

# THE TEXAS TRIANGLE

Vol. 3 ▼ No. 35

The State's Gay News Source

June 16, 1995

## SPECTRUM '95 FOSTERS HIGH EXPECTATIONS

By Casey Hamilton  
Triangle Staff

HOUSTON—A unique day-long business and art expo and musical celebration at the AstroArena is planned for this Sunday to raise funds for a variety of local charities and causes.

Alan Bourgeois, organizer of Spectrum '95, said the concept for the expo is different than anything that has ever been held anywhere in the country.

"There have been gay and lesbian business expos, and they've had a couple of entertainers and speakers," he said. "Ninety percent of them have failed across the country, because the gay and lesbian community had no reason to go. We need another town meeting to bring the community together."

Bourgeois' idea was to combine business and art expositions, add in a full schedule of speakers, and throw an all-day celebration of musicians and entertainers, plus a 6-hour concert, on top of the mixture.

"Our community needs to celebrate through its entertainers," Bourgeois said. "Ninety percent of the entertainers are gay and lesbian; the other 10 percent are gay-friendly."

"We have one CD out now, and will be



## *Town Meeting Two to debate our own names*

By Billie Duncan  
Exclusive to the TRIANGLE

As much as the community has advanced in the last 17 years, one of the biggest areas of division is in what the community wishes to be called. In 1978, it was simply the *gay* community. Then it became the *gay and lesbian* community, followed by alternate years as the *lesbian* and *gay* community.

Now, many are calling for more re-naming, to the *gay, lesbian, transgender* community, on the agenda for Town Meeting Two as part of Spectrum '95.

When some women in the community began the drive to use the word "lesbian," many other women in the community, especially older and more closeted ones, considered the word to be offensive. "Gay" was deemed an inclusive adjective, followed by "woman," "man," "men" or "women."

Of course, there is a problem with quoting history, as many women prefer to think of it as herstory.

Back in the present, transgender is a new term with no his- or herstory behind it. Is this part of the progression of language? Is this really a way to include people or a way to further separate them?

Who knows? Perhaps as we grow, we

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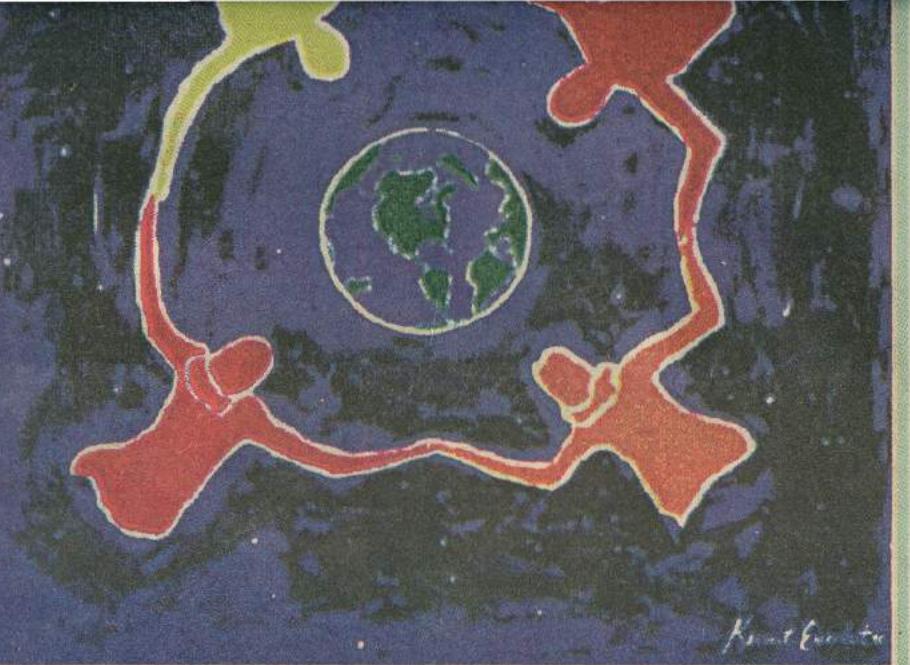
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"We have one CD out now, and will be releasing another one soon," he said. "These are excellent entertainers who deserve a following."

Spectrum '95 will actually kick off Saturday evening with a party for official sponsors and entertainers at the Hyde Park Gallery, 711 Hyde Park. Admission for the party is \$10 at the door.

Sunday's activities will begin at 11 in the morning, when the business and art expo open their doors. Starting at noon, there will be entertainment on two small stages in the expo area, including the Mr. Gay Texas contest. There will be a wide variety of entertainment on the second



## HAND IN HAND

"Hand in Hand", is a celebration collection of songs from the performers at Spectrum '95's eagerly anticipated Concert of the Stars, Sunday, June 18 at the AstroArena. This new \$10.95 CD release, recorded for the LeTs Bi Gay community will benefit seven local charities. CD's can be ordered at the concert, or from Spectrum '95. 713/526-2853.

stage, Bourgeois said.

One p.m. marks the beginning of a series of lectures in both meeting rooms. Speakers will include:

- M.J. McKean-Reich, founder of Victory magazine, starting your own business;
- Mitchell Katine, an attorney specializ-

ing in HIV discrimination cases, HIV in the workplace;

- Connie Moore, a family and women's issues attorney, adopting and co-parenting;
- Dr. Allene King, a private practice physician, breast cancer;

continued on page 3

## Time magazine reports new evidence on "gay" gene

### TRIANGLE Staff

In an article this week, Time magazine writer Larry Thompson reports on new evidence in support of the existence of a so-called "gay" gene or cluster of genes.

Thompson's story reports on experiments carried out on several generations of fruit flies, among the most sexually

proficient creatures on earth. Their ability to produce a new generation in two weeks has made them the darlings of genetics researchers for nearly a century.

"Put a male fruit fly into a bottle with a female, and he doesn't waste any time before getting down to business," Thompson writes. "So it's a bit bewilder-

ing to watch the behavior of certain fruit flies at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. There, in the laboratories of biologists Ward Odenwald and Shang-Ding Zhang, strange things are happening inside the gallon-size culture jars."

It seems that after transplanting a

continued on page 3

Check out our on-line edition at <http://www.outline.com/outline/triangle/hp.html> starting June 14!

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Who knows? Perhaps as we grow, we will begin to look back on the ourstory of gaygenbians. ▼

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—The Advocate



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—New York Times, 1967

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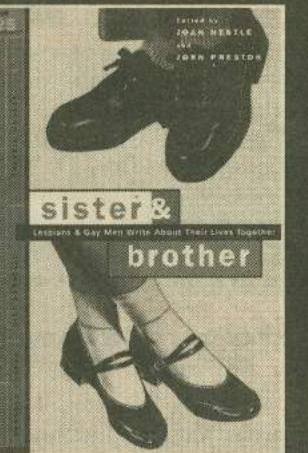
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—*The Advocate*

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# COMMUNITY

## Triangle goes on-line with a little help from some friends

### Apple Computer sponsors 'Out' magazine's Internet launch

#### Special To The TRIANGLE

NEW YORK CITY—With groundbreaking sponsorship from Apple Computer Inc., *Out* magazine is about to do for cyberspace what it's done in print.

The magazine launched OUT.com (<http://www.out.com>), a new kind of World Wide Web service, June 1, the start of Gay Pride Month and the third anniversary of the gay and lesbian magazine's inception.

According to *Out* editor and president Michael Goff, OUT.com will be the first commercially sponsored gay site on the Internet, with Apple Computer as the sole sponsor for the site's first month on-line.

With contributions from the 120,000-circulation magazine and a network of local, gay newspapers, such as *The Texas Triangle*, OUT.com will be the first timely national source for information of Gay Pride Month and beyond, Goff said. Eventually, OUT.com will become a one-stop place on the Internet for gay/lesbian people, he added, providing quality and up-to-date news, gossip, travel, style and event information from across the country.

Goff also hopes to unify and connect gay and lesbian Americans at both a national and a grass-roots level. "That's the power of the medium," he said.

America's leading gay newspapers will participate in OUT.com, including *The Texas Triangle*, *The Washington Blade*, Miami's *The Weekly News*,

and other prizes. And "Index" will offer hypertext links throughout the site, as well as to related areas in cyberspace.

"Right now, the gay areas on the 'Net are much like the gay community—segmented," Goff said. "With OUT.com we aim to consolidate the information and become a reliable source for everything from pride parades, to civil rights updates, to where to go out on a given night in a given city."

According to Carl Pritzkat, principal of Mediapolis Inc., which designed the site, "The level of community involvement in OUT.com will be unique. There isn't a site on the 'Net this interactive."

"This service," Goff said, "is about issues and culture, but more impor-

tantly, it's about bringing America's gay communities together. Locally is where anything is going to happen for gay/lesbian rights with the current regime in Washington. And locally is where the true changes are happening—people coming out in their own communities."

The Triangle will be linked from the *Out* magazine site, but will be living on the *Out.Line* web site. *Out.Line* is a volunteer organization committed to providing high tech resources to the Texas gay and lesbian community. Their initial focus will be Austin until they can expand to include statewide information.

You can find *Out.Lines* at this url: <http://www.outline.com/ol.welcome.html>.

## SPECTRUM '95 BENEFITS HOUSTON CHARITIES

continued from page 1

— Donald D. Young, president of Life Today Financial Services, viatical settlements, and

— Julie LaRue, a financial planner with the Acacia Group, financial planning.

In addition, Robbie Sommer, the author of five books of both short fiction and non-fiction, will be doing a reading.

The concert will begin at 6 in the evening. By midnight, 32 different acts will have taken the stage, Bourgeois said, which represents a staggering technical and logistical challenge.

"It's been very carefully timed out," he said. "The first 20 groups or so will

performances by headliners Lynn Lavner and Romanovsky and Phillips.

People who buy concert tickets will have access to the entire day's schedule of events. General seating tickets are \$15; reserved seating tickets are also available for \$25, \$50, \$75, and \$100. Admission for the expos only is \$5. Tickets can be purchased through Ticketmaster or at the door.

Proceeds from Spectrum '95 will be distributed between seven Houston-area charities. Bourgeois said: the Assistance Fund, Bering Community Service Foundation, Houston Challenge Foundation, Living Arms, Lesbian

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THE TEXAS TRIANGLE is published every Thursday. Estimated readership 39,200. Subscription rates are \$45.50 (26 weeks) and \$91 (52 weeks). Advertising deadlines are Thursday noon (week before publication) for make-ready ads, Friday noon for classified advertising and calendar items, and Monday noon the week of publication for camera-ready ads. ▼ THE TEXAS TRIANGLE is protected by copyright and may not be reproduced in whole or part except by permission obtained by contacting THE TEXAS TRIANGLE directly. Credit must be given to THE TEXAS TRIANGLE. ▼ The views of THE TEXAS TRIANGLE are expressed in editorial only. Views expressed in letters to the editor and other submissions are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the owners or management of THE TEXAS TRIANGLE. THE TEXAS TRIANGLE reserves the right to edit or reject any material submitted for publication. Unsolicited submissions cannot be returned. ▼ THE TEXAS TRIANGLE is not responsible for damages due to typographical errors except for the cost of revising and replacing advertisements containing error. Advertisements designed and created by THE TEXAS TRIANGLE for the advertiser remain the property of THE TEXAS TRIANGLE. Advertisements and designs can be released for a \$250 licensing fee. THE TEXAS TRIANGLE cannot be responsible for claims made by advertisers, but readers are requested to report any fraudulent or deceptive advertising. ▼ The use of the name or likeness of a person or entity in THE TEXAS TRIANGLE in advertising or editorial content does not imply any particular sexual orientation or political affiliation.

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In a unique arrangement, each newspaper will submit calendars of gay pride events in their coverage areas to OUT.com. Users can access information by "clicking" on a series of menus to find their own cities. Each newspaper's logo will appear across the top of its respective pages.

OUT.com's content will fall into six categories, which the magazine will update three times weekly. "Pride '95 Events" lists the 1995 parades, parties, political and cultural events, and film festivals. "Reader Forums" will let users share opinions in more than 30 bulletin boards on anything from the content of the latest *Out* to developments in legislation.

"Entertainment" will provide reviews and discussions on books, film, music, television and other sites on the Web. "Outmag" offers selections from the current issue of *Out*, writer guidelines, ad information and special offers. "Contest" will let users enter and win a Pride compact disc, *Out in America* book

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For more information, call 713/526-2853.

## ***Gay gene, maybe. Lesbian gene, no.***

continued from page 1

gene into the flies, the males began to exhibit "homosexual" behavior. The males linked up end-to-end in big circles or in long, winding rows to the drone of the normal mating sound, the males repeatedly lurched forward and rubbed genitals with the next ones in line.

Odenwald claims that these male fruit flies are gay—and that he and Zhang made them that way. The scientists say they transplanted a single gene into the flies that caused them to display homosexual behavior. And that's interesting, they assert, because a related gene exists in human beings, although there is no evidence yet that the human gene has an effect on sexual preference.

A report of Odenwald and Zhang's findings, to be published this week in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, adds to the mounting evidence

that homosexuality has genetic components. The two scientists do not claim that a single gene can make a person homosexual. But they think their studies may yield important new insights into how genetic makeup, through a complex series of biochemical reactions, influences sexual orientation.

Odenwald and Zhang's experimentation is in no way conclusive, nor exclusive. Apparently if a "gay" fly is surrounded by females instead of males, he'll fertilize the lady flies. So strictly speaking, the NIH flies are not homosexual but bisexual. And the gene produces no unusual behavior when transplanted into females: the scientists have produced no lesbian fruit flies. Yet the way the gene works is intriguing, and may offer some clues to the biochemical roots of gayness. ▼

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The State's Gay News Source.

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### Cartoonists

Alison Bechdel, Todd Camp, Joe Hoover, Eric Orner, Ross

### Texas Spotlight

Michael D. Wilson

**Tom's S**  
continued from page 1

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Lately, it's been dealing with, a kind of, "Oh, in that would be a traits I pick up,

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Most people just "If I walk down that, I've been to think, ultimate traits. I don't know.

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"By far the most comprehensive and up-to-date gay guide . . . Gayellow Pages . . . includes the standard entries for bars and restaurants . . . But the Gayellow Pages excels thanks to its additional alphabetized listings by city for AIDS and HIV services, legal resources, organizations (categorized by purpose or interest), religious groups, publications, businesses and more. In short, if an entity welcomes gay, lesbian and bisexual people, no matter how unlikely the service or remote the town, it's probably listed in the Gayellow Pages. . . Hardly a week goes by that it is not consulted in the Out offices." Reviewed by Jeff Howells, OUT (Pittsburgh, PA), December 1994

"For over 12 years Gayellow Pages has been our most-used resource book. We recommend it to every performer, author, producer, business person, community organizer, activist, and educator we come in contact with. It's the perfect coming out gift!" Romanovsky & Phillips, Fresh Fruit Records, March 1995

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# THE NATION

## KEITH CLARK

### MAYOR, CITY ATTORNEY WANT GAY COUPLE TO GET MARRIAGE LICENSE

ITHACA, N.Y. — The *Ithaca (N.Y.) Journal* has reported that Mayor Benjamin Nichols and City Attorney Charles Guttman both want the city council to order the city clerk to issue a marriage license to two gay men who plan on getting married late in June. The couple, Toshav Greene and Phillip Storrs, applied for the license in May and ended up meeting with a number of the city's elected leaders, many of whom say they now agree the city should issue the license. Nichols, in fact, urged the city council to pass a resolution calling on the state to legalize same-sex marriages. It is uncertain whether the license will actually be issued, and perhaps more important, what such a license would legally mean in terms of the couple's legal rights since it would almost inevitably lead to a court case in the state. Green and Storrs say they will go ahead with their planned Jewish wedding ceremony on June 22 whether they get the license or not.

### LESBIAN PARENTAL CASE GOES TO N.Y. HIGH COURT

NEW YORK — The New York Court of Appeals, the state's highest court, has begun hearings that will decide whether one partner of same-sex couples can adopt the biological child of the other partner. The case involves a lesbian who is attempting to adopt the five-year-old biological daughter of her mate. The two women, identified only as P.I. and G.M. in court documents, have been a couple for 19 years. The women want to have joint parental rights to their daughter because only a legal parent can make certain decisions for a child under state law. Beatrice

material from the Museum's large historical collection of photographs, costumes and memorabilia, as well as materials on loan from other museums and private collections. The exhibit tracks how couples meet, engagement customs, pre-wedding celebrations, nuptial ceremonies and honeymoons, with short histories of how the customs evolved. Among the wedding garments, ranging from a Japanese kimono to a 19th century embroidered bridal gown from Turkey, are the matching pair of colorful shirts worn by two men during their wedding.

### RESEARCHERS: ANTI-GAY EXPERIENCES PRESENT ADDED HEALTH PROBLEMS

NEW YORK — According to a report in the *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, gay men who directly experience homophobia, anti-gay violence or discrimination are two to three times as likely to suffer from depression, anxiety, stress-related sexual problems, suicidal thoughts and other negative pressures. Researchers at the Columbia School of Public Health studied 741 gay men in New York City and concluded that in the study, the men who experienced anti-gay discrimination or violence suffered significantly greater mental distress than those who do not. The study found that those who also blamed their own homosexuality as the cause of the discrimination or violence were even more likely to experience emotional stress. The researchers also found that gay men who had gone through such anti-gay experiences dealt with the stress more effectively if they "felt connected to the gay community."

### REPORT WARNS OF PARASITE IN WATER SUPPLY

# Texas Spotlight

The Texas Spotlight features one of the many groups and organizations available to the gay/lesbian/bi-sexual/transgendered citizens of the state. If your group would like to be considered for a future Spotlight, e-mail a 150 word description to [TxTriangle@aol.com](mailto:TxTriangle@aol.com). Or fax to 512/472-8154.

### Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus

HOUSTON — Houston's premier gay and lesbian, politically-oriented organization celebrates its 20th anniversary this year.

The Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus (HGLPC) is a bi-partisan, non-profit organization that strives to pursue the political goals of lesbians and gays through the advocacy of political and social rights. While not affiliated with any other political group, HGLPC has produced one spin-off, Out Vote, which is a political action committee (PAC) designed to encourage gay and lesbian voters to register and become active in the political process at the local level.

Keith Stewart, vice president of HGLPC, believes that the diversity of political opinion and bi-partisanship is one of the organization's strongest assets. "You can have divergent political views and not undermine the goals of the organization. We have representation from Democrats, Republicans and every thing in between."

When asked about the most notable contribution of the caucus to gay and lesbian voters, Stewart said, "I believe that what we do best is the screening of political candidates." Prior to every election, the caucus invites office seekers to present their political agendas. Based on this and other information, the caucus then produces a list of candidates they feel would support and protect the rights of persons with alternative life styles.

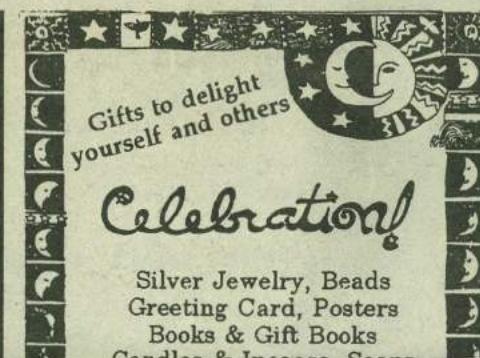
As far as political strategies are concerned, currently in Houston, many precinct judge positions are vacant. Seeing the political possibilities, the caucus recently voted to make an attempt to fill these vacancies with gay- and lesbian-affirming candidates. This strategy was employed by the conservative right with great success, and HGLPC feels that its organizational goals will be similarly enhanced by starting at the local level.

The HGLPC meets the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at 2700 Albany. For additional information, call 713/521-1000.

Karen M. Umminger, LMSW

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Sliding Scale



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#### MUSEUM'S MULTICULTURAL WEDDING EXHIBIT

OAKLAND, Calif. — The Oakland Museum has just opened a historical exhibit covering wedding customs going back to Native American traditional ceremonies to contemporary same-sex holy unions. The multicultural exhibit includes

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#### REPORT WARNS OF PARASITE IN WATER SUPPLY

WASHINGTON — Environmental activists have warned that cryptosporidium, a parasite than can be fatal to the elderly, children, people with HIV/AIDS and other seriously ill people, has been detected before and after treatment in the country's water supply. Some cities do not test or filter their drinking water, the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Environmental Working Group said in published reports that urge the United States to invest in better water filtration and to start testing for the microscopic parasite. The reports call for a national standard for cryptosporidium, which was blamed for sickening more than 400,000 people and killing at least 100 - mostly people with HIV/AIDS - in Milwaukee in 1993. Currently, the parasite is not regulated, in part because there is no reliable way to monitor it.

## Pride Events in San Antonio

- Pride Soiree, 4-7 pm, Sunday, June 18, at Almos Park Party House
- Pride Dance, 9 pm, Saturday, June 24, at Blanco Ballroom
- Pride Concert with Alamo City Men's Chorale, 8 pm, Sunday, June 25, at San Antonio Little Theater

dates. Prior to every election, the caucus invites office seekers to present their political agendas. Based on this and other information, the caucus then produces a list of candidates they feel would support and protect the rights of persons with alternative life styles.

As far as political strategies are concerned, currently in Houston, many precinct judge positions are vacant. Seeing the political possibilities, the caucus recently voted to make an attempt to fill these vacancies with gay- and lesbian-affirming candidates. This strategy was employed by the conservative right with great success, and HGLPC feels that its organizational goals will be similarly enhanced by starting at the local level.

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CONSIDERING PARENTHOOD?

Know Your Options!

Adoption

## Stock market tip: stay for the long haul

By Joe Berkel, American Express Financial Advisors Inc.  
Special to the TRIANGLE

This last year has been a volatile one for stock and bond markets, which has, understandably, made investors nervous. Some of you might be ready to pull your money out of your equity and bond investments, and others might be hesitant to add to your existing accounts or open up new investments.

While it is easy to find excuses to put off making investments, there are at least five excellent reasons to start or continue investing today:

**The long-term trend of the equity markets is up.** What were your long-term goals when you originally made the investment? If these goals are still intact, ignore short-term market moves and concentrate on your long-term objectives. Remember, stocks and bonds tend to rise in value over time.

**Prices don't go down forever.** Does it make sense to systematically put your money into an investment that may, from time to time, lose value?

Absolutely, if your expectation is that, over time, the investment will rise in value. History tells us that the market likely will be higher in five years or more. Don't buy only after the market values have risen; take advantage of the market's short-term volatility and dollar-cost average into your investments as a long-term strategy.

With dollar-cost averaging, you invest the same amount of money at regular intervals, usually monthly. Because the amount you invest is constant, you buy more when the price is low and less when the price is high. The average cost per share that you pay will almost always be lower than the average market price per share — as long as the value goes up over the long-term.

**Rising interest rates can be good news for investors.** Rising short-term interest rates usually means that inflation is under control. Since long-term interest rates are closely linked to inflation, an on-going low-inflation scenario can be a positive sign for financial assets over the long term. If stocks and bonds make sense for your portfolio over the long term, there is no reason to change your investment plans now.

**What happens in a single day or month or even year doesn't matter in the long run.** Although many people try to outguess the market, the truth is that no one knows what the market will do short-term. Particularly for long-term goals, the current market performance may not be indicative of the overall long-term result. Stock markets go up and down on a daily, monthly and annual basis, but the long-term trend has clearly been upward, and that is expected to continue. If your goals are long-term, then it makes sense not only to stay invested but to continue investing for your goals on a systematic basis. By continuing to invest, you will be positioned to benefit from the next major market rally.

**Following the herd doesn't work.** The best market strategy is, of course, "buy low, sell high." Most investors, however, consistently do just the opposite. Investment data shows a clear trend: stock prices go up, and investments go up; stock prices go down, and investments go down. Investors often wait until the market has made a strong upward move before they buy. The painful lesson to be learned here is that although the herd moves together, it rarely moves in the right direction. Keep this in mind when you make your investment decisions.

Investors who don't allow themselves to get skittish during short-term market moves usually have the most success over the long term. So, continue to focus on your long-

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Investors who don't allow themselves to get skittish during short-term market moves usually have the most success over the long term. So, continue to focus on your long-term strategy in order to achieve your financial goals. Patience and consistency today means comfortable returns on your investments tomorrow. ▼

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# THE WORLD REX WOCKNER

## EURO PARLIAMENT ENDORSES GAY PROTECTIONS

The European Parliament last month formally stated that a ban on sexual-orientation-based discrimination should be written into the Treaty of the European Union, which will be revised next year. The decision came May 17 at an Intergovernmental Conference in Strasbourg, France, according to reports on the Internet. The Parliament's resolution states: "The Treaty should contain a clear rejection of racism, xenophobia, sexism, discrimination on grounds of a person's sexual orientation, anti-semitism, revisionism and all forms of discrimination, and guarantee adequate legal protection against discrimination for all individuals resident in the European Union." Fifteen nations make up the European Union.

## FIRST MONTPELLIER PRIDE A SUCCESS

More than 1,000 people from across the south of France marched in Montpellier's first gay pride parade June 3, reports correspondent Jean-Benoit Richard. The march, organized by ACT UP, began at the Jardin du Perou and ended at the Place de la Comedie. An evening open-air dance party followed at l'espace Gramond. "The organizers had some small sound problems and then we were late ... but everything came off fine and there was a very good ambience," said Richard, one of the marchers. "The only thing I regret somewhat is that a good number of Montpellierans didn't want to be recognized. They stayed on the sidelines."

## FIRST PRIDE WEEK IN TURKEY

Istanbul, Turkey, celebrates its first Gay and Lesbian Pride Week July 24-30. Events include a film festival, seminars, condom distributions, a dance party and a weekend excursion to the countryside.

## HIV DATING SERVICE OPENS IN GERMANY

Germany's first dating agency for HIV-positive people, PV, opened June 6, reported the Reuter news service. Founder Stefan Wehner explained, "Healthy people want nothing to do with HIV-positive people and that makes the search for a partner very difficult." It costs \$1,950 to be listed in the company's database for a year. ▼

## Spectrum '95 a natural outgrowth

By Billie Duncan  
Special to the TRIANGLE

From Town Meeting One (TM-1) in 1978 to the birth of Spectrum '95, seventeen years later, Houston's lesbian and gay community has come a long way. Town Meeting One was a watermark for the community, and many think that Spectrum '95, which is a direct offspring of TM-1, is another.

Taking over the AstroArena on June 18, Spectrum '95 not only features the long-overdue follow-up to TM-1, it boasts a business expo, an art expo, speakers' program and day-long concert showcasing top local and national talents.

Although the organization of this gargantuan effort has had to navigate some hefty bumps, booth sales are healthy, artists are involved, agendas are copied and entertainers are lined-up with great anticipation. Ticket sales have been picking up throughout the week.

Chief cheerleader for Spectrum '95 is its main organizer, Alan Bourgeois, who euphorically stated, "We've been able to bring the community together for a common goal. No other organization has ever pulled twenty different community groups together to work on something, and I'm really pleased with that. I want to see that continue."

Of course, it is through the efforts of countless activists and volunteers that Houston now has twenty different organizations that have an opportunity to work together. One of those activists is the president of Town Meeting Two, liberal Democrat, Ray Hill.

Hill smiled at the enthusiastic description of Spectrum '95 by Bourgeois, and said, "For you to have enough energy to put your ass on the line for a project of this size, which you've got to sell to everybody else, you've got to believe — you've really got to believe — it's a watermark. And that's an important part of finding the energy to succeed."

Conservative Republican, Marion Coleman, owner of House of Coleman and one of the sponsors of the event, encouraged Bourgeois even though she wondered, at first, whether he could pull it off. "I think people were leery at first, thinking, 'Is this really going to work? Because I was one of the advocates, one of the sponsors, many people called me, saying 'Marion, we saw your name. Is this really going to happen? Is this a good thing to do? Should we really invest our money?'"

Now she is a firm believer.

As part of the history of the Houston community, Spectrum '95 differs sharply from Pride Week activities seventeen years ago. Back then, Coleman explained, "It was extremely different because we didn't have a whole lot of people acknowledging the fact that they were gay, or having anything to do with the gay movement."

"Now we have people who are willing to come out and say they are gay and willing to participate and to start working with one another, which was extremely rare in those days."

Looking back, there are grounds to expect that Spectrum '95 will sizzle. ▼

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JUNE 18, 1995

## ASTROARENA

HOURS OF MUSIC, DANCE & COMEDY BY MANY NATIONAL AND LOCAL ENTERTAINERS SCHEDULED TO PERFORM ARE THE FOLLOWING:

ROMANOVSKY & PHILLIPS

LYNN LAVNER

Pussy Tourette

SONS & LOVERS

GAY COMEDY JAM TEAM

DV8

SUSIE K

PINQUE

BILLYE GRAHAM BOWMAN

MCCR

OFF BROADWAY

JULIANA WATHAN

STEVEN RISER & MICHELLE RUBIN

ANDREW FLORES

TURTLE CREEK CHORALE ENCORE

JOHN GORDON

THE FREDS

HEARTSONG

DANCE TEAM OF TITA TORO & GARY

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BENEFICIARIES

ASSISTANCE FUND • BERING COMMUNITY SERVICES FOUNDATION • HOUSTON CHALLENGE FOUNDATION LESBIAN  
HEALTH INITIATIVE • LOVING ARMS • MONTROSE CLINIC • MONTROSE COUNSELING CENTER

ART EXPO

11 AM - 7 PM EXHIBIT HALL

OVER THE CENTURIES, OUR COMMUNITY HAS ALWAYS BEEN INVOLVED IN THE ARTS. AT SPECTRUM '95, JOIN OVER 100 ARTISTS, INCLUDING RECORDING STAR SARAH McLACHLAN, AS THEY SHARE THEIR ART WITH YOU. FIND SOMETHING YOU LIKE, BUY IT. MOST ARTISTS WILL HAVE THEIR WORK AVAILABLE FOR SALE AND SOME DO COMMISSIONS. INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING YOUR ARTISTIC ABILITIES? COME AND SEE WHAT OTHERS DO AND INTERACT WITH THEM. LEARN FROM THEM, SHARE WITH THEM AND GROW PERSONALLY.

TOWN MEETING II

1 PM - 5 PM

PAVILION

ON JUNE 25, 1978, AN ESTIMATED 4,000 GAYS, LESBIANS AND TRANSGENDERS GOT TOGETHER TO DISCUSS ISSUES THAT RELATE TO OUR COMMUNITY. FROM THAT DISCUSSION AND PROCESS GREW MANY ORGANIZATIONS AND SOCIAL GROUPS. THE MONTROSE CLINIC, THE MONTROSE COUNSELING CENTER, SOFTBALL LEAGUE, A FORM OF Q-PATROL & OTHER PROGRAMS FOUND THEIR ROOTS IN THIS HISTORIC MEETING.

NOW ON JUNE 18, 1995, 17 YEARS LATER, TOWN MEETING II WILL GIVE THIS COMMUNITY THE CHANCE AGAIN TO CREATE CHANGE IN A POSITIVE MANNER. BE A PART OF THIS HISTORIC FOUR HOUR OPEN DISCUSSION WITH PRESENTATIONS OF RESOLUTIONS FROM OUR COMMUNITY.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD.

LET'S BI GAY™ SPECTRUM '95 BUSINESS EXPO

11 AM - 7 PM EXHIBIT HALL

OVER 125 BUSINESSES WILL BE DISPLAYING THEIR GOODS AND SERVICES TO HOUSTON'S COMMUNITY. EXHIBITORS COME FROM HOUSTON & TEXAS & FROM AROUND THE UNITED STATES. HOUSTON'S LET'S BI GAY™ ECONOMIC VALUE HAS BEEN ESTIMATED TO BE APPROXIMATELY \$2 BILLION STRONG. JUST IMAGINE WHAT THIS COMMUNITY COULD ACCOMPLISH IF WE HARNESS THAT ECONOMIC STRENGTH. COME AND MEET THE MANY BUSINESSES THAT SUPPORT YOUR CIVIL RIGHTS. LEARN WHAT THEY HAVE TO OFFER AND WHY YOU SHOULD SUPPORT THEM.

SPEAKERS PROGRAM

1 PM - 5 PM 2ND FLOOR

MEETING ROOM #2

LESBIAN HEALTH INITIATIVE

SURVEY RESULTS 1 PM

PANEL DISCUSSION

VIATICAL SETTLEMENT OR  
ACCELERATED BENEFITS? 2 PM

E. DONALD DEYOUNG, LIFE TODAY  
FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.

BOOK READING & SIGNING 3 PM

ROBBI SOMMERS, AUTHOR  
PLEASURES, PLAYERS, KISS & TELL,  
UNCERTAIN COMPANIONS,  
BEHIND CLOSED DOORS AND  
PERSONAL ADS

FINANCIAL PLANNING 4 PM

JULIA LARUE, LUTCF  
FINANCIAL ADVISOR, THE ACACIA GROUP

JOINT MANAGING CONSERVATORSHIPS

5 PM  
CONNIE MOORE  
PARTNER, MOORE & HUNT, LLP

SPEAKERS PROGRAM

1 PM - 5 PM 2ND FLOOR

MEETING ROOM #3

STARTING YOUR OWN BUSINESS 1 PM

MJ MCKEAN-REICH  
FOUNDER & PUBLISHER,  
VICTORY! MAGAZINE

HIV IN THE WORKPLACE 2 PM

BALANCING THE RIGHTS OF  
EMPLOYERS / EMPLOYEES  
MITCHEL KATINE  
PARTNER, WILLIAMS, BIRNBERG &  
ANDERSON, LLP

ADOPTIONS FOR SAME SEX COUPLES

3 PM  
CONNIE MOORE  
PARTNER, MOORE & HUNT, LLP

BREAST CANCER SELF EXAMS 4 PM

F. ALLENE KING, M.D.  
PRIVATE PRACTICE

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BILLYE GRAHAM BOWMAN

MCCR

OFF BROADWAY

JULIANA WATHAN

STEVEN RISER & MICHELLE RUBIN

ANDREW FLORES

TURTLE CREEK CHORALE ENCORE

JOHN GORDON

THE FREDS

HEARTSONG

DANCE TEAM OF TITA TORO & GARY

HAWTHORNE

HOUSTON CITY LIMITS II

WOMEN'S CHORUS OF DALLAS

RYAN BONN

EDNA GARCIA

GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF HOUSTON

NANCY FORD

JOHN RENY

DAVID PACE

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## INDEPENDENTLY SPEAKING

MARVIN LEIBMAN

May 8th, 1995, marked the 50th anniversary of V.E. Day. Here at home, and throughout Europe, there were celebrations, parades, nostalgia, remembrance of victory, and salutes to the living veterans and the countless dead. For me, the celebrations commemorated a bleaker 50-year benchmark — the beginnings of the U.S. military's campaign to rid its ranks of homosexual American citizens like me.

During World War II, some 9,000 lesbian and gay service members were hunted down and thrown out without any veteran, benefits or thanks — as if they had never existed. Since that time, almost 100,000 other homosexuals have shared the fate of us early outcasts — branded, humiliated, and expelled. Our story is recounted in the documentary film, *Coming Out Under Fire*, directed by Arthur Dong and based on the book by Alan Berube. (*It is scheduled to be shown in Dallas on KERA-13 on June 20 at 9 p.m., later in the year in other parts of Texas.*)

I tried to enlist in February, 1942, and was rejected because of poor eyesight. After trying again and again, I was finally accepted for "limited service" and inducted into the Army of the United States on Jan. 6, 1943. I was as happy as any other patriotic 19-year-old finally able to serve his country in its war against the forces of evil.

I was assigned to the Army Air Corps and, after serving in the United States for 18 months, was finally sent overseas to the Italian theater of war. On the troopship, I met my first groups of gay GI's. I seemed to find dozens of new comrades, brothers who shared the same secret and were unashamed. It was a revelation to me.

I went from Italy to North Africa and finally ended up in Cairo, where I was assigned to a squadron waiting relocation to another area of war. I had just passed my 21st birthday. I whiled away my time in Cairo carrying on a voluminous V-Mail correspondence with my pals from the troopship who were scattered around Europe and Africa. We used the campy and flamboyant language of the protagonist in a Dorothy Parker story — *From the Diary of a New York Lady: During Days of Horror, Despair and World Change* — which we had read out loud and which amused us because it seemed so removed from the war.

Although all mail was censored, I was scarcely worried about what I thought were amusing letters. Wrong! The witch-hunt against homosexuals had begun, and I was one of those caught in its net. I was summoned to squadron headquarters, and my Commanding Officer confronted me with a letter I had written and asked, before the 10 or 15 men and women working there, "Are you one of those New York pervert Jew faggots?" Thus began my nightmare.

I was sent to the Section 8 Ward of the hospital, which was surrounded by barbed wire and housed G.I.s with psychiatric problems. I was interrogated twice each day about my "perversion" and asked to name other airmen who were "perverts." I was finally given a court marshall before three officers, and admitted that I was a homosexual, but, so far as I knew, I was the only homosexual in the whole world. I was given a General Discharge and sent back to my squadron to await final travel orders.

At my first formation that evening, when the flag was lowered, my Commanding Officer barked an order telling me to "front and center." He then shouted to the entire squadron that he would show them "... how a New York Jew faggot drills," and he began barking drill orders that I lamely tried to execute in front of the watching men. Each day and night, he would repeat this exercise in humiliation. Myself, I was too embarrassed to even look at him.

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**Eterna, a thoughtful answer to overwhelming questions**

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It was Nov. 2, 1944, just short of two years since my induction. The officer had a sheaf of papers, and he called out names one at a time. There were about 100 of us. One by one, each man went up to receive a white sheet of paper, an honorable discharge.

There were four of us left. My name was called, and I went up to receive a blue piece of paper. An MP came over, telling me to follow him. I was told to take off my uniform, and I was given a used black suit and a white sport shirt. I was permitted to keep my Army boots, socks, khaki undershorts, and my dog tags. That's all. This treatment was the rule for all soldiers with blue discharges.

I left Fort Dix with a blue sheet of paper that read, "Discharged ... for habits and traits of character not beneficial to the Armed Forces of the United States." I took a bus to New York and arrived in the city in the early afternoon. With the final pay of \$40 they had given me, I bought a cheap raincoat to protect me from the cold. I telephoned home to Brooklyn. My mother's shrieks of joy were followed by questions. "Where are you? When are you coming home? Oh, thank God, thank God," and she began to weep.

I took the subway to Brooklyn. When I came to my street, I could see my mother waiting on the porch just as she had said goodbye less than two years before. She shouted, "Sonny, Sonny," and my father, mother, and sister rushed out of the house to hug and kiss me and welcome me home.

"Where's your uniform?" my father asked.

"I didn't want to wear it any more. I got rid of it."

"How did you get out?" he asked.

"I had a slight sun stroke in Egypt, and I got a medical discharge."

No other questions were asked. The lying had begun to try to erase the pink triangle with which my government had branded me and to escape my identity that no amount of lies could ever deny. ▼

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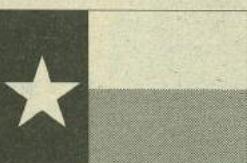


**Eterna, a thoughtful answer to overwhelming questions.**

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# "I Would Get Mistaken for a Boy All the Time."

## Tom's Story:

By Casey Hamilton  
TRIANGLE Staff

AUSTIN—Tom is an energetic young gay man, who looks even younger than his age. He has an edgy and somewhat crude sense of humor, but some of the cruder language has been cleaned up.

### Tom's Story:

It's unclear to me, but I think my parts were not quite normal. I have memories of dropping my pants when we were all around 4 years old, and everyone asked, "Hey, what's that." I clearly remember the girl next door saying, "Hey, that looks like a boy's thing." But (my clitoris) wasn't big enough for them to reassign me. Thank God it wasn't big enough that they chopped it off; they did that back then, to make the parts look more female. Never be able to get off for the rest of your life — that's a grim thought. I'd rather be screwed up like this, than like that. They have all these tests now, but in 1960, they didn't have them. They just based it on whatever you looked like when you came out.

If you were in-between, they had to make a judgment call and push you one way or another. Thank God they didn't chop it off. Oh, thank God. It could have been much worse. I think my mother might have overdosed on testosterone. That's what the symptoms are, of testosterone overdoses: enlarged genitals, right brain development in the fetus, allergies, dyslexia, high math abilities. As near as I can tell, that's what happened. But this is just speculation on my part.

I doubt I was too aware until school. Most kids aren't too aware of gender. I don't think I had any idea I wasn't a boy until I went to school. That was sort of a bigger shock. I think, being shoved into a dress and sent off to school.

I think my mother did know subconsciously there was something wrong with me. She had to force me to join the damned Brownies. I'd go out bowling or roller-skating, with this pack of damned Brownies, and the guy would hand me boy's shoes. There'd be this pack of girls, and there'd be me, and they'd hand me boy's shoes. Finally, I gave up and just started telling them the right boys' size.

And I was just 8 years old. I got chucked out of the bathroom when I was in 4th grade, by one of the teachers. She was a 6th grade teacher and didn't know me, and she just dragged me out of the girl's bathroom. She was yelling at me.

There was a pack of kids that used to beat the crap out of me when I was 11, I think because I was going through puberty, and it wasn't what they wanted to see.

So then I made a conscious effort to try and fantasize being female, and I couldn't do it. It was really pretty pathetic.

I was seeing a shrink at the time. I was really depressed about various things I never talked about. It was also getting close to the end of high school and having to get on with the rest of your life, and I couldn't do it in that gender. High school was so miserable. I just couldn't, I couldn't do it.

I was about 17, when he finally convinced me to tell them. My mother wasn't surprised. My father claimed to be surprised. Oh, please.

They were pretty supportive. I don't know if it was guilt, or what, on their part. I don't know what I would have done if my parents hadn't been able to deal with it, throwing me out or something. But I could have lived male, for a long time, because I did look like a guy. I just looked 14. It definitely wasn't a heave-me-out-of-the-house kind of deal.

They did pay for the surgery. I had a mastectomy, I guess around 19. So then I did the gender change. My parents paid for the hysterectomy so I could get a new birth certificate, and I worked for a year. I was going through this change, and I finally told my boss. He was real cool, and was going to get me a new job. But the next day, his kid got caught stealing stuff, and he was fired. So I just walked out.

The very next day I went to Wells Fargo, and gave them my new name. I didn't spend a lot of time (in transition); I didn't spend any time (transitioning). I literally went out one afternoon, said, "Aw, screw this," drove my parents' car over to the Wells Fargo guards service, said "Hi, I'm Tom," and they said, "Fine, sign these papers. Can you start tomorrow?"

I told them I didn't have my driver's license on me, so I got a letter from the gender shrink to give to the Motor Vehicle Department to get a new driver's license. They were real cool, very

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There was a pack of kids that used to beat the crap out of me when I was 11, I think because I was going through puberty, and it wasn't what they were expecting either. I was turning into a girl and it was freaking them out as badly as it was freaking me out. I didn't deal too well (with the onset of menstruation).

I didn't tell anyone for a while, because I have three older sisters so it was easy to use their things. But some of them were using tampons, and there was no way I was going to do that. I was so clueless about my own body; I didn't know women had different holes for those things. I thought they (urinated) out of the same hole as they menstruated. I couldn't find the hole. My sister wanted me to use a tampon one time because she wanted to go to the beach. I couldn't even find it. She kept telling me to relax, and I was thinking, "Relax, hell. I don't even know where I'm supposed to be putting this thing." So, I didn't go to the beach.

(In school), I hung out with the derelict crowd, cutting class and wandering through the hallways. One time the shop teacher cornered me and he was just shaking me, the usual crap. Someone said, "You know that's a girl?" and he just dropped me like I had leprosy.

In a way, it was validating, though. Just one of the guys.

I started cutting classes when we'd have substitute teachers, too, because they didn't know you. So they'd say, "Hey there, young man," and everybody would start laughing. That's the thing. It didn't bother me people mistaking me for male; it was everyone else's reaction. Stuff like that happened all the time.

I would just get mistaken for a boy all the time in school and it would be a real shock to people when someone else would tell them I was a girl. I think it finally dawned on me about junior high or high school. In my fantasies, I was male and I never noticed it. I was talking to this friend of mine's sister, and she was talking about having these fantasies about Michael Landon. Being queer, I did too, but it dawned on me that in her fantasies, she was probably female.

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I told them I didn't have my driver's license on me, so I got a letter from the gender shrink to give to the Motor Vehicle Department to get a new driver's license. They were real cool, very nice, very friendly. I had my new driver's license and with that, got a new bank account, because you didn't need any other ID back then to get a bank account like you do now.

The good thing was I did this all before college, so I didn't have to worry about what to do with my degree. How do I deal with having a degree under a different name? Can I get it changed? Do I start over from scratch?

They make you do hormones for a couple of months to prove that you're serious. It's frustrating, but I understand. Once you add those hormones, you can't undo the effects. You'll stop growing hair and your weight will re-arrange, but once your voice changes, that's it. It's done. It's changed, and you can't undo the changes to the vocal cords.

My voice was really low to start with, because I had no trouble passing as male with my ostensibly female vocal cords. Back then, in 1978-1979, they tried to do the oral doses of testosterone. They've decided now that just doesn't work. I finally gave up doing it about half-way through college. They weren't doing any damned good. My voice changed and my body fat was re-arranged, but that's about all it did for me. I hardly grew any hair.

I actually went for years (without the hormone doses), and that's why I look so young. A lot of that's the effect of the hormones, and what they do to your skin.

Then I moved to Texas and just freaked out. I was afraid to find a doctor to start the hormones again. I was terrified. I'd just moved here and I knew nobody. I didn't have referrals from any doctors back home. I'd just look 16 without hormones. It's only been a couple of years, since I've been back in therapy.

*continued on page 29*

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It was bad enough that they painted the building the most disgusting salmon color in the universe! Salmon hasn't been a color since the last episode of Police Woman, and Amanda has thrown out kitty litter with more attractive color than that building. Dear Fans! But now that Lynn will be gone, there is no reason to even drive down Westheimer.



Dr. Michael Lessner

2907 Duval, Austin

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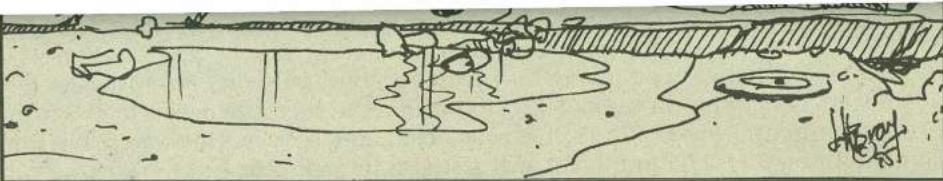
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brushes and handles designed to do a better job of cleaning the teeth and removing plaque.

No single design is the best choice for everyone. The right one depends on individual needs and preferences. Choose a brush with soft bristles. Pay attention to how well the design will allow you to maneuver the brush in places where you might have difficulty, especially the rear surfaces of the teeth. Once you settle on a toothbrush style that's right for you, concentrate on doing a thorough job twice a day. You should brush for two minutes or more at a time. Toothbrush bristles are subject to wear, and they collect bacteria. Change to a new toothbrush every three months.



**D**ear fans, Amanda was sent into a major sinking spell when she noticed that Lynn Richard's "Appearances" clothing store is going out of business! It's just another sign that something is deeply wrong in Montrose. Lynn has been on that corner for ages and ages, and Amanda has always looked upon that store as a veritable neighborhood institution! Now he is closing shop and moving on to new horizons, and God knows what will take the place of his store.

It was bad enough that they painted the building the most disgusting salmon color in the universe! Salmon hasn't been a color since the last episode of *Police Woman*, and Amanda has thrown out kitty litter with more attractive color than that building, Dear Fans! But now that Lynn will be gone, there is no reason to even drive down Westheimer.

What does it say about Montrose and Houston when the two major buildings built in the neighborhood in the past 10 years are a health clinic and a charity resale shop? The only thing we can read into this is that people are sick and dying, and when they're gone, their things are up for sale. Amanda is not against health clinics and resale shops, but surely AIDS hasn't killed every gay man in Houston!

Well, the only thing we can think of is that gay people just don't have the money they used to have, and there just aren't as many gays left in the neighborhood to support gay retail outlets. So many people have moved away to San Francisco, New York, Washington, D.C., Seattle, L.A. and yes even Dallas, that right now is where the major developers are building those huge nasty stucco-on-plywood monstrosities for the oh-so-tasteful Family Values Yuppie straight people who are suddenly finding it convenient to live in the inner city with their Explorers and their golden retrievers and their one-point-two children.

Developers have again and again promised to rebuild lower Westheimer, but nothing happens. And while the antique barns thrive along upper Westheimer, we have to go to the Galleria or beyond to do our shopping for almost everything else except groceries and office supplies. The locally gay-owned clothing stores have simply vanished.

And who even wants to walk on Westheimer these days? When we find ourselves walking in Houston, we feel demeaned. It's as if we have been relegated to the fast-growing underclasses. You are not allowed to stroll. If you aren't wearing sports clothes and puffing like an Olympic athlete, people simply assume that you are down and out, or that you are a whore.

The sad truth is that the upwardly mobile young gay men and women with money have fled to more hospitable political and professional climes. That leaves a huge and scary void in the heart of our beloved Montrose that is fast being filled by the gigantic chain stores like Target, Office Depot, Office Max, TJ Max, Randall's and more. Gone are the trendy and chic little places where you knew the owner and he knew you. Such luxuries are being replaced by cavernous fluorescent-lit, slab-constructed sheds with hissing mercury vapor parking lots and sullen unhappy help. Such monstrosities will never replace the friendly handshake and quiet dignity of Lynn Richard's "Appearances," and all the other favorite shops long since removed. ▀

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# Houston Pride

**FRIDAY, JUNE 16**
**Houston Gay and Lesbian Pride Week**

Friday, June 16 is the official beginning of the 10 day celebration. Ph. (713) 529-6979. Fax: (713) 529-1223.

**HGLPW Official Kickoff Party**

Come join the Pride Committee for food, drinks, and entertainment. Lovett Inn, 501 Lovett. Ph. (713) 529-6979.

**Decoration Contest**

The 1995 Houston Gay and Lesbian Pride Week Committee is having a contest for the Best Decorated Bar or Business. This year's theme is "SILENCE TO CELEBRATION" Houston Gay and Lesbian Pride Week 1995. We hope you'll decorate both inside and outside. Prizes awarded in three categories: 1) Large Bars 2) Small Bars and 3) Business. There will be a trophy and press coverage for the winners. A panel of judges will decide the outcome. June 16-25. Ph. (713) 527-9305 or (713) 529-6979 (ask for Brian Keever).

**The Destiny of Me**

Continuing with the story of Ned Week (first introduced in The Normal Heart) now HIV-positive, he checks himself into a hospital to begin experimental treatments. While there, he battles not only the medical establishment, but the memories of his past. \$15. 7:00 PM or 8:00 PM. Theater LaB Houston, 1706 Alamo, just off 2100 Houston. Ph. (713) 868-7516.

**Angels in America**

Tony Kushner's gay fantasia on national themes. Tony award and Pulitzer Prize winning play directed by Michael Wilson. Tuesdays through Sundays, through July 9. Alley Theatre's Arena Onstage. Ph. (713) 228-8421.

**Charlie's Still Here But Out and Proud!**

The new owners, Nick and David invite you to experience a new dining attitude at Charlie's. Diversity is the spice of our community. The new decor as well as the new menu exploit our wide variety of taste! 1.5% of all sales to Montrose Clinic during pride week. Charlie's Coffee Shop, 1100 Westheimer. Ph. (713) 522-3332.

Fund. A Don Gill production. \$10 entry fee. Venture-N. Ph. (713) 522-0000.

**Freedom Dance 3**

With a live performance by Pussy Tourette at midnight. Ms. Tourette will perform "French Bitch", "Kiss", and more. Heaven, 810 Pacific. Ph. (713) 521-0107.

**Tony Kushner Personal Appearance/Booksing**

Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize winning playwright of Angels in America visits Houston underwritten in part by the Omni Houston Hotel. 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Borders Books, 9633 Westheimer at Gessner. Ph. (713) 782-6066.

**Destiny of Me**

see Friday, June 16.

**Angels in America**

see Friday, June 16.

**MONDAY, JUNE 19**
**Striving to Get the Love You Want**

Lecture based on imago relationship therapy development by Harville Hendrix, PhD., author of bestsellers, Getting the Love You Want: A Guide For Couples and Keeping the Love You Find: A Guide for Singles sponsored by MCCR and PFLAG. Free. 6:30 to 8:30 PM. Montrose Library, 4100 Montrose. (713) 529-1913.

**They Called Him Michael**

Goat-Song Theater presents the world premier performance of the new work by local playwright K. David Cochran, opening night proceeds going to People with AIDS Coalition. \$25. 8:00 PM. Stages. Ph. (713) 525-5960.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 20**
**Make a Joyful Noise V**

Local churches unite to celebrate Jesus! Each church submits talent to this tremendous event sponsored by Community Gospel Church. 7:30 PM. Community Gospel Church, 501 E. 18th at Columbia. Ph. (713) 880-9235.

**The Miss Houston Pageant for Female Impersonators**

Beauty Pageant. \$5. 10:00 PM. Heaven, 810 Pacific. Ph. (713) 861-4667.

**Grand Marshal's Reception**

Food and beverage. Come meet the Grand Marshals and Pride Committee at the annual reception, sponsored by The Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star. 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Gentry's, 2303 Richmond.

**Angels in America**

see Friday, June 16.

**They Called Him Michael**

see Monday, June 19.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21**
**Bringing Your Money Out of the Closet**

Financial advisor, Julie LaRue, LUTCF discusses financial planning for gay men.

**Threatening Illness**  
Attorneys Mitchell along with financial legal and financial threatening illness. The Acacia Group. 888-3500. Fax: (713) 529-1913.

**Lesbian and Gay Pride Celebration**

The rink will be open people are asked to wear t-shirt. Sponsored by the Gay Skaters. 8:00 to 10:00 PM. Westheimer. Ph. (713) 529-1913.

**Show Tunes**

Broadway show to benefit the best known s. Randall Jobe. 9:00 PM. 808 Pacific. Ph. (713) 529-1913.

**Angels in America**

see Friday, June 16.

**They Called Him Michael**

see Monday, June 19.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 23**
**Absolutely Fabulous**

A party around the gay phenomenon. Fabulous t-shirts. Ph. (713) 521-0107.

**Lesbian and Gay Pride**

see Friday, June 16.

**Soul Survivor**

Playbilled as a "heatwave". Written by Anthony Ladd with a ghostly twist. A boyfriend and his mother travel to heaven to check out his past. 10:30 PM. Curtain Call, 2303 Richmond. Ph. (713) 521-0107.

**Destiny of Me**

see Friday, June 16.


**Angels in America**

see Friday, June 16.

**SUNDAY JUNE 18**
**Spectrum '95**

Featuring Town Meeting II, business expo, art show, speakers' forum, and evening concert of gay and lesbian performers such as Romanovsky & Phillips, Lynn Lavner, the gay Men's Chorus of Houston and the Turtle Creek

Continuing with the story of Ned Week (first introduced in The Normal Heart) now HIV-positive, he checks himself into a hospital to begin experimental treatments. While there, he battles not only the medical establishment, but the memories of his past. \$15. 7:00 PM or 8:00 PM. Theater LaB Houston, 1706 Alamo, just off 2100 Houston. Ph. (713) 868-7516.

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The new owners, Nick and David invite you to experience a new dining attitude at Charlie's. Diversity is the spice of our community. The new decor as well as the new menu exploit our wide variety of taste! 1.5% of all sales to Montrose Clinic during pride week. Charlie's Coffee Shop, 1100 Westheimer. Ph. (713) 522-3332.

#### The Artist Eye-Silence to Celebration

An art show opening featuring select pieces of art by local Gay and Lesbian artists. Free. 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM. The Hyde Park Gallery, 711 Hyde Park. Ph. (713) 526-2744.

#### Lesbian and Gay Voices

A special show on the history of pride week and our community, we look back on the beginning of our modern movement and where we have come. We also look at some of the other events that will happen this week. Also included will be a segment each week of Womyn's music, reviews of gay and lesbian cultural events, news from This Way Out. 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM. KPFT 90.1 FM. On-air line: (713) 526-KPFT. Fax: (713) 529-1223.

#### SATURDAY, JUNE 17

##### Black and White

The Dizinger Foundation presents a collection of photographs by people living with HIV/AIDS. The original works and smaller reproductions will be for sale. Masks made by Dizinger artists will also be on sale. Refreshments provided. Donations accepted. 2:00 to 6:00 PM. 214 Avondale. Ph. (713) 527-8490

#### Mr. Venture-N Contest

Enter or watch the fabulous men of Venture strut their stuff to become Mr. Venture-N. All entertainment tips are donated to HGLPW. The entry fee goes to the LVL Holiday

## silence to celebration HOUSTON GAY AND LESBIAN PRIDE WEEK 1995

#### Angels in America

see Friday, June 16.

#### SUNDAY JUNE 18

##### Spectrum '95

Featuring Town Meeting II, business expo, art show, speakers' forum, and evening concert of gay and lesbian performers such as Romanovsky & Phillips, Lynn Lavner, the gay Men's Chorus of Houston, and the Turtle Creek Chorale. \$15 and up. AstroArena, Kirby and South Loop. (713) 526-2853.

#### A New Beginning for All!

A variety show benefitting the Montrose Clinic. The show will encompass the "Best of the Best" performers in both drag and live presentation! Our Masters of ceremony will be Lady V and her two Dons. Free. 6:30 PM. Chances, 1100 Westheimer. Ph. (713) 523-7217.

#### Pride Night at Fitzgerald's

Some of Houston's hottest up and coming bands are playing including Monster Soup, Violent Blue, Starbelly, Clover, Boy Girl, and Objection. Proceeds go to the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Houston. \$6. 7:00 PM to 12:00 PM. Fitzgerald's, Studemont at White Oak. Ph. (713) 529-3211.

#### 2nd Annual Miss Life Today Pageant for Female Impersonators

Title holder agrees to assist in fundraising and awareness promotion for gays, bis, lesbians, and transgendered affected or infected by HIV/AIDS. This will also benefit the River Oaks Health Association. Donations. 8:00 to 10:00 PM. EJ's, 2517 Ralph. (713) 977-4101.

#### Destiny of Me

see Friday, June 16.

Community Gospel Church. 7:30 PM. Community Gospel Church, 501 E. 18th at Columbia. Ph. (713) 880-9235.

#### The Miss Houston Pageant for Female Impersonators

Beauty Pageant. \$5. 10:00 PM. Heaven, 810 Pacific. Ph. (713) 861-4667.

#### Grand Marshal's Reception

Food and beverage. Come meet the Grand Marshals and Pride Committee at the annual reception, sponsored by The Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star. 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Gentry's, 2303 Richmond.

#### Angels in America

see Friday, June 16.

#### They Called Him Michael

see Monday, June 19.

#### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21

Bringing Your Money Out of the Closet Financial advisor, Julie LaRue, LUTCF discusses financial planning for gay men and women. Limited seating, please RSVP. Free. 6:30 to 8:30 PM. The Acacia Group, 9 Greenway Plaza, Suite 300. Ph. (713) 888-3500. Fax: (713) 888-3501.

#### Rolling with Pride

Lambda Rollerskating Club will be hosting their 4th annual Pride skate night. \$5 (includes skates). 8:00 to 10:00 PM. Dairy Ashford Rink, 1820 Ashford. Ph. (713) 933-5818.

#### Pride Week Bear Night Out

Join the Men of the Mine as they host a celebration fit for a bear. 5:00 PM. Montrose Mining Company, 805 Pacific. Ph. (713) 529-7488.

#### Shiela Lennon-A Country Kind of Gal!

Shiela is a very versatile singer whose performance is both entertaining as well as danceable. All monies donated to the Montrose Clinic. \$1. 9:00 PM to 2:00 AM. Chances Bar, 10 Westheimer. Ph. (713) 523-7217.

#### Angels in America

see Friday, June 16.

#### They Called Him Michael

see Monday, June 19.

#### THURSDAY, JUNE 22

Legal and Financial Planning for People with a Life-

see Friday, June 1

**They Called Him**  
see Monday, June 1

**FRIDAY, JUNE 23**  
**Absolutely Fabulous**  
A party around the gay phenomenon. Fabulous t-shirts. Ph. (713) 521-0100

**Lesbian and Gay**  
see Friday, June 1

**Soul Survivor**  
Playbilled as a "h" Written by Antho with a ghostly boyfriend and heaven to check 10:30 PM. Curtains Drive. Ph. (713) 5

**Destiny of Me**  
see Friday, June 1

**Angels in America**  
see Friday, June 1

**They Called Him**  
see Monday, June 1

**Houston's Hot V**  
National Leather off party for leather/levi and the evening a vari tions will be play Venture-N, 2923 N

**SATURDAY, JUNE**  
**Volunteer Meeting**  
529-6979. Fax: (7

**A Front Row Seats**  
Chances will be h end with bleacher tion. \$5 donation AM. Chances Bar

**A Leather Forum**  
A three hour educ as tattooing, pierc uniforms and oth and sex, fantasy hand. Questions experts. \$1 1:00

# Week Events

## Threatening Illness

Attorneys Mitchell Katine, Connie Moore and Debra Hunt along with financial advisor Julie LaRue will discuss the legal and financial planning tools of living with a life-threatening illness. Please RSVP. Free. 6:30 to 8:30 PM. The Acacia Group, 9 Greenway Plaza, Suite 300. (713) 888-3500. Fax: (713) 888-3501.

## Lesbian and Gay Pride Fourth Annual Ice Skating Celebration

The rink will be open to the general public, so community people are asked to wear their favorite lesbian or gay t-shirt. Sponsored by Montrose Ice Picks. \$7 (includes skates). 8:00 to 10:00 PM. Galleria Ice Rink, 5015 Westheimer. Ph. (713) 629-1432.

## Show Tunes

Broadway show tunes celebrate 50 years of Gay and Lesbian contribution to the theater, sing along to some of the best known show tunes of the century. Emcee Randall Jobe. 9:00 PM to 2:00 AM. JR's Bar and Grill, 808 Pacific. Ph. (713) 521-2519.

## Angels in America

see Friday, June 16.

## They Called Him Michael

see Monday, June 19.

## FRIDAY, JUNE 23

### Absolutely Fabulous Pride Party

A party around the hysterical Britcom that has become a gay phenomenon throughout the US. Win Absolutely Fabulous t-shirts, books and more. Heaven, 810 Pacific. Ph. (713) 521-0107.

## Lesbian and Gay Voices

see Friday, June 16.

## Soul Survivor

Playbilled as a "heavenly, romantic comedy for the 90s". Written by Anthony Bruno, it is a farcical love triangle with a ghostly twist involving a gay man, his new boyfriend and his deceased lover who returns from heaven to check out the new relationship. \$12. 8:00 to 10:30 PM. Curtains Theater, 3722 Washington at Waugh Drive. Ph. (713) 522-2204.

## Destiny of Me

see Friday, June 16.

## Angels in America

## Beer Garden Blow-Out

Susan Masar and the Family Connection will be performing all afternoon for your pleasure. The Multi-talented, bilingual lead singer, Susan Masar has been performing for our community and the various AIDS related benefits for the last 10 years. Proceeds go to the Montrose Clinic. \$1. 3:00 to 8:00 PM. Chances Bar, 100 Westheimer. Ph. (713) 523-7217.

## Proud Out Loud!

We welcome members of our Texas Choral Family, including HeartSong, Capital City Men's Chorus, MCC-Houston and MCC-Austin for a gala concert. \$10 to \$25. 7:00 PM. Cullen theater, Wortham Center, 500 Preston. Ph. (713) 743-5904.

## HATCH Prom

The Houston Area Teenage Coalition of Homosexuals will host its third annual Prom event as a major fundraiser for the organization. \$15. 8:00 PM. Majestic Metro, 911 Preston. Ph. (713) 942-7002.

## Destiny of Me

see Friday, June 16.

## Angels in America

see Friday, June 16.

## SUNDAY, JUNE 25

**Pride Sunday at MCCR.** Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection (MCCR) and Cathedral of Hope (Dallas MCC) chorus will perform "God be With Us" at this service. 10:45 AM. 1919 Decatur, off Washington. Ph. (713) 861-9149.

## A Front Row Seat for Pride Parade

see Saturday, June 24.

## Houston Gay and Lesbian Pride Week Parade

One of the largest parades in the City of Houston and one of the largest in the Southwest. 2:00 PM. Lower Westheimer, from Woodhead to Taft. Ph. (713) 529-6979. Fax: (713) 529-1223.

## PrideFest '95

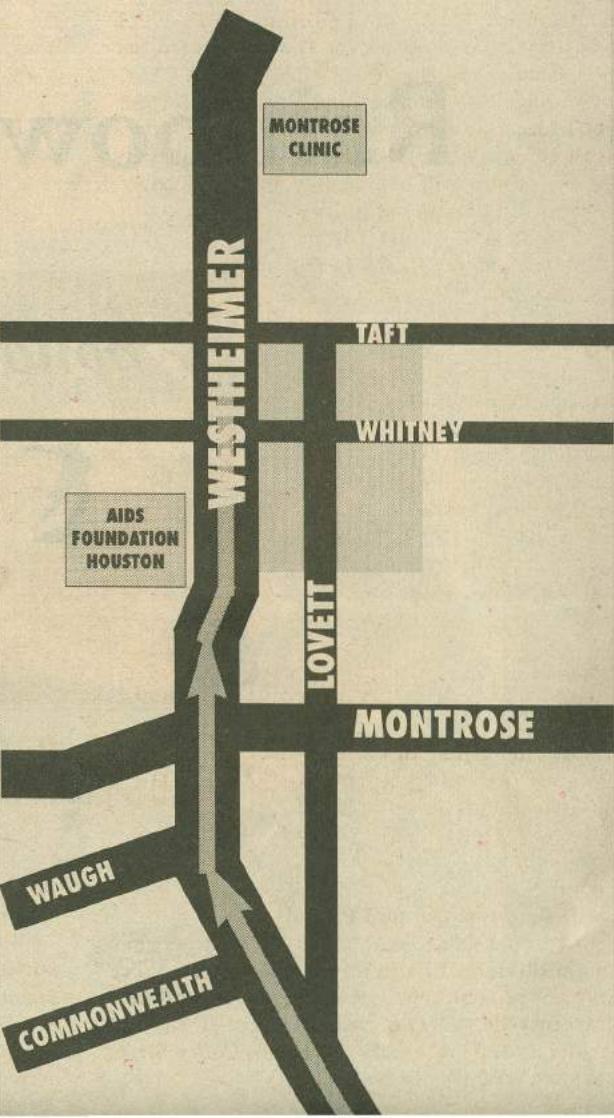
Follow the parade to PrideFest '95. Starts immediately after the parade. Concert with Fem 2 Fem and Dajae. Donations benefit AVES, Stephens House, Lesbian Health Initiative, 20-Something, MCCR, and Pride Committee of Houston. Afterwards, join the Pride Party 95 at Numbers. Free (Donations accepted). Lovett Street between Whitney and Taft.

## Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride Parade

**2 pm** East on Westheimer at Woodhead to Whitney  
**PrideFest '95**

**4-7pm** Immediately after the parade on Lovett between Whitney and Taft — Concerts by *Fem 2 Fem* and *Dajae*  
**Pride Party '95**

**5-11pm** At *Numbers*, 300 Westheimer, DJ John Sims —  
Donations go to AIDS charities



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**Destiny of Me**  
see Friday, June 16.

**Angels in America**  
see Friday, June 16.

**They Called Him Michael**  
see Monday, June 19.

**Houston's Hot VII: A Night in Black Leather**

National Leather Association: Houston's traditional kick-off party for Pride Weekend open to the public. leather/levi and fetish wear is encouraged. Throughout the evening a variety of "leather" scenes and demonstrations will be played out. Free. 10:00 PM to 2:00 AM. Venture-N, 2923 Main. Ph. (713) 527-9666.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 24**

**Volunteer Meeting for Pride Parade.** TBA. Ph. (713) 529-6979. Fax: (713) 529-1223.

**A Front Row Seat for Pride Parade**

Chances will be having an enclosed beer garden all weekend with bleachers. Seating will be available for a donation. \$5 donation to Montrose Clinic. 10:00 AM to 2:00 AM. Chances Bar, 1100 Westheimer. Ph. (713) 523-7217.

**A Leather Forum and Symposium**

A three hour educational symposium covering such topics as tattooing, piercing, bondage, flogging, creating scenes, uniforms and other fetishes, safe, sane, consensual play and sex, fantasy vs. reality. Tools of the trade will be on hand. Questions and answers time will be available with experts. \$1 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Ph. (713) 527-9666.

see Friday, June 16.

**Angels in America**  
see Friday, June 16.

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**PrideFest '95**

Follow the parade to PrideFest '95. Starts immediately after the parade. Concert with Fem 2 Fem and Dajae. Donations benefit AVES, Stephens House, Lesbian Health Initiative, 20-Something, MCCR, and Pride Committee of Houston. Afterwards, join the Pride Party 95 at Numbers. Free (Donations accepted). Lovett Street between Whitney and Taft. 4:00 to 7:00 PM. Ph. (713) 529-6979. Fax: (713) 529-1223.

**Pride Party '95**

After PrideFest, DJ Jon Sims will be spinning records from the late 70s and early 80s. Donations given to selected charities. Numbers, 300 Westheimer. 5:00 to 11:00 PM. Ph. (713) 529-6979. Fax: (713) 529-1223.

**Loading Dock Party '95**

In celebration of Pride '95, a post-parade party dance co-hosted by NLA: Houston and Pacific Street for Houston's Leather and Levi Community. Doors open immediately after parade. 710 Pacific Street. Ph. (713) 521-2519.

**Absolutely Fabulous After Parade Party**

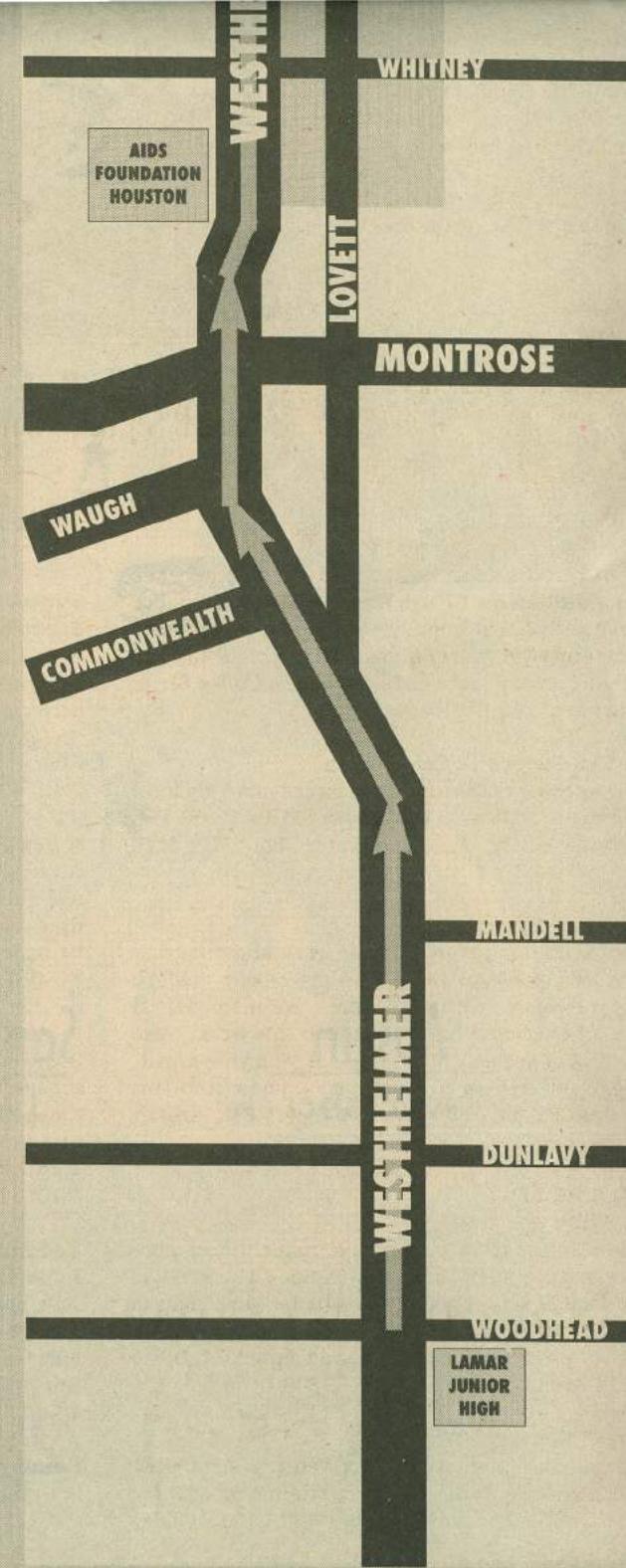
Join us after the parade for a party to introduce the season of gay Americas favorite Britcom. Houston's exclusive premiere of a new episode begins at 6:00 PM. 5:00 PM. JR's Bar and Grill, 808 Pacific. Ph. (713) 521-2519.

After the Parade Beer Bust

Escape from the heat with the Men of the Mine and ice cold Miller Lite Draft. 5:00 PM. Montrose Mining Company, 805 Pacific. Ph. (713) 529-7488.

**Angels in America**

see Friday, June 16.



# A&E

## Texas Triangle Arts & Entertainment

**By Billie Duncan**

### Exclusive to the TRIANGLE

HOUSTON—Not surprisingly, some of the top names in the arts in Houston are members of the lesbian and gay community. In talking with six of them, some very interesting profiles emerged, as well as some really varied opinions about coming out, being out and outing.

**Stephen Stein**

Conductor in Residence, Houston Symphony Orchestra

Charming, articulate and intensely talented, Stephen Stein is on the fast track to his own chapter in music history. Currently conductor in residence of the Houston Symphony—a position created just for him—Stein still guest conducts all over the U.S. and will be making his debut with the Israel Chamber Orchestra for a series of concerts in January.

Stein actively supports community organizations, including Body Positive and Pet Patrol. But, the project he feels best suits his talents is counseling young people "who are finding themselves very challenged in their lives and searching for a way to group up healthy and happy. And proud of themselves."

Being out in his profession is not as easy as one might think. "I would have been asked in the past: Do you have a wife? Are you married? And I think that is unfortunate," Stein said. "I cannot underestimate the value to our whole community of coming out.

"Because every time someone else takes that personal, positive and progressive step, they are accepting themselves as a gay or lesbian person."



Stephen Stein

action, including an intense stint with the now-defunct Queer Nation. "I was a part of the group of protesters that worked so hard at the Republican Convention. I was there when the horses charged. That was a galvanizing moment for many of us, I think, not only in Houston but across the nation."

However, he feels his day-to-day contacts and activities in the non-gay world have opened up lines of communication and acceptance. "I do think there was some homophobia on the (Alley Theatre) board (of directors) that could have been a problem, and maybe I wasn't even aware of it, but I do think that the board has grown like the rest of the city and much of the nation, and I think there is much less homophobia on that board."

While boldly trumpeting his own orientation, Wilson is respectful of those who do not wish their sexuality to be known. However, he asserted, "If an individual is engaged in behavior that is damaging to our community and is basically operating as a hypocrite, then I think that outing is more than justified and should be done. But I think that if someone is going about their life, and, for whatever reason, they have not come to terms with their orientation in more than a private way, I don't think that it's my business to go around putting a megaphone in their mouths."



As a student and as a young artist, she looked around and found no role models for her. She was surrounded by men in a predominantly non-gay (certainly non-lesbian) art world. Now an established artist who teaches at both the Glassel School and the University of

# Houston Art Gallery

Houston, she still acutely feels that isolation and the disparity between men and women.

Hecker loves teaching because she herself can now be a positive role model for other lesbians and women in general. She goes to openings with her love, Nichola, and is very open about who she is—which she feels presents a positive image that may help younger women who are going through now, what she experienced then.

Still, there is the ever-present inequity of economics that exists, even in the art world. As a woman, pricing for her work sometimes falls short of men who have much less exposure and many fewer accolades.

In addition, the art world is not free of homophobia.

track to his own chapter in music history. Currently conductor in residence of the Houston Symphony — a position created just for him — Stein still guest conducts all over the U.S. and

will be making his debut with the Israel Chamber Orchestra for a series of concerts in January.

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"Because every time someone else takes that personal, positive and progressive step, they are accepting themselves as a gay or lesbian person."

In Houston as well as around the country, Stein has seen a change in Pride celebrations over the years. "I think the gay community is certainly growing, not only locally, but nationally, from a sense of 'We hope someone of importance will come to talk to us,' to taking a much more assertive, assured and self-aware stance."

Stein said he wants "people who are predisposed to intolerance" to understand that "we are not anything other than your brothers, your sisters, your teachers, your doctors, your artists. We are simply hard-working, good members of this nation."

**Michael Wilson**  
**Director, Alley Theatre**

"Houston is where I came of age politically and socially and within the community itself," said Michael Wilson, director of *Angels in America* at the Alley Theatre.

Right now, he is bouncing between Houston, where he is still directing, and New York, where he is doing a workshop with the Classic Stage Company.

After coming to Houston to be the casting director for the Alley, Wilson plunged into community

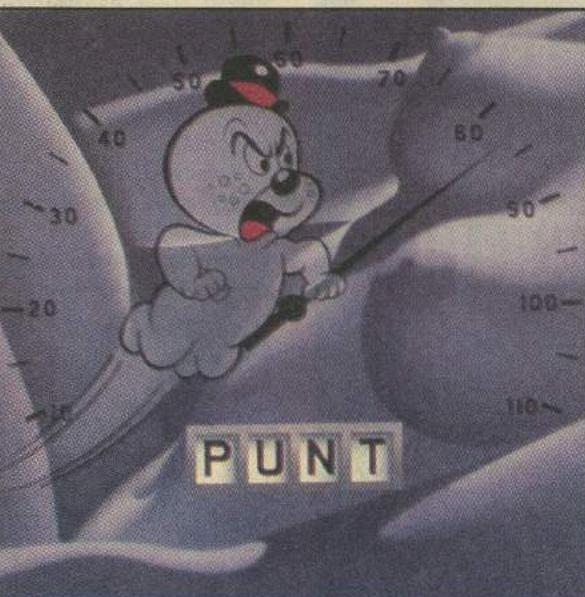
*Michael Wilson*  
photo: J. Caldwell



Stephen Stein

ever aware of it, but I do think that the board has grown like the rest of the city and much of the nation, and I think there is much less homophobia on that board."

While boldly trumpeting his own orientation, Wilson is respectful of those who do not wish their sexuality to be known. However, he asserted, "If an individual is engaged in behavior that is damaging to our community and is basically operating as a hypocrite, then I think that outing is more than justified and should be done. But I think that if someone is going about their life, and, for whatever reason, they have not come to terms with their orientation in more than a private way, I don't think that it's my business to go around putting a megaphone in their mouths."



Rachel Hecker: Pleasure & Commerce

**Rachel Hecker**  
**Artist**

Rachel Hecker's current exhibition at the Contemporary Arts Museum is what she calls "autobiographical." Large canvases with massive, closely-cropped female bodies are juxtaposed with small cartoonish figures. In her paintings, there is an implied utopia in which women cannot be overpowered by men.

In the real world, that has not been the case for Hecker.

# ART Gallery

Houston, she still acutely feels that isolation and the disparity between men and women.

Hecker loves teaching because she herself can now be a positive role model for other lesbians and women in general. She goes to openings with her love, Nichola, and is very open about who she is—which she feels presents a positive image that may help younger women who are going through now, what she experienced then.

Still, there is the ever-present inequity of economics that exists, even in the art world. As a woman, pricing for her work sometimes falls short of men who have much less exposure and many fewer accolades.

In addition, the art world is not free of homophobia either. "I find really homophobic responses in the art world, as well as what I would call the corporate or straight world," Hecker said. "However," she added, "I'm always surprised, actually, at how forgiving people can be if you're just forthright."

"I think part of it is that being queer and not being out is the worst-kept secret in the world. Everybody knows but the person keeping the secret. I think that goes a long way to shaming the rest of us."

**Jim Ireland**

**Producing Director, Houston Grand Opera**

Dull moments are few and far between for Jim Ireland, producing director of Houston Grand Opera. His job is a cross between juggler, psychologist, technician and artistic entrepreneur. He says his work entails "everything from costumes to artists' egos, to bad lighting, to a sword being too long for a short-armed soprano to get out of the scabbard."

Ireland has a quick mind, a sharp sense of humor and a wonderfully wicked laugh. Much of his humor is directed at himself, such as when he was asked if being openly gay had hindered him in the arts. He replied without hesitation, "You know, it probably has, but I'm such a mean son-of-a-bitch, no one has had the



continued on page 20

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## Art faces of Houston

continued from page 19

courage to say it to my face." Then he dissolved in laughter.

He contributes to various community organizations but his work schedule is prohibitive. His priority is his very happy, 10-year relationship with his lover.

His attitudes are tempered by the years he has lived. "I'm from the older generation, where when you say 'coming out,' it still strikes a little bit of wet-armedness in me because it speaks of confrontation."

Ireland said he has never really been "in." "I don't know why people are in, but then, I've never worked in a bank. I don't understand those pressures. In the arts, we are much luckier than people who may be working in a more cloistered environment."

He explained that homophobia and racism are just two aspects of the same attitude, an attitude he abhors. "If you're really intelligent, if you really can sing, if you're the best technical director, if you're the best tenor, the best costumer, if you're the best wig and make-up artist, it doesn't make any difference what or who you are as long as you're pleasant and you do your work well."

**George T.M. Shackelford**

**Curator, Museum of Fine Arts**

As curator of European painting and sculpture for the Museum of Fine Arts, George Shackelford has found his niche. He has grown from a child who loved to paint and draw to a respected curator who loves working with art.

"I get enormous thrills from seeing someone understand the work of art more fully by virtue of seeing it in the context in which I am able to put it for them," Shackelford said, "whether that's a lecture or a commission or just a tour of an installation."

He is the chair of DIFFA, which he quickly points out is "an AIDS charity, not a gay charity."

In his years in the visual arts, Shackelford said he never has encountered any hindrance because of his sexual orientation. "I think that there is not in the world of the visual and performing arts nearly the kind of prejudice against gay people—gay and lesbian people—that there is in the world of business or law or banking," he said.

Shackelford said that coming out "gave me a sense of personal dignity and of strength that I lacked when I felt obliged to hide or not discuss my sexuality. I think, for the community, and particularly for people who are torn about their sexuality, who are distressed about it, that the example of people who are out and happy is incredibly important."

On the other hand, he said, "Public figures who are quiet and do not work against gay men and women have a right to their privacy. They have a right to decide their own coming out."

However, he added, "I believe a political figure who is gay, but votes with the anti-gay lobby, is outable. They're fair game because of that humanism."



George Shackelford photo: Phyllis Hand

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# SATURDAY, JULY 8

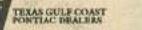
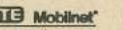
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**Joe Watts**

Founder and Artistic Director, Group Theatre



Joe Watts

No story about lesbians and gays in the arts in Houston would be complete without Joe Watts, who is celebrating his 13th consecutive year of helping to provide gay theatre to Houston during Pride Week.

Starting with the last two Pride productions of the late John David Etheridge's Diversity Theatre, Watts continues the tradition with his own Group Theatre. This year, he is presenting Anthony Bruno's *Soul Survivor* at Curtains Theater every Friday and Saturday through July 1, at 8 p.m. Official Gay & Lesbian Pride Week performances are June 23 at 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.

Watts' effort is grass-roots, and he has a full-time job far from the arts as business manager of a radio station.

Once Watts was very open about his sexual orientation, but that changed dramatically in 1988, when the Houston Post's theater critic, William Allbright, published a major article naming Watts "king of gay theater in Houston." At the end of the story was a mention of the radio station where Watts then worked.

One month later, he was terminated from that job.

"I had been there for 10 years, and I was just out to everybody," he said. "I was all over the place, and I was not reluctant to put my business on the street."

"Now, I think the best way to handle things is that you don't hide, but you don't make it an issue."

Watts is adamantly opposed to outing people, even if they seem to work against the community. "I don't really think that it has any value in the long run, because when an organization or individual tries to testify to something, what is the necessary proof that this man is a homosexual? Has he slept with him? Has he heard rumors that he goes to certain clubs? You can always turn around and rebut something like that." ▶



George Shackelford photo: Phyllis Hand

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## ROBERTS' RULES

SHELLY ROBERTS



Janis Ian was on the Howard Stern show, and in the first five seconds, he asked her how old she was when she first acted on her lesbianism.

What? Janis? One of us? Oh, gaydar, where were you when I really needed you?

"Fifteen and a half," she replied in the kind of months-on-end accounting ascribed to the impatiently young learning to tally their lifetime.

"Ooooh." I thought I inwardly groaned. Only, Judi, lying beside me, asked, "What's wrong?"

"Oh, nothing. I used to know her." And drifted into a twenty year old Chicago memory. Way back when I still wanted to throw up at the lesbian scenes in paperback books. I had been married to Whatsisname for about as long as we were going to last, and had taken up a friendship with a women at work who fulfilled all the blond, blue-eyed Cinderella fantasies

### HIDDEN SOCIETY'S CHILD

I was never going to be. As friends, you understand. Best friends. The kind who invent traumas weekly for excuses to hug.

I was still working my way through my frustrated housewife phase when Paula said, "You have to hear this music," and played Janis Ian's interracial insight, "Society's Child." It had turned Ian from schoolyard outcast into famous folksinger at fourteen. She, who got to hang with Hendrix, was an icon I had missed, and I was taken. With the voice, with the lyricism of the writing, with the sentiment and sensitivity and the concern about the boundary crossing of the song.

It was significant months later, with Whatsisname packed and gone, and a job which said, "Vacation: Use it or lose it." The kind of chill December ultimatum that caught me short on cash and travel inspiration. I'd paid for the divorce, and was still paying for child-care, and couldn't cover costs beyond the wilds of Gary, Indiana, an inconceivable opportunity for midwest adventure travel. So I did what any poor Chicago soul in my circumstances would do...I looked in the Sunday Sun-Times.

And lo. And behold. Janis Ian was at a local club for the week. For a few bucks to cover the babysitter, and the price of a subway to, and an indulgent taxi from, I could have my own Janis Ian festival.

She was splendid. I was entranced. For four nights I showed up and sipped scotch, and drank the music and the lovely lady in.

On the fifth night, the record company advance man acknowledged my existence with free albums and free drinks. Nothing lascivious, I was vaguely disappointed to discover, (what did I know then?) just good business for an obvious fan. I still have the album, a little cat scratched along the upper edge, but with the magic marker inscription still intact: To me. From Her.

On the fifth night we talked a little. Between sets. The sort of star to fan non-conversation that makes your adams apple sit doubled inside your throat. But, I must have said something, because the sixth night, the last night, she said, "So, uh, you wanna come with us 'n' get something to eat? Help us pack?"

"Did I? Of course! It was way into the little hand numbers by the end of the last set. We

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"Did I? Of course! It was way into the little hand numbers by the end of the last set. We rode up the Northside, Janis, me, the three in the band, in a Sherman tank Checker Cab that defines the streets of Chicago. I sat backward on the fold-down, while they talked of the next gig. And I tried to figure out what I was doing there, or was supposed to do. Help her pack, I guessed. Going home with a guy from a club, I'd have known. But this? It was very undefined.

We headed to the hotel, where I handed her clothes from a drawer or a pile on the floor, and listened to memorable one-way conversation I can't reconstruct. Just the float-through image of being there, innocently, strangely, strongly drawn in a magnetism that had no vocabulary then, in a room where the tension came from nowhere to go with it. So I went home, caught in the first few rays over the corner of the Lake.

I never did know what I had been doing there. Just a fan thing, I always thought. I must nearly have worn the grooves in that signed album smooth over the next decade. I casually sought sightings, and cheered grammy successes, marveled at her anthem to my adolescence, "At Seventeen," which she lifted wholecloth from my highschool yearbook.

We've traveled some roads since then, Janis and I. I went through lesbian bootcamp, away the next year in Europe with Sandy, interned magnificently with Roxann, and studied self-destruction with Professors Barbara and Jennifer on my way to Judi. A most enlightening trip. I don't know what Janis did in the intervening. Just, from what I could tell on the Howard Stern show last night, got cooler. Her voice got sweeter. Her memory more special, now that I understood, finally, what I had been doing in a Chicago hotel room twenty-three years ago handing Janis spare socks and packs of guitar strings.

"Did she come on to you?" Judi asked as I explained the encounter, briefly.

"I don't think so. I don't know. Who could have known?" I answer, my eyes reconstructing a smokey club two decades ahead of the wrecking ball, just beyond the image of Howard Stern's awed interrogation, and way into my thousand yard stare.

Who could have known? Oh, Janis. I'm too old to be a groupie. But I'll always be a fan. Or something more.

If I had only known then what I just found out now. ▼

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## QUEER THOUGHTS

LARRY LINGLE

Watching the Tony Awards honoring the best of Broadway is rapidly becoming comparable to undergoing a homosexual experience. The "best play" awards for the last three years have centered on gay themes, and a corresponding number of statues have gone for acting in these same plays.

And, in a moment perhaps missed by some a couple of weeks ago, the Tony for best actress went to Cherry Jones for "The Heiress." Jones is that rarity even for Broadway, the openly lesbian actress. The woman she kissed upon hearing her name, and whom she later thanked, is her lover.

While Broadway, or even off-Broadway, has only recently begun to embrace the gay identity, gay writers and performers have long trodden the boards. Certainly, Tennessee Williams' homosexuality contributed to his play writing. And understandably, his gay friends viewed this favorably, just as some heterosexual critics attempted to weigh it against his art.

Just as Williams burst upon the New York stage in the mid-1940s, so too did Edward Albee more than a decade later. Albee, who would the first to protest any label, including that of a "gay playwright," has often been viewed as denying his gayness, usually as a consequence of the furor arising from "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?," in which certain reviewers (obviously those heterosexual ones feeling their testosterone) chose to interpret the two heterosexual couples as four homosexuals in disguise — or at least two in drag.

Albee vehemently denied that such was the case, and as he remarked in an interview with William Flanagan, the composer — more about him later — had he wanted to write about four homosexuals, he would have. In fact, from Albee's beginning, with "The Zoo Story," he has never shied from gay characters, and embracing his most recent success, "Three Tall Women," which is clearly autobiographical.

Robert Heide, a failed playwright and contemporary of Albee's, along with John Gilman recently authored a guide to Greenwich Village, which also includes Heide's reminiscences of the '50s in the village. And Heide recalls long nights of drinking with Albee and William Flanagan, who were then in the midst of a nine-year relationship. As Heide remembers it, Albee and Flanagan spent considerable time fighting, some of which "turned up verbatim" in "Virginia Woolf."

Albee's heavy drinking is cited by others, apparently attempting to draw some parallel with Tennessee Williams. But the similarities end there. Williams equally indulged in drugs and was notoriously difficult with the directors of his many plays. Albee, while he may have indulged in the '50s and in the early years of success, soon settled into a writer's routine. And, also, Albee early on took charge of his plays and his life. It was because he recognized the need to lead that he was able to profit so well, financially, from "Virginia Woolf."

When a serious biography is written on Albee, William Flanagan will, of necessity, received his own chapter. It was Flanagan who sent Albee's first serious play, "The Zoo Story," to David Diamond, a fellow composer who also was gay, who in turn, passed it on to a German actor, which resulted in its first production. Flanagan unfortunately died of an apparent suicide in 1969 when only 46 years old, but his first-hand account of this relationship with Albee appears in John Gruen's "The Party's Over Now," which was published in

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**Janis Ian**



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And for those, like myself, given to the ironies of life, I would suggest Flanagan's interview with Albee in "The Paris Review," No. 10, in 1966.

Many of the critics who insinuated stories about "Virginia Woolf" were the same ones who decided that by the latter 1960s, he was but a shadow of his best work. Thomas B. Morgan, writing in "Life" magazine in 1967, pictured Albee as a vain-glorious replica of a playwright. Devoting much of his profile to studiously following Albee on walk along the upper West Side of New York, obsessed with art and trivia.

I must assume by the standards of some critics a playwright must save his best work for last — regrettably this would only mean he or she would be ignored until the end. In Albee's case, he has produced a body of work, serious work, rarely matched. And his "Three Tall Women" — which made it to the Alley this season after that theater missed the opportunity to premiere it — is every bit the success of his earlier work.

From the beginning, using monies earned from "Virginia Woolf," Albee has put back into the theater in far greater measure than his contemporaries, and certainly his critics. He has always encouraged young playwrights, and one of his purposes in serving as a guest professor at the University of Houston has been to train new playwrights. One such success of Albee's training recently saw his play staged locally — and this "young" playwright's previous claim to literary fame was being a contemporary with Allen Ginsberg at Columbia University.

As a friend of ours who has worked in and around the New York theater for over half a century exclaimed to our question of gays in the theater, "They're everywhere and everyone," and they know each other. It's just the audience that's in the dark.

Now we're out of the Broadway closet. Like a succession of playwrights who happened to be gay — Williams, Albee, William Inge, Thornton Wilder — can gay Broadway keep it up? There seems to be a pretty hearty crop of "gay playwrights" willing to carry on, with the likes of Lanford Wilson, Terrance McNally, Tony Kushner. Gays have historically gathered to save communities in our largest cities!

Just maybe gays will save that most endangered of local species, Broadway, the Great White Way, coming to a regional theater near you as the "Great Gay Way." ▼

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## Tom's Story

continued from page 13

that I've been back on the hormones, growing hair. A grand total of about three years. You figure guys hit puberty about 13, so I'm only about 16 hormonally. Definitely not the normal trip through the process. And of course, I'm queer, and that alone makes me not normal. There are gay F to M's, but not many. We seem to be the same percentage as the general population; 10 percent is not a lot. Nobody really knew about F to Ms until the mid-70s, when I read my sister's Cosmo. They had this article about F to Ms, and I said, "Oh, that's what I am." I finally figured out what was wrong with me, and then it made me really hopeful because there was surgery.

My sister was a real cheerleader type, really conscious of her femininity and always wanting to be a girl. She was always getting on me for being too butch. I'd spend all my money on model airplanes and things like that. This really distressed her no end. She walked in on me reading the Cosmo, and was so excited. She just couldn't believe that I was reading one of her Cosmo's. I didn't tell her, "Yeah, I'm reading about how to turn myself into a guy." I've been thinking about doing the gynoplasty. That's where they grow the parts as big as they can with hormones and craft you some testicles out of silicone. It would be nice to look more normal. They kind of overdose you on hormones to grow you out. It's not nearly as expensive as phalloplasty, where they create you a phallus. With gynoplasty, they use the "gyno" parts to create a little penis.

Lately, it's the queer stuff I've been dealing with, and it's just genuine fear. Kind of, "Oh, my God, maybe I'm going to turn into a girl" or something. At this late date, that would be a shock to the system. But I finally decided, no, no matter what feminine traits I pick up, people just read me as queer.

Being queer, I spazzed bad about that. Maybe they're going to revoke my birth certificate because I'm a girl after all. But then I thought, I'm not going to appeal to any heterosexual men. They certainly weren't beating a path to my door in high school; they aren't going to now. When you first start, you're real conscious. Oh, I can't wear that; a guy wouldn't wear shoes like that. You just get more comfortable with yourself over the years. You get less and less conscious, that's what I've noticed.

Most people just aren't conscious of their gender; they just are not. People don't think, "If I walk down the street like this, are they going to think I'm a girl." People just don't do that. I've been wondering what the difference is between me and really butch women. I think, ultimately, is that maybe they're conscious of their maleness, their masculine traits. I don't know.

I have met women who feel like men to me. I have met other guys like me. Some of them do seem to hide out in the lesbian community — well, that's the usual place to find people unless you're queer and not attracted to women.

It never occurred to me, because I didn't get along with the dykes in school. I don't know what it was, maybe because everyone read me as male. That was the 70s, a genderless era. Everyone pretty much dressed the same. It was just that I was a

*...the difference  
between me and  
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women is that  
maybe they're  
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maleness... I  
don't know.*

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It never occurred to me, because I didn't get along with the dykes in school. I don't know what it was, maybe because everyone read me as male. That was the 70s, a genderless era. Everyone pretty much dressed the same. It was long hair, bellbottoms, and T-shirts. And yet, you could tell the girls from the boys pretty easily. But that didn't seem to phase anyone with me. Even flat-chested girls still look like girls.

But with me, it was weird. I think it's what you're projecting then. There are fewer visual cues; it's more what you're projecting, your personality. I was never conscious of being male; I just was. It's been 16 years since I made the transition; a long time, and I never looked back; never had any doubts. I didn't confuse my sexuality with my gender. (My gender) was never (confused). That was the only thing in my life that I've been real sure about. ▼

maleness... I  
don't know.

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**FULL- & PART-TIME HELP WANTED!**

Telephone answering service. Must type 25 WPM and have good communication skills. Apply in person only! ProComm of Austin, 1011 San Jacinto, Suite 300.

Austin Organizations Project Transitions is looking for enthusiastic volunteers to work in its thrift store, Top Drawer. Proceeds benefit AIDS residential hospice and supportive living programs. Next training session: 7-8:30pm, Tuesday, June 20, 4902 Burnet Rd. Info: Laura VanderWall, 512/454-8646.

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**To Do****AUSTIN**

JANIS IAN - Poor David's, June 21.

LESBIAN & GAY PRIDE SUNDAY with Fort Worth Men's Chorus, 9 a.m. & 11 a.m. Sunday, June 25, at Cathedral of Hope

MAPLE AVENUE CARNIVAL, 2 p.m.-7 p.m., Sunday, June 25, at Brick Bar and Buddies II parking lot

WOMEN'S CHORUS OF DALLAS CONCERT, 8 p.m., Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center

**HOUSTON**

For LESBIAN/GAY PRIDE events, see special pull-out section.

BEYOND DESIRE, Diverse Works' new gay and lesbian performance series, starring authors Leslie Feinberg and Minnie Bruce Pratt. Friday June 16, 7:30 pm, Hamman Hall, Rice University. \$7-\$12. 228-0914.

THREE COLORS TRILOGY - BLUE, WHITE AND RED, three award winning films by Krystol Kieslowski. June 16-18, Rice Media Center. \$4.50. 527-4853.

Larry Kramer's THE DESTINY OF ME continues through June 18, Theater LaB, 1706 Alamo. 868-7516.

PEER GYNT continues at Houston Ballet through June 18. June 16 is Mark Arvin's final performance with the ballet company. Brown Theater, Wortham Center. \$5 to \$70. 227-ARTS.

EARTHA KITT, June 23, Houston Grand Opera, Brown Theatre, Wortham Center. 7:30 pm. \$20. 227-ARTS.

JANIS IAN - June 20, Rockefeller's, 3620 Washington. 869-8427.

HOUSTON SYMPHONY CONCERT SERIES - June 17, Horacio Gutierrez Plays Rachmaninoff; June 29, Texas Music Festival. Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion. For complete schedule call 363-3300.

Playwright TONY KUSHNER, book signing June 17, 4 to 7 pm, Border Books, 9633 Westheimer.

CONCERT OF THE STARS, 6-11 pm, June 18, Astroarena. Ticketmaster.

SPECIAL PRIDE WEEK SERVICE at the Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection June 18, with Rev. Phillip Matthews.

Women's martial arts, all ages, all abilities, self-defense, self-confidence, community, spiritual & physical development. 203 E. Riverside. 416-9735.

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STRIP POKER: The Story of Jesse and Damian, stage reading by

Houston author Gregg Rodriguez. June 17, Capitol City Playhouse, 3 pm. Donations benefit Christopher House, HIV Wellness Center and the AIDS Foundation Houston Writer's Workshop. Reception follows at Charles, 1301 Lavaca. (713) 868-0008.

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JANIS IAN June 22, Austin Music Hall. 473-7752.

RAY ANDERSON, Esther's Follies, June 15-17; 22-24; 29 to July 1. \$12 to \$14. 320-0553.

KEVIN KATMOKA, Velveeta Room, June 16 and 17. 469-9116.

RUTH HUBER in concert, 8 pm, June 16, Metropolitan Community Church, 425 Woodward. 478-2045. \$5.

SUSAN COVELL, LMSW-ACP, with RUTH HUBER, a musical workshop, "Consciously Creating Family." Metropolitan Community Church. 2pm, Saturday June 17. \$20 registration fee. 459-9816.

HOUSTON SYMPHONY CONCERT SERIES - June 17, Horacio Gutierrez Plays Rachmaninoff; June 29, Texas Music Festival. Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion. For complete schedule call 363-3300.

Playwright TONY KUSHNER, book signing June 17, 4 to 7 pm, Border Books, 9633 Westheimer.

## DALLAS

RAZZLE DAZZLE DALLAS Street Party, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., Saturday, June 17, on Cedar Springs

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION, 9 a.m. & 11 a.m., Sunday, June 18, at Cathedral of Hope; 6:30 p.m. at Lee Park-Arlington Hall

DINNER WITH GREG LOUGANIS, benefitting AIDS Resource Center, DIFFA, Cathedral of Hope-MCC, 5:30 pm, June 22. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. Call 214-521-3826 for reservations.

ANNIE WARBUCKS, starring Gavin MacLeod, June 20 through July 2. Casa Manana Theatre. 332-CASA.

MEAL TO REMEMBER benefitting AIDS through June. 10% off at participating restaurants. Call 512-5124,x 999.

PRIDE SOIREE, 4-7 p.m. Sunday, June 18, at Almos Park Party House

PRIDE DANCE, 9 p.m., Saturday, June 24, at Blanco Ballroom

PRIDE CONCERT with Alamo City Men's Chorale, 8 p.m., Sunday, June 25, at San Antonio Little Theater

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## FEM2FEM

Featuring the Smash hits "Where Did Love Go," "Switch," and "Obsession"



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Vol. 3 ▼ No.

## SPECT

By Casey Hami  
Triangle Staff

HOUSTON—A business and art expo Sunday to raise local charities and

Alan Bourgeois, '95, said the conference than anything held anywhere in t

"There have been business expos, and the entertainers and "Ninety percent across the country lesbian community. We need another the community tog

Bourgeois' idea ness and art expo schedule of speakers day celebration of tainers, plus a 6-h the mixture.

"Our community through its entertainers "Ninety percent of gay and lesbian; the gay-friendly.

"We have one Ch

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## FEM2 FEM

Featuring the Smash hits "Where Did Love Go," "Switch," and "Obsession"



## 8 & DAJAE

Singing Dance Hits "Brighter Days," "Is It All Over My Face," and "U Got Me Up"

"Diva of The Year"--Underground News



### The Celebration Continues: PRIDE PARTY 95

Sponsored by Pride Committee of Houston. \$5 Cover Benefitting Local AIDS/Community Organizations

at NUMBERS, 300 Westheimer. Doors open at 5 pm.

local charities and Alan Bourgeois, '95, said the conference than anywhere in the country.

"There have been business expos, and the entertainers and 'Ninety percent across the country lesbian community. We need another the community together."

Bourgeois' idea ness and art expo schedule of speak day celebration of tainers, plus a 6-1 the mixture.

"Our community through its entertainers. 'Ninety percent of the gay and lesbian: they are gay-friendly.

"We have one CD releasing another. 'These are excellent and deserve a following."

Spectrum '95 Saturday evening sponsors and entertainment Park Gallery, 711 for the party is \$10.

Sunday's activities in the morning, when the expo open their doors, there will be entertainment stages in the expo. Gay Texas contest, variety of entertainers.

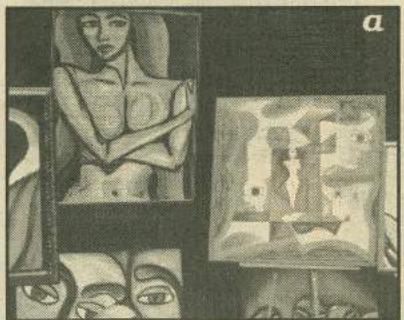
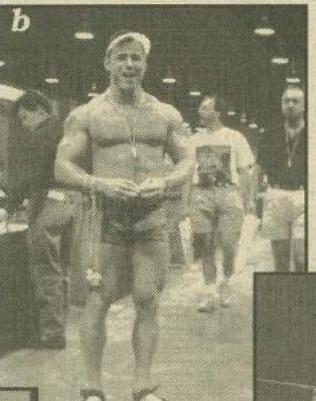
### Time magazine

**TRIANGLE Staff**  
In an article this writer Larry Thompson evidence in support of the so-called "gay gene."

Thompson's statements carried out of fruit flies, among

Check out our

# Spectrum Expo attendance exceeds expectations

**a****b****c****d****By Billie Duncan****Special to the TRIANGLE**

Despite sluggish pre-event sales for Spectrum '95's all-day expo of business, arts and entertainment at Houston's AstroArena, participation exceeded expectations. "I was flabbergasted at the attendance," said a tired, but happy Alan Bourgeois, event originator the day after. "People flew in from other cities just to be there." Bourgeois' vision expanded the idea of Town Meeting Two into a multi-faceted showcase for the community. With over 200 exhibitors, a great slate of entertainment and a well-thought-out program of speakers, Spectrum '95 provided a solid base for a continuing yearly event. The evening's concert was not as well-attended as the expo, but was enthusiastically appreciated. Tapes of the concert will go on sale next week. Organization and fund raising for Spectrum '96 will begin next month. ▼

**a** Works in Acrylic by Liz Zambrano at Art Expo**b** Scott Edwards of Muscles in Action working for Advanced Damron Vacations**c** Ray Hill, longtime gay activist, presents slate at Town Meeting 2**d** Celeste Martinez, Miss Gay Texas at the Mr. Gay Texas Contest**e** Organizer Alan Bourgeois takes a smile break midstream.**f** Marion Coleman, Spectrum Sponsor**g** Kermit Eisenhut, artist and organizer of Art Expo**h** Girls With Guitars perform during the day-long entertainment**i** Works in Oil by Houston Artist Alma Chavarria**e****f****g****h****i**

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 Out. 6:00 PM to  
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 for the 90s". W  
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 his deceased lov  
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 8:00 to 10:30 PM  
 Washington at V  
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 7:00 PM or 8:00  
 1706 Alamo, jus  
 (713) 868-7516.

**Angels in Amer**  
 Tony Kushner's  
 themes. Tony a  
 ning play direct  
 Tuesdays throu  
 Alley Theatre's A  
 228-8421.

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