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May 30, 2003

Vol. XI • Issue 34



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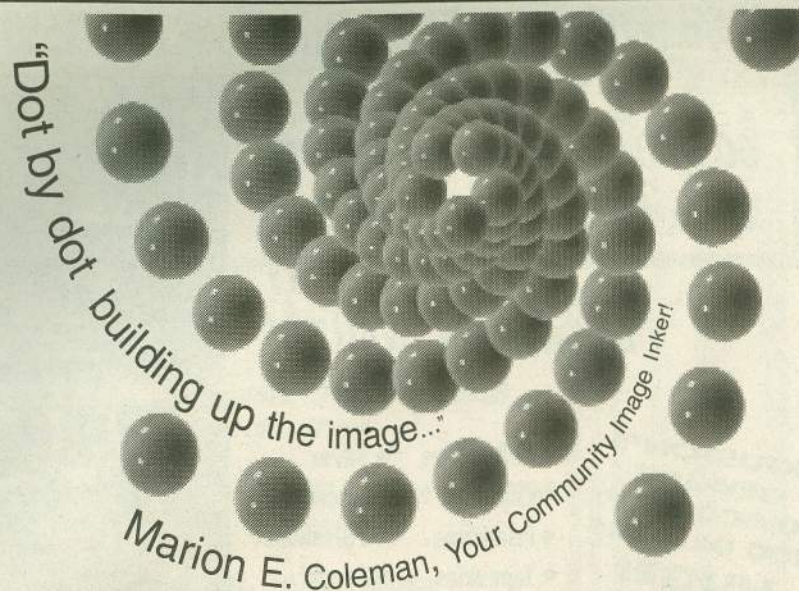
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Ellen DeGeneres



Profiles
in
Pride



House of Coleman
Fine Printing & Graphics

901 WEST ALABAMA • HOUSTON, TX 77006
713.523.2521 • FAX 713.524.2643 • hocprint@aol.com

News • Dining • Showtime Listings
Interactive Personals

www.txtriangle.com

*Please join us for an evening of celebration in support of
individuals and families living with HIV / AIDS*



Houston Pride 2003

The Silver Celebration

If this is only the silver celebration, just imagine when we reach gold....

Appropriately, Houston's GLBT community will both commemorate Stonewall and celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of its Pride celebration over the course of twenty-five event-packed days. Beginning on Thursday, June 5, and culminating on Sunday, June 29, Houston Pride—The Silver Celebration offers nearly a monthful of prideful events ranging in focus from historical to hysterical, pop to political, sexy to spiritual, and just down right gay!

Houston invites GLBT Texans and their friends to participate in any or all of the these highly diverse events all of which aptly reflect our community's high diversity.

As Pride Committee of Houston's Official Media Sponsor for the fifth consecutive year, *The Texas Triangle* proudly urges our readers to join in the celebration. After all, we're only 25 once!

Houston

Thursday, June 5

7:30 p.m.

Texas Triangle's 'P
in Pride' Film Screening
The Real Ellen Story
The Real Ellen Story

follows the inner workings
sitcom industry as it pr
Ellen's controversial com
"Puppy Episode." TV s
life becomes national h
reality for the series star a
endoes change to rumor
turn to fact. Both Ellens c
ally come out to a mix
cheers and jeers. Histor
entertaining reel/real me
are captured in this fast-
informative docum
Footage of Ellen, Anne
and various prominent
(Oprah, Bill Clinton,
Dern, and Melissa Etheri
name a few) complete a fa
ing picture of coming c
time '90s style.

Theatre New West
1415 California
Houston, TX 77006
Cost: Free
Info: The Pride Com
PO Box 66071
Houston, TX 77266-0



News • Dining • Showtime Listings
Interactive Personals
www.txtriangle.com

*Please join us for an evening of celebration in support of
individuals and families living with HIV / AIDS*

★ TEXAS SWING 03

Friday, June 6

8 pm—midnight

Dance Lessons (7-8 pm)

New! Boot Contest!

Saengerrunde Hall

- Music by Alvin Crow
- BBQ
- Silent Auction

Cash Bar for Beer, Wine & Liquor Setups

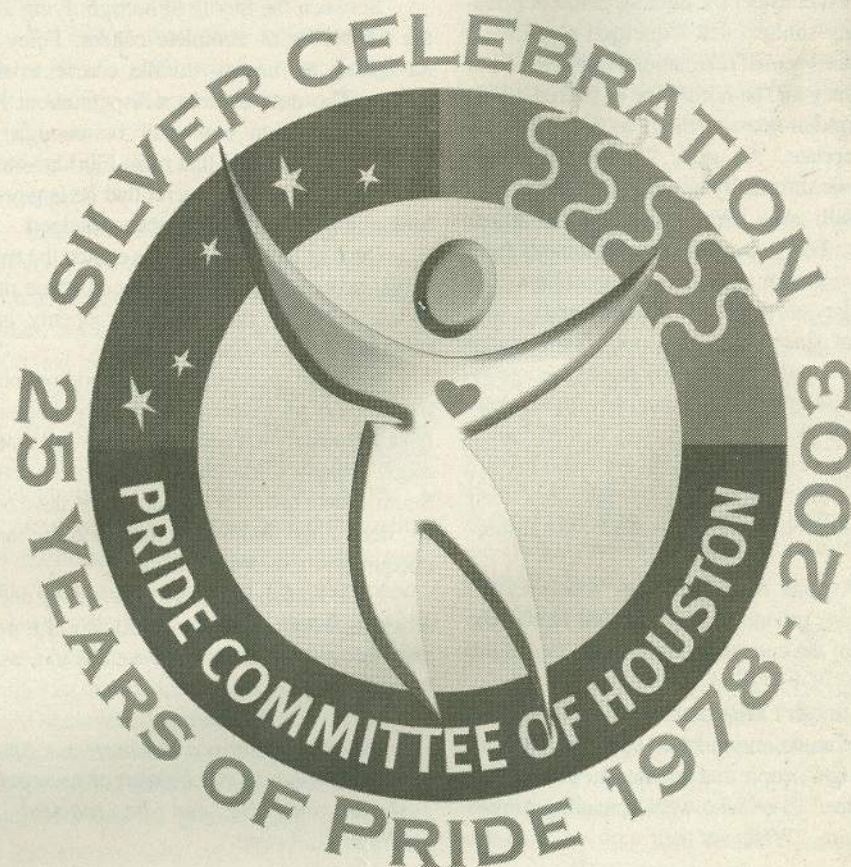


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name a few) complete a fas
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time '90s style.

Theatre New West

1415 California
Houston, TX 77006
Cost: Free
Info: The Pride Comm
PO Box 66071
Houston, TX 77266-6



*The Lady Chablis, from A
Garden of Good & Evil*

Houston Pride Events

Thursday, June 5

7:30 p.m.

Texas Triangle's 'Profiles in Pride' Film Screening

The Real Ellen Story

The Real Ellen Story follows the inner workings of the sitcom industry as it produces Ellen's controversial coming out "Puppy Episode." TV sit-com life becomes national headline reality for the series star as innuendoes change to rumors then turn to fact. Both Ellens eventually come out to a mixture of cheers and jeers. Historic and entertaining reel/real moments are captured in this fast-paced, informative documentary. Footage of Ellen, Anne Heche, and various prominent figures (Oprah, Bill Clinton, Laura Dern, and Melissa Etheridge, to name a few) complete a fascinating picture of coming out big time '90s style.

Theatre New West

1415 California

Houston, TX 77006

Cost: Free

Info: The Pride Committee of Houston

PO Box 66071

Houston, TX 77266-6071



Texas Triangle 'Profiles in Pride' presents The Real Ellen Story with Ellen DeGeneres



Ph. 713-529-6979

Fax 713-529-6929

info@pridehouston.org

www.pridehouston.org

Friday, June 6

7-10 pm

Kick Off Party

Join the Pride Committee of

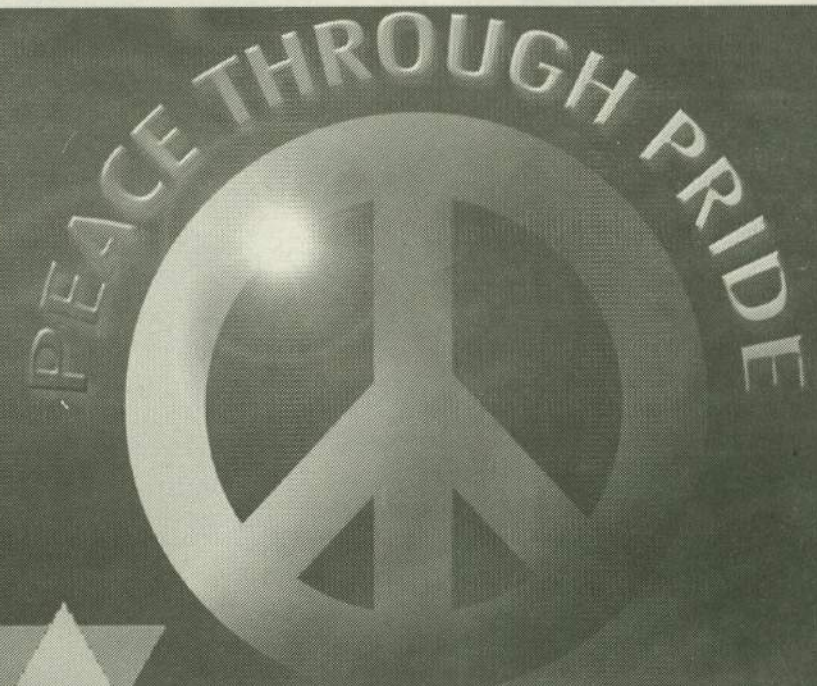
Prudential Financial

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instinct
MAGAZINE

TEXAS
Triangle



2nd Annual
AGLCC PRIDE PARADE

Saturday, June 7, 2003 • 8 PM
Downtown

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Texas Triangle
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Theatre New West

1415 California
Houston, TX 77006

Cost: Free

Info: The Pride Committee of Houston

PO Box 66071

Houston, TX 77266-6071

*Texas Triangle 'Profiles in Pride' presents The
Real Ellen Story with Ellen DeGeneres*



*The Lady Chablis, from Midnight in the
Garden of Good & Evil*

Ph. 713-529-6979

Fax 713-529-6929

info@pridehouston.org

www.pridehouston.org

Friday, June 6

7-10 pm

Kick Off Party

Join the Pride Committee of
Houston to honor the last 25 years of
Pride Grand Marshals. City officials,
community leaders and The Lady
Chablis of Savannah, Georgia will be
in attendance.

Heritage Hall, JPMorgan Chase Building

707 Travis

Houston, TX 77002

Cost: Free (donations benefiting
the Pride Committee of Houston
accepted)

Complimentary Valet at 811 Rusk

Info: The Pride Committee of
Houston

PO Box 66071

Houston, TX 77266-6071


Ph. 713-529-6979

Fax 713-529-6929

info@pridehouston.org

www.pridehouston.org


Continued on pg. 21




2nd Annual AGLCC PRIDE PARADE


Saturday, June 7, 2003 • 8 PM
Downtown


For More Information, Please See The Website At
www.AustinPrideParade.org
















●●● SITE STREET





Designed by Blake Yelavich of Naughty Austin Productions

Houston Pride Events

Continued from pg. 19

10 pm-2 am

Kick Off Party... Continued

Join us at Rich's for continued festivities after the Official Kick Off Party with special guest performer The Lady Chablis. The Lady Chablis is best known for her performance in the movie, *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*. This will be her Texas debut. All guests of the Kick off Party at JPMorgan Chase will receive complimentary entrance to Rich's for the show. Showtime is 12 midnight on the main stage.

Rich's

2401 San Jacinto
Houston, TX 77002
www.richs-houston.com
Ph: 713-759-9606

Saturday, June 7

11 am-3 pm

Heath and Fitness Fair

Featuring complimentary health screenings and displays from community chiropractors, massage therapists, personal trainers, Buyers Club Supplements and other health care professionals. Nutritious food and beverage samples will also be available.

Fitness Exchange

4040 Milam Street
Houston, TX 77006
713-524-9932
Cost: Free
www.fitnessexchange.cc

9 pm-5 am

Rich's Customer Appreciation Night

Special VIP entry of \$4 and \$1 drinks from 9 p.m. 'til midnight for all customers. Virginia Slymm show at 12:30 p.m. and "special" show at 1 a.m. on the main stage. Chance to win ten Rich's VIP membership cards and lots of other surprises.

Rich's

2401 San Jacinto
Houston, TX 77002
www.richs-houston.com
Ph: 713-759-9606

Sunday, June 8

2 pm

Wonderin' what to do?

Come check out the guys
(and girls)
at **TapeLenders**

We've got what you are looking for.



- DVD's, VHS
- Gifts
- Magazines
- Clothing
- Pride Items
- Cards

TapeLenders
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www.TapeLenders.com

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Marcia DuBois D.V.M., C.V.A.
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- ▶ Acupuncture
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- ▶ Holistic Veterinary Care
- ▶ Small animals, exotics and equine

**Celebrating Houston
Pride 2003
Congrats on 25 Years**



chiropractors, massage therapists, personal trainers, Buyers Club Supplements and other health care professionals. Nutritious food and beverage samples will also be available.

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4040 Milam Street
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Cost: Free
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9 pm-5 am

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Rich's

2401 San Jacinto
Houston, TX 77002
www.richs-houston.com
Ph: 713-759-9606

Sunday, June 8

2 pm

Concert in the Park

The Houston Pride Band begins the celebration of its 25th Anniversary with a concert at Woodrow Wilson Park. The concert will be a collection point for Stone Soup Food Pantry. Ice cream will be served.

Woodrow Wilson Park

Fairview at Yupon
Cost: Free
Info: Houston Pride Band
PO Box 300788
Houston, TX
Ph. 713-862-9491
info@houstonprideband.org
www.houstonprideband.org

7-10 pm

Fitness Exchange 25th Anniversary Party

Member and community appreciation party to commemorate Fitness Exchange's 25th anniversary. This will be a thank-you to Fitness Exchange members.

South Beach Night Club

810 Pacific
Houston, TX 77006
Cost: No cost for members of Fitness Exchange

Tapelenders
VIDEO
www.Tapelenders.com

Dallas & Austin's
Gay & Lesbian Superstore
3926 Cedar Springs, Dallas
1114 W. 5th Street, Austin

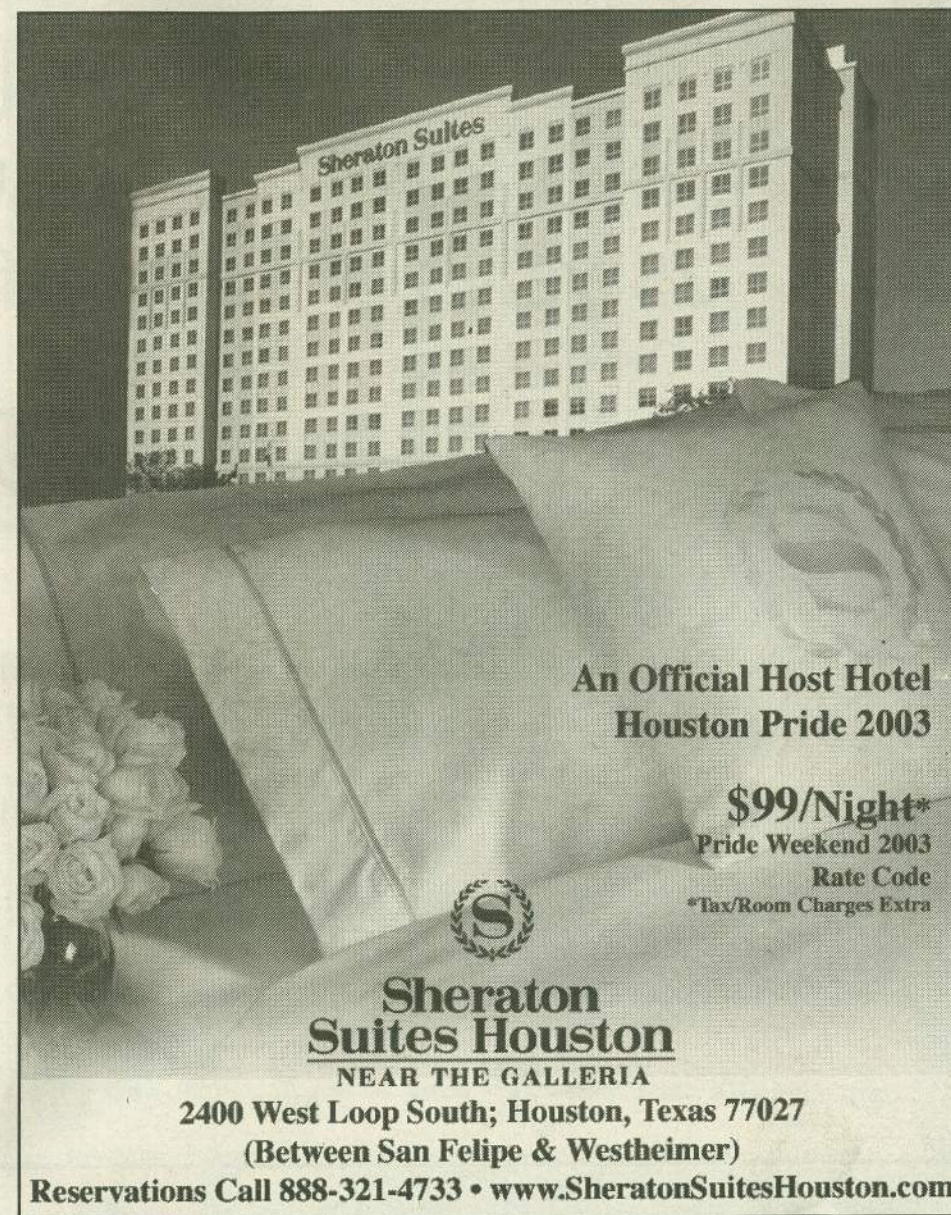
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Austin • 512.472.0844

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- Acupuncture
- Skeletal balancing
- Holistic Veterinary Care
- Small animals, exotics and equine

**Celebrating Houston
Pride 2003
Congrats on 25 Years**



**An Official Host Hotel
Houston Pride 2003**

\$99/Night*
Pride Weekend 2003
Rate Code
*Tax/Room Charges Extra

**Sheraton
Suites Houston**
NEAR THE GALLERIA
2400 West Loop South; Houston, Texas 77027
(Between San Felipe & Westheimer)
Reservations Call 888-321-4733 • www.SheratonSuitesHouston.com

Continued on pg. 22

Houston Pride Events

Continued from pg. 21

Monday, June 9

7-9 pm

Grand Marshal Reception

The Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star of Houston, Inc. honors the Grand Marshals of the 2003 Houston Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Parade. In honor of the past 25 years in pride the 2003 Grand Marshals are all Grand Marshals from the past 25 years. Join us at Chances to meet some of the most heroic and inspirational members of Houston's GLBT community and enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres.

Chances

1100 Westheimer

Info: The Royal, Sovereign, and Imperial Court of the Single Star of Houston, Inc.
PO Box 98044

Houston, TX 77298

Ph. 281-216-0757

sofonda@sofonda.com

www.rsicss.org

Wednesday, June 11

8 pm

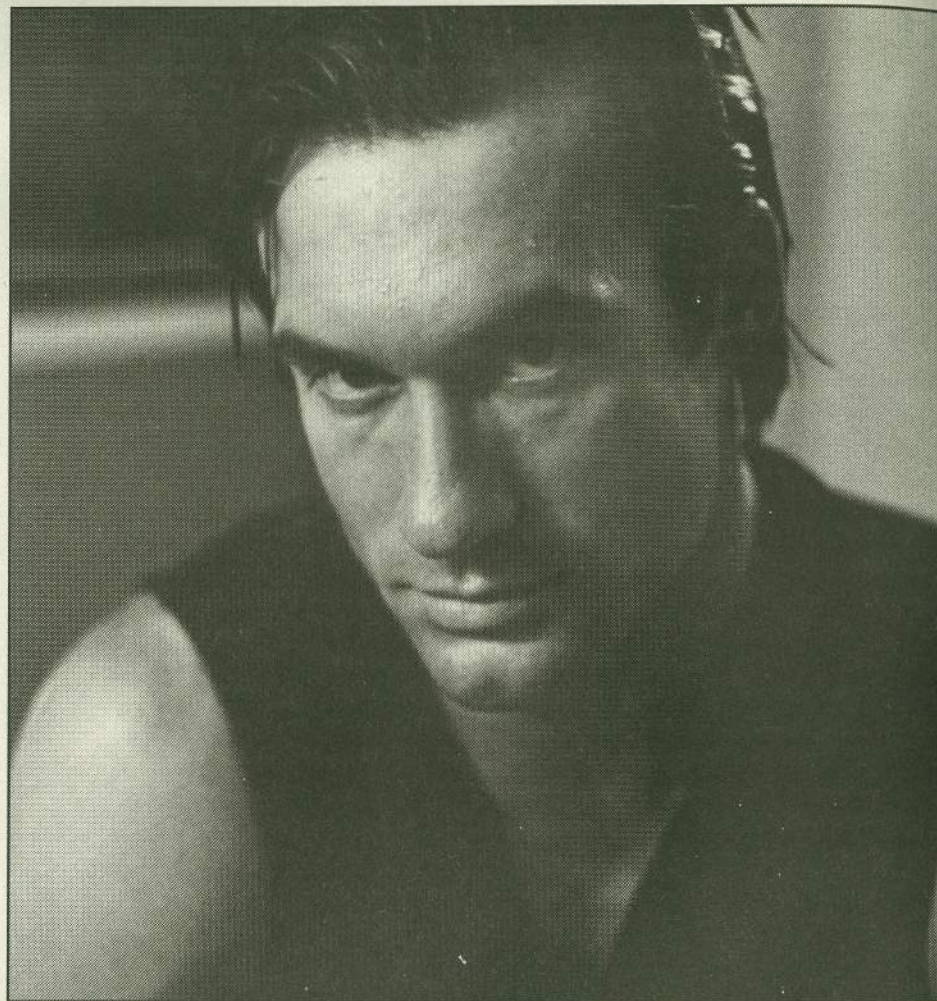
Theatre New West presents Jerker

Written by Robert Chesley, directed by Joe Watts, and starring Brett Cullum and Glen Fillmore, Jerker runs through July 12. The June 11 performance benefits The Center for AIDS' Hope and Remembrance Project. Mature audiences, please; contains strong language and nudity.

1415 California

Houston, TX 77006

Cost: \$20



Texas Triangle 'Profiles in Pride' presents Lance Loud: A Death in an American Family

Houston

Continued from pg. 2

Info: Theatre New West

1415 California

Houston, TX 77006

PH. 713-522-2204

TheatreNWest@aol.com

Thursday, June 12

7:30 pm

Texas Triangle's 'Profiles in Pride' presents Lance Loud: A Death in an American Family

Lance Loud: A Death in an American Family

On December 21, 2001,

and HIV co-infection. Lance Loud was the subject of the fascinating film, *Lance Loud! A Death in the Family* for the *American Family*, the PBS series. In essence, television's first real portrait of a real character with a family. In *American Family*, we'd never

Theatre New West

1415 California

Houston, TX 7700

Cost: Free

Info: The Pride Committee
Houston

PO Box 66071

Houston, TX 77266-6071

Ph. 713-529-6979

Fax 713-529-6929

info@pridehouston.org

www.pridehouston.org

Friday, June 13

7-9:30 pm

Civil Rights Celebration
Benefiting Lambda

An event celebrating
against Texas's "Honest
Conduct" Law at the U.S.
Court, featuring Jimmy Jan
Atwood's Funky Cabaret,

Houston Pride Events

Continued from pg. 22

Info: Theatre New West
1415 California
Houston, TX 77006
PH. 713-522-2204
TheatreNWest@aol.com

Thursday, June 12

7:30 pm

Texas Triangle's 'Profiles in Pride' Film Screening
Lance Loud: A Death in an American Family

On December 21, 2001, Lance Loud died of liver failure caused by a Hepatitis C and HIV co-infection. Lance was 50 years old. His final days are recounted in the fascinating film, *Lance Loud! A Death in An American Family*, Lance's passing was like a death in the family for the millions of viewers who got to know him through *An American Family*, the PBS documentary series that premiered in 1973 and was, in essence, television's first reality show. Bold, brash and full of energy and ideas, Lance was a real character with a fondness for the outrageous (think blue lipstick). Before *An American Family*, we'd never seen anyone quite like him on television.

Theatre New West
1415 California
Houston, TX 7700
Cost: Free
Info: The Pride Committee of
Houston
PO Box 66071
Houston, TX 77266-6071
Ph. 713-529-6979
Fax 713-529-6929
info@pridehouston.org
www.pridehouston.org

Friday, June 13

7-9:30 pm

Civil Rights Celebration
Benefiting Lambda

An event celebrating the case against Texas's "Homosexual Conduct" Law at the U.S. Supreme Court, featuring Jimmy James, Jerry Atwood's Funky Cabaret, and Ruth Harlow (Lead Counsel for the



25 DAYS OF PRIDE

JUNE 5 - 29

*Celebrating 25 Years
of Pride in Houston*

JOIN US FOR 25 EVENT PACKED DAYS OF ACTIVITIES THAT
WILL EDUCATE, COMMEMORATE AND CELEBRATE HOUSTON
GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER PRIDE.

DON'T MISS:

THE KICK OFF PARTY ON FRIDAY, JUNE 6
AT THE JP MORGAN CHASE BUILDING, 707 TRAVIS
&
THE KICK OFF PARTY ... CONTINUED
AT RICH'S, 2401 SAN JACINTO
FEATURING THE LADY CHABLIS OF SAVANNAH

PRIDE DAY AT ASTROWORLD
SATURDAY, JUNE 21

PRIDE CABARET
BEFORE THE PARADE PASSES BY ... AGAIN
FRIDAY, JUNE 27
615 TEXAS AVENUE

AMERICA'S ORIGINAL NIGHTTIME PRIDE PARADE
SATURDAY, JUNE 28
WESTHEIMER AT WHOODHEAD TO WHITNEY

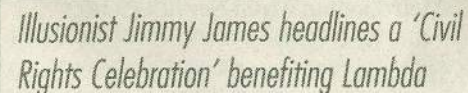
OFFICIAL PRIDE EVENTS INCLUDE:

DOCUMENTARY VIEWINGS, HEALTH
FAIRS, CONCERTS, EDUCATIONAL
FORUMS, FASHION SHOWS,
OUTDOOR EVENTS, SPIRITUAL
SERVICES, THEATRE
PERFORMANCES, HIV



www.pridehouston.org

Miss Rich's Virginia Slymm will host a Super Special show with a cast of Houston's best female impersonators. The show starts at 10 pm in the Leopard Lounge (second floor of Rich's) and lasts until 11:30 pm. This is one show you will not want to miss.



BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE PRIDE COMMITTEE OF HOUSTON PH. 713-529-8979 • FAX 713-529-6929 • info@pridehouston.org • www.pridehouston.org

Houston Pride Events

Continued from pg. 23

See the new, the old, and the famous.

Rich's

2401 San Jacinto
Houston, TX 77002
www.richs-houston.com
Ph: 713-759-9606

Saturday, June 14

8 am-4 pm

LHI Rainbow Health Fair

Health Fair for women offering free mammograms by appointment, other health screenings at low or no cost: pap smears, well-woman exam, blood sugar check and blood pressure check.

Montrose Clinic Building

215 Westheimer
Houston, TX 77006

Cost: Free

Info: Lesbian Health Initiative Houston

PO Box 130158
Houston, TX 77219-0158
Ph. 713-603-0023

www.lhihouston.org

12 noon-5 p.m.

Community Law Day

More than twenty Stonewall Lawyers will speak on various topics in classroom settings throughout the day. Topics include: forming and dissolving relationships, adoption and insemination, estate planning, HIV/AIDS, immigration, social security, bankruptcy, traffic tickets and auto accidents, criminal law—sex, drugs and the court system and much more.

Bering Memorial UMC

1440 Harold
Houston, TX 77006

Cost: Free

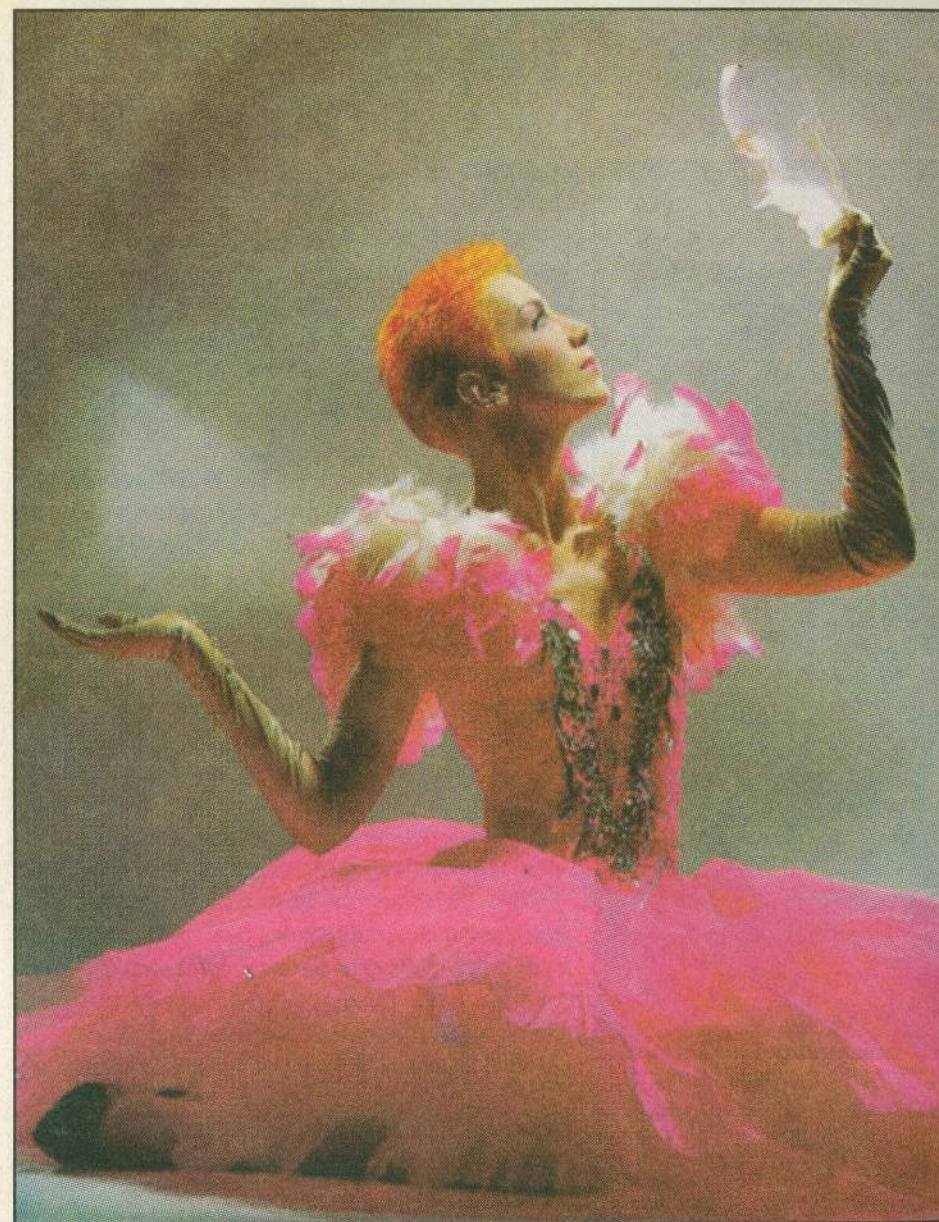
Info: Stonewall Law Association of Greater Houston

PO Box 66502
Houston, TX 77266
Ph. 713-227-1717

info@slagh.org

www.slagh.org

9 am-5 pm



Annie Lennox

Ph. 713-529-6979

Fax 713-529-6929

info@pridehouston.org

www.pridehouston.org

Wednesday, June 18

7-10 pm

Info: Lesbian Health Institute
PO Box 130158
Houston, TX 77219-0158
Ph. 713-603-0023
www.lhihouston.org

12 noon-5 p.m.

Community Law Day

More than twenty Stonewall Lawyers will speak on various topics in classroom settings throughout the day. Topics include: forming and dissolving relationships, adoption and insemination, estate planning, HIV/AIDS, immigration, social security, bankruptcy, traffic tickets and auto accidents, criminal law—sex, drugs and the court system and much more.

Bering Memorial UMC

1440 Harold
Houston, TX 77006
Cost: Free
Info: Stonewall Law Association of Greater Houston
PO Box 66502
Houston, TX 77266
Ph. 713-227-1717
info@slagh.org
www.slagh.org

9 pm-5 am

Annie Lennox Release Party: Bare

The diva is back with an all new album entitled *Bare*. Be the first to dance to her new hits. Promotional giveaways including full CD's.

Rich's

2401 San Jacinto
Houston, TX 77002
Info: www.richs-houston.com
Ph: 713-759-9606

Tuesday, June 17

7 pm

Parade Mandatory Meeting

Every pride parade entry is required to send a representative to this meeting. The Pride Committee of Houston Parade Committee will review rules and security while offering a "sneak preview" of some of the exciting new features for the 25th Silver Celebration Nighttime Pride Parade.

Metropolitan Multi-Service Center

1475 West Gray
Houston, TX 77019
Cost: Free
Info: The Pride Committee of Houston
PO Box 66071
Houston, TX 77266-6071



Annie Lennox

Ph. 713-529-6979
Fax 713-529-6929
info@pridehouston.org
www.pridehouston.org

Wednesday, June 18

7-10 pm

Papi Underwear Fashion Show

Featuring DJ Cubanito, benefiting Amigos Volunteers in Education and Service. Happy hour drink specials and free Mexican buffet from our friends at Michaeline's Restaurant and Catering.

South Beach Night Club

810 Pacific
Houston, TX 77006
Cost: \$10
Info: AVES
807 Hawthorne
Houston, TX 77006
Ph. 713-626-2837
www.aves-health.org

Thursday, June 19

7:30 pm

Texas Triangle's 'Profiles in Pride' Film Screening

No Secret Anymore: The Times of Del Martin & Phyllis Lyo

Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon aren't just a sweet old lesbian couple in love. They're walking legends, witnesses to and creators of lesbian political history in the United States since the mid-20th century. What's so delightful about Joan E. Biren's documen-

Houston Pride Events

Continued from pg. 25

tary is that it tells three amazing stories at once: the little-known events of our early civil rights struggles, the impact those struggles have had on our community's growth, and the singular role played in those struggles by two extraordinary women in love.

Theatre New West

415 California
Houston, TX 77006

Cost: Free

Info: The Pride Committee of Houston

PO Box 66071

Houston, TX 77266-6071

Ph. 713-529-6979

Fax 713-529-6929

info@pridehouston.org

www.pridehouston.org

Saturday, June 21

11 am-10 pm

Pride Day at Six Flags Astroworld

Benefiting the Pride Committee of Houston and Q Patrol. Featuring Latin Divas recording artists: Miss Lupita and Adassa. Special appearance by Ms. Thea Austin debuting her new remix of her #1 Pop Hit "Rhythm Is a Dancer 2003".

Six Flags Astroworld

610 South Loop between Kirby and Fannin
across from Reliant Park

Cost: \$35 in advance, \$39.95 at the door



Texas Triangle 'Profiles in Pride' presents No Secret Anymore: The Times of Del Martin & Phyllis Lyon

(includes all you can eat catered lunch and concerts).

Tickets go on sale Friday, May 30.

Info: 713-521-0107

www.SouthBeachthenightclub.com

7:30 am

Sixth Annual Houston Pride 5K Fun Run and Walk

The 3.1-mile race will start at Sam Houston Park, with an out-and-back course along the inbound side of Allen Parkway. The sixth annual running of this race will benefit AssistHers, a volunteer organization that provides in-home support and care to lesbian women with chronic or disabling illnesses. The race is sponsored by Houston Montrose Athletic Association, a 501(c)(3) corporation.

Trophies will be awarded to the first overall male and female winners, the first masters male and female winners, and the first wheelchair winner. The top five males and females in age groups 30-34, 35-39, and 40-44 will receive awards. The top three males and females in all other age groups will receive awards. The race will conclude with a party and presentation of awards and door prizes in Sam Houston Park. All participants will receive a T-shirt.

Cost: An early-registration fee of \$15 is available until June 13; after June 13, registration is \$20.

To download a registration form from the Fun

Houston

Continued from pg. 2

Run Web page, access www.houstonpride.com by mail, call 713-661-1111. Memorial Fitness Center, 6001 West Loop West, Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 1100 West Loop West, and Landmark Greenway and Park, 1100 West Loop West. www.SignMeUpSports.com

Volunteers who want to help, call 713-8919.

9 pm-5 am

The Official After-Party

Every guest who comes to the event will receive a VIP entry for a cost of only \$10. VIP entry is available at 1 am on the main stage.

Rich's

2401 San Jacinto
Houston, TX 77002

www.richs-houston.com

Ph: 713-759-9606

Sunday, June 22

1-4 pm

Family and Youth Day

A family event at Memorial Park. Activities include DJ, face painting, popcorn and more.

Memorial Park

Cost: Free

7-9:30 pm

XALT—Xtreme Adoration

An interactive night of community singing and poetry. A dessert reception will follow.

Community Gospel Church

4305 Lillian
Houston, TX 77007


Cost: Free

Info: Community Gospel Church

713-880-9235

cgospe@communitygospel.com

www.communitygospel.com



Timberfell Lodge and Campground

June 6-9



Greek Myths and Toga Party Weekend Costume Competition Saturday Night



June 20-22



Nude Weekend

- Full Moon Party
- Hot Buns Contest Saturday Night
- Bill's Birthday Weekend (you know, the cheff!!)



Houston Pride Events

Continued from pg. 26

Run Web page, access www.geocities.com/houstonpride5k/index.html. To receive a form by mail, call 713-661-8919. Forms are also available at Memorial Tennis Center, Memorial Fitness Center, Copy.Com, Lobo, Fleet Feet, RunSport, Luke's Locker, Run Wild, Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center, Houston Gym, Fitness Exchange, and Landmark Greenway and River Oaks theaters. Online registration is available at www.SignMeUpSports.com.

Volunteers who want to help out on race day should call Mac Crone at 713-661-8919.

9 pm-5 am

The Official After-Astroworld Party, "Rollercoaster"

Every guest who comes through the door with an Astro World ticket will receive VIP entry for a cost of only \$4. Lots of drink specials and a special Rollercoaster show at 1 am on the main stage.

Rich's

2401 San Jacinto
Houston, TX 77002
www.richs-houston.com
Ph: 713-759-9606

Sunday, June 22

1-4 pm

Family and Youth Day

A family event at Memorial Park hosted by JP Morgan Chase. Includes moonwalk, DJ, face painting, popcorn and cotton candy.

Memorial Park

Cost: Free

7-9:30 pm

XALT—Xtreme Adoration of the Lord Together (PRAISE DAY)

An interactive night of praise and worship to God with specific focus on Community Gospel Church's wonderful savior, Jesus. Featuring local talents in song, sign and poem. A dessert reception and fellowship follows.

Community Gospel Church

4305 Lillian
Houston, TX 77007
Cost: Free
Info: Community Gospel Church
713-880-9235
cgospel@communitygospel.org
www.communitygospel.org



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Anniversary
of Pride

the first wheelchair win-
and females in age groups
will receive awards. The
ales in all other age groups
race will conclude with a
awards and door prizes in
participants will receive a

tration fee of \$15 is avail-
une 13, registration is \$20.
tration form from the Fun

a Party Weekend on Saturday Night

Friday Night
and (you know, the chef!!)

Weekend!

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TimberTea Dance

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OM

Sunday, June 22

1-4 pm

Family and Youth Day

A family event at Memorial Park hosted by JP Morgan Chase. Includes moonwalk, DJ, face painting, popcorn and cotton candy.

Memorial Park

Cost: Free

7-9:30 pm

XALT—Xtreme Adoration of the Lord Together (PRAISE DAY)

An interactive night of praise and worship to God with specific focus on Community Gospel Church's wonderful savior, Jesus. Featuring local talents in song, sign and poem. A dessert reception and fellowship follows.

Community Gospel Church

4305 Lillian

Houston, TX 77007

Cost: Free

Info: Community Gospel Church

713-880-9235

cgospel@communitygospel.org

www.communitygospel.org

Monday, June 23

6-8 pm

Outbreak: A Community Forum on Gay Men's Sexual Health

Montrose Clinic will host a community forum to educate and/or create awareness for the need for gay men to be tested for STDs.

1415 Bar and Grille

1415 California

Houston, TX 77006

Info: Montrose Clinic, Inc.

215 Westheimer

Houston, TX 77006

PH. 713-830-3000

eroland@montroseclinic.org

www.montroseclinic.org

Wednesday, June 25

8:30-10 am

Explaining HIV Drug Resistance: A Patient-Friendly Approach

In an effort to keep the Houston community informed about the latest trends in the treatment of HIV disease, The Center for AIDS is pleased to host Andrew Zolopa, MD

Continued on pg. 29

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Anniversary
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WWW.ADVENTURESINBIRDSINC.COM

Houston Pride Events

Continued from pg. 27

for a community breakfast meeting. Dr. Zolopa is Clinical Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases & Geographic Medicine, Stanford University School of Medicine and is also Director of Stanford Positive Care Program at Stanford Hospital. He has lectured widely on the strategic management of HIV disease and will bring a patient-friendly perspective to this complicated area of HIV treatment. The Center for AIDS event will be of special interest to those with HIV/AIDS, their providers and individuals with an interest in HIV treatment information.

The Center for AIDS

1407 Hawthorne (at Yupon)
Houston, TX 77006

Cost: Free, but RSVP required

Info: The Center for AIDS

713-527-8219

www.centerforaids.org

Thursday, June 26

7:30 p.m.

Texas Triangle's 'Profiles in Pride' Film Screening

Hope Along the Wind: The Life of Harry Hay

This much-anticipated documentary takes us through the fascinating and extraordinary life of Harry Hay; labor organizer, Marxist teacher, and founding member of the Mattachine Society—one of the first gay rights organizations in the country. Harry has been at center stage of gay pride for more than half a century. His story provides a chronicle of the gay rights movement, as well as a history of California in the 20th Century.

Theatre New West

1415 California
Houston, TX 77006

Cost: Free

Info: The Pride Committee of Houston



Texas Triangle 'Profiles in Pride' presents *Hope Along the Wind: The Life of Harry Hay*

PO Box 66071

Houston, TX 77266-6071

Ph. 713-529-6979

Fax 713-529-6929

info@pridehouston.org

www.pridehouston.org

8:30 pm

Could Angels Be Blessed

A look at love, life and expectations. Set in the summer of 1945, the mother, aunt, and cousin of a dead gay soldier are visited by a young soldier who knew him. The friend brings with him startling revelations that challenge the family's understanding of love and courage. Lobby opens at 7:30 pm with light refreshments.

Theatre Suburbia

1410 West 43rd

Houston, TX 77020

Info: Gulf Coast Archive and Museum

1609 West Main #4

Houston, TX 77006

713-227-5973, ext. 1

info@gcam.org

www.gcam.org

Friday, June 27

11 am-5 pm

National HIV Testing Day

Providing free rapid HIV antibody test. Will provide results in less than 30 minutes.

215 Westheimer

Houston, TX 77006

Cost: Free

Info: Montrose Clinic

713-830-3000

admin@montrosecclinic.org

www.montrosecclinic.org

8 pm

Pride Cabaret: Before the Parade Passes By... Again!

VIP Reception to follow performance.

Continued on pg. 30

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AQUAFEST TESTIMONIALS:

Houston Pride Events

Continued from pg. 29

Alley Theatre

615 Texas Avenue

Houston, TX 77002

Cost: \$50

Info: The Pride Committee of Houston

PO Box 66071

Houston, TX 77266-6071

Ph. 713-529-6979

Fax 713-529-6929

info@pridehouston.org

www.pridehouston.org

9 pm-2 am

BAILE 2003

A black-tie attire soiree and Hispanic celebration during Pride Week. A dance with Musica Latina (Tejano, Cumbia, Salsa and Top 40). A fundraiser benefiting the gay and lesbian community. Silent auction from 9 pm-12 am, Hors d'oeuvres reception at 9:30 pm.

Radisson Astrodome

Sam Houston Ballroom

8686 Kirby Dr.

Houston, Texas 77054

713-642-9797

Cost: \$30 pre-sale, \$35 at the door

9 pm-2 am

Grey Party, Inc. presents STEEL PRIDE

A night of pride, music, and entertainment to announce and celebrate STEEL WEEKEND, Grey Party, Inc.'s new annual October GLBT fundraiser that will feature four parties benefiting community charities, in true Grey Party tradition. Produced by The Grey Party, Inc. - Event Underwriter: Meteor Urban Video Lounge. Benefiting STEEL WEEKEND 2003 GLBT Charities.

Meteor

2306 Genessee

Houston, Texas 77006

Cost: Donations accepted at door.

Info: The Grey Party, Inc.



Pride Cabaret returns with Before the Parade Passes By... Again

P.O. Box 130773

Houston, TX 77219-0773

832-567-3916

www.steelparty.com

9:30 pm-12:30 am

Out of the Bars and Into the Streets with Q-Patrol

Continued on pg. 35

Houston Pride Events

Continued from pg. 30

Join Q-Patrol on a special patrol through the Montrose Area the night before the parade. Answer the call made in New York City 35 years ago and help keep each other safe during this special weekend. Call or e-mail if you plan to attend.

Meet at GLBT Community Center

3400 Montrose #207

Houston, TX 77006

Cost: Free

Info: Q-Patrol

PO Box 66362

Houston, TX 77266

PH: 713-528-SAFE (7233)

qt_callouts@hotmail.com

9 pm-3 am

Official Pre-Parade Party

"Silver" will be the theme for this evening with special guest performer, Lady Bunny. Lady Bunny is best known for her creation of WigStock in New York. This is Lady Bunny's second year to entertain our guests for the Pre-Parade party. She has a whole new show and is sure to raise a few brows and make us all laugh. Showtime is at 12:30 and 1:30 on the main stage.

Rich's

2401 San Jacinto

Houston, TX 77002

www.richs-houston.com

Ph. 713-759-9606

Saturday, June 28

6-8 pm

Pre-Parade Concert Featuring Amber

Bud Stage, along Pride Parade route on Westheimer (See June 27's *Texas Triangle* for details.)

Info: The Pride Committee of Houston

PO Box 66071

Houston, TX 77266-6071

Ph. 713-529-6979

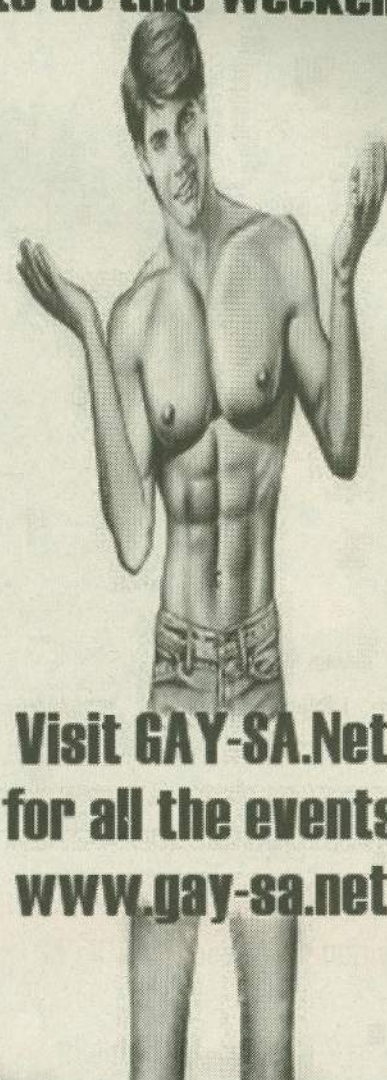
Fax 713-529-6929

info@pridehouston.org



The Lady Bunny

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www.gay-sa.net

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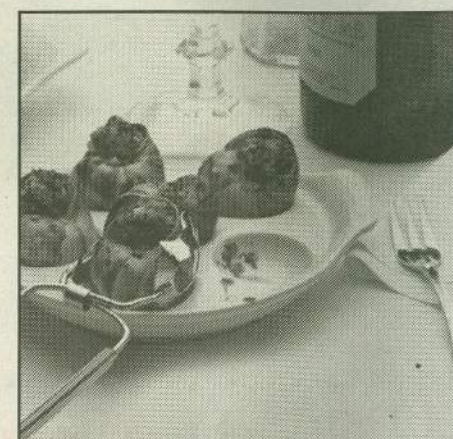
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"CRACKLING CHEMISTRY... TENDER AND TRUE!"

Megan Lehman, NEW YORK POST

"The gay date movie to beat for 2003!

Amazing soundtrack, handsome leads, loads of laughs, dollops
of drama and a sprinkling of heartwarming fairy dust."

Lawrence Ferber, HX MAGAZINE

"Sullivan and Braun deliver deft performances.

Lady Bunny's second year to entertain our guests for the Pre-Parade party. She has a whole new show and is sure to raise a few brows and make us all laugh. Showtime is at 12:30 and 1:30 on the main stage.

Rich's

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Houston, TX 77002
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Ph. 713-759-9606



The Lady Bunny

Saturday, June 28

6-8 pm

Pre-Parade Concert Featuring Amber

Bud Stage, along Pride Parade route on Westheimer (See June 27's *Texas Triangle* for details.)

Info: The Pride Committee of Houston

PO Box 66071
Houston, TX 77266-6071
Ph. 713-529-6979
Fax 713-529-6929
info@pridehouston.org
www.pridehouston.org

8:45 pm

America's Original Nighttime Pride Parade

For Houston's 25th anniversary 'Silver Celebratioân', the nighttime Pride Parade will be grander than ever before. Don't miss the special synchronized light show and pyrotechnics display at the Grand Stand, located at Yoakum Street across from the legendary bar, Mary's. There will be notable appearances by dance diva Amber, *Queer as Folk* cast member Robert Gant, the popular Dallas drag drill team "The Strangerettes", and a section of a special 25th anniversary Rainbow Flag created by Gilbert Baker (the rainbow flag's "Betsy Ross"). Hundreds of community organizations, performers, elected officials and businesses will create special entries in honor of the 25th anniversary like you have never seen before. Bleacher seating with a prime view is available for a \$25 donation to the Pride Committee of Houston. Emcees Maria Todd and Ernie Manouse return to the Grand Stand to provide commentary on the parade entries. A special surprise even bigger and better than the legendary disco ball will cap off the popular Montrose and Westheimer intersection this year. You won't want to miss it!

Lower Westheimer, From Woodhead to Whitney

Cost: Free

Info: The Pride Committee of Houston

PO Box 66071
Houston, TX 77266-6071
Ph. 713-529-6979
Fax 713-529-6929
info@pridehouston.org
www.pridehouston.org

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for all the events
www.gay-sa.net**

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Amazing soundtrack, handsome leads, loads of laughs, dollops of drama and a sprinkling of heartwarming fairy dust."

Lawrence Ferber, HX MAGAZINE

"Sullivan and Braun deliver deft performances.

A star-studded supporting cast provides camp appeal."

Dough Brantley, OUT MAGAZINE

**"Miles Swain captures an era
and our hearts."**

GAYWIRED.COM

**"Tenderly chronicles the gay
experience from fear to freedom.**

A trip worth taking."

Loren King, PLANET OUT

**"One of the best told love stories
I've seen in years."**

Eric Campos, FILM THREAT

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A film by Miles Swain

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Continued on pg. 36

Houston Pride Events

Continued from pg. 35

9 pm-3 am

Official Post Parade Pride Party

"25" is the theme for tonight with very special recording artist Amber. She graces the Bud Stage at the Parade with a couple of her hit songs to kick off the parade, then she will follow up her performance at Rich's with her entire show. Showtime is 1 am on the main stage.

Rich's

2401 San Jacinto
Houston, TX 77002
www.richs-houston.com
Ph. 713-759-9606

9:30 pm-12:30 am

Out of the Bars and Into the Streets with Q-Patrol

Join Q-Patrol on a special patrol through the Montrose Area the night before the parade. Answer the call made in New York City 35 years ago and help keep each other safe during this special weekend. Call or e-mail if you plan to attend.

Meet at GLBT Community Center

3400 Montrose #207
Houston, TX 77006
Cost: Free
Info: Q-Patrol
PO Box 6636
Houston, TX 77266
PH: 713-528-SAFE (7233)
qt_callouts@hotmail.com
unhinged@u-p.org
www.u-p.org

9 pm-3 am

Spoiled Boyz Present The Silverlining

DJ Dawna Montel (from LA), Laser Light Show Extravaganza by Laser Technetics, glistening lights and special effects by Daniel Fields, with Door Diva Brandy Lynn. A portion of proceeds benefit Pride Committee of Houston.

The Gatsby

2540 University Blvd.
Houston, TX 77005
Cost: \$20 in advance.
Tickets available June 14 at
M2M Fashion.
Info: www.spoiledparties.com

9:30 pm-12:30 am

Pride Parade Awards Ceremony

Houston Pride 2003



SILVER

THE



CE

Cost: Free
Info: Q-Patrol
PO Box 6636
Houston, TX 77266
PH: 713-528-SAFE (7233)
qt_callouts@hotmail.com
unhinged@u-p.org
www.u-p.org

9 pm-3 am

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2540 University Blvd.

Houston, TX 77005

Cost: \$20 in advance.

Tickets available June 14 at

M2M Fashion.

Info: www.spoiledparties.com.

9:30 pm-12:30 am

Pride Parade Awards Ceremony

Parade emcee Ernie Manouse and Queer as Folk cast member Robert Gant will help present the trophies honoring the best of the best of Houston's Pride Parade entries.

O Houston

710 Pacific

Houston, TX 77006

Info: The Pride Committee
of Houston

PO Box 66071

Houston, TX 77266-6071

Ph. 713-529-6979

Fax 713-529-6929

info@pridehouston.org

www.pridehouston.org

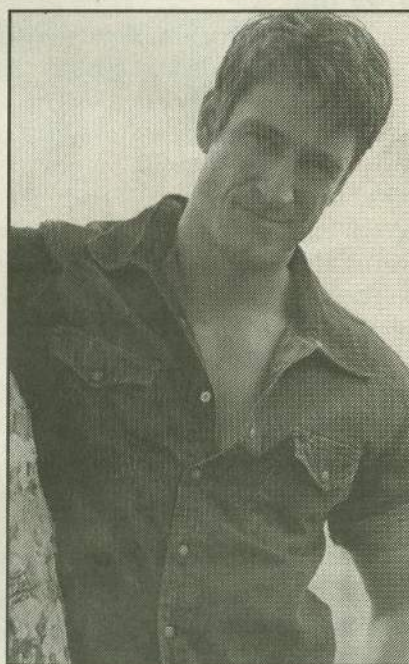
Queer as Folk—THE BABYLON TOUR

....which runs in May, June, and July of 2003, will recreate Babylon, the vibrant night-club featured in the television series *Queer as Folk*, in top clubs across the nation. Music provided by DJ Tracy Young with a special appearance by *Queer as Folk* cast member Robert Gant.

South Beach Night Club

810 Pacific

Houston, TX 77006



Robert Gant



Closing Night
with star Geo

Te
sto

PLUS! Eig
countries in
filmmakers
Blue Saloon
Notorious
Rape of G

TEXAS
Triangle

The Lady Chablis Helps Kick Off Pride Silver Celebration

By Jone Devlin

HOUSTON—On Friday, June 6, the Pride Committee of Houston will host its official kickoff party at the JP Morgan Chase Building in downtown Houston. The party goes from 7 'til 10 p.m. and includes a very special guest of honor: The Lady Chablis.

The Lady Chablis was a well-known performer in the Atlanta and South Carolina area when she gained national attention in John Berendt's *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*. Eventually she wrote her own book, *Hiding My Candy—The Autobiography of the Grand Empress of Savannah*. Still later she appeared in the film version of Berendt's book, playing herself.

Though she has been in Houston before (to visit friends and as part of the book tour for *Hiding my Candy*), Friday is the first time "I'm in Houston for an event," she said.

As for how her life has been since *Midnight*, she laughed, "Oh, since *Midnight* I got to do a little TV, I got to model. I was part of the Midnight jazz tour, and I did that for three years. I just finished a week's engagement in Charleston. I was working in a cabaret that only seated one hundred people and all my shows were sold out."

The Lady Chablis said that the people who came to see her shows were eighty percent heterosexual, "which is the way it usually is. I'm looking forward to coming out to Pride and hanging with family, because I usually work with straight venues."

She noted that even when she works in gay bars, the majority of her audience is generally straight.

But "hanging with family" isn't the only reason The Lady Chablis is excited to be coming to Houston.

"I was quite thrilled when [PCOH] called and asked me to come. Whenever I think of Texas, I think of all the female impersonators that were Atlantans that moved to Texas and made Texas their home. They were my mentors, and I had never had a chance to come.... I know so many people [in Texas] and now I get to come there."

When asked if she ever expected to be famous, she laughed. "My future plans were, by the time I reached fifty,

to be married to some man with a lot of money and retire."

The Lady confessed to another plan, if the Sugar Daddy route didn't work: "If that it didn't work, [I'd] commit some kind of felony so I could spend the rest of my life in prison so I'd have three meals a day, and a roof over my head and all I'd have to do is sit around and look cute so the men would take care of me."

"I take it as it comes, and I don't try to make it any bigger than it is," she continued. "I'm satisfied with what I have. I never went looking to be in a book, write a book, be in a movie or travel like I do. So when it happened to me, I just sat back and took it as something that was supposed to be and that it was given to me out of all the millions of us. I'm still the same old country girl from Florida who now lives in the middle of the confederate flag in South Carolina. When it comes to the fame and the fortune, it wasn't in the plans."

She added that, if given the choice, she honestly doesn't know if she'd do it again. Being famous has cost her a lot of privacy and there are times when she misses that, she says. As for the fortune—"There is no fortune," she says. "I'm a black gay female impersonator from the South. I am secure. I am OK."

She is also not comfortable with the title of activist. "I've always been me. From 15 on, I have lived as a girl. I was a female impersonator at night

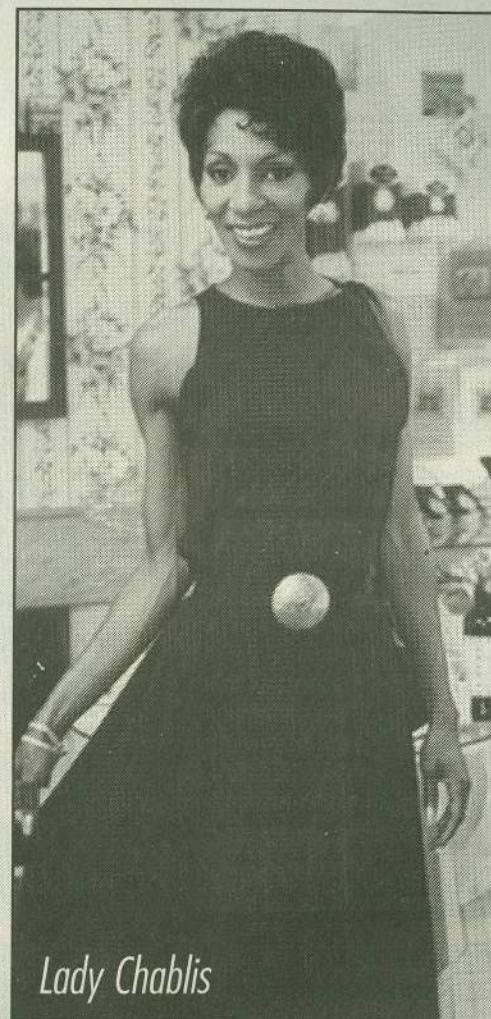
because that is what I did, but during the day I was just 'Brenda.' I just wanted to blend in with the rest of the girls. And until *Midnight* came along I was doing just fine. Then

Midnight came out and told the world I was a black drag queen and I had to face these things that I hadn't faced before. The gay issue part had never been a main issue."

The Lady Chablis is very sympathetic to young people, and hopes she will be an inspiration to them. "There are young people out there that have no idea that it's OK to do what you feel," she says.

But she has strong words for those in the community who would encourage assimilation, "As far as the middle-aged gay man or woman that are entrepreneurs now, I remember when you couldn't tell your boss you were gay. Remember, the people who went before you, such as myself—a female impersonator who worked [openly gay] at McDonald's. Before we try to go teach the world how to accept us, let's accept each other first. [Too many] gay people have always been critical, and have always seen drag queens at the bottom of the totem pole. But we're the first ones they call when they need someone to be in the spotlight and talk."

When asked what Houston can expect from her visit here this weekend, she laughed. "It's just like in the book—when midnight comes, there's no telling which way I'll fall!"



Lady Chablis

Camp Camping

PWAs Enjoy Bi-Annual Camning Event

Charleston. I was working in a cabaret that only seated one hundred people and all my shows were sold out.”

The Lady Chablis said that the people who came to see her shows were eighty percent heterosexual, “which is the way it usually is. I’m looking forward to coming out to Pride and hanging with family, because I usually work with straight venues.”

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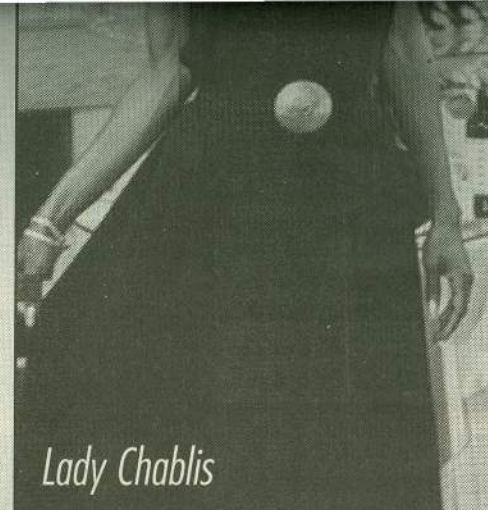
“I was quite thrilled when [PCOH] called and asked me to come. Whenever I think of Texas, I think of all the female impersonators that were Atlantans that moved to Texas and made Texas their home. They were my mentors, and I had never had a chance to come.... I know so many people [in Texas] and now I get to come there.”

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She added that, if given the choice, she honestly doesn’t know if she’d do it again. Being famous has cost her a lot of privacy and there are times when she misses that, she says. As for the fortune—“There is no fortune,” she says. “I’m a black gay female impersonator from the South. I am secure. I am OK.”

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Lady Chablis

I remember when you couldn’t tell your boss you were gay. Remember, the people who went before you, such as myself—a female impersonator who worked [openly gay] at McDonald’s. Before we try to go teach the world how to accept us, let’s accept each other first. [Too many] gay people have always been critical, and have always seen drag queens at the bottom of the totem pole. But we’re the first ones they call when they need someone to be in the spotlight and talk.”

When asked what Houston can expect from her visit here this weekend, she laughed. “It’s just like in the book—when mid-night comes, there’s no telling which way I’ll fall!”

Camp Camping PWAs Enjoy Bi-Annual Camping Event

By Jone Devlin

HOUSTON—In October of 1993, the legendary Houston activist/impersonator Marvin Davis, a.k.a., Lady Victoria Lust, attended a camping event called Rosebud at the Texas Conference of Clubs (T.C.C.) landsite. Davis fell in love with the area and began making plans so that others who were less fortunate would be able to get out into the wilderness and have some peaceful time away from their daily lives and struggles.

Davis, a tireless organizer, approached several people with the idea and the Lady Victoria Lust People With AIDS (LVL PWA) Campouts were soon on their way to becoming a reality. The first campout was held in September of 1995 and since then PWA Holiday Charities has sponsored several campouts a year.

After Davis passed away a few years later from HIV/AIDS complications himself, John Szewczyk became the organizer of the events. It was and is, a labor of love, he says. “Marvin was very close to me; this was a project he kind of got me into and it’s fun! It’s really a great project. I’ve been helping out with it from the very beginning and just been trying to continue it.”

The last campout was held over Memorial Day weekend. Attendance was approximated at 78 people, and, says Szewczyk, “It was good. It’s kind of overwhelming in a way; there are people who don’t have the chance to get out. We had a group in from San Antonio and one of the guys from that group years back lived in Houston, and some of the people from Houston saw him. Some old friendships were renewed.”

The purpose of the campouts is to provide adults who are living with HIV/AIDS an opportunity to spend a weekend with their peers and support group in a nice quiet wooded setting. It is the only state wide event of its type in Texas for adults living with HIV/AIDS, and is a predominately all adult gay male event that welcomes others who are gay friendly.

But, Szewczyk warns, this is truly a roughing-it-in-the-woods campout. “It’s not a resort or a dude ranch. [The nearest town] is about seven miles away, and the first mile is down a dirt road.”

For those healthy and brave enough to venture out however, one of the highlights of the weekend is the Saturday

night drag show. “On Saturday night people volunteer and they put on a camp drag show. It’s not a professional thing, it’s the guys with the beards throwing on the dress and doing their thing.”

While at the T.C.C., food, snacks and beverages are provided. If an attendee needs assistance with transportation, volunteers will work to “hook them up” with a ride. There are also volunteer medical personnel on hand to help in case of emergency. This past year, ramps were added to the restrooms to make them accessible to motorized wheelchairs, a policy that Szewczyk wishes to carry over into future events.

Volunteers for the event are located throughout most of the major cities in Texas, including Dallas, Austin and San Antonio. Those who are interested in participating in a campout (the next one is September 26-28) or in donating time or funds to the PWA Holiday Charities can go to www.texas-conferenceofclubs.com or contact Szewczyk directly at 713-529-6615.

“It’s a good time for everyone, Szewczyk concluded. “It’s peaceful—no traffic, no sirens, no people yelling in the street. It’s very relaxing.”

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type of that I was doing and made the recommen-
 dation to the board."

Gegeny said he wasn't expecting to be named Executive Director, even though he'd been acting as Interim Director for the last six months.

"The only thing I expected is that [the Board] would have looked at everything that was available to them and would have made the best decision," he said. "Though I knew it was a possibility [that I would be appointed] and I did throw my hat into the ring, I never thought this definitely would or would not happen; I just trusted that the board would do the right thing."

Since its inception, the Center For AIDS: Hope and Remembrance Project has worked to provide the latest treatment and research information to persons with HIV/AIDS and their caregivers with the goal of improving the healthcare of patients and the quality of their lives.

Through programs such as direct advocacy, education and outreach, publications, and a storefront information center, The Center for AIDS involves researchers, clinicians, and patients in the search for a cure for HIV/AIDS.

Gegeny is very in tune with the Center for AIDS mission, and has no desire to change things, saying

doing work in publications.

"The fun thing was that I didn't get to let go of too many of my old responsibilities when I moved [into the Interim Director position]," he said. "But at this point we're going to be bringing in more support to help in the publications area. I'll still be helping with program planning and publications so I'll have a second title which is Senior Editor."

The ability to wear many hats, said Gegeny, is necessary because his is a small organization and never really had a large budget.

"We've stayed within our mission and our goal has always been to get somebody in here who is not only going to be a good director but is actually going to be getting their hands dirty in the work," he explained.

Before joining The Center for AIDS, Gegeny was employed as the Publications Specialist for the Houston Academy of Medicine-Texas Medical Center Library. He earned a master's of science degree in Biomedical Sciences from The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston in 1997, and he is a certified Editor in the Life Sciences (ELS). He is the



Immediate Past President of the Southwest Chapter of the American Medical Writers Association (AMWA) and Administrator of the Department of Publications for AMWA nationally.

"The Board of Directors is delighted to have a well-qualified, committed, and knowledgeable candidate from within the organization," Margaret O'Donnell, chair of The Center's Board of Directors, noted in a press release. "During his interim directorship, Mr. Gegeny has exhibited the experience, creativity, and drive to lead The Center for AIDS and help the organization successfully fulfill its mission. The Board looks forward to working with him."

The Center for AIDS: Hope and Remembrance Project is a nonprofit, community-based organization. The Center for AIDS is the only organization of its kind in the southwestern United States and one of only a handful of such organizations across the country.

Grand Marshal Documentary to be Televised

By Jone Devlin

HOUSTON—The Pride Committee of Houston's (PCOH) documentary, *Silver Celebration: Twenty-Five Years with the Grand Marshals of the Gay Lesbian Bisexual and Transgender Pride Parade* will be aired in Houston on Houston's Cable Access Channel, (Channel 17 in Houston, Channel 98 in Kingwood) throughout the week leading up to Houston's Pride Parade.

Troy Christensen, producer of the documentary, told *The Triangle* in an earlier interview that he had the idea for the film when he realized that there would be no way for all of the Grand Marshals to speak at PCOH's Grand Marshall reception. A video was suggested and "I really saw a lot of potential in it...it just set off all sorts of ideas in my head."

So, after rounding up a cameraman, Christensen set about finding all of the Grand Marshals and con-

ducting interviews. This task turned out to be more complex than expected. Christensen, in fact, spent a lot of time doing research into Houston's Gay History, so that he could ask the Grand Marshals informed questions for the documentary. Appreciating his efforts, as well as the opportunity to share some GLBT history, the majority of the surviving Grand Marshals agreed to meet with Christensen. The results far exceeded expectations. "The Grand Marshals I talked to were very thankful for this project and for everything the committee is doing this year," Christensen said. "It's very empowering and uplifting to be part of this."

After several weeks of work, Christensen ended up with about eight hours of footage, which he pared down to 60 minutes "because that's all my computer program could manage" he laughed.

Once the DVD was developed, the plan was for it

to be played at PCOH's kickoff party on June 6 and maybe do a screening of it "after the Parade." But once PCOH saw the finished result, they were so impressed with what they had that they mass-produced copies and offered them for sale. They also gave a complimentary "thank you" copy to each of the Grand Marshals.

One of these, Ray Hill, was so impressed with what he saw that he decided to talk to some of his contacts with Houston's Cable Access. They viewed the DVD, agreed with Hill's assessment of the content, and have scheduled *Silver Celebration* to air Saturday, June 21, 10 a.m.; Wednesday, June 25, 6 p.m.; and Saturday, June 28, 12:30 p.m.

Meanwhile, those that want to own a piece of history as well as contribute to PCOH can still buy the DVD online at www.pridehouston.org.

The TEXAS

Triangle

June 27, 2003

Vol. XI

Issue 38

Houston Pride Turns

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Houston Pride Turns

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VICTORY!!!

Supreme Court Strikes Down Texas Sodomy Law

"The most significant ruling ever for lesbian and gay Americans' civil rights," one which "closed the door on an era of intolerance and ushered in a new era of respect and equal treatment for gay Americans," - Lambda Legal

By Ann Rostow

As *The Texas Triangle* goes to press on Thursday morning, the U.S. Supreme Court has struck the Texas "Homosexual Conduct" law as unconstitutional. The 6-3 opinion, written by Justice Anthony Kennedy, was released literally minutes before the Triangle's delayed print run, but although we knew we could not provide you with a detailed analysis of the decision, we stopped the presses in order to report that our community has won one of the most important legal victories in the history of the gay rights movement.

Here's what we do know at this time.

The opinion was based on the right to privacy, which is a bit of a surprise to some of us. But although Justices Stevens, Breyer, Ginsburg and Souter joined Kennedy's opinion, Justice O'Connor wrote a separate concurring opinion based on the right to equal protection.

The case of Lawrence and Garner v. Texas was argued on two Constitutional fronts. First, the right to privacy, which should restrain the government from barging through closed bedroom doors to prosecute the noncommercial sexual activities of

consenting adults. Second, the right to equal protection, which should prevent a state like Texas from enacting one law for heterosexuals, and another for gay couples.

By striking the Texas law based on the right to privacy, the Court has explicitly overturned the 1986 *Bowers v. Hardwick* opinion that upheld Georgia's sodomy statute. The *Hardwick* opinion, wrote Kennedy, was wrongly decided in 1986 and is wrong today. Interestingly, Justice O'Connor sided with the majority in *Bowers* just 17 years ago, and was perhaps hesitant to change her opinion in this case. By drafting a separate equal protection opinion, she escapes the charge of inconsistency.

The *Hardwick* opinion has been an obstacle in the path of gay rights attorneys for nearly two decades. Although it has been sidestepped by thoughtful courts in recent years, its demise is an occasion for pure joy.

Additionally, by choosing privacy as the rationale for its decision, the Court has now struck sodomy laws in all 13 states. Other sex laws, including laws against "fornication" and use of sex toys, may also fall victim to the Lawrence decision.

Without reading the opinion, we can nonetheless assume that the majority has rejected the idea---supported in *Bowers*---that a simple appeal to "morality" can justify an intrusive statute. Further, the Court has presumably articulated the seemingly obvious premise that (non-criminal) sexual intimacy is a deeply personal matter, and the choices made in the bedroom are protected from state interference. The state, wrote Kennedy "is not omnipresent in the home," and it cannot "demean [homosexual persons'] existence or control their destiny by making their private acts a crime."

From his hotel room in New York, where he is about to discuss the decision on Fox News, University of Minnesota law professor, (and *Texas Triangle* columnist), Dale Carpenter is following the news of the decision on CNN.

"The decision," I-messages Carpenter, "may portend a dramatic revival of the Court's willingness to use 'substantive due process' to find new constitutional rights, or at least to give new applications to old rights."

(The Due Process Clause of the 14th Amendment prevents the government from depriving its citizens of liberty without the

due process of law. It is this clause that underlies the idea of a "right to privacy," and has led the Court to protect the right to an abortion, the right to use contraception, and other fundamental decisions.)

"It's gratifying," Carpenter continued, "that the vote was lopsided, 6-3, and should give gay-rights advocates some comfort as we head into a possible change in the Court's lineup. On the other hand, an equal protection ruling might have had a greater generative effect for gay rights causes in other areas, like the military, immigration, child custody and adoption, and ultimately marriage."

Indeed, a ruling on Equal Protection would have possibly had an even greater impact on future gay rights cases, by transcending the question of sex, and offering protection to gay men and lesbians in every instance of discrimination.

In a press release that arrives a minute before we go to press, Lambda called the decision "the most significant ruling ever for lesbian and gay Americans' civil rights," one which "closed the door on an era of intolerance and ushered in a new era of respect and equal treatment for gay Americans."

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Celebrations Held Throughout the Country

With the ruling by the Supreme Court on Thursday striking down the Texas Sodomy Law, people gathered around the country to celebrate one of the most historic events in the modern GLBT movement.

In Texas, rallies were held in Austin at Republic Square Park, in Dallas at the John Thomas Gay and Lesbian Community Center, in Galveston in front of the county courthouse and in Houston on the steps of City Hall. Each of the rallies were held Thursday evening and included speakers in a party-like atmosphere.

Pro-gay activists around the country also organized celebrations. Starting in Chicago, Washington and Los Angeles, former StopDrLaura national organizers Robin Tyler and Andy Thayer worked to spread the movement to some 36 cities.

In addition to the Texas rallies, other

cities organizing events around the Court decision included Atlanta, Boston, Charleston-SC, Chicago, Cleveland, Columbia-MO, Columbia-SC, Detroit, Fairbanks, Ft. Lauderdale, Greenville-SC, Kansas City-MO, Lawrence-KS, Los Angeles/West Hollywood-CA, Madison-WI, Miami, Milwaukee, Myrtle Beach-SC, New Orleans, New York, Oklahoma City, Palm Springs-CA, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Richmond-VA, St. Louis-MO, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Seattle, Springfield-MO, Tucson, and Washington, DC.

At issue was Texas's "Homosexual Conduct Law" which, like sodomy laws in 12 other states, was used to deny full citizenship rights to GLBT people.

Activists who organized the rallies said the events are critical to making sure the positive decisions of the Court are actually

implemented.

"We will take this pro-gay decision as the foot in the door with which we'll fight for our full equal rights - equal marriage rights as they have in Canada, equal employment rights in every state, equal access to health care, housing - total equality under the law," said Tyler. "We will take this victory and remain active in the streets to make sure the Court's ruling doesn't remain just a piece of paper."

Activists point to the lessons of the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas as a cautionary tale on what comes next.

"In '54 we had a brilliant decision, but it remained a dead letter because the racists in all levels of government stymied it," said Thayer. "It was not the Court's decision which ultimately forced the desegregation

of the nation's schools, it was the courageous activists in the Civil Rights Movement who began forcing the implementation of that decision in the early 1960s as their movement gained strength. We will not remain complacent in the face of today's victory. If anything, our work has just begun."

Besides being one of the most important cases in the history of civil rights for lesbian and gay Americans, activists are gratified that Thursday's decision goes beyond protecting the rights of Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals and Transgendered people. "By striking down the Texas law on privacy grounds, the court has also provided an important buttress to pro-choice rights, which are increasingly under threat by the fundamentalist right," said Tyler.

HOUSTON GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER PRIDE

Silver Celebration



**SECOND ANNUAL CABARET
BEFORE THE PARADE PASSES BY... AGAIN!
A CELEBRATION OF OUR LIVES
FRIDAY, JUNE 27 AT 8:00 PM**



**PRE-PARADE CONCERT
FEATURING AMBER
WESTHEIMER/YOAKUM
6:00 PM**

**AMERICA'S ORIGINAL NIGHTTIME
PRIDE PARADE
SATURDAY, JUNE 28**



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FOR THE PARADE PASSER
A CELEBRATION OF OUR LIVES
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Leading More Than Just a Parade

25 Years of Leadership:

Houston Pride Parade Grand Marshals

2002 Rusty Mueller and Mela Contreras
 2001 Dalia Stokes and Mitchell Katine
 2000 Richard Wiederholt* and Tori Williams
 1999 Nancy Ford and Sean Carter
 1998 Bob Bouton and Jackie Doval
 1997 Deborah Bell and Jimmy Carper
 1996 Bill Havard and Jeanette Vaughan
 1995 Suzanne Anderson and Don Gill
 1994 Jay Allen and Cicely Wynne
 1993 Carolyn Mobley and Brian Bradley*
 1992 Brian Keever and Sherri Cohen Darbonne
 1991 Linda Morales and Jack Jackson and
 Gene Harrington
 1990 Walter Carter* and Annise Parker
 1989 Bettie Naylor and Charles Armstrong
 1988 Bruce Cook* and Eleanor Munger*
 1987 Persons Living With AIDS
 1986 Tony Bicocchi* and Dee Lamb*
 1985 Freda Jerrell and Terry Clark*
 1984 Rick Grossman and Pokey Anderson
 1983 Marion Panzer* and Walter Stricklar*
 1982 Andy Mills and Marion Coleman
 1981 Rita Wanstrom and Ray Hill
 1980 Jim Farmer* and Ruth Ravas
 1979 Thelma Hansel*

*deceased



Houston Grand Marshals Reflect on 25 Y

By Jone Devlin

The first Houston Pride Parade was a tiny affair. It went on for no more than a block, and the loosely based organization that would eventually become the Pride Committee of Houston (PCOH), had to jump any number of bureaucratic hoops to get the City of Houston to grant them a permit for the event.

Larry Bagneris, one of the original representatives for the then-fledgling group, was asked, when he turned in the permit application, why a "nice little

the slings and arrows of a city bureaucracy that didn't want anything to do with gays or gay pride, and took on the role of Parade Organizer.

Eventually Bagneris got his permit, and the Houston Pride Parade was born. "Since Larry hails from wonderful New Orleans his concept of what a parade should look like made it resemble a Mardi Gras Parade," Ray Hill said. "The theme was 'In Celebration of Human Rights' and Thelma 'Disco Grandma' Hansel [now deceased] was our Grand Marshal. We carried Thelma into the streets, dressed

went wild!"

That was also the year that Hill, who would become known for the eye (and camera) catching ways in which he participated in the parade, threw a rope over his shoulder and dragged a bus down the parade route. The banners on the bus announced the first March on Washington for "Gay and Lesbian" rights.

That first parade was also short, remembers Jim Carper (who served as Grand Marshal in 1997) and probably lasted no more than an hour.

Quite a far cry from the 2001 parade, which had so

Katine said he had many memories of his stint as Grand Marshal, proud to be "an out lawyer showing the world that you can be who you are, successful and still volunteer and give back to your community. My only regret [my partner and I] had not adopted children yet, I would have liked them to be in the [Grand Marshal] car."

Katine also said that no matter the final decision of the Supreme Court, he plans to celebrate during this year.

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Larry Bagneris, one of the original representatives for the then-fledgling group, was asked, when he turned in the permit application, why a "nice little Mexican" like him was "hanging around with queers."

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went wild!"

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Quite a far cry from the 2001 parade, which had so many entries, it literally lasted until the next day!

Fast forward twenty plus years to 1997, when openly gay City Council member Annise Parker had no trouble at all convincing the Houston City Council to give PCOH a permit for the then-newly organized night parade. Said Parker, who had served as one of the Grand Marshals of the 1990 Pride Parade, "When the Pride Committee wanted to change to a night parade, I was able to very easily get those changes through."

What a difference a decade—or two and a half—makes!

Ray Hill, who has been active in the Houston Gay Community since 1958 and who served as a Pride Parade Grand Marshal in 1981, remembers some of the struggles surrounding the first parade. It, he is quick to point out, actually happened in '79—not '78. The reason, however, that PCOH and others count 1978 as Pride's first year, is because that was the year that

they printed the first Pride Week Calendar of Events. "We didn't have a parade that year; we had a town hall meeting where everyone came and screamed at each other, and that was kind of a kickoff for several groups," Hill recalled. "Everything got kicked off at Town Meeting One because the purpose of Town Meeting One was to bring as many GLBT groups together as possible." That pivotal meeting, Hill said, spawned several fledgling gay political and service organizations including Montrose Counseling Center, Montrose Clinic, The Switchboard, Gay Lesbian Hispanic Caucus, and The Sports Group.

Town Hall One also gave the Houston Gay Community something else—an ordinance stating that there would be no dress code in the Pride Parade. While there would be endless debates in gay circles regarding the inclusion of "drag queens" in the Pride Parade, for PCOH it was, and always has

been, a non-issue. In fact, Rusty Mueller who served as Grand Marshal in 2002, will be riding in the Parade this year as "Crystal Rae Lee Love", his drag persona.

As the Pride Parade has matured, different themes and issues have predominated. AIDS first began to be a rallying point in 1982. In 1987, PCOH would name "People with AIDS" as their Grand Marshals, but in 1982 the disease was still being called GRID (Gay Related Immune Deficiency). Shortly after Pride week 1982, the term AIDS was coined, causing the Kaposi's Sarcoma Foundation to change its name to the KS/AIDS Foundation. Eventually it would become AIDS Foundation Houston.

This year's rallying point, meanwhile, looks to be the Supreme Court decision on the constitutionality of State Sodomy Statutes. Houston Attorney Mitchell Katine

was elected Grand Marshal in 2001 primarily on the strength of his excellent work defending two Houston men who had been arrested for violating the Texas Sodomy Statute (21.06) in the privacy of their own home. That case ended up at the Supreme Court, where Lambda Legal Defense argued it in March of this year.

Expectations for a positive ruling are running high, with even Ray Hill, whose years of political advocacy make him understandably cynical regarding lawmakers and the law, saying that he'd "bet my quarter we're going to win."

Katine's take is even more enthusiastic, "I am very excited about the decision, about the education process we've gone through in this country, educating the Supreme Court about GLBT people and their families. It was very encouraging to hear the Supreme Court justices talk about GLBT people and civil rights issues."

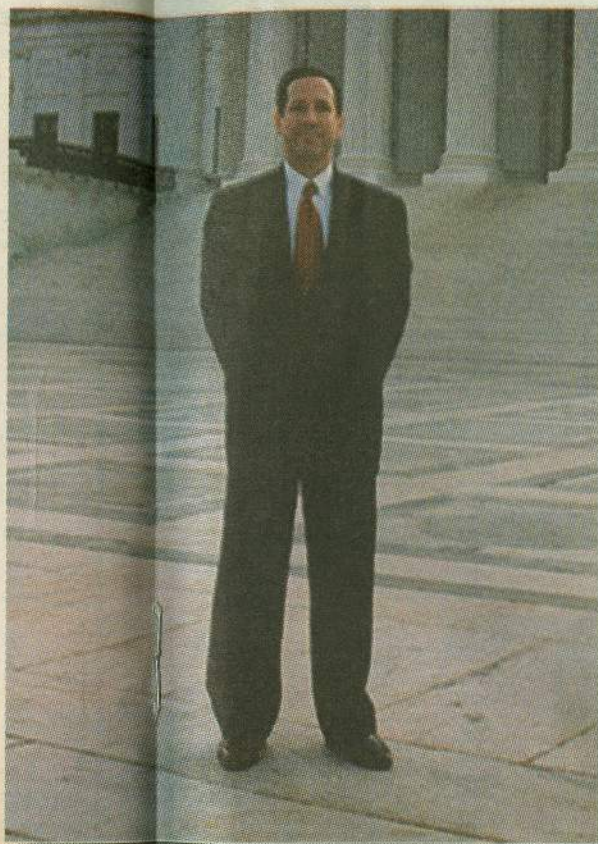
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Katine also said that no matter what the final decision of the Supreme Court, he plans to celebrate during this year. "I've said for a long time, win or lose, we've won by talking about these issues."

State and national issues have been the only rallying points of the Houston Pride Parade since 1981. The Grand Marshals this year are Ray Hill and Rita Wanstrom, also known as Grandfather and Grandmother. The rights movement in Houston was born with Wanstrom's election came only after a long controversy. Says Hill: "That was the year that a young Rice University student, Annise Parker was raising hell with all the Female Grand Marshals and the gay women. So I had a lesbian Grand Marshal, Rita Wanstrom, who was nicknamed Bear, and our theme was 'We're Here!'"

By 1995 when Suzanne Anderson was named Grand Marshal, the sexual orientation of the Female Grand Marshal ceased being a topic of concern. At that time, when the issue of transgender civil rights was still controversy, this time the issue of transgender civil rights had gotten so ugly that Anderson

a Parade



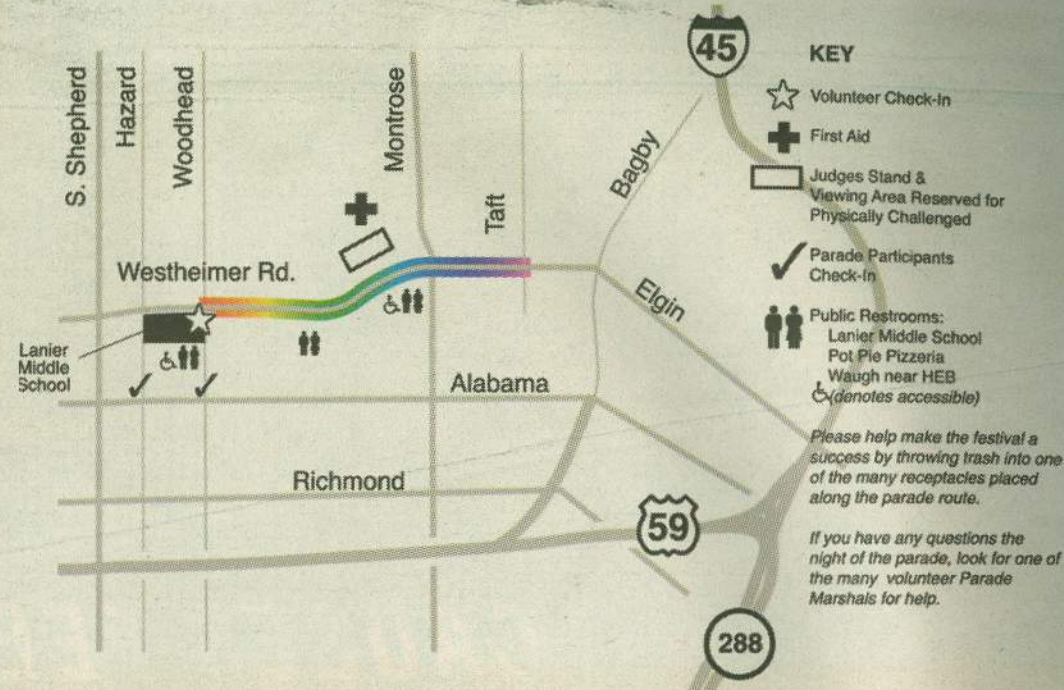
◀ (1) Pokey Anderson,
Female Grand Marshal 1984

◀ (2) Deborah Moncrief Bell,
Female Grand Marshal 1997

◀ (3) Mitchell Katine, Male
Grand Marshal 2001

▶ The Silver Celebration—
Houston's Gay, Lesbian,
Bisexual and Transgender Pride
Parade 2003 sparkles down
Westheimer this Saturday
evening, June 28, 8:45 p.m.
beginning at Woodhead and
proceeding to Whitney. Info:
713-529-6979 or www.pride-houston.org.

2003 Houston Pride Parade Route



s Reflect on 25 Years of Pride

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was surprised, and not necessarily pleasantly, to be elected to the GM position. "One of the things that surprised me was that, I always felt like I had pretty much stayed ahead of the trends," Anderson said. "I thought that if they're electing me Grand Marshal, I'm not staying ahead. [At that time] the transgender movement was trying to start and the gays and lesbians were, for the most part, fighting it and felt that it would pull them down. So that was the year I changed my logo from 'Gay and Lesbian

"Everybody kept yelling out my name and of course I couldn't see anyone. I'd just wave in their general direction. I also wished that I had a cushion to sit on because the back of that convertible was damned uncomfortable! But it was a blast, it was a lot of fun and I have very many fond memories of it. I was quite honored."

Hill laughed when he heard Bell's complaint about her seat in the convertible, and told *The Triangle* the story of Jim (Fanny) Farmer, whose 1980 stint as Grand Marshal was celebrated by his riding through the parade on the back of an elephant!

Pokey Anderson, who served as Grand Marshal in 1984, said it was neither the heat nor the discomfort of her seat that got to her, but "the wave." "I remember feeling some compassion for the Queen of England for having to smile and wave for long periods of time," Anderson joked. Anderson consid-

lesbians had no images in the media to reflect that they existed. "I think that experience of invisibility [is mirrored] in this era of Bush and the Republicans," she said. "Nothing is reflected back. You have 15,000 people protesting the war, but you never see that image reflected back in the media. But we're out there. This is like the largest psychological, hypnosis deal they can think of. Everybody's brainwashed to think they are the only one—just like I was the only one who was gay in the whole universe when I was in the seventh grade. The real concerns of people in this case are being hidden away, just as surely as the history of gay people [continues to be] hidden away."

Hill agrees to an extent, but also feels the strides the GLBT community has made and is continuing to make simply cannot be ignored. "This year, I'm looking forward to us becoming non-criminals for the first time

evening, June 28, 8:45 p.m. beginning at Woodhead and proceeding to Whitney. Info: 713-529-6979 or www.pride-houston.org.

s Reflect on 25 Years of Pride

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Katine said he had many fond memories of his stint as Grand Marshal, and was proud to be "an out lawyer showing professionals that you can be who you are and be successful and still volunteer and give back to your community. My only regret was that [my partner and I] had not adopted our children yet, I would have liked them to be with us in the [Grand Marshal] car."

Katine also said that no matter what the final decision of the Supreme Court is, he plans to celebrate during this year's parade. "I've said for a long time, win or lose the case, we've won by talking about these issues."

State and national issues haven't been the only rallying points of the parade. Take 1981. The Grand Marshals that year were Hill and Rita Wanstrom, also known as the Grandfather and Grandmother of the GLBT rights movement in Houston. But Wanstrom's election came only after a bit of controversy. Says Hill: "That was the year that a young Rice University student named Annise Parker was raising hell about how all the Female Grand Marshals were non-gay women. So I had a lesbian co-marshal, Rita Wanstrom, who was nicknamed Papa Bear, and our theme was 'We the People'."

By 1995 when Suzanne Anderson was named Grand Marshal, the sexual orientation of the Female Grand Marshals had ceased being a topic of concern. But there was still controversy, this time surrounding the issue of transgender civil rights. Things had gotten so ugly that Anderson said she

was surprised, and not necessarily pleasantly, to be elected to the GM position. "One of the things that surprised me was that, I always felt like I had pretty much stayed ahead of the trends," Anderson said. "I thought that if they're electing me Grand Marshal, I'm not staying ahead. [At that time] the transgender movement was trying to start and the gays and lesbians were, for the most part, fighting it and felt that it would pull them down. So that was the year I changed my logo from 'Gay and Lesbian Realtor' to 'Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Realtor.'"

Once she settled into her Grand Marshal role, however, Anderson ended up enjoying it immensely, though she also remembered some of the physical discomfort that came with being a GM in that era before the night parade. "My dog, Kelli Jean, rode with me, much to her dismay," Anderson recalls. "It was the last or one of the last day parades, and we were both sick by the end of it. I've often thought of those that were sick when they started—especially those that had to walk—and wondered how they did it. One of my most vivid memories was coming back to my office after the parade, filling the bathtub with cold water and soaking!"

Deborah Moncrief Bell, who, along with Jimmy Carper, served as the first Grand Marshal of the first night parade in 1997, sympathized with Anderson's plight. Bell said being out of the sun was great, but also presented different challenges. "I was laughing the whole way," she said.

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Pokey Anderson, who served as Grand Marshal in 1984, said it was neither the heat nor the discomfort of her seat that got to her, but "the wave." "I remember feeling some compassion for the Queen of England for having to smile and wave for long periods of time," Anderson joked. Anderson considered her 1984 election to the Grand Marshal seat as "more of a 'Lifetime Achievement Award.' It wasn't anything particular I did that year, I'm sure, but I had been active in the community since 1974-75."

"The year I was Grand Marshal, Houston City Councilmember Anthony Hall and a group of gay activists decided to pass a non-discrimination ordinance against gays in city employment," she said. "And a year later this was overturned by referendum."

As a result of that ordinance, Anderson remembers 1984 as a "crazy year." That year the Ku Klux Klan marched through the Montrose as Mary's serenaded the white-sheeted intruders with the tune "Springtime for Hitler." "And there was all kinds of crazy stuff being said, that AIDS was passed through mosquitoes and all kinds of things," Pokey said.

Anderson, still an activist, also spoke of how, while many attitudes have changed, some have remained frighteningly the same. She recalls a time when gay men and

lesbians had no images in the media to reflect that they existed. "I think that experience of invisibility [is mirrored] in this era of Bush and the Republicans," she said. "Nothing is reflected back. You have 15,000 people protesting the war, but you never see that image reflected back in the media. But we're out there. This is like the largest psychological, hypnosis deal they can think of. Everybody's brainwashed to think they are the only one—just like I was the only one who was gay in the whole universe when I was in the seventh grade. The real concerns of people in this case are being hidden away, just as surely as the history of gay people [continues to be] hidden away."

Hill agrees to an extent, but also feels the strides the GLBT community has made and is continuing to make simply cannot be ignored. "This year, I'm looking forward to us becoming non-criminals for the first time in my lifetime in Texas," he said, referring to the upcoming Supreme Court decision on Texas' sodomy laws. "It's entirely possible in Texas that we could eliminate the laws criminalizing homosexual behavior entirely," he said. "Do you realize that if we win, in one fell swoop there will be no more criminal punishment for being gay. When it comes to 'the good old days' of being gay, these are they."

Meanwhile, the days when Mary's Bar was raided before the Parade with such regularity that they registered it as an official Pride event, as well as the days when people refused to attend the parade for fear they would be photographed in the crowd, seem to be long gone.

Or, as Suzanne Anderson so aptly put it: "The giant strides I had so much fun working for in the past have now been made. I felt like when I reached the top of this mountain, I didn't have to go looking for another mountain." ▼

Nation Reacts to Supreme Court Ruling

By Brent Brumley

On Thursday, June 26, the Rainbow Flag that normally flies over Harvey Milk Plaza in San Francisco was lowered to make room for the American Flag. When the US Supreme Court voted in a historic 6-3 decision to strike down the Texas Sodomy Law, Gilbert Baker, creator of the Rainbow Flag, and the Alexander Hamilton Post of Gay Veterans decided flying the nation's flag in place of the community's flag was a fitting tribute.

That evening members of the community gathered in cities throughout the country in rallies to mark what is considered the most important victory of the modern GLBT movement. And it wasn't just gays, lesbians, and their friends who were celebrating. The national press corps, politicians, pundits, religious leaders and everyone in between had something to say about the decision and its implications.

While it seemed everyone had an opinion on the Supreme Court ruling, the White House remained unusually quiet. Despite having made public statements about previous decisions, the Bush administration said it did not comment on rul-

right to privacy just because they are gay or lesbian," said Lieberman. "The Texas sodomy law was an expression of intolerance, an affront to gay Americans, and an insult to the better values of our nation. By striking it down, the Court moved us a step closer to giving gays and lesbians a full, fair place in our society. And it reminded us of the vital importance of appointing justices who will respect and protect the rights of all Americans."

"The Supreme Court's decision today to strike down the Texas statute was a historic step in the right direction toward extending equal rights to gays and lesbians. The Texas law unfairly and unjustly targeted gays and lesbians, denying them the same rights and protections afforded to other Americans," said Gephardt.

House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi joined her predecessor in commending the ruling.

"The Supreme Court ruling this morning was a victory for privacy in America. I applaud the decision because it affirms that all Americans, including gays and lesbians, are entitled to privacy under our Constitution, and in the words of the Court, to 'retain their dignity as free persons,'" said Pelosi. "This ruling reversed the egregious *Bowers v. Hardwick* decision of 1986 that had been used to discriminate against lesbians and gays, and to justify taking away their children and denying them employment."

While lauding the majority opinion of the Court, both Pelosi and Dean issued statements condemning statements by Justice Antonin Scalia who took the unusual step of reading his dissent from the bench.

"While today's decision is heartening, I was very disappointed in Justice Scalia's offensive comments on the rul-

ing. They are beneath the dignity of the Court," said Pelosi.

Dean said the landmark ruling showed six Justices understood that private consensual sexual conduct is just that—private. He said it is none of the government's business, and it was unconstitutional for the State of Texas to make it a crime.

"Justice Scalia, Justice Thomas and Chief Justice Rehnquist opposed the civil rights of consenting adults. Scalia wrote a harsh dissent filled with words that will be hateful to many Americans. He spoke

oppose laws regulating consenting sexual relations that occur in the private homes of opposite-sex and same-sex couples. Nearly nine out of 10 Americans (87 percent) oppose state laws regulating private, sexual relations that are applied to opposite-sex married adult couples and almost as many (82 percent) oppose such laws that are applied to same-sex adult couples in a domestic partnership.

"Even when we exclude respondents who self-identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, support for overturning state sodomy laws does not change significantly," said Darin Johnson, vice president at Witeck-Combs Communications. "It is clear that an overwhelming majority of Americans believe the Supreme Court should overturn all state laws that interfere with private sexual relations between consenting adults, whether same-sex or opposite-sex couples."

The nationwide survey was taken of more than 2,000 adults, of whom approximately seven percent self-identified as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender (GLBT).

"These numbers tell the same story we've been telling courts in this country for years: the vast majority of Americans support the right to privacy of all people, including gays and lesbians, and oppose anti-gay discrimination," said Kevin Cathcart, executive director of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, the national gay rights organization bringing the Supreme Court challenge to consensual sex laws.

The survey showed across the board, regardless of income, gender, age, region of the country, or political philosophy, Americans overwhelmingly oppose state laws that regulate sexual relations that occur in the private home of an adult same-sex couple.

Leaders of the nation's GLBT organizations also weighed in proclaiming Thursday, June 26, the most historic day in the life of the community since the Stonewall Riots which occurred almost exactly 34 years ago.

"Today, the Supreme Court ruled for fairness for all Americans," said Aimee Gelnow, executive director of the Family Pride Coalition. "After years of this antiquated law being applied with prejudice to gay and lesbian Americans, it can no longer serve as an unjust barrier to lesbians and gay men maintaining custody of their own children or becoming foster or adoptive parents."

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"I applaud the Supreme Court ruling in the case of *Lawrence v. Texas* overturning the Texas anti-sodomy law. This decision marks a significant advance toward achieving equal rights for all Americans," said former Vermont Governor Howard Dean. "For too long, laws like this have divided us by race, by gender, and by sexual orientation. As a Governor, I



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"Every American, regardless of sexual orientation, should be afforded the right to privacy. The Texas anti-sodomy law was nothing less than government-sanctioned intolerance and discrimination. The fact that President Bush defended the law while he was Governor shows that he is not the uniter he claims to be."

Presidential candidate John Kerry agreed.

"This landmark ruling is important not just to gay and lesbian Americans but to all Americans because it re-affirms the constitutional right of privacy that belongs to all of us. When the law is twisted to stigmatize one group of Americans, it diminishes the rights of all Americans," said Kerry. "For years Americans have lost their jobs and even their homes through the selective application of these antiquated laws and that is an affront to the constitutional right to privacy affirmed by the Supreme Court today. This ruling reminds us how important the Supreme Court is and why we must stand up against Bush Administration attempts to add a radical appointee to the Court who will rollback equal rights."

Other candidates including U.S. Senator Joe Lieberman and former House Leader Richard Gephardt also came out in favor of the decision.

"The Court did the right thing in overturning a law that is invasive, unfair, and un-American. Americans don't lose their

Court, to 'retain their dignity as free persons,'" said Pelosi. "This ruling reversed the egregious *Bowers v. Hardwick* decision of 1986 that had been used to discriminate against lesbians and gays, and to justify taking away their children and denying them employment."

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"Justice Scalia, Justice Thomas and Chief Justice Rehnquist opposed the civil rights of consenting adults. Scalia wrote a harsh dissent filled with words that will be hateful to many Americans. He spoke darkly of 'the homosexual agenda' and echoed Senator Rick Santorum by writing that laws against homosexuality further 'the same interest' as laws against fornication, bigamy, adultery, adult incest, bestiality, and obscenity," said Dean.

"As a former Governor who appointed many judges to the Vermont bench, I value the quality of judicial temperament. Scalia's intemperate dissent in this case shows why he should never have been appointed to the Supreme Court in the first place and why he is not fit to serve as Chief Justice should a vacancy occur. His increasingly shrill opinions have become an embarrassment to the Supreme Court.

"President Bush says we need more Justices like Scalia. I say we cannot afford more Justices like Scalia, and we cannot afford four more years of the President who would appoint such Justices," concluded Dean.

As the debate raged, Witeck-Combs Communications and Harris Interactive released a poll showing 74 percent of American adults surveyed in April favored the U.S. Supreme Court overturning state laws that criminalize private, consenting sexual relations between same-sex couples, yet allows that same private conduct to occur between opposite-sex couples.

The survey also revealed that Americans almost equally

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The Human Rights Campaign said the ruling—overturning



Houston Rally following
Supreme Court decision

state sodomy laws and the Court's infamous 1986 *Bowers v. Hardwick* decision—removes the stigma and criminal brand that the laws have long placed on GLBT Americans. The organization said sodomy laws have long been used as a basis for discrimination against GLBT Americans in employment opportunities, in custody and visitation rights and in myriad other aspects of ordinary life.

"Gay Americans are parents, children, brothers, sisters, friends, co-workers and church-goers. They make important contributions in every community in the country," said HRC Executive Director, Elizabeth Birch. "This ruling opens the door

Continued on pg. 6

Houston Pride Swells In Wake of Sodomy Decision

By Jone Devlin

"There was more of everything this year."

So said Jimmy Carper, 1997 Grand Marshal and host of KPFT's After Hours. And he was right. There was more of everything this year; more floats, more walking units, more out of town units, more audience—even more protestors. It was the twenty-fifth annual Houston Pride Parade, and it fell

Marion Coleman, who served as Grand Marshal in 1982, said being in the Silver Anniversary Celebration brought back a lot of memories for her. "It was so exciting. I was overwhelmed—and I very seldom get that way—by the response and by the quality of the job the Pride Committee did," Coleman remarked. "And I couldn't believe the crowds! It was still as exciting as it ever was rounding that curve. It reminded me of the thrill I had back in 1982. I only wish Andy [1982 co-marshal Andy Mills, who was too ill to participate in the Parade] had been with me."

Coleman said the size of the crowd reminded her of the old days, before so many in the Houston community succumbed to the ravages of HIV and AIDS. Back then, said Coleman, there were "huge crowds." "However," Coleman added, "This probably surpassed those crowds. I think the Supreme Court decision brought out more people to celebrate."

Coleman said she too was excited about the 21.06 decision. "We're free to be God's children and love each other and share the good with the bad. I've always lived with that the philosophy."

But Coleman also reminded *The Triangle* that, even prior to June 26, 2003, there was much for the Houston GLBT community to celebrate. "Everyone there on the Grand Marshal float had a part in all the things we as a community have done."

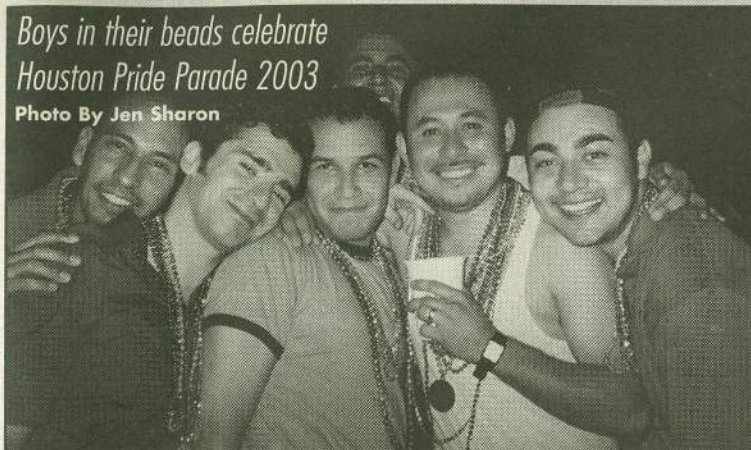
Diversity, Sparkle Lead the Way Down Westheimer

This year's Houston Pride Parade, dubbed the Silver Celebration because of it's being the twenty-fifth anniversary of Pride in the Bayou City, boasted over 120 entries, ranging from Corporate Sponsors to local GLBT groups. The judges, which included Parade Founder Larry Bagneris, Brenda Thomas, Pamela Zager of Red Bull, Jone Devlin of KPFT-FM (and Texas Triangle), and Carol Wyatt, spent a lot of time deliberating after the parade. After the Houston Pride Committee's Dick Dickerson told them repeatedly that there was no way to award a trophy to everyone who had participated, the panel gave in and distributed the following accolades:

The Turtle Creek Chorale/The Strangerettes were easily the most popular entry in the Parade. The Strangerettes are a drag version of The Rangerettes, complete with costumes and a knock 'em dead drill routine. Hailing from

Boys in their beads celebrate Houston Pride Parade 2003

Photo By Jen Sharon



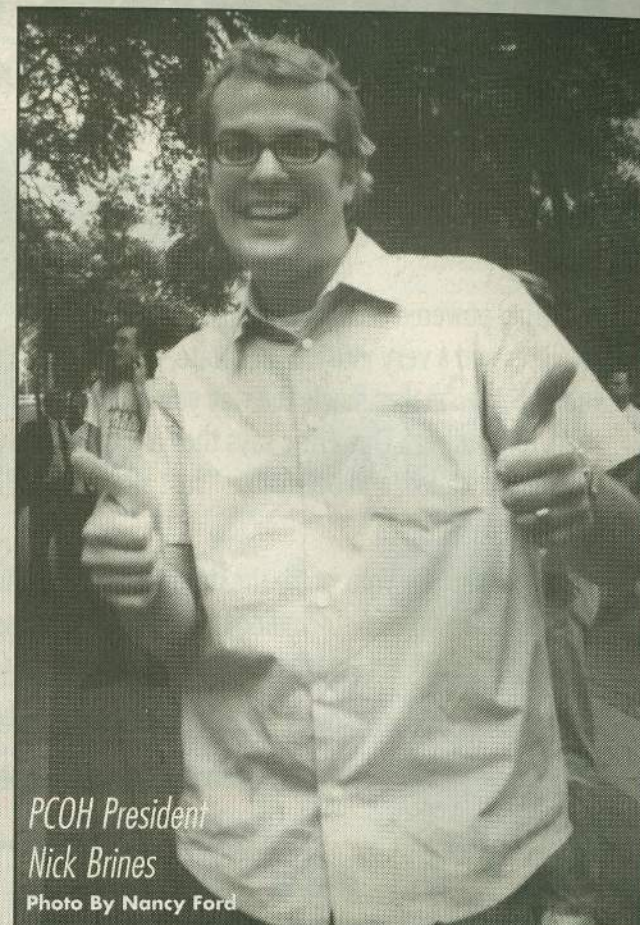
on June 28—two days after the U.S. Supreme Courts historic decision in the *Lawrence vs. Texas* case, which overturned sodomy laws nation wide, including Texas own 21.06.

"How do I sum this up?" asked Mitchell Katine, the Houston attorney who signed on to defend plaintiffs John Lawrence and Tyron Garner after a Harris County Sheriff arrested them for having consensual sex in the privacy of their home. "It was the culmination of five years of work and waiting. The decision coming out on Thursday was fantastic; really, the parade was the party, the parade was the celebration of the victory."

Katine thanked the U.S. Supreme Court for "holding the decision and waiting until two days before our Pride Celebration. It could not have been more perfect for us in Houston and the rest of the United States. It made all of us proud to be in America."

Katine also noticed the increased crowds at the Pride Parade. Organizers estimated more than 175,000 people watched the two-and-a half-hour processional Saturday night. "It seemed much bigger and louder and more enthusiastic," he said. "And there were so many families and straight people and gay people and everyone."

Katine emphasized again the importance of the *Lawrence* decision, noting that the language the Supreme



PCOH President
Nick Brines

Photo By Nancy Ford

to take home the Best Interpretation of Theme (Silver Celebration) Trophy.

The Donald R. Watkins Memorial Foundation decided to add to the heat of an already hot night with their erupting Pride volcano. But it was as much the energy with which they powered their float as the molten lava that caused the judges to give them the nod.

Community Gospel Church decided to do something different and light up the night with their message of love and acceptance of all people—and their float was standout, too!

The Krewe of the Moons of Uranus meanwhile, had everyone ready to party as they drove down Westheimer with their rainbow moons and thumping techno beat.

Finally, there was Diageo, who allowed the elaborate neon costumes and feathers of their multicolored Smirnoff Twist crew to give a whole new meaning to the words "creative lighting."

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Nation Reacts...

Continued from pg. 3

for new advances toward full equality and should be viewed as a challenge to legislators to help pass important legal protections for GLBT Americans—like employment non-discrimination laws and comprehensive hate crimes legislation."

The ruling strikes down sodomy laws in Alabama, Florida, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, Utah and Virginia.

"This is a fair-minded and historic decision that impacts gays and lesbians in all 50 states. This ruling makes clear what we have known all along, the conduct that is legal for some people should not be illegal for gay Americans," said Patrick Guerriero, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans. "The enormous importance of this law being overturned is that it will not only provide protection for the few who find themselves prosecuted for consensual intimacy but that it also provides protection for those who face discrimination that has been justified by these laws."

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) welcomed the decision saying it had worked to repeal sodomy laws for nearly 20 years.

"We welcome the decision of the United States Supreme Court striking down the Texas 'Homosexual Conduct Law' that criminalized same-sex private, consensual sexual behavior," said NGLTF Executive Director, Matt Forman. "While this is a victory for individual liberties of all Americans, it is particularly welcome for gay people, who have been singled out for persecution and discrimination by these laws for decades. This decision marks the end of the government's authority to knock down bedroom doors anywhere in this nation. We thank our friends and heroes at Lambda Legal for their extraordinary work on this case."

Parents, Friends and Families of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) agreed.

"We hail this tremendous decision upholding fairness and civil rights for all Americans," said PFLAG Executive Director David Tseng. "The overwhelming majority of Americans agree with the Supreme Court that government has no place in the bedrooms of Americans who engage in private behavior between consenting adults."

"The Supreme Court has done the right thing," said Tseng, a lawyer and former Clinton White House senior policy advisor, instrumental in crafting an analysis for the Supreme Court in this case. "Now GLBT citizens and their allies will be free to pursue other fundamental civil rights goals."

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation's Executive Director, Joan M. Garry, gave credit to the entire community for contributing to the outcome of Thursday's decision.

"In his 1986 *Bowers v. Hardwick* majority opinion, Justice Byron White claimed that, 'No connection between family, marriage, or procreation on the one hand and homosexual activity on the other has been demonstrated...' Over the past 17 years, that claim has gradually collapsed. Through countless individual acts of bravery and decades of evolving cultural visibility and understanding, the connection that seemed so elusive in *Bowers* has now been unquestionably and irrevocably established. Today's overturning of *Bowers* completes the demise of White's claim—a claim that has been used for decades to deny us equality under the law," said Garry.

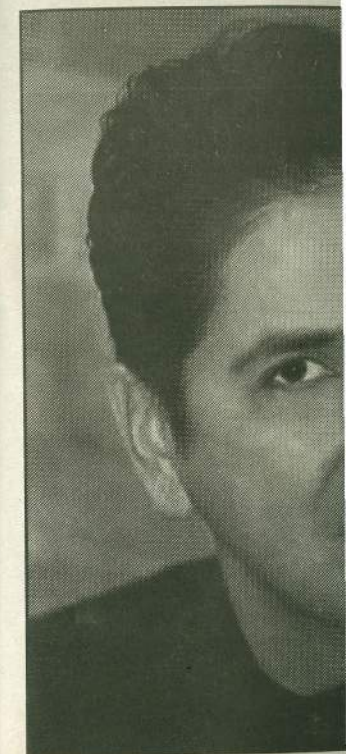
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But before all the polls could be taken, the comments made, and the exuberance over the Court's decision subside, conservatives wasted no time in trying to limit the power of the ruling. Conservative lawmakers and religious right organizations said the Court has gone too far and Senate Majority leader Bill Frist (R-Tennessee) on Sunday called for both houses of Congress to support a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage.

Gay Latino Celebrates

By Brent Brumley

DALLAS—Sin Fronteras, air in this north Texas city today nificant milestone not only for I



news and information from var in the United States and México which also features Internation music.

Because of the diverse Sp gram also has a large audience appreciates the straight listening tune in for the music they are a no doubt that an openly gay La

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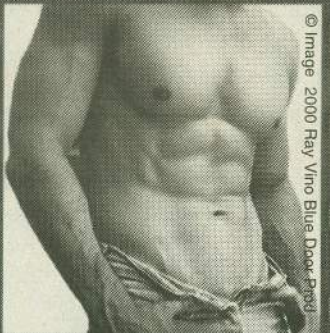
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"In stating that gay and lesbian people 'are entitled to respect for their private lives,' Justice Kennedy's majority opinion today affirms our dignity and humanity in a way we hope others will follow. Make no mistake: there is much work ahead of us. And our community must continue to change hearts, minds and laws as we continue down the road to equality."

But before all the polls could be taken, the comments made, and the exuberance over the Court's decision subside, conservatives wasted no time in trying to limit the power of the ruling. Conservative lawmakers and religious right organizations said the Court has gone too far and Senate Majority leader Bill Frist (R-Tennessee) on Sunday called for both houses of Congress to support a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage.

Frist told ABC's *This Week* that he will support a House bill to amend the United States Constitution to prevent gays and lesbians from marrying and bar states from recognizing marriages performed in other countries. Frist called last week's Supreme Court decision striking down the Texas sodomy law "a line in the sand," saying the ruling threatens to make the American home "a place where criminality is condoned."

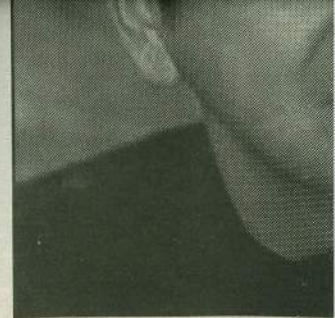
"The religious right continues to scare Middle America with buzz phrases such as 'special rights' and 'same-sex marriage,'" said Randall Ellis, Executive Director of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas. "It is time to put an end to the rhetoric of the religious right. LGBT Americans are in search of equal rights, not special rights. We are simply seeking the same rights and protections for ourselves and for our families that are afforded to heterosexuals, nothing more and nothing less."

On May 21, Rep. Marilyn Musgrave, R-Colo., and five co-sponsors introduced HJ Resolution 56, a resolution to amend the U.S. Constitution to define marriage as between a man and a woman. Joining Musgrave as co-sponsors were Rep. JoAnn Davis, R-VA., Rep. Ralph Hall, D-TX, Rep. Mike McIntyre, D-NC, Rep. Collin Peterson, R-MN., and Rep. David Vitter, R-LA. No companion resolution has yet been introduced in the Senate.

The language of the proposed constitutional amendment states:

"Marriage in the United States shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman. Neither this Constitution nor the constitution of any state, nor state or federal law, shall be construed to require that marital status or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon unmarried couples or groups."

"Now that states can no longer use sodomy laws to justify discrimination against LGBT Americans, the religious right will continue to push lawmakers to use the institution of marriage as a tool to control the lives of, and discriminate against, LGBT Americans," said Ellis.



news and information from various sources in the United States and Mexico, which also features International music.

Because of the diverse Spanish-speaking audience, the program also has a large audience that appreciates the straight listening experience. Tune in for the music they are used to, no doubt that an openly gay Latino audience.

Chávez is a second generation communications career began with the Federal Communications Commission as an art photographer for ARTE (Artists Relating Together).

After leaving the FCC in 1995, he was offered the opportunity to host Sin Fronteras, which translates to "without borders" and bi-cultural. The show's popularity has grown, and it's not only Independent Telemundo and Regional programming.

Because of Sin Fronteras' focus on language interviews on issues that affect the Latino community.

"Every time I am on Univision, I get more listeners," says the show's host, who has seen the U.S. Supreme Court decision.

In the ten years Sin Fronteras has been on the air, lasting friendships. Overall, the show has been a fun and wonderful experience for everyone producing the show every week.

"I really don't know," says Chávez, Sin Fronteras being the first Spanish-language longest running gay Latino radio show to leave that behind."

Whatever the future holds, Sin Fronteras is ahead of its time and unique in the Latino community shows have started transmitting.

For more information, contact SinFronteras@hotmail.com.