

# PRIDE 05

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF HOUSTON PRIDE 2005

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Part 2



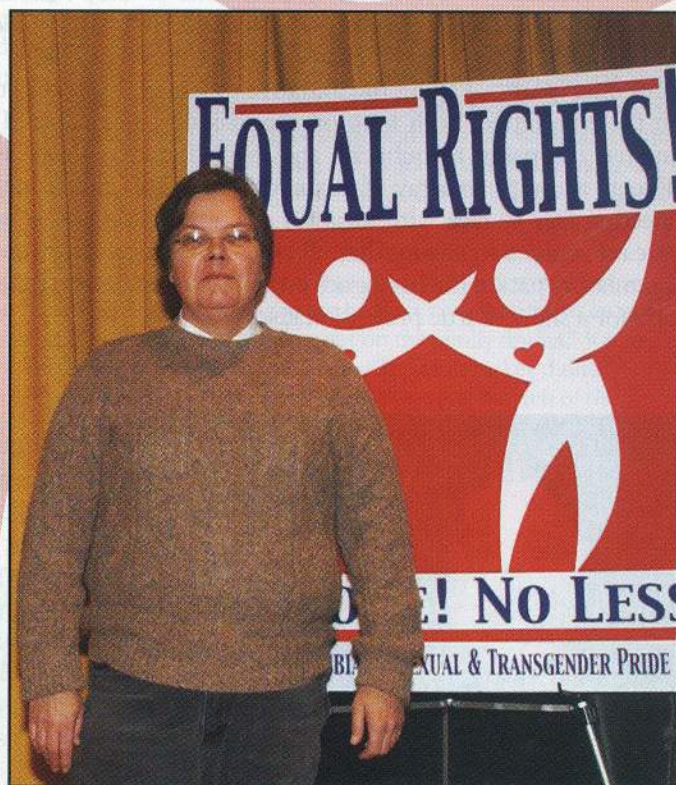
# In the Lead for 2005

Equal Rights! No More! No Less! Pride Parade Grand Marshals



**Weldon Hickey** - Hickey has been involved in and held leadership roles with many GLBT organizations including the Krewe of Olympus, Miss Camp America, Four Seasons and Classic Chassis Car Club. Hickey is also one of four members of a performing camp drag queen group, the Cu'tless Supremes, which performs at many fundraisers for the GLBT and AIDS/HIV service and community organizations. Hickey has worked for the Maranatha Fellowship MCC and the Montrose Clinic. He has been described as someone able to get other people involved and bring out the best in people.

Houston's Pride Parade Grand Marshals are some of the most highly honored individuals and organizations in our GLBT community. Look for them as they lead the Parade down Westheimer on Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>!



**Deb Murphy** - Murphy is the Youth Services worker with H.A.T.C.H. (the Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals) and her goal is to help these GLBT adolescents find their authentic selves while putting an end to their isolation. She has worked with hundreds of young people and has helped build the H.A.T.C.H. program into a nationally recognized program for others working with GLBT youth. Murphy has also played an integral role with the Houston GLBT Community Center as a volunteer and volunteer coordinator, and on the Board of Directors. She has also volunteered her time on the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard Houston, the CATS Transgender Shelter in Galveston and the Gay and Lesbian Film Festival as Festival administrator.





**Dennis and Evelyn Schave** – The Schaves are licensed counselors at Community Gospel Life Counseling Center, where they work with individuals, couples and groups on issues ranging from sexual orientation and dealing with friends and family to drug dependency. The Schaves support and counsel members of the GLBT community to accept their sexual orientation from within the context of their Christian faith. Over the past fifteen years, the Schaves have ministered to the GLBT community even when their advocacy of GLBT Christians has brought them rejection from family and friends. Dennis Schave, with degrees in sociology, psychology and Bible studies, has served for over 25 years as a counselor, worked in the Youth Prison System in Washington State and trained fellow professionals to be substance abuse counselors. Over the last 50 years, Evelyn Schave has served as an evangelist, youth pastor, worship leader and director/founder of a drug rehabilitation center.

### **Bayou City Boys Club** –

BCBC, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, whose efforts are focused on raising funds for local HIV/AIDS service providers, research efforts and education/prevention programs through popular fundraising events such as Jungle Weekend, Gospel Brunch, Holiday Toy Drive and Summer Theater Night. The organization began as four friends devoted their 1992 birthday party to food donations for the Stone Soup Food Pantry and the Houston Clinical Research Network. With only 32 active members, 13 associate members and 11 emeritus members, the

Bayou City Boys Club has been able to donate over \$650,000 to local charities that provide essential, unduplicated HIV/AIDS related services since 1992. Bayou City Boys Club is very proud that 100% of proceeds from entry fees to events are donated to event beneficiaries. The organization won both the Community Service Award from the AIDS Action Foundation and a reader's choice award from the Houston Voice as the Best Gay Nonprofit Organization in 2004.



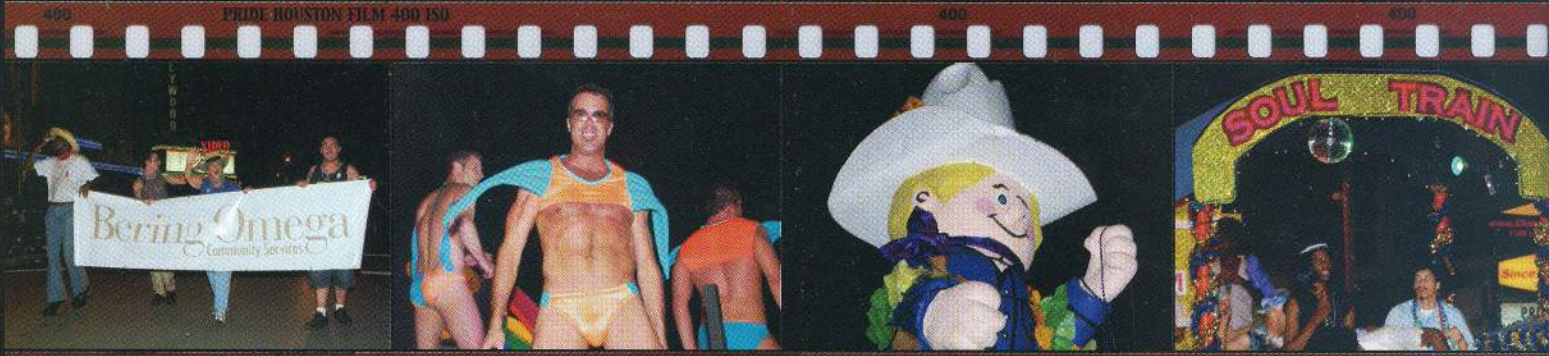
# Pride Parade 2004 Review

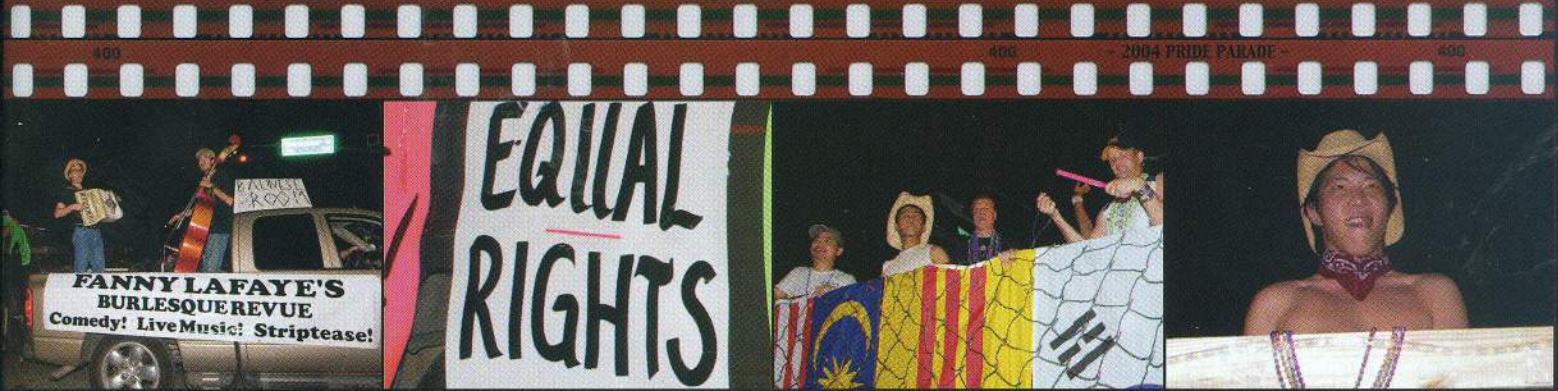
- Photography by Yvonne Feece -





# Pride





pridehouston.org  
Houston

PRIDE HOUSTON

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PRIDE HOUSTON - 2004 PRIDE PARADE

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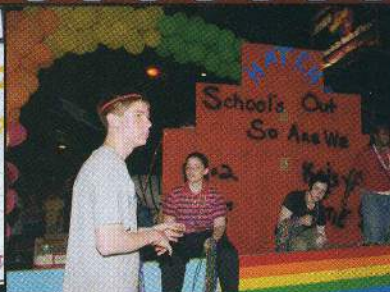


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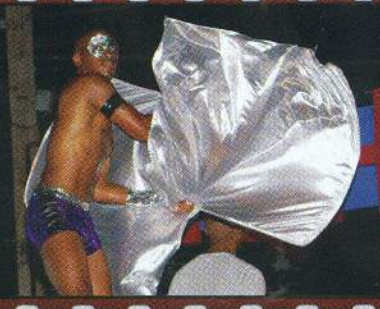
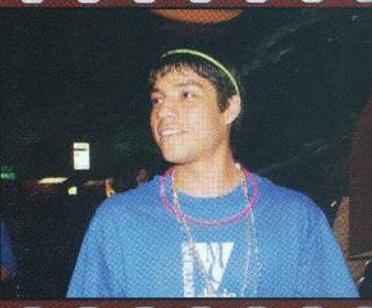
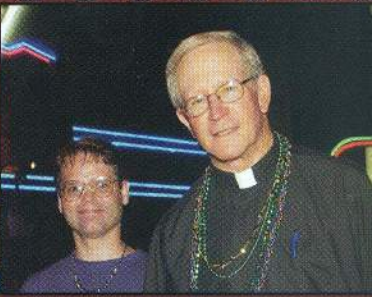
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HOUSTON





# Pride





# Houston Pride Parade

Equal Rights! No More! No Less! by Lynn Sixkiller, Parade Chair

**The 2004 Pride as Big as Texas Pride celebration** was a true reflection of how far GLBT Pride stretches across Houston, throughout Texas and beyond. The Parade was attended by a mixture of GLBT and non-GLBT friends and allies from all over the country. Would you believe that last year alone, at least one-third of the Parade attendees were from outside the Houston metropolitan area? Pride Houston welcomes the diversity that the annual Pride celebration attracts and encourages everyone to come down to the Montrose District the last weekend of June to help celebrate our community's history and individual diversity.



Houston's annual Pride Parade is the second largest parade in Houston and has grown to become the largest Pride event in the southwest. In 1997 our Parade made the transition from day to night, starting promptly at 8:45 pm, and became the first nighttime Pride Parade in country. Changing the start time of the Parade lent itself to so many more fabulous decorating options, which has allowed each entry to become more creative and expressive of their GLBT Pride. The entries encompass a diverse mixture of professional as well as homemade floats, walking units, and vehicles decorated to celebrate Pride. A wide variety of smaller community organizations and larger corporations take part in the Parade each year. GLBT police officers and politicians participate in the celebration and in 2004 Mayor Bill White became the first mayor of Houston to walk, instead of ride in a convertible, for the entire length of the parade route.

**The 2005 Houston GLBT Pride celebration, Equal Rights! No More! No Less!**, promises to be bigger, brighter and more fabulous than ever! Remember, Houston weather can be unpredictable. However, even though it may rain during the day Mother Nature hasn't let it rain on our Parade yet. So come down to Montrose Saturday, June 25, 2005, to celebrate your community, watch the best Parade ever, and be a part of our journey that is constantly evolving by showing the world that we deserve "Equal Rights! No More! No Less!"





# 2004 Parade Award Winners . . .

**Judy Garland (Best performance)**  
Krewe of the Moons of Uranus

**Rainbow (Best lighting)**  
Bering Memorial United Methodist Church

**Ruby Slipper (Best walking unit)**  
Continental Airlines

**Fabulous (Best costumes)**  
DIAGEO/Smirnoff

**Stonewall (Best social commentary)**  
Holiday Inn & Suites Galleria

**Pride As Big As Texas (Best interpretation theme)**  
E/T's

**Aria (Best creative sound)**  
Houston Pride Band

**Spirit of Montrose (Best overall entry)**  
Krewe of Olympus

**Pink Diamond (Best float by a for-profit group)**  
JPMorgan Chase

**Priscilla (Best float by non-profit group)**  
Community Gospel Church

**Judges Choice**  
Countrywide Homes  
Halloween Magic  
Unity Through Sports



Unity Through Sports



DIAGEO



Continental Airlines



Houston Pride Band



EJS



The Krewe of Olympus



Holiday Inn & Suites Galleria



JPMorgan Chase



Krewe of the Moons of Uranus



Community Gospel Church

# A Day in the Life of . . .



**Binnie Fisher** –  
*Editor, Houston Voice*

Binnie Fisher is no stranger to the pen. Having worked as a journalist for various outlets including the Fort Worth *Star Telegram*, she also did time as a police reporter. Currently as editor of the *Houston Voice*, Binnie has done her fair share of writing. She attributes her editorial skills to working as a police reporter under a tough editor, Mary Crutcher. Binnie recalls composing articles over the phone to Mary at the office while Mary would take the dictation. Mary would often push Binnie very hard to become faster at reporting her stories. In the long run, all Binnie's hard work would pay off. In the fall of 2004, Binnie accepted the position of editor at the *Houston Voice*. It was her partner Faye who actually saw an advertisement in the paper and pushed Binnie to apply. The *Houston Voice* is owned by Window Media and is part of the largest GLBT newspaper holding. Last year the *Houston Voice* celebrated its 30th anniversary.

Binnie and Faye live in Manville, Texas, with their four dogs and two miniature horses. In her spare time, Binnie is working on her first novel. The heroine just happens to be a lesbian newspaper reporter that solves mysteries. (Hmm... I wonder if there is some kind of connection here?) Binnie also enjoys being out in the community and covering local life.

-YF

**H.A.T.C.H.** (The Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals) is a program of the Montrose Counseling Center, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit, United Way organization. H.A.T.C.H. was originally founded in 1987, and is dedicated to empowering gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning (GLBTQ) adolescents to become positive contributors to society by:

- Providing a safe social environment for GLBTQ youth.
- Offering role models and peer support.
- Sponsoring educational and community outreach opportunities.

The purpose of H.A.T.C.H. is to provide a positive environment and support for GLBTQ youth in the Greater Houston Area. H.A.T.C.H. programming works to increase the self-esteem of the youth participants so that they can make healthy and life-affirming choices.

## H.A.T.C.H.

701 Richmond Avenue  
 Houston, TX 77006-5511

Tel.: 713-529-3590

Fax: 713-526-4367

E-mail: [info@hatchyouth.org](mailto:info@hatchyouth.org)

# History in the Making

by Troy Christensen, Pride Parade DVD Producer

When the Pride Parade is over and all that remains on the street are a few forgotten strands of beads, some work still needs to be done—ensuring that our community's achievement is remembered.

Our history—the record of our community's achievements and struggles—is part of what makes us a people with a culture. Lacking a common geography, religion or ancestral heritage, telling the story of our common fight for liberation and equality is what will make our culture endure.

The achievement of the annual Pride Parade is an important part of that story. Dozens of people put weeks of work into building floats and choreographing routines for a mile-long parade. The brevity doesn't matter to them, though, because they know how inspiring the Parade is for the thousands and thousands crowded along that mile. Not only is it important to remember what a beautiful spectacle we produce when we all come together as a community, but it would also be a shame to forget all of the effort put into making the Parade a success.

One of the ways we provide a visual reminder of this community effort is by producing the annual Pride Parade video. During the Parade, a few volunteers operate digital video cameras to film the Parade from a variety of angles. Meanwhile, several other volunteers take hundreds of still photos of the Parade participants and their groups' entries. After the Parade, all of the video footage is reviewed and edited together by volunteers. Everything is examined to determine the best pictures and the best sound, making sure that every group is shown. Scores of still photos are also inserted for variety and for close-up shots of the Parade participants and the crowds on the sidelines. The video is distributed on DVD for a digital production from beginning to end.

While the video honors the effort put into the last Parade, sales of the video help sustain the organizational effort for future Parades. Please consider doing your part to preserve our history and to help make more history by reserving your copy of the video today. Pre-order the 2005 Pride Parade DVD at our secure online store at [www.pridehouston.org](http://www.pridehouston.org). It will be shipped to you when it is completed in late Summer 2005.



pridehouston.org  
**Houston**

# A Day in the Life of . . .



**Wallace Bennet & John Huckabee** –  
*GLBT Family*

Anyone who meets these two gentlemen would think that they have been together forever. With a beautiful home in Kingwood, two wonderful children and two hyper dogs, their lives seem to be perfectly manicured and maintained through years of sacrifice and hard work. However, John and Wallace first met about four years ago.

The family hasn't always lived in the suburbs. For the first year of their relationship, John and Wallace lived together in the Heights but decided to move to Kingwood to be closer to Taylor and Simone, Wallace's two children from a previous relationship. Family is a huge part of their lives, explains John and Wallace. Being gay, John never thought he'd be in a situation that would allow him to have children of his own, but now "it's a whole new adventure." The most important thing to John and Wallace is to be nurturing parents. "It doesn't matter if it's two men, two women, or both," explains Wallace. "We worry about the same things as heterosexual parents and I feel blessed to have these kids be a part of my life."

Apparently, being out in the 'burbs isn't that bad. Although it is a very different lifestyle from living in the fast-paced city, John and Wallace have not had any problems being openly gay within the predominately conservative suburbs of Kingwood. Wallace explains that, "they are living a lifestyle that is more liberal in nature but not that far off from mainstream America." Of

course, there was some concern when they first moved up there, but like any strong family would do, they came together and discussed all of the issues that may arise. Fortunately enough, none of the family members have been faced with discriminatory remarks or resistance.

According to Wallace, the family philosophy is to accept everyone for who they are. "Be who you are, be true to yourself and be open to others who are different from you. There is not a gay or straight world. There is not a Republican or Democrat world." In the end, we all just want to get along and they seem to be doing just that.

-RM

## Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus

Founded in 1975, the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus is dedicated to eliminating prejudice, violence, and injustice against gay, lesbian bisexual, and transgender people through educating, activism, and political advocacy. Our goal is to create a world where all human beings are guaranteed freedom, equality, and opportunity.

Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus • PO Box 66664 • Houston • Texas • 77266-6664 • 713-521-1000 • voter@hglpc.org



Randall Ellis of LGRL speaks at a Houston Gay & Lesbian Caucus meeting to discuss the current political climate in Austin.

# A Day in the Life of . . .

**Farah Cox** –  
*DJ/Surfer*

Surfers are bums. This is a popular misconception, dude.

Surfing, like any sport, requires skill, concentration and love for the game. For Farah Cox, surfing is not just a sport. In a sense, it's like breathing. She can't live without it, nor can she imagine life without her music.

After having lived in Austin for five years, Cox, who began surfing over ten years ago, recently moved back to the Houston/Galveston area not only to follow her passions, but to enjoy life to the fullest extent. She left a comfortable, stable environment so that she could one day pursue audio engineering, help protect the beaches, be closer to the ocean, and so that you, your brother and your Aunt Sissy could be captivated by tracks she lays down.

In 1999 Cox discovered another outlet, which, along with surfing, allowed her to distance herself from everyday stresses. She became a DJ, spinning progressive trance, house and hip hop, mainly in the Austin area. However, a particularly memorable gig took place in Galveston. About 500 party-goers moved to her beats at a field party located about 200 yards from the beach. "Just hearing the ocean, hearing the waves crash and playing the music I love. It was a fabulous combination," she recalls.

As a non-surfer, I find it interesting that this surfer finds tranquility in an activity that can wear her body down or where her body can be "smacked down by the waves," forcing her to be "tumbling under like [one is] inside of a dryer." Yet when Cox surfs, she attests that she is at peace and that it is a positive release from the everyday. "[I come] out just feeling exhilarated afterwards."

Just as she surfs, Cox is focused when she spins. "My mind's just completely occupied with the music and I'm thinking only of that, and I love seeing people dance."

It seems as though Cox has similar connections to music and the ocean. She works hard to ride every wave and spins hard for you to ride every beat. The only difference is that the lights turn on at 2am and the ocean lasts forever.

Like, totally.

-JG



# NLGJA Houston

## Happy Pride 2005!

The Houston chapter of the National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association (NLGJA) is in the process of organizing programs that will reach out to fellow journalists and the LGBT community at large.

On our agenda for this year is to educate local media via a newsroom outreach program. An issue of great interest to us today is same-sex marriage. The Texas legislature plans to debate adding an amendment to the state constitution barring same-sex marriages. Our goal is to assemble a panel that will provide points of view to and educate Houston-area journalists on coverage of this very important issue.

Next up, we would like to host an NLGJA Institute for LGBT journalists in Houston and throughout the region. Plans are to host a day-long, or a weekend-long seminar on building your skills as a journalist. Oh yeah, there will be plenty of opportunities for schmoozing and the like.

Another plan of ours is to network with other journalism groups in Houston. We plan to hold a mixer with a few journalism groups to mingle with other media professionals and we hope to build alliances.

Each year, we hold a community event that coincides with Houston Pride. Last June our event with Houston Mayor Bill White and City Controller Annise Parker was a great success and we plan to hold a similar type of event each June with an elected official and/or a prominent figure in the community.

It's going to be a busy year for us with LGBT issues at or near the top of many legislative agendas. We need your support and involvement as LGBT journalists to accomplish these very important initiatives.

Current members, we need your help in helping us come up with and organizing events. Non-members, we need you too. If you're unfamiliar with NLGJA, please visit our website at [www.nlgja.org](http://www.nlgja.org) and learn about our organization. Please don't hesitate to contact me as well if you need more information, would like to help us with an event or would like to join.

Thank you,

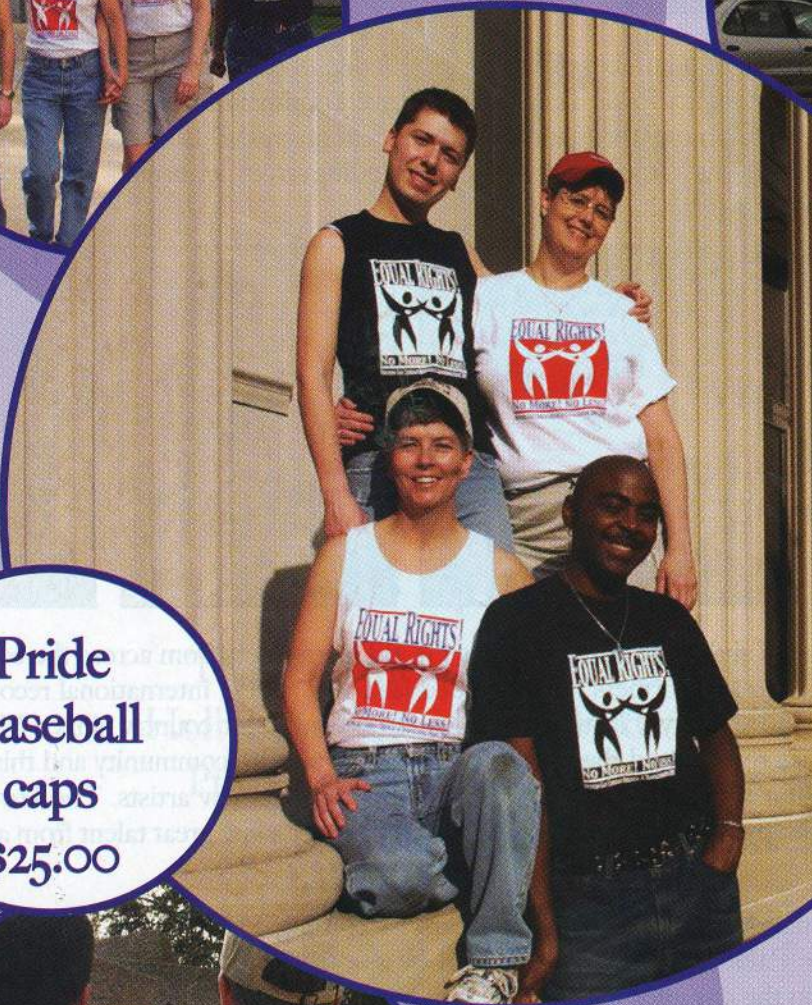
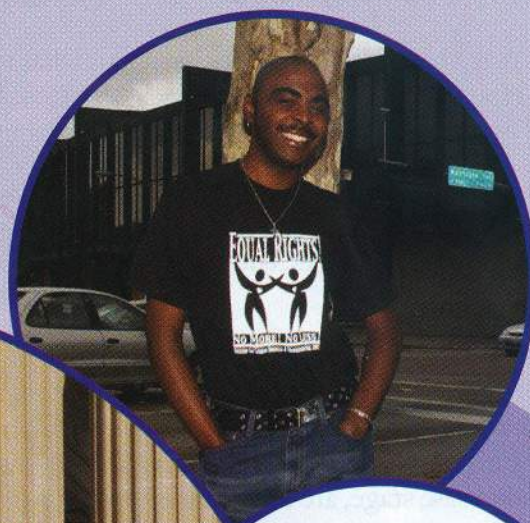
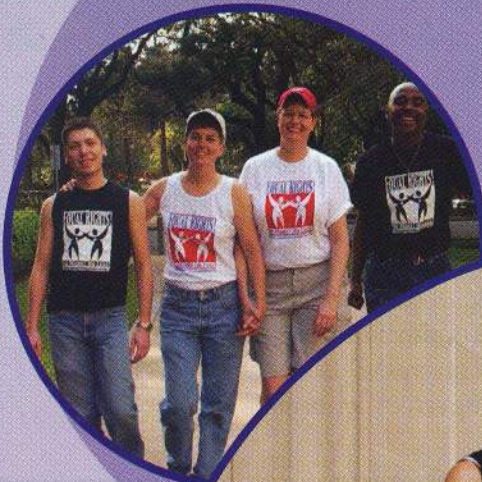
Oliver Dyke  
Houston Chapter President  
National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association  
[ojd@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ojd@sbcglobal.net)  
[www.nlgja.org](http://www.nlgja.org)



The National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association is an organization of journalists, online media professionals, and students that works from within the journalism industry to foster fair and accurate coverage of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues. NLGJA opposes workplace bias against all minorities and provides professional development for its members.

# PRIDE '05 Merchandise

Equal Rights! No More! No Less!



Pride Tee,  
Sleeveless Tee  
&  
Tank  
\$15.00

Pride  
Baseball  
caps  
\$25.00



Log onto  
[www.pridehouston.org](http://www.pridehouston.org)  
to purchase your 2005  
official Pride gear.

pridehouston.org  
**HOUSTON**

# Houston Pride Festival

by Todd Amdor, Festival Co-Chair

This year, there will be no question about what to do in Houston before the Pride Parade. The Houston Pride Festival will rock Montrose beginning at 2 pm on Saturday, June 25, 2005, the day of the Parade, with continuous entertainment until just before the Parade.



Todd Amdor & Matt Stone  
Festival Chairs

In the spirit of Houston's great outdoor festivals, this is the GLBT community's opportunity to come together, enjoy live music, relax with a snack or a beer, hang out with friends and visit with community merchants and non-profit organizations. The entrance gate will be located at the corner of Westheimer and Yoakum, and will encompass blocks of fun!

Along with food and drink vendors, there will be a number of businesses offering products and services of particular interest. The Hollyfield Foundation Community Pride Tent will showcase a number of local and national non-profit organizations with opportunities to learn more about and join these great groups! Businesses and organizations can participate by purchasing festival booths. Other entertainment, including street performers and a community showcase stage, are also planned for the event.



The lineup of nationally known entertainers and some of the top new GLBT performers from across the country can be found at [www.pridehouston.org](http://www.pridehouston.org). Past performers have included jazz diva Suede, international recording star Amber, folk artists Sarah Pinsker and Christy Claxton, comedian Bob Smith, alt country singer Marcus Hutcheson and many others. These artists represented the great diversity of the GLBT community and this year the committee promises another day of fun and an introduction to a number of great new artists. The Houston Pride Festival is Houston's chance to learn more about our community and discover some great talent from across the country.

"The Festival has taken on many incarnations in the past twenty years," according to Executive Director Jack Valinski. "When Houston had a daytime Parade, it would be followed by a festival with live music. In 2001, the Festival attracted over 1,200 attendees on the day after the Parade." Holding the Festival before the Parade gives Houstonians another reason to come into Montrose early in the day and to experience the carnival atmosphere that the Festival will create. June 25<sup>th</sup> is the day for our community to celebrate, and what better way is there than with the Houston Pride Festival?

Visit [www.pridehouston.org](http://www.pridehouston.org) for the latest entertainment lineup and to purchase tickets.

Tickets cost \$10, but a limited number will be released for only \$5.



# A Day in the Life of . . .

## John Paluch & Chris Chiles —

*Community Gospel Church*

Chris and John met 27 years ago at a small-town gay bar somewhere in the middle of Michigan where Chris had been working. When they met it was instant love and although they were both very different people back then, one thing has remained constant in their lives. Both Chris and John have always had a very strong faith in God. However, Chris admits that if you had asked him back in 1978 if he thought he would become the pastor of a church, he probably would have thought you were crazy! It's a good thing for Community Gospel Church that Chris had a change of heart.

After being together for only a short while, the couple packed up and decided to move down to Houston. While in Houston, Chris and John were both active members of their church. When they first heard about the budding new congregation of Community Gospel Church they decided to get involved. After a few years of traveling the west coast spreading the word of God, Chris and John came back to Houston and eventually took over as pastor and co-pastor of Community Gospel.

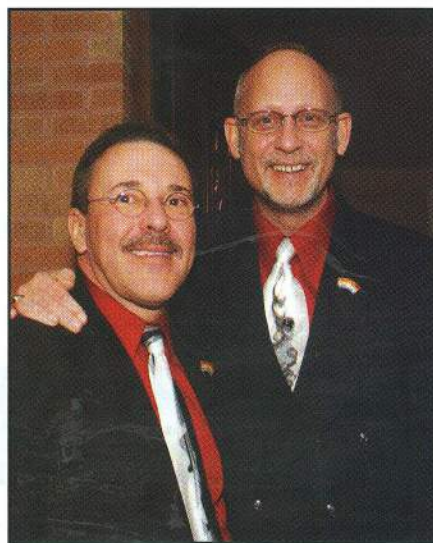
Whenever they worried about what direction to go next, they always knew that no matter what happened they had been faithful to the Lord and that God would reward their faithfulness. Shortly after coming back home the Lord spoke to Chris' heart and he decided to become Community Gospel's new pastor. When Chris took over the congregation of only eight people, the church was in a bit of trouble. But after a few years of hard work and reorganization they now have over 100 people in their congregation. Both Chris and John agree that when you make a commitment you have to work hard to make it through tough times. "There is nothing so great that cannot be worked out," John adds.

"We are just regular people," explains Chris. "We don't wear collars or robes. We just come together to worship the Lord and have a good time."

-RM



1978



2004

# Spoiled Boyz...

## Driving Houston into the Night

Fact - something with real, demonstrable existence  
Fiction - a creation of the imagination

The self-proclaimed eclectic, cosmopolitan group of Texas men and women who refer to themselves as SPOILED BOYZ have made Houston nightlife history by recently celebrating over four years of successful events. During that length of time over forty-seven events have been produced and marketed.

After four years of events, people have often inquired as to the formula of success says Charles Solomon, Creative Director of BEYOND Entertainment's SPOILED BOYZ. He says, "It is really quite simple .... Stay fresh, creative, informed, spontaneous, and always focus on your customer." Solomon further credits much of the SPOILED BOYZ success to the organization's group of Team Leaders and the vast network of personal and organization relationships.

Team Leaders, for instance represent the most involved level of commitment by a SPOILED BOY. This select group of approximately fifteen members is the nucleus from which future events are born and they meet monthly to discuss community trends, upcoming major events and provide valued input into decision-making.

Further, SPOILED BOYZ is very proud of its long-standing relationships and/or partnerships with outstanding organizations like the Bayou City Boys Club, Pride Houston, Bunnies On The Bayou and other marketing partners throughout Texas such as Kos Dallas, Splash Productions Austin, Heat San Antonio and Spunk Austin.

Unknown to many, SPOILED BOYZ is also a very charitable organization. In fact, since April 2002 SPOILED BOYZ has awarded over \$20,000 in door proceeds to local non-profit organizations. For instance, over \$17,500 has been contributed to the beneficiaries of the Bayou City Boys Club's JUNGLE 10, 11, 12 and 13; while over \$2,500 has been awarded to Pride Houston as part of the SPOILED BOYZ partnerships.

Throughout the lifetime of SPOILED BOYZ, Solomon adds special thanks is owed to four community business leaders - Nassim Joseph of Rich's Houston, Jay Allen & Kenneth Long previously of O Nightclub and Michael Malik of M2M Fashion. The on-going commitment of these business owners and recognition that choices of nightlife are a priority to our community have helped to provide stability for SPOILED BOYZ in the vibrant and constantly changing Houston nightlife arena.

Solomon adds, another frequently asked question is "How did this notion of SPOILED BOYZ get created?" He explains, the original graphics image or logo was created by now Dallas graphics designer and TXT Newsmagazine Creative Director Kyle Willis. Willis approached Solomon with the image in early 2001, but was turned away. After some thought and time away from the scene, Solomon contacted Willis for a

second look and shortly after agreed to adopt SPOILED BOYZ and brand the logo as a premium after-hours series of events. Within weeks Willis created art for "All American Spoiled Boy....after-hours for those who can't get enough" and Solomon organized a group of twenty hosts which financially underwrote the first event to be held immediately following JUNGLE 9 at a club located at the Pavilion Center Galleria. With over 435 guests, birth was given to SPOILED BOYZ. Since that time, SPOILED BOYZ has further refined its mission statement as "to stage and produce theme oriented after-hours events focused on the talents of guest DJs, recording/performance artists, attractions, intimate venues and creative promotion with the ultimate goal of creating a safe, fun, high energy party environment." Solomon simply adds, "Mission Accomplished!"

Today, while graphics art designer Willis still flexes his creative muscle and continues to add artistic legitimacy to each SPOILED BOYZ event, his historical gallery of event art may be viewed by a visit to the SPOILED BOYZ web-site. Focus on the SPOILED BOYZ mission have enabled party revelers from around the globe to enjoy events such as Back to Spoiled, Spoiled No. 5, Shipwrecked in Paradise, Pride American Style, jingle bell jock, seventeen, Tribal Communion, Shady, Taboo, Boy Ball, Score, Phoenix Rising, party Monster party, GODIVA and Salvation.

Solomon continues, "The underlying philosophy that makes a SPOILED BOYZ event different from anything in Houston is the undeniable respect that every guest is given the moment they arrive." The respect, the attention to detail, the costumed hosts and greeters, the friendly and caring nature exhibited by the SPOILED BOYZ Team Leaders and the host club employees all combine in a manner that creates an atmosphere where guests can express themselves and enjoy the music and the dance.

Another unique aspect of SPOILED BOYZ is that it offers a VIP card and boasts over 275 card-holders. For a simple one-time fee of \$25, VIP card-holders enjoy discounted door cover, priority entry and advance event announcements for SPOILED BOYZ events. A small price to pay for being SPOILED, VIP cards are available to everyone and may be purchased via the SPOILED BOYZ web-site.

More information about SPOILED BOYZ, the historical art gallery, VIP cards, joining the email list to receive the weekly newsletter or simply to learn more about the next event can easily be accomplished by browsing the SPOILED BOYZ web-site at [www.spoiledboyz.net](http://www.spoiledboyz.net).

SPOILED BOYZ will once again be an "Official Sponsor" of the Houston Pride 2005 Celebration and will host the "Official Pride After-Hours Party". So get prepared as SPOILED BOYZ takes you on a HONEYMOON of a party and commemorates Equal Rights! No More! No Less! Visit [www.spoiledboyz.net](http://www.spoiledboyz.net) for the party itinerary.



Houston  
pridehouston.org

# A Day in the Life of . . .

## Jewel Dean -

*Addressing the "T" in GLBT*

For over 12 years, men who feel more comfortable or look more titillating in women's clothing have found their muse-fabulosa in Jewel's Boutique on Taft.

A day in the life of owner Jewel Dean and her bright but soft-spoken trans-assistant, Allison, is not quite the same as that of typical merchants. The day might begin by sending clothes to the Alley to be used as wardrobe in a production. A "T" girl might stop by to examine a dress she ordered through Jewel that just arrived from



Nieman's. She'll try it on, have the dress altered and put in Jewel's storage; then she'll return at a later date to "get fem" and pose for photos in her gown. A competitor in a crossdressing beauty pageant—like the Miss Gay America pageant in Dallas—might check in to pick up some shoes dyed on-site to match her \$6,000 competition gown that she bought earlier at Jewel's. A pastor from an area GLBT-friendly church could pop in to leave a card, lest a customer express a need for consolation from the exhaustion of a life with a secret identity. (Jewel has referred many a tortured, closeted soul to various groups, both spiritual and secular.)

customer express a need for consolation from the exhaustion of a life with a secret identity. (Jewel has referred many a tortured, closeted soul to various groups, both spiritual and secular.)



A newcomer, often a heterosexual married man—about 50% of Jewel's clientele—occasionally wanders in after indecisively wandering the block a few times, only to discover a world he's been longing for years to find. And after the shop has closed its doors at the end of the day, a patron might arrive for a scheduled discreet appointment for a private session. Maybe it's a make-over, maybe it's a consultation, maybe it's a complete transformation. Practically anything can be done at Jewel's.

Jewel's Boutique  
2404 Taft Street  
713-523-3557  
txjdean@hotmail.com  
www.crossdressersboutique.com

Crossdressers and those in the trans community may also find tgnow.com and www.tgconnect.com to be of assistance.

-ED



# The Empire of the Royal Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star, Inc.

by Joyce Gabiola

All hail Daryl Quijano, Chief Operating Officer of a cellular infrastructure equipment repair company and Emperor XX of The Empire of the Royal Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star Incorporated (ERSICSS), a charter of the International Court System, whose reign is of "big bodies, big hearts and bigger ambitions." *Whatcha talkin' bout, Willis?*

Quijano is one of about 70 members of ERSICSS, a 501(c)(3) organization whose purpose is to sponsor, support and promote community charitable and educational programs and efforts; to promote and recognize community leaders; and to promote harmony among the people in the community. Its mission sounds like that of any other community organization, but ERSICSS sets itself apart by focusing on two main philanthropic endeavors: AIDS and breast cancer. Furthermore, its uniqueness extends to its ongoing weekend drag shows and, of course, Drag Bingo on Tuesdays at Meteor. Most notably, ERSICSS is like no other organization in the community because it functions under a monarchical system. There are dukes and duchesses, princes and princesses, viscounts and viscountesses, etc. Quijano explains that lords and ladies are members of the Court who choose to support and be part of the organization, versus the higher positions that require more responsibilities. Visit their website at [www.ersicss.org](http://www.ersicss.org) . . . dramatic, yet festive.

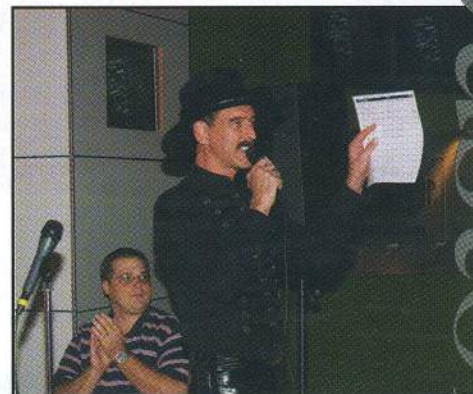
Quijano, who is also involved with Miss Camp America, the Wishful Thinking Fund and the PWA Holiday Charities, first became involved with ERSICSS because his mother had breast cancer. Now, with five years of active membership, Quijano reigns as Emperor XX, along with Empress XX, Miss Stella Link Seville. The community-elected Emperor and Empress lead the organization in its direction for the year, according to Quijano. "We make the decisions on when shows happen, what type of shows, who they're gonna benefit . . . we choose the beneficiaries for the year, we set the calendar. We have a Board that helps us make those decisions."

ERSICSS is a diverse group of community-minded people. GLBT and non-GLBT people, as well as people of different ethnic backgrounds are involved. The main requirements of membership are payment of dues and a local residence, which includes Harris County and the seven surrounding counties.

"Drag. The organization has a history of mainly doing drag shows," shares Quijano, when asked for what ERSICSS is known. It also prides itself on integrity and longevity in the community, declares Quijano. "We've been around and we've done the same thing for 20 years, and we've basically done it the same way all 20 years." Hey, if it's not broken...

Its continued existence is due also to others in the community. A memorable sponsorship for this year is Executive Adult Video and DVD Supercenter, which provided over \$10,000 in support for different events throughout the year. The nightclub Meteor and Jimmy Walker, Attorney at Law, have also been great supporters of ERSICSS this year.

Part of the ERSICSS mission is to promote harmony among people in the community. This is achieved through the members' participation in multiple organizations. "Not one of us is just a member of the Court, so a lot of us try to help other organizations," says Quijano. Just as local businesses and organizations support them, ERSICSS gives back to others in the community. "We don't just focus on ourselves." Good karma, anyone?



# A Day in the Life of . . .

## *Spring High School Gay Straight Alliance -*

Can you picture yourself walking down the hallways in high school? I recall orange, blue or yellow lockers slamming shut, pre-adults gossiping or smacking gum, scrambling for books and binders from or to their backpacks, exchanging notes or exam answers. People would run or fly at slug-speed ahead of me; trombone and violin cases would scrape against walls or bump unsuspecting passersby. It was always loud, always hectic. Was it them or the perpetual angst? Sometimes I would see Charles in the hallways. I never said or did anything. I just watched as they pushed or teased him. It was a much easier thing for me to walk down the hallways. No one knew about *me*.

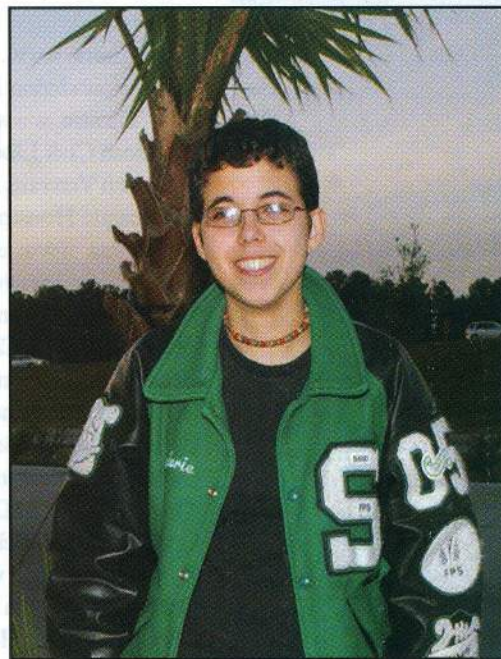
The Diversity Alliance at Spring High School, better known as the Gay Straight Alliance to everyone in the cafeteria, classrooms, principal's office, locker rooms, faculty rooms, restrooms, parking lot, science labs, library aisles, and on the theater stage, the tennis court, and the football field, continues to grow as an official school organization to support students who just want to be themselves. "Diversity Alliance" is less controversial, but what's in a name? It's content that counts, is it not?

Marla Dukler's victory—the settlement of her federal lawsuit in March 2003 against the Klein Independent School District, which allowed her to establish a gay acceptance organization at Klein H.S.—paved the way for other area high schools to achieve the same. Later that year, after the previous year's petitioning and meetings with the principal, Dukler's friend, Susan Martin ('04), and fellow classmates established the Diversity Alliance with cooperation from the school administration, faculty, students and PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays). The Alliance, with a generous grant from PFLAG, began the school year with its first project inviting school organizations to submit tolerance-themed posters for cash prizes.

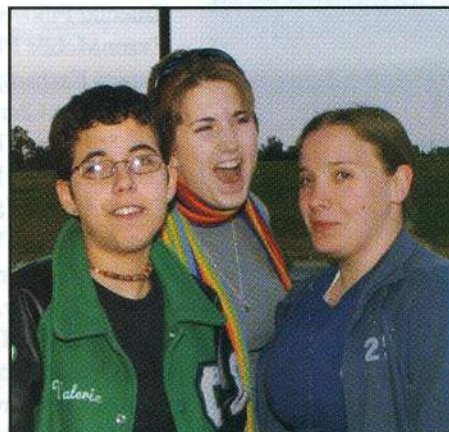
According to Valerie Halsworth, a senior at Spring H.S. and Vice President of the Alliance, the administration is a lot more open than people would realize, especially in Spring. "It was okay before we had the Alliance. Now it just has gotten better."

While the administration is supportive and the overall experience is positive, the Alliance has encountered obstacles. Martin recalls the Alliance receiving threatening letters, as well as a threat from a teacher to picket the room in which they were meeting. In addition, the Alliance has had difficulty with acquiring a faculty sponsor, a requirement for every school organization. After a month or two of waiting for a response to the Alliance's request, Dr. Edward Pita, a Foreign Language teacher, informed the Alliance this school year of his interest in sponsoring the group. "He's really awesome," says Senior Jeff Burnett, President of the Alliance.

-JG



Valerie Halsworth - Vice President, Spring High School GSA



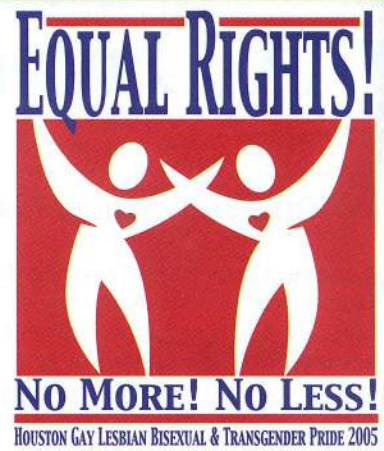
## **What is a Gay-Straight Alliance?**

A Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) is a student-run club, typically in a high school, which provides a safe place for students to meet, support each other, talk about issues related to sexual orientation and work to end homophobia. Many GSAs function as support groups and provide safety and confidentiality to students who are struggling with their identity as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or questioning. In addition to support, some GSAs work on educating themselves and the broader school community about sexual-orientation and gender-identity issues. They may bring in outside speakers to cover a particular topic such as GLBTQ history. They may organize a "Pride Week" or "GLBTQ Awareness Events" and offer a series of educational workshops, panels and Pride celebrations. Many participate in the Day of Silence, a day when participants remain silent all day as a way of acknowledging the silence induced by homophobia in our society. Some GSAs organize a "Teach the Teachers" staff development day which focuses on teaching school staff how to be better allies for GLBTQ students. For example, GSA members would present scenarios about discrimination or harassment and get teachers to brainstorm how to respond to those situations.

Other GSAs are activist clubs and have worked to get GLBTQ issues represented in the curriculum, GLBTQ-related books into the library and progressive non-discrimination policies implemented at a district level. All of these different types of GSAs also provide a social outlet for GLBTQ students and their straight allies.

**How can I start a Gay-Straight Alliance?** Visit [www.gsanetwork.org](http://www.gsanetwork.org) to learn how!

# 2005 Community Resource Guide



- After Hours [www.kpft.org/afterhours.php](http://www.kpft.org/afterhours.php)
- AIDS Foundation Houston [www.aidshelp.org](http://www.aidshelp.org)
- Alley Theatre [www.alleytheatre.org](http://www.alleytheatre.org)
- American Civil Liberties Union Houston [www.aclu-houston.org](http://www.aclu-houston.org)
- American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER) [www.aver.us](http://www.aver.us)
- Art League Houston [www.artleaguehouston.org](http://www.artleaguehouston.org)
- AssistHers [www.assisthers.org](http://www.assisthers.org)
- AVES [www.aves-health.org](http://www.aves-health.org)
- The Assistance Fund [www.theassistancefund.org](http://www.theassistancefund.org)
- Bayou City Boys Club (BCBC) [www.junglehouston.com/](http://www.junglehouston.com/) [www.bcbc.info](http://www.bcbc.info)
- Bering Omega Community Services [www.beringomega.org](http://www.beringomega.org)
- BP America Beyond Pride [www.bp.com](http://www.bp.com)
- Bunnies On The Bayou [www.bunnies.org](http://www.bunnies.org)
- Career Management International [www.careermanagement.com](http://www.careermanagement.com)
- The Center for AIDS [www.centerforaids.org](http://www.centerforaids.org)
- Community Gospel Church [www.communitygospel.org](http://www.communitygospel.org)
- Covenant Church [www.covenanthouston.org](http://www.covenanthouston.org)
- Delta Rho Upsilon [www.deltarhoupilson.net](http://www.deltarhoupilson.net)
- Different Spokes Houston Cycling [sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/DS-Houston/](http://sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/DS-Houston/)
- District D Council Office - Ada Edwards [www.houstontx.gov](http://www.houstontx.gov)
- Diversity Builder [www.diversitybuilder.com](http://www.diversitybuilder.com)
- Donald R. Watkins Memorial Foundation [www.donaldrwatkins.org](http://www.donaldrwatkins.org)
- Emerald Pillows Zine [www.emeraldpillows.com](http://www.emeraldpillows.com)
- ExxonMobile PRIDE [EMPRIDE@yahoo.com](mailto:EMPRIDE@yahoo.com)
- Fitness Exchange [www.fitnessexchange.cc](http://www.fitnessexchange.cc)
- Fresh Start Church 832-372-4234
- Gay & Lesbian Bowlers [www.texasinvite.com](http://www.texasinvite.com)
- Gay & Lesbian Rainbow Pages [www.rainbowpages.net](http://www.rainbowpages.net)
- Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston [www.gayswitchboardhouston.org](http://www.gayswitchboardhouston.org)
- Gay & Lesbian Yellow Pages [www.glyp.com](http://www.glyp.com)
- Gay Men's Chorus of Houston [www.gmch.org](http://www.gmch.org)
- GLOBO [www.globohouston.org](http://www.globohouston.org)
- GLOBAL, UH [www.uh.edu/global](http://www.uh.edu/global)
- The Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce [www.ghglcc.org](http://www.ghglcc.org)
- Groove Girlz Productions [www.groovegirlz.com](http://www.groovegirlz.com)
- Gulf Coast Archive & Museum of GLBT History [www.gcam.org](http://www.gcam.org)
- H.A.T.C.H. [www.hatchyouth.org](http://www.hatchyouth.org)
- Harris County Libertarian Party [www.lptexas.org](http://www.lptexas.org)
- Helping Transgenders Anonymous [www.brendat.com/hcda.htm](http://www.brendat.com/hcda.htm)
- H.e.r.s. Magazine [www.hershouston.com](http://www.hershouston.com)
- Hollyfield Foundation [www.hollyfield.org](http://www.hollyfield.org)
- Houston Big Mens Club [www.HoustonBigMensClub.com](http://www.HoustonBigMensClub.com)
- Houston Black Tie Dinner [www.HoustonBlackTieDinner.org](http://www.HoustonBlackTieDinner.org)
- Houston Buyers Club [www.houstonbuyersclub.com](http://www.houstonbuyersclub.com)
- Houston GLBT Community Center [www.houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org](http://www.houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org)
- Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival [www.hglff.org](http://www.hglff.org)
- Houston Gay & Lesbian Parents [www.hglp.org](http://www.hglp.org)
- Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus [www.hglpc.org](http://www.hglpc.org)
- Houston Human Rights Campaign [www.hrchouston.org](http://www.hrchouston.org)
- Houston Humane Society [www.houstonhumane.org](http://www.houstonhumane.org)
- Houston Invitational Tournament [www.houstoninvite.com](http://www.houstoninvite.com)
- Houston Pride Band [www.houstonprideband.org](http://www.houstonprideband.org)
- Houston Transgendered Cover Girls [www.groups.yahoo.com/group/TransgenderedHouston](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/TransgenderedHouston)

Houston Transgender Unity Committee 281-424-6080  
 Houston Voice [www.houstonvoice.com](http://www.houstonvoice.com)  
 Houston Women's Festival [www.hwfestival.org](http://www.hwfestival.org)  
 Immigration Equality [www.immigrationequality.org](http://www.immigrationequality.org)  
 Inner Loop Alternative [www.texasinvite.com](http://www.texasinvite.com)  
 Integrity/Houston Interfaith Care Partners [www.interfaithcarepartners.org](http://www.interfaithcarepartners.org)  
 Jewish Congregation Mishpachah Alizim [mishpachah@onebox.com](mailto:mishpachah@onebox.com)  
 Jewish Family Service [www.jfshouston.org](http://www.jfshouston.org)  
 JPMorgan Chase Bank P.R.I.D.E. Team [www.chase.com](http://www.chase.com)  
 JR's Bar & Grill / Montrose Mining Company [www.JRsbarandgrill.com](http://www.JRsbarandgrill.com)  
 Keys West [www.keyswest.com](http://www.keyswest.com)  
 Khush Texas [www.groups.yahoo.com/group/khushtexas/](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/khushtexas/)  
 The Kolbe Project [www.kolbeproject.org](http://www.kolbeproject.org)  
 KPFT Pacifica Radio 90.1 [www.kpft.org](http://www.kpft.org)  
 Krewe of Olympus—Texas [www.mardigrastexas.com](http://www.mardigrastexas.com)  
 Lambda Houston Alcoholics Anonymous [www.lambdahouston.org](http://www.lambdahouston.org)  
 Lesbian Health Initiative [www.lhihouston.org](http://www.lhihouston.org)  
 Lesbians Over Age Fifty (LOAF)  
 Log Cabin Republicans Houston [www.logcabin.org](http://www.logcabin.org)  
 Lonestar boys of Leather [ebelredsbay@aol.com](mailto:ebelredsbay@aol.com)  
 Lone Star Shih Tzu and Lhasa Apso Rescue [www.shihtzu-rescue.com](http://www.shihtzu-rescue.com)  
 Lone Star Volleyball Association [www.lsva.org](http://www.lsva.org)  
 Maranatha Fellowship House of Glory [www.houseofglory.org](http://www.houseofglory.org)  
 Meteor [www.meteorhouston.com](http://www.meteorhouston.com)  
 Metropolitan Multi-Service Center [www.hwsa.org/metropolitan](http://www.hwsa.org/metropolitan)  
 Miss Camp America Foundation [www.mcaf.org](http://www.mcaf.org)  
 Monday Night Men / Monday Night Women [www.texasinvite.com](http://www.texasinvite.com)  
 Montrose Clinic [www.montrosecclinic.org](http://www.montrosecclinic.org)  
 Montrose Counseling Center [www.montrosecounselingcenter.org](http://www.montrosecounselingcenter.org)  
 Montrose Soccer Club [www.montrosesoccer.org](http://www.montrosesoccer.org)  
 National Leather Association Houston [www.nlahouston.org](http://www.nlahouston.org)  
 National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association [www.nlgja.org](http://www.nlgja.org)  
 Northwoods Unitarian Universalist Church [www.northwoodsuu.org](http://www.northwoodsuu.org)  
 Old Lesbians Organizing for Change (OLOC) [www.oloc.org](http://www.oloc.org)  
 OutSmart Magazine [www.outsmartmagazine.com](http://www.outsmartmagazine.com)  
 Ovaries Hair Studio and Spa 713-533-0008  
 Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays [www.pflaghouston.org](http://www.pflaghouston.org)  
 People with AIDS Coalition Houston [www.pwach.org](http://www.pwach.org)  
 Planned Parenthood of Houston [www.pphouston.org](http://www.pphouston.org)  
 Popcorn Pleasures [www.popcornpleasures.com](http://www.popcornpleasures.com)  
 Pride Houston [www.pridehouston.org](http://www.pridehouston.org)  
 Prime Timers Houston [www.primetimersww.org](http://www.primetimersww.org)  
 Queer Voices [www.queervoices.org](http://www.queervoices.org)  
 Racing Limos of Houston [www.racinglimoshouston.com](http://www.racinglimoshouston.com)  
 Rich's Houston [www.richs-houston.com](http://www.richs-houston.com)  
 Ryan White Planning Council [www.rwpc.org](http://www.rwpc.org)  
 Sapience Magazine [www.sapiencemagaazine.com](http://www.sapiencemagaazine.com)  
 Shell Oil Company [kathleen.devlin@shell.com](mailto:kathleen.devlin@shell.com)  
 South Beach [www.southbeachthenightclub.com](http://www.southbeachthenightclub.com)  
 Steve Roberts Interiors [www.steverobertsinteriors.com](http://www.steverobertsinteriors.com)  
 Stonewall Law Association of Greater Houston [www.slagh.org](http://www.slagh.org)  
 Tau Chi, the Houston Chapter of Tri-Ess [www.tau-chi.org](http://www.tau-chi.org)  
 Team Houston for the Games [www.GayGamesTeamHouston.org](http://www.GayGamesTeamHouston.org)  
 Texas Association of Transsexual Support [www.groups.yahoo.com/group/TATSHouston](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/TATSHouston)  
 Texas Gay Rodeo Association (TGRA) [www.tgra.org](http://www.tgra.org)  
 The Assistance Fund [www.theassistancefund.org](http://www.theassistancefund.org)  
 TXT [www.txtnewsmag.com](http://www.txtnewsmag.com)  
 United Cab Company [www.unitedcab.com](http://www.unitedcab.com)  
 Young Men Saving Men [www.ymsmhouston.org](http://www.ymsmhouston.org)  
 WIP Society [www.wipsociety.net](http://www.wipsociety.net)



pridehouston.org

# Houston GLBT Bar Guide



- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| 1. <b>6II</b><br>611 Hyde Park • 713-526-7070  | 817 Fairview • 713-528-9204   | www.midtowne-spa.com  |
| 2. <b>Bricks II</b><br>617 Fairview • 713-528-8102                                   | 10. <b>Decades</b><br>1205 Richmond • 713-521-2224                        | 18. <b>Montrose Mining Co.</b><br>805 Pacific • 713-529-7488                        |
| 3. <b>BRB</b><br>2400 Brazos • 713-528-9192  | 11. <b>EJ's</b><br>2517 Ralph • 713-527-9071                              | 19. <b>Michael's Outpost</b><br>1419 Richmond • 713-520-8446                        |
| 4. <b>Chances/GSpot/Barn</b><br>1100 Westheimer • 713-523-7217<br>www.chancesbar.com | 12. <b>JR's</b><br>808 Pacific • 713-521-2519                             | 20. <b>Ranch Hill Saloon</b><br>211 Airport Rd. (Conroe) • 936-441-6426             |
| 5. <b>Club Inergy</b><br>5750 Chimney Rock • 713-666-7310<br>www.clubinergy.com      | 13. <b>Keys West</b><br>817 Dallas • 713-571-7870<br>www.clubinergy.com   | 21. <b>Rich's</b><br>2401 San Jacinto • 713-759-9606<br>www.richs-houston.com       |
| 6. <b>Club Houston</b><br>2205 Fannin • 713-659-4998                                 | 14. <b>Mary's</b><br>1022 Westheimer • 713-527-9669                       | 22. <b>Ripcord</b><br>715 Fairview • 713-521-2792                                   |
| 7. <b>Rainbow Room</b><br>1417-B Westheimer • 713-522-5144                           | 15. <b>Mela's</b><br>302 Tuam • 713-523-0747                              | 23. <b>South Beach</b><br>810 Pacific • 713-529-7623<br>www.southbeachnightclub.com |
| 8. <b>Club Xscape</b><br>2612 S. Richey • 713-944-7663                               | 16. <b>Meteor</b><br>2306 Genesee • 713-521-0123<br>www.meteorhouston.com | 24. <b>Toyz</b><br>5322 Glenmont • 713-668-4892                                     |
| 9. <b>Cousins</b>  | 17. <b>Midtowne Spa</b><br>3100 Fannin • 713-522-2379                     | 25. <b>Viviana's</b><br>5219 Washington • 713-864-0203                              |