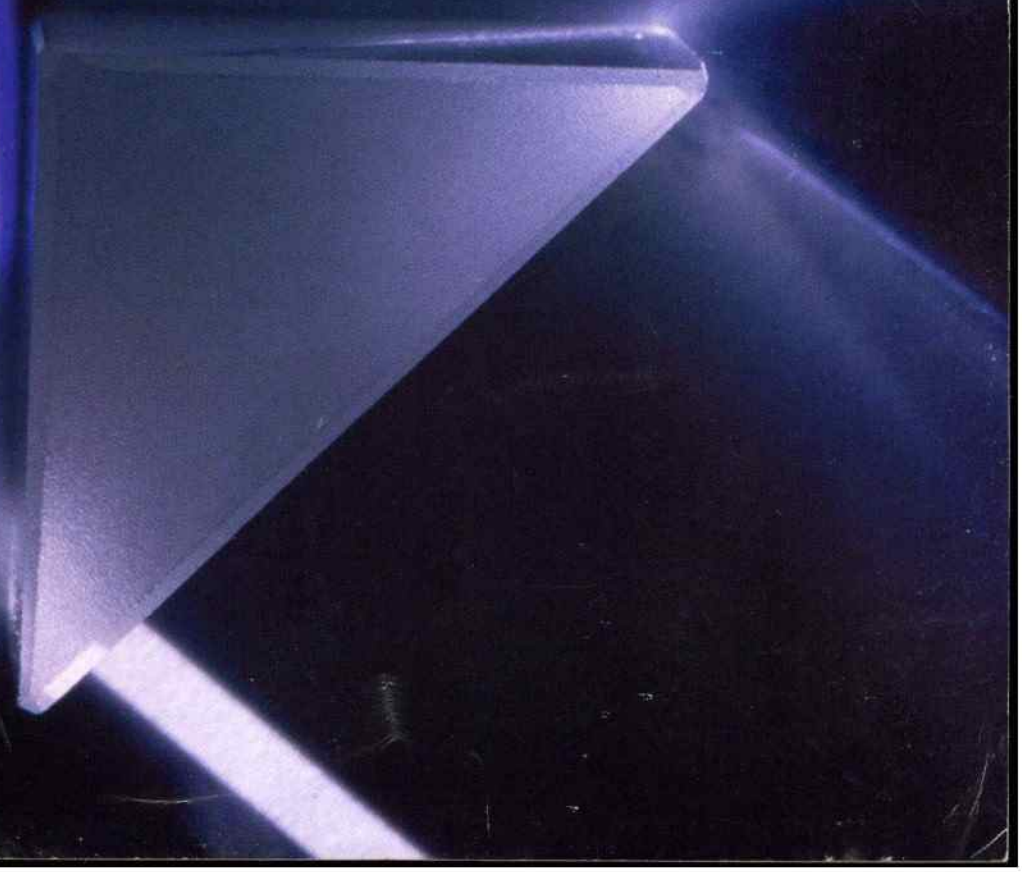
NOVEMBER 1999 • COMPLIMENTARY

OutSmart

Houston's Gay & Lesbian Monthly Magazine

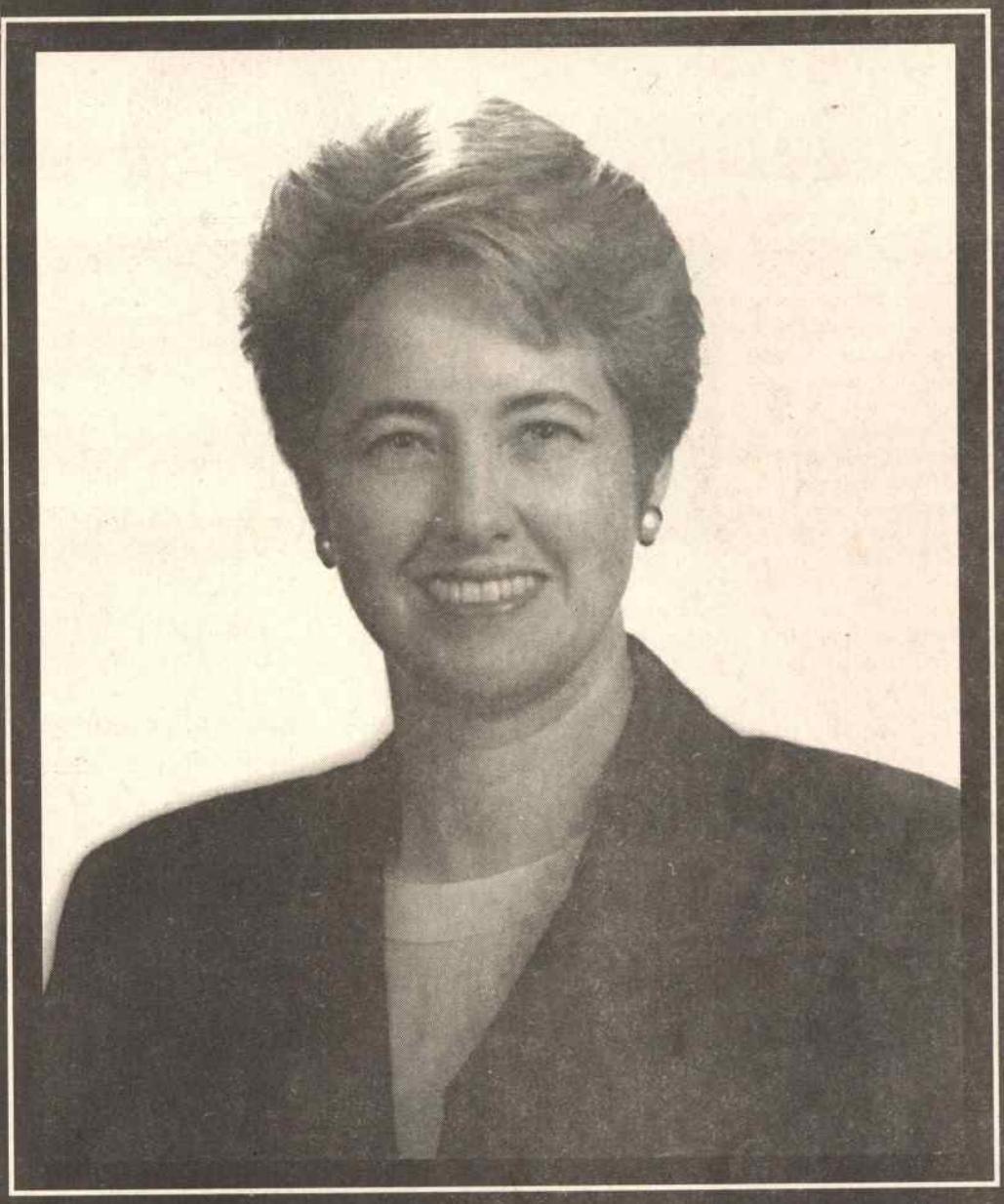
WHITE LIGHT

Gay Religious Leader Mel White Reaches Out to Jerry Falwell



ALSO

- Three Houston Women Artists Show Their Skills
- HIV-Positive Triathlete Jim Howley Runs for His Life



Houston City Council Member

ANNISE PARKER

"Thank you for electing me to a second term on Houston City Council. I am honored to be Houston's first openly lesbian or gay elected official, and to serve all Houston's communities, including our vibrant lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community."
Annise Parker
Member, Houston City Council

Re-Elect Annise Parker

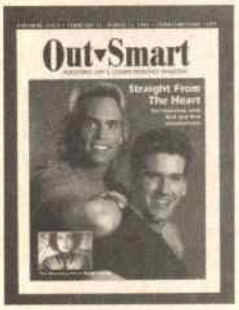
Campaign Headquarters: 713-807-9100
Fax: 713-523-1834 • P.O. Box 66513, Houston, TX 77266
www.anniseparker.com • annise@anniseparker.com
Paid for by the Annise Parker Campaign, Steve Kirkland Treasurer.

TIMELINE 1994-96

Each month OutSmart continues its timeline series on the past 30 years of Houston gay history.

by Tim Brookover

1994 Following the 1993 March on Washington, thousands of re-energized gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered individuals returned home to establish a wave of new service and social organizations in their communities. In Houston, the years after the historic event saw the founding of a number of groups that remain fixtures today. Businessman and activist Jay Hollyfield created the **Hollyfield Foundation**, which was endowed by his estate upon his death from AIDS-related conditions in 1994. This prominent organization continues to provide grants in the fields of HIV/AIDS service and gay and lesbian civil rights. The foundation also offers meeting space to organizations at its headquarters, the Hollyfield Center, a venerable building on Albany recalled by gentlemen of a certain age as the Officers Club. Another organization with an advocacy mission, **It's Time, America!**, became the first group with a national scope seeking to secure the rights of transgendered and gender-variant persons. Formed during the 1994 Transgender Law Conference, It's Time, America! works at the federal, state, and local government levels to influence legislation. **SISTERS**, a support group for African American women, began meeting at the Montrose Counseling Center. Two popular social groups, the **Houston Area Bears** and the **Rainbow Ranglers**, arrived on the scene. The former promotes "friendship and brotherhood among like-minded men," according to a local bear website, and raises money for charitable efforts. The latter promotes Western dancing. Finally, inspired by the March on Washington, the founding fathers and mothers of ***OutSmart*** magazine launched this publication.



The premier issue of *OutSmart* magazine

1995 A group of business-minded types founded the **Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce**, now one of the most visible organizations in the community. Best known for sponsoring the annual Empower expo in October, the chamber offers networking opportunities for members and guests at monthly dinner meetings and other events, a small-business counseling service through the University of Houston, and a business mentoring program. The chamber is now helping to identify the next wave of community powerhouses through its ongoing Leading and Learning Initiative. **The Center for AIDS** opened as an information and advocacy organization that shares news on medical treatment and scientific advances in HIV/AIDS. The center continues to perform this critical work through a newsletter, regular forums and infomal mixers, and a useful website. A Houston chapter of the national **Uncommon Legacy** organization began advocacy and fundraising for causes of interest to and benefiting lesbians. The group awards



Janine Brunjes, an original Uncommon Legacy member



robert snellgrove, lmsw-acp

counselor & psychotherapist

713·522·7014

4200 MONTROSE • SUITE 540

HEALTHWEST

Health Enhancement Clinic

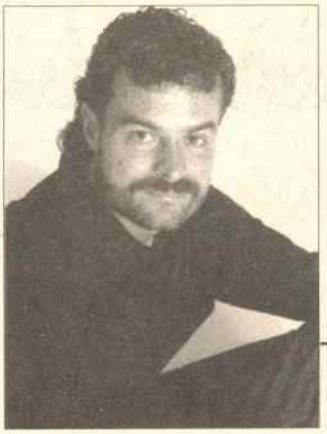
Services Include:
Anti-Aging Therapies
Chiropractic Treatment
Nutritional Counseling

Effective Treatment for:
AIDS/HIV/Herpes
Chronic Fatigue
Gynecological Diseases

Learn More About
Oxygen & Ozone Therapies
(713) 524-4200
3209 Montrose Blvd. Houston, Texas 77006

Bring this Ad for 20% off your First Visit

Sean Yarborough



BUYING, SELLING & LEASING

RE/MAX

HOME OFFICE
713/862-3266

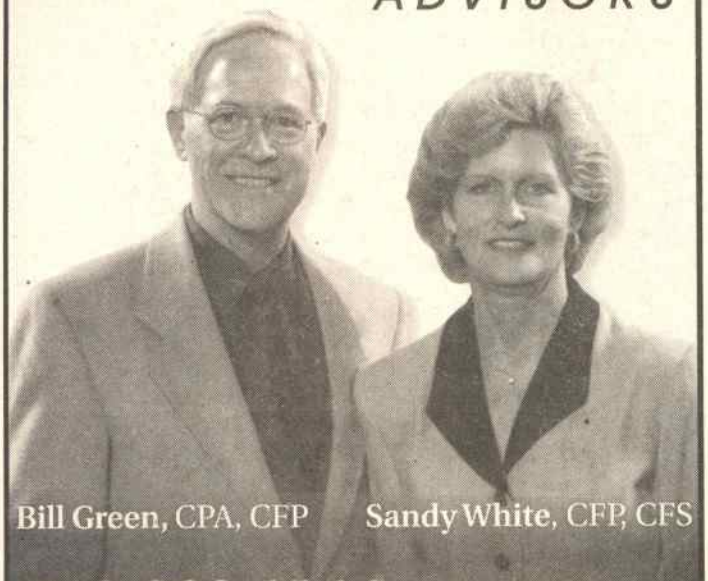
MAIN OFFICE
713/467-1166

raising for causes of interest to and benefiting lesbians. The group awards scholarships to promising students with leadership potential, and awards grants to fund projects and organizations that contribute to the community's health, education and culture. Legacy also promotes philanthropy among women and demonstrates the growing power of lesbian giving. Another advocacy and social group, the **African American Lesbian and Gay Alliance**, got its start in 1995.

1995 **AssistHers** started serving women with life-threatening or debilitating illnesses this year. A corps of trained volunteers provides direct care, including emotional support, meal preparation, shopping, hospital and home visits, pet care, transportation, and other nonmedical duties. Assistance often extends to a woman's partner, caregiver, or family. Another organization for women, **Lesbians United in Coalition**, debuted. Two now-prominent gay and lesbian employee groups at major local firms—the **Chase Bank PRIDE Team** and **SEAShell** at Shell Oil Company—demonstrated the growing acceptance of the community within corporate America. The **Garden And Yard Society** (GAYS), an association of gay men and women interested in gardening and landscaping, started keeping things beautiful on the home front; this group also wins best acronym. **Queer Artists Collective (QuAC)** began striving to create a new arts culture in Houston. For the next three years, this group of people in their 20s (more commonly known as QuAC) presented exciting, challenging performances and events, including the 1997 HomoImprovement. In July 1999, QuAC gave its final show, Y2Q. The individual QuAC artists promised to continue pushing queer art into the next century.

Timeline constructed from personal interviews, personal recollections and documented information.

GREENWHITE
ADVISORS



Bill Green, CPA, CFP Sandy White, CFP, CFS

713.869.1144

Financial Planning
Investments
Retirement Planning
Estate Planning

Securities offered through Commonwealth Financial Network, Member NASD/SIPC

1225 N. Loop West, Suite 1030 Houston, TX 77008
www.moneysmart.com

SHANNON T. WARREN
AND ASSOCIATES



A LAWYER WHO MAKES THINGS HAPPEN

IN PRACTICE FOR 23 YEARS

TAUGHT LAW AT THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW

HANDLES ALL YOUR LEGAL NEEDS

BOARD CERTIFIED IN PERSONAL INJURY TRIAL LAW BY THE TEXAS BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION

VISA

(713)-523-0420

1210 HAWTHORNE HOUSTON, TX 77006 FAX (713) 522-8992

CALL JEFFREY FOR A QUOTE.

Your Community Insurance Agency



ROB SCHMERLER

JEFFREY BULES

For Home, Health and Auto Insurance

Rob Schmerler & Staff *713.661.7700*

6575 W. Loop South Suite 185 Bellaire, Texas 77401

Business Insurance · Workers Compensation · Group Health · Life Insurance & much more

DECEMBER 1999 • COMPLIMENTARY

OutSmart

Houston's Gay & Lesbian Monthly Magazine

The Spirit Is Here

Health&Spirit magazine plugs into the OutSmart scene



ALSO

- We'll Miss You, Quentin
- Comedian Bob Smith Breaks Up With Humor
- The Historic Lobo Bookshop
- Holiday Gifts Both Tawdry and Tender
- HEALTH&SPIRIT: Interview With Gay Warrior John R. Stowe

Lobo Bookshop and Cafe

Coming out, falling in love, getting arrested on charges of pornography–all in the day of the life of a gay bookseller.

by Ann Walton Sieber

When Larry Lingle opened the first Lobo Bookshop in Dallas in 1973, he wasn't planning on it being a gay bookstore and he wasn't planning on coming out. Lingle was 37, recently divorced, had most recently been a graduate student in history at Texas Christian University, and Lobo sold out-of-date Americana. (No, that's not a code word for anything.)

Well, that didn't last long. The process had begun just six months earlier, when Lingle's wife of eight years had sued for divorce, and Larry realized what had been true all along. ("I mean, how many boys are researching 'homosexuality' in the Sedalia [Missouri] library at the age of 10?") Prepared or not, he started carrying gay material at his bookstore, making Lobo the third gay bookstore in the country, perhaps even the world.

"I opened the bookstore and came out at the same time," Lingle says.

The name "Lobo" has nothing to do with being gay. A colleague's wife suggested the name because she knew Larry loves dogs, and "lobo" means "wolf" in Spanish. Larry liked the sound and the associations, so "Lobo" it was.



TRICIA MOREAU SWEENEY

Larry Lingle and his four wild "lobos"—Rupert, Dudley, Winston, and Humphrey.

Now, after 26 years in the gay bookstore business, Lingle has owned gay bookstores in Austin, New Orleans, New York, Oklahoma City, as well as the Dallas original. He opened the Houston store in 1986, and it has been his home base and most steady support. Lingle's beautiful spacious store on Montrose is one of the most active and high-visibility fixtures in the community.

continued on page 21

Gay History for City Hall

Annise Parker made history as Houston's first gay city council member.

by Tim Brookover

On the first Tuesday of November in 1997, Annise Parker made history with her election as the first openly gay/lesbian public official in Houston. With her victory, Parker joined an exclusive club of the few out political figures across the nation. For years, she had worked toward this win through active service not only in our community, but also in the more mainstream trenches, including the city's notoriously fractious civic associations.

Parker had run unsuccessfully for council twice before. In fact, Parker's tremendous dignity following those losses, displayed on thousands of television sets across Houston, no doubt helped build goodwill for her third try. Gay-baiting tactics did mar the 1997 campaign—more covert than Louie Welch's shoot-the-queers quip of a decade before, but every bit as repugnant. Still, through her intelligent positions on issues and eyes-on-the-prize determination, Parker created an aura of victory. By the time the local newscasts announced the final counts, the outcome seemed inevitable, logical.



UNCREDITED

For thousands of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered Houstonians, Parker's election to council instilled a great sense of pride. Then Parker provided another magnificent first, when she was sworn in with life partner, Kathy Hubbard, at her side.

continued on page 20

TIMELINE 1997-98

Each month in 1999, OutSmart presented its timeline series on the past 30 years of Houston gay history. This article concludes the series.

by Tim Brookover

1997 Houston made a dazzling mark with the **first nighttime gay and lesbian pride parade** in North America. Dozens of illuminated floats glided down Westheimer, and the drag queens twinkled even more than usual. Even better, holding the parade after dark allowed participants and spectators to avoid the punishing afternoon heat of June—always an unpleasant factor on parade day, which became a greater problem as many HIV-weakened folks had trouble with the daytime conditions. The annual **Empower** gay-and-lesbian business expo debuted, providing another stage for the community to demonstrate that its ordinary concerns—making and investing money, buying insurance—are much the same as those in the hetero world. Despite a rocky start, Empower, a project of the **Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce**, has grown year to year, attracting more vendors and visitors. Some grumbling was heard about the religious ceremony that capped this year's edition, but Empower will no doubt continue to succeed in the next century. The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, DiverseWorks, Rice Media Center, Southwest Alternate Media Project, and Landmark Theatres collaborated on the launch of the first **Houston Gay and Lesbian Film Festival.** The fund benefiting people with AIDS established by the Lady Victoria Lust, the late and definitely great drag queen, was reconstituted as **PWA Holiday Charities**. Since 1987, Lady Victoria had single-handedly run her fund to provide yuletide food and funds for PWAs, raising money most prominently at a yearly Christmas in July bash at Mary's. She died of AIDS-related complications in 1996. The Houston chapter of the **Human Rights Campaign**, the national gay/lesbian advocacy organization, confirmed its fund-raising power by holding the first local Black Tie Dinner, a swanky gala that collected money for the HRC and local groups. **SPECTRUM**, the gay and lesbian employee association at SBC Communications/Southwestern Bell, began promoting awareness among management and staff in Houston of issues affecting gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered employees and worked to eliminate homophobia in the workplace. **G.A.N.G.** (Gay Alumni Noon Group for those over 40) brought together grownups greater than the twink stage.

1998 **Montrose TV**, a valiant effort to produce a weekly magazine-style program, debuts on Access Houston. After several episodes of varying quality, the program expired for lack of financial support. The Hollyfield Foundation, established four years earlier, opens its historic Montrose building as the **Hollyfield Conference Center**, providing meeting rooms and rental office space at low cost or no cost to community organizations. Undaunted by failed previous efforts to launch a community center in the city, another hardy group of individuals opened the **Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center** in the digs of the former Montrose Clinic in the heart of Montrose. The two-story center serves as a meeting space for activities that include men's and women's coming-out groups, a weekly writers group, and a lesbian movie night, and provides offices for organizations, among them the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus. **Stonewall Democrats**, the local chapter of the national gay/lesbian organization that supports Democratic candidates and office holders, organized in Houston. Another political group, **Gold PAC**, was established. Houston mayor Lee Brown appointed the first gay community liaison to his office, **Matthew Eastus**. As important as that position sounds, an extensive search of the city website turns up no mention of the liaison office or its occupant. At the end of a century filled with many triumphs for our community, apparently all places at the table are not created equal.



Texas American Title Company

3633 Allen Parkway
Houston, Texas 77019
713-807-1181
Fax: 713-807-1191

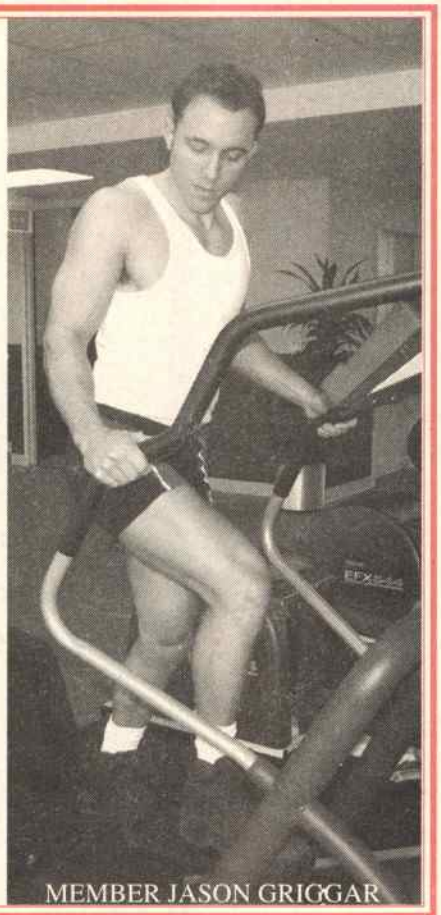
CLOSE WITH THE BEST!



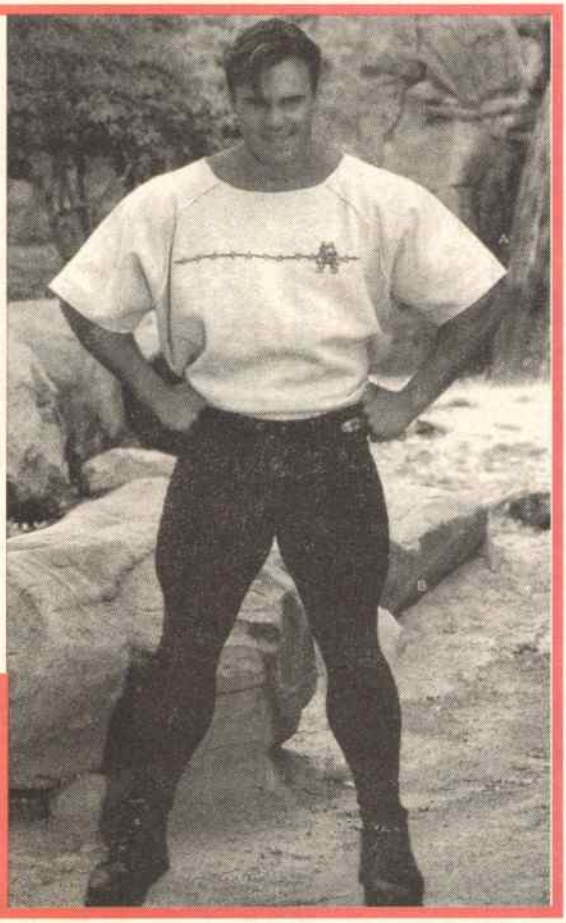
Robbie Burnside
Branch Manager
Pgr. 713-762-1852

* Call me for your Realtor services.
* Quick response to contract pickup.
* Convenient parking.
* Freshly baked cookies at closing.

$100 OFF SALE
ENDS 12/24/99
FITNESS EXCHANGE
VOTED #1
CUSTOMER SATISFACTION!
4040 MILAM 77006
(713)524-9932
GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE!
Mon - Fri 5am - 10pm
Sat & Sun 8am - 8pm



U.S. BodyWare
fitness clothing for everybody
Specializing in:
Gymwear
Streetwear
Clubwear
Footwear
Now Carrying
Positano & YMLA
15% OFF
with this ad.
5575 Richmond
713.789.8836
www.usbodyware.com



Annise Parker

continued from p. 18

Julie Mason, the *Houston Chronicle* political writer, recently recalled that race. "I don't think it was a foregone conclusion," Mason said. "She had a very well-organized opponent with a large base of support. But Annise had run before, and with each loss she seemed to build a little momentum."

Mason said that some City Hall denizens were initially concerned about what Parker would do once in office. "She immediately proved herself to be much more than a single-issue candidate," Mason said. "She has also completely nullified the lesbian issue." Parker achieved the latter victory simply by living completely, and without fanfare, out.

As those who have worked with Parker in the gay/lesbian community know, she quietly commands admiration. Mason confirmed that that quality transferred to government. "Around City Hall, she is considered one of the smartest members. Other council members follow her lead," Mason said.

Parker serves on seven City Council committees, including those concerned with environmental concerns and health, ethics, and parks. She chairs the Port of Houston committee and the alley subcommittee of the neighborhood planning and protection committee. She represents Houston on a public-private alliance promoting the projected Interstate 69 Canada-to-Mexico highway and at meetings of a partnership of international cities that are centers of energy production.

"I think toward the second half of her first term, she was keeping her own counsel," Mason observed. "She is very independent. She doesn't just follow the lead of the mayor, much to the consternation of the Brown administration. She has her own clout now. I think we will see more of that in her second term."

Term limits will prohibit Parker from running for council again. According to Mason, we will continue to see more of Parker. "I think she has her eye on the controller's office," Mason said. When called for a response, Parker's media staffer, Cicely Wynne, replied that Parker only looked forward to serving her current term and "plans to continue in public service in some way." No doubt there are few political limits for Parker. After all, in San Francisco openly gay supervisor Tom Ammiano, a long-time community activist and former stand-up comic, is in a runoff for mayor. ▼

Lobo Bookshop

continued from p. 18

"I think Larry has to be commended and other early bookstore owners," says Gene Harrington, a prominent leader and organizer in the gay community. "When they came into being, they opened up a major major part of our culture. And not just to us, but to the community at large. It's an act of liberation and an act of liberation that we at the turn of the century take for granted. And that act of liberation took a lot of courage."

When Lingle opened up the first Lobo, finding gay authors and books on gay issues was not easy. It was just a word-of-mouth proposition, hearing about a book from a friend, trying to track it down through the publisher or through an out-of-state gay bookstore.

"It is important, especially for young people in our community to realize," Harrington says, "that gay and lesbian bookstores in general and Lobo in particular used to be our *only* source of gay and lesbian literature. If you wanted a book by a gay author or on a gay issue, you either went to a store like Lobo, or you didn't get it."

The bookstore has played a pivotal role in the coming-out stories of many a customer through the years. Lingle remembers back in 1977 in Dallas, a high school senior who shyly ventured into the store. It was like an awakening for the young man. "It was a way of acknowledging and verifying it," Lingle recalls. "He was Hispanic, Catholic, came from a very tight family. Kids back then thought they were the only one...."

Even today, the bookstore fulfills an important role in the community, a place besides the bars where someone can walk in and feel at home. A lot of people come to the door of the bookstore and don't even come in, Lingle says.

"If there had been a place like this in existence, believe me, I wouldn't have waited till I was 37 to come out."

Not only did Lingle use his bookstore to come out himself, but it was where he met his partner in both business and passion, Bill White, "the love of my life."

"In 1978, a young man walked into my store, and was introduced to me—he was 21, I was 41—and it lasted for 18 years. He died in 1995. November 8," Lingle says. His eyes grow momentarily shiny. "It still hits home. He was delightful. I was very mental, while he was emotional, creative. He was always the spur that kept things moving."

When Larry and Bill opened their Houston store in 1986, it was definitely one of those "for better or worse" years.

"It is important, especially for young people in our community to realize, that gay and lesbian bookstores in general and Lobo in particular used to be our *only* source of gay and lesbian literature. If you wanted a book by a gay author or on a gay issue, you either went to a store like Lobo, or you didn't get it." --Gene Harrington

Larry was holding down the fort in Dallas. In April, Bill went to New Orleans to oversee the opening of the Decatur Street Bookshop in the French Quarter. In June, the vice squad burst in the front door of the Dallas store and arrested Larry for selling dildos.

Texas is the only state in the vicinity with laws against dildos. "We aren't worried about guns in Texas," Lingle says, "but you can't sell a concealed dildo." But even with Texas' arcane laws, usually stores could expect several citations before any action was taken. "In Dallas everyone was selling dildos," Lingle says. "They were a good profit item."



UNCREDITED

Larry (right) with his partner Bill White and close friend Kim Brinster in 1992.

But that year, a new prosecutor had been elected who ran on a plank to wipe out pornography, "and when he got in office, he meant it."

However, this tough guy prosecutor's first appointee turned out to be one of Larry's customers—"which means he was not only into pornography, but that he was queer," Lingle says.

The Dallas raid and Larry's arrest was in June; then in September, the store in New Orleans was raided and Bill was arrested on 23 felony counts of pornography. According to Larry, the reason they were hit was because they had unwittingly hired a gay lawyer who was too principled to make the customary payoffs. The deal they struck was that Bill got his freedom and a clear record, and they closed the New Orleans bookshop. Bill loaded the store's contents into a truck and headed for Houston, where the partners used the merchandise to open up their most successful store, and the one that felt most like "home."

Larry and Bill opened the Houston store in 1986, and moved to Houston in 1988. After all the vice-squad excitement, the idea was to lay low, just be quiet booksellers. But Larry and Bill weren't very good at staying quiet.

"It was an election year," Larry remembers, "and I just can't be quiet during an election."

Larry took out a series of ads in the inside front page of the *Montrose Voice* that included political editorials and commentary on the community. The Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus gave the store an award in recognition of the ads, and Gene Harrington and Sue Lovell persuaded Larry and Bill to get involved in the caucus. Jay Hollyfield also got them involved in the first Black Tie Dinner held in 1988 in the cellar of Tony's restaurant. "Bill liked to give parties," Larry says. For two years, Bill was co-chair of the dinners. After Hollyfield died, he asked in his will that both men be on the board of the Hollyfield Foundation; the board elected Bill as their chairman.

"We were floored to be so accepted in Houston," Larry says. "Up in Dallas we were thought of as quote unquote pornographers."

The first Houston Lobo location was a two-story store on Westheimer, with a side entrance off the shopping strip across from what's now the Rainbow Club. After 10 years, Lobo outgrew that location, and Larry and Bill started looking around for a place to move. Larry often ate breakfast at Charlie's, and he had his eye on a retail space across the street in the Tower Theater complex. However, he was caught up with

continued on page 59

Marcus, but there is a way of deriving the same benefits with a lot less "drama." First, sit or lie down comfortably. Start from one point in your body—your right foot, for example—and contract (tighten) the muscles there. Hold this contraction for a count of three, and then gently and completely release it. From there, move up toward the muscles in your lower leg, then upper leg, then trunk, then shoulders, then arms (I think you get the picture). Once you've gone through all your body parts, do one more contraction. Only this time tighten your entire body (every muscle), hold for a count of three, and then gently release. Feel the tension leave as you release your contracted muscles, then try the deep-breathing technique previously described.

MEDITATION

Sometimes it's tough to find time for this technique, but when practiced regularly, it is highly beneficial. First, find a quiet spot where you will not be interrupted or intruded upon. Close your eyes, relax your muscles, take a few deep breaths, and then focus your imagination on something. Let's say you're imagining a rose. Focus on the flower and how it feels. What does it look like? Smell like? Imagine every aspect of it as though you were actually holding the flower in your hands. As you do this, you will inevitably be challenged with all sorts of distractions in your mind (everything from work to what's on TV tonight). Your mission is to focus entirely on your rose. Shut out everything that is outside of you, as well as the distractions of your inner mind, and continually bring your concentration back to the focus you've selected. It's not as easy as it sounds, and it does take practice, but this type of technique can be extremely rewarding.

This season (or any season for that matter) doesn't have to be a nightmare. Stress can be managed, and you can be left with the freedom to actually enjoy your life without having to take it too seriously! Above all, learn to find the humor in difficult situations. A good laugh can dispel even the most disconcerting of situations, as long as they are not at the expense of another individual. And, as always, rely on your spiritual beliefs to help you keep things in perspective.

John-Aaron is a nationally certified personal trainer, member of the International Assoc. of Fitness Professionals, and owner of Muscle Mechanics, a personal fitness training and nutritional guidance facility. He can be reached at Musclemech@aol.com.

Lobo Bookshop

continued from p.21

taking care of Bill, who was in the final weeks of his struggle with AIDS. Soon after Bill died, Larry found out that the space had been secured by Crossroads Market, continuing a competition that went back to Dallas, where both stores originated.

Other Lobo stores came and went. In 1994, Larry opened a store in Austin, and sold it in 1998. He ran a store in Oklahoma City for one year, in 1993. ("A friend asked me to open up a store in his shopping complex. I said a gay bookstore would never fly in Oklahoma City, and I was right.") He sold the Dallas store in 1990. (It has since gone under.)

Soon after Bill died, Larry learned that the oldest gay bookstore in the world, the Oscar Wilde Bookshop in New York City, founded in 1968, was in danger of closing down permanently. The bookstore was so controversial when it opened that it still sports the nonbreakable Plexiglas windows, installed to guard against rock throwers. Lingle bought the gay landmark in 1996. "I love New York, and I didn't want to see this historic bookshop fade out of existence." Sadly, the small bookstore had been so neglected that the only salvageable commodity were the books.

For a manager, Lingle brought in his close friend, Kim Brinster. Bill and Larry had met Kim in 1988 when they were in New York for Gay Pride week. A woman handed them a flyer about the AIDS quilt, and then came running after them. "You look familiar," she said to Bill. Turned out they'd attended high school together in Harlingen, Texas. Kim became one of their closest friends; when Bill got sick, she quit her job and parted from her lover in order to come to Houston to help out. Kim took on the job of running the Oscar Wilde, even hiring a lesbian carpenter friend to custom-make bookshelves with inlaid rainbow triangles.

Lobo and Oscar Wilde are now Larry's only bookstores. Because the New York store is still losing money, Lobo has to support it. In 1998, the total sales of the two bookstores was $2 million, although Larry stresses that the net profit is much less, bookstores having notoriously low margins of profit.

Lobo Bookshop contains two distinct different genres: the varied literary collection up front, and the "adult" video collection in the back room of the store. "Some women have problems with the adult material we carry," Lingle says. "But I've never apologized. I think it's part of our community. I'm certainly not the only gay bookstore in the country to carry it."

Lesbian authors and issues are amply represented, in "Women's Fiction," "Women's Studies," Women, General" sections, as well as integrated throughout the store in sections such as "Relationships" and "Gay Studies." In addition to the sizable adult video collection, Lobo also has over 1,000 non-pornographic videos—"theatrical," as Lingle calls them. His favorite is *Maurice*, an English drama based on an E.M. Forester book about two Oxford students who fall in love. (Full frontal nudity of Hugh Grant and Rupert Graves!)

Many of Lobo's staff have had a long tenure at Lobo and other gay bookstores, such as manager Blake White, who worked at the Austin store before coming to Houston, and assistant manager Sally Woods, who orders all the women's titles and used to be at Inklings.

Although Lobo has all the beautiful new bookshelves and spacious display of a standard upscale bookshop, looking around the store, you get the feel of a deep-running connection with gay culture that goes beyond stocking the latest releases or trendy rainbow keychain. The café is stocked with used books, which you can read in the comfy armchairs. Lobo also carries a huge selection of out-of-print gay books—way too many to all be on display.

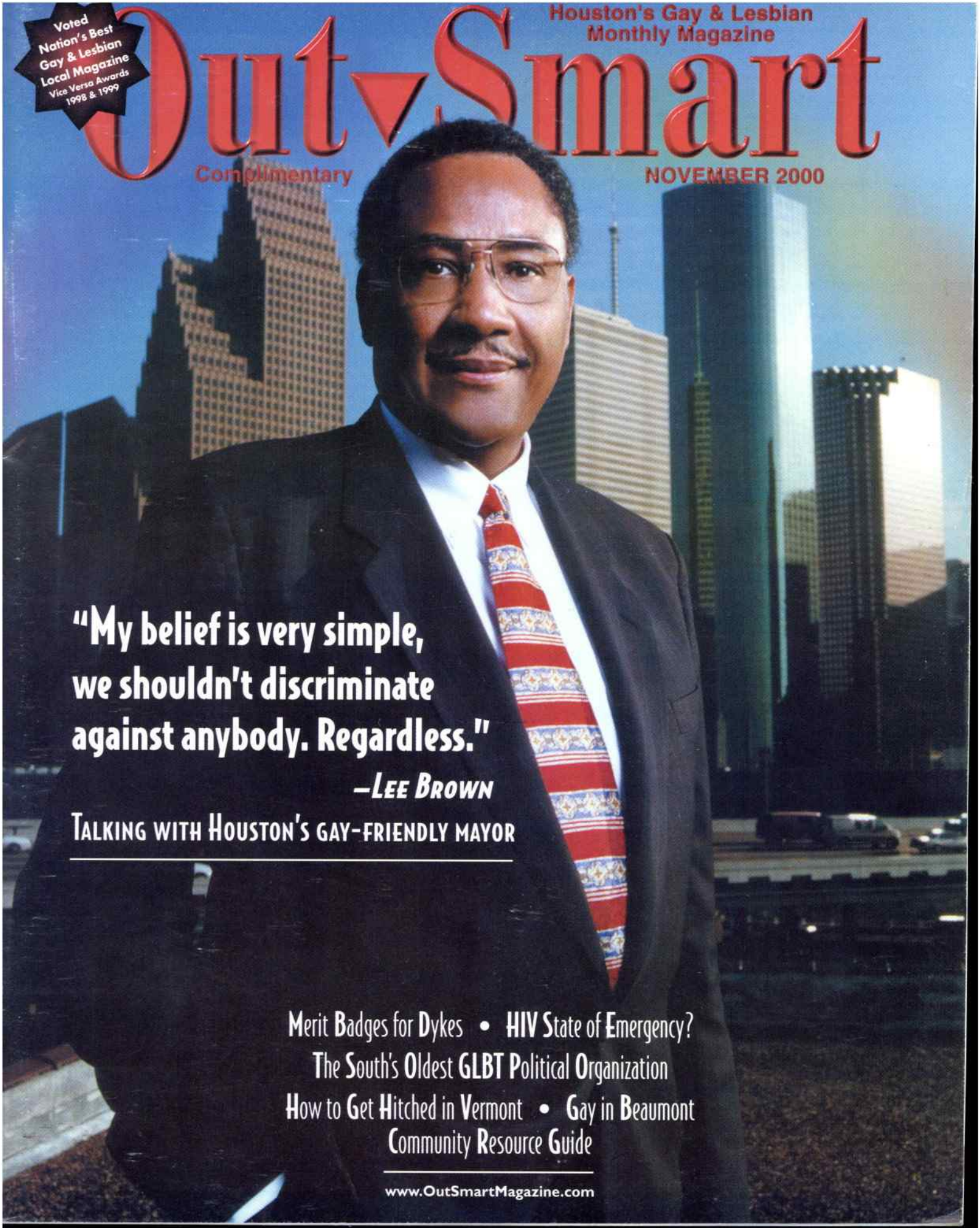
But most intriguing are the celebrity photographs and letters, which Lingle has been collecting for more than 30 years. Like a 1906 signed photo of Sarah Bernhardt. In separate letters, both W.H. Auden and Tennessee Williams trying to persuade young men to keep them company. (Both were unsuccessful.) A 1949 letter and photo from the early tennis pro Bill Tilden written from prison, where he was imprisoned for sodomy, giving tennis advice to a close friend. ("If you meet George Evens *do not lob* much and then only at the unexpected moment.")

Larry guesses that he's currently the oldest gay bookseller in the business. It hasn't been easy since Bill died, four years ago. Larry has become a bit of a recluse, he admits, and last year his beautiful Montrose house burned, and he lost all of his personal library. His oldest cat died in the fire, but Larry's very thankful that his four precious basset hounds were able to get out.

It's been a long crazy journey. Lingle remembers way back in the '60s reading an article about the Oscar Wilde Bookshop.

"I was amazed that there was a gay bookstore. I thought this guy must be incredibly brave." Little did he know.

Lobo Bookshop and Cafe is located at 3939 Montrose, 713/522-5156. Hours are seven days a week, 9 a.m.–midnight.


Voted Nation's Best Gay & Lesbian Local Magazine Vice Versa Awards 1998 & 1999
Houston's Gay & Lesbian Monthly Magazine
Out-Smart
Complimentary
NOVEMBER 2000
"My belief is very simple, we shouldn't discriminate against anybody. Regardless."
–Lee Brown
Talking with Houston's gay-friendly mayor
Merit Badges for Dykes • HIV State of Emergency?
The South's Oldest GLBT Political Organization
How to Get Hitched in Vermont • Gay in Beaumont
Community Resource Guide
www.OutSmartMagazine.com

Happy Birthday and Thank You

25 years of political activism at the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus

by Clarence Burton Bagby

In June of 1975, four people came together to found what would become the oldest gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender civil rights organization in the South. They called it the Gay Political Caucus. It's difficult to fathom that there were only those four: Pokey Anderson, Bill Buie, Hugh Crell, and Keith McGee. Even in 1975, few activists in Houston would speak out publicly for fear of losing their jobs and their apartments. People were still being fired for being gay and lesbian, and it was still illegal in Houston for people to dress in the clothing of the opposite sex. The law even banned women from wearing fly-front pants.

Now called the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, the caucus is celebrating 25 years of political organizing, a birthday on which it can proudly claim credit for the rise of the gay and lesbian community in Houston as an effective political block.

Just like the caucus itself, the founding four were not just flashes in the pan by any means. Anderson went on to serve on the national board of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force a few years later, and McGee was to play a leadership role with the Human Rights Campaign Fund. Crell stayed involved with the caucus until his death, and Buie is still a member.

Ray Hill was also an early prime mover in the caucus. When the GPC was founded, Hill had already been out of the closet for almost a decade and was actively campaigning for gay civil rights in Houston and against the prevailing public concept of homosexuality as an illness. Only two years earlier, in 1973, the newly founded National Gay Task Force (later to become NGLTF) had successfully worked to change the American Psychiatric Association classification of homosexuality as a mental illness. Two-thirds of Americans in 1975 still said they believed that sexual relations between two adults of the same sex was always wrong, although a little over half of Americans believed homosexuals should have equal rights in terms of job opportunities, according to the NGLTF Policy Institute. Only 27 percent of Americans favored hiring homosexuals as elementary school teachers.

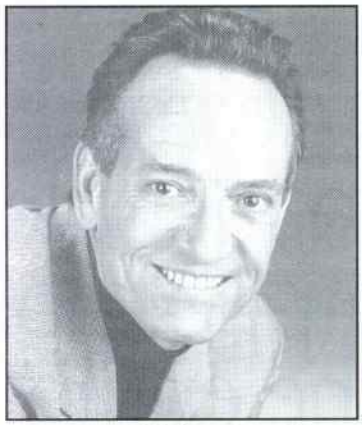
"By 1975 we had come a long way, but still had a long way to go," said the late Gary Van Ooteghem in an interview a few years ago. Van Ooteghem was the first president of the caucus and later served as co-chair of the NGLTF national board. At the urging of NGLTF, United States Rep. Bella Abzug had just introduced the first gay rights bill in the U.S. Congress.



We've come a long way, baby:
L-r: Rev. Robert Falls (MCCR), Ray Hill, Jerry Miller, Pokey Anderson

Back in Texas, state Rep. Craig Washington was being ridiculed on the floor of the Texas House of Representatives for his efforts to eliminate the homosexual sodomy law, Section 21.06 of the Texas Penal Code. After hearing of the raucous anti-homosexual debate, Anderson met with a group of friends in her Montrose apartment and laid plans for the creation of the GPC.

So on a bright summer day in June 1975, media representatives gathered for a press conference. Four of Houston's leading homosexuals, Anderson and Hill, along with Jerry Miller and Rev. Robert Falls, announced the formation of the GPC under the blazing light



SPECIALIZING IN:

- Gay/Lesbian Issues
- HIV Counseling
- Growth-Oriented Psychotherapy
- Individual, Couple, & Group Therapy
- Insurance Accepted

Miles D. Glaspy, LMSW-ACP

Psychotherapist

713/529-1913

1973 W. Gray, Suite 20
Houston, TX 77019

Thelma Valle *Realtor* **Frances Hernandez** *Realtor*



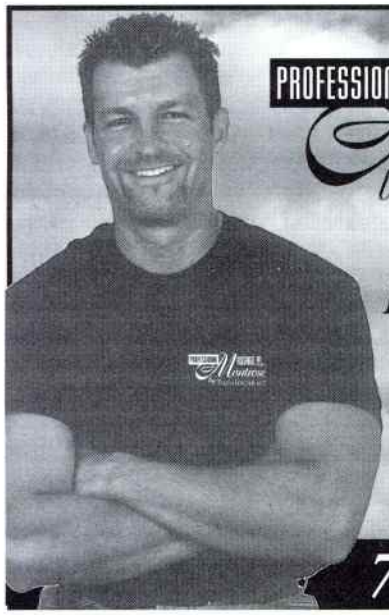


281.536.7064 **281.236.5593**

Prudential
GARY GREENE, REALTORS®

1717 YALE - HOUSTON, TX 77008
OFFICE- 713.880.1400

An independently owned and operated member of The Prudential Real Estate Affiliates, Inc.



PROFESSIONAL MASSAGE IN Montrose
by THOM LOCH, R.M.T.

Relieve your stress with a Swedish massage from Thom today.

713.256.9490

of public scrutiny. Miller represented Integrity, Houston's most effective homosexual organization to date. Rev. Falls represented the alternative religious community as pastor of the newly formed Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection (now Resurrection MCC). Anderson represented Houston lesbians.

Hill, recently out of prison on a burglary conviction, represented no one in particular, but helped by lending his name recognition to the event. In his usual blunt manner, Hill said at the time, "Up until now, I was the only faggot with a face and name in town." This was indeed true, as for years Hill had been the only person willing to speak on record to the media and to advocate publicly for equal treatment of gays.

Miller quietly pointed out the changing times by stating, "In the '60s, if you were gay, you were a political radical. The community is more broad-based now."

The GPC's first candidate questionnaire included questions about the introduction of state legislation to outlaw employment discrimination against gays and lesbians, repeal Section 21.06, and give gay and lesbian couples the right to file joint income tax returns.

After hearing of the raucous anti-homosexual debate around the sodomy law, Pokey Anderson met with a group of friends in her Montrose apartment and laid plans for the creation of the Gay Political Caucus.

Van Ooteghem didn't know the folks who had called the press conference and was in Washington, D.C., meeting with Leonard Matlovich at the time. Matlovich, an Air Force sergeant and Vietnam veteran who had received the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart, had voluntarily declared his homosexuality to his supervising officer and resisted discharge under an exclusion clause that allowed "outstanding" homosexuals to remain in the Air Force.

Van Ooteghem, then the Harris County Comptroller of the Currency, admired Matlovich's courage and later said, "Leonard Matlovich was my role model, and I hope I can be someone else's."

So, upon returning to Houston, Van Ooteghem told his boss Harsell Gray, Harris County treasurer, that he was planning to appear before Commissioners' Court to urge them to pass regulations protecting the civil rights of gays and lesbians. Gray told him that appointed personnel were not allowed to engage in political activities during business hours and asked him to sign a letter acknowledging these instructions. When Van Ooteghem refused, Gray fired him. "GVO," as he became known in the community, later said that Gray's stated reason for his firing was simply a cover for the real reason: Gray was afraid Commissioners' Court would cut his budget for having a highly paid homosexual on his staff.

So the next day, August 1, 1975, Van Ooteghem addressed Commissioners' Court, professing his own homosexuality and proposing a civil rights resolution. Less than a month later, he filed suit against the county for unfair dismissal. His suit was eventually successful and he received back pay.

"Gary has this great, high-paying job and was willing to sacrifice it to advance the cause," Hill said. "Because of his celebrity, we

recruited Gary to be the first president of the caucus."

In the following years, the caucus started to mature organizationally and to gain political clout as well. Mickey Leland, who as a state representative had supported Washington's 1975 effort to repeal Section 21.06, thanked the caucus for helping him win election to Barbara Jordan's congressional seat in 1978. Leland included the names of Hill, Steve Shiflett (caucus president), and Van Ooteghem in his newspaper advertisements. Mayor Jim McConn said at the time, "I think it [the gay and lesbian community] is becoming a viable political force."

The caucus became and remains the community's chief advocate with the police department. In 1978, Shiflett appeared before Houston City Council to protest that no one from the gay community had been appointed to serve on the newly created Houston Police Advisory Board. Later that year the committee was increased in size from 15 to 21, and Mayor McConn telephoned Shiflett for a recommendation. McConn agreed to Shiflett's recommendation of Patricia O'Kane and, as alternate, Rev. Chuck Larsen, pastor of MCCR.

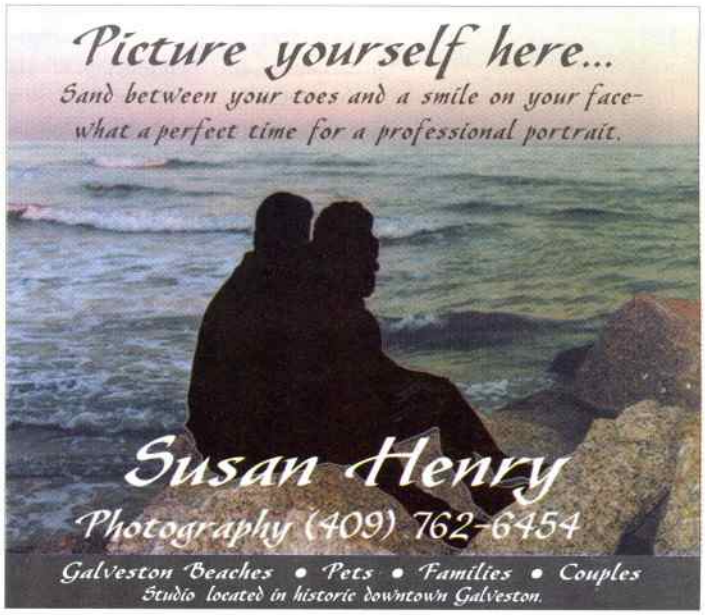
When the group was reconstituted in 1986, Annise Parker (caucus president), working with then Police Chief Lee Brown and Mayor Kathy Whitmire, succeeded in gaining the caucus a permanent seat on the Houston Police Advisory Committee, a seat that the caucus retains to this day.

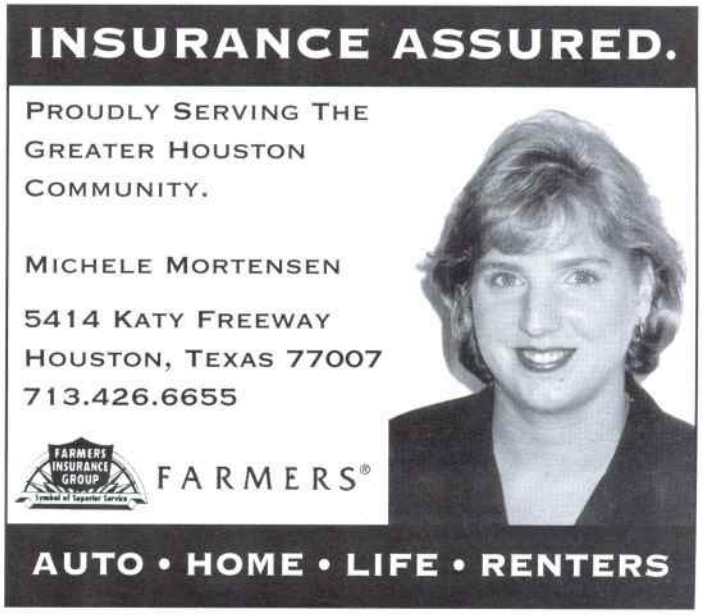
According to Hill, in 1984, Jerry Mays, Jack Jackson, and Shiflett offered a resolution at a caucus meeting to support City Council passage of an ordinance banning city employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. "The resolution never came to a vote because it was clear that we [the opponents] probably had the votes to defeat it," Hill said. "So in those reconciliatory times of the caucus, the resolution was tabled indefinitely." HGLPC had initially discussed at great length the idea of asking City Council for an ordinance. "I, among others, was really concerned, with AIDS over the horizon, that it would result in a referendum and that they would beat us to death with the 'gay plague' offense," said Hill. Mays, Marion Coleman (later a caucus trustee) and others had organized Community Political Action Committee (C-PAC) because of dissatisfaction with the caucus. As part of the payback for C-PAC's support, City Council member Anthony Hall (the caucus had endorsed his opponent) sponsored the ordinance banning city employment discrimination. "The caucus was in a political box canyon," explains Hill. "Unable to oppose the ordinance, we dispatched Sue Lovell, caucus president, to City Hall to work on getting the votes, because Mayor Whitmire would not move forward without caucus support as well as assurance of a significant majority of the votes on Council.

"Members of the Klu Klux Klan and Black Ministers Association were outside City Hall arm-in-arm singing 'We Shall Overcome,'" said Hill. "It was quite a sight." Conservative Republican Steven Hotze made his political debut in Houston working for a referendum to repeal the ordinance. Holtze's group obtained the required signatures a month before the deadline.

Jerry Smith, then Houston city attorney, now a Reagan appointee to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, wrote wording that was intentionally confusing, according to several people involved at the time. It was easy to be confused: If you were for gay rights, were you supposed to be *for* the referendum or *against* it? Caucus-endorsed Democratic candidates were major contributors to the pro-referendum forces. "When the caucus appointed a Baptist minister from Beaumont to run the anti-referendum campaign, I was told to shut up and stay out of sight," said Hill. The only other item on the ballot was a Spring Branch school district vote, and so a large portion of the vote came from Spring Branch. Although the anti-gay referendum







was defeated in all Montrose precincts and in several Third Ward precincts, still passed overwhelmingly. "It buried any illusion that the caucus had any discipline or strength to get out the vote at that time," said Hill.

Hill says he and Annise Parker opposed Lovell's re-election; Hill campaigned for president on the platform of a major activist initiative, Parker campaigned for a "lay-low and blend in" strategy, and Lovell ran to continue the status quo and give her a chance to redeem herself. "That was the election where nobody [no political candidates] came," says Hill. City Council member Eleanor Tinsley was the only opposed City Council candidate to screen for endorsement with the caucus in 1985. The caucus endorsed Council members Ernest McGowen Sr. and Judson Robinson Jr. over their own objections. The Straight Slate—headed by Hotze and Ed Young, Second Baptist Church pastor—did not elect anybody to office. "So it was tit for tat, with the queers losing early in 1985 and the anti-queers losing later in the November 1985 city election," says Hill.

Parker was victorious in her 1986 bid for the caucus presidency and served two terms; she remains the only caucus president to have completed two consecutive terms as president.

In 1978, Mayor Jim McConn said, "I think it [the gay and lesbian community] is becoming a viable political force."

Hill ran successfully for caucus president in 1989 on the platform that the caucus needed a revival. "We boycotted Randall's Food Markets, who finally agreed to a written nondiscrimination policy in company employment," Hill says. "Caucus membership doubled; it was a very busy year."

For the caucus, the 1990s were filled with AIDS education efforts, while scores of members were lost to the disease.

After acrimonious battles over bisexual and transgender inclusion, the first transgender board member was appointed by the president in 1998, and a process was begun to change the mission statement so that it would be inclusive of the entire gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community. Two transgenders and one bisexual currently serve on the caucus board of trustees.

The Caucus Political Action Committee has endorsed 32 candidates for the upcoming November 7 election, a far cry from 1985's handful. Mayors and congresspeople now come to the Caucus PAC to interview for consideration for endorsement by the organization.

Twenty-five years later, the caucus remains a strong force working for freedom, justice, and equality as part of a broader social justice movement. For information, call 713/521-1000 or see www.hglpc.org.

Clarence Burton Bagby is a native Houstonian active in civic and political affairs, locally as well as nationally. He serves on the national executive board of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus board of trustees. He was president of the caucus in 1998 after serving as a caucus trustee for two years. He is the executive director of the Old West End Association.

Lilly Roddy
ASTROLOGER



- Personal
- Relationships
- Business • Past Life
- Horary—Question of the Moment
- Regression
- Reiki Master
- Astrology Tape Series

Consultations by Appointment Only
713/529-5842
Gift Certificates • MC/VS Accepted
LillyCath@aol.com
http://www.cybersim.com/hermes

風水 Feng Shui 風水

Find out how people across America are using the ancient art of **Feng Shui** to bring **success**, **wealth**, **romance**, **health** and **harmony** into their homes and businesses. As featured on *Dateline* and *Oprah!*

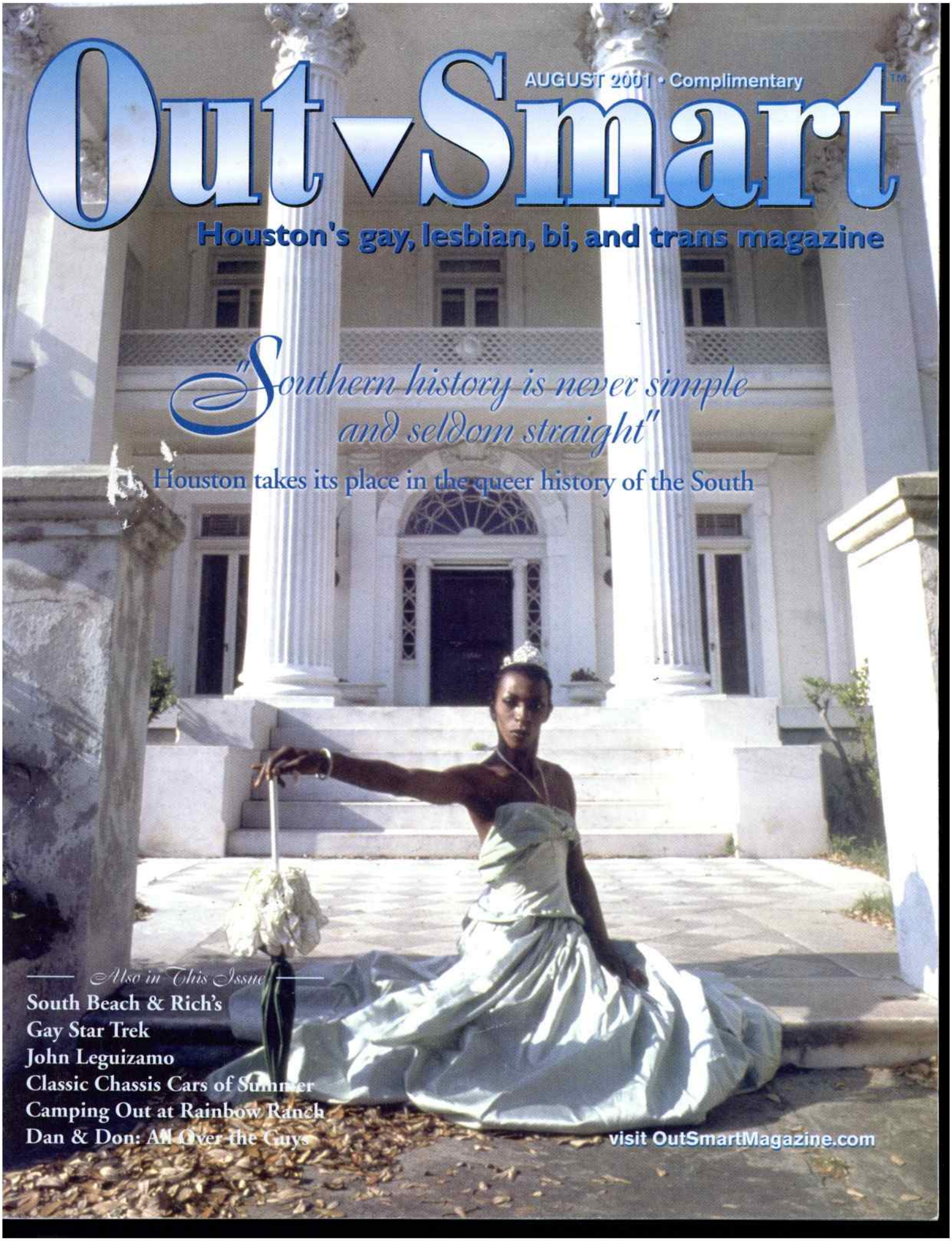


Sandra Nicholas

is a nationally recognized Feng Shui consultant and lecturer who has completed advanced level of study with world-renowned Feng Shui authority, Master Lin Yun. Sandra is the founder of Feng Shui Enterprises and has been in practice since 1985. Her work has been featured on PBS' Channel 8 and ABC's Channel 13 News.

Member of Feng Shui Guild

FOR AN APPOINTMENT CALL 713/861-8336.


Out-Smart™
AUGUST 2001 • Complimentary
Houston's gay, lesbian, bi, and trans magazine
"Southern history is never simple and seldom straight"
Houston takes its place in the queer history of the South
Also in This Issue
South Beach & Rich's
Gay Star Trek
John Leguizamo
Classic Chassis Cars of Summer
Camping Out at Rainbow Ranch
Dan & Don: All Over the Guys
visit OutSmartMagazine.com

Our Queer Southern Heritage

Remembering and recording tales of gay Houston in the '60s and '70s

by Jim Sears

Photo by Greg Day

Houston 1967
The Tumblebugs Take on City Hall

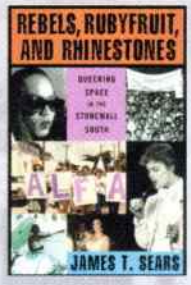
Tape measures and pencils crowded her pockets. Tools hung over her left shoulder. Rita Wanstrom trudged upstairs. It had been one of Houston's insufferable summer days when even the hardiest workers found themselves frequenting the five-gallon bucket of ice and lemons. . . .

Inside the apartment [she shared with her partner, Ricci Cortez], Rita kicked off her boots and rested for a spell. Rita had been setting up and serving drinks at the Roaring Sixties for three years. It had become a "family" operation. Peaches, who was known for his flawless interpretation of "My Way," choreographed the drag queens. Leo, who could rise from alto to soprano in a single refrain, bartended. And Ricci, who flawlessly stripped, held court while Rita greeted guests beneath her oil portrait.

Known as the homosexual playground of the South, Houston was already home to a dozen gay bars and clubs when the Roaring Sixties opened on June 23, 1967. Unlike Mafia-controlled bars of many Northern cities, gay clubs in "Space City" were often

"Southern history is never simple and seldom straight,"

writes Jim Sears in his introduction to *Rebels, Rubyfruit, and Rhinestones: Queering Space in the Stonewall South*. A professor at the University of South Carolina, Sears is slowly and thoroughly documenting all that is lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered in the South. Published in August 2001 by Rutgers University Press, *RRR* is the second in a multi-volume series in which Sears intends to portray the whole chronologic sweep of queer Southern history, woven from the stories of people who lived it. Many of Sears's stories are from Houston, which he dubs the "San Francisco of the South." We present here excerpts from *Rebels, Rubyfruit, and Rhinestones*.



owned by straight women. There was Effies' Pink Elephant (which had been around since the '40s), catering to older gay men; Verlon's Surf Lounge; the Round Table on Westheimer, owned by Dorothy; Rocky's, a hole-in-the-wall working-class club on West Dallas; and the Desert Room, whose famed Sunday afternoon tea dances were guarded by Hazel with a watchful eye for the police and an agile thumb set to flicker the lights.

With its checkered tablecloths, crimson drapes, and ruby walls, the Roaring Sixties was a place that a lot of folks called home. . . . In addition to lesbian regulars like Dee Dee, who'd waltz in with slacks, cuffs turned up, hair slicked back, and tanned Mexican shoes, there was a one-armed guy who'd shoot pool with Rita for $20 a ball. Rita used one of her matched pair of San Toeos; he used the end of a broomstick—and "cleared the table."

Rita awakened as Ricci gently removed her pocket tools. "It's okay, Poppa Bear. Just go back to sleep. I'll set up for tonight's crowd."

In 1967 Rita, celebrating her fourth year with Ricci, opened the Roaring Sixties. "A lot of club owners back then said women

couldn't come in if they didn't turn their pants around" or wear dresses, remembers Rita. Two months after her club's opening, Houston's vice squad came to visit. . . . Separating out the more butch-looking patrons, an Irish sergeant barked out commands. "You get over here. You get over there." Twenty-five lesbians were hauled to jail for wearing clothing of the opposite sex. "The enforcement of the ordinance, of course, was directed only at those people perceived to be gay," underscores Rita. Used for police harassment and extortion, it was also a convenient excuse for some bar owners to restrict lesbians. "Everyone got mad," remembers Rita. "But what could you do?" Rita paid all of the $25 fines and hired an all-girl band, led by "little butch" Sandra to "pump our business back up."

A month later there was another raid. As in Stonewall, something snapped. "I don't think the other bar owners could see what was happening," swears Rita. However, she "saw the need for someone to speak out on behalf of this community." It was an unjust law that "deprived me of my right to do business."

Wanstrom sought out the help of Percy Foreman, whose legal fee matched his status as the preeminent lawyer of the Southwest. Foreman was willing to represent Rita when another raid befell her club. As Rita headed down to the Roaring Sixties that evening to rally folks, "I happened to see a little tumblebug. Now, a tumblebug will just lay there until somebody turns it over and helps it back on its feet." And so, as the summer of 1967 receded into history, the Tumblebugs were born.

Selling sweatshirts, hosting benefits, and sponsoring drag shows, the dozen or so women who made up the Tumblebugs raised Foreman's $2,500 fee. . . . In challenging the city ordinance, Rita hoped to get "people to think for themselves about what was happening to us and what *we* needed to do to take the heat off." However, Houston had precious little of what might be called a "gay community." Aside from the mostly straight-owned gay bars and the hundred or so "A-list" gay men who hosted the Diana Awards, a parody of the Oscars [for which Rita designed some of the costumes], there were mostly homosexual closeted individuals, some of whom displayed the Southern fondness for eccentricity.

One Diana member operated the Four Seasons on Market Square. "He had a beautiful house on Choclafile Road with a swimming pool on the second floor and live peacocks running on all of these acres of land," discloses Rita. Four bungalows surrounded the house. Here Rock Hudson and other closeted celebrities would come to party and bring their tricks. . . .



ALL PHOTOS USED WITH PERMISSION OF RITA WANSTROM

SCENES FROM THE ROARING SIXTIES: Second from top is Rita Wanstrom (right) with her darling Ricci.

Few Houston homosexuals harbored any expectation of organized political activity. Wanstrom declares, "If we'd have had a parade down Westheimer in 1967, we would have been stoned. . . . We were," Rita continues, " a lost people who needed to come together."

Two nights before New Year's Eve, a sergeant and his men of the vice squad rushed into the Sixties and found women "dressed in men's pants, men's shirts, and men's shoes."

Rita reminisces: "They lined people up and started questioning. One woman who was asked her occupation said: 'I'm a weenie peeler.' That just broke everyone up. More cops came in and they made her repeat it. It turned out that she worked in a meat factory and when the weenies came through she would peel one to make sure it was stuffed right. So they put all of the butches in the paddy wagon."

This time, though, things were different. Amidst a bevy of "not guilty" pleas, a shocked magistrate stared down at the Tumblebugs as their celebrated attorney asserted: "This will not be a test of the law. . . . It will be a test of the vice squad's concept of the law."

Meanwhile, pugnacious activist Ray Hill worked for change behind the scene. . . . Ray was summoned to "come through the back door of City Hall and walk up three flights of stairs to the mayor's office." At the appointed hour, Ray remembers climbing the stairs, entering through the fire exit, and meeting with the mayor's assistant, Larry McKaskle, in a converted maid's closet. Ray wrenched from McKaskle a promise that City Hall would indeed "check into" the lesbian bar raids.

On the day of the trial, Rita and her "girls"—wearing dresses and makeup—appeared before Judge Raymond Judice. The cases against the 11 were dismissed due to the failure of the vice officers to appear. The sergeant, however, announced that he "definitely intended" to refile charges and to continue to enforce the ordinance. Inexplicably, however, he was transferred to the Narcotics Division. Rita affirms, "They never bothered us again!" →



© GREG DAY PHOTO 2001

DIVAS WITH ATTITUDE The heroes for midseventies Southerners were not gay liberationists with queer placards and clenched fists but heroines adorned with rouge and rhinestones. Homosexual citizens of Atlanta, New Orleans, Houston, Miami, and Dallas had long enjoyed such shows. . . . Southern drag queens did more than imitate Vivien Leigh; they stood resolute against the ravaging of their homosexual Taras. As in Stonewall, divas with attitude were the vanguard for the gay freedom movement. North Carolina's Brandy Alexander first started doing drag as a Sarasota student in 1964. Refusing to be intimidated by police bullying, she was frequently "pulled out of the bars and beaten by the cops with billy clubs." Atlanta's legendary "jailhouse Jezebel," Diamond Lil, earned her moniker following a raid of a "masquerade" party held in a Savannah "dungeon" operated by "Cousin Cora"—herself known for assembling South Georgia's best rough trade, aristocratic closet belles, and top drawer entertainers. And in Tidewater, longtime activist "Diana Ross" mounted a court challenge to her police abduction from the local Steak 'N' Egg. *—from Rebels, Rubyfruit, and Rhinestones*

ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPH "Africa" (Brian Seabrooks) was elected Ms. Gay Charleston, South Carolina, by popular vote in 1979. It was the 20th Annual Ms. Gay Charleston Pageant. He is the first African American to hold this highly esteemed position. His performance was brilliant and he won the hearts of all Charleston's queer citizens both black and white. Only 19 years old at the time, he was soon discovered by talent agents and left Charleston to perform at the Sweet Gum Head in Atlanta. On the night of the pageant, former Ms. Gay Charlestons, some going back 20 years, sat at a long greeting table at the entrance. Many had bouffant-teased hair from the '60s. They were in a tizzy, upset with the prospect of having a person of color become Ms. Gay Charleston. Fortunately, their prejudice was not shared by the majority of the folks present! *—photographer Greg Day*

1973-74
Seventy-Five Lesbians

Put someone else's name down!" read the sign-in sheet.

Scribbling "Pokey," the five-foot-three social science major, recently arrived from college in Florida, walked into Just Marion & Lynn's. Wearing a pleated skirt, her brown hair trailing to her waist, Pokey Anderson stepped up to the bar and ordered a ginger ale. The bartender winced, as if to ask, "Do you know where you are?"

Identifying herself as a feminist and a lesbian, Pokey was neither a separatist nor "out" in early '70s Houston. . . . While living in suburbia, Pokey occasionally sneaked downtown to walk along "Peculiar Street" in the Westheimer Colony. Houston was "on the cusp of change from the bar lesbian to the lesbian-feminist," Pokey explains.

The lesbianscape was a set of loosely networked communities of women. . . . Not-so-closeted lesbians played fast-pitch softball at Memorial Park and relished the annual International Softball tournament at summer's end. Meanwhile, the "A-List Lesbians" enjoyed outings like Easter egg hunts on Lake Japhet and Halloween parties. . . . Most, like those frequenting the Roaring Sixties or Just Marion and Lynn's, "had lived this existence in the closet for all of these years reciting the mantra 'If you don't rock the boat, you'll be okay.'" But, a new lesbian wave, generally unaware of an earlier generation of activists like Rita Wanstrom and her Tumblebugs, was about to tip the boat of Houston heterodoxy. . . .





JEB

UNCREDITED

Scenes from the Seventies: Pokey Anderson (second from left) joins in the first March on Washington, Oct. 14, 1978. *Inset:* Montrose Gaze Community Center, 1973.

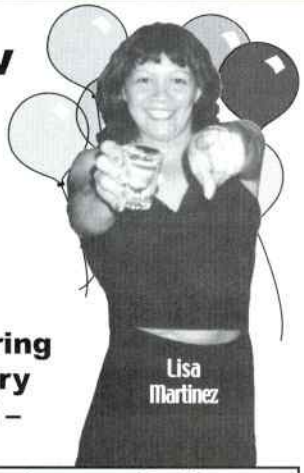
As 1973 began, Pokey attended the first National Women's Political Caucus convention held at the Rice Hotel. "Sissy Farenthold, Betty Friedan, Gloria Steinem were all there—right in front of *me*!" exclaims Pokey. But the caucus was "very straight, although there were people in the closet"—including Pokey—who "kept sneaking off" to a sexual orientation workshop on the top floor. There she learned about the Montrose Gaze Community Center that had officially opened three months earlier, inspired by the Dallas gay pride parade that past June.

A few days later, Pokey parked her VW bug near the corner of Fairview at Whitney. . . . Inside the bungalow she found a couple of dozen people, mostly men, hanging out. Funded by the bars, there was a pool table and space for rap groups and dances.

Pokey also tracked down Integrity/Houston, which evolved from a small Dignity group at Holy Rosary Church three years earlier. . . . "But, again, it was all gay guys," Pokey said, "mostly older, conservative, closeted men." This self-described "fellowship for homophiles" included founders Bill Buie, Mark Barron, Hugh Crell, and Keith McGee. As an unaffiliated political group, it provided gay

Join us for fabulous drink specials 8-10 nightly
$2 Longnecks · $1 Glow Shots · $2 Well Drinks

Club Rainbow wants you...



to Party with us during our 2nd Anniversary – Aug 10, 11 & 12 –

Impersonation Shows
Wednesday • "Drag" with M.C. & Host Shenna LaTasha Ross
Thursday • Sister for Sister Stud Night
Sunday • "Old School Sunday"

Fri-Sat • Dance to the Sounds of DJ Alexis!

Club Rainbow

Re-Inventing the Gay Club Scene
NEVER A COVER!!! · 21 & UP
1417-B WESTHEIMER · 522.5166

The Joy of Elegance...

You invite the guest, and we'll do all the rest...

- 10-2,500 Guests
- Service Personnel
- Flowers
- Box Lunches
- Luncheons, Buffets & Seated Dinners
- Office & Private Parties
- Wedding Receptions
- Cocktail Receptions



JOY CLAYTON, Owner

Clayton Catering
Full Service Caterers

1701 California St. • 713-526-1800

speakers, sponsored VD screenings, and supported political candidates. . . .

Later Pokey wrote a children's fable, "Star and the 75." This is a story of Star's love for Laura, who abandoned her for a man. Star, wondering if she was "the only woman in the world who thought women were important enough to love for real," went to the Center: "But there were mostly men there. So, as a joke, she would always pretend there were really 75 women there. Her friend John would say, 'Oh you just missed them. The 75 just left.' And Star would always say, 'Darn, I missed them again.'"

Pokey explains, "Back then, it was a total fantasy to find 75 lesbians anywhere in Houston, except for a bar."

. . . In Houston, a bevy of newspapers and radio shows, an array of groups ranging from softball teams to motorcycle clubs, and a stable political infrastructure transformed Montrose from an "amorphous cohesiveness" of individuals in 1970 to the "San Francisco of the South" a decade later.

When Integrity was founded in 1970, a local printer, Floyd Goff (under the name Phil Frank), published *Nuntius,* using money produced from his swinger's club newspaper and bingo parlor receipts to subsidize the paper. An alternative radio station (KPFT-FM) also started that year, and within a couple of years a live show with taped programs to "enlighten the straight community" had evolved into the show "Out of the Closets, Into the Streets" that aired every other Sunday afternoon.

Meanwhile, Houston women switched from fast to slow-pitch softball, opening up ball fields at Memorial Park to scores of other lesbians. Women formed basketball and touch football teams. Some men formed or joined biker communities. In 1972, the Houston Motorcycle Club held club meetings at Mary's bar. A year earlier, the Texas Riders, Houston's oldest motorcycle club, had begun publishing a newsletter. Headquartered at the Locker on Westheimer, these men of leather held Christmas and pledge parties, conducted change-of-command ceremonies, and sponsored interclub activities with local and regional "runs." . . . The Gaze Center hosted meetings for Christian gays. Eventually this study group, led by Arnold Lawson, would become MCC of the Resurrection.

During the '70s, the city bar scene grew proportionately with the gay population and its increasing openness. . . . Among the city's 30-odd queer bars, the most notorious and oldest was the hustler-friendly, poorly lit Exile on Bell Street (billed as "Texas' Oldest Western Bar") and La Caja on Tuam,



OFFICIAL WHITE HOUSE PHOTO



BRANDON WOLF

MORE SCENES FROM THE SEVENTIES: Pokey Anderson (far left) poses with part of the group attending the National Gay Task Force White House Conference. The photograph was taken at the White House on March 26, 1977. After the meeting on gay rights, Anderson (inset) talks to reporters at a press conference.

Fenced in by a Toxic Relationship?



- Is your partner's sexual behavior becoming a problem?
- Feeling depressed, angry and confused?
- Do you feel as if you've been replaced by the computer?

Get professsional help.
Call for a confidential consultation.

True Self Transitions
A Program for Personal Growth

Enod Gray, LMSW-ACP,C.Ht., CSAT
713/522-7014, ext.4

Specializing in sexual addiction, codependency, trauma recovery & family of origin issues

DAVID CRAWFORD



Specializing in Deep Tissue/Sports

Registered Massage Therapist

Located in the Heights
By appointment only.
281-262-5191
Pager

Professional Only

boasting a back patio rife with sexual activity. One of the biggest gay dance halls between the East and West Coasts, the Bayou Landing, opened in 1973 [just off S. Shepherd, across the street from where Bookstop is today]. Both women and men would crowd onto the dance floor on a weekend night. It was there that Pokey learned to do the Cotton-Eyed Joe.

This was also an era, as David Patterson, one of the founders of the Promethean Society, remembers, when "the war on drugs was almost non-existent. It was easy to get almost any drug you wanted: tabs of acid, Quaaludes, pot, uppers."



ONE MORE SCENE FROM THE SEVENTIES: The Houston Ducks softball team, coached by the Pride Parade's Carol Clark (far right). Pokey Anderson is in the second row, second from right.

Leaders of Integrity/Houston called on bargoers to practice "enlightened self-interest," reminding them of the frequent appearances of plainclothes vice officers. They distributed silk-screened posters that reinforced the old Mattachine message—"What I do reflects on you. What you do reflects on me. What we do reflects on the entire gay community."

. . . In May 1973, Billy Walker, Chuck Berger, and Bob Osborne stood before Houston City Council. As leaders of the new political advocacy group formed out of the Gaze Center, the trio politely requested an end to police harassment of homosexuals, a liaison to the Police Department, and a declaration of gay pride week. Mayor Welch walked out, and the infamous homophobe council member, Frank Mann, shouted, "You're abnormal! You need to see a psychiatrist instead of City Council."

. . . During the dog days of August 1973, after Lou Reed's "Walk on the Wild Side" had dropped out of the Top 40, Texas lesbians and gay men also had a shock. The grisly discovery of the bodies of 27 young men, tortured and murdered by Dean A. Corll in his Pasadena apartment with the assistance of two teen accomplices, generated headlines across the nation. . . .

When Mayor Welch chose not to run for re-election that fall, Integrity/Houston invited the three top candidates to speak at a private meeting. Only one accepted: Fred Hofheinz.

Integrity circulated flyers to 25 gay bars on election eve supporting Hofheinz's candidacy during his runoff election with city councilman Dick Gottlieb. Although his opponent was supported by the mayor and construction interests, Hofheinz won with a margin of about 3,000 votes—allowing Houston gays to claim credit for his narrow victory.

Mayor Hofheinz brought in a new police chief with whom representatives of the gay community met in early February 1974. Chief C.M. Lynn gave the community "a degree of respect and confidence" toward the Houston Police Department. Further, he pledged not to raid bars if no illegal activities occurred. . . .

Although local homosexual political groups were no longer quixotic operations across the South in 1974, they certainly lacked a critical mass of homosexual Southerners, who generally preferred reading a just-released novel, *The Front Runner*, or a *New Yorker* gay short story, quietly switching the TV channel from *Marcus Welby*'s "The Outrage" or *Police Woman's* "Flowers of Evil," or weekend dancing to "The Hustle" or "Never Can Say Goodbye." Three years would pass before a former Miss America runner-up and an encyclopedia salesman would square off in Dade County to ignite the second Stonewall rebellion. ■

From Rebels, Rubyfruit, and Rhinestones: Queering Space in the Stonewall South *by James T. Sears, copyright © 2001 by James T. Sears with permission of Rutgers University Press.*

MEET JIM SEARS and learn more about your queer Southern heritage October 1; Sears will be at Crossroads, 1111 Westheimer, 713/942-0147, at 7 p.m., followed by an interview on *Lesbian and Gay Voices*, on KPFT, 90.1 FM, 8–10 p.m. *Rebels, Rubyfruit, and Rhinestones* is available from your favorite local bookstore, Internet bookseller, or by calling Rutgers University Press at 800/446-9323. For more information on Jim Sears's work, see www.jtsears.com/histgal3.htm.

Concierge Travel, Inc.

Tours ▼ Cruises ▼ Group Packages

Voted Best Travel Agency Establishment
In The *OutSmart* Readers Poll

Call Joakim (Kim)
(713)661-2117
Toll Free
(877)775-9616
www.conciergetravel.cc

Atlantis Ofira
RSVP Cruises



Gay & Lesbian
Jewish Study Group

Thursdays
7:30-9:00 PM
September 6
October 4
November 1
December 6

cosponsored by:
Congregation Beth Israel &
Mishpachat Alizim

5600 N. Braeswood Blvd.

For further information:
713/523-3673 or e-mail:
ahur111@aol.com

Facilitators: Rabbi David Whiman
Rabbi Brenner Glickman