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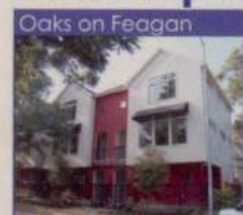
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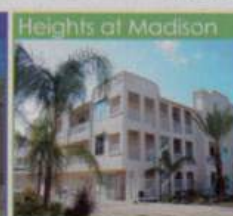
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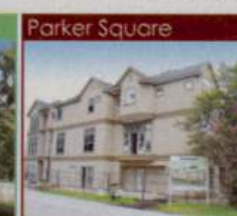
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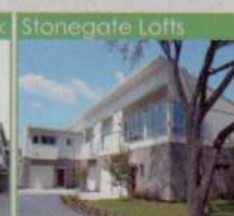
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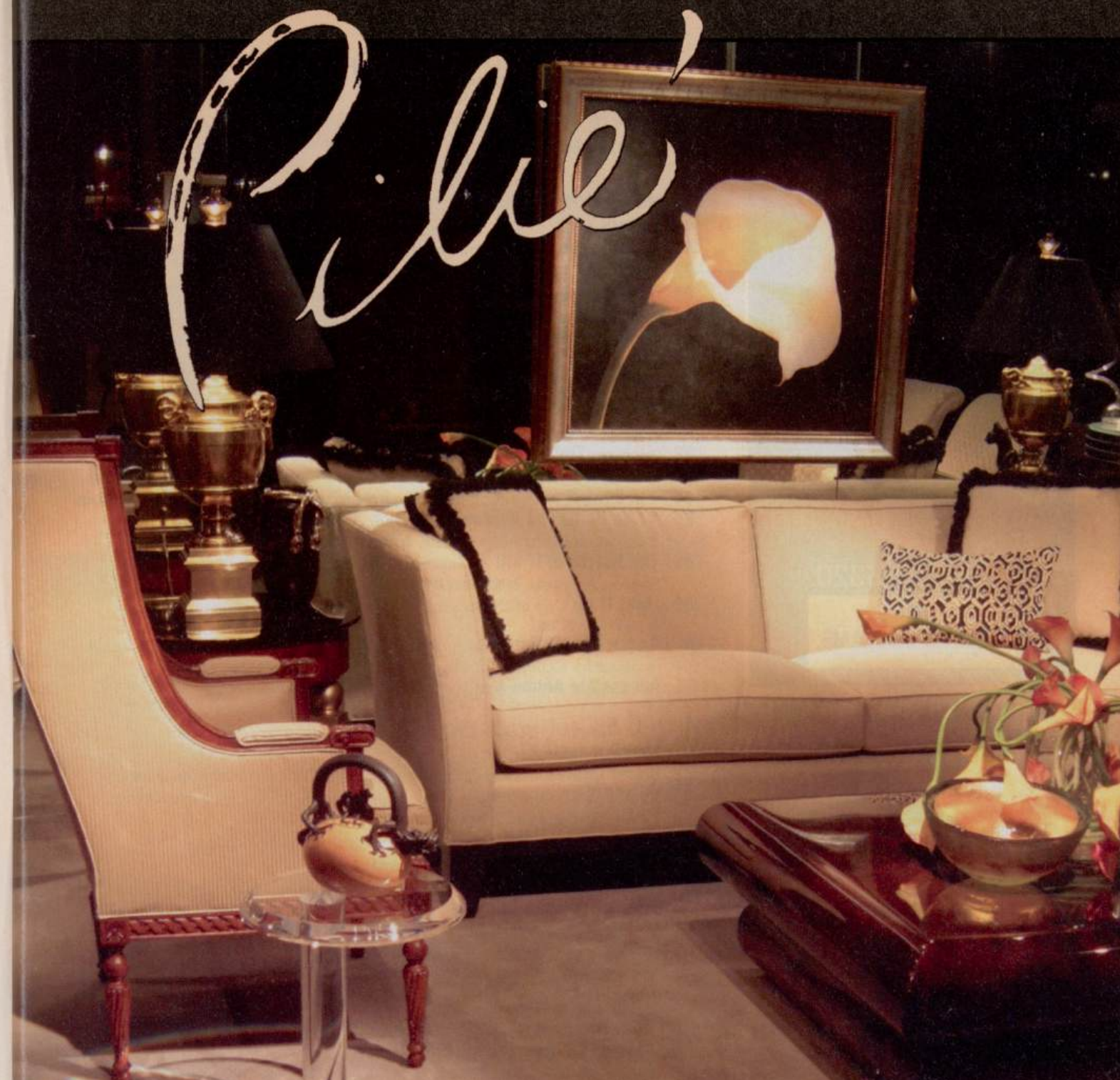
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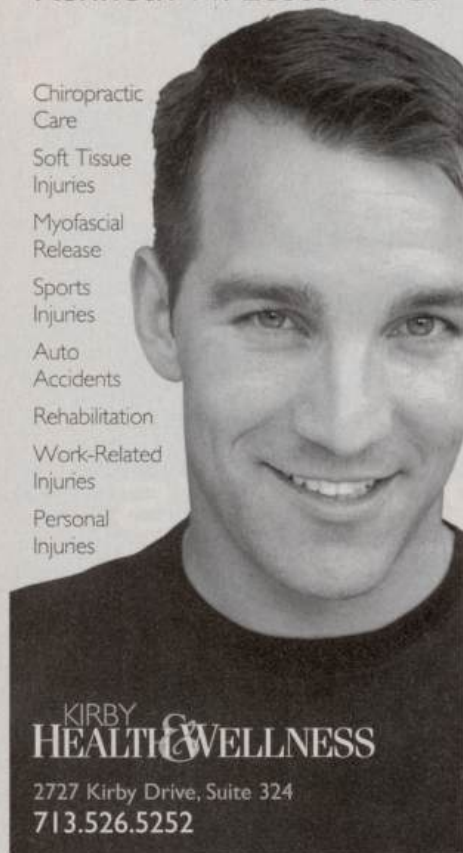
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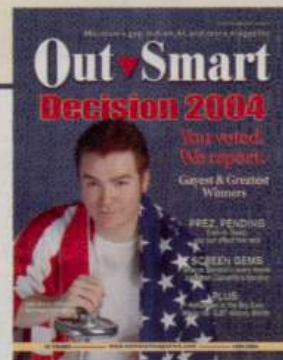
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Letters

WORD TO REPUBLICANS

As a life-long liberal Democrat, I have often had my disagreements with my Log Cabin Republican friends. At the same time, I have respected their efforts to be involved with a group not traditionally very friendly to the GLBT population and their energy in trying to educate that group. I salute them on not endorsing George W. Bush this year and taking a stance that eventually will make the Republicans respect and appreciate them more. In a very close race, especially in the so-called "swing" states, if every Log Cabin Republican stayed home or, better yet, voted for a Democrat this November, the Republican Party might wake up and smell the coffee. Their talk of a "big tent" and an inclusive Republican Party sounds nice, but if you read their platform and listen to Bush backing a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage, you understand the real party line. Eventually even the Republicans will realize that you can't cover up shit with whipped cream—that we're here, we're queer, and they better get used to it, sooner rather than later.

Alan J. Hurwitz, M.D.
Houston

CORRECTION

Our September coverage of the Kolbe Project 15th-anniversary observance (News Briefs) included errors. The correct time for the October 4 event is 7 p.m. The telephone number for the Kolbe Project, which is no longer called Kolbe House, is 713/861-1800.

ATTENTION, COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

We are updating the community resource guide section for our new and improved website. Please send information about your nonprofit, fundraising, or social organization to editor@outsmartmagazine.com. Provide a current contact name and information (include mailing address, e-mail address, and telephone number) along with a brief description of your group. The revised community resource guide will appear soon at www.outsmartmagazine.com.

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FEELIN' GROOVY. Lynn Sixkiller (in front, l-r) of the Pride Committee of Houston, *OutSmart* photographer Yvonne Feece, her spouse Rebecca Mahaffey, and GoGirlsMusic.com's Madalyn Sklar are the Groove Girlz. The quartet—pictured with gal pals Jessica Cruther (l) and Joyal Kaku—formed to throw social events for women throughout the year. The Panty Party, the inaugural Groove Girlz night, will rock the Rhythm Room on October 8. Sarah Golden will perform, and DJ Jessica Partin will provide the dance music, set to a laser-light show.

Photographed by Steven David at Meteor



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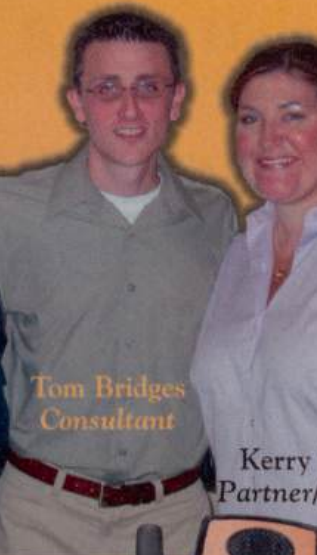
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WHEEL FUN. Bike for a Better City, the new recreational cycling group, will take two rides this month. On October 17, the peddlers will cruise down Allen Parkway to Woodrow's on Brazos to watch the Texans on TV and nosh on free hamburgers. On October 31, the bikers will join the annual Houston Moonlight Ramble, which will roll out from downtown. Bike for a Better City maintains the bike lane along Waugh, originating near Mary's. The two-wheelers include (from front) Aaron Love, Brian Keever, Brian Van Tubergen, John Hubert, and Ricky Martin.

Photographed by Yvonne Feece on the Waugh Bike Lane



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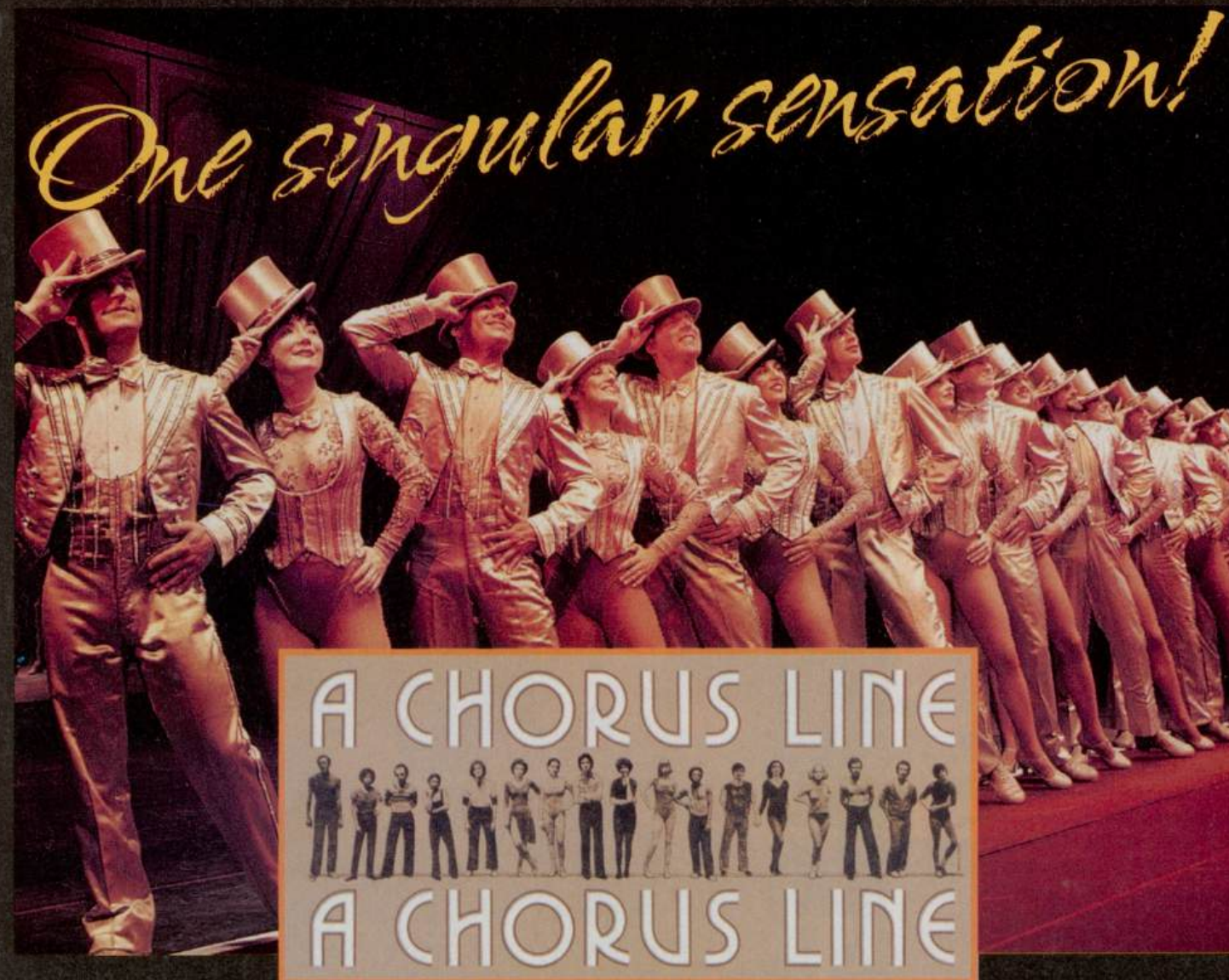
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OUT ON CAMPUS. Rachel Orrell, a sophomore computer science major at the University of Houston central campus, recently decided to come out of the closet. This month, she will join her fellow students with the Gay, Lesbian, or Bisexual Student Alliance (GLOBAL) in celebrating on-campus activities surrounding National Coming Out Day on October 11. "I'm excited," Orrell says. Other events across the area, including a Human Rights Campaign-sponsored town hall meeting, will also mark the annual coming-out observance (see page 20 for details).

Photographed by Tim Brookover on the UH campus



October 21–November 7

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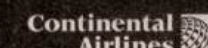
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• **National AIDS Treatment Advocacy Project** hosts a free forum on HIV drug resistance on Oct. 7, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at KeyStar Event Complex. Reservations: 888/26-NATAP.

• Center for Consumer Law sponsors the free **People's Law School**, Oct. 9, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at University of Houston Law Center. Register: 713/743-2168, www.peopleslawyer.net.

• On Oct. 15, **AVES (Amigos Volunteers in Education & Services)** hosts El Poder de La Prueba/The Power of Testing, a National Latin AIDS Awareness Day event, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., with free, anonymous HIV screening provided by Orasure Technologies, Inc., at the Mexican Consulate. Info: 713/626-2837.

• **Latino HIV Task Force**, a group of 19 community-based organizations convened by the city health department, also offers free HIV testing on Oct. 15, noon-7 p.m., at four locations, including Alameda Mall. Info: 713/794-9020.

• **Baylor College of Medicine Psychiatry Clinic** offers an eight-week coming-out group for women on Wednesdays, 6:30-8 p.m., beginning Oct. 20. Info: Marki McMillan or Jennifer Swankowski, 713/798-7988, ext. 58989.

• **Lesbian Health Initiative** presents the Rainbow Health Fair, Nov. 6, 8:15 a.m.-3:15 p.m., at Montrose Clinic. Info: 713/603-0023, www.lhihouston.org.

• **Bering Support Network** offers Positive Attitudes, a group for women living with HIV on the third Monday of the month, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Info: Beryl Kaminsky, 713/526-1017.

• **Lesbian Coming-Out Night**, led by psychologist Lynne Shepherd, now meets at **Houston GLBT Community Center** on the first and third Wednesday, 6-7:30 p.m. Info: 713/524-3818, www.houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org. ■

SMART WOMEN, GOOD CHOICE



The Houston women of Old Lesbians Organizing for Change will host the national OLOC 2004 Gathering October 14-17 at the Renaissance Houston. Community heroes Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon—pioneers of the lesbian-rights movement and the first couple wed in February when same-gender marriage became legal in San Francisco—will participate in the conference for women 60 and over. Deidre McCalla will give a Saturday-night concert (see page 92), and folk singer Alix Dobkin will also perform. Details: www.oloc.org.

Last month, the local host committee paused from event planning for this snapshot: (in front, l-r) Scottie Scott, Arden Eversmeyer, Barbara Williams; (standing, l-r) June Palmer, Janice Ives, Charlotte Avery, and Ellen Goodrich. Not pictured is Dusty West, also a committee member.

HELP HURRICANE-HIT GAYS

Rev. Sandy O'Steen, the pastor of Holy Cross Metropolitan Community Church in Pensacola, recently phoned in to report on the devastation left by Hurricane Ivan. O'Steen was a member of Resurrection MCC here in the late '70s and early '80s.

"We are in big trouble here. Everything's in such a mess right now," O'Steen said, the din of power saws whirring in the background. "There is nothing we do not need, practically. The roof caved in, so everything's wet."

Holy Cross is accepting monetary contributions both for the church and members of the congregation (250 lost their homes, O'Steen said). Monetary donations, designated for Ivan relief, can be sent to 415 N. Alcaniz St., Pensacola, Florida 32501. The church also accepts Pay Pal donations at www.holycross.com.

ON THE WEB: See outsmartmagazine.com for more ways to help the GLBT hurricane victims in Florida.

More News Briefs →

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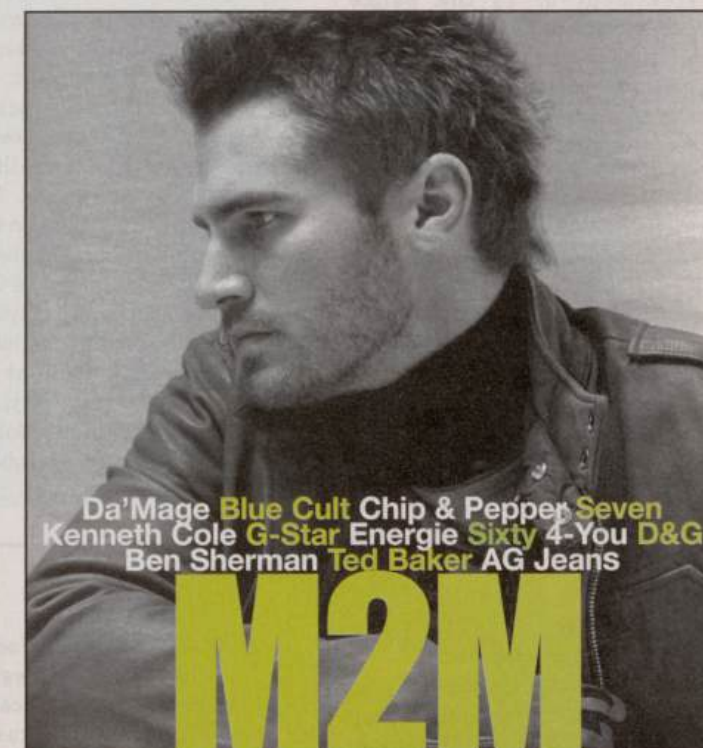
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For help, we checked with Sally Huffer, community projects specialist at Montrose Counseling Center:

My immediate concern is for your safety. If you need medical assistance, call 911, and then call Montrose Counseling Center at 713/529-0037 or, after business hours, Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston at 713/529-3211. A switchboard volunteer will get in touch with the counseling center's Anti-Violence Program advocate. The advocate can accompany you to the hospital for treatment or to the police department to fill out a report.

If you're not safe at home and need immediate shelter services, the advocate can place you in a room of your own in an undisclosed location for as many as 14 days to give you time to meet with a professional therapist and decide what your next step will be. If you're not ready to leave right now, the therapist can help you put together a personal safety plan so that when you are ready, you'll have the tools you need to make the break and step out on your own. If you sense danger, leave immediately. You can always go back to get anything you may have left behind.

ON THE WEB:

For more information and resources, check out www.outsmartmagazine.com. October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Need help with a problem?
Send your question to
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COMING OUT ON OCT. 11

In this election year, the theme for National Coming Out Day is "Come Out. Speak Out. Vote." All day and throughout the month, Human Rights Campaign, the advocacy group that spearheads the nationwide effort, encourages GLBT Americans to talk about their lives and the significance of this election for civil rights.

"This year, we need more than 'I'm gay and it's OK,'" HRC president Cheryl Jacques has remarked. "We must talk to and involve our families and friends. Their voices are some of the strongest in the fight for equality."

Local groups that have scheduled National Coming Out Day events include:

HRC Houston. Bo Shuff, national HRC senior field officer, will moderate a panel discussion at an October 11, 7:30 p.m., town hall meeting at Stages Repertory Theatre. "We will be talking about the variety of ways the coming-out process impacts political action," Shuff said in a recent phone interview.

GLOBAL. The student group at the University of Houston central campus, Gay, Lesbian, or Bisexual Alliance, has planned a week of activities. These include an October 11 rally; "Out on Greek Row and Out on the Field," an October 12 panel discussion; an October 15 UH Gay Alumni Picnic; and the October 16 Gayla dance at Club O. Details: www.uh.edu/global.

GLASS. The student group at Texas Southern University, Gay & Lesbian American Student Society, will host a mixer/forum on October 14. "This is a

fun, relaxed way for people to tell their coming-out stories," group coordinator Tamira Augustine said. For more information: tsuglass@yahoo.com.

GATHER. One of the two Rice University student organizations, GLBTQAs Advancing Towards a Harmonious Environment at Rice will present an October 18 talk by Matthew Gallagher, Dignity USA executive director, as well as a coming-out exhibit. Details: www.ruf.rice.edu/~gather.

PRIDE@Rice. The other student group at Rice plans a benefit car wash, sharing proceeds with a local AIDS organization, and other activities. "We will also be giving out ribbons to all students and faculty to show their support for LGBT students on campus," Matt Oertli, PRIDE co-vice president, said. For more info: www.ruf.rice.edu/~pride.



HRC's Bo Shuff to moderate panel discussion

GLOSS. The Gay-Lesbian Organization of Students in Support at North Harris County College will distribute rainbow ribbons on October 11 and screen *Trembling Before G-d* on October 18. Details: Janice Hartgrove, 281/618-5526 or hartgrove@nhmccd.edu.

GLOBAL/Lamar. The student organization at Lamar University in Beaumont will travel to Houston to participate in UH GLOBAL events, according to president Jackie McLain. Details: 409/466-7419.

Unity Club. The student group at University of Houston-Clear Lake will present a campus display with GLBT information and ask people to sign solidarity pledges. Details: www.geocities.com/uclunitedclub.

STUDENT MEET SET

OUT Texas will present the second Collegiate Conference of GLBT campus organizations at Texas State University-San Marcos, October 29-31. Activities will include workshops, a panel discussion, and the Saturday-night Bobcat Ball, the once-a-semester benefit drag show at Gordo's on



the Square, hosted by the local student group, Lambda. "Fifty-five students from six or seven different schools" attended the first conference in 2003, according to Ted Ingwersen, one of the coordinators of the annual event. For information and registration: www.lbjsc.txstate.edu/caso/otcc. ■

16-year-old Tracy Turnblad has a dream as big as her hair. Can she get the guy and still have time to **change the world?**

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SWINGERS

In this election, how can anyone be a swing voter?

For months and months, all I've heard about are "swing" voters. You know, those voters who have allegedly not yet made up their mind and could swing to either presidential candidate at any time. The term *swing voter* makes me nervous. Maybe that's because I don't know any.

On the contrary, everyone I know is already committed to either Bush or Kerry at this point. And they're really committed. I don't know anyone who is lukewarm. Nobody says to me, "I'm leaning toward Bush but I could go for Kerry," or vice versa. This makes sense to me. We're less than 30 days out from the election, and everybody I know made up their mind long ago.

In fact, how could someone not know who they're voting for by now? What is a swing voter? Who are these people? What else do they need to know to make a decision? Could the difference between Bush and Kerry be any greater?

Let's take Bush first. While we might not have known what he would do four years ago when he first ran, we sure know now. Bush has a record. He favors tax cuts across the board, but tax cuts that disproportionately favor the wealthiest Americans. He's not bothered by a federal deficit, which is projected to be \$422 billion this year. He doesn't mind massive federal programs, as reflected by his Medicare program, which will cost \$534 billion over the next 10 years. He is the first president to institute a "pre-emptive" approach to war against a country that does not pose an immediate threat. He is opposed to abortion and stem-cell research. He supports a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage. He watched while the assault weapons ban expired and did not lobby for its renewal. He appoints judges to the federal judiciary that are exceedingly conservative, and he will, by his own admission, appoint someone like Scalia or Thomas

to the Supreme Court should a vacancy arise in his next term, which would almost certainly mean an end to *Roe v. Wade*. And, he believes that the outsourcing of American jobs is just another part of the free-market system that constitutes good ol' American capitalism.

Now for Kerry. Kerry has his own record, having been in the Senate for 19 years. He opposes tax cuts for the wealthy and opposes tax cuts that would increase the federal deficit. He favors repealing Bush's tax cuts for those who make in excess of \$200,000. He supported Clinton's 1993 federal deficit reduction package that reduced the federal deficit by increasing income taxes almost exclusively on the highest-earning 1-2 percent of households. He opposed Bush's \$534 billion Medicare bill. He voted to give Bush the authority to institute a preemptive war against Iraq. He is consistently pro-choice and pro-gay rights and was one of only 14

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GAY FIRST, REPUBLICAN SECOND

The vote not to endorse Bush boosts Log Cabin's strength

The decision by the Log Cabin Republicans not to endorse George W. Bush does two important things. It maintains LCR's integrity as a group dedicated to equality for gay Americans. And it may actually increase LCR's influence within the GOP.

Before discussing the decision, I should explain my past affiliation with LCR. I was president of the Texas chapter for three tumultuous years in the 1990s, during which we fought precinct-level battles within the party, unsuccessfully sued the Texas GOP for refusing to honor an agreement to give us an information booth at the 1996 state convention, and staged a protest against the party for again refusing us a booth in 1998. I also served briefly on the LCR national board. Although I have many friends in LCR, I no longer have any role in the organization.

There has long been a basic divide within the group. In one corner are the "gay-first Republicans," members who generally sup-

port traditional Republican policies on taxes, spending, and foreign affairs but whose main purpose is to advance their passionate belief in gay equality. They are deeply distressed by the party's antigay attitudes. They figure that equality can never be secure until both major parties support it, and that this requires having gay advocates within the GOP. Their belief in most Republican values is genuine, but their activism in LCR is primarily strategic. It is mostly an attempt to advance gays' standing among Republicans, not to advance the GOP's standing among gays. They are gay first and Republican second.

In the other corner are the "Republican-first gays," members who consider themselves Republicans-who-happen-to-be-gay. The party's antigay positions bother them but not to distraction. Far more important to them are the party positions they agree with, like its foreign and economic policies. Their

involvement in LCR is primarily an expression of their disgust for left-dominated gay politics and reflects a desire to bond politically and socially with like-minded gay people. They are Republican first and gay second.

There are gradations of views in between, but these poles roughly describe things. I have always been much closer to the gay-first Republicans.

It has never been accurate to charge, as some benighted people do, that either of these groups is self-hating. Neither supports antigay policies, which is what the slander of self-hatred implies. The gay-first Republicans are every bit as dedicated to gay equality as anyone in the gay-rights movement, but believe there is a distinct and essential role they can play in advancing it. The Republican-first gays also oppose antigay policies, but give a higher priority to nongay issues like taxes, just as some gay liberals give a higher priority to nongay issues like →



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LeftOut continued from page 22

senators to vote against DOMA (the Defense of Marriage Act that Clinton signed). He opposes Bush's call for a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage. He supports stem-cell research. He supports renewing the assault-weapons ban. He says he would appoint judges to the Supreme Court who would uphold *Roe v. Wade*. He is opposed to the outsourcing of jobs and supports legislation that would punish companies who do it.

In short, no matter what side of any issue you're on, Bush and Kerry don't agree about many issues. This should make choosing between the two relatively easy.

It's easy for me. I've voted in every presidential election since 1980, when I was 18 years old. Carter/Reagan; Reagan/Mondale; Bush/Dukakis; Bush/Clinton; Clinton/Dole; Bush/Gore. And I can't recall an election that presented a starker contrast than Bush versus Kerry does. I've never approached a presidential election with more fear than this one that my guy might lose and that the country will not be able to handle four more of the other guy. I'm sure that Bush's supporters feel the same way, that the country can't handle four years of John Kerry in the White House. And while I might disagree with them about who is more fit to lead, I can understand their passion to re-elect Bush equals my passion to defeat him.

What I can't understand is the complete lack of passion that must exist in these swing voters. Who are they? Where have they been for the last four years? Who do they agree with on the issues, Bush or Kerry? What will they ultimately decide on November 2? And can our country really be in the hands of this small group of people who have yet to make up their minds about one of the most critical elections in our country's history?

Be afraid. Be very afraid.

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

OutRight continued from previous page

abortion. At worst, the gay-first Republicans can be faulted for occasional tactical errors; the Republican-first gays, for misplaced priorities. But neither group can fairly be indicted for internalized homophobia.

LCR's vote, by a 22-2 margin of the national directors, not to endorse Bush was primarily a gay-first Republican decision. It was a strong affirmation that the basic mission of LCR is to advance gay equality within the GOP, not to support GOP candidates at all costs.

But even some Republican-first gays in LCR supported the nonendorsement. Bush's

betrayal of traditional conservatism on matters like fiscal responsibility and free trade made it easier. Republican-first gays could also justify nonendorsement as a way to nudge the party away from extremism and thus to serve the long-term political interests of the GOP.

As long as a Republican candidate is making serious progress toward supporting gay equality, it makes sense for a partisan organization like LCR to endorse him, even if he is objectively worse on gay issues. LCR helps the cause by showing GOP candidates there are rewards for good behavior.

That's why LCR's endorsement of Bush in 2000 made sense from a gay-rights perspective, even though Bush was objectively worse than Al Gore on gay issues. Bush had publicly met with gay Republicans—the first time a GOP presidential nominee had ever done so—and had pronounced himself a “better man” for having met them. He was making progress.

One million gay voters backed Bush in 2000, 25 percent of the total gay vote. In return, Bush continued to make progress by appointing openly gay people to his administration and by maintaining a federal non-discrimination policy covering sexual orientation.

Now Bush's advisors have decided that the way to win is to gin up enthusiasm among religious conservatives. So Bush has backed, and has campaigned on, a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage.

That's why the LCR nonendorsement of Bush this year makes sense. Bush has taken a giant leap backward by actively supporting an amendment that is qualitatively more deadly to gay equality than anything any president has ever supported. It's a completely unnecessary and unforgivable betrayal of basic constitutional values.

If LCR had endorsed Bush anyway, that would have ceased to be an organization devoted to gay equality. The organization would have become simply another obedient auxiliary of the GOP, albeit one with a twist in its martini, and above all one that Republicans could take for granted.

Thus, this very act of defiance may ultimately make LCR a more viable force in the party. If significantly fewer gays vote for Bush this year, LCR will have helped demonstrate that even among Republican voters there is a political cost to being antigay. That might make the GOP think twice next time around.

Writing from the conservative side, Dale Carpenter began his column for OutSmart in 1994, when he lived in Houston. Now residing in Minneapolis, Carpenter is a University of Minnesota Law School professor.

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by Annise D. Parker

BUILDING FAMILY

A child is waiting. So are Annise and Kathy

Kathy Hubbard, my life partner, and I have two adopted daughters. This is the third installment of an article I began in the August issue about our journey to adoption. The September column ended with our deciding to pursue placement of a seven-year-old girl.

We asked for more complete information on the seven-year-old biracial girl, Marquitta. We had a small picture and a verbal description, but no real information. We visited with her CPS (Child Protective Services) caseworker, who put together a redacted case file (two full boxes) and a couple of recent Polaroids. After combing through the boxes, we culled out a three-inch stack of usable data.

She was from a large sibling group that had been in foster care four years. Parental rights had been terminated after the first year. Her family history was one of extreme

neglect and physical, emotional, and sexual abuse documented by two other states before Texas finally removed the children. She was in her third foster home since the original emergency shelter. Her most recent foster mother had experienced emotional problems and had abruptly abandoned her and another foster child in a public place! IQ testing done early in her foster placement indicated possible mild retardation and lead exposure, although she was on grade level in school.

There were red flags everywhere, but something told us to keep going. Of course, by this time we had a rather jaundiced view of the accuracy of CPS records. She also had a new caseworker. We asked for a meeting with her current foster mother.

We had a conference call instead. The child was described as normal, albeit high spirited. She was on medication for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

(ADHD), with another medication to help her sleep. She played well with other foster children and was generally well behaved. She saw a therapist periodically. This sounded better!

After the call, Kathy and I discussed moving forward. We had a frank exchange on what would happen if our lesbianism became a problem, either with the child or her foster parents, who were fundamentalists. Foster parents are generally required to support adoptive placements, but plans were made in case they were disruptive.

We scheduled a meeting with her second-grade teacher, who said she was bright, well liked, and fun to have in class. We began to relax a little.

In addition to the home study and related materials compiled on us as prospective parents, we also created a Life Book. We made a photographic journal of

our home and pets. We talked about what we liked to eat and showed pictures of hiking trips and us playing board games. This was something a caseworker could look at, but ultimately it was a gift for our child. The CPS worker would use this to bring up the subject of having two moms.

First Date

The adoption placement process is a bit like a matchmaking service. Our first meeting was as nerve-racking as a blind date, complete with chaperones. The home was in rural Fort Bend County. We were met there by our social worker and her caseworker.

Marquitta was an exceptionally pretty girl with a shy smile. She was small, with spindly arms and legs, and sat quietly. Her hair was in multiple pigtails. We sat on one side of the room. She sat on the other with the social workers on either side. We had brought a Beanie Baby for Marquitta and a big fruit basket for the family.

The three of us tried to make stilted conversation. Marquitta was given permission to have some fruit. She began to compulsively munch strawberries from the fruit basket, one after another. We asked about favorite activities. She liked to do all

the things we did. It quickly became apparent she had memorized our life book and was feeding it back to us!

After an hour, we regrouped outside. Kathy and I looked at each other. We knew this was our daughter. I said something like "Oh my, she's a pistol. We're in big trouble."

We Hit the Wall

Next came a Saturday visit, then three Saturday night stays. All went extremely well. We made an appointment to sign the papers on Halloween and planned her first trick-or-treat. Three days before Halloween, I found a terse message on my answering machine that the appointment had been canceled. It was 24 hours before I could get anyone to call me back, another day to get the story. Finally, our social worker told us Marquitta no longer wanted to live with us. She didn't want to be exposed to our sinful relationship.

All the plans about how to cope with this issue were quickly forgotten. Oh, and she was assigned another new caseworker. Apparently (as we pieced together over the next two weeks), the foster family had figured us out. They told Marquitta she would go to hell if she lived with us, and an

older foster sister told her some creative propaganda about lesbian debauchery. She flipped out.

We were devastated, but angry. We demanded a summit with CPS and the agency for the foster parents. We made it clear to CPS that we thought they had mishandled the crisis and that the foster family had violated their contract.

We also requested an exit meeting with Marquitta, in the presence of her therapist, to provide closure, although we still hoped to go forward with placement. Remarkably, all the professionals agreed with us and supported our position, although they did not expect the exit meeting to go well.

To Be Continued

I said I'd finish this month, but you'll have to wait for Part IV! If you missed the first two installments, you can read them at www.outsmartmagazine.com.

Annise Parker is city controller and the highest-ranking openly GLBT elected official in any of the 10 largest U.S. cities. Her city website is www.ci.houston.tx.us/citygovt/controller. Parker's television program, Money Matters, airs Mondays on the Municipal Channel (TimeWarner Cable 16) at 2 and 8 a.m. and 2 and 8 p.m.



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LOVE WINS OUT

Religion alienates two gay men, but their Christian belief endures

Jeffrey, 20*

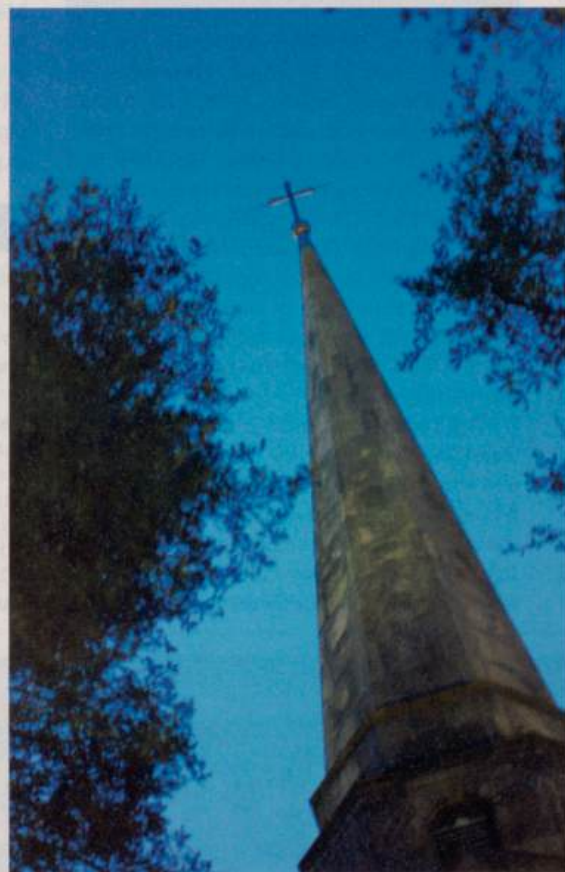
The Bible is very clear about this. There is no gray area. It is completely black and white on this issue. Homosexuality is an abomination!"

This is a recurring statement my father makes in conversations about my "perverted, gay lifestyle." I grew up in a very fundamentalist Christian church. If you have seen the new movie *Saved!*, you might get a feel and taste for how I grew up. My family attended church every Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Wednesday night. I was taught to love and serve Jesus, and to live the way Jesus would live. I was extremely active in the church. I would attend summer church camps and retreats year after year. I truly loved Jesus and being Christian, and I still very much do to this day.

My church, however, had also taught me that being gay is a dreadful, horrible sin, and that all gays and lesbians must repent or suffer everlasting fire and condemnation in hell. Ever since I can remember, I knew that I was different from everyone around me. When I entered my teenage years, I began to realize what made me so different and unique: I'm gay. Realizing the fact that I was gay was very devastating for me. I could not be gay. I would rot in hell if I were! For most of my high school days, I remained silent and ignored my sexual orientation. I would go to sleep at night crying and begging God to take away my gayness and my feelings for guys, so I would not have to go to hell. This was an extremely lonely, scary, and agonizing period in my life.

At the beginning of my senior year, I began to start questioning my church's stance that homosexuality is an abomination against God. I started to realize that I never chose to be a gay person. It is a part of my life that I cannot help. And during this realization, I knew that my love for God and his son, Jesus, had not changed. I still very much believed in the

*Because of the age of the writers and the need many have for confidentiality, OutSmart will identify most H.A.T.C.H. contributors by first names only.



YVONNE FEECE

basic principles of my faith. I began to discover that God loves and accepts me just the way I am. These new realizations angered me toward my church. I felt betrayed because of all the years of indoctrination, teaching me that I must reject my inner self or otherwise suffer an eternity in hell.

It has been three years since I accepted my sexual orientation, and I'm 20 now. I continue to go to the same church while I'm living at home and going to college. I'm not out at church, and I'm not as active as I once was in the church. I love my church family. They are just naïve and ignorant about the gay issue.

My relationship with Jesus is personal. After all the years of false teaching, I did learn one great truth: God's love is greater than anything in this world. And that love is what has kept me surviving in my life struggles. I do not have a very good relationship with my father and family. I can

only hope that one day I will have the relationship with my family that I so desperately desire. Until then I have applied to my situation with the church and my family one of the Christian fundamentalists' favorite statements against gays: Love the sinner, but hate the sin. I love my fellow Christians and family, but I hate the ignorance and hatred they display against gay people. Ultimately, I know true love will always win out!

Tom, 18

Well, Tom, if you can't say that homosexuality is a sin, then I can't in good conscience give you communion and would prefer you to no longer consider _____ to be your church."

Two months ago, after five years of extremely active membership at my church, this was it. I was no longer a member of the church where I came to know God. I had been officially *excommunicated*. I am a homosexual male. There is nothing that can change that. It is simply the way God has created me and others like me. Through this experience, though, God has helped me to come to know Him more richly and profoundly than ever before.

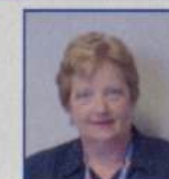
At least in some small way, humans have always longed to know God; however, we have often constructed idols of words or images about God, and then pointed to them as God. Throughout time, this has been disheartening and intimidating to anyone, but specifically to the gay community. It is disheartening to those who know God and are told that they aren't loved by Him because they desire to live as the homosexual men and women He created them to be. It is intimidating to those also who long to know God and seek Him, longing to know who He really is, and then become distracted by what some churches will tell you is God. In both cases God surely exists and is truly present, but is obstructed by law, encyclical, and catechism to the point that some simply cannot see Him.

This happens also when man limits God so that He can only be seen by a small faction that thinks it has a handle on Him. →

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GenerationOut continued from page 28

Because of the laws of man, others are inhibited from seeing God and what He would have us see about Him. Truly, all anyone can do is sit in awe and acknowledge that God in fact *cannot* be nailed down by creed, doctrine, dogma, or the preoccupations of man, but can only be looked at. The only way anyone can understand God is to overlook man's preoccupations and look to God's word and God's ultimate, inviolable act of love for *all* people.

"For God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For He did not come into the world to condemn the world but so that the world might be saved through Him" (John 3:16, 17). When we are hard pressed on every side by those condemning us for who we are, all we can do is look into the loving and compassionate eyes of Jesus, the one whose love transcends understanding and can transform willing hearts.

Some of the young writers involved with H.A.T.C.H. contribute regularly to OutSmart. Their writing program is part of the H.A.T.C.H. Creative Arts Project, which is funded in part by United Way Kids' Way. The phone number for Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals is 713/529-3590.

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The presidential election is still a horse race (at least, it was at press time). A tense, white-knuckle horse race. We can't guarantee that your candidate will win. But we can tell you the victors in the eighth annual Gayest & Greatest contest, including our cover guy, smiling John Aaron Villarreal. You once again named him favorite male personal trainer. We predict that's one result, at least, that won't be contested come November.

PEOPLE

MALE COMMUNITY HERO Don Gill

Runners-up
Ray Hill
Bill White

FEMALE COMMUNITY HERO Annise Parker

Runners-up
Marion Coleman
Sonna Alton

MOST PROMINENT MALE ACTIVIST Ray Hill

Runners-up
Mitchell Katine
Gary Teixeira

MOST PROMINENT FEMALE ACTIVIST Annise Parker

R runner-up
Vanessa Edwards Foster

MOST VALUABLE VOLUNTEER Don Gill

Runners-up
Ed Smith
Jack Valinski

TOP MALE FUNDRAISER Don Gill

Runners-up
Gary Teixeira
Nick Brines

TOP FEMALE FUNDRAISER Barbara Walker

Runners-up
Marion Coleman
Carol Wyatt

FAVORITE DRAG QUEEN Kofi

Runners-up
Kara Dion
SoFonda St. John (tie)
Roxanne Collins (tie)
Lana Blake (tie)

FAVORITE POLITICIAN Annise Parker

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

Runners-up
Chris Bell
Bill White

TOP MALE BUSINESSPERSON Charles Armstrong

Charles Armstrong
Investments, Inc.
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Runners-up
John Frels, Mortgage
Associates of Houston
Todd Partridge,
Partridge Properties

TOP FEMALE BUSINESSPERSON Lea Bogle

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281/575-8500
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Runners-up
Cristina Martinez,
Rainbow Pages
Marion Coleman,
House of Coleman

BEST ATTORNEY Jim Walker

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www.walkertexaslawyer.com

Runners-up
Mitchell Katine, Williams,
Birnberg & Anderson L.L.P.
Bill Green

BEST PHYSICIAN Shannon R. Schrader, M.D.

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

BEST DENTIST Bruce Smith, D.D.S.

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Runners-up
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Joseph Longoria, D.D.S.

BEST EYE DOCTOR Stewart Zuckerbrod, M.D.

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Runners-up
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Marc Sanders, M.D., F.A.C.S.,
Diagnostic Eye Center

BEST CHIROPRACTOR Kenneth Lester, D.C.

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713/526-5252

Runners-up
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Today's Health Center
Jackie Doval, M.S., D.C., C.A.C.,
Alternative Health

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Runners-up
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Denise O'Doherty

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Runners-up
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Tom Zeppelin, R.M.T.,
Zeppelin Massage (tie)
Brick Bishop, Brick Bishop
Massage Therapy (tie)

BEST FEMALE MASSAGE THERAPIST Patricia Held, R.M.T.

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713/869-0011

R runner-up
Stacy Delgado →

John Aaron Villarreal
Best Male Personal Trainer
PHOTO BY JOHN CONROY

ANNISE PARKER
FEMALE COMMUNITY HERO
MOST PROMINENT FEMALE ACTIVIST
FAVORITE POLITICIAN

This election proved that a positive, issue-oriented message can yield a winning margin. This election also makes a great statement about Houston, in particular about the diversity of our great city. All you have to do is look around this room to find people of every race, ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation, and income level, and across the political spectrum—and I expect the vote totals to reflect that diversity as well.

"We are Houston. And we are the promise of Houston—a place where all people are welcome and what you do matters more than who you are."

With those words, Annise Parker declared victory as city controller in the December 6 runoff election. Some of us who have followed Parker's public-service progress—community volunteer, Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus president, business owner, two-time unsuccessful City Council candidate, eventual three-time winner for an at-large seat—might consider her success as just inevitable, something to take for granted. But her achievement is astounding, historic. Parker is the highest-ranking openly gay elected official in any of the 10 largest U.S. cities. And on election night she savored that achievement with her partner, Kathy Hubbard, and their daughters, Daniela Parker and Marquitta Parker. —Tim Brookover

Reprinted from our January 2004 issue.



Annise Parker riding the Metrorail, bound for a mayor's breakfast on January 2 and at her inauguration (below) with partner Kathy Hubbard.
Photos by Dalton DeHart



BEST MALE PERSONAL TRAINER
John Aaron Villarreal
Muscle Mechanics
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www.musclemechanics.com

Runners-up
Jeff Alanzo, Fitness Exchange
Anthony Ramos,
Fitness Exchange (tie)
Michael Koch, Michael Koch
Personal Trainer (tie)

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Kimberly Marler
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Runners-up
Shana Ross,
Your Coach Fitness
Rachelle Welch

BEST ASTROLOGER
Lilly Roddy
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www.lillyroddy.com

Runners-up
Joseph Molina
Kim O'Neill

BEST VETERINARIAN
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713/524-3814

Runners-up
Robin Robinette, D.V.M.
Kristin Olson, D.V.M. (tie)
Jacquelyn D. Marshall, D.V.M. (tie)

BEST INTERIOR DECORATOR
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Runners-up
Troy Broussard, Broussard
Design & Art Consultation
Mark Brown, Mark Brown,
Designer

BEST MALE INSURANCE AGENT
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Agency
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Runners-up
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Shane McShane, McShane
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DON GILL
MALE COMMUNITY HERO
MOST VALUABLE VOLUNTEER
TOP MALE FUNDRAISER
BEST MALE HAIRDRESSER

Albert Camus postulated, in his novel *The Stranger*, that through experiencing death we become more alive. Many people who have survived strokes and heart attacks, and those close to them, have interpreted these experiences as life changing, a second chance at life. For Don Gill, losing two partners in less than two years, in the early '90s, showed him he was similarly learning more about life through loss. Rather than simply continuing to make donations to charity, Gill decided to be an integral part of the charities he chose to support. Since then, he has founded Don Gill Productions, through which he plays a role in a number of organizations. "You cannot be successful at this unless you have a passion for it," he says.

Gill's favorite organization: PWA Holiday Charities, for which he serves as chairman of the board. Twice a year, for Easter and Thanksgiving, PWA Holiday Charities distributes Kroger gift certificates so beneficiaries can prepare holiday meals. In July and December the group distributes cash to individuals on the Colt 45's Trouble Fund list, and also assists in funding cremations and donates phone cards to hospice patients so they can talk to out-of-town friends and family. The Wishful Thinking Fund, another branch of PWA, satisfies various needs like new tires or a moving service.

After more than a decade of overseeing and raising funds, Gill has seized his second chance at life and found meaning as well as a calling. "What I've learned the most about living," says a somber Gill, "is from the 19 people who've died in my arms."

—Eric A.T. Dieckman



Don Gill at home with Kodi.

PHOTO BY TODD RAINER

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 713/957-4297

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 Pat Spiller Insurance
 Jan Stromel,
 Jan L. Stromel Insurance

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 Allison Spear Realtors
 Sean Lane, Rock Edwards &
 Associates, Realtors (tie)
 Richard Hill, Keller-Williams
 Realty (tie)

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 Keller-Williams Realty
 Linda Marshall,
 Linda Marshall Realtors, Inc.

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 Michael Kemper,
 Michael Kemper Salon

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 Monique Poonwalla

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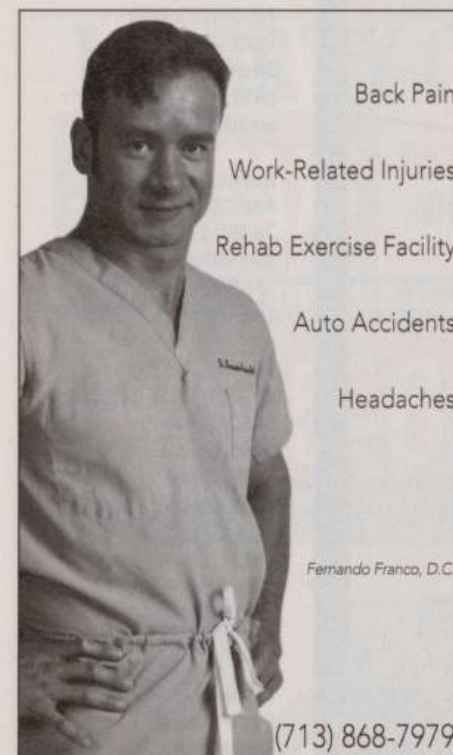
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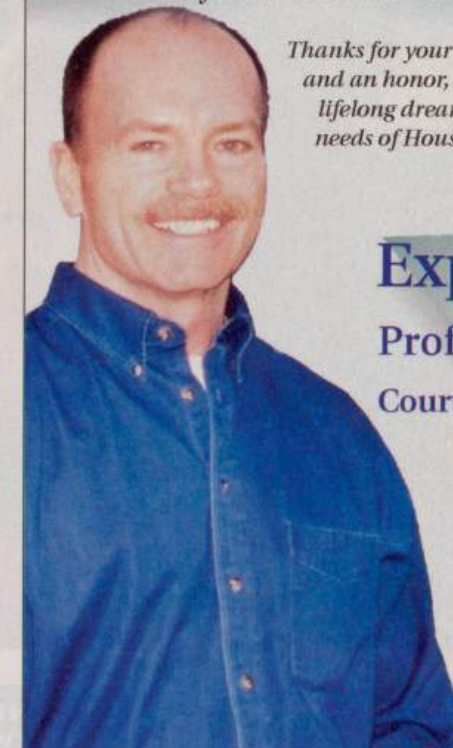
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Cynthia Cooper,
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COMMUNITY

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Bayou City Boys Club, Inc.
www.bcbc.info

Runners-up
H.A.T.C.H. (Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals)
EPAH (Executive and Professional Association of Houston)

FAVORITE PHILANTHROPIC ORGANIZATION
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Runners-up
Bunnies on the Bayou
Colt 45's Houston (tie)
Bering Omega Community Services (tie)

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713/529-6979
www.pridehouston.org

Runners-up
Bayou City Boys Club, Inc.
AVES (Amigos Volunteers in Education and Services) (tie)
Houston GLBT Community Center (tie)

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Runners-up
Jungle 12
Human Rights Campaign
Dinner (tie)
Halloween Magic (tie)

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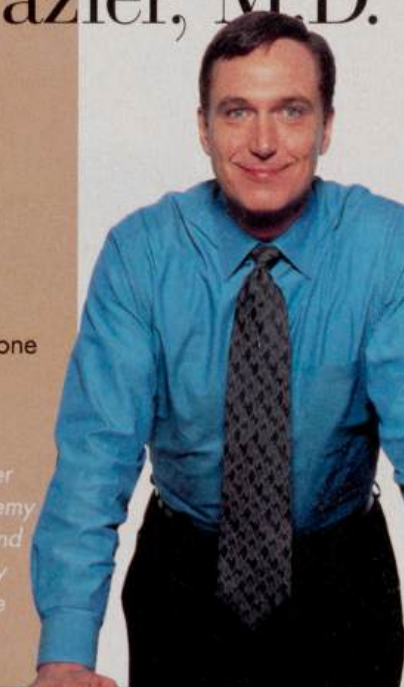
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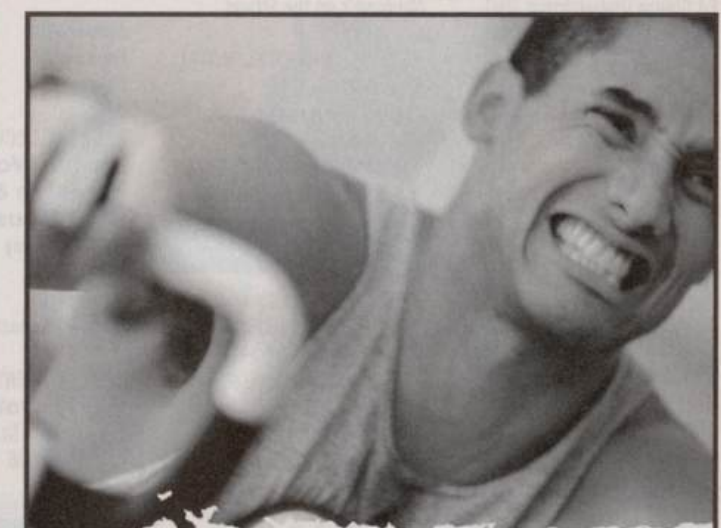
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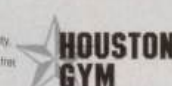


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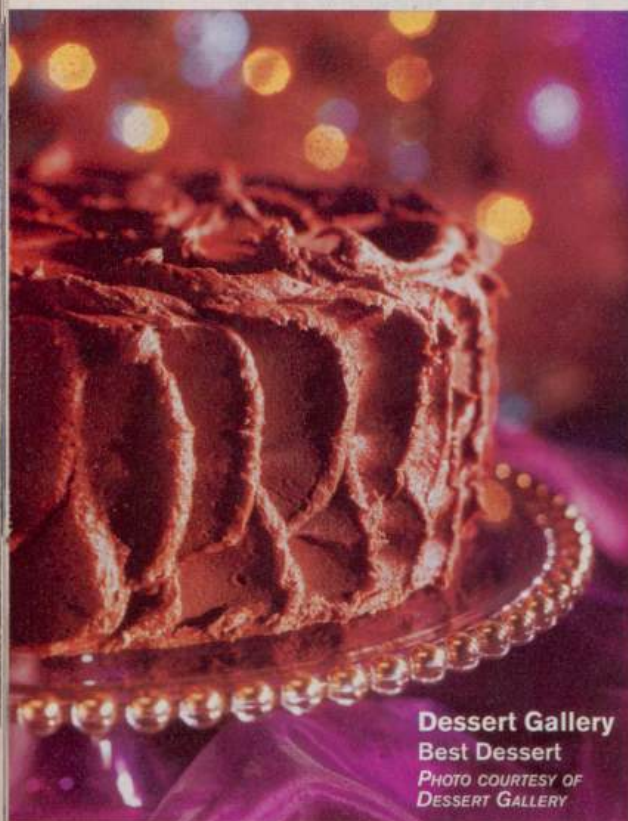
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The Race

Your Kerry vote in Texas probably won't impress the Electoral College. But you can work to affect the results in up-for-grabs states

by Tim Brookover • Photo of John Kerry by Dalton DeHart

Even the most devoted yellow-dog Democrat realizes that the chance of John Kerry winning Texas is about as remote as the prospect of George W. Bush making a toast at Mary Cheney's wedding. But there are still ways you, a blue voter in a red state, can have an impact on Election Day, beyond exercising your patriotic duty and feeling a sense of satisfaction when you click "Kerry/Edwards" on the eSlate in your neighborhood.

"We're working with key activists in states like Texas that have large GLBT communities on making an impact on swing-state votes," reported Eric Stern, director of GLBT outreach at the Democratic National Committee in a recent phone conversation. Stern pointed to two programs:

Road Trip to Victory

"This is a program where we actually help

facilitate the transportation of activists from non-battleground states to the battleground states," Stern said. "We're working closely with a lot of Democratic clubs in those states."

Activists can sign up for duty any weekend or for a longer period in one of those prized battleground states. (Repeat after me: Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin). They will plug into the local campaign, working to turn out the vote by canvassing door to door and making phone calls.

Individuals are responsible for their own transportation. "Ideally, we are asking people to go to a state where they have a free place to stay," Stern said. There may be opportunities to bunk with a Democrat on one's chosen battlefield.

Get more information or sign up at www.johnkerry.com/roadtrip.

From Your House to the White House

"Obviously there are a lot of people in our community who are unable to travel," Stern said. "With those folks, we are beginning to roll out this program."

Host a party and invite other Kerry voters. Have your guests personalize letters to family, friends, colleagues, and former sweethearts in swing states, urging them to vote for the Democratic candidates. DNC has already written the letters for you.

"Underlying this program is really the understanding that what motivates individuals to get up off the couch and vote on Election Day is hearing from someone they know," Stern said. "The message is 'Do it for me.'"

Find a party-planning guide and two sample letters at www.democrats.org/glb.

Don't have the energy to put up with other people, even if they are loyal Democrats? If you can't bear to plan a party, send letters to your swing-state loved ones (and old flames) yourself.

Tim Brookover is OutSmart editor.



ON NOVEMBER 2

1. Vote.
2. If you want to brave the evening with family, attend Vote Equality 2004, the election-watch party hosted by Human Rights Campaign Houston at the Magnolia Hotel downtown. For a \$10 tab, you get a free buffet and the chance not to cheer or cry alone.

LOG CABIN: NIX ON BUSH

On September 8, the national board of Log Cabin Republicans announced that it would not endorse George W. Bush for re-election. Log Cabin had endorsed Bush in 2000. Exit polls indicated that more than 1 million gays and lesbians voted for Bush/Cheney in the last election, including nearly 50,000 in Florida. Details: www.logcabin.org. • The day after the announcement, Log Cabin Republicans Houston president Shari Goldsberry e-mailed us about the decision: "I am proud to be an LCR member. I think it was the right decision for us at this time. Another time, it could have gone the other way."



On the trail: John Kerry visited Houston on March 6, speaking at Houston Community College-Southwest. For information on the Democratic candidate's position on GLBT issues, see www.democrats.org/glb. Details on the positions of both contenders is available on the websites of the Human Rights Campaign (www.hrc.org) and the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (www.nglftf.org).

BEYOND THE PREZ

There are other significant races in this election. Here are some of the endorsements made by the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus:

U.S. Congress Dist. #7: **John Martinez**
 State Supreme Court: **David Van Os**
 Texas Senate #6: **Mario Gallegos**
 Texas Legislature #127: **Charlotte Coffelt**
 Texas Legislature #131: **Alma Allen**
 Texas Legislature #134: **Jim Dougherty**
 Texas Legislature #137: **Scott Hochberg**
 Texas Legislature #138: **Fred Ashmead**
 Texas Legislature #142: **Harold Dutton**
 Texas Legislature #143: **Joe Moren**
 Texas Legislature #145: **Rick Noriega**
 Texas Legislature #148: **Jessica Farrar**
 1st Court Appeals: **Jim Sharp**
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 176 Criminal District Court: **Robert Voight**
 177 Criminal District Court: **Les Ribnik**
 189 Civil District Court: **Bruce Mosier**
 228 Criminal District Court: **Randall Roll**
 334 District Court: **Kathy Stone**



Jim Dougherty faces incumbent Republican Martha Wong in the district that includes Montrose.

See www.outsmartmagazine.com for the complete list of caucus endorsements as well as endorsements of three city propositions by city controller and OutSmart columnist Annise Parker.

VOTE LOCAL, THINK NATIONAL

On election night, keep an eye on the 52 candidates across the nation endorsed by the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund. These individuals include Lupe Valdez, who is running for Dallas County sheriff. For a candidate list, see www.victoryfund.org.

Two hundred seventy-five GLBT Americans now serve in public office, reports the Victory Fund, the national organization that identifies, trains, and supports lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender candidates and officials. That figure represents a 500 percent increase since the founding of the organization in 1991, but a small number compared to the over 511,000 elective offices in the nation's federal, state, and local governments.

More Politics →

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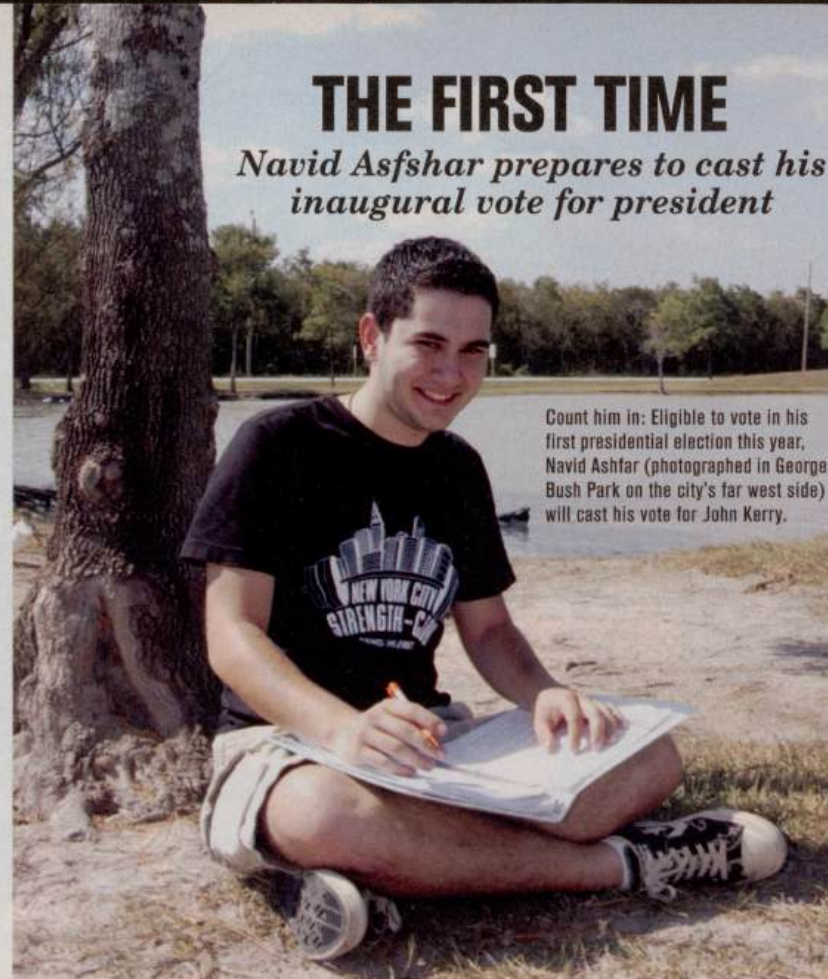
Protest is the flagship release of an exciting new series of world music recordings from ellipsis arts. In it, a Vietnam-era pacifist warning from Pete Seeger encounters an anti-slavery rumba from Congolese composer Papa Wemba, and a controversial tune by Chava Alberstein (known as the "Joan Baez of Israel") joins forces with an elegy for an IRA operative. These are accompanied by impassioned anti-war ballads and broadsides from Algeria, Jamaica, Brittany, Argentina, Lebanon, the U.K., and Sub-Saharan Africa. Exceptionally detailed liner notes provide biographies of the artists and background details about the songs. From ellipsis arts (www.ellipsisarts.com). —Suzie Lynde

POLITICAL WORDS

America (The Book): A Citizen's Guide to Democracy Inaction Foreword by Thomas Jefferson



Since taking over the helm of Comedy Central's ersatz news program *The Daily Show*, Jon Stewart has revolutionized the way millions of Americans get their news. Smart, opinionated, riotously funny, and very gay-friendly, Stewart and his band of merry writers boil down the day's events with witty aplomb, removing the scripted messages of political spin-meisters and exposing American political hypocrisy to withering satire. Winner of four Emmy Awards (two at last month's Emmys' show, the other two the year before), *The Daily Show* is the only "trusted" news source for those who have grown weary of increasingly sensational and artificial network news. In *America (The Book)*, Stewart and his coterie of patriots take their skills as humorists and apply them to a wholly original primer on American democracy—its founding, its institutions and customs, its leaders and lawmakers, its media outlets, and its future. • Following (roughly) the contours of a classic history textbook, complete with Discussion Questions ("What the hell does it mean to 'rock' a vote? Can a vote be R&B'd? Singer-Songwritered?"), *America (The Book)* traces the American democratic experiment in nine easy-to-read chapters, including "Campaigns and Elections: America Changes the Sheets" (chapter 6): Of the three candidates in the 2000 election, Ralph Nader was second only to Al Gore in costing Al Gore the presidency. • Demonstrating the same mischievous blend of humor and fact as its televised cousin, the gay-inclusive *America (The Book)* may not be the last word on American democracy, but it is the funniest. —Troy Carrington



THE FIRST TIME

Navid Afshar prepares to cast his inaugural vote for president

Count him in: Eligible to vote in his first presidential election this year, Navid Afshar (photographed in George Bush Park on the city's far west side) will cast his vote for John Kerry.

By Eric A. T. Dieckman • Photo by Steven David

For many young Americans, the Kerry-Bush race will be their inaugural election. Navid Afshar is one such voter. At 18, he isn't part of either candidate's chief demographic. But he is armed with enthusiasm, education, and a resolve for change.

Afshar, a native Texan, has an Iranian father who moved to the United States 25 years ago, leaving many relatives behind. Needless to say, Bush's stand on the war on terror in the Middle East will affect Afshar's vote. "Iraq is on the western border of Iran. Afghanistan is on the eastern border of Iran. The U.S. has some hold on both of those countries," Afshar points out. "Who do you think the next target will be?"

Like many college students during wartime, the question of reinstating the draft is an issue for him. If such were to happen and Afshar were forced to decide between defending the front lines and defending his relatives still in Iran, he says he would choose family without hesitation.

Still, his Kerry choice is, in his opinion, the lesser of two evils, a solution to a need for change. Afshar says he has had enough of Bush's "violating UN treaties and sanctions and losing respect around the world." Afshar traveled through the United Kingdom and Iran this past summer and listened

to much outside opinion and criticism of Bush's leadership. "No one likes Bush. No one likes what the U.S. government is doing." And that's without even tapping into GLBT issues.

Afshar is not so idealistic that he believes his vote will make all the difference. He is encouraging his father, who usually doesn't make it to the polls, to cast his vote. He says his mother, though a native-born U.S. citizen, is not overtly zealous about suffrage either.

Afshar acknowledges the power lies ultimately in the Electoral College and that Texas is a Republican state, but he remains positive and hopeful. "Voting is my right as an American. I'm going to exercise it. If everyone that doesn't normally vote does this year, I think we can beat out Bush."

Afshar, like most gay Americans (or most Americans in general really), wants to see change result from Election Day on November 2. He isn't considering ever running for office himself. He wants to get his degree in theater, stage manage for a while, and then teach theater in high school. And be a high school drama teacher who votes. "If I don't vote, I have no right to bitch about our next president."

Eric Dieckman interviewed activist Bart Loesser for our September issue.

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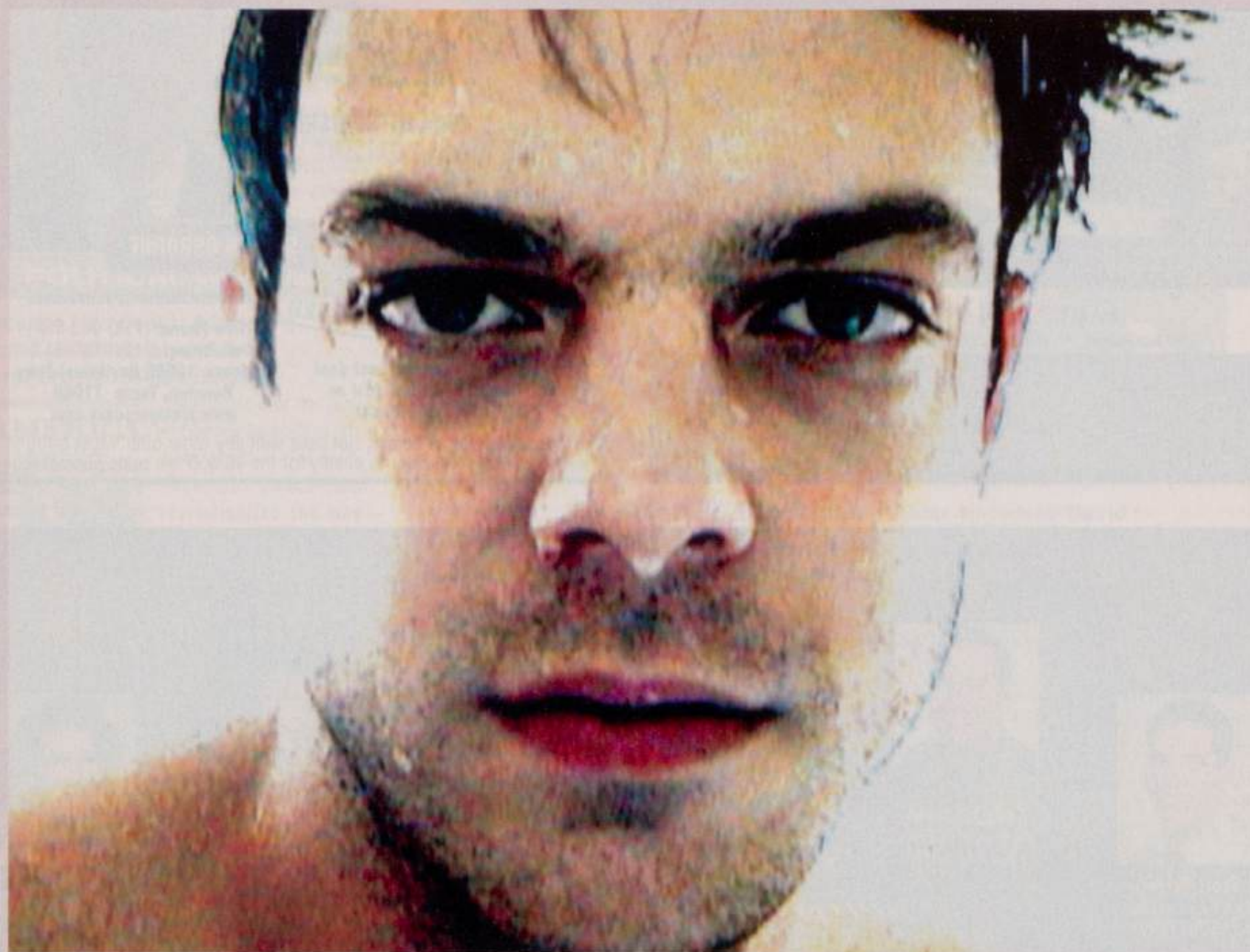
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A Life Up on the Screen



Jonathan Caouette's new movie Tarnation documents, in stylishly queer and creative fashion, the kinds of travails, including abuse and mental illness, that others keep hidden. The Houston native and his film visit this month.

By Lawrence Ferber

When actor Jonathan Caouette auditioned for John Cameron Mitchell's film *Shortbus*, he ended up landing an entirely unexpected role: lauded director/subject of the award-winning experimental feature documentary *Tarnation*.

A visionary, musical, emotional, and wholly original work, *Tarnation* intimately documents Caouette's troubled yet creative childhood in Houston, his relationship with his mentally disturbed mother, revisiting of abusive family members, painful places, and tragic events, and transition into a well-adjusted gay adult. It includes extensive archival footage Caouette had shot of himself from childhood on, much of it precociously queer and always completely compelling. (On October 18, Caouette will appear at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston for a prerelease screening of *Tarnation*.)

So how exactly did Caouette get cast in this filmmaker role through his *Shortbus* audition?

"Jonathan auditioned for *Shortbus* by sending a videotape," recalls Mitchell, the El Paso-born creative force who made and starred in *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*. "We had a nationwide search, and his tape included bits of this film that became *Tarnation*. It was so compelling, and we kept in touch about that." Now an executive producer on the project, Mitchell put Caouette in touch with his friend, the filmmaker Stephen Winter (whose credits include *Teach Yourself How to Become a Drag Queen 101*), who signed on as a producer, and later director Gus Van Sant (*My Own Private Idaho*, *Good Will Hunting*), who lent his name as co-executive producer. These high-profile connections and *Tarnation*'s powerful content—edited on Apple's free iMovie software—led to screenings at New York's Mix festival, Sundance, and Cannes, and to American distribution by Wellspring.

To discuss making the film and life before and after—not to mention whether he got a role in *Shortbus* (Mitchell's buzzed-about project, slated for a 2005 release, featuring sexually explicit scenes) after all—I spoke with Caouette, Winter, and Mitchell.

Lawrence Ferber: Did anyone purposely use his or her *Shortbus* audition tape to sneak you works-in-progress that you

might get involved with?

John Cameron Mitchell: Yes, hundreds of people did. People do that all the time. But Jonathan didn't give it to me as his film. He gave it as an audition tape, which included bits of his film, him performing a wonderful monologue, and having sex with his boyfriend [*Shortbus* was originally called *The Sex Film Project*]. He had the battered woman scene where he's kind of imitating his mother at 11 years old, in drag, talking about being beat up. It's overwhelming. It was unlike anything I've seen and only the tip of the iceberg.

What were the touchstones for you?

JCM: The honesty. The pure, absolute honesty, the style, the panache. The great musical taste. Gay is such a marketing ploy now. I shudder at the thought of kids watching *Queer as Folk* and *The L Word*, thinking that's what they're supposed to be. It's horrifying. And if they can see this and see there's so many other ways to be, no matter what circumstances you come from, and not to run into the sheep fold. You've been given this gift of being different. You might as well use it. And at the same time this is the story of an unbreakable bond—love between a mother and son.

Was it more difficult to deal with past footage or the recent stuff?

Jonathan Caouette: Oh gosh, both. [But] the older stuff I can objectify better because I'm older. There's a real disassociative factor to it. Here's this kid—I don't even look at it as myself anymore—look where he was and went to and look where I am and isn't that interesting? Because I've literally had to reinvent myself. I was telling John the first day I met him [that] the only thing I can compare it to metaphorically speaking is being brought up in a religious cult and having to deprogram yourself from it and



Jonathan Caouette: "I was the opposite of a pedophile, I guess—always trying to seduce older men."

acclimate to the rest of the world, which is what I've done.

What footage actually makes you cringe?

JC: Me imitating the battered wife. There's one line where I sound just like Judy Garland, just like f--king Judy Garland, and it makes me cringe. I should have cut that.

As a preteen you would pretend to be a Goth girl. Did anyone ever try to pick you up?

JC: Yeah, yeah. My whole objective was to seduce any man I could no matter how I looked. That was my thing about getting into this gay teen club, Visions, in which the only way I was able to get in was to dress as a petite Goth girl. It was an 18-and-up club, but I was going at 12 and had a very sophisticated sort of way of getting in and manipulating the situation to where they really did think I was a Goth girl.

Ever go home with a straight guy?

JC: Of course. They were straight and knew I was a boy at the same time. They were kind of enthralled at the aesthetic. I was the opposite of a pedophile, I guess—always trying to seduce older men.

When was the first time you had sex with another boy?

JC: When I was nine years old. A painter had come over. A 19-year-old, totally hot. He was like Spanish, gorgeous long-haired hippie, pot-smoking hot, hot guy, and I don't know the exact circumstances of what led up to it, but I liked it.

Stephen Winter: The aspect of *Tarnation* that's really amazing to me is how although there is no explicit sex in the film and hardly any nudity, the entire film is still completely drenched in sensuality. In the film we watch Jonathan grow up from a cherubic prepubescent age 11 to a sultry, androgynous teen to a strapping, handsome young man in the present day. Throughout these changes he always comes across as beautiful, vulnerable, warm, and very sexy, while never being vulgar or overt. He's got a screen presence that's like a combination of Jack Kerouac and Marilyn Monroe.

Was there anything you shot or recorded of yourself that got lost over the years?

JC: There are a few things. Various audiocassettes I wanted to include—one where I'm going on about being obsessed with *The Wiz* at the age of eight and actually singing some songs from →

A Life Up on the Screen continued from previous page

it. And there was some various Goth girl footage where I was teasing my hair in the bathroom, spraying my hair, pretending I was Robert Smith.

The original cut of the film was massive, I understand.

JC: It was three hours long. It had literally four different subplots. I have a son, he's nine years old... Another subplot was we delved more into the character of Spooky, who catapulted me into this otherworldly, underground world. We cut him because in real life I don't care for the guy anymore and he isn't a very likable person when you watch him anyway. There was a lot of impressionistic stuff—an opening dream sequence and closing dream sequence and a lot of stuff where the film just narratively stopped and went into this whole tangent of impressionism that a lot of people compared to Kenneth Anger. And in the original cut we played up the angel metaphor, and it's a little ridiculous now that I look back on it.

SW: When I saw that first three-hour cut I was amazed at how he had a mastery of experimental film form, narrative film form, and documentary film form. The stuff that was cut did not get cut because it was bad or it was clumsy. It got cut because the film started telling Jonathan what it really was.

There's a lot of preexisting music and TV/movie footage in the film. Can you talk about the process of clearing the music rights?

SW: I can't think of any independent film that went through as complicated, stressful, and nail-biting a licensing process. Remember, *Tarnation* was created as an artistic labor of love by Jonathan on his home computer without him ever considering it would be released in theaters, much less seen all over the world. That means there are amazing sequences in the film that are edited to songs and are virtually irreplaceable. So we had to get those songs. Luckily, we had the best music supervisor in the business, Jim Black, and most of the gatekeepers of music are really cool, wonderful people who recognized how singular and unique *Tarnation* is and appreciated that we didn't have a lot of dough. There are angels all over this project, baby.

JC: In the end, I'm happy to say we somehow got every single major song needed. We reached out to and got clearance for The Magnetic Fields, Iron And Wine, John Denver, Lisa Germano, Marianne Faithfull, Low, Dolly Parton, Hex, Cocteau Twins, everything, all my favorites! What cues we couldn't afford to get or were simply unavailable to us for whatever reason we replaced with an incredible original orchestral score by John Califra and a phenomenal original rock score by Max Avery Lichtenstein, who fronts the indie band Timesbold.

What about the found footage?

JC: I did have a *Wonder Woman* clip but had to cut it because the American rights are in dispute for some reason over at Warner Bros. The section you're referring to is when

I fall asleep at age 13 watching TV and have this densely layered pop culture dream over the song "Frank Mills" from *Hair*. That section is only about four minutes long, but it has all these quick clips of my favorite movies, TV shows, and other pop culture fodder. Larry McAllister over at Paramount Pictures loved *Tarnation*, so we now have *Rosemary's Baby*, *The Little Prince*, *Come Back to the Five & Dime*, *Jimmy Dean*, *Jimmy Dean*, *Friday the 13th Part 2*, and other great shows from their library. Director Paul Morrissey has become a pal and allowed us the use of clips from *Heat* and *Trash*, with Joe Dallesandro. Marlo Thomas was an absolute angel and gave us the clip from *Free to Be You and Me*. Just all this amazing stuff. When I think of the all-star cast *Tarnation* now has, we're talking Louise Lasser, Diana Ross, Sandy Dennis, Karen Black, William Shatner, Michael Jackson, Roberta Flack, Ruth Gordon, John Cassavettes, Dolly Parton, even Stuart Whitman as the Reverend Jim Jones, it just blows my mind.

Do you feel any resentment against your mother? You were separated from her through most of your youth.

JC: Not at all, absolutely not. I have an unprecedented love for my mother I can't even put into words.

JCM: In a way I always wondered—I don't want to harp on it—but his relationship with his mom was probably better partly because they were separated when they were younger. He calls her Renee rather than mom. It's almost like they're brother and sister. The fact they were separated probably kept that cycle she talks about, the vicious cycle of abuse, from happening. They were like lovers. They were separated by circumstance. Also, the other thing that probably saved them was being gay. Because of having that, those feelings he talks about as a kid—that monologue in the hospital or institution he's in—he knew he was different in this radical way that had nothing to do with his mom. And realized it was almost like sexual desire and romance pushed him to this other place where he discovered art, other freaks like himself, because if he hadn't, he'd probably be in jail or dead if he was straight.

Were there any concerns that you might be exploiting your mother? The scene with the pumpkin, where she's prancing and singing, is so out of control.

JC: I know it sometimes looks like I'm being invasive to myself and my family, but most of what you see in the film is us playing

continued on page 113

Local Color

From a Q&A interview with Jonathan Caouette in the press materials from Wellspring, the Tarnation distributor.

Were there any particular people that guided you in the right direction?

One of the larger inspirations of my life came when I was 12 years old. I got involved with Houston's Big Brothers Big Sisters Association of America and was fortunate enough to be matched with Jeff Millar, the film critic for the *Houston Chronicle*. Since I was a big film freak, it was a perfect match and much better than the dude I had at first, who kept trying to "make a man of me" by taking me to endless baseball games. Over the next four years, Jeff would take me to pre-screenings of films he had to review like *Moonstruck* or *Au Revoir, Les Enfants*. Afterwards, we would go to dinner and break the film down together. We would have very intricate conversations dissecting the plot, and the artistic pros and cons of film in a real detailed "Siskel and Ebert" kind of way. I was very lucky to find an adult who took my love for film seriously and would engage me intellectually about it.

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The Horror of It All!

An interview with Make a Wish filmmaker Sharon Ferranti

by Olivia Flores Alvarez • Photo this page by Blase DiStefano

Houston-based filmmaker Sharon Ferranti just released her first full-length feature film and has already made history. "This is the first lesbian horror film—at least that's what they tell me anyway," laughs Ferranti.

Along with partner Lauren Johnson, Ferranti had completed a 23-minute drama *A Thousand Miles* two years ago. Encouraged by the response to that film, the pair decided to try a full-length feature. After feeling out the market, Ferranti and Johnson decided that a straight-to-DVD horror film was best and that the lesbian audience was among the most open.

"We weren't looking to make a horror film, or even a lesbian film, for that matter," she says. "But after talking to people about the market and the best way to get our foot in the door, a lesbian horror film seemed best."

The story follows Susan (Moynan King) who celebrates her birthday every year by

taking a group of her ex-lovers into the Texas backwoods for a camping trip. It's a tangle of resentments and smoldering desires as Susan and her ex-lovers hop from sleeping bag to sleeping bag.

Bossy and unrelenting, Susan arranges everything for her own amusement, completely disregarding the still tender feelings of Dawn (Hollace Starr), who Susan just recently dumped. Another one of Susan's ex's Monica (Virginia Baeta) has brought along her new girlfriend Andrea (Amanda Spain), who isn't too crazy about the reunion and even less thrilled about Susan's constant digs.

Steve (Eric Vichi) has shown up to shadow the group and keep an eye on his girlfriend Linda (Melenie Freedom Flynn), who is also among the group of Susan's former lovers. When he confronts Susan at a gas station close to the group's campsite, a local redneck (Bob Peterson) sticks up for Susan, and pushes Steve around a little. But instead of a kiss, the wanna-be hero

gets a gruff pushoff.

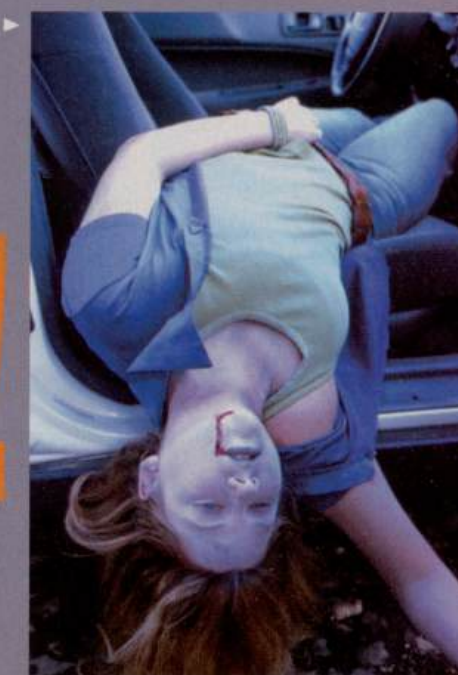
Just as the group heads into the campground, the park ranger (Susan Durham) gets a call about a fugitive on the loose, and a mystery man (Neil Wilson) shows up. Audiences aren't sure if he's the murderer or a private dick on the killer's trail.

The tangle gets more complicated when the women start being killed. One by one, they meet a madman (madwoman?) in the woods and get slashed, shot, sliced, and speared. Since everyone is off on their own, hiking, pouting, or putting out in the woods, no one suspects that the missing women are in any danger. Pretty soon the bodies start to pile up and everyone who isn't dead becomes a suspect.

There are a couple of soft-core sex scenes, just enough to qualify the film as lesbo porn but none so explicit as to get the viewers in a panting heat.

Ferranti, who currently teaches film-making and writing at several public →

◀ Sharon Ferranti knows how to hang out and knows how to direct someone on how to hang out. ▶





Filmmaker Sharon Ferranti

schools in Houston, says, "We made a horror film because it's the easiest kind of first film to make. You don't need a star or a big budget, and people already expect something of a formula story. Even the low-budget look is pretty acceptable."

Some of Ferranti's family and friends chipped in to raise the \$100,000 budget, and others performed in front of or behind the camera.

"My brother Jay did the music. I'm really proud of his work. It sounds great and, I think, adds a lot to the story," she says. That's not sisterly pride talking. The music is actually one of the most professional, well-done aspects of the film, and *Make a Wish* benefits greatly from Jay Ferranti's proficient talents as a composer.

Like many independent filmmakers, Ferranti went on the film festival circuit. *Make a Wish* was an official selection of Outfest, the L.A. GLBT film festival, and Frameline, the San Francisco LGBT film festival.

"The festivals have been very successful for us, and a real learning experience," she says. "You can never tell what an audience will laugh at. The bits that we thought would get a big reaction sometimes don't even register. Then other parts we didn't expect to get noticed, get big, big laughs. It was really interesting watching audiences watch the film. Thankfully, they seemed to really like it."

And the film is very likable, even though the camerawork is plenty cheesy, and both the dialogue and the plot are predictable.

"It's a horror film, get it?" laughs Ferranti. "We knew we weren't making a masterpiece or something to send to the Academy Awards. This is just a fun little film, something to entertain people for a little while, something to showcase some of our talents as filmmakers and actors."

"After this, we'll have something to show other studios, something we completed on time and under budget, something that we had had reasonable success with. That will help us get our next deal."

So does Ferranti mind being called cheesy? "Gosh, no," she groans. "It's a campy film! A campy film about camping!"

"I do hope people like it, of course. And I hope we sell lots and lots of copies! Lots of copies."

"Actually, I hope that this becomes a DVD that people watch every Halloween, like a tradition. It's lots of fun to watch as a group, so maybe people will pull it out every year, watch it together, and say the lines along with the cast or scream at all the right places. That would be fun."

Finishing up the publicity push for the October 19 *Make a Wish* release, Ferranti is already at work on her next project, along with partner Lauren Johnson.

"We're working on a movie called *Contact Sports*, a look at women's softball. It's a romantic comedy, like *Strictly Ballroom*, but with ballplayers instead of dancers. It's going to be fun."

If *Make a Wish* is any indication, it should be.

Olivia Flores Alvarez is an entertainment reporter who frequently writes about the arts for OutSmart magazine and other Texas publications.

Make a Wish DVD Release Party



Director Sharon Ferranti and producers will be present. A Q&A will follow the showing of the film.

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At press time, *Make a Wish* was to be available Oct. 19 at Blockbuster and www.WolfeVideo.com.

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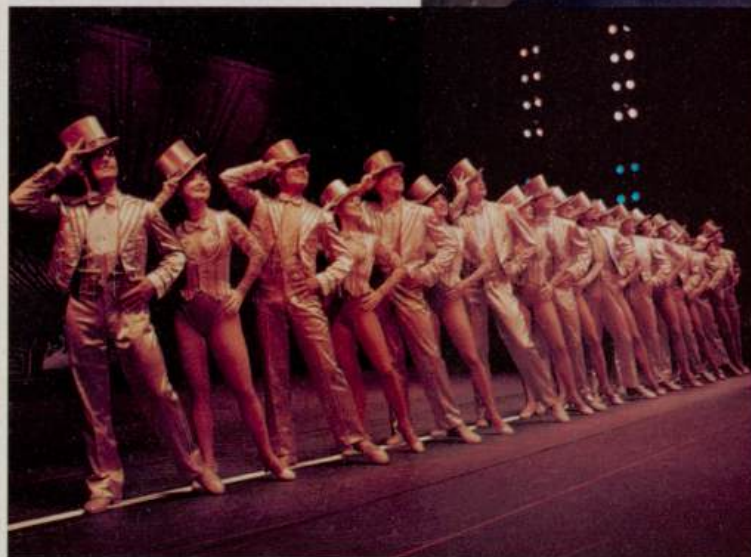
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In 1972, Richard Winkler got his big break. The openly gay lighting designer had moved to New York two years before from his native Michigan and, upon completing design school, had sent letters around to Broadway's top lighting designers. One day, what he thought was a prank call from a friend came from legendary lighting designer Tharon Musser. "She was the best, the most artistic, the most brilliant, the most well-respected, the most sought-after, the most loved lighting designer alive," Winkler says.

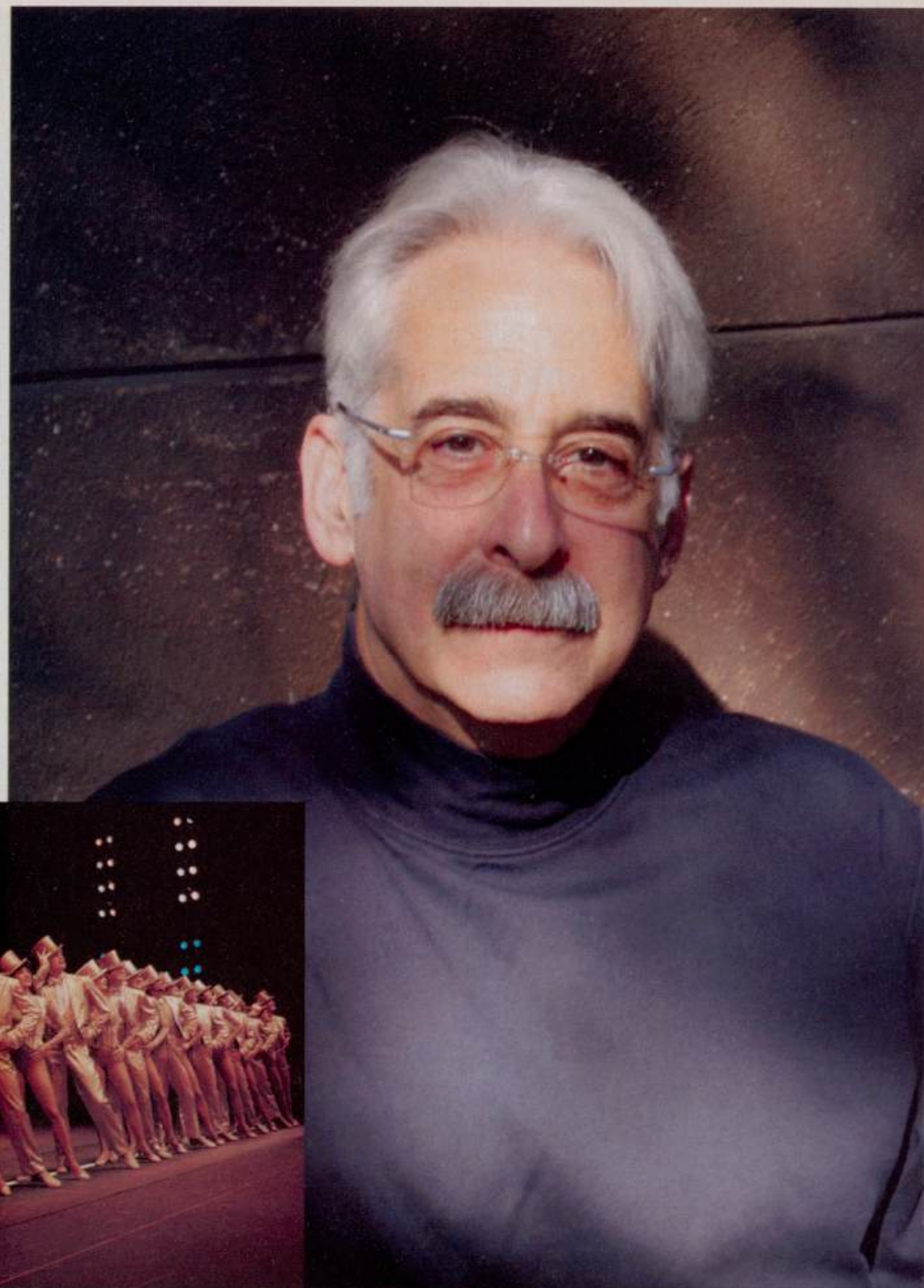
Musser was in Boston doing *A Little Night Music* and when her assistant fell ill, she called Winkler out of the blue and told him there was a plane ticket waiting for him at the airport if he could come right away. Three years later, with Winkler still her assistant, Musser won the Tony for *A Chorus Line*.

Since then, Winkler has gone on to design for Broadway, off-Broadway, concerts, opera, and dance productions in New York and around the world. This month, he



comes to Houston for Theater Under The Stars' 30th-anniversary production of *A Chorus Line* (October 21–November 7 at the Hobby Center). Winkler, 56, has worked with TUTS many times over the years, on shows including *What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?*, *My Fair Lady*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Evita*, *Tommy*, *Pump Boys and Dinettes*, and *Jekyll and Hyde*.

Recently, he chatted with me from his New York apartment about his life lighting up the stage.



Light It Up

Part of the original Chorus Line team, lighting designer Richard Winkler comes to Houston for the 30th-anniversary production of that great American musical

by Bradley David Williams • Photo by Peter Ross

Bradley David Williams: When did you know that you wanted to do lighting design?

Richard Winkler: When I was a kid, I wanted to be an actor. I went to a music camp as a child for seven years. I was a pianist. Finally, when I was in college, I realized I was no good at [acting]. I decided because of the art background I'd had, that I would study scenic design, and then I became interested and curious about lighting design in my junior year of college [at the University of Michigan]. I started to learn about it and I was fascinated by it. I was fascinated by the color. I was fascinated by the emotion. I was fascinated by the translucency of it. There's also an incredible correlation between music and light, because they are both expressions of emotion.

What has it meant to you being a part of *A Chorus Line*?

It has been the best thing and *not* the best thing to have happened to me. I think *A Chorus Line* is one of the best, if not *the* best, musicals ever written. I am honored to have been part of it. I've been with it since the very beginning. It has taken me all over the world. I have done many, many productions of it in lots of different languages. It's been a wonderful help to me. It makes me feel terrific every time I do it, because it's such

"Creativity has nothing to do with your sexuality. It's just the way the DNA falls."

a good piece of work, to begin with, and it's such a classy piece of theater.

And the downside?

It is that people saw me not necessarily as a designer in my own right but as an adjunct to Tharon and as an assistant. Artistically, it's been very rewarding. Financially, it's been very rewarding. But it's taken a long while for this association to become part of the past, because now people, of course, think of me as a designer.

What exactly does the lighting designer do?

What I do is paint the emotions of the actors onstage with lights, with color, and with angle. This is kind of a high-falutin', pretentious way to say this, but lighting designers create the air that the actors breathe. We render the emotion of the moment. And we do that by picking color and angle and type of equipment and where it is within the designs and when [the equipment] gets

turned on and what color is in front of it and when it gets turned off.

Can you take us a little bit through the process?

We create an architectural light drafting, which shows the type of equipment and where it is on the stage and its relationship to the actors and the scenery. Then there is another document that says which lights are connected to each other and what control channel they are in, because each light is in a dimmer. Sometimes each light is in its own dimmer and sometimes it is coupled or tripled or quadrupled with other lights in the same dimmer, or channel. We decide which channels come up and go down at any given moment in the show to paint the pictures of the emotion that we would like to render. All of those pictures that we have in our head should be there before we sit down at the drawing board. You read a script, you listen to the music, you talk to the director, you talk to the scenic designer, you talk to the costume designer. And as the lighting designer, it's then your job to take all of this information, distill it, and create pictures in your head in advance of sitting down at the drafting board to draft this architectural light plan.

Does the lighting designer have a hands-on role to play with each performance?

No, I will set it up along with my assistants, and we will teach it to the crew. Once the show opens, I leave, and that's when the crew runs everything completely. And the guys at TUTS are the best crew in the world.

I love them. They are wonderful men and women and they care incredibly about what they do. They are the people that help make the vision that I have in my head come to life. I enjoy coming to Houston so much because of the management, because of Frank Young and John Breckenridge, who are the producers, and because of the crew. It's like my second home.

I know it's a false assumption that everybody in the theater world is gay, but what about lighting people in particular?

There are lots of gay designers. There are lots of straight designers. The crew, for the most part, isn't. Tharon Musser, certainly, is gay. . . . I mean, creativity has nothing to do with your sexuality, as far as I'm concerned. It's just the way the DNA falls. You know, some of us get creative stuff, and some of us are straight and some of us are gay.

Bradley David Williams interviewed director/choreographer Jeff Calhoun for our July issue.

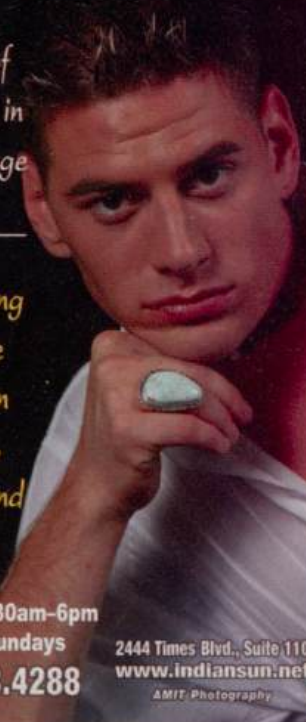
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Check Up A Wise Man

To mark GLBT History Month, we reprint a column written 10 years ago by one of our community's heroes, Bill Scott

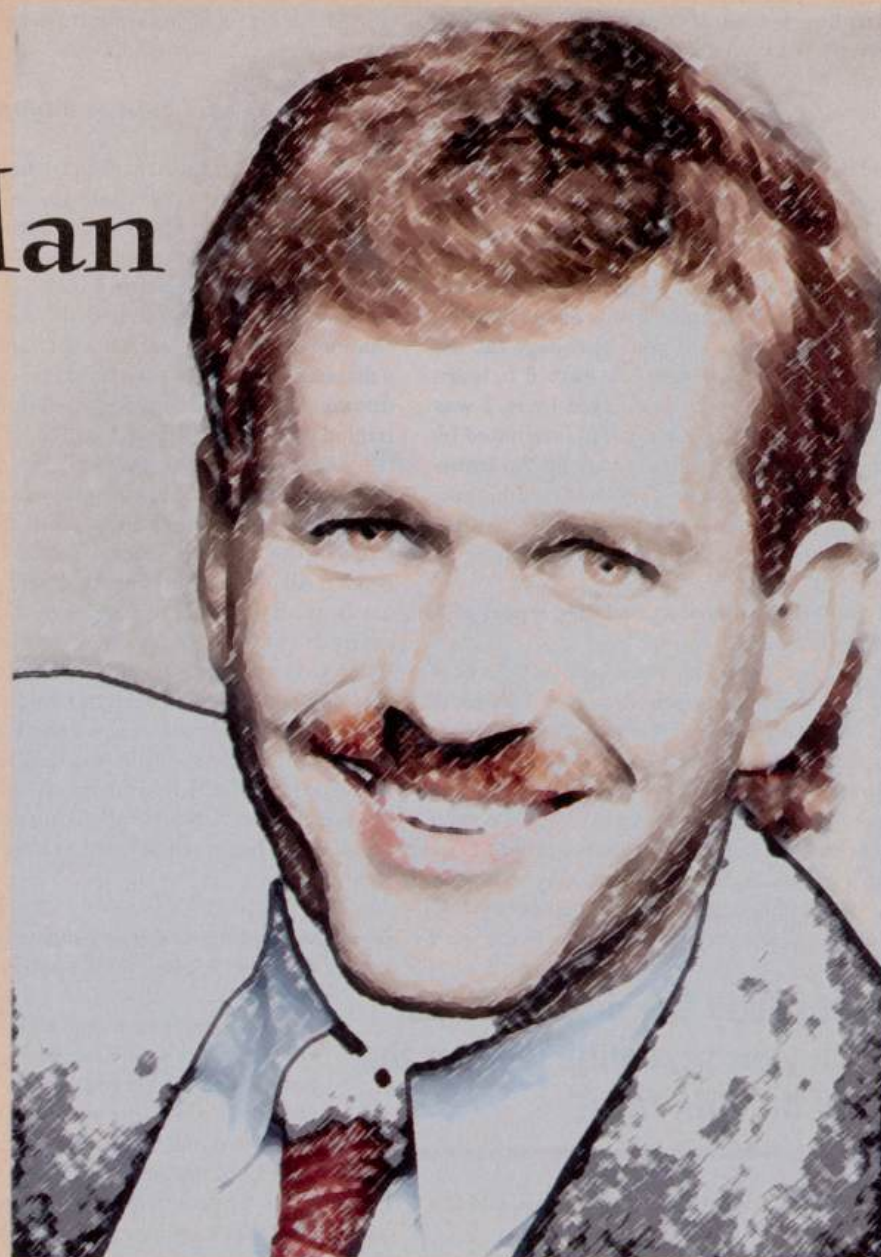
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Every month during our 10-year celebration, we revisit an individual we interviewed or who played a significant role in the issue published a decade ago.

By the time Bill Scott contributed his three-part series "On Being a Gay Man" to OutSmart in 1994, he was an esteemed figure in the community. Among his many accomplishments, Scott had played a significant role in the establishment of several vital service organizations, principally AIDS Foundation Houston, Body Positive (now part of Montrose Clinic), Houston Institute of the Protection of Youth, and Montrose Counseling Center. At the time he wrote for the magazine, Scott was in private practice with the New Hope Counseling Center. He died in 1995 at the age of 46.

This column, "Old Age, Health & Emotional Needs," was the third in his series. All three columns are printed together at www.outsmartmagazine.com.

This article is very important for all persons under 60 because it concerns your future. The American Academy of Science states that if you are 50 years old or younger by the year 2000, your life expectancy (barring HIV exposure) should be about 85 years, and retirement age for some may be the same. Many baby boomers fit this profile, which is a very big group of people. As gay men, our population of future senior citizens is being diminished 30 percent to 50 percent due to HIV disease. Still, estimates suggest that 3.5 million lesbian and gay people are currently over the age of 50 in the United States. Being both old and homosexual can make us confront issues that



the lesbian and gay community may not want to address. (This is significantly clear to me as both a health professional and a community activist because of the absence of any services to the senior population in our community.)

In our exploration of this group, their lives and needs, we must first acknowledge that the family structure has been drastically changing in the United States during the last 30 years. The extended biological family is no longer dominant. This has resulted in the care of elderly being farmed out to nursing homes and other non-family support systems. Respecting and ensuring the care and the quality of life of older persons has been diminished greatly in our society. Most non-Western cultures have historically revered their older community members as wise, contribut-

ing forces who are central to family development. Americans have lost this positive cultural trait. Additionally, gay and lesbian seniors have also endured living as homosexual persons during the 1920s, '30s, '40s and/or '50s—terribly oppressive times for gay people—and may have little to no support from their family of origin. Due to these factors, older gay persons are in great need of support from the gay and lesbian community. "But where are these members of our community?" most people ask. And "Who are these people?"

Older gay people can be found in all walks of life. Some are or have been married. Many are parents and grandparents. They live in both urban and rural areas. They can have great differences in financial resources. Some may have planned for the future and →

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"Still Not Happy?"

Check Up

continued from page 68

some may have not. Some may be angry and bitter, but many are at peace with themselves and their world. Some are in long-lasting relationships, while some have chosen to be single for most of their lives. Many are very open about their sexual orientation, but some older gay persons are still closeted and are in support systems that support "being in the closet"! They never had the political and social incentives to come out that younger gay people have had. Most have met the tasks of aging and are content with a small group of friends, living outside the gay community.

Many older gay men may still have the support of biological family members, but the most significant persons in their social support systems are usually groups that can consist of former lovers, a current life partner/companion, and long-time gay friends. The more affluent older gay men can develop small communities of buying retirement property together in the country or by a lake. Older gay males have an advantage of better coping skills and heightened sense of self-sufficiency over their heterosexual counterparts. Gay men have not depended on a wife or companion to take care of them and, out of necessity, have had to master domestic tasks, household management, and social arrangements on their own.

With most of the life cycle completed during this time of life, personal insight, reminiscence, legacy, and mentor-ship can become important issues for older gay men. The natural life stage (or task) of accepting mortality usually confronts us around the age of 65 or older. The mortality stage is heightened by serious preparation for death—financially, spiritually, and emotionally. Lots of gay men have dealt with these issues earlier than heterosexual men due to loss of peers, friends, and lovers through AIDS. So this task of the aging process may be met earlier in our community, allowing us more comfort and acceptance in the concluding stages of life.

Less is known about the needs and concerns of senior gay men. Like gay adolescents, they too have less access to services and social support from the larger lesbian and gay community and are assumed to be heterosexual by medical and psycho-social providers. Loneliness and fear of loneliness are concerns, as personal networks are diminished by illness and death. Those who are more closeted are at greater risk for social isolation when they lose peer group

members and/or life partners. However, some research indicates that older gay men report high levels of life satisfaction and are far less likely to use mental-health services than younger gay men. (This may be due in part to generational biases regarding personal need for mental-health services.) Those who have more social contacts with other gay people report better psychological adjustment.

While they remain largely invisible to mainstream society, the needs of the gay and lesbian elderly need to be identified and addressed. As the general population ages, so do lesbian and gay Americans. In 1991, one in six people in our country were over the age of 60. Within 35 years, these numbers will increase to one in four. Quality of life, however, is directly related to income and access to care. For gay and lesbian seniors who have experienced lifelong struggles regarding income (lack of employer or survivor benefits, high income-tax or property-tax burdens, and/or employment in marginally low-income jobs), their ability to pay for quality care is a primary concern. Older Americans are the largest consumers of health-care services. Four out of five persons over 65 have chronic conditions that require care—chronic diseases that can limit mobility and independence and can require home care and support services. Discrimination in health care, housing, and long-term care are key concerns for elderly gay people. Few, if any, systems have any training in addressing the needs of older lesbian and gay people and their unique social support systems.

Our community is only beginning to recognize and address the needs of the gay and lesbian elderly, because many older gay people do not seek or cannot find help—because they are old or gay or both. Sometimes it seems easier for gay and lesbian seniors not to ask for help than to risk rejection. We must recognize the great contributions of older gay people to our community and work to assist these social and cultural pioneers in continuing to lead full and productive lives. As a community, we cannot afford to depend solely upon institutions and social support systems that do not recognize our affectional preferences, families of choice, and emotional needs. It is for these reasons that we must endeavor to create support and advocacy programs for our elderly within the lesbian and gay community. We must insure that high-quality, professional help is available now for gay and lesbian seniors in a caring and affirmative environment and for ourselves in the future. ■

I-r: Shannon Schrader, M.D., Dennis Cook, NP, A.C.R.N., Pennye Rohde, P.A.C., Julia Kovacs, M.D.

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Accessible Anime

Anime in Houston reaches accessibility with a little help from director Steven Foster and his gay landlord

by Eric A.T. Dieckman

Interesting thing about ADV's recent anime (AN-nee-meh) release, *The Super Milk Chan Show* (a four-DVD set, two already out): There's a similarity between the series and the PBS show *Teletubbies*. The public television show is targeted at babies; ADV's venture stars Milk Chan, a baby-grrl, as a semi-superheroine. Both shows feature an oddball cast of characters and include live action shorts. (The shorts in *Super Milk Chan* star the voice cast in their own meta-comedy that puts a behind-the-scenes face on the show.) While producer/director/adaptor Steven Foster is unsure as to whether the similarities are intentional, he does admit, "Both projects looked like the creators were high as kites when they came up with them."

The show can also be compared to Comedy Central's *South Park*, with more foul and suggestive language than Matt Stone and Trey Parker could ever slip past the censors.

But what raises our brow is Lalo, Milk's obviously gay landlord. If he was any more flamboyant, he'd be pure energy. Nearly every interaction between Milk and Lalo is rife with talk of *Queer Eye*



Swinger: Does Lalo swing both ways? Only while dancing.

auditions, challenges to Lalo's Pink Card, allusions to Southern Decadence, Cher, and Prince Albert. "His dialogue is more insider," explains Foster. "I put a couple lines in there that just 'the family' would get and, hopefully, appreciate." The overtly effeminate Lalo is voiced by Rob Mungle, a comedian who's more straight than a winning hand in a poker game. For Foster, he "just loved the contradiction" of personalities. "He has to wave his hands, very stereotypically, but if that's what it takes for him to lisp like that, I'm all for it." Also of interest is stand-up comic Tommy Drake, who plays the voice of Dr. Eyepatch. The tall-'n'-handsome Greco-American is also the opening act for Cher's current farewell tour. He spends most of his time in the live-action sequences in drag.

Another interesting thing about *Milk*: It's accessible. "From what we've seen, people who don't dig anime really get into *Milk*," says Foster. His target crowd here isn't anime-philes or mundane sitcom lovers. "It's for those people who like really edgy stuff. I'm not aiming at the crowd who thinks *Life According to Jim* is funny."



Prism Comics: *Your LGBT Guide to Comics* features an exclusive cover by popular comics and commercial artist Joe Phillips, as well as original interviews, articles, reader resources, creator profiles, and 50 pages of exclusive and preview comics from a variety of talented creators.

"It's especially vital to support LGBT voices in a medium like comics," says Prism Comics president Charles "zan" Christensen. "Comics have a visual impact that helps convey complex ideas and tell elaborate stories simply and elegantly. Unlike movies and television, however, the scope of stories in comics isn't limited by financial constraints. A talented artist and writer can produce a graphic novel that is, in essence, a movie between two covers."

"Unfortunately, creating great art is only half the battle," Christensen adds. "To date, most gay-themed material still appears in the small-press and self-published arena, without the resources of large publishing companies to promote and distribute it. Prism Comics aims to help get these engaging and entertaining stories the attention they deserve, and to encourage larger publishers when they support LGBT creators and content."

Prism Comics, a nonprofit organization, works toward these goals with projects like its website, prismcomics.org (to order copies of Prism Comics, visit team.prismcomics.org), and its annual resource guide. ■

OutSmart



Every day, a range of businesses power the community. From advertising firms to health care facilities, these enterprises provide the goods and services that keep life humming along. A SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION – PART II, OCTOBER 2004

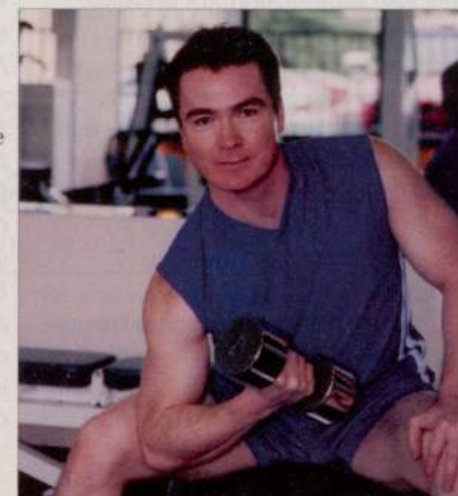
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To preserve an intimate atmosphere, all sessions are based by appointment only, and clients are always accommodated by their own on-staff trainer. At Muscle Mechanics, a client will never be dumped and unattended in a weight room. The intimate atmosphere allows Muscle Mechanics' member-clients to be guided



John Aaron Villarreal has won *OutSmart's* Gayest & Greatest Best Male Personal Trainer two years in a row.

preliminary routines are discussed. Once a schedule is established, the next step is to conduct a Fitness Profile—testing a client's areas of strength, endurance, heart rates, blood pressure, flexibility, and body composition. The final stage is instruction. At this stage the client-member works with the personal training staff to develop movement and exercise routines in order to reach the specific goals first established during the initial consultation.

For more information, visit Muscle Mechanics' website at www.musclemechanics.com or call 713/523-5330 for your free initial consultation.

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Cra-Z-Coil Footwear

A commitment, a baby, a shower, and a funky pair of footwear lead to a new business venture for Houston life partners

Cristi Lington and Vicky Hayes met years ago playing flag football. They started life together by making a strong commitment to each other and planning for the future. In doing so, they worked out a plan to have one of the most precious gifts of all—a child. Vicky and Cristi followed all of the steps to ensure the most healthy diet, exercise, and support from friends to have a safe pregnancy.

However, during the pregnancy, Cristi was diagnosed with gestational diabetes and was told to exercise more and keep her blood sugar count down or she would have a 12-pound baby. Not wanting to deliver a baby of that size, Cristi walked and exercised to the point that she was in incredible pain every night.

"My back was hurting so bad, I couldn't even roll over without crying," Cristi says. "Maintaining my day job and exercising at night became too much to handle."

At their baby shower, Vicky said a friend—Teresa Trammell, from Amarillo, Texas—showed up wearing the funkiest shoes. Teresa said they were Z-Coil Pain Relief Footwear that she'd purchased in Albuquerque and that they were the best thing that ever happened to her. Teresa is a neo-natal nurse in Amarillo and also a Type 1 diabetic. She's been in two traumatic automobile accidents that have caused painful problems in her neck and back.

Needing to find pain relief, Vicky and Cristi looked for Z-Coils immedi-

ately. "Within two days of wearing Z-Coils—YES, two days—Cristi's back pain was gone," Vicky says. "That put two people in our personal lives these shoes have helped. Cool."

Following Cristi's pain-relief experience, Vicky was still working and planning for the baby and had an accident that caused major nerve damage in her



Cristi Lington, Vicky Hayes and Chase Alexandra Lington Hayes

ankle. The diagnosis was tarsal tunnel which is similar to carpal tunnel but in the ankle. The MRI of the ankle and foot also showed Morton's neuroma, which is scar tissue on the nerve between the toes.

"After the surgery, the healing nerves were very painful and the walking boot the doctor provided had no support or cushioning," Vicky says. "I started wearing Cristi's size 9 shoes, even though I am a size 7. But it helped."

"When visiting my mom the following month in Amarillo, I got my first pair of Z-Coils at the 'On Your Feet' Z-Coil store in Amarillo," Vicky adds.

"These shoes made my foot feel better immediately. I took them to my orthopedic surgeon Dr. Eddie Matsu and he wanted a pair right then. The rest, as they say, is history."

Cra-Z-Coil Footwear has been open in Houston now for over a year. Cristi and Vicky recently celebrated with customers during the First Annual Z-TUNE-UP DAY! Customers brought in their Z-Coils for a tune-up and cleaning and to enjoy snacks, a massage chair, and giveaways.

"Our first event we participated in last year was EMPOWER 2003. It was awesome! We could not have been so successful without the support of our friends, family and Z-wearers," Cristi says. "We are touched on a daily basis by our faith in each other, testimonials from our customers, and the kindness of everyone around us."

Vicky would like to extend a special thanks to Dr. Eddie Matsu with Houston Sports Orthopedic, Dr. Sally Andrews, Shirley Knight and the Houston Women's Festival, Barbara Levine Graphics, Coy Tow and Dalton DeHart of The Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce, The Branches of Life prayer group, attorney Peggy Bittick, and the many others who have been so instrumental in the success of Cra-Z-Coil Footwear. And of course, her partner Cristi and baby Chase Alexandra Lington Hayes.



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Franco Chiropractic Clinic

Providing Quality, Effective Chiropractic Health Care

Chiropractor and native Houstonian Fernando Franco developed the mission for his practice early on: to provide quality, effective chiropractic health care so that patients are healed as soon as possible and are equipped with the knowledge they need to maintain a healthy, active lifestyle.

A 1997 graduate of Texas Chiropractic College, Dr. Franco began his practice in New Orleans, where he worked with several chiropractic leaders, including the president of the Louisiana Chiropractic Board, as well as experts in sports rehabilitation. Currently, he is expanding his skills by pursuing certification in acupuncture.



Dr. Fernando Franco

In 2001, Dr. Franco returned to Houston where he became involved with personal injury and the Texas Workers Compensation system. Here in his native city, he also became active as a volunteer and currently works with Bayou City Boys Club, Inc. (BCBC), an organization that raises funds for local HIV/AIDS service providers.

Dr. Franco came into chiropractic care by accident—literally—after being involved in a car wreck that left him with chronic neck pain. A medical doctor prescribed painkillers, but the pain always returned after the medicine wore off. Then a friend recommended chiropractic. "It was a great experience for me. I was impressed by the amount

of time the doctor spent educating me about my condition, diagnosis, and treatment plan, which I received during that same visit. Seventy percent of my pain was relieved after the initial visit, so I continued the treatment plan and within two weeks my pain was gone entirely."

It was this experience that told Dr. Franco what he wanted to do with his life—to help people in the same way that this doctor helped him. In June of this year, Fernando Franco took his mission one step further by opening his own chiropractic clinic.

Franco Chiropractic Clinic

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Spectrum Center Blooms Anew!

—Relocates and Hosts Two-Day Open House

When Spectrum Center opened its doors in February 1988, yoga was considered a strange "flower child" activity, meditation was looked on with suspicion, and the body-mind connection was considered a revolutionary thought. Only a tiny handful of health food stores existed for those who sought alternative means to tackle health issues. But a paradigm shift was about to occur, as the "New Age" became mainstreamed. Those of us attracted to alternative health and spiritual approaches had no idea how quickly acceptance would arrive for what had long been considered edgy and weird.

Our vision of the Spectrum Center was a place which embraced the spectrum of the traditional and nontraditional: where state-licensed professionals would practice next to those skilled in the metaphysical arts; where astrology was taught next door to a CPA continuing education seminar. Rosa Glenn-Reilly and her husband, Tom Reilly, rented a large derelict house in Montrose on wide, tree-lined

Audubon Place. The dream became infectious, and a community of volunteers emerged to create a haven with the credo "Everyone is welcome here."



Michael Wilson chose Spectrum for his HIV-positive support group, the first in the city. For our inaugural event, Spectrum simultaneously hosted an American Indian pipe ceremony and a financial planning seminar.

Rosa sat happily watching as the groups mingled during breaks, exchanging curious questions.

In time, Spectrum Center moved to an office building inside the Loop near the Galleria, and sponsored such internationally recognized teachers as Shakti Gawain, Gabrielle Roth, Lucia Cappichione, Ron Kurtz, Frank Natale, Wayne Muller, and Gordy Ryan. The Center became the center of a thriving community. Extensive professional trainings in Hakomi Body Centered Psychotherapy were held and the Gabrielle Roth workshops spawned a weekly expressive dance community called "Sweat Your

Prayers." However, the workshops began to slow in the late '90s as these teachers became more easily available through churches and universities. In 2001, Rosa's husband and Center co-director Tom Reilly became ill and died. A period of grieving and re-grouping began.

Now the Spectrum Center is "Coming Out" anew. The Center has moved to its new location (still inside the Loop) offering an excellent group of skilled, heart-filled professionals, including psychotherapists specializing in trauma resolution, weight management, and psychological testing; a realm-bending spiritual medium; Ayurveda consultation; yoga instruction; deep relaxing massage; life coaching; spiritual counseling, both Christian and non-denominational; CranioSacral bodywork; and support groups.

You're Invited

Spectrum Center Open House
Friday, October 15, 3-7 p.m.
Saturday, October 16, 1-5 p.m.
4615 Post Oak Place, Suite 188
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Jose McDonald

Bringing Home Ownership to Houston's Diverse Community

Local mortgage broker Jose McDonald brings new possibilities for home ownership to the diverse and growing communities of Houston. In association with many builders and nonprofit organizations, Jose has developed unique financing options for public service workers (medical, teachers, police, firefighters, and their support staff) as well as the rapidly growing Hispanic community.

Jose and his company have worked endlessly with their investors and underwriters to create low-interest, low-cost move-in programs. These programs are designed to benefit the hard-working community employees and the ever-growing nonresident

immigrant population. Unlike other mortgage brokers, Jose uses private and family funds to provide more lending opportunities. Growing up in today's world, flawed credit and financial difficulties should not prevent home ownership.



Jose McDonald, Senior Loan Officer

Jose's \$20 million annual production results from his sensitivity in working with undocumented immigrants, foreign nationals, and those who have experienced foreclosures, repossessions, and even bankruptcies in the recent past. Good-credit/higher-income borrowers also benefit from Jose's high-production and below-market interest rates.

To this point, Jose's greatest accomplishment is his new community out-

reach program. In conjunction with certain North Houston builders, qualified buyers can move into a brand-new home for only \$1,000! With no income limitations, these flexible programs make it easier to qualify and allow help with closing costs.

If you work in the public or medical field at any level, regardless of your credit standing, and want to know how much you can borrow for your next home, Jose is available for consultation seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Builders and Realtors please call to learn more about these new financing possibilities.

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Lilly Roddy

Astrologer for Houston for 21 Years

Lilly Roddy has been an astrologer for the last 21 years, counseling individuals in personal, business, and financial matters. Lilly's approach is to bring together a mental, physical, and spiritual combination that has real application in the world.

Lilly has been voted Best Astrologer year after year by *OutSmart* readers and for one year by the *Houston Voice*. She is currently the president of the local chapter of the National Council For Geocosmic Research, the Houston astrology group. Her original interest in astrology, like most, was to come to a better understanding of who she was and how to make the most of her life. She continues to study all areas of astrology and metaphysics to expand her base of knowledge. Her long-term goals are to bring astrology into more mainstream businesses and to help people connect with their sense of purpose and fulfillment.



Astrologer Lilly Roddy

Lilly's sessions help individuals understand themselves and promote a greater sense of self acceptance. With her unique view of planet cycles, she allows her clients see what is ahead for them and make choices about which path to choose. Lilly teaches beginning, intermediate and advanced astrology classes on a regular basis.

In addition to astrology, Lilly has had an interest in metaphysics since 1979 and has studied numerology, crystals, gems, palmistry, tarot, and subtle energy perception. Lilly has taught Tai Chi for the past 12 years, having practiced it for 18 years. She began studying Tae Kwon Do in August 1991 (and has received first, second, and third degree black belts), and ran her own Karate school for nine years during the '90s. Lilly is also a Reiki Master, training others in this method of hands-on healing, and an expert in Past Life Regression, in which she tries to bring

together the soul's past incarnations and successfully merge the experiences of the past with the present. She has a BA from the University of Texas in Sociology.

Lilly writes a long-running astrological column for *OutSmart* and *Indie Slate*, a national independent film magazine.

Lilly conducts readings in person or over the phone by appointment. Her fee is \$110 per one-hour session. The readings are based on the astrological chart constructed using the person's birth date and birth location; knowing the exact time of birth is important, although not absolutely necessary. Clients can prepare questions if they like. In the session, one can expect interpretation of the natal astrological chart as well as looking at the present and future cycles to determine the best use of those energies and how long various cycles will last.

Lilly Roddy
713-529-5842
www.lillyroddy.com

Voted Best Dentist by OutSmart Readers 2000-2004

Bruce W. Smith, DDS

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Bruce W. Smith, DDS

Located in a beautiful Montrose bungalow, the setting of our office is both gracious and homelike, from sherry in the waiting room (!) to a thick brocade lap rug to wrap up in while you're in the dentist's chair.

I emphasize personal, involved dental care. I think it's worthwhile taking the time to explain procedures and options carefully, in easy-to-comprehend terms, so that dentist and patient work together as a team. Unlike many profit-centered managed care practices (who sometimes seem to be more the employee of the insurance companies than the patients!), I strive to inform

patients of various cost options; sometimes a lower-cost solution is perfectly serviceable, and I want to make sure patients have all the facts, so together we can make good dental decisions. I am proud to stay up-to-date with the latest dental materials and procedures, and am especially excited to offer the latest advances in Conscious Sedation, so that patients can maximize the many options available.

My background is in microbiology with a bachelor of science from the University of Texas at Arlington in 1975,

doctorate in dental surgery from the University of Texas Health Science Center in 1979. Between 1979 and 1981, I was a lieutenant in the National Health Service Corps, part of the United States Public Health Service. I started my general dental practice in Houston in 1981—focusing on the GLBT community from the very beginning—and moved to our current location at 1006 Missouri in 1983.

My professional and community involvements include the Greater Houston Dental Society, Texas Dental Association, American Dental Association, Bering Dental Clinic, Southwestern Society for Oral Medicine, River Oaks Area Democratic Women, Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, and several others. I have been privileged to speak before a number of local, national, and international dental bodies

about oral pathology, sterilization, and infection control.

My private practice at 1006 Missouri Street in Houston caters primarily to business and professional people who seek restorative, cosmetic, and preventive care. We strive to provide a comfortable homelike setting with attention to quality and comfort. I am board certified in Conscious Sedation dentistry, which allows us to offer nitrous oxide and sedative medication for those who are anxious about dental care.

Bruce W. Smith, DDS

1006 Missouri Street, Houston, Texas 77006 • 713/529-4364 • Email: BSmith DDS@msn.com

Dalton DeHart Photographer

*The world and the imagination work together
to produce lasting memories in the photography of Dalton DeHart.*

Dalton DeHart spent the first 18 years of his life in the small East Texas community of Buna. While at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Dalton began documenting his experiences with a small inexpensive camera—a practice that has continued to this day and become an important part of his life ... and of the lives of many others.

Dalton purchased his first two 35mm cameras in 1978, and since then he has taken over 12,595 rolls of film, all of which are numbered, dated, and identified. He can locate any event by checking through his film files.

In the fall of 1983, DeHart began teaching at San Jacinto College Central in Pasadena, becoming a permanent professor of English in 1986, and chairman of the Language Skills Department in 1989, a position he retains to the present.

He began taking pictures in the Houston area in 1987 with roll number 2220. Since that time, he has shot approximately 10,375 rolls of film (36 frames apiece) at numerous events and activities in the community—from action shots at Deer Park High School football games and San Jacinto College basketball games, to photographs of meetings with the last three mayors of Houston, and many city council members.

Dalton has taken thousands upon thousands of photographs at a variety

of events in the GLBT community. As Dalton likes to say, "I have captured the past, and I intend to capture the present and the future through photographs that document the vibrant city of Houston and the surrounding area."

Dalton currently provides photographs to several publications, including *OutSmart* magazine and the *Houston Voice/Eclipse* newspaper. According to his colleagues and those who have attended events that he has photographed, Dalton has the ability to capture the moment and present the event in such a fashion that years later his photographs can actually recreate the entire event in the memory of the viewer.

Since Dalton has photographed such an amazing number of people and events, one of the biggest challenges he has encountered is cataloguing all the photos and making them accessible. Now that is possible, thanks to a chance conversation at AIDS Walk Houston in March 2004. AIDS Walk volunteer Ron Beagle talked to Dalton about the dilemma of making his pictures available; they met and Ron's custom Web design company, Rockport Solutions, created a sophisticated website that features an interactive photo gallery to showcase Dalton's compelling images coupled with a "photo fulfillment" service where customers can order copies of their special images. Since the web-

site went live in late May 2004, Dalton has posted over 15,000 photographs of more than 60 events. Dalton can now offer customized photo print packages to handle any number of requests.

Since he covers so many events, it is not unusual for Dalton to get calls from people who wish to know what events are going on in the community and beyond. He appreciates the confidence that people place in his ability to capture the moment, and his only regret is that he is not always able to cover every event himself. When he is unable to cover all of the events, Dalton often gets friends to take photos when three or more events are scheduled on the same night. According to Dalton, "The greatest number of events that I have covered in one evening is eight."

Dalton concludes, "I hope that people will visit my new website—to see themselves and the important contributions they are making in the community. My greatest desire is that my pictures convey the passion with which I have taken them."

**Has Dalton DeHart
photographed you?
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**Dalton DeHart
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Jacquie Brennan, Kevin Johnson, and Lisa VanAuken have built a different kind of law firm in the heart of Montrose. Together, they can help with a multitude of legal issues, such as adoptions, child support, child custody, family law, personal injury, social security disability denials, co-habitation agreements, wills, and powers of attorney.

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Sara 2004

FOR ART'S SAKE. It's All About Art from the Heart, the October 17 benefit at Decorative Center Houston, will raise funds for Darla's School for Mentally Retarded Adults, located in Montrose. The evening will feature an auction of the exuberant, colorful work created by the students, like the painting pictured here, as well as pieces by prominent local artists. Reservations: 713/523-2114.

GOOD WORKS. Imperial Court of Houston-Space City Emperor **Keith Vyvial** and empress **Regina Dane** will hand their crowns to new royals at the October 16 enthronement at the Crowne Plaza Downtown. Proceeds from the coronation evening benefit the Montrose Clinic HIV and Hepatitis C counseling and testing program.

Houston Black Tie Dinner co-chairs **Tracy Alston**, **Carlos Reyes**, and **Ben Whittle** are preparing for the November 13 event, which moves this year to the Marriott Westchase. The satirical, political musical troupe The Capitol Steps will perform. Beneficiaries include the Assistance Fund and Lazarus House.

ON THE ROAD. **Larry Kirkwood** and his partner **Anton Khristyuk** will attend the October 8-10 international conference of A Common Bond, the support network for current and former GLBT members of Jehovah's Witnesses, in Miami Beach. Kirkwood will debut his new book *What Lies Within*, which recounts his youth in the church and his break with his family once he came out.

Ray Hill will fly to Philadelphia this month for the United States Conference on AIDS, October 21-24. Hill also traveled to Philly in September to contribute to a production of *The Exonerated*, the drama about innocent survivors of death row, and to consult with a producer about a possible campus tour of *Ray Hill: The Prison Years*.

LookOut

by Tim Brookover

Attorney **John Nechman** will help lead the national conference of Immigration Equality in Los Angeles, October 22-24. He is board president and co-chair.

Four sets of PFLAG Houston parents—**Ron** and **MaryJo Dupre**, **Sara** and **Carlos Fernandez**, **Jim** and **Sue Null**, and **Bill** and **Violet Taylor**—will attend the October 22-24 PFLAG national conference in Salt Lake City. They will accept an award presented to the local chapter for the 2002 Healing the Hurt conferences.

If you drive north to the Texas Renaissance Festival this month, check out the nearby Rockin' R Ranch, which has seen enhancements under its new owner quartet of **Todd Collins**, **John Cox**, **Debbie Becdek**, and **Pat Priebe**.

ON THE ISLAND. Treasure hunters will cross the causeway on October 8-10 for the Antiques Showcase Weekend presented by the Galveston Antique Dealers Association. Art mavens will return October 16-17 for ARToberFEST 2004 on Postoffice. Proceeds benefit the Animal Shelter and Adoption Center of Galveston Island and the AIDS Coalition of Coastal Texas.

IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD. Rice Players will present *The Laramie Project*, the drama recounting the aftermath of the **Matthew Shepherd** murder, October 8-16 in Hamman Hall at Rice University. **Trish Rigdon** directs.

On October 19, **Judy Shepherd**, Matthew's mother, will speak at the University of Houston Cullen Performance Hall. The Graduate School of Social Work sponsors.

Sandy Brauer convenes the Jewish Gay and Lesbian Social Group on October 14 for a happy hour at Hollywood Vietnamese & Chinese Cuisine.

Frank York and **Roni Noble** of the Chase PRIDE Team will participate in the inaugural Gulf Coast International Dragon Boat Regatta in Clear Lake Park on October 23 and 24.

G. Todd Williams, pastor of New Covenant Christian Church, will speak during the regional assembly for Disciples of Christ congregations of the Southwest, held October 22-24 at Cypress Creek Christian Church. Williams is the founding pastor of New Covenant, the first Houston-area Open & Affirming congregation (the Disciples designation for GLBT-welcoming churches), which worships at the Houston GLBT Community Center. He is also one of that rare species, openly gay clergy ministering in a mainstream denomination.

Through October 24 at **Gerald LaBita's** Theatre LaB Houston, **Carolyn Johnson** stars in *Mrs. Farnsworth*, A. R. Gurney's subversive comedy about a Connecticut society wife planning to write a tell-all book about her youthful affair with a Yale undergrad who may have ended up as the most powerful man in the world. **Ed Muth** directs this Southwest premiere of the off-Broadway hit. ■

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Bill Maher

(CNN Larry King Live, 9/13/04)

I understand the Republican position on gays . . . it's moronic, but I get it. They read the bible, they think that homosexuality is an abomination. OK, it's stupid but real to them. But the Democrats, they don't think homosexuality is an abomination. They don't think that gay people are any less than anybody else. Then why can they only have civil unions? Why do they have to call whatever goes on under their roof something different than other people can call it?

Republican Party Platform

(The New York Times, 8/31/04, Robin Toner & David D. Kirkpatrick)

Social conservatives, who pushed Mr. Bush to endorse a federal constitutional amendment against gay marriage earlier this year, pushed for even stronger language in the platform, and succeeded. Mr. Bush has indicated that he embraced a constitutional amendment opposing same-sex marriage only as a last resort to prevent courts from deciding the issue and said that states should be free to recognize same-sex civil unions or domestic partnerships. But the platform, as amended by the conservatives on the platform committee, condemns not only gay marriage but also state recognition of other same-sex unions as well.

Kenneth Sanchez

(president, Log Cabin Club of Massachusetts)

(Out, 8/04)

Out: Did you support President Bush in 2000?

Kenneth Sanchez: I voted for the president in 2000.

And now?

You have to respect yourself before anyone else respects you. If I voted for the president after his endorsement of an amendment that demeaned me as a person—which is the very essence of what that amendment does to our community by saying you are not good enough—I am disrespecting myself, and I will not vote for him.

Is there anything that might change your mind about the president before November?

His withdrawal of support for the amendment. There are so many other things Congress should be concerned with, not trying to use the United States Constitution to exclude citizens from defining their happiness as they deem fit. . . .

Tallulah Bankhead

(scandalous public figure and international actress)

(Tallulah! The Life and Times of a Leading Lady, Joel Lobenthal, ReganBooks)

FYI: In Tallulah! The Life and Times of a Leading Lady, author Joel Lobenthal acknowledges Tallulah Bankhead's bisexuality.

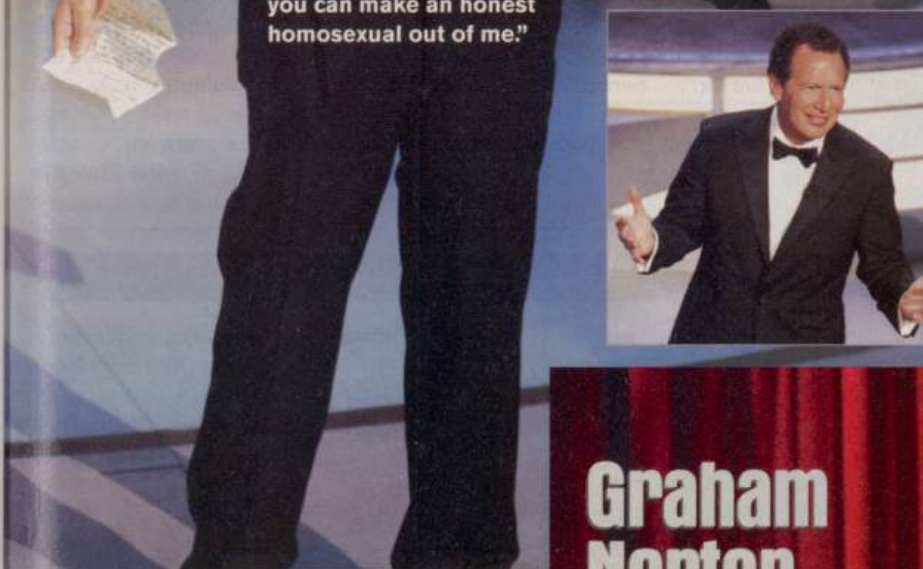
Ethel Barrymore and her two children had stayed with Tallulah at 1 Farm Street in 1928. In 1930, when Estelle Winwood and Barrymore shared the stage in *Scarlet Sister Mary* on Broadway, Winwood told Barrymore that Tallulah would soon be returning to the U.S. "I don't know her," Barrymore told Winwood.

"I nearly dropped dead," Winwood recalled. "She was so frightened that if people thought that she was a friend of Tallulah they'd call her a lesbian."

Tony Kushner

(The 56th Annual Emmy Awards, 9/19/04, ABC)

After it was announced that Tony Kushner won an Emmy for Outstanding Writing for a Miniseries for *Angels in America*, he hugged and kissed his husband and walked to the stage and read his prepared speech. It ended with "... and thanks to my wonderful husband Mark. Someday soon we can get a legal marriage license and you can make an honest homosexual out of me."



Queer Quotes

Compiled by Blase DiStefano

Joan Rivers

(Film Comment, Jul/Aug/04)

On the 1970 film *The Christine Jorgensen Story*:

I love biographies. There's nothing like a real-life story. You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll buy a blonde wig and not shave. I always wish I could find a friend, take him to a desert island, and then make him watch it.

Garry Shandling

(The 56th Annual Emmy Awards, 9/19/04, ABC)

If the conservatives wanna stop homosexuals from having sex, shouldn't they let them get married? That seems to stop my married buddies.



Graham Norton

(The Graham Norton Effect, 9/09/04, Comedy Central)

Republicans are talking about the possibility of Arnold [Schwarzenegger] running for president in 2008. Now, for this to happen, it would require a constitutional amendment allowing dickheads to become president. [Pause] Haven't we passed that already?



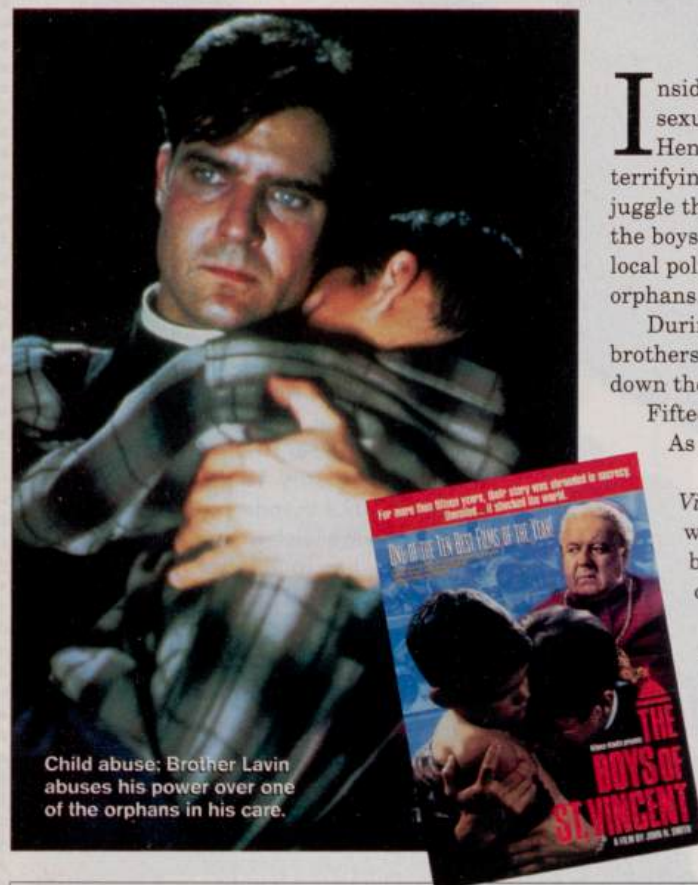
Richard Hatch

(The Advocate, 9/28/04)

"There were certainly lesbians on [CBS's reality series *Survivor*] that haven't come out. Without question," says Richard Hatch, the openly gay winner of *Survivor*'s first season. And as far as what percentage of players in the past were gay, Hatch will say only, "Far higher than in the general population."

NOT SO SAINTLY

Secret demons cause abusive behavior in *The Boys of St. Vincent*



Child abuse: Brother Lavin abuses his power over one of the orphans in his care.

Inside the walls of St. Vincent's Orphanage, young boys fall victim to sexual, physical, and emotional abuse at the hands of their guardians. Henry Czerny (*Mission: Impossible*, *Clear and Present Danger*) gives a terrifying performance as Brother Lavin, the head of the orphanage who must juggle the teachings of the church with his own personal demons. The plight of the boys under his care remains a secret until the orphanage janitor and a local policeman speak out against the brothers' appalling treatment of the orphans.

During the ensuing investigation, the boys courageously testify against the brothers. Fearing a scandal, religious and civil authorities conspire to shut down the case and quietly transfer the accused brothers to new postings.

Fifteen years later, still unhealed, the victims go public with their ordeal. As the veil of secrecy is finally lifted, their story will shock the world.

Directed by John N. Smith (*Dangerous Minds*), *The Boys of St. Vincent* was originally an early '90s Canadian made-for-TV movie that was prohibited from being aired in Ontario and western Quebec because it might interfere with the criminal trials (already in progress) of several brothers from a Newfoundland orphanage.

It was acclaimed as "one of the ten best films of the year" by *Entertainment Weekly*, *Rolling Stone*, and *USA Today*. *Time* magazine called it "Splendid! The most compelling and edifying horror movie of the decade." *Newsday* said it was "Devastating! A Dickensian tale of horror. . . . Sensitively wrought and riveting. The complex performance of Henry Czerny is breathtaking."

From New Yorker Video (www.newyorkerfilms.com).

—Troy Carrington

MORE DVD/VHS PREVIEWS

The Fire That Burns



Based on the novel *The Land Whose King Is a Child* (referring to Ecclesiastes 10:6: "Woe to the land whose king is a child.") by the French novelist/dramatist Henry de Montherlant, the story is set in a pre-WWII Paris parochial school. The friendship between Andre Sevrans (Nael Marandin) and his younger schoolmate Souplier (Clement van den Bergh) arouses the jealousy of the Abbot de Pradts (Christophe Malavoy) who harbors strong feelings for Souplier. De Pradts attempts to ensnare Souplier with a scheme that backfires, leaving him a victim of the Father Superior's anger and disapproval. • 1997. Directed by Christophe Malavoy. French with English subtitles. • From Picture This! Home Video (www.picturethisent.com). FYI: de Montherlant, an admired French figure, has a swimming pool named after him in Paris. Men are not allowed to wear boxer-style swim shorts there, only "Speedos." —Eric A.T. Dieckman

Twist



A severely and sincerely updated version of the Dickens classic *Oliver Twist*, *Twist* sets Oliver and his band of outcasts in the hustler district of modern-day Toronto. Rather than ragamuffin pickpockets, they're male prostitutes, turning tricks for Fagin, their pimp, to support their drug habits. The adaptation is dark and true to Dickens' call for social reform, attracting critical acclaim. • 2003. Directed by Jacob Tierney. • From Strand Releasing (www.strandreleasing.com). —E.D.

Homo Sapiens 1900

An exploration of the history of eugenics, race hygiene, and the quest to improve the human race, this documentary examines the turn-of-the-century sociopolitical torrents that led to demented plans for a superior race and a utopian society. In the U.S. the American Eugenics Society promoted the ratification of the



world's first sterilization law. The Soviet Union and Germany, of course, had their own horrifying designs. With ethnic cleansing wars between the Serbs and Croats in the not-too-distant past, the subject may not be as passé as some would like. • 1998. Directed by Peter Cohen. • From First Run Features (www.firstrunfeatures.com). —E.D.

Mean Girls

War is hell. So is high school, as Cady Heron (Lindsay Lohan) is about to discover. Until recently, she's been homeschooled by her zoologist parents in the jungles of Africa. Now a junior in public school, Cady falls for the ex-beau of the queen bee of the popular girls' clique, a femme fatale trio nicknamed The Plastics. In constant battle with the mean girls, she decides to fight to the death, becoming a mean girl herself. • Cady finds solace during wartime in two outsiders, Janis Ian (Lizzy



Caplan)—a goth rumored (erroneously as the story develops) to be a lesbian—and Damian (Daniel Franzese) who Janis describes as "almost too gay to function." Despite Damian's over-the-top behavior and attitude, Franzese manages to play him as a real and well-adjusted teenager. • 2004. Directed by Mark Waters. • From Paramount Home Entertainment (www.paramount.com/homeentertainment). —E.D.

Strangers with Candy: Season Three



The final season of Amy Sedaris's twisted series follows her character Jerri Blank, a 47-year-old high school freshman. Returning home after 32 years on the street as a teenage runaway, the oversexed bisexual Blank relives all the hassles everyone has to endure in their freshman year: drugs, peer pressure, popularity, and closeted teachers (played by Stephen Colbert [*The Daily Show*] and Paul Dinello) enraptured in what Colbert's character describes in one episode as "hot, ass-pounding sex." • Look for guest appearances from the likes of Will Ferrell, Andy Richter, Cheri Oteri, Janeane Garofalo, to name a few. Bonuses include 25 minutes of outtakes, a dance sequence compilation from all three seasons, and more. • From Comedy Central Home Entertainment (www.comedycentral.com) and Paramount Home Entertainment (www.paramount.com/homeentertainment). —E.D.

Crank Yankers: Season One Uncensored



If nuance and subtlety are not your cup of tea, then hold out your mug for a crass-n-steamy cup of Crank Yankin'. Season one of the show where comedians get paid to make crank calls makes its way to the shelves in uncensored glory. (Puppet genitals? Yes.) There's Jim Florentine's mentally challenged character, Special Ed, a seminal viewer fave; Hadassah, a wise-cracking Jewess voiced by the adorably acerbic Sarah Silverman; and the foppish 57-year-old earl, Niles Standish. Standish, characterized by *Man Show/Jimmy Kimmel Live* writer Tony Barbieri as flamboyantly gay, in his own words, loves a firm ass-slapping and being wiped. Bonuses include two unaired calls, behind-the-scenes footage, and a standards and practices discussion of the decidedly lewd show (which probably involves popping a lot of aspirin). • From Comedy Central Home Entertainment (www.comedycentral.com) and Paramount Home Entertainment (www.paramount.com/homeentertainment). —E.D. ■



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Television

by Eric A.T. Dieckman

REALITY TV GOES DRAG

Television becomes TrannyVision with *He's a Lady*



In TBS's new reality series *He's a Lady*, a group of men find out what it's like to live like a lady.

Reality TV? Not really. For example, those shows have wardrobe people. In *The Bachelor*, brides-to-be didn't dress in their own clothes but whatever was assigned to them. And the suitcases they carried into the home in episode one? Empty props. Could reality TV get any more inane and unreal? Yes. TBS's latest jaw-dropper takes 11 tough straight guys, stuffs their achin' dogs into Bruno Magli slingbacks, and makes them take a walk in women's shoes, literally and metaphorically.

Leaving their wives and girlfriends behind, the men are misled into believing they've been inducted into a show titled *All American Man*, where they will compete in grueling physical challenges. They're a butch lot. One looks

like he could be a landlord/handyman from New Jersey with a serious Philly cheesesteak habit. But soon they are surprised (or horrified maybe) to discover they'll be transformed (better yet, transmogrified) and made over with the goal of learning what it's like to be a lady. The prize: \$250,000, a little light compared to the typical million-dollar fortune.

Each week, learn something new about womanhood, or at least transvestitism, as they fumble with bras, jewelry, color-coordinating shoes with blouses, and the difference between a v-neck and a scoopneck. The contestants get into the minds of women by interacting with real ladies in typical all-female activities like wedding planning and then

test their believability by serving as bridesmaids. After staying in character in front of friends and family, the guys compete in a beauty pageant, or who's-the-least-hideous pageant, then answer the quarter million dollar answer: What, as a lady, have you learned about being a man?

Executive producers Douglas Ross (*Bug Juice*, *The Mansion*) and Tom Campbell (*Boy Meets Boy*) dreamt up this metrosexual project gone way awry. If you find this show to have a train wreck quality (it sounds horrible but you just have to look), remember: the more you watch, the more it encourages producers to develop more shows like it. Premieres on TBS (www.tbs.com) on **October 12** and airs Tuesday nights.

Tyler Brûlé: *My Life*

Tyler Brûlé founded the British magazine *Wallpaper* which he also edited. Through *Wallpaper* he initiated the design/lifestyle boom of the '90s. This biopic looks at the man behind the glamorous credit. Brûlé openly discusses practically every aspect of his life, from his homosexuality to a life-changing assignment as a journalist in pre-Taliban Afghanistan. Airing on Sundance Channel, Monday, **October 11** at 8 pm, 14th at 7 am and 1:30 pm, 18th at 11 am, 23rd at 6:05 am and 4:30 pm, and 26th at 2 pm. To confirm schedule: www.sundancechannel.com.



Tyler Brûlé

No Secret Anymore: *The Times of Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon*

Joan Biren looks at the lives of the founders of the Daughters of Bilitis. Formed in 1955, the activist group is considered to have borne the modern American lesbian movement. Still together after more than 50 years, Martin and Lyon were the first couple married in San Francisco's gay ceremonies of 2004. Their profile, narrated by comedian Kate Clinton, portrays a spirited, inspiring, and humorous couple untied in love and politics. Airing on Sundance Channel, Tuesday, **October 19** at 6 pm. To confirm schedule: www.sundancechannel.com.

Broadway: *The American Musical*

Julie Andrews hosts this six-part, six-hour documentary. The first series to tell the entire epic story of the American musical, the saga begins with the renaming of Longacre Square to Times Square in 1904 and continues through a century of theater history. The story is told through personal accounts from some major names in Broadway, rare archival footage, diary excerpts, private home movies, and more. The series premieres on PBS Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, **October 19, 20, and 21** at 8 pm. To confirm schedule: www.pbs.org. ■



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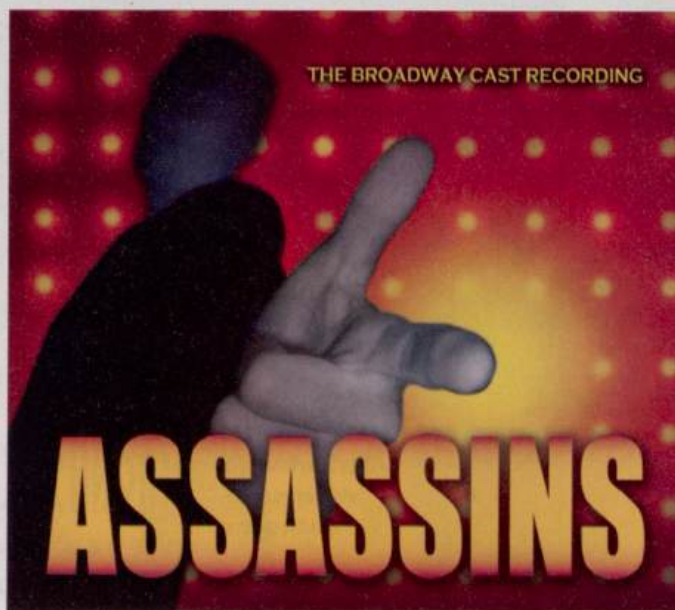
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QUEER SOUNDTRACK

Check out these releases for GLBT History Month

I begin my 2004 GLBT History Month column on a theatrical bent. After all, for many queer people, the theater is a source of family and home as well as entertainment. With that in mind, consider the original London cast recording of *We Will Rock You: The Rock Theatrical* (Capitol) and the Broadway cast recording of *Taboo* (DRG). Both musicals feature flamboyant gay lead characters, **Freddie Mercury** and **Boy George**, respectively, both of whom are of course modeled on real people. Additionally, both musicals feature songs written by Boy George (*Taboo* is comprised of several new songs and a few drawn from the Culture Club catalog) and the late Mr. Mercury (the Queen canon serves as a foundation for *We Will Rock You*). As an added bonus, Boy George himself can be heard on the *Taboo* disc.

Tony Kushner and **Stephen Sondheim** have more in common than being award-winning gay men working in the realm of the theater. Aside from receiving attention



from the Tony Awards, both Kushner and Sondheim's recent Broadway musicals feature presidential assassinations. The acclaimed (and Tony Award-winning) revival of Sondheim's 1991 musical *Assassins* (PS Classics), starring **Michael Cerveris**, **Neil Patrick Harris**, and openly gay

actor **Mario Cantone**, gives voice to loose cannons such as Lee Harvey Oswald, John Wilkes Booth, John Hinckley, and Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme, among others. The assassination of John F. Kennedy plays a pivotal part in the *Caroline, or Change* (Hollywood), with book and lyrics by Tony Kushner and music by **Jeanine Tesori**.

On the subject of both history and theater, **Cole Porter**, whose death occurred 40 years ago this month, can be heard singing "Anything Goes" and "You're the Top" on *It's De-Lovely: The Authentic Cole Porter Collection* (Bluebird). The remaining 17 songs by Porter (recently immortalized by Kevin Kline in the

movie *De-Lovely*) are performed by an array of stars from yesteryear, including **Artie Shaw**, **Frank Sinatra**, **Roy Rogers**, **Dinah Shore**, **Tommy Dorsey**, and **Rosemary Clooney**, to name a few.

K.d. lang explores the rich history of contemporary Canadian songwriting on her

exquisite new CD, *Hymns of the 49th Parallel* (Nonesuch). Spanning a 35-year period, lang attaches her glorious vocals to songs by Neil Young (respectful readings of "After the Gold Rush" and "Helpless"), Leonard Cohen ("Bird on a Wire" and a perfect rendition of "Hallelujah"), Ron Sexsmith ("Fallen"), Bruce Cockburn ("One Day I Walk"), Jane Siberry ("The Valley" and a lovely interpretation of "Love Is Everything"), and, of course, Joni Mitchell (stellar takes on both "A Case of You" and "Jericho"). She even works in "Simple," a re-recording of an original (from her own disc *Invisible Summer*) that fits in beautifully with the other songs, earning her a well-deserved place among her fellow Canadian songwriters.

I don't think lang has done it yet, but I would love to hear her sing something by the late **Laura Nyro**. Gone, but far from forgotten, Nyro was one of the final performers to grace the stage at the lamented Fillmore East in its final days. *Spread Your Wings and Fly: Live at the Fillmore East—May 30, 1971* captures her performance and is of note for the inclusion of two songs, "American Dove" and "Mother Earth," both of which make their recorded debut on this live album, alongside Nyro classics such as "Emmie," "Save the Country" and the medley "Lu/Flim Flam Man," among a number of cover tunes.

Gail Ann Dorsey has been making history for a number of years. As an out, African-American, female bass player and vocalist, Dorsey toured for several years with David Bowie and has performed with the aforementioned Jane Siberry, as well as Indigo Girls and Dar Williams. Her solo work, including her out-of-print 1989 debut *The Corporate*, and most recently the wonderful *I Used to Be...* (Sad Bunny), featuring "Magical" (co-written with Kristen Hall) and "Be My Angel" (co-written with Roland Orzabal of Tears For Fears), are great ways to become better acquainted with this gifted artist.

Kara Barnard doesn't play bass on her new CD *Brown County Waltz* (www.kara-barnard.com), but she does play several other stringed instruments, including a Dan Crary Signature Taylor Guitar, a Summit F-200 Mandolin, a Gibson RB250 Banjo, a Framus Banjolin, an Oscar Schmidt Autoharp, and a Bill Berg Mountain Dulcimer, to name a few. She also plays an even number of traditionals (including

"Arkansas Traveler," "Wildwood Flower," "Amazing Grace") and originals (such as "Rebecca's Reading," "Chickens Doing Reiki," "The Beagle Has Landed," and "Not in My Name," among others), all in a calming yet colorful bluegrass style.

Long known for being an outlet for homophobic expression, hip-hop is a genre in which LGBT artists stand to make history. A number of queer hip-hop acts have stepped up to challenge the status quo with in-your-face lyrics that celebrate gay life and proudly make proclamations about same-sex love, sometimes in graphic detail.

Johnny Dangerous, an Outmusic Award-nominated performer, returns with the flaming *Armed & Dangerously Remixed* (Us2), which

features sizzling remixes of at least half a dozen tracks from his acclaimed 2003 debut, *Dangerous Liaisons*. Standout tracks selected for the remix treatment include "Topsy Turvy," present in both a "clean radio remix" and a "313 remix" featuring Detroit's Aaron-Carl; "Not Your Average" and "Dangerous," both featuring remixes by →



Kara Barnard

GrooveOut Shorts

DJ Dale Rozman
Fire Island Classics 4



When David Sedaris spoke in Houston this past summer at Brazos Bookstore, he read an excerpt from his book recounting his identity being mistaken when he went to clean a house. The tenant stayed there while Sedaris cleaned, and kept asking him if he wanted to go to Fire Island, a term which he would continue slipping into the conversation until he finally disrobed and began, um... touching himself while Sedaris vacuumed. Turned out he had confused Sedaris's number with that of an erotic cleaning service, and that the password for action was "Fire Island." That has nothing whatsoever to do with this record, but now every time I see the words Fire Island, I always think of the way Sedaris said them in his reading—really loud and overexaggerated, provoking roars of applause each time. But I digress—back to the record. Musically, it's dancey—the kind of stuff that permeates high-dollar retail shops in shopping malls—but it also works as a great soundtrack for a trip if you're gonna

head out to Fire Island. From Centaur Entertainment (www.centaurmusic.com). —Lance Scott Walker

Ringside
Ringside



Ringside is the creation of Scott (singer-songwriter) and Balt (beat master)—two kindred musical spirits who first met during their teen years. On their debut album, Balt's hypnotic beats and layered rhythms interplay with Scott's deft songcraft, soaring melodies, and introspective lyrics. Gorgeous acoustic guitars, Motown-worthy bass lines, atmospheric keyboards, tasty electric guitar riffs, strings, horns—all the work of Scott. Scott and Balt wrote, engineered, and produced the entire album. *Ringside* is the first experiment by two friends who have always shared a love of good music. From Flawless/Geffen Records (www.flawless-records.com, www.geffen.com). For more info: www.ringsideband.com.

—Troy Carrington

Gioia
Expose This

Gioia's first solo release, "Free to Be," which became an



underground club anthem that received favorable notice from *Billboard*, was written for her good friend and a relative who passed away from AIDS. Gioia (pronounced joy-ah) has returned to the spotlight with this much-anticipated album and is now making the music her soul has been singing for years. From Koch Records (www.kochrecords.com). Info: gioiabruno.com. —Suzie Lynde

Joss Stone
Mind, Body & Soul



Emphasis on the *soul* in that title, yes, but not in the old-school way the album title suggests. Joss Stone definitely has the husky, crooning pipes of her peers, but her music is more the stuff of modern R&B. That is, except for the poignant dirge "Sleep Like a Child," which sounds like an Al Green outtake with the beats kept intact. From S-Curve Records (www.s-curve.com). More info: www.jossstone.com. —LSW →

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GrooveOut Shorts

continued from page 88

Tony Bennett

Fifty Years: The Artistry of Tony Bennett



Tony Bennett's new release is an update to the *Forty Years* box set from 1991. *Fifty Years* has been expanded to include five CDs and 110 tracks from 1950's "The Boulevard of Broken Dreams" to 2002's "What a Wonderful World" with renowned vocalist k.d. lang. Bennett chose every selection listening to hundreds of tapes in order to select the definitive version of each song. The album contains a four-color booklet with rare photographs and six extensive chapters of liner notes. The final chapter, "Reflections," written by Tony Bennett, describes every track in the box set. From RPM/Columbia. Info: www.tonybennett.net. —Andrea Rodricks

Jackie Christie

Made 4 U



Known for remixing Madonna and Yoko Ono, for spinning fashionista parties for the likes of Donatella Versace, and for her huge gay following, Jackie Christie (DJ/remixer/producer) was signed to Manhattan's Motéma Music on the strength of her No. 1 Billboard Club Chart remix of Madonna's "Nothing Fails." *Made 4 U*, Christie's first album as a studio producer, is an eclectic collection of 11 dance tracks featuring America's No. 1 drag queen Lady Bunny, House-music pioneer Kraze, and club diva Sandy B. From Motéma Records (www.motema.com). —TC

Bill Laswell

Version 2 Version: A Dub Transmission



What would Bill Laswell and Jah Wobble do if there were no such thing as bass guitar? The careers of both have been dependent on the oft-overlooked instrument to be sure, and that is entirely apparent even now on this, the latest collaboration of the two. Along with the contributions of Karsh Kale, Abdou Mboup, and the legendary keyboardist Bernie Worrell, they have again highlighted the strengths of the slow, bassy art form, this time expanding it even further with Worrell's soulful, spacey keyboard work. "System Malfunction" even gets a little funky—giving credence to the song's title. From the label that brought you all those cassette releases back in the '80s, including a great one by the Bad Brain—Reachout International (www.roir-usa.com). —LSW

Jane Monheit

Taking a Chance on Love

Taking a Chance on Love features classic songs Jane Monheit fell in love with while growing up in Long Island watching old movies. For the soundtrack of *Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow*, she sings a newly recorded



Deb Ferrara

Anything But Ordinary



Anything But Ordinary is, well, anything but ordinary, as is Deb Ferrara, who at the tender age of five earned media attention for her first single "Christmas Time (Is Near)." She spent the remainder of her childhood honing her songwriting and production skills, and developing a unique style that leans more toward pop and rock, but also includes elements of dance, adult contemporary, country, alternative, Latin, and children's music. From More Good Music Records. More info: www.debferarra.com. —SL

Cowboys International

The Backwards Life of Romeo

Ken Lockie definitely has some notable affiliations—Cowboys cut their first album in the late '70s before he moved on to work with PIL and later to create Dominatrix. But whatever has transpired since those landmarks has left an all-too-fine dust on his songwriting. *Romeo* is a collection of mostly bland new—→



CD AND DVD
Dolly Parton
Live and Well



Recorded at the Dollywood Theater in 2002, this concert was part of her "Halos and Horns" tour that marked her return to the road after a 10-year absence. The show connects the dots between her return to the rural mountain sound with material from her Grammy-winning acoustic albums to her commercial hits that helped catapult her to superstardom. Parton and her band The Blueniques swing with ease from bluegrass to pop-country hits to mountain ballads, punctuated with Parton's autobiographical anecdotes and endearing humor between songs. Her sold-out club and theater tour elicited not only critical raves, but also an amazingly diverse audience—cowboys, men in boas, punk-rockers, hipsters, teenagers, and seniors—illustrating why Parton is one of the most beloved stars in the world. The two-DVD set and two-CD set are sold separately. This is Parton's first concert DVD release. From Sugar Hill Records (www.sugarhillrecords.com). —TC

GrooveOut

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queer hip-hop legend Tori Fixx; "Me No Want Dat," on which Dangerous teams up with Olympia, WA's "electro sex hip pop punk rock rap duo" Scream Club; an alternate version of "Hot Johnny"; "Not Black Enough" remixed by fellow queer hip-hop artist Dutchboy; and the new track "Debate," featuring female rapper God-des.



I'm in My Own World (www.greathiphop.com), the debut disc by Soco (pronounced "so-say"), a self-described "Jewish, gay, white MC" (from the opening track, "Feels Good"), is

a personal collection of tracks that act as an introduction to this promising newcomer. **Rocket and Katz** of the "queer, political, poetry spittin'" duo **Athens Boys Chorus** leans much closer to the spoken-word realm on their CD *Rhapsody in T* (Daemon).

Finally, another kind of history is made with the release of the four-song EP *Emily Watson* (Secret Heart) by **Human Hands**.



remembered as a one-time presence in the early days of the L.A. punk scene. Re-formed more than 20 years after its breakup by original members **Dennis Duck** and openly gay **Juan Gomez**, and featuring new members **Marc Salata**, **Pierre Smith**, and **Jeff White** (who is also gay), Human Hands has released this EP and plans to release a full-length disc later this year. The four songs, beginning with the wonderful title track, which plays like fan letter to actress Watson, are catchy and refreshing updates of the punk sound, reminiscent of the Plimsouls in their heyday.

Read an expanded version of GrooveOut at
www.outsmartmagazine.com.

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

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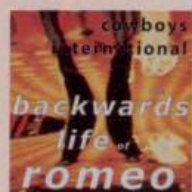


Deidre McCalla Sings

Deidre McCalla, self-described African-American lesbian feminist and 2004 Outmusic Awards nominee, will perform here on October 16. McCalla, whose latest CD is *Playing for Keeps* (MaidenRock) will give a concert during the 2004 Old Lesbians Organizing for Change Gathering at the Renaissance Houston hotel. Tickets: \$50. Reservations: info@oloc.org. See page 18 for more on the OLOC event.

GrooveOut Shorts

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wave songs made with drum machines and really bright sounding instruments that don't quite get the message across. Maybe Romeo just needs to find a Juliette to help him write songs. From Pnuma Recordings (www.cowboysinternational.com). —LSW

Screamin' Rachael Extacy



Screamin' Rachael Cain, the Queen of House, president of Trax Records, and the House Nation's No. 1 cheerleader, takes us on an insider's musical tour of the wild international House scene with its over-the-top, pumping parties that have made Rachael and her Trax posse House-music royalty. From Trax Records (www.traxhouse.com). More info: www.screaminrachael.com. —TC

Mbandi Harbor Nights



Mbandi is a compelling musician and composer. A native of West Africa, his music calls to mind images of tranquil seashores and island retreats. The smooth flowing melodies and uplifting rhythms will transport you to a place where warm tropical breezes soothe your soul. *Could It Be* is a love song performed by Alfreda Gerald, famous for her performances with Yanni. Mbandi brilliantly incorporates beautiful string/piano arrangements on some songs and intricate rhythms on others. From Mbandi Music (www.mbandimusic.com). —AR

Hayley Westenra Pure



Pure is the perfect title of Westenra's album as it is truly representative of her "angelic" and talented voice. At the young age of 16, she has already sung for the Queen of England, traveled the globe performing at the prestigious Sydney Opera House and the London Palladium, become the youngest ambassador ever for UNICEF, and surpassed CD sales of one million worldwide. From Decca Music. Info: www.universallclassics.com or www.hayleywestenra.com. —SL

Willie Nelson The Troublemaker

Don't let the title fool you. Originally released in 1976, *The Troublemaker* is Nelson's first album of gospel songs, digitally restored and expanded to include four live bonus tracks. All four cuts were recorded at the Texas Opry House in Austin in 1974 which make these his earliest live recordings. These songs are religious recordings of traditional favorites including *Uncloudy*



Day that went to #4 on the Billboard Hot Country Singles chart and a live version of *Will the Circle Be Unbroken*. The disc has newly commissioned liner notes and rarely seen images of Nelson. From Columbia/Legacy (www.columbiarecords.com, www.legacyrecordings.com). For more info: www.willienelsononline.com). —AR

Rene Soulmates



This CD is a treasury of classical and Broadway melodies enhanced by Rene's own original compositions. Blending piano, cello, and light orchestrations, this is all-instrumental music that opens the heart and lifts the soul to joy. Let Rene's soothing sounds sweep you away as selections of Chopin, Debussy, Andrew Lloyd Weber, and John Barry evoke a special place and time in your imagination. From Polyphony Music. Info: www.renemusiconline.com. —TC

Various Artists

Upstairs at Larry's: Lawrence Welk Uncorked



Upstairs at Larry's is a 15-track CD featuring standards by the Lawrence Welk Orchestra remixed by some of today's hottest DJs. Welk, a legendary bandleader and musician with a career that spanned 67 years, started his own band in 1924. In addition, his TV show aired for an astonishing 27 years. This album, produced by Rob Evanoff and Welk's grandson Kevin Welk, is a tasteful update of timeless songs. From Vanguard Records (www.vanguardrecords.com). Info: www.ranwoodrecords.com. —SL

DVD

Kylie Minogue Body Language Live



The one-night spectacular at London's Hammersmith Apollo in November 2003 showcased tracks from Kylie Minogue's ninth studio album *Body Language* including the No.1 hit *Slow*. The dance-pop diva also treated fans to a few favorites from her extensive catalog of hits including "Can't Get You Out of My Head," "Spinning Around," and a sultry new take on "Breathe." The *Body Language Live* DVD features 13 classic tracks captured live and includes a brand-new edit of the show created especially for DVD release. Special features include a behind-the-scenes documentary, promo videos, and a PC-ROM section. More info: www.kylie.com. —AR

Read more GrooveOut Shorts at
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Scott Upper Rave-O-Ween 2: Monsters Re-Mixed

In January 2002, openly gay Scott Upper (pictured) was commissioned to create a dance music CD for Halloween Headquarters, a chain of temporary Halloween stores in the San Francisco Bay area. The CD sold very well, and in March 2003, Upper brought his music to the Halloween Costume and Party Show in Chicago, an annual event that draws Haunted House production companies, costume manufacturers, novelty distributors, and party stores from all over the country. • The show proved to be the perfect venue for Upper's debut CD, *Rave-O-Ween: Ghoulish Grooves & Halloween Techno Terror*. By the second day, the CD was pumping out of space tunnels, robot heads, flying coffins, and fashion show speakers. Upper had a small listening station that paid off in the form of a large queue of advance orders and incentive to get back into the studio and create a second CD. • His follow-up CD, *Rave-O-Ween 2: Monsters Re-Mixed*, is one hour of cutting-edge Halloween party remixes and electronic cover tracks. The CD features dance-floor versions of "The Monster Mash," "The Flying Purple People Eater," "The Addams Family," and more. • From Soundry Records (www.soundry.com). At press time, the CD was not available at local retailers, but could be ordered online at www.soundry.com, www.shocklines.com, and www.cdbaby.com.



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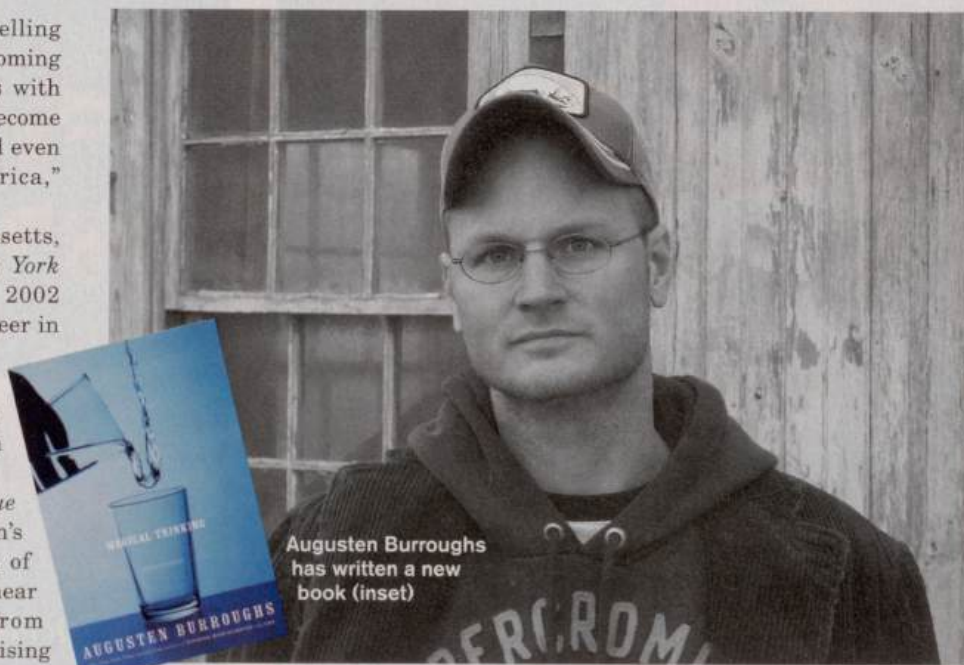
MAGICAL MAN

Augusten Burroughs follows up on *Running with Scissors*

The road has been rocky for best-selling author Augusten Burroughs. Overcoming sexual abuse, alcoholism, struggles with his sexuality, and drug addiction, he has become one of the country's best-known writers and even one of "the 25 Funniest People in America," according to *Entertainment Weekly*.

Born in 1965 and raised in Massachusetts, Burroughs climbed to the top of *The New York Times* bestseller list with his runaway 2002 memoir, *Running With Scissors*. After a career in advertising and basically drinking away his 20s, he entered rehab, got sober, quit advertising, and began writing—something he had always done throughout his life in journals as an emotional release.

His fourth book, *Magical Thinking: True Stories* (published this month by St. Martin's Press) is a wonderfully funny collection of essays. Straying away from his previous linear stories, the book shares memories from Burroughs's childhood and alcoholic advertising



Augusten Burroughs has written a new book (inset)

ReadOut Shorts

Same-Sex Marriage in the United States: Focus on the Facts
Sean Cahill

Lexington Books (www.lexingtonbooks.com)



With same-sex marriage relentlessly hammered as a wedge issue leading up to Election Day, the rhetoric has never been hotter. While some antigay activists proclaim that same-sex marriage presents a threat to civilization itself, Sean Cahill, policy director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, has succinctly assembled an arsenal of cold, hard facts to combat such critics. His case: The fabric of society can actually be strengthened by offering the same benefits and legal protections for all families, including same-sex families, through marriage equality. Starting with a primer on how judicial decisions (including the *Lawrence v. Texas* case with Houston roots) opened the floodgates of debate, Cahill exposes the hidden agendas behind well-financed groups who lead the charge against same-sex marriage. He uses census data to show the saturation of same-sex families from coast to coast and enumerates the high costs, in terms of both finances and security, that these families are forced to bear. He warns that civil unions are inadequate substitutes for marriage equality since they won't allow access to hundreds of federal spousal benefits, including tax breaks, Social Security, and Medicare. But the news isn't all bad. From the ashes of the Anita

Bryant campaign and the antigay Republican positioning of the 1970s and 1980s emerged not only a more cohesive gay community, but a surge of support for equal treatment of gay people in America that bodes well for the possibility that marriage equality may someday be realized. —Joe Milano

The Realm of Possibility
David Levithan

Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers
(www.randomhouse.com/teens)



The title of this book is enticing and all-encompassing; the journey within the pages is equally consuming. Having read only a few stories in the form of poetry, I had no clear expectations, and, oddly enough, possibilities unfolded with each page. As you walk through the pages listening to each person's heart unfold, they tell of a love that engulfs their hearts. Each chapter explores love in a different way, whether through poetry or song. The individual approaches create a flavor for each declaration that is both dramatic and powerful. Emotions were stirred inside me during several of the stories as I went back in time to moments of my teenage years and the intensity of my feelings for myself and those who came in and out of my life. *The Realm of Possibility* is a warm and sober look at love as we grow. I must say that it was refreshing to read and walk away, knowing I had been through those intense and sometime agonizing times and am the better for it on the other side. This is a must-read for all. —Alexys Coleman

HALLOWEEN ALERT!

Abarat II: Days of Magic, Nights of War
Clive Barker

HarperCollins Publishers (www.harpercollins.com)



Readers of Clive Barker's *Abarat* have been anxiously awaiting *Abarat II: Days of Magic, Nights of War*. For those of you who missed the first book, openly gay Barker has taken a common theme, good versus evil, and placed it in a world complete with a smart heroine, humorous (and slightly inept) companions, and monsters surpassing anything this writer has ever read, seen, or imagined. • And what a strange bestiary it is. Barker's paintings (and this book is full of them) evoke all of the monsters we thought were hiding under the bed. But, scary though the creatures are, Barker's humor makes them seem almost approachable. • More paintings allow us to see the people and places we encounter throughout the book. These paintings alone are worth the price of the book. • Buy this book—this world is one you will want to visit again and again. The heroine is likeable, the world intriguing, and the storytelling incomparable. • Readers will find Clive Barker's *Abarat II: Days of Magic, Nights of War* a truly magical read.



—Billie Wallace

days to his later sober days and meeting the love of his life.

Collin McClure: *Magical Thinking* is a collection of essays. Why write it this way rather than in chronological order?

Augusten Burroughs: I wanted to cover a lot of bases and tell a lot of stories, versus just one story as I did in *Running With Scissors* or *Dry*. I personally like that form of book because there really is no beginning, middle, or end. So if you're on a bus, a plane, or in the bathroom, you can pick up a book like that and open it anywhere and start reading.

How does it feel to put the most intimate details of your life out for the world to see?
It doesn't really feel as threatening or intimidating as you might think because nothing else in my life has changed. Even though there are people all over the place that know everything about me, I don't have to face them day to day in an office. It would actually be a lot harder for me to publish these books, then go into an office and face my co-workers.

You tell us in *Magical Thinking* how you met your partner Dennis. How are things with him?

Things are great. They're better than ever. It's a kind of thing where we get closer every day, and we're building a house together out in Massachusetts, and we're actually going to be living down the street from my brother. On the weekends, we go up to Massachusetts and stay at this vile, vile motel. It's just disgusting 'cause it accepts dogs [the couple have two French bulldogs]. That's why we stay there, and it's just a complete fleabag of a motel. And we lie there at night on the weekends watching TV, reading, eating prepared food from the supermarket, and throwing endless toys at the dogs, and we've been doing that for over a year. And when the house is finished, I'm gonna miss that.

When you write, do you have a specific routine or place that you go?

I have a desk at home and at my office in Amherst. There it has bookshelves filled with books—not my books, but by other authors that I love to read. But I write all day. I spend at least 10 hours a day sitting and quote/unquote working. That includes sitting, writing, and reading e-mails of writer friends and non-writer friends. Sometimes, pieces of e-mails may end up in an essay or sparking an idea.

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ReadOut continued from previous page

I don't anymore, but I certainly did. I was one of those tall, skinny kids, classic ectomorphs, and I wanted to be big. When you live in Manhattan, every gay guy you see in Chelsea is as wide around as a revolving door. I wanted to be like that, so I did steroids. I did them through my doctor, and found out that by doing the same workout I'd done for years and years without results, my body just changed and I was huge. But now I have a herniated disc, so I don't use them anymore or work out as much. It's funny. I went from having that great body and never having my picture taken, and now I'm always photographed and I look like a ridiculous tube sock.

Sellivision was your first book and it covered infomercials. What was the last thing you bought off one?

It was years ago, but they were little laundry balls. They were like little tennis balls but smaller that you put in laundry instead of soap. They allegedly got your clothes cleaner, and your whites whiter, and were reusable. They supposedly charged the water in such a way that they were able to pull out the dirt. The idea was so far-fetched and science fiction that I had to buy them. The phenomenal thing was... they worked.

What's next for Augusten Burroughs?

After *Magical Thinking*, the next book will be called... Well, titles can always change, but right now it's called *Possible Side Effects*. And it's going to be a collection of more true stories.

Collin McClure interviewed entertainer Jimmy James for our July issue.

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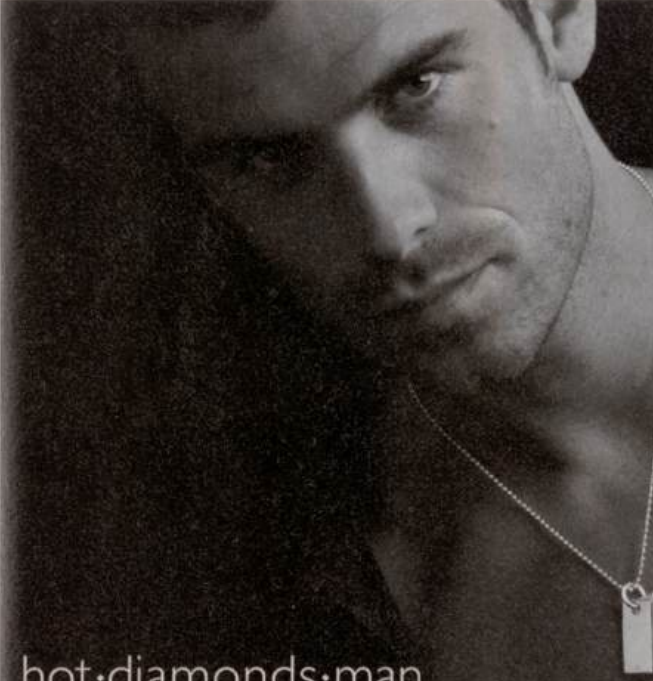
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PICK UP THE PIECES

Sally reveals a secret to marital bliss

All right, ladies. Today we're going to learn about a new marital aid. The item itself is not actually new. You probably have at least one in your house right now, stashed on a closet shelf alongside the old wrong-sized sheets you're hanging onto in case a presidential candidate comes to your town and you need to make an urgent banner.

If you don't already have one of these little couple's helpers, they're widely available for purchase without embarrassment or photo ID. Using this common household item as a marital aid—a device to bring you and your mate to new heights of pleasure—is a well-kept secret only recently revealed to me, with the help of my very significant other, and that's why I'm here today to share the good news with you.

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pensive. It requires no electricity, no batteries, and no war-perpetuating petroleum products. It's easy to use and guaranteed to deepen your intimacy, awaken your passion,

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and restore the joy in your marriage (or, depending on where you live, civil union).

For new lovers and old life-mates alike, this product offers an opportunity to engage in often-ignored playful, stimulating activity. It's so versatile, you can do it in your bedroom, on the patio, or, as my companion and I did, right on the kitchen table!

Yes, ladies, you've guessed it. We're

talking about the jigsaw puzzle. That's right, a simple 500-piece challenge you and your sweetheart can tackle together, a project that will reunite you as the unconquerable duo you were meant to be.

As soon as you and your beloved open the puzzle box and start sorting through the pieces, you'll magically relax, engage, and forget about nagging distractions such as meal prep and ousting the war-mongering, unelected, pants-on-fire president.

As you settle into the project, you'll realize there's nowhere else you need to be, nothing more important you need to do. When you join forces to search for flat-edged border pieces, the two of you will commune, cooperate, and concur in ways that for many couples, sadly, are but a fading memory. Creating the puzzle picture's frame as a team sets the stage for you to go deeper,

plunge into the core, and immerse yourselves in your shared pursuit.

Working the jigsaw puzzle in tandem allows you to labor toward a common goal in which each person's contribution is honored, appreciated, and celebrated, unlike your suggestions for how your elected officials could better guide us to peace and equality. You'll be a united twosome, in stark contrast to your constant petty squabbles over the proper way to fold towels, whether LaToya would have made a better American Idol than Fantasia, and if it's capitalism or patriarchy that's to blame for the fine mess the world is in today.

Time will fly by. In real life you get impatient for the Sonicare toothbrush to finish its two-minute cycle, not to mention checking your watch while your love object languidly rides you to sexual climax. With the jigsaw puzzle, there's no impatience for each other to finish. You take your time, live in the moment, and commit your whole being to focusing on details such as figuring out if the gray line is part of the horizon or the mast, if the white oval is glistening water or a gull wing.

You will find yourself willing to ask for what you want. Cheerfully you'll concede that it's unreasonable to expect your partner to know what you are looking for—a half-blue piece with a down-tilting innie and a blunt-shaped outie with a yellow tip. Nobody can read your mind, after all.

Your spouse will be generous, compliant, and willing to unselfishly help you without regard to having to get up for work in the morning, where the last piece of cheesecake went, or why there's a charge on the Visa bill to dontamend.com. You, in turn, will become completely unselfish about helping meet your mate's needs, too, regardless of how many times you have helped before. No one's keeping score. Your inhibitions magically melt away as you both seek what you're missing and assist each other in your joint effort. And neither of you will be too tired, have a headache, or need to take a break to watch headline news.

You'll race back to the puzzle whenever your jobs or picketing the courthouse—or some other intervening annoyance—necessitates puzzelus interruptus.

And oh, the utter ecstasy of coming, as it were, to culmination. That exciting moment when the final puzzle piece is laid into place and the picture is completed. You and your loved one will share absolute fulfillment and deep, deep satisfaction.

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Sally Sheklow and her wife fit their pieces together in Eugene, Oregon.

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DineOut

by Tim Brookover

WILLKOMMEN

German food lands at Montrose and Westheimer



Guten Tag:
Alfredo
Taurisano
greeters diners
from the open
kitchen in his
new grill.

Once a flower shop, the forlorn storefront beside the teeming Diamond Shamrock at Montrose and Westheimer sat vacant for months. Weeks ago, a placard promising a new deli appeared on the plastic-sheeted windows, then mysteriously disappeared. The spot acquired a haunted aspect. Now a cheery chap named Alfredo Taurisano has opened a casual walk-up restaurant in the trim, boomerang-shaped space.

At Alfredo's European Grill, the ebullient owner and cook offers a small but rich menu of German specialties. The three sandwiches—the sauerkraut-laden bratwurst, the schnitzel (made with pork, in the German style, rather than veal), and the gyro—are terrific hold-in-your-hand-and-drive meals. The schnitzel also appears in two nifty plate dinners: in the Ziguener schnitzel, napped with a luscious tomato-and-red pepper sauce, and the Schnitzel wiener style, dressed with lemon slices. Side orders include hearty, crisp fries (with or without

paprika) and creamy potato salad. Purists complain that the latter is the American variety, rather than the mustardy German style. Stop the mayonnaise hating. It's good.

His food is yummy and the homespun, few-frills spot gleams, but the owner himself

is the star attraction. Born in Italy, Taurisano moved as a child with his parents to Cologne, where they opened Italian restaurants. He has been in the States for only a few months. From his open kitchen Taurisano greets regulars, which already include a number of actual Germans (a posi-

tive indicator, that) and newcomers with a broad smile and big personality. Only a few weeks after he arrived, Taurisano had already experienced both Mary's and Chances. Welcome to the neighborhood, mein Herr.

Alfredo's European Grill
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www.alfredos-europeangrill.com



Full plate: The Nuernberger platter includes sausages, fries, and sauerkraut.

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Out of Town

by Victor Zorn

BOO ORLEANS

Get spooked on Halloween
with a trip to the Big Easy



See red: Costumes come out for the Halloween New Orleans Saturday night party.

goblins will gather on Friday for dancing at Twi Ro Pa, a massive entertainment venue housed in a converted 19th-century commercial building in the warehouse district. Saturday night means Freaks, Follies & Sideshows, the fantastic dance party at the Municipal Auditorium in Armstrong Park. Costumes are *de rigueur*. Given the vintage carny theme, expect to see a half man/half woman and a bearded lady or two, along with the usual barely clad snake charmers. Revelers not reduced to ghosts by Sunday morning will drift over to the House of Blues for a gospel brunch.

Three- or four-day passes can be purchased through the event website, www.halloweenneworleans.com. This scream of a weekend benefits Project Lazarus, a home for people living with HIV/AIDS. Last year, the festivities raised more than \$300,000, and \$3 million has been donated since 1987. And that's not scary.

For Allhallows Eve, the Big Easy hosts a number of other events for adult trick-or-treaters, including the Les Temps Des Vampires Costume Party, an annual Anne Rice fan club party. Go Goth! More info: www.neworleansonline.com.

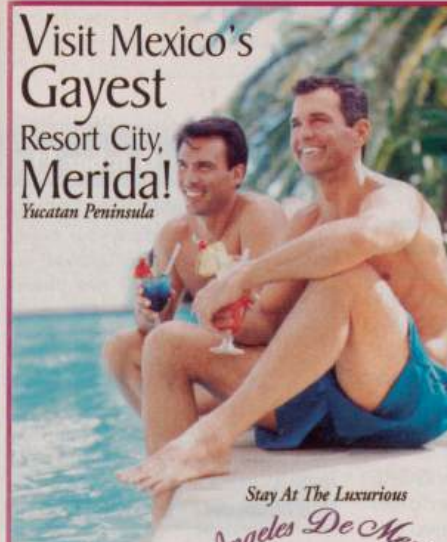
Victor Zorn reported on cruises in our September issue

WET FLICK ACTION

On the high seas, Olivia presents its first annual Lesbian Film Festival during an October 30-November 6 Caribbean cruise. Among the movies on the marquee is *Make a Wish*, the horror flick made by Houstonian Sharon Ferranti (see our interview with her, page 62). *Desert Hearts* director Donna Deitch will introduce her classic romance and discuss her sequel plans. Bonus: Indigo Girls and Shawn Colvin are entertainment headliners.

Looking ahead: Next month, Olivia will host its first Sportacular in Playa del Carmen. The November 6-13 event will combine sport-focused workshops with sun-drenched frolicking at the Mexican resort. Jock celebrities who will appear include out PGA champion Rosie Jones and WNBA all-star Natalie Williams. More info: www.olivia.com. ■

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UNDERCURRENT

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Charge

October
1st: Leather - Uniform
2nd: Bling Bling
9th & 10th: Oktoberfest
15th & 16th: Day Glow - Body Paint
22nd: Comic Strip - Heroes & Villains
23rd: Fofonda's - Wicked Pumpkin Patch
29th - 31st: Halloween Weekend

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Calendar of Events

Deadline for OutSmart's November issue is 5 p.m., Monday, October 11.

OCTOBER

Daily (Mon.-Fri.)

HIV Testing. HCHD Thomas Street Clinic is offering HIV testing free to the public, 9 am-1 pm. There is no need to establish eligibility ("gold-card"), no donation will be asked of the person seeking testing, and the test is free. Thomas Street Clinic, 2015 Thomas, 713/873-4157 or 713/873-4026.

Daily (Mon.-Sat.)

HIV Testing. The Montrose Clinic offers free confidential HIV testing at these locations. **Monday:** Bricks, 617 Fairview, 4-8 pm; O, 710 Pacific, 9 pm-1 am. **Tuesday:** The 611, 611 Hyde Park, 4-8 pm; Club Houston, 2205 Fannin, 8 pm-midnight. **Wednesday:** Mary's, 1100 Westheimer, 4-8 pm; Ripcord, 715 Fairview, 9 pm-1 am; EJ's, 2517 Ralph, 10 pm-1 am; Midtowne Spa, 3100 Fannin, 10 pm-1 am. **Thursday:** All-Star News, 3415 Katy Frwy, 4-8 pm; BRB, 2400 Brazos, 8 pm-midnight; Cousins, 817 Fairview, 8 pm-midnight. **Friday:** EJ's, 2517 Ralph, 10 pm-1 am; Midtowne Spa, 3100 Fannin, 10 pm-1 am; The Meatrack, 2915 San Jacinto, 10 pm-2 am; Rich's, 2401 San Jacinto,

10 pm-1 am. The clinic offers classes for those newly diagnosed with HIV or Hepatitis C. For more info: 713/830-3000.

3, 5, & 7 (Sun., Tue., & Thu.)

Venice If You Will. Mercury Baroque Ensemble visits the Venetian soundscape of 1725. Delight in the musical chicanery of commedia dell'arte; pacify yourself to the somber praises of church music. 2 pm October 3 at University of Houston Clear Lake's Bayou Theater; 3:30 pm Oct. 5 at The Centrum in Spring; 7:30 pm Oct. 7 at the Hobby Center. Info: 713/533-0080 or www.MercuryBaroque.org.

9 (Sat.)

Laurie's Companion. Performance artist Laurie Anderson does not have a name yet for her companion piece to "Happiness," but she does have a vision: "a work that will focus on spirituality and consumerism... a true portrait of this country at the beginning of the new century." 8 pm at Cullen Theater. For more info: www.spahouston.org or www.laurieanderson.com.

9 (Sat.)

The People's Court. The University of Houston Law Center hosts the People's Law School. Volunteer judges,

attorneys, and professors teach classes covering topics ranging from consumer law to wills to landlord/tenant law to credit and debt collection to health insurance and more. Scheduling allows the opportunity to attend three classes. Free. 9 am-12:30 pm at the University of Houston Law Center. Info: 713/743-2168 or www.peopleslawyer.com.

9 & 10 (Sat. & Sun.)

Wade in the Bayou. CORE Performance Company performs "Wade in the Water" for the Bayou City Art Festival Downtown. Free with admission to the festival. 2-4 pm at the Historic Hermann Square. Info: 713/521-0133, www.bayoucityartfestival.com, or www.severaldancerscore.com, or 713/862-5530.

9 & 10 (Sat. & Sun.)

Flowers in Her Hair, Flowers Everywhere. Vladimir Ovtcharov's colorful *Madonna Flora* is the featured piece for the Bayou City Art Festival Downtown, as T-shirts and posters will attest. In addition to about 300 other artists of myriad disciplines, don't miss the free interactive art area for the kids. \$8, free to children 12 and under; 10

INFO NEEDED FOR YOUR EVENT LISTING: a few lines of info about your event; date/time; cost; location/address; organization name; AND two phone numbers—one for OutSmart to reach you for questions and one for OutSmart readers to get more info on your event. **Mail info to:** OutSmart Magazine, 3406 Audubon Place, Houston 77006. **Fax info to:** 713/522-3275. **E-mail info to:** calendar@outsmartmagazine.com. **NO LISTINGS CAN BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE DEADLINE DATE—MON., OCT. 11.**

am-6 pm. More info: 713/521-0133, www.bayoucityartfestival.com.

9 & 10 (Sat. & Sun.)

Presidential Lampoon. Less than a month prior to election time, political satirist/comedian Mark Russell skewers all things electoral. 3 & 8 pm at The Grand 1894 Opera House, Galveston, 2020 Postoffice. For tickets: 409/765-1894, 800/821-1894, or www.thegrand.com.

11 (Mon.)

Poets in Motion. Harryette "Hip Hyperbole" Mullen and the unusual C.D. Wright read from their verse, including their latest publications (respectively) *Sleeping with the Dictionary* and *Steal*

Away: *Selected and New Poems*. \$5, free to students and seniors. 7:30 pm at the Alley, 615 Texas Ave. Info: 713/521-2026 or www.inprint-inc.org.

11 (Mon.)

PopSmear. K's Choice headlines The Yellow Umbrella Tour, a music festival started by popsmear.org, a nonprofit organization that raises awareness to fight cervical cancer. The Belgium-based alterna-rockers are probably best known for their hit single "Not an Addict." PopSmear.org founder and cervical cancer survivor Christine Baze named the tour after one of the first songs she was able to write soon after fighting her own battle with cervical cancer. \$15. 7 pm at Meridian, 1503 Chartres. Tickets/info: 713/225-1717, 713/629-3700, www.ticketmaster.com, or www.PopSmear.org.

13 (Wed.)

Play Us a Song, You're the Piano Man. Ivo Pogorelich performs stunning interpretations of Beethoven, Rachmaninoff, and Sibelius. 8 pm at Jones Hall. Info: www.spahouston.org.

13 (Wed.)

Ease Your Pain. Frequent sufferers of discomfort who distrust conventional docs might take note of this curious workshop. Dr. Nellie Grose and Kathy Parra, CMA, teach "frequency specific microcurrent: an alternative in chronic pain management." Info: www.tchh.net.

14 (Thu.)

The Writing's on the Wall. Archway Gallery's Gallery Readings disperses the written word among painted images and sculpture. Developing writers are invited to read from their works. Refreshments are available for the weary wordsmith and the listener thirsting for more than prose and verse. 6:30-8 pm at Archway Gallery, 2013 W. Gray, River Oaks Shopping Center. Info: 713/522-2409 or www.archwaygallery.com.

15 (Fri.)

Norah Jones. Ravi Shankar makes pretty babies as his jazz-pop protégé offspring has proven. Thus far her career with Blue Note records has brought hits like "Don't Know Why" and "Bessie Smith." \$34.50-\$58. 8 pm at Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion. For tickets: 713/629-3700 or www.ticketmaster.com.

15 (Fri.)

Lovett or Leavitt. Fort Worth's Bruce Wood Dance Company has a new reason to smile with choreography set to the big-haired balladeer Lyle Lovett. 8 pm at Cullen Theater. For more info: 713/227-45PA, www.spahouston.org, or www.bruceandance.org.

15 & 16 (Fri. & Sat.)

Romeo y Julieta. El Chonchon, an Argentine puppet troupe of two, let loose in *Juan Romeo y Julieta Maria*, a wily rendition of a Shakespearean classic. Their four puppets change wigs and sets (and bemoan their lack of a stage tech) to create this unique yet true-to-the-original production. Don't be surprised if—like the original productions of long ago—the "characters" step beyond the fourth wall to improvise and toy with the audience. 8 pm at DiverseWorks, 1117 East Fwy off Main at Naylor. For more info: 713/223-8346 or www.diverseworks.org.

16 & 17 (Sat. & Sun.)

ARToberFEST. Galveston's 7th annual fine art festival brings over 100 artists to the Arts and Entertainment District on Postoffice St. Proceeds benefit the Animal Shelter and Adoption Center of Galveston Island and the AIDS Coalition of Coastal Texas. \$3, free to children 12 and under; 10 am-6 pm Saturday, 10 am-5 pm Sunday. Info: 409/762-3617, www.artoberfest.com, or e-mail Kathy at modz@aimail.net.

16 & 17 (Sat. & Sun.)

Festa Italiana. one of the oldest festivals in Houston, returns for the 26th time to celebrate Italian culture. Stuffa you face fulla Italian and Sicilian cuisine served →

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MECA's El Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) Festival (October 30 and 31) is a little different this year 'round. In addition to honoring our ancestors, as is the tradition, this year's festivities include a Voting Machine altar highlighting national and international leaders who dedicated their lives to advancing democratic principles like equal suffrage. Musical performances, visual art, kids' games, and a silent auction add to the eclectic mirth. Free. Information: www.votingmachine.org.

Costumed audience members get \$2 off admission—plus entry into a costume contest—at ComedySportz's All Hallows' Eve improvisational comedy show (October 29 and 30). Every frightfully funny game played at the troupe's new home is underscored with Halloween themes on this creepiest of creepy weekends. \$12 without costume. 8 pm. at the ComedySportz Arena, 901 Town & Country Blvd. Tickets/info: 713/868-1444 or www.comedysportzhouston.com.

TRICK OR TREAT
Halloween's on a Sunday this year? That's more of a boo-hoo than a boo. But there are nonetheless plenty of things to be done to make your Witching Hour spooky, hysterical, or even enriching. Here are a few events to stuff your goodie bag.

EJ's hosts Big Knobs on Broomsticks 5, a Halloween show and costume contest (October 30, 8 p.m.). The fete benefits AIDS Foundation Houston and Red Ribbon Toy Drive for children with disabilities and serious illnesses. Prizes for most original and best in theme will be awarded for the costume contest. Attendees are encouraged to bring (in addition to cash donations) new children's toys to be wrapped and distributed in December as holiday gifts.

Theater troupe Mildred's Umbrella make their gothic offering for the season with Mac Wellman's interpretation of *Dracula*, set in Victorian England (Fridays and Saturdays, October 1-30 at 8 p.m.). Mildred's Umbrella have been making a name for themselves in avant-garde theater for the past few years. Expect something dreadfully delicious to sink its fangs into the downstairs stage at 1415 California. \$10, pay-what-you-can Monday, October 11 and 18. Tickets: 832/418-0973 or e-mail mildredsumbrella@hotmail.com.

And back to El Dia de los Muertos. The Museum of Fine Arts hosts a Family Day (October 31, 1-4 p.m.) teaching about this unique holiday that blends Roman Catholic traditions with the indigenous cultures of the Aztecs, Maya, and Toltecs, among others. Participate in hands-on workshops, listen to music, and observe artist Lisa Hernandez as she builds an altar in observance of the Day of the Dead. Information: 713/639-7300 or 713/639-7379 for Spanish.

—Eric A.T. Dieckman

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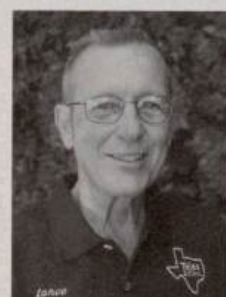
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Or sip a glass of port while strolling the Via Firenze.
Other points of interest include art exhibits, a children's
area, a grape stomp, a pasta-eating contest, and an Italian
Vintage car show. \$5, free for children and under. Info:
713/524-4222 or www.houstonitalianfestival.com.

23 (Sat.)

Where the Grrls Are. GoGirlsRock! brings Skinny
White Chick, Symplisity, Something for Jess, and
Irrational Fear to the Rhythm Room. Why? Cuz chicks
rawk! \$5, all ages. 9 pm at the Rhythm Room, 1815
Washington Ave. Info: www.gogirlsrock.com and
www.gogirlsmusic.com.

23 (Sat.)

I'll Have a Blue Autumn without You. With Nora
Jones at Cynthia Woods and the duet of vocalist Kurt
Elling and vibraphonist Stefon Harris (all three of them
Blue Note recording artists) at the Wortham, October
is taking on a jazzy tone. A seven-time Grammy
nominee, Elling is best known for vocalese, the art of
creating lyrics for instrumental compositions. \$26-\$42.
8 pm at Cullen Theater, 500 Texas at Smith. Tickets/
info: 713/524-5050 or www.dacamera.com.

23 & 24 (Sat & Sun.)

Itty-Bitty Equus. What do you get when you take a
horse and shrink it down to the size of a large dog?
You get something really cute. Dress that cutie in a
costume and the giggle factor skyrockets. (Some are
done up as butterflies, some as ballerinas or princesses.)
But there's more to teeny horses than being adorable.
There's cart pulling and jumping for example, in pro,
amateur, and kids' categories. Free. 8 am-6 pm at 2501
South Mason Rd., Katy. Info: 979/830-1971 or e-mail
Anne Updyke at aupdyke@directway.com.

25 (Mon.)

Sand Traps and Litter Boxes. The Houston
Humane Society announces the 2004 Par Fore Pets
Golf Tournament at—appropriately enough—Wildcat
Golf Club. This year's event, *Birdies and Bogies for Kennels
and Kundos*, benefits HHS's shelter expansion. Festivities
include a putting contest, a banquet and silent auction,
and of course an animalistic round of golf. \$150 for
individuals, \$550 for teams of four; \$20 for dinner and
auction only. Registration begins at 10 am, shotgun start
at noon at Wildcat Golf Club, 12000 Alameda Rd. Info:
Jan Hester at 713/290-8703 or jhester@hal-pc.org.

26 (Tue.)

Avoid Hot Flashes During "The Change." Dr.
Nellie Grose teaches mature women how to
"menopause naturally with bioidentical hormones." Info:
www.tchh.net.

26 (Tue.)

A Very Crumby Birthday. Da Camera returns to
its series at the Menil with the George Crumb 75th
Birthday Celebration. The inventive artist made a name
for himself tying symbolic, mystical, and theatrical
elements together in his haunting style. With soprano
Tony Arnold, Robert Shannon on piano, and David
Starobin on guitar. \$30. 7:30 pm at The Menil Collection,
1515 Sul Ross. Tickets/more info: 713/524-5050 or
www.dacamera.com.

27 (Wed.)

ONE Singular Sensation. The musical to end all musicals
is all about a musical. Will I succeed at the audition?
Will my shiny golden top hat outshine all the others?
Are my high kicks high enough? Will I become a star?
Who can resist *A Chorus Line*? Use the request code,
Out 94, for a 10% discount on food and drink at Artista
restaurant and join TUTS and the cast for cabaret, live
piano, dancing, and eating till midnight. Show runs Oct.
21-Nov. 7. Info: 713/558-8887 or www.tuts.com.

28 (Thu.)

Free HIV/AIDS Legal Clinic. Need legal advice? Get
legal advice. The clinic cannot, however, assist with fee-

THE ART OF THE VOTE

They say the elderly are the only
ones to show up at the voting
booths in droves. Houston's
creative community is uniting to change
the electoral demographic. Aurora Picture
Show, DiverseWorks,
Glasstire, Lawndale
Art Center, MECCA,
the Museum of Fine
Arts, Project Row
Houses, and Voices
Breaking Boundaries
present a collabora-
tion almost as big as
the presidential race.
Among the presen-
tations, here are a few
bandwagons and dark horses.

• The new media artist team of
Margaret Crane/Jon Winet's interdis-
ciplinary contribution, *America and the
Globe* (through November 6 at Diverse-
Works), explores the democratic process
and the candidates' attempts at wooing
votes. Incorporating the written word,
Internet technology, film and video, and
other media, campaigning is viewed as
theater of persuasion.

• Project Row Houses steps forward
with *Post It Up: Political Posters from the
Margins* (October 16 and 17). With an air
of Situationism, local artists interpret and



subvert the tools of advertising by
creating political posters for alternative
voices and ideologies.

• On screen at Dean's Credit Clothing
(October 4, 11, 18, 25 at 9 p.m.) is Laura
Harrison and Charlotte Lagarde's
documentary *Voting in America*, which
reveals that voter apathy in the land of
the free has earned the U.S. a global
ranking of 139 in voter
turnout. The efforts
individuals and com-
munities make to
encourage us to visit
the ballot box are
examined.

• From a feminist
perspective, there's
the discussion, *Women,
Power and the Political
Process* (October
20, 7 p.m.). DiverseWorks, Crane/Winet,
and the Clifford Group assemble a team
of public office holders and business reps
to ask why—since there are more women
in the U.S.—women make up less than
14% of Congress and barely 25% of state-
elected executive offices.

What: The Voting Machine

When: www.votingmachine.org for times
Where: www.votingmachine.org

for locations

How Much? Many events are free

Tickets and Information:

www.votingmachine.org

generating issues, criminal issues, or immigration. Bring
a copy of ID, proof of all available income into the
household, proof of residency, and proof of HIV+ status.
Noon-3 pm at Saint Hope Foundation, 5800 W. Loop
S., Ste. 560. To schedule an appointment: Tom at 713/
228-0735, ext. 121.

PLANNING AHEAD

NOVEMBER
November 3 (Wed.)

A Little Day Music with the Fischer Duo. Da
Camera's free lunchtime performance series contin-
ues with Norman Fischer on cello and Jeanne Kierman
Fischer on piano. Pack a lunch, see a live performance,
and maybe win tickets to another Da Camera show
later that week. Noon in the Grand Foyer of the
Wortham Center, 500 Texas St. at Smith. For more
information: 713/524-5050 or www.dacamera.com.

PERFORMING ARTS

♦ **The Calling of Jericho Jones.** Jericho Jones has
been MIA for seven years. What happened? His family
decides a séance just might shed some light on the
mystery. \$10, \$9 students/seniors. \$8 matinees. 8:30
pm with 3 pm matinees on Oct. 3 and 10, through
Oct. 16 at Theatre Suburbia, 1410 W. 43rd. Tickets: 713/
682-3525 or www.theatresuburbia.com.

♦ **Castro's Beard.** Four CIA bureaucrats fumble for a

plan to assassinate Fidel Castro and retrieve Cuba from
Communism. Maybe they should put a contract on
him with the Mob. Maybe a really explosive exploding
cigar would do the trick. How about poison shoes?
Surprisingly, Brian Stewart's satire is not entirely fictional.
\$20-\$35. Oct. 6-24 at Stages, 3201 Allen Pkwy. Tickets:
713/527-0123 or www.stagestheatre.com.

♦ **Don't Dress for Dinner.** In this French farce,
Bernard has made the perfect arrangements for a tryst
with his mistress: A place in the country, a Cordon
Bleu chef to prepare a hot dinner, a close friend to
serve a cool alibi. But nothing goes according to plan.
Zut alors! \$14, \$12 seniors, and \$10 students. 8 pm
Fridays and Saturdays through Oct. 23 at The Company
OnStage, 536 Westbury Sq. Tickets: 713/726-1219 or
www.companyonstage.org.

♦ **The Exonerated.** This documentary theatrical
production tells the story of six individuals who spent
years on death row before being found innocent and
set free. To enrich and enliven the experience, the
show is followed by an open panel discussion of the
subject matter with the artists, cast, and a number of
noteworthy legal experts. On board are Senator
Rodney Ellis, David Dow (a professor at University of
Houston Law School), Paul Nugent (defense counsel
for one of the exonerated individuals in the play), and
others. \$40-45. Oct. 1-31 (check for showtimes) at
The Alley Theatre's Neuhaus Stage, 615 Texas Ave.
Tickets and info about the roster of experts: 713/228-

8421 or www.alleytheatre.org.

♦ **I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change!** Stages
extends its revival of the musical that portrays love as
being just as laughable as it is painful. \$25. Through
Oct. 31 at Stages, 3201 Allen Pkwy. Tickets: 713/527-
0123 or www.stagestheatre.com.

♦ **The Last Night at Orabella's.** Fans of Radio Music
Theatre will be sad and excited to know that RMT
begins its final run of the 14-play series centered on
the singing Fertle Family. This first play kicks off their
20th season; by the end of their 14th play, RMT will
have reached its 25th anniversary, upon which the cast
of three (Rich Mills, Vicki Farrell, and writer/director
Steve Farrell) will retire. Appropriately enough, the play
that began it all opens with the closing of the only
honkytonk in the Fertle's hometown of Dumpster,
Texas. \$18. Runs through November 20 at Radio Music
Theatre, 2623 Colquitt, near Richmond and Kirby.
Tickets: 713/522-7722.

♦ **Leading Ladies.** In this world premiere, two
bungling Shakespearean actors, reduced to performing
in Amish Pennsylvania, meet a wealthy old woman
struggling to relocate her long-lost heirs. Enter her eye-
catching niece who dreams of a career in the theater,
and a new comedy of mistaken identity is born. \$19-
\$52, with pay-what-you-can performances. Oct. 15-
Nov. 7 at The Alley Theatre's Hubbard Stage, 615 Texas
Ave. Tickets: 713/228-8421 or www.alleytheatre.org.

♦ **Little Fascist Panties.** Dos chicas presents Bob
Morgan's new play about Jenna, a street girl, who is
offered a wonderful new life by Mia and Lisle. Paradise
transforms into a nightmare when a john savages Lisle
and Mia declares revenge. \$10, \$8 students/seniors.
Oct. 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 22, and 23 (pay-what-you-want shows
on Oct. 5 and 12) at Helios, 411 Westheimer. Tickets:
832/283-0858 or dccommune@yahoo.com.

♦ **Madame Butterfly.** Houston Grand Opera's
Golden Anniversary opens with the 100th anniversary
of Puccini's renowned masterwork. American soprano
Patricia Racette performs the role of Cio-Cio San, the
lovely geisha committed to marry American officer Lt.
Pinkerton, played by British baritone Paul Charles
Clarke. Patrick Summers conducts. Tickets start at \$30.
Oct. 22-Nov. 13. Showtimes vary. Tickets: 713/228-
OPERA or www.houstongrandopera.org.

♦ **Me-sci-ah (Or, How I Learned to Stop Worry-
ing and Love Tom Cruise).** Infernal Bridegroom's Troy
Schulze created this grand scale multimedia look at
celebrity, religion, and truth. \$5.99-\$15. Thursdays, Fri-
days, and Saturdays, Oct. 14-30, 8 pm, at the Axiom's
live music stage, 2524 McKinney. Tickets/info: 713/522-
8443 or www.infernalbridegroom.com.

♦ **Mrs. Farnsworth.** With Super Tuesday fast
approaching, there's no better time for political satire.
A.R. Gurney's commentary on the state of politics and
the fading away of WASP culture finds Connecticut
society wife and mother Margery Farnsworth in a
creative writing class, working on a book: Her tome-
in-the-making reveals her past indiscretions with a Yale
undergrad who has grown up to become the most
powerful man in the free world. Her (most likely
Republican) husband is none too pleased and does
what he can to keep their image (and history) lily white.
\$22 and \$25. Through Oct. 24, Fridays and Saturdays
at 8 pm, Sundays at 5 pm at Theater LaB, 1706 Alamo,
off 2100 Houston Ave. Tickets: 713/868-7516.

♦ **One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest.** Nurse
Ratched's back. Witness the madness, the
(psychotropic) drugs, and the dignity of the inmates
of an asylum as they wrestle with confinement and a
society that wants nothing to do with them. \$17-\$22.
8 pm Fridays and Saturdays, 2:30 pm Sundays at The
Strand Theatre, 2317 Ship's Mechanic Row, Galveston.
Tickets: 409/763-4591. →

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♦ **Porgy and Bess.** Written by George Gershwin in collaboration with his brother Ira and DuBose Heyward, *Porgy and Bess* is the one American opera to become fully established in the international opera repertory. 8 pm, Oct. 22 and 23, at Jones Hall. For more info: www.spahouston.org or www.livingartssnyc.com.

♦ **Salsipuedes, A Tale of Love, War, and Anchovies.** In Daniel Catan's opera, a small Caribbean country declares war on Nazi Germany, causing Ulises (American tenor Chad Sheldon) and Chucho (American baritone Scott Hendricks) to leave their brides while they fight. Through a series of comic mishaps, the two must set things straight with the shifty leaders of their country before they save their country and see their brides again. Sung in Spanish with English surtitles. Tickets start at \$20. Oct. 29–Nov. 14, showtimes vary, at the Wortham's Brown Theater, Texas Ave. at Smith Street. Tickets: 713/228-OPERA or www.houstongrandopera.org.

♦ **Texas Renaissance Festival.** Hear ye, hear ye. It's that time of year again to imbibe ale from leather mugs and eat fatty food precariously impaled upon splinter-laden sticks. How much durst ye spend on turkey legs, mead, the wares of yon artisans (perchance a crystal wand?) in nary the turning of a single harvest moon? \$11 for opening weekend, \$18 in advance, \$21 at the gate, \$6–\$10 for children. Oct. 2–Nov. 14 at 21778 FM 1774, Plantersville. Info: 800/458-3435 or www.texrenfest.com.

♦ **World of Opera.** Houston Grand Opera continues its national radio broadcasts this fall on National Public Radio. Audiences will hear selections from the 03-04 season, including *Affairs of the Heart*, *Tosca*, and *Jenufa*. For a free radio guide, e-mail radio@houstongrandopera.org or call 888/463-6103. Saturdays at 12:30 pm, Oct. 16–Dec. 4 on KUHF, 88.7 FM.

PERFORMING ARTS

For Young People

♦ **The Princess and the Pea.** In this modern version of a children's classic, a princess agrees to three tests to prove she's worthy of the prince's hand in matrimony. But after proving her worth, is the prince really deserving of her? \$7. Saturdays at 11 am and 1:30 pm through Oct. 23 at The Company OnStage, 536 Westbury Square. Tickets: 713/726-1219 or www.companyonstage.org.

RADIO

♦ **After Hours.** Saturdays, midnight to 3 am. Featuring the QMZ (Queer Music Zone) with Jimmy Carper. KPFT 90.1 FM, 713/526-5738.

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

ART/PHOTOGRAPHY

♦ **Carrie Moyer: Sister Resister.** In conjunction with the 6th Annual Stomp Around, the New York-based Moyer returns with a solo exhibit. Moyers takes 20th-century resistance symbols from organizations including the Black Panthers and early women's and gay liberation groups and incorporates them into a Modernist framework. Free. Through Nov. 6 at DiverseWorks, 1117 East Fwy off Main at Naylor. Info: 713/223-8346 or www.diverseworks.org.

♦ **Jessica Stockholder, Kissing the Wall: Works, 1988–2003.** This intensive look at Stockholder's smaller-scale, freestanding sculptures serves as an insight to her catalyst for artistic concerns. Lovers of found-object composition will likely take to her work. Through Nov. 21 at Blaffer Gallery, University of Houston,

Central campus. For more info: 713/743-9530 or www.blaffergallery.org.

♦ **Joseph Beuys: Actions, Vitrines, Environments.** The first major Beuys exhibit in the English-speaking world since 1979, the collection brings a body of work of what many hold to be the most influential European post-WWII to Houston. Considered Europe's most important avant-garde artist, Beuys renewed Germany's voice in the international art world and opened doors to many artists to follow. Free. Oct. 8–Jan. 2 at the Menil Collection, 1515 Sul Ross. For more info: 713/525-9400.

♦ **Perspectives @ 25: A Quarter Century of New Art in Houston.** Go CAM-H. It's your birthday. Contemporary Arts Museum Houston celebrates its 25th anniversary with this retrospective of its Perspectives series. Over 70 major international artists on display include Patti Smith, Yasumasa Morimura, and Ken Price. Many of these artists got their first big break through this series at the CAM. Free. Oct. 9–Jan. 9 at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, 5216 Montrose Blvd. Info: 713/284-8250 or www.camh.org.

♦ **Perspectives 143: Katherine Grosse.** The Berlin-based artist created this site-specific installation to extend across the Perspectives Gallery floor and includes the walls and columns, surrounding visitors in vibrant color. Through Nov. 7 at Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, 5216 Montrose Blvd. Info: 713/284-8250 or www.camh.org.

♦ **Shirl Riccetti: The Bold Approach.** Riccetti's new watercolor exhibit is open to the public. Through Oct. 23 at Archway Gallery, 2013 W. Gray, River Oaks Shopping Center. For more info: 713/522-2409 or www.archwaygallery.com.

♦ **Richard Stout.** Named 2004 Art League Houston Texas Artist of the Year, this exhibit spans the more than four decades of his career. Free. Oct. 20–Dec. 30 at Heritage Hall, J.P. Morgan Chase Building, 707 Travis. Info: www.artleaguehouston.org/tx_artist/about.html.

♦ **Teachers in the Spotlight in Studio School Faculty Exhibition.** Twenty-two professors and faculty members continue the Glassell's tradition of faculty shows, but for the first time in 46 years, with an accompanying catalogue. Organized artists? Is this progress or is it creativity held down by the system? Through Nov. 28 at the Glassell School of Art, 5101 Montrose Blvd. For more info: 713/639-7500.

♦ **Truth Matters: The Meaning of Objects** is a group exhibition that looks at still life and the meaning artists make of them. Koya Abe adds digital images of Samurais and the Ol' West to photos inspired by 19th-century snapshots. Michelle Sank offers a critical portrayal of the Western world from the perspective of adolescent girls. On exhibit through Oct. 31 at the Houston Center for Photography, 1441 W. Alabama. For info: 713/529-4755 or www.hcponline.org.

♦ **Yale Street Arts & Flower Market** is a Heights market created for local artists to display and sell their original works of art. Fresh-cut flowers are also available. Entertainment is provided by local musicians and is a highlight throughout the day. The market is free & open to the public from 9 am–5 pm and continues the first Saturday of each month, coinciding with the Heights 1st Saturday events. The market is located behind Kaplan's Ben-Hur at 210 West 21st Street just off Yale. Free parking is available in the Kaplan's parking lot. Info or booth rental: Mitch Cohen at 713/802-1213 or visit www.YaleStreetMarket.com.

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for OutSmart's November issue:
Monday, October 11, 5 p.m.

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Business News



From the Jewel series

This month, **Tansu** presents *Eastern Impressions*, an exhibition of fabric and paper artwork by **Donna Durbin**, who lives in the Heights. The show at the Asian-inspired home store runs through November 2.

Tansu is located at 321-B West 19th Street. The phone number is 713/880-5100. The website is www.tansustyle.com.



Dick McGee's Blue Pot

Hanson Galleries, the craft retailer, presents two exhibitions this month. *Painting with Fire*, a show featuring the ancient Japanese art of raku, opens October 16 and continues through November 14. Hanson will also present *Opal Essence*, an exhibition of work by nationally known jewelry artists, during October.

Hanson Galleries, recently named number-two craft retailer in the nation by *Niche* magazine, has two Houston locations: Memorial City (713/984-1242) and Uptown Park (713/552-1242). The website is www.hansongalleries.com.



Ron Collins' Mirror of Humility

The website address is www.sippora.com.

Sippora Gallery opens its next exhibition, *Kuumba*, on October 9 with a 6-9 p.m. reception. Artists featured include Ron Collins, David DuBois, Vendeta Taylor, and Kat Moon.

Sippora is located at 234 West Gray. The phone number is 713/520-1085.



Octavio Barrios, M.D., has opened **Skin Renaissance Laser Center** (106 Westheimer, Suite A; 713/942-SKIN). The facility offers various types of skin treatment, including hair removal and laser resurfacing. Barrios (l) is joined by certified laser technician **Dee Dee Morales** (c) and manager/certified laser technician **Christopher Wright**. The website is www.skinrenaissance.net.



Eric Lechuga (l) and **Chris Figg** have opened **Supplement Central** (106 Westheimer, Suite B; 713/874-1728). They offer an array of vitamins, herbs, supplements, homeopathic remedies, aromatherapy products, and books. The website is www.SupplementCentral.biz.



Richard Hill (pictured) has joined **Keller Metropolitan** as its newest agent. Hill has specialized in the Heights, Montrose, and West University areas for the past 18 years. His phone numbers are 713/621-8001 (office) and 713/828-7866 (mobile). His website is www.RichardHill.com.

A Life Up on the Screen continued from page 60

around and goofing off on camera. My primary goal with *Tarnation* was to make an intense, far-out film about the experience of dealing with and overcoming mental-health issues and abuse without the candy-coated gloss that Hollywood always seems to depict it. As a child, filming things was a way to protect myself from the admittedly unusual circumstances I was surrounded with, but it was also my major way of having fun and expressing myself as everyone around me was also expressing themselves, for worse or better. My mother Renee loves the film and loves all these gay boys running in and out of the house telling her how she's an up-and-coming gay film icon. She laughs every time she watches the movie and thinks all the attention it's getting is wonderful and a real hoot. I hope this movie helps people understand that it's okay to feel different. It's okay to feel crazy sometimes or like an alien in this world. No matter what has happened to me in my life, I've always known my family loves me, and I have always loved my family above all. *Tarnation* is essentially a love letter to my mother.

How did your boyfriend David figure into this whole process? Any concerns over what you would depict?

JC: No, no. He knew where I was coming from all along. He's been supportive all along. Nobody thinks they're being exploited. Everybody knows this is a really unique story, and they're glad it's being told. Since *Tarnation* has gotten out into the world I've had all kinds of old friends, ex-boyfriends, and party buddies coming out of the woodwork to see the film and reconnect with me—including people who appear in the film, and they've all been overwhelmingly delighted and excited to be a part of it. They never dreamed that when this goofy kid followed them around with a Super 8 camera, years later they'd appear in a film at the Cannes Film Festival. Reconnecting with old friends is definitely one of the best by-products of the film getting out there.

And did you get a role in *Shortbus* after all?

JC: From what I understand, a sort of impromptu Robert Altman-esque salon scene. My line is "I'm an albino," and I am an albino, actually. Decode that one. It's a brilliant script, though. I just read it for the first time. It blows me away, and it's very new and unlike anything I've seen in a film.

Lawrence Ferber, a New York-based entertainment writer, interviewed humorist David Sedaris for our June issue.

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Susan Elmore with OutSmart at Niagara Falls.

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Susan Elmore, owner of Susan Elmore Public Relations, paused with her copy of OutSmart on a recent visit to Niagara Falls.

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On October 8, OutSMART will not shut down for the Boycott for Equality, a nationwide effort encouraging GLBT individuals to stay home from work to demonstrate the importance of our community to the economy. Some queers have to work. However, many of us will participate in the coordinated cash withdrawal part of the campaign, in which individuals are asked to pull \$80 from their local ATMs (the amount represents the amount the average GLBT person contributes to the U.S. economy each day). The Atlanta-based boycott organizers expect the action to exhaust the cash in many ATMs, providing evidence of gay economic power. More info: www.boycottforequality.org.

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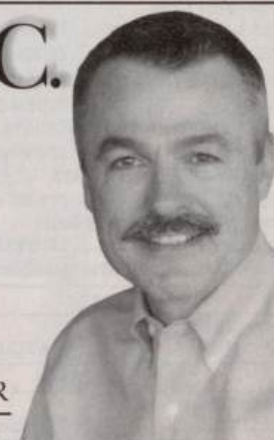
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Franco Chiropractic Clinic/Fernando Franco	2136 Yale, Ste C 832/816-1236
Kirby Wellness Center/Kenneth W. Lester	2727 Kirby Dr., Ste. 324 713/526-5252
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Barbara Levinson, PhD/ Ctr for Healthy Sexuality	2400 Augusta Dr. Ste. 120 713/785-7111
Denise O'Doherty	3730 Kirby, Ste 910 713/524-9525
Bob Snellgrove, LMSW-ACP	3400 Montrose 713/522-7014
Patrick J. Vachon, LMSW, ACP	 713/524-1771
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Texas Massage Man	 713/652-5766
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Diagnostic Eye Center Bellaire/Stewart Zuckerbrod, MD	5420 Dashwood, Ste. 101 713/668-9118
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Karen Derr/Karen Derr & Assoc.	1545 Heights Blvd 713/862-1600
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Mortgage Associates/John Frels	3303 Louisiana, Suite 220 713/524-1850

Prestige Mortgage Group/Jose McDonald	3934 FM 1960 W. Ste 105 713/446-0303
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Di Bella's Italian Restaurant	1902 31st St, Galveston.....409/763-9036
11th Street Cafe	748 E. 11th St.....713/862-0089
El Meson Cuban Restaurant	2425 University.....713/303-6050
Hollywood Vietnamese & Chinese	2409 Grant 713/523-8808
Kam's Fine Chinese Cuisine	4500 C Montrose.....713/529-5057
Kim Son Restaurants	2001 Jefferson.....713/222-2461
Laurier Cafe & Wine	1301 Fannin.....713/328-5103
Mario's Italian Restaurant	628 Seawall, Galveston.....409/750-8888
Noche Cocina Y Bar	2409 Montrose.....713/529-8559
Osaka Japanese Restaurant	515 Westheimer 713/533-9098
Riva's Italian Restaurant	1117 Missouri.....713/529-3450
Ragin' Cajun	4302 Richmond.....713/623-6321
Tila's Restaurant	1111 S. Shepherd.....713/522-7654
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Crossover Gifts	415 Westheimer www.crossovergifts.com
Eiband's Gallery	2201 Postoffice, Galveston.....409/763-5495

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Garden Mystiques	807 W. Gray 713/942-0010
Headliners 24 Hour Video	7330 Southwest Fwy 713/270-7309
Indian Sun	2444 Times Blvd, Ste110 713/523-4288
Purple Triangle	 www.thepurpletriangle.com
Set For Life	1138 West Gray 713/520-5800
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BAR & CLUB GUIDE

HOUSTON

BOCADOS

On Wednesday nights, women pack this Mexican restaurant for dancing and socializing. Sunday brunch starts at 11 a.m. and lasts till 3 in the afternoon. 1312 West Alabama • 713/523-5230.

BRAZOS RIVER BOTTOM

The BRB, Houston's leading country-western bar, is located in Midtown, just outside Montrose. Expect to see some fast and fancy two-stepping. Great benefit shows often take place on Sunday night. 2400 Brazos • 713/528-9192.

BRIAR PATCH

One of the oldest gay nightspots in Houston, the venerable piano bar recently moved to a Montrose location. Popular entertainer Jerry Atwood performs every Saturday night. 2312 Crocker • 713/665-9676 • www.HoustonGayBars.com.

BRICKS II

This neighborhood joint boasts a jukebox with country music, pool tables, cold draft, and the occasional cowboy hat. Regu-lars rule at this low-key spot. 617 Fairview • 713/528-8102.

CABO MONTROSE

This restaurant near the Westheimer-Montrose epicenter now has a weekly GLBT Night on Tuesdays directed at diners in the community, featuring drink specials. 1111 Westheimer • 713/942-2226.

CHANCES/THE NEW BARN/G-SPOT

This three-in-one women's bar provides a place to two-step, rock, or chat. Check out the 9 p.m.-1 a.m. open mic night on Thursdays. Women-fronted bands perform every Saturday night. 1100 Westheimer • 713/523-7217 • www.chancesbar.com.

CLUB BIG YO

With the motto "This is an all girls production; our male friends are welcome," this Southwest club offers special evenings including Thursday talent night. Dancers strut on Sunday. 6305 Skyline • 713/953-0268, 281/322-0394 • www.clubbigyo.com.

CLUB INERGY

A nightlife institution for 12 years, this Southwest club offers an eclectic mix of Latin rhythms, mainstream dance, and hip hop. Sunday is the special show night. 5750 Chimney Rock • 713/666-7310 • www.clubinergy.com.

CLUB RAINBOW

Welcoming a mixed lesbian crowd, this bar is

located on the Westheimer curve in Montrose. The Glow Girl dancers perform on Sunday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday nights. 1417-B Westheimer • 713/522-5166.

COUSIN'S

Drag fans pack this club in the heart of Montrose for its campy shows on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. 817 Fairview • 713/528-9204.



BEHIND THE BAR

WHO: Stephen Watson
WHERE: Keys West
(817 West Dallas
713/571-7870)

WHAT'S UP: OutSmart readers named Watson their favorite male bartender in our Gayest & Greatest survey.

DECADES

Celebrating its fourth year in business, this casual neighborhood bar packs lots of local color. Decades regularly hosts pool tournaments and benefit events. 1205 Richmond • 713/521-2224.

EJ's

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

GUAVA LAMP

Every Thursday is Cabaret Night at this stylish Shepherd Plaza video club. Karaoke fans tune up for the Wednesday and Sunday night contest. 2159 Portsmouth • 713/524-3359 • www.guavalamp.com.

JR's/SANTA FE

This Montrose standard offers features from pool tables, go-go dancers, to karaoke. Look for Carol Gilford and George Konar, named best bartenders in the 2002 Gayest & Greatest OutSmart reader poll. 808 Pacific • 713/521-2519.

KEYS WEST

Selected best piano bar in the Gayest & Greatest

the Tejano and country-western music, the women, and the pool tables. Owner Mela Contreras was a Pride parade grand marshal in 2002. 302 Tuam • 713/523-0747.

METEOR

The chic atmosphere at this Montrose video bar includes overstuffed couches, marble-topped bars, and stylish glassware. Attractive men and women gather here any night of the week for drinks and conversation. 2306 Genesee • 713/521-0123 • www.meteorhouston.com.

MICHAEL'S OUTPOST

Minutes from Montrose, this relaxed neighborhood bar hosts frequent pool and dart tournaments. On Wednesday, stop by for Rick's chili con queso and chips. 1419 Richmond • 713/520-8446.

MO MONG

Every Wednesday night, the guys and gals show up at this Vietnamese restaurant in droves to enjoy the martini specials. 1201 Westheimer #B • 713/524-5664.

MONTROSE MINING COMPANY

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

O

Two outdoor balconies allow patrons to watch the passing parade on Pacific. A sleek interior and multiple plasma screens distinguish this spot, which stays open after hours on weekends. 710 Pacific • 713/523-0213.

PEARL

Promoter Eduardo Elizondo hosts a Thursday gay night at this swanky new club in the downtown club district. Hop on the Metro train and head north. 310 Main • 713/528-5736 • www.pearl.houston.com.

PRIVÉ

The patio at this second-floor spot overlooks the lively Westheimer/Montrose intersection. The mixed crowd includes smartly dressed gays as well as non-gays. 910 Westheimer • 713/522-2542.

RAINBOW ROOM

Every Thursday, Heather Moon hosts Karaoke Night at this north Houston club. DJ Kenny supplies music on Friday & Saturday. The club has begun presenting live music. 527 Barren Springs off Ella Boulevard • 281/872-0215 • www.GayNorthHouston.com.

RIPCORD

OutSmart readers named this spot the best place to show off your leather in the Gayest & Greatest poll. Inside the bar, the Black Hawk Leather Shop sells treasures for the leather/levi/uniform crowd. 715

Fairview • 713/521-2792 • www.theripcord.com.

611 CLUB

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

SOUTH BEACH

The potent EAW Avalon Series Sound System keeps the shirtless boys dancing the night away. In the Gayest & Greatest poll, OutSmart readers named this spot the best club after 2 a.m. 810 Pacific • 713/529-SOBE (7623) • www.SouthBeachTheNightclub.com.

TOYZ

Thursday night means the long-running Papi Chulo amateur strip show, emceed by Monique Johnson with DJ Alex T providing house, hip hop, and Latin music. Cookie La Cook hosts her show on Fridays. 5322 Glenmont • 713/668-4892.

UNION BAR & LOUNGE

This swank new club in Montrose has Girlie Action on Thursdays hosted by DJ Gracie Chavez and featuring guest female DJs ("Bring your girlfriends out, ladies," the website beckons). 202 Tuam • 713/529-5296 • www.unionbarandlounge.com.

VIVIANA'S

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

XCAPE

Lyrica Andrews hosts Luscious Ladies Nite on Wednesdays, featuring female go-go dancers and no cover for gals. On Fridays and Saturdays, there is no cover all night. 8101 Airport Blvd. • 713/454-0775.

Conroe

RANCH HILL SALOON

Located 30 miles north of Houston, this spot features daily drink specials, live entertainment, and karaoke night on Wednesday. 2111 Airport Rd. • 936/441-6426.

Galveston

GARZA'S KON TIKI

Located downtown, the Kon Tiki is steps from the Strand. This spot was named favorite island club and best place to see male dancers in the Gayest & Greatest poll. 315 Tremont • 409/765-5805 • www.thekontiki.com.

ROBERT'S LAFITTE

A real neighborhood bar, this island institution attracts a colorful crowd of regulars and travelers. The verdant, redone private patio of the club, located only two blocks from the Gulf, now includes a swimming pool. 2501 Ave Q (at 25th) • 409/765-9092.

THIRD COAST

This new club has opened in the former Jimmy's on the Beach location. The wall of windows still offers a great view of the Gulf. 904 Avenue M • 409/765-6911.

UNDERCURRENT

Keith Curry and Marvin Grenier, long-time Blvd Saloon bartenders, have assumed ownership of the Gulf-view bar and rechristened it. The second-floor deck still has a great view of the water. 3102 Seawall Blvd. • 409/750-8571.

Beaumont

THE COPA

The hangout for Lamar University students, this two-story dance club has pool tables, a spacious stage, and a staircase that would make Norma Desmond green with envy. 304 Orleans • 409/832-4206.

CHRIS' CROCKETT STREET PUB

This club (formerly just Crockett Stree Pub) has new owners, Chris and Sybil, and a slightly new name. Free pool and Man Watch on Saturday night are just some of the features here. 497 Crockett • 409/835-4243 • www.GayBeaumont.com.

HOOLIGAN'S

Though primarily a women's bar, this just-opened club is open to all. Features include karaoke night on Wed. & frequent live music, especially on Fridays & Saturdays. 6025 Martin Luther King • 409/832-0808.

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SignOut

by Lilly Roddy

The month's features are the eclipses. There is the New Moon Eclipse on October 13 at 5:48 p.m. at 21 Libra. Balance, fairness, and harmony are being brought to the forefront. The Full Moon Eclipse on the 27th at 6:07 p.m. at 5 Taurus makes us more aware of what we really value at this point in our life. The eclipse cycle is approximately 18 years. Look back and see what was happening to you then and how that might relate to now. • There is also an unusual lineup of the planets on October 1. The planets Moon, Mercury, Mars, Saturn, Uranus, and Pluto line up in a five-pointed star. We don't have this type of lineup very often. It can create a very creative and stressed time in our lives. By the time you read this, you will have been under the influence of this since the end of September 2004. • Don't forget to fall back and readjust your clocks on Halloween. You might not get your extra hour of treats.

ARIES (March 21–April 19). Relationships are on the menu for you this month. You are confronting problems and wanting to make more time to spend together. And with the 13th eclipse, this is emphasized even more. Be prepared for buried issues you have about partnerships to come to the surface. You will certainly not want to be alone during this month. Financial and emotional security remain in your consciousness, no matter the relationship distractions.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20). Your relationship concentration is happening for you at work. Normally you are the mediator of all disputes there, but this month your needs will outweigh the desires of your co-workers. And the emphasis of self is reinforced with the Full Moon Eclipse in Taurus on the 27th. Don't be surprised that you are irritable and not so apparently easy-going. You are simply not sure where you are headed, and that makes you feel out of control. And Goddess forbid that you should appear not to know. Joining this list of unclear paths is your career. The answer is simple. Do what you like, not what you are supposed to do. Easier said than done.

GEMINI (May 21–June 21). You can expect a great break this month from all the tension you had in September. You are in a very creative mood, and you just want to have fun. And everything has to have that Fun label this month. This can be a great time to promote yourself in business, relationships, or business associations. Career directions have to add to your freedom, or you may be looking elsewhere. Long-term commitments in relationships could just be too tense for you. Keep them light and easy.

CANCER (June 22–July 22). This is your month to focus on your home and emotional security.



ILLUSTRATION: DAVID EDUARDO FLORES PEREZ

SCORPIO (October 24–November 21). There is a lot of activity going on with you this month, but most of it is behind the scenes. And people will be wondering where you are since you are not so out and about as you have been the last couple of months. You will also need some rest and retreat during this time. Don't over-extend yourself this month. You will have a harder-than-usual time knowing your limits. With the Full Moon Eclipse on the 27th in your solar 7th house of relationships, you should be on the lookout for someone new coming into your life. And yes, it is a karmic relationship.

And for you that is accentuated with the eclipse taking place in your solar 4th house of home and family. Old family problems will be brought to the surface with this eclipse. And you generally want your home to be a comfortable and safe place for you to remove your crab shell. You will be especially hard on yourself this month with your assessment of how well you are doing in your life. You are your own worst boss. Ask how others see you. That may give you some perspective.

LEO (July 23–August 22). You are just Chatty Cathy this month. You will not meet a stranger. This is a great month if you have to advocate for yourself, a product, or an idea. Your speech and animated gestures will draw in people. And be careful that you don't overdo it with all the things you will be overcommitting to. The Full Moon Eclipse on the 27th occurs in your solar 10th house of career. There is plenty of opportunity for you to be in the spotlight. Make sure that your laundry is clean.

VIRGO (August 23–September 22). You could be driven to make money this month. You have a lot of things you want, and there are lots of opportunities for you to make money to spend it on all those things. If you have financial issues that have been bugging you, you are ready to get them all cleaned up and off your back. Relationship issues are not as tense as they were last month, but you still want freedom. And traditional considerations are not your main objective. You will want to be heard this month.

LIBRA (September 23–October 23). This is your time of solar return or yearly birthday cycle. You are ready for something new and fun and someone to bring real excitement into your life.

You are very magnetic this year, and you will draw all types of people to you. Use discrimination because flattery will have your pretty head spinning. And you may not know whom to believe. This is a great month to start new projects since you are more decisive than usual. Career security remains important.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22–December 21). Some of the spotlight is off of you as the person in charge of every possible activity in your life. You are very happy to be sharing the load with your friends. Business groups and social organizations will be very beneficial to you this month and very important until next August 5. You are more careful with your finances and will want your money's worth on everything. In relationships, problems can arise around money issues. Keep your eyes open here. Somebody is trying to avoid being responsible.

CAPRICORN (December 22–January 19). There are just so many career opportunities this month. With the 18-year cycle of the New Moon Eclipse, you may be at the end of something you started long ago and just about to start something new. And it will come with more prestige, money, and power. Relationships are a bit testy. And there are new boundaries in the making. If your relationship is not working, you could be seeing a relationship counselor or even an attorney. Be careful that you don't overload your schedule. It will be very easy.

AQUARIUS (January 20–February 18). October offers you a breather. You are way past ready for it. Try to take some time off, travel, or just indulge yourself with some wonderful conversation. You don't want to be limited in your vision or thought this month. And you are seeing more connections than ever. The Full Moon Eclipse on the 27th will want you to have a more stable and comfortable home. You may get a call from your family, and they may want to visit. You are still valuing your privacy more than ever. Meet them at a restaurant for lunch.

PISCES (February 19–March 20). Relationships are still in the spotlight this month. But you are more interested in getting to the core aspects of shared desirability with your partner. And there is an air of openness and forgiveness all around. So both of you will be more open and ready to talk than ever. You want new freedoms, and your partner just wants to know what you want so she or he can adapt to desires. It is rare for you to be so open. Sexual energies are strong. Find some time to spend with your partner this month. It will be invaluable. If you are single, then get out and let yourself be seen.

A professional astrologer for 20 years, Lilly Roddy counsels individuals and teaches classes. Her website is www.lillyroddy.com.

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OUT IN HOUSTON

1 Noel Freeman (r) received the Lawrence and Garner Courage Award from Brian Chase, Lambda Legal south central regional attorney, at the June 25 Lambda breakfast at the Hilton Americas.

2 Shy Anne (l) and Dennis Deville (r) congratulated Miss Mint Julep Marsha Mink on July 18 at 1415 Bar & Grill. The Miss Mint Julep event benefited Montrose Clinic.

3 On July 10, Trevan Ross (l-r), Gary Killingsworth, Dan Meador, and Ray Marak celebrated their birthdays at their yearly Quarda Party at KeyStar Complex.

4 Harold Myrek (l) and C. J. Herrington performed at the July 7 Christmas in July benefit for PWA Holiday Charities at Brazos River Bottom.

5 Rich Boesch (l) celebrated his birthday on July 24 with partner Jason Higgins.

6 Paige Mahogany (c, in maroon shirt) and friends of Community Awareness for Transgender Support raised funds for CATS and the Houston GLBT Community Center at Wig Tease on July 23 at Mary's.

7 Author Cynn Chadwick (third from l) spoke at the July 25 Uncommon Legacy brunch at the Warwick and posed with (l-r) Tamara Ishee, Linda Morales, Carol Wyatt, Kathy Hubbard, and Christy Hext.

8 Cassie Upton, Gerren Benton, and Stephanie Ward attended Musical Theatre Night at Meteor on July 19.

9 On August 31, members of Community Gospel Church attended the Rainbow Pages GLBT Night, which raised funds for the congregation. On hand at Hollywood Vietnamese & Chinese Restaurant were (l-r) Tracey Cleek, Sue Hitchcock, Chris Chiles, John Paluch, Kelly Gilbert, and Michelle Dean.



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In its 16th year, this event supports a host of local charities including the Assistance Fund, Center for AIDS, Lesbian Health Initiative, Lambda Legal Defense Fund, Lazarus House, Montrose Clinic, PFLAG Houston, PFLAG/H.A.T.C.H. Youth Scholarship Foundation and the Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church.

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