

PRIDE 04

THE OFFICIAL
MAGAZINE OF
HOUSTON PRIDE
2004

ZACKIE ACHMAT:
ONE MAN'S WILL

THE
RETURN
OF **JOBRIATH**

LOVE
after 50?

VIOLENT
(*& PEACEFUL*)
ACTIVISTS

OUR UNIQUE

UNIONS

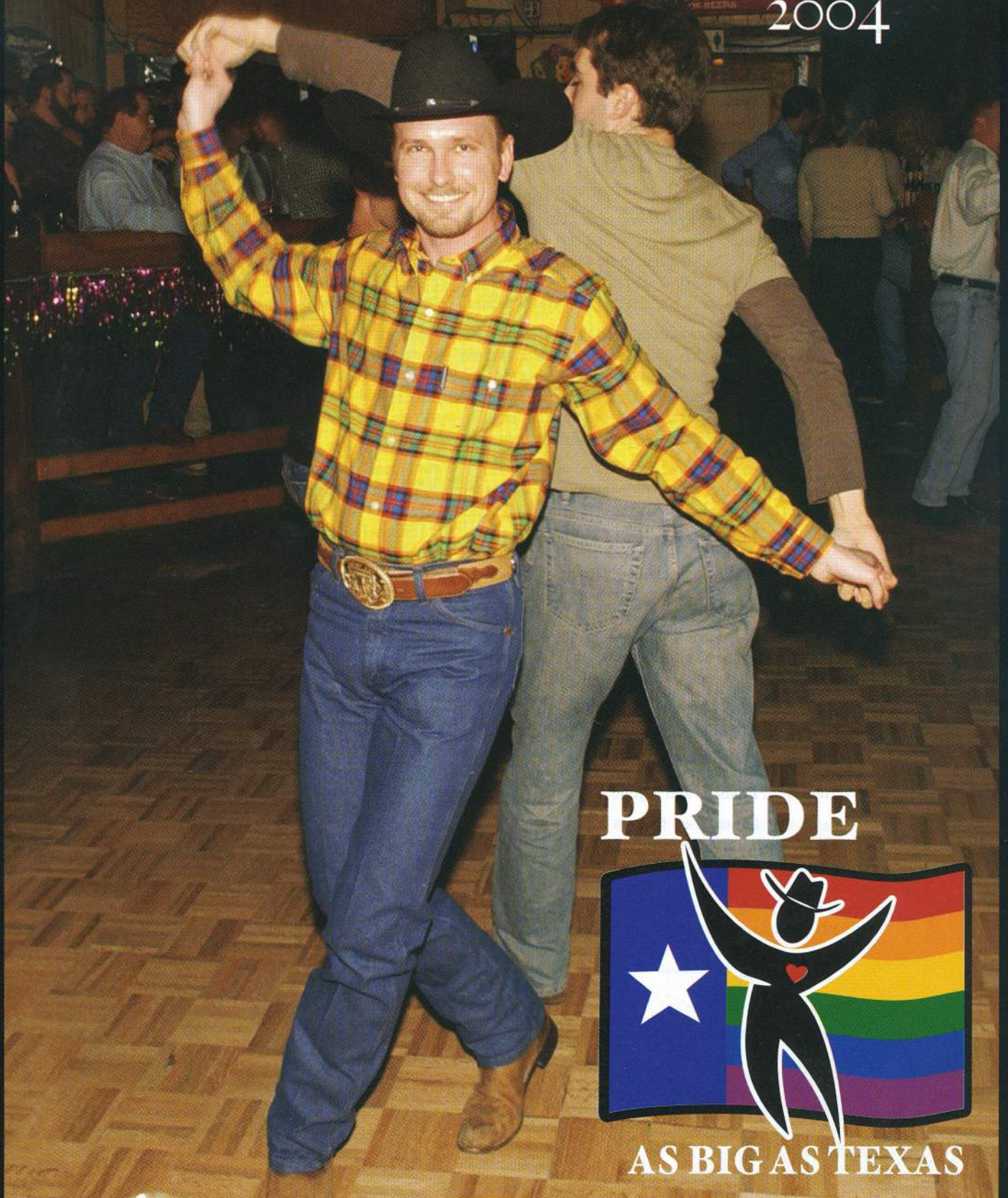
PLUS
EXCLUSIVE
HOUSTON
PRIDE GUIDE

InterPride



Houston

2004



PRIDE



AS BIG AS TEXAS



Welcome to Houston's 2004 Pride Celebration!

The Pride Committee of Houston has been very busy planning and organizing events, raising funds, recruiting and training volunteers and working with the many people and organizations that are a part of our GLBT community to produce a top-notch celebration for you to enjoy.

It will be hard to top 2003. Last year, we hosted 25 days of events to coincide with our 25th anniversary. Films, workshops and social events brought us together to learn, discuss and celebrate. We had the milestone Lawrence v. Texas Supreme Court decision announced just two days before the Pride Parade. With perfect weather for Houston in June, at least the parade boasted record attendance, with hundreds of thousands lining up along Westheimer.

But the volunteers of the Pride Committee are not content to let it end there. We still have work to do. We still have discrimination in our schools and workplaces. Our unions are not legally recognized. Funding is limited (and sometimes non-existent) for our health, legal and social issues. We still have a need to be out and visible to our neighbors, co-workers, family and friends. We hope this year's celebration, capped off by the Pride Parade, can create an avenue for everyone to participate and make a difference in their own special way.

On a personal note, this is my tenth year with this organization and my second year as President. It has been a pleasure to get to know Houston's GLBT community. Since I first joined, this organization has been growing and building steadily to be a popular, fun annual celebration that is inclusive, enjoyable and responsive to all. I first volunteered after three years of watching the Pride Parade and consistently having a great time. In 1993, I was sitting on the curb, drinking a beer, hanging with my friends and watching a fantastic float pass. I turned to one of my friends and asked, "Who organizes this parade every year, anyway?" A little research and a phone call later, I was sitting in a Pride Committee meeting. I volunteered and have never looked back. I learned this organization is so much more than just the Pride Parade. It's a great way to network, be involved, learn about our community, make a difference, and feel good about making Houston better for us all. If you have ever wondered how this event happens year after year, call or e-mail us. You won't regret it!

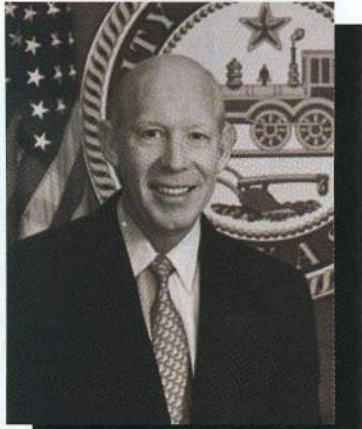
Thanks also for picking up this Pride.04 Magazine! Now in our fourth year, we hope you will think of this annual magazine as our community yearbook to feature the many events, leaders, issues and trends that make up the diverse gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community of Houston and beyond.

I always say there is something for everyone during our annual Pride Celebration. Whether you are marching proudly in the parade, attending one of our many workshops, or just reading this magazine . . . Welcome! This is YOUR celebration. Enjoy it. Be a part of it.

Nicolas Brines

President
Pride Committee of Houston





Greetings,

As mayor of the City of Houston, I am pleased to extend my warm greetings to all participating in various activities to be held during the annual Pride Celebration. I would also like to welcome the many guests who will be attending these events from across the state.

Houston historically has offered an array of activities, organizations and services that are reflective of its diversity, and this celebration continues in that tradition.

The strengths of this great city are in the men and women who make up our diverse cultural richness.

Your work shows that Houston is a city of communities, and we all strive to make this a better place to live and work. I look forward to working with you on the issues that are important to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community, and all Houstonians.

Best wishes for a successful and memorable Pride Celebration.

Sincerely,

Bill White
Mayor



Dear friends,

Greetings from the Houston City Controller's Office! Yes, that's right! I am now the second highest elected city official in Houston.

Congratulations on what I am sure will be another grand parade. All of you work so tirelessly to make this a classy and exciting event. I want to personally say thank you.

I also want to extend a heartfelt thank you for the ongoing support I receive from the GLBT community. Just look at how far we have come!

Sincerely,

Annise D. Parker
City Controller

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Insert Cover Photo by Yvonne K. Feece: Two Dancers Two Step at the Brazos River Bottom
 Pride as Big as Texas logo by Stef Silvano

HOUSTON

A space of infinite possibilities



In 1836, two brothers from New York, Augustus and John Allen, navigated north from Galveston Bay to Buffalo Bayou. They were land speculators and saw the area as a perfect place for a community to thrive. Houston was born. Today, SpaceCity represents all that is typically Texas – and much, much more. Houston has grown to more than four million people; the fourth largest city in the U.S. Houstonians speak more than 90 languages, creating an exciting, diverse environment for all people to live, work, play and visit. The sights are remarkable and each area of the city offers visitors something different. Houston's downtown is a great place for entertainment. The resurgence of development and energy downtown has brought many people to the area for dining, entertainment and much more. The new Hilton Americas-Houston Hotel adds 1,200 guestrooms to downtown Houston. Bayou Place, an entertainment complex, offers the multi-screen Angelika Film Center & Café, several excellent restaurants and clubs including Hard Rock Café, a live-music venue, Slick Willie's for billiards and dance clubs like BAR Houston and Have a Nice Day Café. Additionally, there are dozens more restaurants and nightspots for any taste. The Downtown Entertainment District, The Main Event is downtown Houston's newest "place to be." Beautiful fountains and the new light rail train which takes riders

from downtown to Reliant Park make this district a hub of activity and fun. Dining, dancing and great people-watching are The Main Event.

Downtown is also the place for sports fans. The Houston Astros' home, Minute Maid Park, is the ticket for baseball fans every season. The park and souvenir shop is open year-round for memorabilia and tours. The recently opened

Toyota Center is the shiny new home of the Houston Rockets, Comets and Aeros. It's also the site of concerts and special performances. For star-studded performances, the Theater District is ready to dazzle you. Opera, ballet, performing arts and the symphony are the options in this multi-block downtown district.

Just south of downtown, Reliant Park is the site of many major events and conventions. Reliant Stadium is the 69,500-seat retractable-roof home of the NFL Texans and the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo – the world's largest rodeo. Next to the stadium is the world's first domed stadium, the Reliant Astrodome. Reliant Center encompasses more than 700,000 square feet of state-of-the-art space, which can host events, meetings and trade shows of any size and scope. Reliant Park is also neighbor to one of the city's largest attractions – Six Flags AstroWorld and WaterWorld. The theme parks draw millions of visitors annually. But AstroWorld and

Each area of the city offers visitors something different



Above: An ongoing exhibit at the Menil Collection Opposite: The Houston city skyline at dusk



Bayou Place has become a main draw for tourists and locals alike

WaterWorld share the spotlight with several other major attractions. Splashtown is the biggest water park in Texas and it offers hours of watery fun in the summer months. At Space Center Houston, visitors can explore the past, present and future of manned space flight, land the space shuttle or touch a moon rock. The great outdoors is also a big perk in Houston. The Houston Zoo is found in scenic Hermann Park. Centrally located, the park offers a golf course, two beautiful gardens, the Japanese Tea Gardens and the Houston Garden Center, and free outdoor performances at Miller Outdoor Theatre. Additionally, find hike and bike trails and beautiful and challenging golf courses around the city to test your skill and endurance. The Museum District, within walking distance of Hermann Park, gives visitors a taste of Houston's impressive cultural scene. The city is home to more than 500 cultural, visual, and performing arts organizations, including The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, the Houston Museum of Natural Science, The Children's Museum of Houston, the Menil Collection and the Contemporary Arts Museum. Other additions include the Holocaust Museum Houston, the John P. McGovern Museum of Health & Medical Science and the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft. For shopaholics, SpaceCity has gained a reputation as one of the world's greatest retail centers. Its most well-known site is The Galleria, a collection of hotels, restaurants and more than 300 retail stores all centered around a giant indoor ice skating rink.

Houston also boasts the world's largest medical center — The Texas Medical Center. Medicine is a growing economic force here, employing more than 61,000 people and comprising 42 institutions, with an economic impact of more than \$13 billion. And don't forget, Houston is a coastal city. Just minutes from the cool breezes of the Gulf Coast, you can dine on great seafood, listen to live music or ride a Ferris wheel on the Kemah Boardwalk. Enjoy the sand and surf of Galveston Island and its beautiful historic homes and the fun of Moody Gardens. And in Clear Lake, take in the smooth sailing of dozens of watercraft cruising along the Gulf waters. With major airports, Houston boasts one of the nation's premier international gateways, linking the region to more than 150 destinations, including some 50 international points in Mexico, Central and South America, Europe, Asia, the Caribbean, Canada and Africa. Host of Super Bowl XXXVIII, the All-Star Baseball Game, Tennis Master's Cup and the 2011 NCAA Men's Basketball Final Four, Houston will be the site of great fun and activity. Houston is a space of infinite possibilities. As a top convention and tourism destination you'll enjoy the very best hotels, convention facilities, sports, entertainment, dining, outdoor recreation and attractions. The Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau and its partners, Continental Airlines and HP, Houston encourage you to make Houston your choice for business or pleasure. For more information on Houston attractions, log on to www.visithoustontexas.com or call 1-800-4HOUSTON. ▼

A Day in the Life of . . .

Naomi Toledo - Lonestar Clothing Company

Naomi Toledo matriculated Rice University in '98. A Christian, Toledo was told by members of Intersarsity Christian Fellowship that as a lesbian she could attend meetings but not hold any kind of leadership position. Confounded by the group's limited acceptance, Toledo decided to form a group of her own, Queer Christians. "I felt if I can't be myself and worship God the way I like to, I'm going to start my own thing."

In the time it lasted, Queer Christians affected some lives and was met with some resistance. Posters were sometimes found torn down and thrown away. "A friend told me, 'I walked by the hallway with your Queer Christians flyer and this dude walks past it and he's like, 'You heard of that group? Weird Christians.'" There were visits from Christians who were suspicious of gays, gays who were suspicious of Christians, and those who were just plain curious. "I think in the long run it did open up some eyes."

Now a graduate, Toledo has become an entrepreneur in the t-shirt business. "I once saw a Chicana girl at Rice wearing a shirt that read 'Little Brown Girl.' I thought, 'Why can't I do that?'"

Toledo is building a stock of queer designs, Chicano pride designs, and others. "I'll do just about anything unless it's offensive to me, homophobic, racist, or just maligning of any group. I may be broke but I'm not that broke."

One of the funnier custom design requests Toledo has received is for local black comedian Daryl Wright who wants shirts to sell after his shows. The image is of his face over a Stars and Bars Dixie flag with the caption, "What, me mad? They lost."

www.lonestarclothingcompany.com

info@lonestarclothingcompany.com

-ED



Rev. Dwayne Johnson - Pastor, Metropolitan Community Church

Born in Lubbock, Reverend Dwayne Johnson was often asked if he was going to follow in his father's footsteps and become a minister. "I thought that was the last thing I would want to do." But in his senior year at MidAmerica Nazarene University in Olathe, Kansas, he had a change of heart and decided to choose a calling where he could affect people in deep and meaningful ways. He has. "A young woman came to talk to me," recalls Johnson. "She said, 'I'm here to say thank you.' On a whim, she decided to come and worship with us and found it to be a transforming experience, pointing her life in a whole new direction. She's been coming ever since."

To those who define the GLBT community as opprobrium, saying God hates gays or even quoting scripture (such as 1 Cor 6:9) to that effect, Johnson offers this insight. "The main thing is the Bible really doesn't address gay-straight issues. The references are misconstrued, referring to some of the cultural traditions at that time. It had nothing to do with GLBT love relationships. Of course Christ doesn't say anything about it at all. I encourage people to read the Bible as a book that is descriptive as opposed to proscriptive. If you read it through the lens of a loving God, you're not going to find that hateful context."

Rev. Johnson's advice for a healthy spiritual life? "Don't just take it face value, everything you've been told that religion is about. Make it your own. Keep asking questions 'till it becomes your spiritual body, not somebody else's."

www.resurrectionmcc.org

-ED

A Day in The Life of . . .

Mitch Pengra - Art Teacher

Mitch Pengra has been the Art Teacher at The Parish School for 10 years. The School creates a positive and nurturing learning environment that empowers children with communication differences to develop effective, life-long communication skills. Mitch always got along with children. He has a passion for helping kids communicate, and along with his BFA in Painting and Drawing and an MA in Child Development, he follows his passion through art.

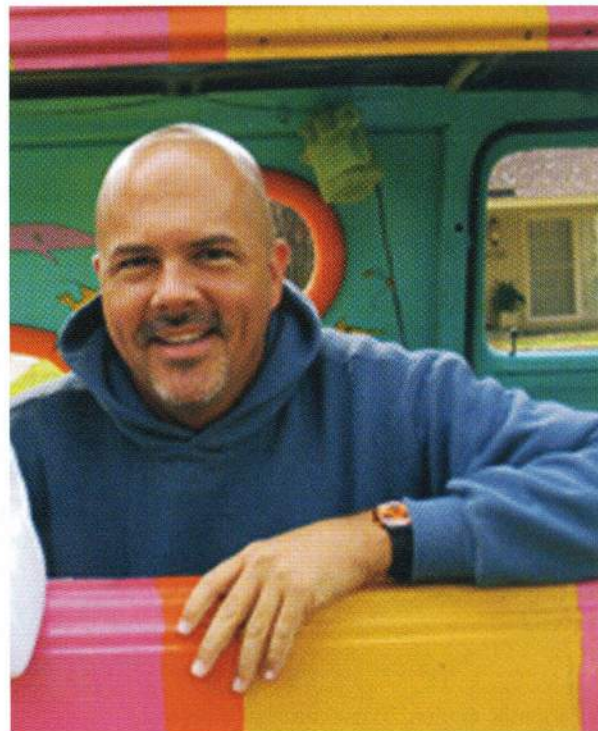
Mitch aims to teach his students that everyone has their own way of doing things, and not to be concerned with the way others do things. He wants them to be secure in their own beliefs, so that they will achieve their language goals and take risks to add to the project in front of them.

"The kids are interesting," says Mitch. "But the school is staffed with special people, too. We all have weird traits."

He was concerned once about being gay. He thought to himself that, even though the School embraces his artistic abilities and purpose, every year begins with new students and parents that don't know him. His concern passed quickly as the school has always been supportive. In fact, Mitch co-produced an in-your-face theatrical show a few years ago called In Gay Company, which about 10 fellow teachers attended and drove down to Galveston to further support him at the Opera House.

Mitch is fun, positive and upbeat, which is reflected in his classroom, friendships and his art car. Look for him truckin' around the city in his orange-green-purple-yellow-striped AquaVan (painted blue inside with sea creatures and crazy fish). Don't jump into the roofless art-on-wheels, as you may ruin his students' artwork, the beanbag chairs and the well-stocked cooler.

-JG



Mission Statement

"The Houston Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center provides a home for the birth, nurture and celebration of our organizations, institutions and culture; cares for our individuals and groups in need; educates the public and our community; and empowers our individuals and groups to achieve their fullest potential."

For information call 713-524-3818 or visit the center at 3400 Montrose Blvd. Suite 207.

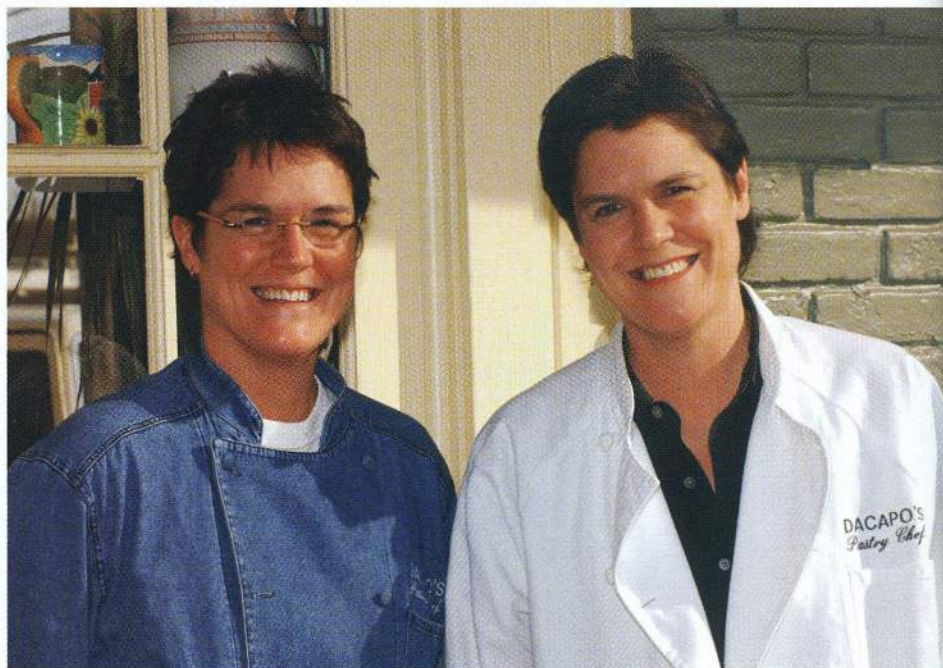
A Day in the Life of . . .

Lisa & Teresa Biggerstaff - Dacapo's Pastry & Deli

Dacapo, a musical term meaning "from the beginning," is used as a direction to repeat a passage. Begin with the scent of pita chips and garlic baking in the oven permeating the kitchen. Pause to indulge in the aroma of a warm culinary heaven. Slowly approach the end with the tart sweetness of the key lime cheesecake melting in your mouth.

Nestled on the corner of Studewood and E. 11th St. in The Heights, Dacapo's Pastry & Deli approaches its 10th year in business. It offers catering services, including cakes for weddings and other special occasions, corporate box lunches, and party trays, as well as a simple menu of pastries, soups, salads, homemade breads and sandwiches for a casual dining experience. Lisa and Teresa describe themselves as a balancing act, which makes for a good, solid business. And this one is made with the love of family and for the love of unforgettable food..

-JG



Dacapo's boasts 20+ desserts of 5-star quality from the simple, delectable chocolate chip cookie to the layered flavors of tiramisu. Lisa and Teresa guarantee that it is love at first bite!

Kevin Tobin & Bryan Hopkins - Texas Gay Rodeo Association

The Texas Gay Rodeo Association was founded in the summer of 1983. November 1984 heralded the first annual Texas Gay Rodeo, beginning the tradition of the TGRA November rodeo which continues to this day.

The growth of TGRA coincided with the fight against HIV/AIDS. The founding members recognized the need for the community to pull together to raise money to combat this epidemic in light of limited government intervention and funding.

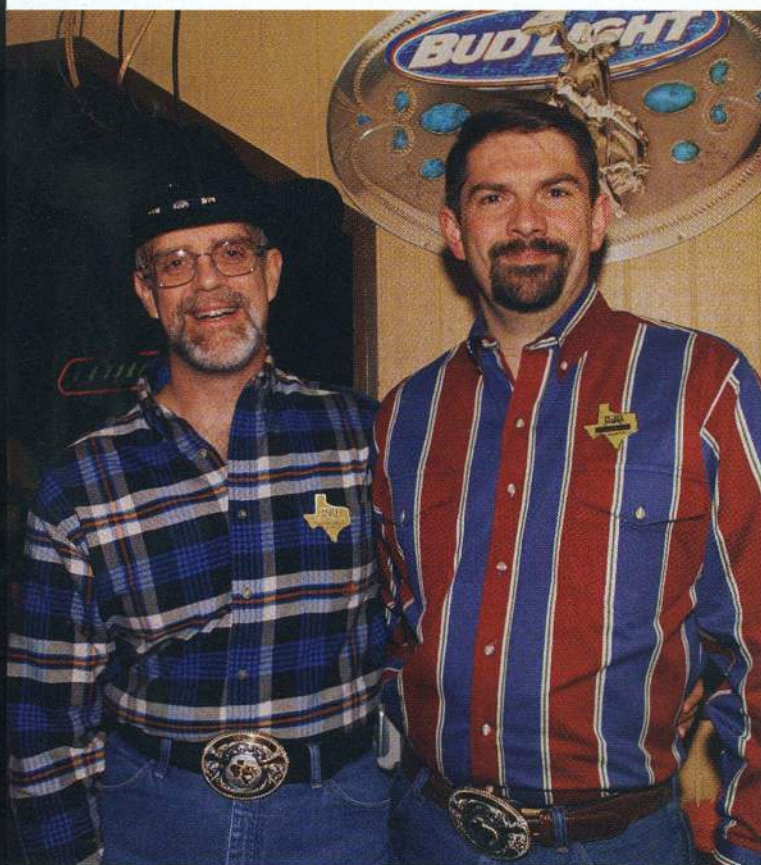
Since its inception, TGRA members, Royalty, and community have raised and donated over \$2 million to Texas charities.

TGRA is administered and run totally by volunteers with a membership in the hundreds. There are many committees within each of the five chapters that exist to meet the widerange of challenges in hosting a rodeo and maintaining a focused charitable concern. Bryan Hopkins is the current President of the Houston TGRA chapter. He has attended Gay Rodeos for over 10 years and has served on the association since relocating to Houston.

There are many areas of TGRA and degrees of involvement available to its members. Our success is entirely dependent on the support of the membership and the community that we serve. We are engaged in fighting a war on infectious diseases and terminal illnesses, but prefer the rodeo arena as our battleground.

www.tgra.com

-RM



Dear Friend in Pride,

You have probably been as upset as we have by the continuing homophobia seen in the news. National televangelists attack gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people. These attacks have increased in the wake of the news about the possibility of GLBT marriage. The FBI reports that violence against us is a significant portion of bias-motivated crime in America. Politicians continue to devise ways to legalize discrimination in our community. Here in Houston, the right wing won the vote in a recent election barring domestic partner benefits for city workers. The most important factor allowing this bigotry to continue is that the good people of this city and county who might support us know little about us.

The Pride Committee of Houston works year-round to host events that showcase our GLBT community in all of its diversity. The fabulous night time Pride Parade that you see every June is a celebration of both individual pride and pride in our community. It is also the biggest GLBT event in Houston and the Southwest, so it receives a lot of positive media coverage. It's a great opportunity to educate society about the scope of our community. Additionally, attending the parade is the first step out of the closet for many of us, starting us on a journey in which we educate many others.

The mission of Pride—celebrating individual pride, commemorating our community's history and educating society—can change the world. Surveys show that when we come out to the people around us, and when people are educated about real GLBT lives, bigotry diminishes.

Pride is everything and everyday. With your help, the Pride Committee can continue to produce events and resources to educate and empower all of us. Your contribution today allows us to work year-round, which is necessary to produce even more successful events and programs year after year.

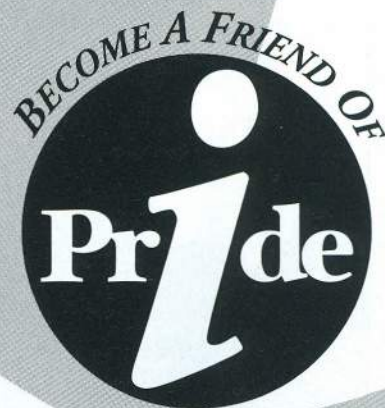
Just as we are trying to change the world through Pride, we are always open to your suggestions. PCOH holds open Board of Directors meetings the second Tuesday of each month, at 7:00 pm, in the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, an accessible, secure city facility located at 1475 W. Gray. All meetings are open to the public and participation is highly encouraged. You may also contact us anytime through the Pride Line at 713-529-6979 or via e-mail at info@pridehouston.org.

Become a Friend of Pride. Please consider a tax-deductible gift of \$250, \$100 or whatever you can afford. To thank you for your gift, you will receive a host of benefits, which are detailed on the enclosed card. Please use the enclosed envelope to return your gift today. Not only will you receive VIP bleacher seating to view and enjoy the Pride Parade, but your contribution also allows the Pride Committee of Houston to produce empowering events and educational resources throughout the year.

Yours in Pride,



Nick Brines
President
Pride Committee of Houston



A Day in The Life of...

Bill & Barry - 23 Years and counting...

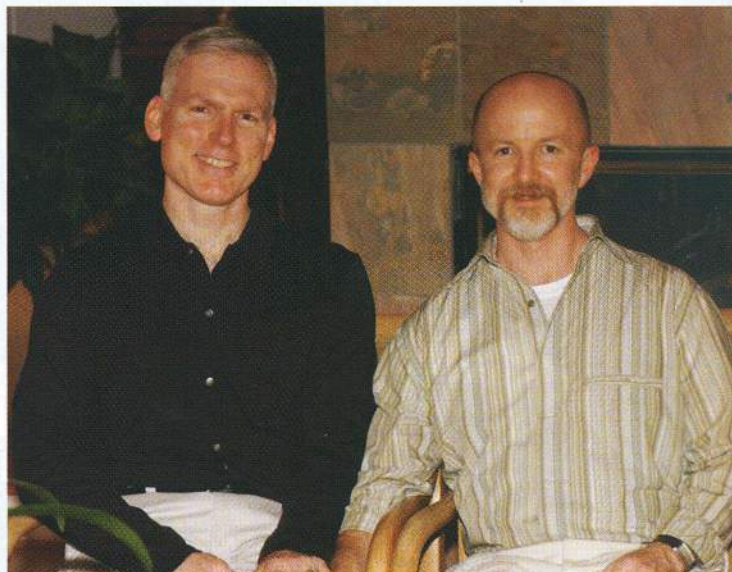
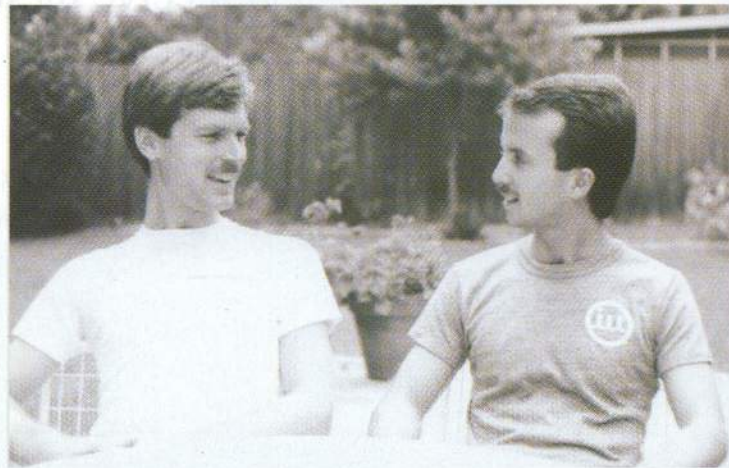
Bill and Barry met back in 1981 while working together. "When I opened the door our eyes met and I knew right then," says Barry. As soon as they started talking there was an instant connection, and they decided to have lunch together. Working for a large company, they didn't run into each other often. In fact, Barry wasn't sure that Bill was gay. He found out later through one of Bill's co-workers. It wasn't until the Fourth of July weekend 1981 that they saw each other again. They have been together ever since!

What's their secret? There is no secret! Bill and Barry are just a lot alike. They have very similar personalities, although Bill seems to be a bit more reserved than Barry. Of course, being totally in love might have something to do with it, too.

"A lot of the times people just think too hard on their relationships. We're just doing what we feel. If you have to think about it that hard then something is missing," said Barry. Bill adds, "We just enjoy being together. It doesn't have to be anything fun or exciting. Just being together gives us so much pleasure." Barry smiles at Bill and says, "We could never think of being apart."

Until the last couple of years they really hadn't thought about getting married, although they did go through steps to document legally their relationship. Several years ago Bill and Barry attended a symposium at Empower by the Moore & Hunt Law Firm and learned about the importance of legally documenting a same sex relationship. "Even though you think everything will be ok, you can't count on it," said Barry. So they set up Powers of Attorney, Wills and Trusts to insure that they would be able to protect their rights. Legally, a gay couple is not automatically protected no matter how long they've been together.

-RM



'We just happen to be two men instead of a man and a woman. That's the only difference,' says Bill. Two men that have been in love for 23 years! It's beautiful!

Alexa Ramirez - #98 Houston Energy

Alexa Ramirez graduated from the University of Houston with a Bachelor's in Science for Kinesiology — Exercise Science in 2002. She is an exercise physiologist by day. In her spare time she plays on the offensive line for the Houston Energy, Houston's three-time championship football team of the Women's Professional Football League. Ramirez, a two-year veteran to the team, got involved with the Houston Energy after attending several home games. With a strong desire to get back into sports, Alexa decided to prove the masses wrong by tackling the arena of male dominated football. In the off-season, Ramirez plays for the X-Treme, of the Houston Women's Flag Football League to keep up her training.
www.houstonenergyfootball.com

-RM



The 2004 Pride Committee of Houston

The Pride Committee is an energetic group of volunteers who work year-round to produce the annual Pride Celebration for Houston, which marks the anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion, the beginning of the modern American gay and lesbian rights movement. The Board of Directors meets the second Tuesday of every month at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray at 7 pm. The meetings are open to the general public. Sub-Committees have regularly scheduled meetings throughout the month to accommodate volunteers' schedules. PCOH also reaches out to Pride organizations around the region and throughout the world through its membership in InterPride, the International Association of Lesbian and Gay Pride Coordinators.

The Pride Committee of Houston brings the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community together to celebrate individual pride, commemorate our community's history and educate society for the liberation of all people. We salute the many volunteers who sacrifice their time and energy in pursuit of these goals.

Pride Committee of Houston

P.O. Box 66071
Houston, TX 77266-6071

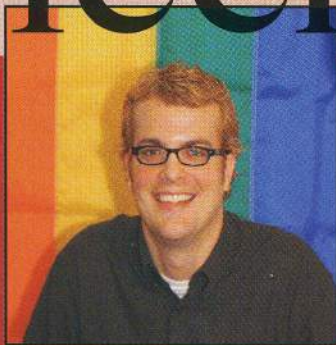
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Visit us on the web at
www.pridehouston.org

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The 2004 Pride Committee of Houston

Board of Directors



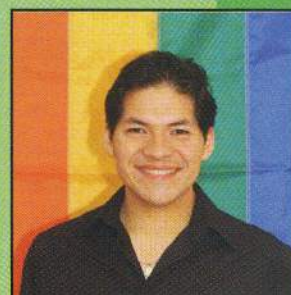
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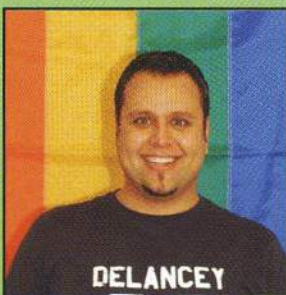
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TROY MENN
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InterPride Vice President
of Member Services



The 2004 Pride Committee of Houston

Committee Members



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Parade



MANNY GUTIERREZ
Parade



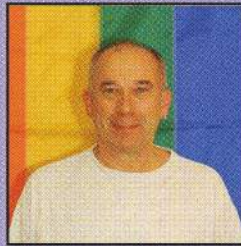
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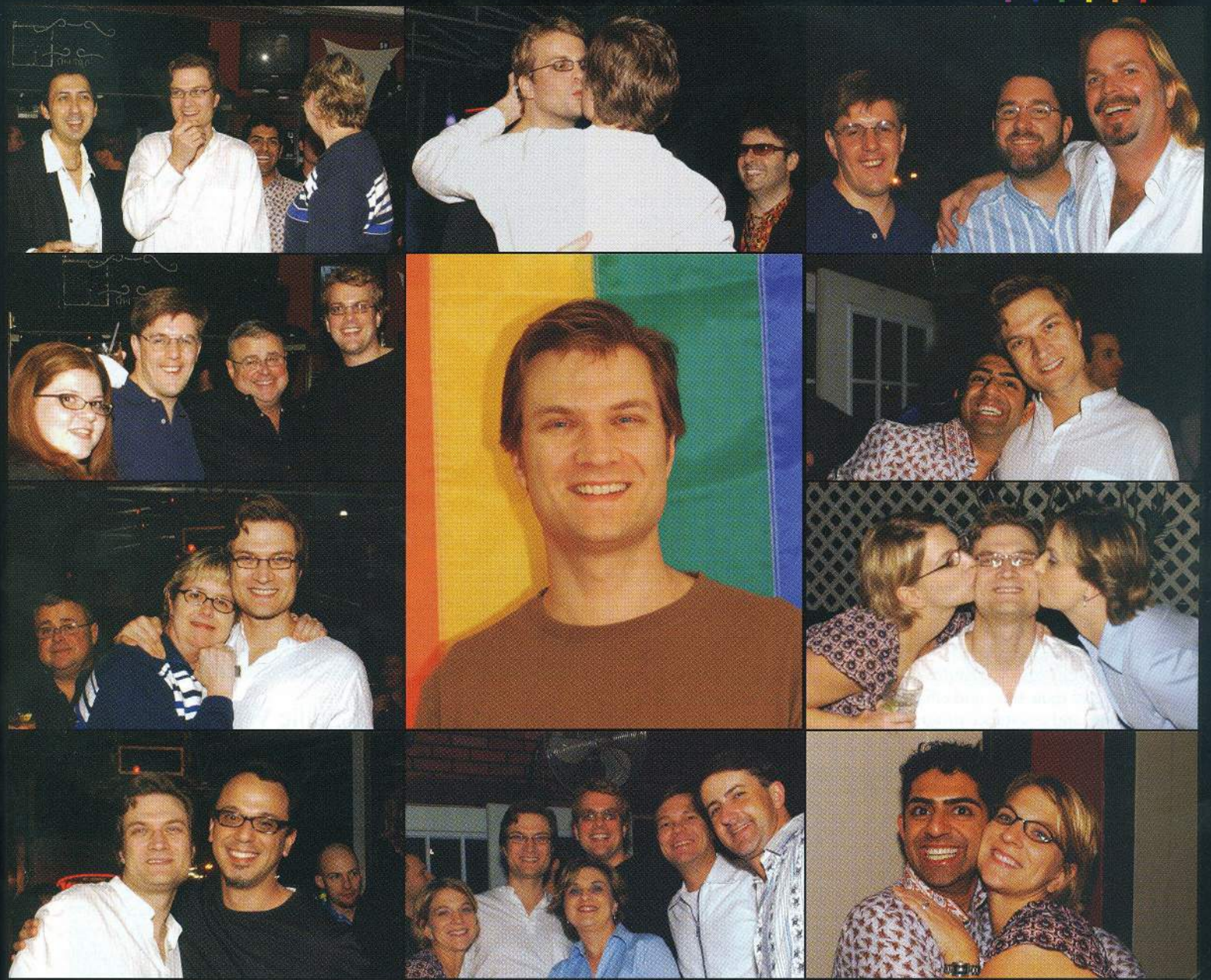
HAPPY HOUSTON PRIDE ASBIGASTEXAS



check out the pride calendar of events at www.pridehouston.org for our **BIG BASH 30th ANNIVERSARY PARTY**
an official event of HOUSTON PRIDE

“London calling . . .”

PCOH Says Farewell to One of Its Best



The Pride Committee of Houston offers congratulations and best wishes to Paul Radous as he departs Houston, Texas for London, England to pursue his new employment opportunity.

Paul has been an integral component of the Pride Committee of Houston since 1998. He has served in various leadership roles since joining the organization, including Treasurer and Co-Chair of the Celebration Committee. In fact, Paul served as Treasurer for most of the planning for this year's Pride Celebration, and continues to serve as a long distance mentor to the new treasury volunteers. His efforts helped to transition a small, casually run group of volunteers into a strong, professionally operated non-profit organization. By instituting strong fiscal controls, budget planning, standardized accounting, insurance management and legal oversight, Paul pushed the Pride Committee forward to new heights. Paul was never afraid to question expenses, or to roll up his sleeves to make things better. Our organization continues to grow (and maintain the bank balances!) because of Paul to ensure Houston will always host a world-class series of events each June to educate, celebrate and commemorate our GLBT community.

Cheers, Paul! Good luck in London. Houston will miss you!

A Day in the Life of . . .

Brenden Stewart - Case Manager for Social Services

After learning more about the clinic and its involvement with HIV/AIDS education and testing, Brenden immediately offered his services as a volunteer. Although Brenden is heterosexual he was never bothered by the fact that the clinic is geared toward targeting the GLBT community.

In the next four years Brenden made his way through the ranks of the clinic, starting with front desk administrator and then moving on to Out Reach HIV/AIDS testing and finally settling into his current position as a Case Manager for Social Services.

The program with which Brenden is involved with assists people living with HIV/AIDS in obtaining housing, food, clothing and other social service needs they may have. Most of his clients are unaware of the resources that are available to them through assistance programs in the HIV/AIDS community. "Clients come into the clinic when they need help and don't know what to do. The case manager must relay this information to the client in a way that they can understand and empower themselves to do it in the future." As a case manager Brenden sets up referrals for his clients' needs and tries to resolve those needs within a given period of time. Some clients have very few needs and can get taken care of efficiently. Others have more complex issues like drug dependency and homelessness which makes it more difficult to get them on "even ground." Whatever the case may be, Brenden is there to help those who seek it.

The Montrose Clinic has been a vital part of the GLBT community's awareness of HIV/AIDS and the need for HIV/AIDS testing. Kudos to Brenden and all others out there who give their time and effort to support HIV/AIDS education, testing, and assistance programs.

-RM



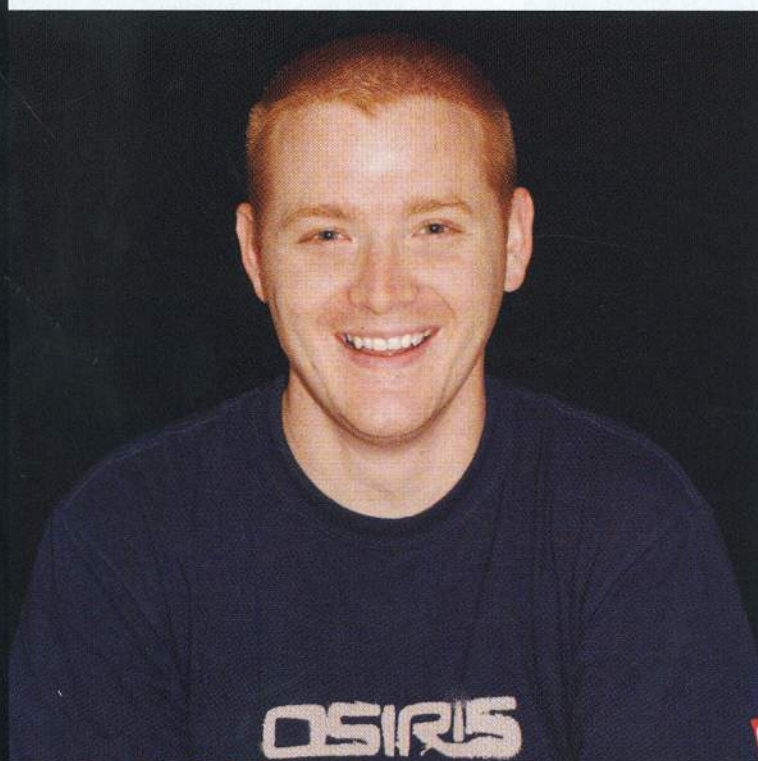
Melissa Carruba & Sallie Woodell - Couple

Who says you can't find love in a crowded bar? While most of us think this rule to be true, Melissa and Sallie are the exception. They met at a local lesbian hangout and now, two and a half years later, they have three cats, one dog, and a wonderful relationship.

Many people assume that just because women are raised to find a mate for life, so they think that lesbian relationships are somehow easier than others. Although Melissa and Sallie have a great relationship, they "face the same problems that everybody faces," explains Sallie. Just because they are two women does not mean their relationship should be any different. "You have to make sure the person knows how much you care about them, how much you love them. You have to put the time into the relationship to make things work. You have to do all these things, yet they're not work because you want to be with this person," Sallie adds. "Our main problem is dealing with my families difficulty in accepting our relationship," says Sallie.

After spending the evening with these two ladies in their home full of pictures of friends, family and beloved pets, it seems like the biggest problem is keeping their pets from spilling red wine on the carpet.

-RM



2003 Volunteers of the Year

The Pride Committee of Houston, being a non-for-profit organization, can honestly say that, volunteers are the heart and back bone of the organization, since every Board Member freely and willingly volunteers their time to produce the annual Houston Pride Parade. The commitment and effort put forth to bring the Parade to Houston every year is immense. When most of us are racing to buy those last minute items for a joyous Thanksgiving feast or on the run to finish last minute Christmas shopping, the Pride Committee is hard at work brainstorming and organizing next year's parade. Sponsorships and donations from the community definitely allow the committee to stay alive and ultimately produce the Parade, but without that commitment and effort from our volunteers, I believe we would not have a Parade. This year, as in previous years, PCOH is committed to making sure everyone under the GLBT umbrella is being represented. With GLBT issues currently being focused on from a national level to here in our backyard of Houston, let's show our unity and commitment to these causes. Join our team and show your PRIDE AS BIG AS TEXAS!

To volunteer simply visit us at www.pridehouston.org and complete an online Volunteer Application or e-mail me at volunteers@pridehouston.org or jlara@pridehouston.org.

Jose Lara
Director of Volunteer Recruitment & Retention



Volunteer of the Year Aaron Blinka with PCOH President Nick Brines



Volunteer of the Year Cindy Hudson with PCOH Volunteer Beth Puyear



PCOH Volunteers appreciation party

In the Lead for 2004

Pride as Big as Texas Grand Marshals



Jerry Simoneaux

President of Stonewall Lawyers for 2 years Jerry, with the help of his life partner Christopher Bone, made Stonewall events a success. Among them are the Freedom to Marry Demonstration, the Alternative Family Law Seminar and the Community Law Day. He has sacrificed innumerable hours of his time promoting the professional image of the GLBT community by attending functions, fundraising events, and seminars. He serves on the State Bar of Texas Section on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identification Issues as well as heading up the Houston Bar Association on AIDS Outreach for the Houston legal community.

Sonna Alton

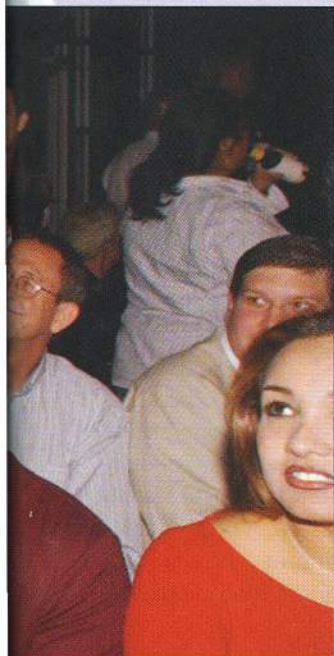
Director of Communication and Events for the Montrose Clinic, member of the Krewe of Olympus for 5 years, member of the Executive and Professional Association for 2 years. Sonna has also volunteered as an interviewer for the PFLAG/HATCH Youth Scholarship Foundation for the past 3 years.





Jim & Sue Null

Through their work with PFLAG, the Nulls have implemented the following projects: METRO bus signs proclaiming "Unconditional Love — Keep Families Together," GLBT training for 600 HISD principals and vice principals in 2002, in-service workshop for HISD teachers and counselors in 2000, "HATE FREE ZONE" tape for supportive churches and other buildings during Houston's Proposition 2 ballot. Sue and Jim have been honored with the following awards: Ray Hill Award for Advocacy by a Non-Attorney from the Stonewall Law Association, Champion's Award for an individual at the Transgendered Unity Banquet in 2002 (Sue), Proclamation for Mayor Lee Brown declaring Sept. 28, 2003 "Sue Null Day" sponsored by the Houston Women's Group and the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston, and recipient of a Certificate of Recognition from Councilmember Ada Edwards for being an "agent of social change, a voice for uncompromising values, and a source of unconditional love through her work in the Houston Chapter of PFLAG."



Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas (LGRL)

Help to increase the influence and visibility of LGBT Texans in the state legislature. Led efforts to pass the James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crime Act protecting

LGBT citizens under state law, defeated attempts which would have prohibited LGBT Texans from adopting children or serving as foster parents, and continually fights against workplace discrimination.

PRIDE



AS BIG AS TEXAS

A Day in the Life of . . .

Greg Jeu - OutSmart Magazine

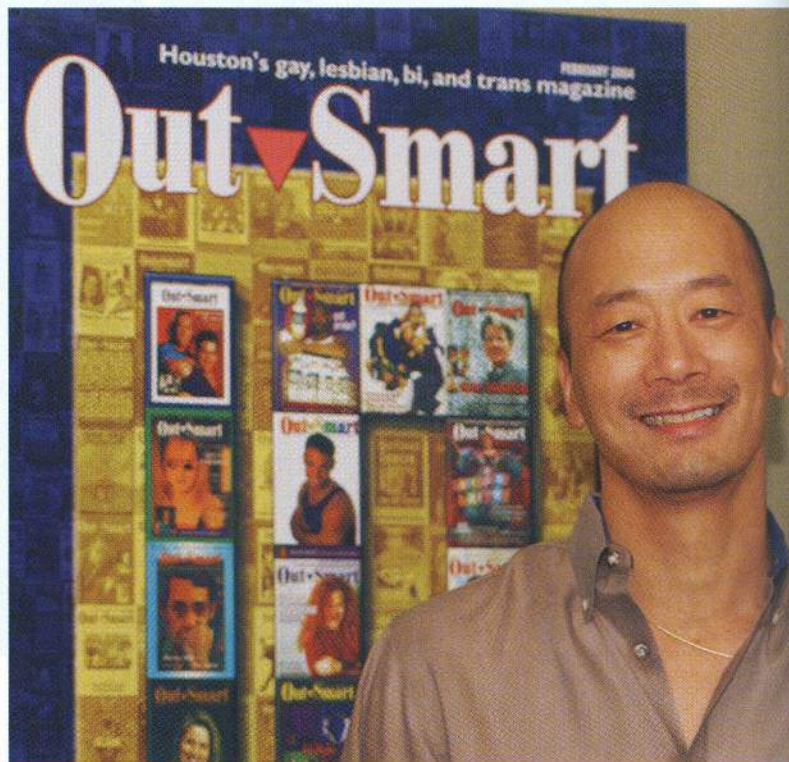
The 1993 March on Washington inspired Greg Jeu to launch OutSmart, the Houston-based GLBT magazine. "It was an incredibly healing experience," he recalls about the equal-rights event. "We were marching with thousands of other people. After being discriminated against, after having my relationship disrespected because I was gay, marching with thousands of people helped to re-energize my soul. When we came back, we were hyped and felt so empowered we wanted to do something."

OutSmart debuted in February 1994. "In our first issue we had just a handful of advertisers," Jeu recalls. "We had some pretty lean years. Today we have over 200 regular advertisers who support us and the community."

Jeu and his staff mark the magazine's tenth anniversary this year. In celebration, OutSmart will publish a limited-edition commemorative book, host special events including a fall benefit evening, and sponsor a photography contest and exhibition.

Today, the award-winning publication—one of the few GLBT monthlies in the nation—is distributed across the Houston/Galveston area and in several other Texas cities including Austin, Dallas, El Paso and San Antonio.

"We named the magazine OutSmart," Jeu says, "because



we felt people needed to know how to come out safely and to be smart and educated about our rights and hopefully find the power of their own voices. We all need to know our political power and the clout that our collective voice can create." —TB

Adam Frejvid - Model

He's young, tall, blonde, green-eyed and handsome with a disarming smile that can get you to buy anything. But he is not just the next fresh face in modeling. He is also a fresh face in Houston. Adam recently moved from Loveland, Colorado. When asked why, the answer is surprising. "I had never been here before," he laughs. "Besides, I liked the idea of living in Texas."

Modeling is a new endeavor for Adam. "I want to be a model because I am better looking than everyone," he quips. "Honestly it's because I spent most of my life hiding my body because I was overweight." Adam has lost over 100 lbs. to get the body he has today. "I wanted to make a drastic change. Modeling is my chance to come out of the shadows and stand out. It is not to show off but to prove to myself that I can do anything."

These feelings carry over into his advice for others. He notes that so many people are afraid of who they are and so afraid of rejection by others that they never reach their potential. Through his experiences of coming out to a hostile family and overcoming a weight problem he has gained valuable insights. "It doesn't matter what others think of you, but it does matter what you think of yourself." With a smirk he adds, "So when do we eat?" —KD

