# . . . TEXAS?

Brian Bradley used to lead a quite life in Washington, D.C. with his companion and lover, Josh, who was a much decorated military hero, veteran of two tours of duty in Vietnam and receipent of the Bronze Star. Josh's duties at the Department of Defense, where he was an employee for 20 years, included briefing and debriefing ambassadors. Their lives were forever changed, however, when the telephone rang at their capitol city home. It was for Josh. "You have HTLV III," said the voice on the other end of the line. "Report ASAP to Walter Reed Army Medical Hospital."

For the two years preceding Josh's death, Brian's energy was directed toward taking care of his partner and enjoying the little remaining time they had together. In 1987 the pair moved back to Brian's previous home of Houston, and Brian went to work for M.D. Anderson Hospital. He was hired as an operating-room scrub nurse and soon became known as a stickler for perfection.

Following Josh's death in 1989, Brian realized that he must do something to challenge the injustice Josh and others like him faced as a result of HIV discrimination. Soon he found himself frequently quoted in newspapers and on television, speaking out for gay and lesbian civil rights and about what it means to be HIV positive.

He was out of the closet at work and was often approached for support and advice by other gays and lesbians and people with HIV. Brian says, "It was a well known fact that I was HIV positive." Less than two years later, the secure environment of his employment and the family of co-workers he had developed changed dramatically.

"When Kim Bergalis proposed to the world that her dentist in Florida had given her AIDS, the medical community went into a whirlwind of hysteria," explains Bradley. "The CDC [Centers for Disease Control] made some statements to the press, before investigating any claims, to the effect that a cluster of people appeared to be infected with HIV by their healthcare givers .

"Then Senator Jesse Helms proposed a ten-year imprisonment and $10,000 fine for any practicing HIV+ healthcare workers," adds Bradley.

**"I was put on administrative leave until the next day—she said, 'Until Dr. Cox and public affairs can figure out what to do with you.' "**

On Friday, July 19, 1991, Bradley gave an interview with the *Houston Chronicle* and, even though he was very widely known for speaking out on AIDS issues, he had never gone on record that before that he was HIV+ or that he worked at M.D. Anderson.

"The article appeared Saturday the 20th of July," Bradley says. "Monday the 22nd when I returned to work, I didn't have a job."

Bradley made arrangements to meet with Georgia Thomas, Doctor of Employee Health at M.D. Anderson, to discuss this impending legislation that Sen. Helms was promoting. His intention was to not necessarily discuss his case, "but just hospital policy and what might happen if this legislation were to pass."

At this meeting Bradley says he learned that his supervisor, "who had known for years that I was gay and HIV+," faxed Dr. Thomas the article that appeared in the *Chronicle* . Dr. Thomas told Brian she could see no reason to keep him from going back into the operating room other than his having talked to the *Chronicle*.

"That's why I am suing Dr. Thomas and her supervisor, Dr. Cox," explains Bradley. "I was put on administrative leave until the next day—she said, 'Until Dr. Cox and public affairs can figure out what to do with you.' So the bureaucrats in the Public Affairs office got to decide what should be a medical question."

Dr. Cox met with Bradley two weeks later, in late July of 1991. He was given his choice of five jobs throughout the institution, "totally away from patient contact." In order to continue receiving a salary and, more importantly, health insurance, Bradley was forced to abandon his nursing skills.

"I accepted a job in the purchasing department," he says, "I had to."

"I filed suit in federal court charging that they violated the 1973 rehabilition act, which states that a person with a handicap or perceived handicap must be accomodated in their job if at all possible," Bradley recalls. "M. D. Anderson never attempted to do that. They say they used the CDC guidelines in removing me [from the operating room] but they did not even have a copy of the CDC guidelines in their hands until after they were faxed the article I appeared in."

Brian Bradley contends that removing him from his original employment situation was an inappropriate reaction to public hysteria.

"They want to give the appearance of security. They had said they have instituted a zero-risk policy at M. D. Anderson," he says. "I vehemently oppose mandatory testing in any form, but if M. D. Anderson were consistent to their statements of zero-risk policy, then every single solitary healthcare worker there would have been tested at least one time by now. No

one has [been tested] but me."

Bradley continues, "Subsequent to the media fallout created by Kim Bergalis and helped along by Jesse Helms, it was determined that there are no cases of patients being infected by their healthcare workers, though there are some 40,000 plus (it's estimated) healthcare workers with HIV."

The CDC guidelines that were published at the time basically reiterated current hospital procedures used nationwide.

"It did not, and still does not, call for removal of a person [based on his HIV status]," exclaims Bradley. "It calls for prudence and sound public-health policy. It calls for a peer review process. That never occurred. I have also charged them with the violation of my right to free speech."

**Even if I hadn't known that all this was going to have such a negative effect on me, I should have been out there... just living life.**

Bradley filed suit in federal court in January 1992, was assigned a federal judge and was made aware that it would be some months before the case would be heard.

"Judge Kenneth Hoyt said clearly I have a complaint that needs to be brought to trial," Bradley states. "A visiting judge from New York came to hear my case, and this particular judge has a reputation for clearing dockets without even perusing, much less considering, the cases."

Bradley says that this particular judge, in accordance with his reputation, didn't want to take the case to trial. However, after arguing with both Bradley's attorney and the state's attorney, he finally set a trial date, only to totally dismiss the suit two days later. The quick judgment, earlier requested by M.D. Anderson and denied by Judge Hoyt, had been granted.

Bradley then took his battle to the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans. He thought he had proven all of the neccessary points to win his case when the court decided to drop his suit without completing the hearing. The next step was a writ filed with the Supreme Court in January of 1994.

Many people have told him, he says, that this will be a long and ardous fight, possibly for nothing, if his case fails at the Supreme Court level.

"*I* didn't do a bad thing," retorts Bradley. "M.D. Anderson did a bad thing. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals did a bad thing. Federal Judge Milton Pollack did a bad thing. Even if in this case the bad people win and this is used against others later, I have tried to do what's right. If you don't try, you are certainly not going to get anywhere."

Bradley believes that, in general, cases involving HIV+ people are purposely drawn out, awaiting the death of the defendant that will spell the end to appeals and possibly costly settlements. But Bradley says he won't give up.

"I have contacted all five of the principles in this case by letter and told them that I have every intention of staying alive," he says with determination. "This has been two and a half years of court so far, and some estimated $300,000 in legal fees."

Certainly beyond his personal means, Bradley's court costs are underwritten by the Texas Human Rights Foundation and his attorney is charging no fees.

The effects of the case, states Bradley, have been both postive and negative. He has received death threats, and his mother and sister were both denied employment as a result of media attention.

"I don't have my friends in the operating room anymore," he explains. "The gays and lesbians that work there are scared of me. HIV+ individuals in the institution are scared of me—that somehow there's going to be a finger pointed at them, that they're guilty by association or whatever.

"But on the other side we've seen major medical institutions in Houston and throughout the world formulate positive policies in dealing with people who are HIV positive," Bradley continues. "That's the legacy of this case.—That was the whole idea—to [create] sound public policy."

After viewing the movie *Philadelphia*, Bradley says it was uncanny to watch a ficticious person go through ficticious events not dissimilar to the ones he has been going through. Reflecting on the film's outcome, Bradley states that he "felt glad in the sense that they were found to be wrong and were punished; but no amount of money in court victories for me or for Andrew Beckett in *Philadelphia* is enough.

"He [Tom Hanks' character] spent a lot of his last moments dealing with [the court hearing] when he should have been spending time with his lover, being with his family and having fun," Bradley relates. "I've spent a tremendous amount of time and effort and energy and T cells on this whole matter. Even if I hadn't known that all this was going to have such a negative effect on me, I should have been out there...just living life. I guess sometimes the price of living life is just—living life. You just do what you have to do." ▼

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## S.F. Supervisors Take First Interstate to Task

SAN FRANCISCO (Jan. 28 GayNet) — Shocked that banking giant First Interstate Bank, under pressure from anti-gay fundamentalists, had unceremoniously dropped its personnel policy barring discrimination based on sexual orientation, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors has sent a sharply critical letter to First Interstate BankCorp president William Siart, expressing its "disappointment" in the bank's decision.

"There is no restriction against First Interstate BankCorp prohibition of discrimination based upon sexual orientation in all of the states in which your subsidiaries are located," the letter states. "Such a policy would be far more consistent than allowing such discrimination in those states where it is not prohibited."

Last year First Interstate, which operates banks in 11 Western states, became the target of anti-gay fundamentalists after ChristNet, a national computer network for far-right Christians, urged its subscribers and their supporters to write to the bank protesting FIB's anti-bias policy including sexual orientation. The bank then quietly changed its employment discrimination policies to specify only "race, age, color, religion, national origin, sex, veteran status, disability or any other basis protected by federal, state or local law"—discretely omitting "sexual orientation" from the list.

## Idaho Business Dodging Ballot Stand

BOISE, Idaho (Jan. 28 GayNet) — Idaho business leaders have made it clear that they have every intention of trying to avoid any involvement with the state's anti-gay ballot initiative, either pro or con. "The issue is so far outside the normal context of day-to-day business operations that business people are really uncomfortable in trying to correctly analyze all the legal implications," Steve Ahrens, president of the Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry, told the *Idaho Statesman*. Earlier in January, Kelly Walton of the Idaho Citizens Alliance, which is backing the initiative, got a cool reception during a meeting with the Boise Area Chamber of Commerce, which also appears not to want to take a stand one way or the other on the ballot measure. Even TJ International Inc. chief executive officer Walt Minnick, who has publicly opposed the initiative as discriminatory and "anti-American," is not committing his firm to officially opposing the proposed measure out of concern it might upset customers and suppliers.

## Gays Too Much in Sex-Harassment Policy

FT. LAUDERDALE, Fla. (Jan. 29 GayNet) — Ronald Episcopo has filed an employment discrimination lawsuit against his former employer, Blockbuster Entertainment Corp., charging he was fired as a manager at the firm because he included gay and lesbian samples in the materials he created for the company in its anti-sexual harassment policies. Episcopo's suit claims that his former supervisor at Blockbuster didn't like the material and said it would make the firm look "gay sympathetic." Blockbuster denies Episcopo was fired because of the lesbian/gay materials, but instead was let go following a corporate restructuring move.

## 'Domestic Partners' Fly Free

JERUSALEM (Jan. 29 GayNet) — A gay flight attendant with Israel's El Al Airlines has won a court ruling that requires the air carrier to extend to the unidentified gay worker's domestic partner the same annual free ticket the airline makes available to the married spouses of its employees. The court ruled that in refusing to give the freebie to the gay man's boyfriend it was violating the nation's anti-bias laws, which include sexual orientation.


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# IN GOD'S NAME—

by Rev. Ralph C. Lasher, M. Div

Christianity is a religion based on the ministry and teachings of Jesus, whose life was clearly one of love, healing and forgiveness. He summarized his own teaching: "Love the Lord, your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind... Love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37-40).

His message was inclusive: "For God so loved the world that God gave the one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16).

Yet we all know that atrocities have been cloaked in Bible verses and committed in Christ's name. Several examples include:

- The Crusades, in which men, women and children were slaughtered in Jesus' name;
- The Inquisition, which tortured and murdered and called it "Holy";
- The enslavement of persons throughout the world by "Christians" and others who bred, branded and beat fellow humans;
- The lynchings, floggings and castrations of African Americans in the United States of America by hymn-singing, white sheeted Ku-Klux-Klan members;
- The murders and rapes during the conquest of Mexico and the destruction of an entire civilization;
- The persecution and discrimination in our nation against persons of color and women;
- The Holocaust in Ger many where two National Denominations turned their heads while millions of human beings were exterminated;
- The massacre and bombings in Ireland;
- The burning of witches in our own country.

Today another monstrous injustice, cloaked in Bible verse, is being committed



against people for whom Christ lived and died. It is the oppression, bashing and sometimes even murder of gays and lesbians. Those who seek to justify their homophobia and the behavior it encourages cite several Biblical passages, which they claim condemn gays and lesbians. Most often they quote from the King James Version. I was raised on the King James and can recite large portions of it. I love its poetry and beautiful language. But I don't use it or recommend it for study. For study, I prefer the New International Version.

Before it was written, the Bible circulated in oral form, some parts of it for several hundred years. The Old Testament was written in Hebrew and the New Testament in Greek. The King James, written in 1611 when James I was king of England, is not the oldest English translation of the Bible, which was first translated into English 229 years earlier in 1382, by a man named Wycliffe.

Modern Biblical scholars generally do not regard the King James as the most accurate English translation. They cite its numerous misspellings; the use of a variety of English words to translate the same Hebrew or Greek word; the overuse of terms derived from the Latin, which resulted in inaccurate translations; and the obscurity of Elizabethan English to today's speakers of English. In addition, more accurate Hebrew and Greek versions of the Bible have been discovered since the mid 19th century. But perhaps because of its longevity and poetry, the King James is still the best known and most used, though more and more churches today also use the newer, more accurate translation.

Accuracy becomes an issue, for example, when the King James uses the word "sodomite" to mean "homosexual." There is no such word in the original language. Respected English translations such as the Revised Standard Version (1952), the New International Version (1978), and the New Revised Standard Version (completed about a year ago) speak of "male cult prostitutes," which is not the same as "homosexuals."

### THE SODOM STORY

Persons who use Scripture to condemn gays and lesbians usually begin with the Sodom and Gomorrah Story (see Genesis 13-19). The word Sodom has given birth to the word "sodomy," which as a legal term usually refers to sexual activities between two males.

But the Sodom story would more accurately be called the Story of Lot. Whatever else it is, it is not a condemnation of a loving relationship between men or even of consensual sexual intercourse between men. Lot, a good Hebrew, invited two men who were traveling through his town to spend the night in his house. In those days, there was no Holiday Inn for travelers, and it was customary for good Hebrews to be hospitable to Hebrew travelers. Lot was hospitable. Shortly after he had taken the two strangers into his house a mob of men began banging on Lot's door and shouting to send the two guests out so they could rape them. The Hebrew word means "know" which is a euphemism for sexual inter-

*Rev. Ralph Lasher, who holds a Master's degree in divinity, was an Episcopal priest who was asked to resign from the church 35 years ago after he announced he was gay. He is executive director of Houston's Montrose Clinic and serves as a volunteer member of the clergy staff of the Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection, where he teaches a course on "Homosexuality and the Bible."*

# GAYS, LESBIANS AND THE BIBLE

course. Rape of a man in that part of the world was a custom usually reserved for prisoners captured in battle. It was an extreme humiliation since it treated a man like a woman, and women were considered inferior to men.

Lot, the good Hebrew and a "righteous" man, had a different suggestion. He told the mob that they shouldn't rape his male guests because they were his guests and under his "protection" in his home. Instead he suggested they rape his two virgin daughters.

Lot and his family were allowed to escape from the City before it was destroyed. Scripture contains two explanations for the sin of Sodom, neither of which refers to anything having to do with sex between two males (see Ezekiel 16:48-58 and Luke 10:8-12). The explanations given in Scripture say that the sin of Sodom was failure to meet the needs of the poor and worship of false gods. To complete the Lot story, his wife was turned into a pillar of salt. Then Lot and his two daughters had sexual intercourse, and both became pregnant by their father. The Lot story is one of rape of men and women, violence and incest. It has nothing to do with same-gender love. It isn't a condemnation of gays and lesbians.

**LEVITICAL HOLINESS CODE**

The Levitical Holiness Code comprises the majority of the Book of Leviticus and specifies what a Jew had to know to be a good or righteous Jew. In the heart of this codification of laws are two verses, both of which say the same thing:

*"Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman. It is detestable."*

*—(Leviticus 18:22).*

***Yet those who claim "God's Law" condemns gays and lesbians never claim that the hundreds of other provisions of the Holiness Code also apply to Christians.***

***The rest of the Holiness Code forbids such things as eating shrimp, clams, crawfish, lobster and oysters; eating meat with blood in it; eating pork or rabbit; drinking milk while eating a roast beef sandwich or putting butter on the bread used to make that sandwich...***

*"If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable."*

*—(Leviticus 20:13).*

It is these verses that the Religious Right and other verbal bashers of gays and lesbians quote as "proof" that homosexuality is an "abomination" and "detestable" to God.

The Hebrew word variously translated as "abomination" or "detestable" is the same word and simply means ritually unclean. In the context used in the Holiness Code it referred to practices associated with idol worship, i.e. persons whose religion worshiped a god other than the god of the Hebrews. The practice condemned in the two passages from Leviticus is male prostitution in the temple. Yes, pagan cults often had male and female prostitutes working so to speak as members of the temple staff. It was this practice, rather than loving relationships between persons of the same gender that the Holiness Code condemned. The Hebrew religious leaders had reason to be concerned about this pagan practice. For three hundred years even the temple in Jerusalem had male prostitutes until they were finally once and for all removed (see Deuteronomy 23:17-18, I Kings 14:24 & 15:12, and II Kings 23:7).

Yet those who claim "God's Law" condemns gays and lesbians never claim that the hundreds of other provisions of the Holiness Code also apply to Christians.

The rest of the Holiness Code forbids such things as eating shrimp, clams, crawfish, lobster and oysters; eating meat with blood in it; eating pork or rabbit; drinking milk while eating a roast beef sandwich or putting butter on the bread used to make that sandwich; men shaving or cutting their hair; planting tomatoes and carrots in the same garden; having sexual intercourse with one's wife during her menstrual period; a woman from talking in church or going to church during her menstrual period; wearing clothes made from two yarns, such as cotton and polyester, etc.

How can one say that these two verses are "God's Law" while completely ignoring all the other hundreds of provisions in "God's Law?" Even if the Hebrew Law condemns homosexuality—and it does not—both Jesus and Paul say that Christians are not bound by the Law of the Old Testament, but by the new Law of Love described in the New Testament.

**CELEBRATED RELATIONSHIPS**

Loving relationships between persons of the same gender not only weren't condemned, they were in fact celebrated in Scripture: Jonathan (the son of King Saul) and David (great hero of the Hebrews) were lovers. Jonathan we are told "became one in Spirit with David and loved him." (I Samuel 18:1). He made a covenant with David and stripped himself of much of his clothes and gave them to him (I Samuel 1:3-4). They embraced and kissed (I Samuel 20:41). When Jonathan was killed, David wept and said: "Your love to me was greater than the love of a woman." (see II

Samuel 1:26). Ruth and Naomi also seem to have been lovers. Ruth's pledge of love for Naomi—bizarre as it may seem—is often used at heterosexual weddings: "May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me." (see Ruth 1:17).

**THE NEW TESTAMENT**

The most important thing to note about homosexuality in the New Testament is that Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and Jesus never once mentioned it. Why then do the Religious Right and others talk as if homosexuality is their single most important concern? Bigotry. A prominent contemporary Episcopalian Bishop and theologian attributes it to fear and insecurity.

The absence of discussion of homosexuality in the New Testament leaves the Religious Right two passages in the writings of the Apostle Paul often used to condemn homosexuality. The first is from a letter Paul wrote to the Romans (written from Corinth) and the other from a letter written by him to the people in Corinth. Rome and Corinth were both appropriate targets for someone like Paul who was concerned about morality, especially sexual morality. Both cities were centers of Pagan worship which used idols in their worship of gods and goddesses of fertility.

For more than a half century several Biblical scholars have tried to build a case that Paul himself was gay, that his "thorn in the flesh" was a homosexual orientation. This may or may not have been true, but in any case Paul didn't approve of anyone having sex. Convinced that the end of the world with the return of Jesus was imminent, he believed that marriage and reproduction were unnecessary. For Paul, the only excuse for marriage was a man's inability to control his sex drive and remain celibate.

Though Paul was essentially opposed to all sexual activity, the passages from Romans and Corinthians are not condemnations of loving relationships between persons of the same gender. The first reference, Romans 1:26-27, speaks of women exchanging "natural relations for unnatural ones" and "men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another..." These references follow a condemnation (Romans 1:18-23) of persons who don't worship the one God whose Son Jesus had called Paul as an apostle. Paul harshly condemned (Romans 1:23) idol worshipers who worshiped images of gods "made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles." The references in verses 26 and 27 are in the context of worship of idols, and speak about male and female prostitution in the pagan temples. The reference has nothing whatsoever to say about loving gay and lesbian relationships.

The second reference is in I Corinthians 6:9-10 which equally condemns idol worshipers, drunks, slanderers, swindlers, thieves, the greedy and people he calls in Greek *malakos* and *arsenokoitai*. These words have been translated in many different ways, and scholars can't agree on what Paul meant. Malakos has been translated variously as "people who wear clothes of soft cloth" (like rich people) or "effeminate persons," "masturbators" or "homosexuals." Based on other usage of this word, the latter translation is the least likely to be accurate. Arsenokoitai is a word, possibly invented by Paul, combining two Greek words for "bed" and "males." An early Greek church leader, John Chrysostom, used this word to mean anal intercourse. Chrysostom assigned different penances for anal intercourse, depending on with whom it was done: one's wife, a woman not one's wife, another man, and so on. The most likely meaning of the word as used by Paul is male prostitutes.

It is regrettable that the Religious Right and others who oppress gays and lesbians have taken the Bible captive and are using it to further their private agenda. This, unfortunately, is not something new. People of the same state of mind and persuasion wrote and published a book in the U.S. back in 1904 called *The Negro a Beast*. These Bible bigots tried to use the Biblical quotations to prove that African Americans aren't human and, therefore, don't have souls. Not surprisingly, they arrived at the conclusion that African Americans couldn't have eternal life. Gays and lesbians were simply next in line, the last group of "different" human beings that could be slandered in public.

The Bible does not condemn homosexuality. Numerous books examine this subject in great detail. I recommend: *Christianity, Social Tolerance* by John Boswell; *Jonathan Loved David* by Tom Horner; *Living in Sin?* by Bishop John Spong; *Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalists* by Bishop John Spong; *Don't Be Afraid Anymore* by Troy Perry.

Scientific/medical professionals have long ago shot down the view once held by oppressors of gays and lesbians that homosexuality is a sickness. The same disciplines are in the process of destroying the myth that homosexuality is a matter of choice. Researchers have clearly established the fact that gays and lesbians constitute a substantial portion of the people on our planet.

Bigotry, unfortunately, is based on fear and insecurity rather than reason.

I find consolation, however, in the history of the church. God has always raised up persons, within the church, to purge the church of the inquisitors.

The purging may already be underway as clergy and lay persons force denominations to re-examine their long standing beliefs about gays and lesbians. In the past 30 to 40 years, more and more Biblical scholars and theologians are recognizing that Scripture doesn't condemn gays and lesbians. The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Churches, a worldwide Christian church with an outreach to the gay/lesbian community, is determined to be admitted to the National Council of Churches of Christ in America. And in the secular world, political leaders are questioning anti-gay and anti-lesbian policies. Courts of law are calling an end to discrimination against gay and lesbian citizens.

One by one, those who oppress lesbians and gays in the name of God are being stripped of their respectability. As this happens, more and more gays and lesbians are understanding that our sexuality is a gift to us. The Bible does not condemn that gift. t

***Loving relationships between persons of the same gender not only weren't condemned, they were in fact celebrated in Scripture...Ruth's pledge of love for Naomi—bizarre as it may seem—is often used at heterosexual weddings: "May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me."***

# DRY BODY BRUSHING— It's Not Just for Flakes

by Alan Davidson

Dry body brushing, one of the simplest and least expensive skin-care methods, has been used in European spas for decades. It requires only five minutes of your daily time and a natural bristle, long-handled brush, but it is essential in keeping your skin soft and supple. Even beyond these cosmetic enhancements, the benefits of a daily body brush are threefold: the skin is cleansed, the lymphatic vessels are stimulated and acupuncture meridians are energized.

The skin, which is the largest organ in the body and thus should be taken very seriously, is also a primary organ of excretion along with the lungs, colon and the bladder. Healthy skin can release up to two pounds of toxins each day, but, if the skin is not healthy, the body must excrete these toxins elsewhere. Dry brushing exfoliates or removes the dead cells from the outer layer of skin; therefore, brushing away the toxins that saturate this outer layer. Remember, this type of brushing is done *before* showering, creating more friction. Unfortunately, regular showering or bathing does not remove built-up chemical wastes at this level of the skin.

The most important benefit of dry brushing, especially for those who are HIV+, is to the lymphatic system. The lymph and immune systems are closely related since much of the body's immune response happens within the lymph system. There are only three ways to flush the lymph system: regular exercise (the body's natural movement for lymph), Manual Lymphatic Drainage (an Austrian massage technique) and dry body brushing. Brushing helps to gently flush the cells of the skin and move the lymph through its vessels to the lymph nodes for further filtering. This daily assistance to the immune system cannot be understated.

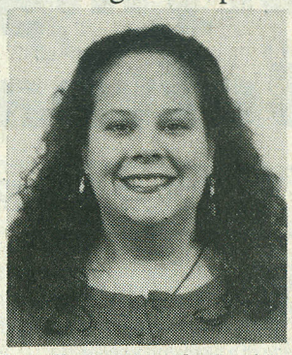
The final appeal of body brushing is directed to the more spiritually minded individuals among us. The ancient Chinese describe energy patterns that flow throughout the human body, connecting all the organ systems. This energy and its movement is called Chi. All well-being in oriental medicine is determined by how freely Chi energy flows in the body. Dry brushing activates these energy meridians and increases the flow of Chi energy. Furthermore, popular *Quantum Healing* author Dr. Deepak Chopra suggests that the skin is saturated with hormones. By massaging or brushing daily we can infuse the blood stream with this healing flow of hormones.

So what are you waiting for? Choose your favorite music—something stimulating—grab your brush, and rub your way to a healthier you!

*Alan Davidson is a licensed massage therapist with Essential Touch Therapies. To learn more about Dry Body Brushing and other forms of therapeutic massage call him at 942-0923.*


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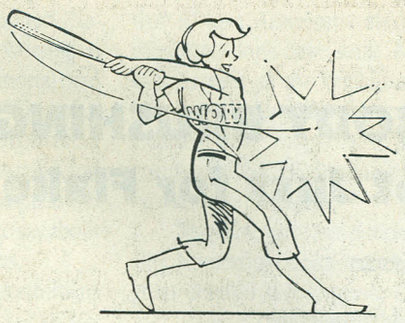
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# There's No Crying in Softball!



by Dr. Jackie Doval-Graziani

*Did you know that a majority of the sports injuries affecting the musculoskeletal system come from weekend warriors?*

Winter and the early sunset days are almost over and out! Springtime is arriving and it is time to be out, out, OUT!. "Tis the story and life of a weekend warrior...

There's nothing like that perfect weather to get out there with the buddies and play softball. The joys, the cheers, the sweat and—uh-oh!—the tears?!? You can almost hear Tom Hanks complaining, a la *A League of Their Own* "There's no crying in softball!"

Did you know that a majority of the sports injuries affecting the musculoskeletal system come from weekend warriors? Who is this weekend warrior? A person who engages in a serious and physically demanding sport that occaisionally takes places on the weekends and/or during the week but in a very sporadic fashion.

There is nothing wrong with being a weekend warrior. But it is important to strategize in order to prevent injury. Before you start any exercise program, it is important you consult with a physician (chiropractor or medical doctor) who is knowledgeable in exercise physiology. Your exercise program should incorporate a warm-up routine, endurance and strengthening exercises as a well as a proper cool down. Sport-specific training and cross-training of your body for 30 minutes 3-5 days per week will help get it ready for the weekend and aid in the prevention of injuries.

When the weekend comes around and it is almost playing time you should perform your warm up routine by holding both ends of the bat with your hands. Once you have stretched, walk a large lap around the playing field. On your second lap gradually begin to jog.

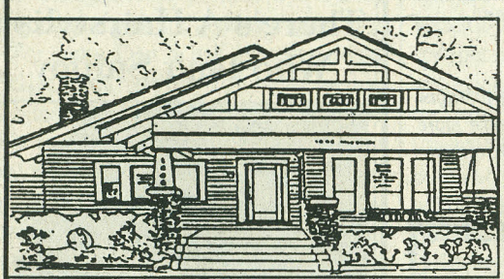
Jog for one lap and decrease the intensity by walking your last lap. After doing a few laps, practice throwing the ball, then practice swinging your bat in slow motion a few times, gradually increasing the intensity of the swing. Then practice hitting the ball and running the bases.

Avoid a sprain, strain, dislocation and/or fracture by using proper running and footing technique. When running the bases your foot should land directly on the base mat. Sliding into bases without having learned the proper sliding technique can also result in a serious injury. Do not forget to keep the muscles warm while on the bench waiting for your turn at bat and/or while on the playing field. Cooling down and then resuming play may result in a strain or a sprain.

Chiropractors are bone, muscle and nerve specialists who have been known mostly for treating neck, back and other musculoskeletal and sports-related injuries. Bottom line: Be prepared, be aware, get out, have fun and play safe. But most important, let's not see any tears should your team choke and suffer humiliating defeat. You may have lost the game, but your musculoskeltal system will thank you in the morning for employing this proper warm-up regimen. Remember—there's no crying in softball! ▼

*Dr. Jacqueline A. Doval-Graziani is a graduate of Texas Chiropractic College, Pasadena. She is an active member of the American Chiropractic Association, Texas Chiropractic Association and Texas Chiropractic College Alumni Association. She is very active and supportive of the lesbian and gay community. She is a member of the Houston Hispanic Forum and holds an executive committee position on the Board of Directors at Amigos Volunteers in Education and Services (A.V.E.S.) She is currently in private practice at the Alternative Health and Wellness Center, 2615 Montrose Boulevard, 522-WELL.*


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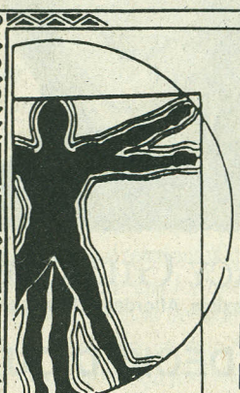


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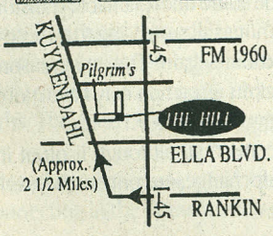
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**WHO:** Satya Shepherd

**HOW MUCH:** $10 a class; 4 for $35.

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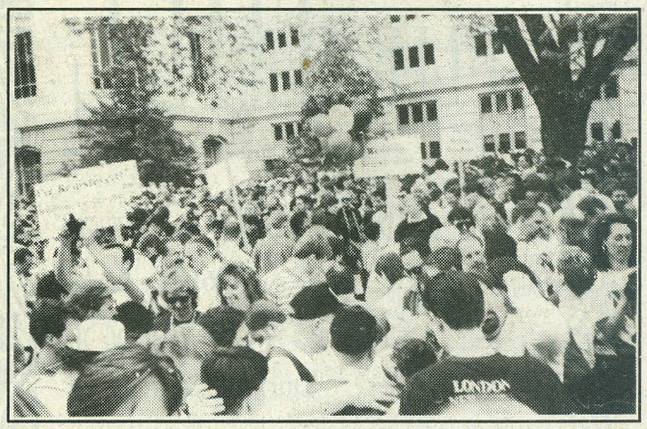
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# Imago Relationship Therapy—

## Tools for Building Durable Relationships

***One of the most uplifting moments of last year's March on Washington was the commitment ceremony officiated by Rev. Troy Perry, uniting nearly 2,000 brave gay and lesbian couples in "marriage"—brave because of their public announcement to the world and C-Span, and inspiring for their collective optimism for a long-term future together.***




*It seems most appropriate that in this month dedicated to love and lovers that this article be dedicated to the formation and maintenance of committed love relationships.*

The ideas and principles brought forth here are in part derived from a model developed by Dr. Harville Hendrix, author of the best-selling book *Getting the Love You Want*. Although originally developed as a heterosexual model called Imago Relationship Therapy, I have found, through my personal experiences working with both opposite-and same-sex couples, that the model is virtually unilaterally applicable. This may be true in part because the foundation for the type of people we will attract as partners, as well as the issues likely to be problematic, are seated deeply and securely through childhood experiences, long before most individuals are consciously aware of their sexual orientation. There are, however, many social, legal and cultural co-factors that may contribute to some subtle differences between opposite-and same-sex relationships.

Over the last several years working as a clinical social worker, I have had the opportunity to work with many individuals, groups and couples. Through watching my clients interact in sessions (as well as myself), many themes seem to arise.

Many clients, both male and female, report of endless searches for partners. Many seem to pursue these partners with résumé in hand and defenses well in place. The résumé almost always includes the usual: looks, intelligence, sense of humor, sensitivity, income and age. The search takes place anywhere from parties, bars and social events to volunteer work, organizations and other venues. The search often seems endless with individuals giving up, feeling defeated, or submitting to a "Mr. or Ms. Right Now."

Another familiar theme involves individuals who seem to get involved in serial short-term relationships. Finding the person whom they think is the perfect match, they connect—only to find them seemingly transformed before their eyes into their biggest nightmare. On countless occasions, I have heard my clients proclaim, "I seem to attract the same man/woman over and over again, always a different face, sometimes a different name, but always the same person."

A third common scenario is that of couples who have been in a relationship for some length of time and then report that they are not "in love" anymore. For those who are unable to state their feelings so clearly, a couple might notice an increase in tension or conflict within the relationship or an increasing desire to exit the relationship in an attempt to have needs met elsewhere that might best be kept within the confines of a committed love relationship. In these cases, there seems also to be some unexplainable transformation into someone different.

It is not at all surprising that these types of scenes seem to play out time and time again. The main reason for this lies in the fact that our unconscious attraction may have more influence on us than we would like to give it credit for.

It seems that, although it often involves an element of pain and ultimately change, our unconscious is likely to guide us to just the right

**BY PATRICK VACHON, L.M.S.W.-A.C.P.**

person to help us heal our childhood wounds and ultimately maximize our growth potential. This, however, can only be achieved if we are willing to remain conscious and aware during the dating and relationship process.

The Imago Model identified above is in part based on two very important premises. First, the mate selection process does not occur only by chance. Certainly, whether or not we meet someone is chance (that is, if you believe anything occurs by chance). However, our willingness to commit to a long-term relationship is more methodical. Second, the progression of a committed love relationship is fairly predictable, as relationships develop in stages. Consciously, we select our mates based on what we see are his or her positive traits. Specifically, we seek out the traits that remind us of what has historically given us love in some form.

**On countless occasions, I have heard my clients proclaim, "I seem to attract the same man/ woman over and over again, always a different face, sometimes a different name, but always the same person."**

That, however, is not enough, because unconsciously we choose individuals who have the negative traits of our primary caregivers in childhood, usually our parents. In the midst of an argument, how many times have you said, heard or thought: "You sound just like my mother/ father" or "You act just like my mother/father." The reason this occurs is that we have an unconscious desire to "get it right this time," thus recreating an environment to do so.

Often, if our partner does not hold a specific trait,we will project that trait on the person. For example, if we came from a family that was emotionally unavailable, we might project, predict or assume that an emotionally available partner will not be there for us when we may need her or him. If all else should fail, another way to recreate the negative trait might be to provoke it into reality. For instance, a very honest person might be provoked into lying because of his or her partners antagonistic attitude or behavior. This could potentially make it much easier to lie than be truthful, often because of double binds or no-win situations that occur from honesty.

The first stage identified in the Imago model is the "Romantic Love" stage. This is the stage with which most of us are very familiar. It is the stage where we cannot wait to see each other, where we fantasize endlessly of time together. It is a time where nothing else in the world seems to matter, where every moment spent together appears to be full of fun and laughter. It is a time when often our other friendships fall to the side, and our careers may seem comparably insignificant. In short, we are in an altered state of consciousness emotionally, and to some degree physiologically. Fortunately or unfortunately, this phase rarely lasts more than three to six months. The good news is, *it is supposed to end!*

This may be the result of some universal or cosmic trick. After some length of time has been spent connecting in the Romantic Love phase, the ecstasy subsides and the work begins. The identified factor in the shift out of the Romantic Phase is "commitment." This can take many forms: from a formal dedication to monogamy, living together or exclusive dating, to something more subtle such as an unspoken understanding that the pair will now spend all weekends together. This transition out of the Romantic Love phase instantly begins the "Power Struggle Phase." Even the simplest of decisions involve some form of disagreement. In many situations I have observed people in this phase decide that it is too difficult to continue. They end the relationship and return to the beginning once more. In short, they begin a relationship, "hit the wall," and end the relationship—only to repeat the cycle over and over again.

The basis for the beginning of this phase is fear. The fear generally takes one of two faces—fear of abandonment and/or fear of enmeshment. To the primitive part of the brain, which controls survival responses, abandonment of a partner equates to abandonment of a parent or caregiver. To a baby, this would eventually end in death, unless someone else rescued the child. Thus, as a result, a survival response is evoked. On the other hand, enmeshment in a relationship confronts individuals with another form of perceived loss of life. It is sometimes stated, "I am afraid that if you get too close I will lose my identity (and therefore myself) in this relationship." This is often what people refer to as "fear of intimacy." As this dynamic plays out, the unconscious mind fears death, and, in its struggle to survive, the "Power Struggle" begins.

Both these phases are identified in Imago terminology as "The Unconscious Marriage." In the Romantic Love phase, we are unconsciously "in love," and, in the Power Struggle phase we are, unconsciously fighting for our lives. This, then, is the foundation for the Imago Relationship Model, which teaches individuals to become conscious in their relationships. The road to consciousness is begun by learning how to effectively communicate, identify wounds and triggers, and by reclaiming split-off or "lost" parts of ourselves. The relationship then is transformed from one which perpetuated the dysfunctions to one where safety is provided so that mutual growth and healing can occur.

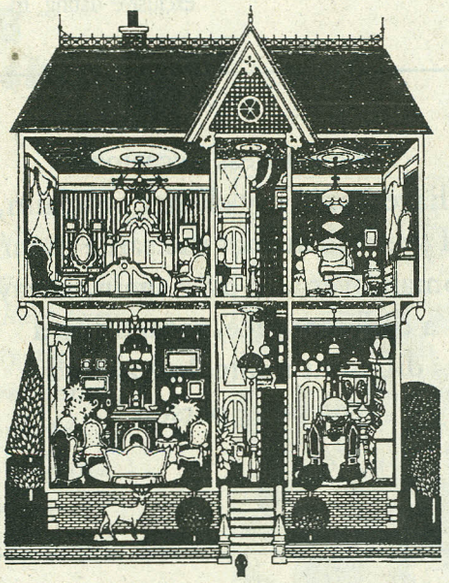
It is through committed love relationships, therefore, that we are able to resolve old internal conflicts and heal potentially deep and painful wounds. The requirements however, is total commitment to a process that is potentially long and painful. The rewards, however, can be a lifetime of enlightenment, peace and "true love."

*Δ Patrick J. Vachon, L.M.S.W.-A.C.P., a Licensed Therapist, Advanced Clinical Practitioner and Certified Imago Relationship Therapist, is in private practice as a psychotherapist at the New Counseling Center in Houston. He can be reached at 529-1913.*

# How To Buy Real Estate Together

## Part One: To Buy or Not to Buy

by Donald Vaughan
GayNet Wire Service



Most of us grew up believing that owning a home with a husband or wife was a major part of the "great American dream." Although some of us may still end up with the cottage on the hill, for most of us the dream has changed. Gay men and lesbians are now more interested in a condo in an urban center, a multifamily dwelling in a city neighborhood or a vacation home, to say nothing of our partner's non-traditional gender. Buying real estate with our mate is still a strongly felt desire for many of us. This is the first of a three-part OutSmart series of articles that will explore:

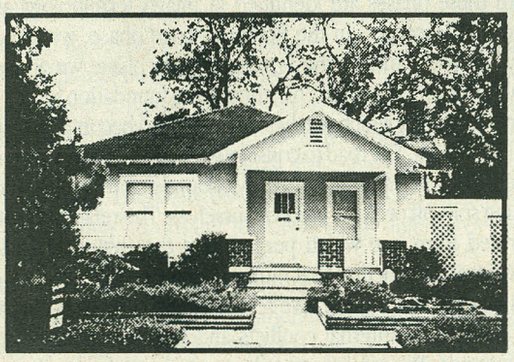
• the process of deciding the type of property, the location, the search process and financial options;

• negotiating and closing the deal, moving in, running the place, then selling;

• the merits of co-tenancy or other legal agreements, which define the rights and obligations of the individual owners.

Is buying real estate together a good idea? The decision to buy real estate together often times is the major choice a couple makes after establishing their relationship. Generally there are three advantages and three disadvantages gay and lesbian couples need to consider when making this decision. Eager would-be buyers tend to think of the


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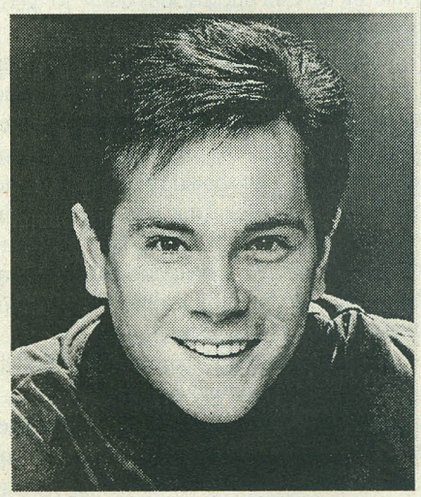


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pros first. Owning real estate:

- is economically and emotionally rewarding;
- gives a solid state of return;
- creates equity;
- provides income tax benefits.

With real estate prices at rock bottom and interest rates much lower, why not take the real estate investment plunge?

Why, indeed? As in any situation, the pros are always accompanied by the cons. Buying real estate can be the type of commitment for which neither of you is ready. It can accentuate differences in taste and long-range personal goals. If you break up, dissolving real estate assets can be messy, even with adequate legal agreements in place. It can cripple a couples' income should one partner lose his or her job.

In terms of finance, an excellent question the prospective home-buying couple should ask themselves is "How large an investment are we able and willing to make?" A financial advisor or accountant can advise a couple about appropriate savings plans and disability and life insurance programs that may limit the financial risk involved. Co-tenancy agreements can define who pays what if problems within your relationship develop. Buying property together is a serious commitment. Having a detailed plan from the start always simplifies the process, not to mention aiding in maintaining your sanity!

*Next month: Location, Financing and Finding: Laying Your Groundwork. (Editor's note: This article is written from a real estate lawyer's point of view. Couples interested in buying real estate together should consult their own legal, tax and financial advisors.)*

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A prominent Houston property-management company executive revels in the telling of this story. It seems that he was showing a piece of property to a woman, a health-care professional who was interested in obtaining a home in the Montrose area to be close to her job in the nearby Medical Center. Upon viewing it, she was very pleased with the property and its location and price, but wanted assurance from the agent that "an active homosexual" had never lived there. The deal disintegrated when she was told that not only would it be logistically impossible to inform her of the sexual orientation of the home's previous tenants, but that it was also illegal. His parting advice to her, as they suspended their business dealings, was that, if she didn't want to be confronted with "active homosexuality," she should probably get out of Montrose.

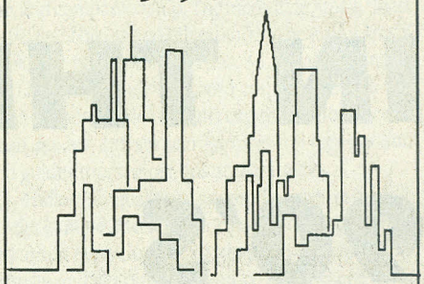
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# GAY TRAVEL IN THE 90'S

By Sandra B. Wilkins



The explosion of exclusive lesbian/gay travel opportunities underscores the positive movement toward an integrated culture being possible in America and reinforces the impact our community is having on mainstream American business.

I guess any industry will do, and I hope the same rapid proliferation of products and services is happening in other areas, but I think that the travel industry will always be somewhat special. Why? Because other than architecture, design, fashion, publishing and the creative arts, no other industry in American business has so many queers in it's ranks. Not long ago at a dinner party I heard a competitor say, "the travel business is riddled with gay people." Though I bristled at this comment, my mind immediately converted those words to "the travel business is blessed with an enormous number of dedicated, talented, creative, caring and progressive individuals who are happily gay." I know I'm right, and I know every segment of the travel industry from airlines to hotels to car companies to tour operators to cruise lines to bed/breakfast establishments benefit beyond measure from the lesbian and gay personnel they employ.

Before entering my 40's, taking on serious avocations like golf and gardening, I used to think the best I could ever hope for as a gay person would be to have my family accept me, maneuver my work environment to allow for the occasional appearance of my girlfriend, participate in and create a special circle of gay friends and live a pretty good life in a closet with louvered doors.

Hello 90's, when it's very in to be out. Thank you Stonewall 25 years ago. Thank you ACT UP New York for literally and legally pushing the AIDS crisis to the doorstep of our government. Thank you to the countless and selfless lesbian and gay individuals across this country for so many years who have devoted, and many times given, their lives to promote understanding and acceptance of the selves we have chosen not to deny.

1993 was an important year for us, touched as always with triumphs and disappointments. Vitally important was the stunning success of the March on Washington last April. That weekend delivered so much to so many, and seems to have been a catalyst for releasing pent up energy, emotion, direction and purpose in our community.

June 1994 has been designated Gay Pride Month in New York City and promises to continue the progress for acceptance and civil rights celebrated in The March on Washington last year. Remarkable events await us in New York this June. Gay Games IV will host 15,000 athletes from around the world and draw an estimated 500,000 spectators...more than participated in and attended the Olympics in Barcelona. Sunday, June 26th, will be a historic day in the lives of gays and lesbians around the world, as thousands gather for New York City's Stonewall 25 March on the United Nations. The celebrations, festivities and activities throughout the month will enrich and empower all who attend. Mark your calendar and make plans immediately to ensure your place for this landmark month in gay and lesbian history.

Sitting in Houston, Texas in February of 1994 feels mighty good. Being on the cutting edge of the exciting and explosive world of lesbian and gay travel is a dream come true for me and my business partner, Pat Brown.

A mere three years ago I was discussing the success of RSVP and Olivia Cruises with a sales rep from a major cruise line. I suggested that my lesbian and gay clientele was growing rapidly and that it would be possible to promote a cruise for lesbian and gay travelers from Houston. Would he be interested in working with us to put an exclusive departure together? His response was "Well Sandra, I certainly don't have any problems with this concept, but it will never fly with my upper management."

Something wonderful has definitely happened in a short period of time, because today we get calls weekly from major cruise lines who are all too eager to promote exclusive gay cruise weeks. And it's not just the cruise lines who have done a 360 turnaround. It seems to be the right time, right place, and all travel suppliers are clamoring to get on the bandwagon for gay vacation dollars.



In May of 1993, the first-ever Gay and Lesbian World Travel Expo was held in San Francisco and was a fantastic success. The event drew 137 travel agents and over 500 attendees from the general public. Forty-seven gay-owned and gay-friendly exhibitors participated, promoting tours, airlines, B & B's, hotels and cruise companies. The Expo then traveled to Atlanta, Los Angeles, Seattle and New York, and has its first appearance in Houston February 10, 1994.

Tom Roth, Expo's coordinator and director of The Marketing Department, a travel marketing company, says, "there is a growing boom of interest from gays and lesbians in travel directed toward them. According to the IGTA, the International Gay Travel Association, member agencies wrote over $1 billion in travel business in 1992."

The good, no, wonderful news is that your wildest vacation dreams have come true. You'd be hard pressed to present a vacation wish list that can't be fulfilled by "family"-owned and -operated companies. Gay guys want a bare-bottomed cruise for a week...can do. Something a bit more uptown? Not a problem. What about a private yacht, sleeping 6 to 20, playground of the Caribbean, Mediterranean or South Pacific...your guest list, pick up when you want, drop anchor at your whim, and let's kick in $1125 per person for a week, all meals and beverages included on a typical one-week charter for Caribbean ports of call.

Are you smiling yet? Sweating yet? New news *is* good news, isn't it? Barry Rice, an experienced master sailor, owns and supervises a wonderful company that provides beautiful vessels, complete with all water-sports equipment, comfort amenities like hammocks and floats, TV, VCR, Camcorder, CD player, library, cellular telephone, ice-cream maker and deeeep piled carpet throughout. Mmmmm.

Another big winner is Dan Ware's Toto Tours, a first-rate tour company, producing innovative tours of superior quality for our community. Our favorite is the Family Values: Gay and Lesbian Parents Adventure Week. After the stunning success of this tour last summer, Dan has increased the scope and time for 1994 and offers a camping/canoeing trip in Minnesota July 2-8 with a focus on family. This tour was created, in part, as a protest to the narrow definition of family promulgated by the religious right. This wonderful week affirms that our alternative families do provide every bit as much loving, nurturing and healthy family atmospheres as those more restrictively defined. Priced at $595 inclusive tour cost, this enriching experience makes your typical one-week "summer camp for kids" pale by comparison.

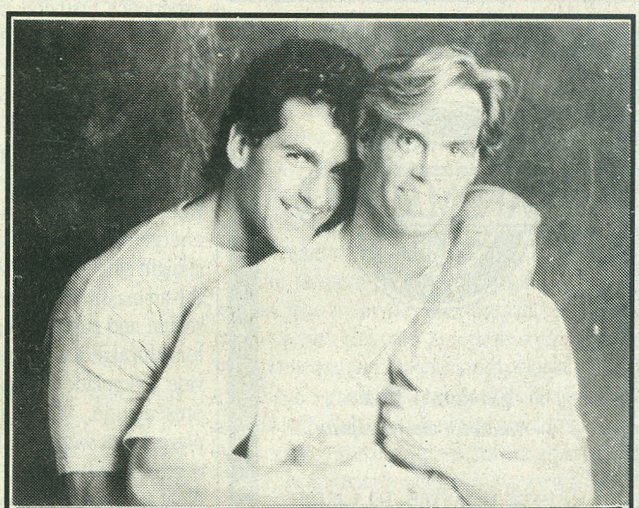
During the past 15 years as a travel professional, I've been able to observe a pattern in the travel habits of my gay and lesbian clientele. The most frequent and preferred vacation is small groups of friends traveling together to explore their common interests. This is exciting because so many of the top-notch tour operators cater specifically to small groups of six to 18 like-minded individuals.

I have a long-running love affair with France and Italy, and these destinations offer two of the most enriching and relaxing tour options you can imagine. In France, there are a couple of companies that provide luxury-barge cruises on the famous rivers and canals of France. The barges themselves sleep six to 14 passengers, and you can chart your own course, choose your menus and determine how to fill your sun-drenched days, puttering along the waterways at a leisurely pace.

Lauren Heffron, owner and leader of Cicilismo Classico, lived in Italy for four years, loved to bicycle, and, from these combined experiences, returned to the U.S. and started her unique tour company. She provides exclusive tours to groups as small as eight participants, or you can join one of the many scheduled tours, operating from April through October, for an unforgettable adventure in scenery, cuisine, and companionship. The incredible Amalfi Coast Stroll and Roll tour gives you 9 days of biking and hiking and the beautiful Amalfi coast, and is priced at $11,980 per person for the tour. All of Lauren's tours include accommodations in charming family inns, and countryside B & B's, continental breakfast daily, all dinners while on tour, experienced service of two to three bilingual Italian guides, private van support for luggage and assistance, wine tastings and guides tours, most tips and gratuities.

The possibilities are truly endless for quality vacations, designed especially with the gay and lesbian traveler in mind. Memorable vacations can be short or long in duration and tailored to suit every budget. So what are you waiting for? Dream your wildest travel dream and get out there and go somewhere.

*Sandra B. Wilkins, M.A. is Vice President of Sales with* ***Brown-Wilkins & Associates Travel, Inc.,*** *3311 Richmond, Suite #230, Houston Texas 77098. Get your American Tourister off the shelf and call her. 713.942.0664.*

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# ALWAYS MY KID
## Premieres at Rich's

by Nancy Ford and Greg Jeu

*Always My Kid*, produced by Houston-based TriAngle Video Productions, is the first in a series of educational videos exploring the different aspects of being gay and lesbian. Designed as a family guide to understanding homosexuality, the video series offers information to the straight and gay communities covering topics ranging from the coming-out process, religious issues, equal rights, prejudice and the "real story" about gay life.

Produced in cooperation with the Houston Chapter of Parents Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG), *Always My Kid* is a groundbreaking family guide to acceptance of a gay or lesbian child or sibling. Through one-on-one interviews with parents and their gay or lesbian child, viewers are given an opportunity to experience firsthand the emotions of coming out from both the parent's and the child's perspective.

*Always My Kid* premieres February 18, 1994 at 7 p.m. at RICH'S, 2401 San Jacinto. Rich's is one of Houston's largest videodance clubs, catering to an energetic crowd of gay and straight patrons. Rich's state-of-the-art massive video projection screen and surrounding monitors throughout the club provide a dramatic venue for the presentation. "Rich's is a big place, but it would thrill me to death if it looked like a Saturday night at 1 a.m." says Steve Baker, TriAngle producer.

Baker speaks with great passion about this project and the people involved. "Everyone who gave me their time gave me a part of their lives. They were open and honest with a private part of their life. Some of these parents who talked to us—their neighbors didn't know yet. Some of the people aren't out on their jobs yet. A few of the people have put their careers on the line."

> Every gay person owes it to themselves and to the gay community to come out. Maybe in small steps. Get a rainbow sticker for your car. When we're driving down the street it feels good to see some one else in a car with a freedom flag or a pink triangle. It's important for us to realize how many of us there are out here.
>
> —Steve Baker, TriAngle Video

The motivation to create TriAngle Video Productions was two-fold. Baker's main impetus was the pervasive negative media portrayals of gay people. "I look at my friends and the people I know and the school teachers I know and the police officers I know—all these reponsible people in society. There's too much misinformation out there, and that's what I want to correct."

He continues, "The Christian Right is my biggest motivator. I owe everything to them. In my office I have a copy of their video tape (*The Gay Agenda: Gay Rights—Special Rights*) sitting across from my desk where I can see it. Whenever the day gets too long or the project gets too complicated, I look at the video. They're not telling the truth. It's always angered me, and this is a way to express that anger, by getting the truth out."

TriAngle Video Productions has grown from the two of them to a staff of 12 including Russell Byrd, Steve's business and life partner, and Trevor Brock, a straight man with a conscience to accompany his smart business sense.

The video will retail for approximately $25, with a portion of the proceeds returned to charitable organizations in Houston's gay and lesbian community. Expect to see advertisements in "traditionally straight" media as much as, if not more than, the gay media. "It's made for parents with gay children, and most of those parents are straight," reasons Steve. TriAngle Video Productions is dedicated to addressing any and all issues that either directly or indirectly affect the quality of life, civil rights and human dignity of all gay, lesbian and bisexual persons. Upcoming videos include spotlights on gay and lesbian relationships and a "We-Are-Everywhere" themed production identifying gays and lesbian in mainstream America.

For more information please call TriAngle Video Productions, 869-4477.

# Red Ribbon Restaurant Review

The Red Ribbon Project is a fundraiser for various AIDS charities in which participating restaurants mark certain tables in their establishments as "Red Ribbon" tables. A portion of the receipts from persons eating at these tables is donated to the Red Ribbon Project. OutSmart has made a commitment to review restaurants that participate in this worthwhile project.

A friend for many years, Ruggles Grill assists in a wide variety of events benefitting our community. But that's not the only reason they're a great success!

Read on...

by Tom Fricke

Before trekking off to Ruggles, I phoned ahead and made a reservation. Though not required, reservations are very helpful at this popular venue.Don't let all those Mercedes and Lexus automobiles backed up on Westheimer fool you; Ruggles caterers to a very mixed clientele. Though many patrons are in coat and tie, you will find an equal number of folks dressed casually. The upper dining area is usually filled with the "banker types."

I requested the lower dining area. Its simple decoration, closely placed tables and modern art create a pub-like atmosphere. Not only does it tend to be more fun, you get a soothing feeling from the trompe l'oeil clouds painted on the ceiling.

Ruggles Grill, a fine Montrose eatery for over 20 years, has been under the ownership and direction of Bruce and Susan Molzan since 1986. Both Bruce and Susan are graduates of the prestigious Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y. Bruce has received many culinary honors and was named to *Who's Who in Food & Wine in Texas* last year.

What is the secret to Ruggles great success? According to Mr. Molzan, "We are a by-product of the recession which started here in 1982 and we are the way restaurants will be in the 90s. We serve good food at a reasonable price. We by the same quality ingredients as expensive restaurants, we just don't charge as much."

Gary, my waiter, whose dynamic personality contributes so much to the restaurant, suggested the Gulf Crabcake ($6.95). When it arrived it was so enormous that I almost thought I had received an entrée. The cake was golden brown, and was presented with a roasted tomato and shrimp butter sauce. It was bursting with lump crab meat spiced effectively, but delicately enough to keep the flavor of the crab.

I followed my appetizer with a Caesar Salad ($5.25). It arrived perfectly chilled with greens so crisp that one would think they had been grown on the premises. The salad came dressed with just the proper blend of garlic, herbs and fresh Parmesan cheese. Just a note, Ruggles serves their Caesar with whole Romaine leaves, which may be why they are able to maintain the high quality. (If you are of the kind that requires your food run through a food processor first, you may want to try another item.) I was feeling a little "fullish" at this point, but undaunted I placed my order for the salmon. My meal may sound a little "fishy," but, when the opportunity to enjoy fresh seafood presents itself I indulge. And Bruce Molzan is noted for his seafood dishes. The Fresh Salmon is served roasted in a ginger and black pepper crust. It is accompanied by a black bean soy vinaigrette positioned picture-perfectly with a colorful assortment of about twelve fresh vegetables. The intriguing combination of ginger and vinaigrette is a delight.

The desserts are the creation of Susan Molzan, who supervises their preparation with a watchful eye. They are American style, homemade, large and are presented with colorful sauces and Ruggles-made ice creams. All priced reasonably at $4.95, they include: white macademia nut tart, domino cake and peanut banana cream pie.

Other items worth mentioning are the Corn Chowder with roasted pepper & crab salsa ($4.25), Wild Mushroom Soup ($3.95), Skewered Beef, Chicken and Pork with spicy peanut sauce ($6.95), Snapper Meuniere ($13.95), Spicy Angel Hair Pasta with shrimp ($9.95) and Smoked Duck Pizza ($9.95).

Appetizers and salads start at $4.50, soups at $3.95. Pasta dishes, entrées and pizza start at $9.95.

For more information or to make a reservation, please call Ruggles Grill at 524-3839.

## RUGGLES GRILL

903 Westheimer
713/524-3839

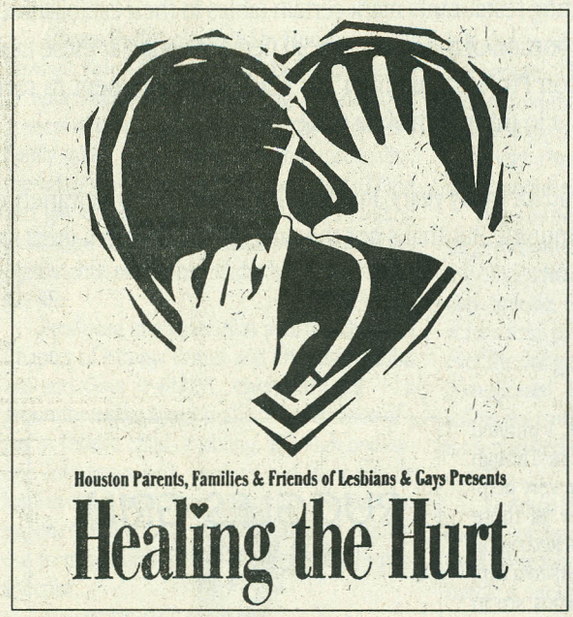
*Hours: Lunch, Tuesday through Friday 11:30 am-2:00 pm; Sunday Brunch 11:30 am-2:30 pm; Dinner, Tuesday -Thursday 5:30 -11 pm, Friday & Saturday 5:30 pm- Midnight, Sunday 5:30-10 pm. Closed Mondays. All major credit cards accepted except Discover. Reservations encouraged but not necessary.*

# P-FLAG Conference on Homophobia March 11

The Houston Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) will present a day-long conference on homophobia Friday, March 11.

Officially titled "Healing the Hurt," the educational conference is intended to give the participants an opportunity to examine the myths, misinformation and misleading stereotypes about gays and lesbians. P-FLAG especially wants to reach professionals who encounter homophobia on a day-to-day basis, including psychologists, clergy, police officers, social workers and the medical community.

Included in the conference will be a morning keynote address by Bruce Hilton, author of *Can Homophobia Be Cured?* and a Methodist minister who has been the director of the National Center for Bioethics for the past 20 years.




"Not to press on with the struggle [against homophobia] means continued pain and separation for many of our sisters and brothers, and will stunt our society's moral growth just as racism and sexism do," said Rev. Hilton.

Dr. Diane Mosbacher, Medical Director for Mental Health in San Mateo County, California, will present the luncheon keynote address on her years working with gays and lesbians in the mental health field. A lesbian, she was publicly outed after her father, former Secretary of Commerce under President Bush, was quoted in *Newsweek*.

Conference participants will not only be able to listen to these two guest speakers, but will be able to attend one of six workshop sessions offered that day.

Morning workshop sessions range from dispelling myths about homosexuality, keeping families together, and gay and lesbian civil rights to spirituality, mental health and lesbian and gay teens. Afternoon workshop sessions will discuss the origins of homosexuality, the Judeo-Christian perspective, teen suidice, overcoming oppression, the battle over legislation, and being the parent of a gay or lesbian child.

Workshop presenters include Houston City Councilperson Sheila Jackson Lee; Dr. Robert McLaughlin; The Rev. Dr. Donald Sinclair of Bering Memorial United Methodist Church; State Representatives Garnet Coleman, Debra Danburg and Glen Maxey, and The Rev. Carolyn Mobley of MCCR.

The conference will be held at the University Hilton, 4800 Calhoun on Friday, March 11. A registration fee of $80 is required (group and student rates available). For more information please contact P-FLAG Houston, P.O. Box, 692444, Houston, TX 77269, (713) 867-9020.

## THIRD ANNUAL SOIREE AUBERGINE FEB. 18

The third annual Soiree Aubergine, features a silent auction, with a litho graph by Karin Broker, who was recently named "1994 Texas Artist of the Year." The auction also features other artwork by local artists, fashion items, home furnishings, hotel accomodations and other products and services. Proceeds from the auction and all other Soiree Aubergine events benefit the Bering Care Center nutrition program. The auctions open at Gentry, 2303 Richmond, with a 6 pm buffet on Friday, February 18. Items will remain on display through February 25.





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# Guess Who's Humming to Dinner: Music to Digest By

by Norman Brockman

The honey-lime chicken is succulent. The wine—perfectly chilled. Even the Caesar salad—which, in haste, came directly from Epicurean's salad bar—is fresh and nicely croutoned. The candles are lit, the Bird of Paradise posies are arranged dramatically in crystal. Your dinner companion(s) are eager to enjoy a sensual, sumptuous feast for the eyes, nose and palate.

But what about their ears?

Please, for your guests' sake and your own, give at least as much thought to dinner music as you would to your guest list. Your choice of tapes and tunes can be equally enhancing or detracting to a successful dinner party. Would you invite your homophobic uncle to your Gay Pride bar-b-que? Well, maybe you would, but that's another matter for another column.

Regardless of their popularity, Guns 'n' Roses is NOT dinner music. Neither is two-step music or techno music. It has been known to cause indigestion and possibly gas. Not good for any party. Select light jazz or New Age music. It's relaxing and enhances digestion and you won't be compelled to line-dance while you're trying to eat.

Another point to remember is volume control. Unlike Lyle Lovett's hair, more is not better. Less is best. Keep your music at background level, not internal organ-jarring. If that honey lime chicken is doing the funky chicken on the plate, obviously your music is too loud. Either that, or call U-Haul: you're living on a fault line.

Following these few, simple guidelines will ensure that your dinner party, or at least, the auditory ambiance of it will be tantalizing. People will flock to your next event, knowing that once again it will be excellent.

### RECOMMENDED RECIPE FOR A GREAT DINNER MIX TAPE

Start with one 90 minute blank cassette tape, fresh from the package. Place in recorder. Gently fold in the following melodies, taking care not to allow "dead air" to seep in between selections. Serve with friends and sparkling conversation.

*Romance Dance* by Peter White
*Heart of the City* by Frank Mills
*East River Drive* by Stanley Clarke
*Mecca* by La Vienta
*Miles Away* by Oystein Sevag
*Moments in Love* by Art of Noise
*Ever Returning* by Bernward Koch
*Song of Ocarina* by Diego Modena
*A Little Bumpin'* by Lee Ritenour
*Europa* by Gato Barbieri
*Inner Vision* by Hisham
*Into the Night* by Exchange A
*October* by Steve Laury
*Chris* by Pat Metheny
*Kei's Song* by David Benoit
*Promenade* by Peter White
*Just Is* by Henry Robinett Group
*Mr. Chow* by Acoustic Alchemy

*Norman Brockman is an award-winning electronics wizzard who has designed/assisted in the design of virtually all of gay Houston's better dance clubs. Audiences coast to coast have danced to and enjoyed his music mixes.*


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A Musical Comedy Revue With:
NANCY FORD
Queen of the Lesbians
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# OUT▼SMART PERSONALS




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## OUT▼SMART PERSONAL INTRODUCTION SERVICE

Scan the ads listed, perusing them somewhat as you would a menu, but not nearly so callously. Make your selection of the person(s) you would like to meet, decide on a salad dressing, and dial 1-900-370-8687. You will be instructed to record the verbal response. Make it dazzling and descriptive, giving the box-holding person incentive to return your call. Be sure to speak clearly when recording your message, because your momma didn't raise no mumbler. A charge of $1.95 per minute will appear on your next telephone bill. Would you like dessert with that?

If you're more of an old-fashioned kind of guy or gal, write a reponse to your potential love interest, and put it in a **stamped envelope** addressed with the box number in question. Put it and $2 in another envelope, and mail the whole she-bang to **Out▼Smart** Personals, 2990 Richmond, Suite 316, Houston, Texas 77098. We'll forward your letter to your new honey within 48 hours. After that, the two of you are on your own. We aren't reponsible for fireworks or fizzles. Love's funny that way.

**PLAN AHEAD FOR THAT MAD HOLIDAY DATING RUSH—PLACE YOUR FREE INTROEXPRESS PERSONAL AD IN NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE**

Mail us your 50 word or less personal ad by the 15th of each month for publication in the following issue. (Add 25¢ for each word over 50). We will not publish a last name, address or phone number. We do, however, require this information for our files. After we receive your personal ad you will be assigned your own voice mail box and sent instructions on how to record your free voice personal introduction.

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Sandra Nicholas, Reiki Master and ordained minister has an extensive background in the metaphysical, psychological and spiritual arts and sciences. Using her intuitive abilities and knowledge of alternative modalities she is able to offer a diverse range of techniques customized to remove the blocks and the barriers you have to that peaceful, loving Presence within you thus allowing you to love and accept yourself. As a ten year student of ***A Course in Miracles*** she naturally draws on its wisdom in all her work. For guidance and help in getting the answers you need call Sandra at **713/522-0990.**

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After we receive it we'll give you a number to record your own FREE voice greeting—at no charge! You'll be assigned a voice mailbox which will appear in your ad. Record a free greeting about yourself.

**YOU'LL GET THEIR EAR:**
Respondents to ad will hear your greeting and if they like what they hear, they can leave a message. They'll be charged $1.95 per minute on their phone bill...

**AND THEY'LL GET YOURS:**
Use our toll-free number to call your mailbox and check how many messages you have waiting for you. Then call 1-900-370-8687 to listen to your responses! There will be a charge of $1.95 per minute which will appear on your phone bill.

**THEN GET TOGETHER:**
Once you've listened to your messages, you'll decide whom to contact and arrange a meeting. Only then do you make your identity known. It's completely confidential!

**1-900-370-8687**

$1.95 PER MINUTE
*You must be at least 18 years old to use this service.*

Closeted lesbian, homebody, enjoys shallow conversation, limited stimulation, Wonder Bread and cheese food. Inclined to unpredictable moods swings. *Wait a minute, that's not me*—that's the kind of woman I'm trying to avoid. Try this: GWF, late thirties, out, spiritual, independent, articulate, flexible, adventurous. Not a beauty queen, but not a mirror-shatterer, either. Like the song says, I need a lover who won't drive me crazy.
**OutSmart Intro Box 70054**

Brainy Bear Wanted. Attractive GAM, 34, healthy and fit, stable, spiritual and compassionate, seeks down-to-earth, handsome and hirsute (beards and 'staches a plus) stable nonsmoking GWM age 33-40 with sense of humor for friendship. (Recently widowed and longing for companionship, but not ready to rent the U-haul.) Enjoy a variety of interests from working out, cooking, movies, metaphysics to bad drag shows. Seeking adventure, laughter and bear hugs. Wanna meet a good friend? Call or write me.
**OutSmart Intro Box 70058**

GWM, 48, 5'8", 160 lbs. New to Houston. Likes quiet nights at home, cooking and bicycle rides. Looking for sincere, professional man. No smokers, please.
**OutSmart Intro Box 70107**

GWM, mid 30's, entrepreneur, attractive, healthy and full of charm. Success-oriented and seeks same. Some say my quick wit and sparkling blues are hard to match. I enjoy traveling, dining out, entertaining, working out, movies and friends. A positive attitude and hearty sense of humor a must. Although my schedule and projects keep me busy, I'm looking for a special person to spend quality time with. Please, no drugs, smokers and light-to-no alcohol. Call or write me. Everybody enjoys new friends.
**OutSmart Intro Box 70076**

Chocolate for the cold weather, perhaps forever. If you are an active, masculine black male (in preference) or a white guy; honest, healthy, realistic, who loves life, spirituality, walks, conversations and a special friendship, this SGHM, 31, 5'7", 153 lbs., somewhat attractive, self-disciplined, passive, sincere is waiting for you.
**OutSmart Intro Box 70075**

GF, night owl, seeks poker buddies. No high stakes, just fun and games. Ante up.
**OutSmart Intro Box 70054**

Looking for affectionate, healthy, trim GWM who likes being cuddled by GBM, 34, 5'9", 146 lbs. Seeking drug-free, healthy, straight-acting GWM for friendship. Let's develop a discreet, caring relationship, slim GWM! Please send photo!
**OutSmart Intro Box 70053**

Easy-going GWM, 33, eager to meet others whose interest runs toward leather. Write or call me.
**OutSmart Intro Box 70109**

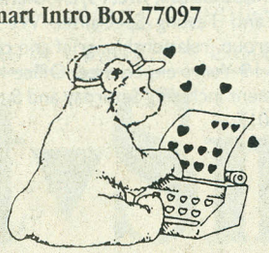
GWM, 35, 5'9", 160 lbs., blonde/green, Hobby area. Looking for Renaissance Man with the heart of a warrior and the soul of a poet. Please be sincere, affectionate, confident, communicative, sentimental, creative, adventurous, humorous, self-sufficient, spiritual rather than religious and drug-free. Smoking and responsible drinking is fine. Not interested in perfection, ego or Adonis types, but hoping for enduring romance with a *real* type. Ethnic background unimportant.
**OutSmart Intro Box 70009**

I KNOW WHO YOU ARE! Like me, a GF with a passion for life; one who works and plays hard. Rugged, independent, yet enjoys sharing enthusiasms. Emotionally, both strong and sensitive. If that's who you are, please tell me *where* you are. Somewhere also, I hope, outside my dreams!!
**OutSmart Intro Box 70013**

Desiring totally drug-free, slender GWM for friendship and to meet occasionally. Seeking GWM who wants a passive friend. I'm a discreet, professional GBM who's also responsible, dependable and humorous. This GBM is 33, 5'9", 145 lbs., heathy, drug/smoke free. Seeking lasting friendship with slender-built, healthy GWM cuddler. Let's share discreet, enduring friendship!
**OutSmart Intro 70015**

GBM, 24, handsome, toned body, 5' 8", 150 lbs. Student who enjoys music, theater, reading, biking, eating out and stimulating conversation. Enjoys socializing, but not into the bar scene. Seeking a handsome, slender, GWM, 25-35 who is honest, open-minded, spiritual, humorous and wants a relationship with someone special.
**OutSmart Intro Box 70023**

Good-looking, friendly, professional, 26-year-old GWM seeks other gay men for friendship, conversation, fun. I'm involved in a committed relationship, however, I/we enjoy being in the company of other men at bars, for dinner or just hanging out.
**OutSmart Intro Box 77097**



## Earring Magic Ken

shorts. *Who's* first Ken? Poindexter's? *Native American, Australian* and *Italian Barbie.Spring Parade Barbie. Police Officer Barbie.* What *is* it about a woman in a uniform? There's even *Troll Barbie* for the cosmetically challenged adolescent. Perhaps preparing for HRC's potential 1996 political aspirations, *Presidential Barbie* is now available. Hmmm.

If *Earring Magic Ken* (If?) catches on, prepare to see the following B & K characters as gays and lesbians take their place at the Playskool table of 21st century civilization:

- *Drag Queen Ken* comes with his own karaoke machine and Ru Paul tape. You go girl.
- *Bondage Barbie.* This doll will never catch on unless toy designers give her pierceable little nipples on the ends of those perky, plastic DDDDD's.
- *Military Ken.* Tighten a pair of khaki fatigues and put electrical tape over his mouth. Don't ask, don't tell, don't put him in a pup tent with GI Joe.
- *Bitter Ex-lover Barbie* stalks you and your new girlfriend Midge wherever you go.
- *Closet Barbie and Ken* look like any other Barbie or Ken, except they have no spine.
- *Totally Fem Barbie.* In a special salute to lipstick lesbians, TF Barbie would be clothed in her lavendar, pink or light blue, and work 9-to-5, M-F. But remove her tasteful linen business suit and pumps and she becomes...
- *Totally Butch Barbie.* Comes with her own lick-on tattoo (which by the way is an excellent substitute for those lesbians unwilling to commit to permanence).

And on and on and on. Bottom line, anatomically speaking, aren't all Barbie and Ken dolls little more than post-operative transsexuals? I swear. Da—. Oh, never mind. Why all the fuss over one little earring?

In fact, why all the fuss, period?

Let's all just play nice.

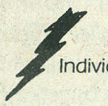
*Nancy Ford is a comedian, frequent contributor to the gay press, and Queen of the Texas Lesbians.*

***Homosexuality is not all self-hate, or guilt feelings, or love, or domination or submission, or any one thing; it's a many-branching path, down which we are all walking.***

***—Samuel Steward***

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**Italian Lessons/Tutoring.** Native Italian speaker offering private lessons for persons wanting to learn Italian for personal or educational reasons. Private lessons at a reasonable price! Call Roberta, 521-2022.

## EDUCATION/ INSTRUCTION

**OUTSTANDING SALES OPPORTUNITY! *OutSmart Magazine*** now hiring commissionable sales team members. Call Greg at Up&Out Communications. 713/520-7237.

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**Basic Brothers.** Men's fashion active wear. 1232 Westheimer Rd. Open Mon.-Sat. 10-8 and Sun. 12-6. (713)522-1626.

**The Calico Cat.** Come Visit Us. All sorts of decorative accessories and collectables. Rugs, candles, cards and much more... 1985 W. Gray. (713)522-4055.

**Pueblo to People.** Treasures from Latin America Cooperatives. Come by and explore the exotic! 4809 Montrose Blvd. 526-6591.

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**Allied Mortgage Capital Corporation.** Get the credit you deserve! Let us help you purchase your dream home or reduce your current payment. Call, 722-0600.

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**All Decked Out.** *"Friendly, Flexible, Affordable, Professional"* Call **Tracy Gilmore** today and make your appointment. 3502 S. Shepherd (between Richmond & Alabama). (713)522-0507.

## HEALTH/WELLNESS/ FITNESS

**Alternative Heath and Wellness Center.** Jacqueline A. Doval-Graziani, M.S., D.C., specializing in Chiropractic Care and Exercise Physiology. We also offer 24 hour emergency care. Call for appointment, 522-WELL (9355).

**Eyes Are Precious.** Eye exams, preventive care, treatment for eye infections. Wide frame selection. Convenient hours. Call today. Dr. Sue Moss, Optometrist. 2015-K W. Gray. (713)524-2525.

**Joyce Long & Associates Wellness Center.** Let us help you feel better. We offer complete pamper packages. Specializing in massage therapy, hypnotherapy and ear candling. We also offer state-of-the- art Colonics using FDA approved equipment. **We Celebrate Wellness!** Call today for your appointment, 623-0866.

## HYPNOTHERAPY

**Smoking, Weight, or Stress Problems?** Try hypnotherapy. Call now for free brochure (24 hours), 869-MIND (6463).

## PSYCHOTHERAPY

**Tony Carroll,** LMSW-ACP. Certified IMAGO Relationship Therapist. See display ad this issue regarding upcoming seminar: FINDING LOVE and KEEPING LOVE. Call for information. (713)522-3045.

**Kreller & Associates, Inc.** Psychotherapists, counseling and Testing Specialists. We offer individual, group, relationship, grief and career counseling. 19 Years experience. Office hours by appointment including Saturday and Sunday. (713)529-8017.

## REAL ESTATE SERVICES

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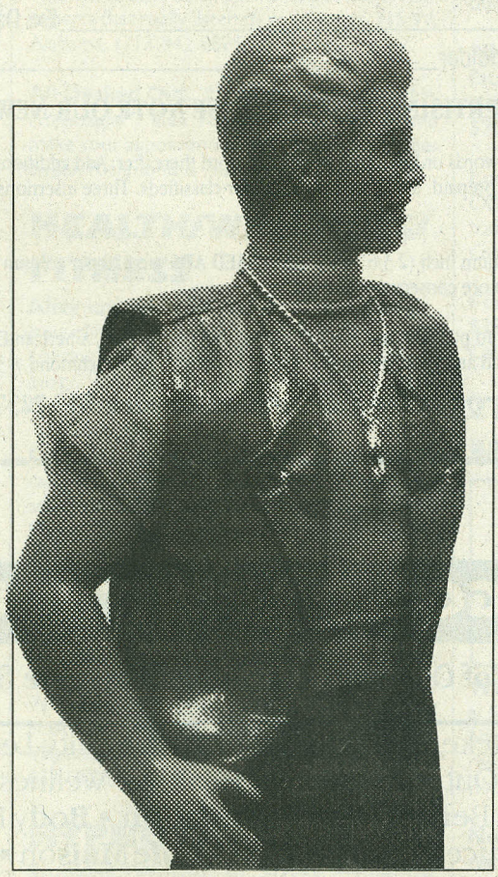
**Out▾Smart**

HOUSTON'S GAY & LESBIAN MONTHLY MAGAZINE

## WHAT A WORLD, WHAT A WORLD...

# Can Earring Magic Ken Come Out & Play?

by Nancy Ford



He's clothed in a lavendar vest with a matching see-through mesh t-shirt. Jeans. Black loafers, no socks. His necklace is described by the national media as resembling "a device available in sex shops," which could mean anything from a cock ring to a cash register. He retails for $9-$12, depending on where you do your toy shopping. *And* he wears an earring. Which ear? Not important. If we simply ignore the old *left is right, right is wrong* homophobic fashion mantra, Mattel's got a lot of 'splainin' to do.

Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, homos and hets, please welcome *Earring Magic Ken*. Not quite as flaming is the accompanying *Earring Magic Barbie*, clothed in a fake leather bustier dress and lots of hardware. Evidently the name *Whore Barbie* didn't pass demographic testing. Fire Island Ken may be lounging on the drawing board as we speak.

Welcome to the Gay Nineties.

The Big Shots at Mattel swear that the choice of the lavendar color scheme is market-research based. It seems little girls prefer soft, light colors, like pink and light blue. Do little girls also prefer a hunky, metal accessory hung near the belt that suspiciously resembles a handcuff?

A little herstory: I seldom played Barbies as a child. I found it interferred with my television-watching, twinkie-eating and ritual torment by siblings. When *forced* to play, I worked Ken. Always. Invariably. You'd think this might have been a clue to my parents that they needn't worry about spending a lot of money on my prom gown. I wonder if people who are into water sports as adults got their start by playing with Betsy Wetsy.

*Earring Magic Ken* was introduced just in time for the big Christmas gift-buying blast. What a co-inkydink. Could it be that *toy* is among the most recent of industries to wise up to the fact that, collectively, gay men and lesbians enjoy an unusually high disposable income? Admittedly we are, as a community, famous for spending *way* more than $9-$12 on colorful kitsch that draws attention to ourselves. If these items can be displayed in our homes to laugh at with wild abandon, all the better. Tell the truth—don't most of your friends own lava lamps, or is it just me?

Though I'm certainly not above it, I'm not making any of this up. I swear. Damn it. See? If you don't believe me, visit your local national chain toy store. That's what I did.

Picture this. There we were, myself and my outest, proudest friend, strangers in a strange land. Not having any children of our own (that we know of) neither of us have reason to spend much time in a toy store. At least not *that* kind of toy store.

Wanting to blend as unobtrusively as possible into the suburban environment we were about to invade, we donned appropriate attire: she in her *Lesbian Avengers—We Recruit* t-shirt and me in my freedom rings. I could be wrong, but I think I heard an alarm when we entered the store. Various mothers seemed to bustle their offspring out of and away from our sphere of influence.

Maybe you're not a "kid" person. Many folks in our gayborhood aren't. To somewhat avoid the small folks for whom this very store was designed, go directly to the Barbie and Ken department. Do not pass Barney. A hint: watch for a throbbing pink glow emanating from floor to ceiling. Pink is Barbie's signature color, you know. Soft, light pink this ain't. It's more like a beacon in the night. We made the mistake of veering briefly ithrough the Nerf department, where I accidently smacked an unarmed 3-year-old in the head with a Nerf bat. Accidently. I swear. Damn it. See? The little trooper took it pretty well. Good thing we weren't in the Spalding department.

My friend and I strode down the throbbing pink-box-lined Barbie Lane. We were shocked. Times have changed since I didn't play Barbies. *Barbie* whazoo has become very sophisticated. Gone are the days of using a Dominoe's Pizza lid plastic holder-upper as a Barbie kitchen table. For every occasion, every phase, every pre-pubescent whim, a theme *Barbie* is available:

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*Continued on page 47*

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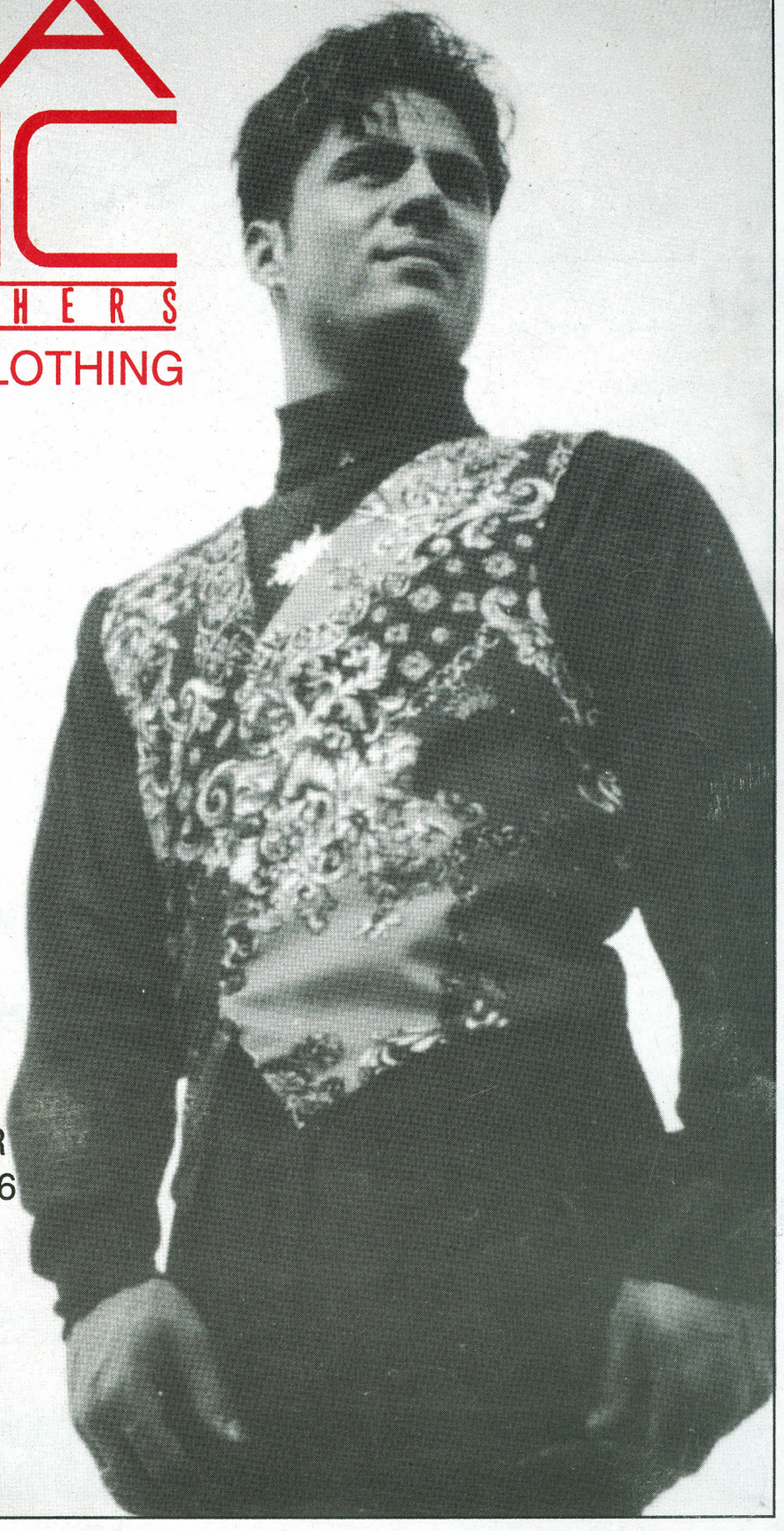
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