

The TEXAS

Triangle

June 27, 2003

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Issue 38

Houston Pride Turns

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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."

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.



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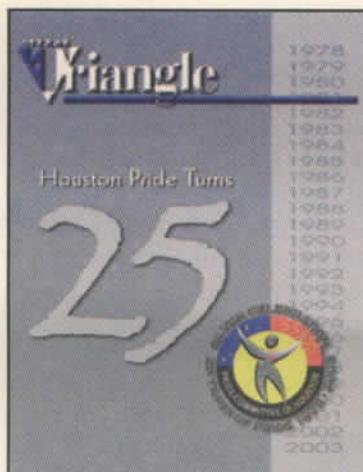
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Activists call for intensified investigations Leads Elude Police in TG Murder Cases

By Jone Devlin

HOUSTON—It's happened again.

On Friday, June 19, 2003, a man identified as Michael Charles Hurd was shot and killed as he drove down the street in west Houston. At the time of his death, Hurd was dressed in women's clothing. Currently police have no leads.

Hurd's death is striking some in the community as eerily similar to that of Bibi (Hugo Cesar) Barajas. Barajas body was discovered on January 26, 2002. She had been shot to death in the breezeway of a commercial business at 5300 Glenmont, in southwest Houston. Barajas, a sex worker, is believed to have been killed by some of her customers. A suspect was sought in Barajas death though no charges have been filed to date.

The GLBT community has universally condemned the killing of Hurd. "PFLAG condemns the hatred and misunderstanding that leads to crimes against those of us who don't appear to conform to society's repressive norms," Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) said in a statement released on June 20. "This cold-blooded killing would appear to be a hate crime. If so, it is yet another chilling exam-

"We've got an epidemic, especially with Latina transgendered women. It seems like a lot of them are being taken down and there doesn't seem to be much concern about it." —Vanessa Edwards-Foster, chair of the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition

ple of the violence perpetrated against transgender people. PFLAG extends its sympathy to the family and loved ones of this victim and promises that this heinous act will only serve to further its commitment to fighting for justice and safety for everyone, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation."

"PFLAG's mission is to foster understanding and respect for everyone. We ask the nation to join us in mourning this senseless death," added PFLAG executive director David Tseng.

According to statistics released by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) at the time of Barajas death in 2002, six transgender women had been killed in Houston in a four-year period. Hurd's death brings that number to seven.

Vanessa Edwards-Foster, chair of the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition, said that while there is no indication that there is any kind of serial murder of transgendered women taking place in the city, the killings are still very frightening.

In the case of Bibi Barajas, according to Edwards-Foster, the murderers were two Latino males who had picked Barajas up that evening. "One of the girls told me that another girl had seen Bibi getting into a van with two men," Edwards-Foster said, "but I never could find the second girl to get more information."

Edwards-Foster said that Barajas, like many of the women who work out of the Chimney Rock area, was an illegal immigrant. Because of this, it is difficult to get information, and even more difficult to get anyone to go to the police with evidence. "It's hard to get these girls to talk, because this is their lives, they're out there every day," explained Edwards-Foster. "They are frequently robbed and beaten. A lot of them are invited into vans and then once inside, would be three or four men who would tie her up, strip her, rape her, rob her and then just dump her out of the car somewhere."

Little is known of Michael Hurd except that he was shot while driving in the Montrose area. It is assumed he was out clubbing on the night of his death.

Said Edwards-Foster "It's a tragedy, but unfortunately it gets very little attention. Apparently, transgenders don't have enough clout to make enough noise to have anyone legislatively address this. Things are getting a little better but it still doesn't change attitudes."

She talked about the Gwen Araujo case earlier this year in California, naming it as one of the few that was "extremely heinous" and therefore got national attention. Araujo, who had lived for most of her life as a girl, went to a house party. At some point

Continued on next page



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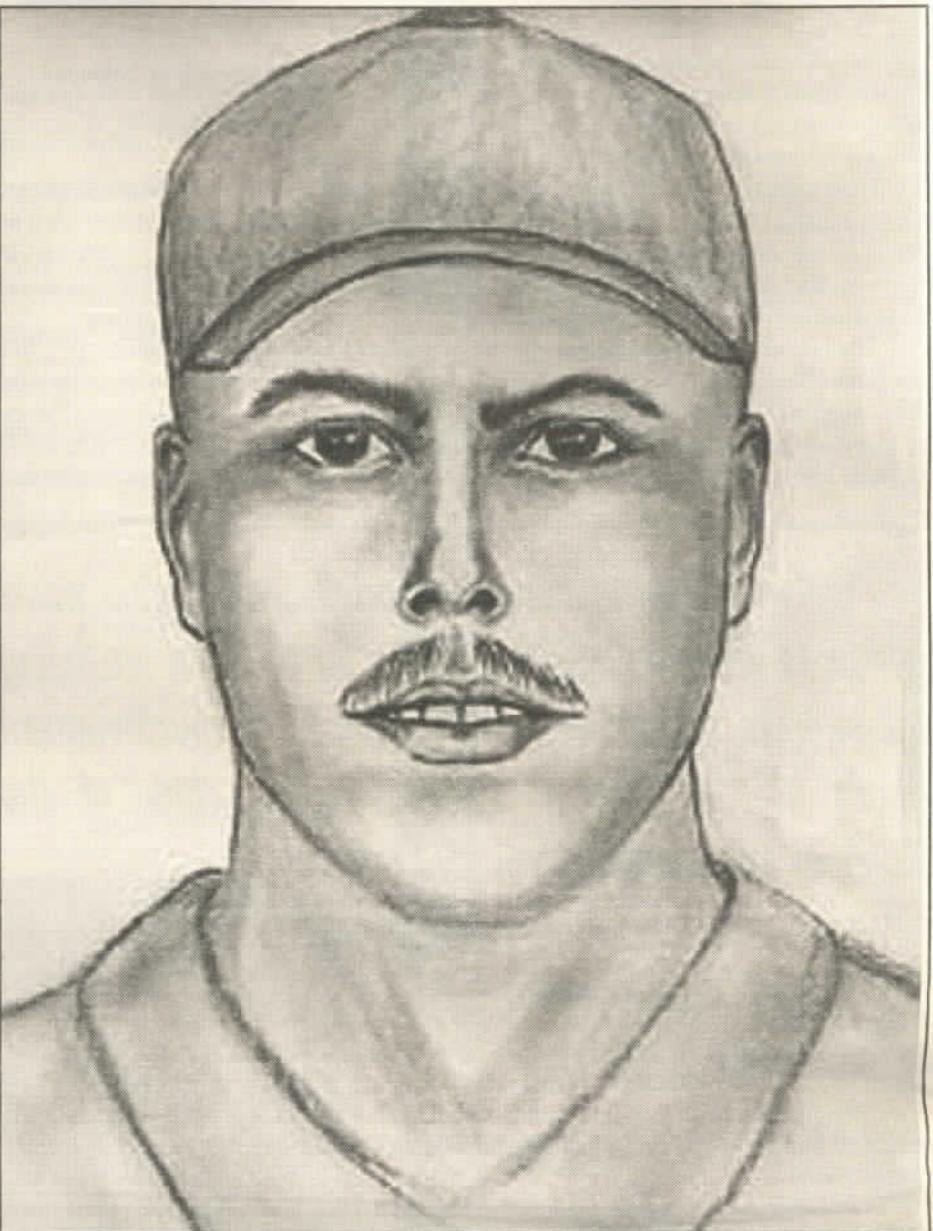
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TG Murder Cases...

Continued from pg. 5

during the night, it was discovered that she was transsexual, and announced to all of those present. At that point, authorities say, Michael William Magidson, 22, Jose Antonio Merel, 22, and Jaron Chase Nabors, 19, proceeded to attack Araujo, beating her



Houston Police Department provided this composite sketch of a man in connection with the 2002 death of Bibi (Hugo Cesar) Barajas.

unmercifully while other partygoers watched. Eventually her attackers dragged her to a garage and strangled her to death, then tied her up and dumped her body at a campground 100 miles away. No one at the party made any attempt to help Araujo, nor did anyone call the police afterward regarding what they had witnessed that night.

But even in that case, noted Edwards-Foster, it was the family that made the difference. "The family actually found some of the clues themselves, and managed to get additional evidence for the police," she said. "They never gave in, and that's what it takes, a supportive family."

Barajas, as a newcomer to this country, didn't have that support. Thus far, the details of Michael Hurd's case appears to be fraught with the unknown.

According to NTAC, Houston has one of the highest transgender murder rates in the country; though many, unlike Hurd and Barajas, receive little media attention. "We've got an epidemic, especially with Latina transgendered women," said Edwards-Foster. "It seems like a lot of them are being taken down and there doesn't seem to be much concern about it."

Edwards-Foster credits this prevalence to a number of different factors, including the neighborhoods where these women work, as well as the type of work they do. But more dangerous than these factors, she says, is the view that these women are easy prey. "If [someone] does decide to attack one of these girls there's not going to be a lot of effort expended in investigating."

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MCC Hosts International Spirituality Conference

Speakers include former NFL player and author who claims Jesus was gay

DALLAS—Former Minnesota Viking and gay parent, Esera Tuaolo, will be featured as a guest speaker here at Metropolitan Community Churches 21st General Conference Sunday, July 6. The event is the world's largest gay and lesbian spirituality conference and will be held July 1-6.

Also speaking at the conference will be Dr. Theodore W. Jennings Jr., author of *The Man Jesus Loved: Homoerotic Narratives From the New Testament*. Although many Christians consider his findings of an actively homosexual Jesus "blasphemous," Jennings will, nonetheless, present his book and the results of his controversial research at the conference.

Tuaolo, who was a member of the NFL for nine years, adopted twin infants following his retirement from football with his partner, Mitchell Wherley. Since retiring three years ago, Tuaolo and Wherley have settled in Minneapolis, where they raise their two-year-olds, a son and daughter.

Tuaolo will share his coming out story and speak about his experiences as a family man and gay parent to MCC at the Plenary Session on July 6. He was raised in a large family himself; he was born the youngest of eight children and raised in a Christian family of Samoan and French heritage in Hawaii.

Following performances of the National Anthem at numerous college and NFL venues in the 1990s, Tuaolo has also enjoyed a burgeoning singing career. He has two pop albums under his belt.

"I'm just your typical gay Samoan, ex-nose tackle who'd like to break into show biz," Tuaolo said in a 2002 *ESPN The Magazine* article.

Esera will perform a song at the conference as well as share his personal journey of faith as an openly gay man in the closing worship service.

Since coming out last year, Tuaolo has been an active speaker on gay issues, becoming a role model to youths and members of the gay community who draw inspiration from reading his story.

"Maybe some kid, athlete or not, will read about me and learn he or she isn't alone," Tuaolo wrote in his ESPN story. "Maybe some fan, gay or not, will read about me and learn something new—that gay people come from all walks of life, all types of backgrounds and all types of jobs."

Jennings is the department head of gay and lesbian studies at the Chicago Theological Seminary, a school of the United Church of Christ. The church's Pilgrim Press published the book, which Jennings will present in a day-long MCC institute called "Queering the Bible."

The book fits the United Church of Christ's policy of "extravagant welcome" toward gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people. Jennings is an ordained minister of the United Methodist Church, which officially opposes same-sex activity.

"The days when you can use the Bible to condemn gays and lesbians are finally drawing to an end," MCC Founder Rev. Troy Perry said. "Finally scholars are uncovering the real message of Jesus' love for all people, which can never be used to condemn anyone, especially God's gay and lesbian children."

In his book, Jennings largely depends on just a few biblical words concerning the disciple "lying close to the breast of Jesus" at the Last Supper (John 13:23,25, 21:20). This unnamed follower "whom Jesus loved" is often thought to be the writer of the Gospel of John or one of his sources.

As Jennings imagines it, this disciple was "lying in [on] Jesus' lap—that is, snuggled up to Jesus." Jesus "loved" all his colleagues, but Jennings thinks this one friendship was "expressed by physical and personal intimacy—what we might today suppose to be a homoerotic or a 'gay' relationship."

Other featured speakers in "Queering the Bible," include such distinguished gay and lesbian theologians as Dr. Mona West and Dr. Bob Goss, co-editors of *Take Back the Word: Queer Readings of the Bible*, and fellow Chicago Theological Seminary professor Dr. Ken Stone, editor of *Queer Commentary and the Hebrew Bible*.

More than 1200 gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) Christians are expected to gather in Dallas for the week-long conference sponsored by Metropolitan Community Churches. With more than 46,000 members in almost 300 congregations in 22 countries, MCC forms the world's largest Christian church group providing positive, affirming ministry to the GLBT communities.

Information on the MCC World Jubilee and General Conference, along with the Human Rights Brunch, can be found on-line at www.MCCchurch.org.



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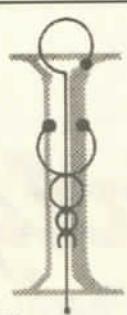
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National News

By Ann Rostow

Anglicans Horrified By Gay Bishops

NEW HAMPSHIRE—The Anglican Church, a worldwide faith comprising roughly 77 million members including those in the U.S. Episcopal Church and the Church of England, is facing a possible schism over gay rights. And the recent appointment of two openly gay bishops, one in New Hampshire and one in the U.K., may be the final straw for the conservative Anglicans in Africa, South America and elsewhere.

In late May, the 17 million member Church of Nigeria and several smaller churches severed ties with their counterparts in British Columbia after the Canadian diocese of New Westminster authorized priests to perform same-sex marriage ceremonies. Then came the election of Canon Gene Robinson as Bishop of the New Hampshire Diocese of the 2.3 million-member Episcopal Church, followed by the appointment of Canon Jeffrey John as the Bishop of Reading. Robinson was once married, but has been living with his life partner for 13 years. John, in turn, has been in a relationship for 27 years, but says that he and his partner have been celibate for some time out of respect for church law.

On Monday, the head of the Church of Uganda joined Nigeria and a dozen other churches in intense opposition to the encroaching gay menace. Led by Nigeria, churches in the West Indies, the Southern Cone in South America, Kenya, India, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Central Africa and Kenya have declared themselves in "impaired communion" with the Canadians. Now, the expanding conservative group is considering taking the same stance in their approach to New Hampshire once Robinson's election is confirmed next month at the Episcopalian General Convention. Five bishops in Sydney, Australia, issued a public statement Monday decrying the Canadian ceremonies and the gay bishops, although the head of the Australian Church urged restraint, calling homosexuality a "minor issue" compared with world peace, poverty, AIDS and terrorism.

On June 23, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, finally broke days of silence in a letter to the 116 bishops of the Church of England. Williams, the leader of the worldwide Anglican Church, said the appointment of Jeffrey John was one "I have neither sought to promote nor to obstruct." It is important," Williams continued, "to stress to the wider Anglican Communion that we are not embarking on or colluding with any policy of unilateral local change." Nonetheless, he went on, "it is not for anyone outside the diocese to override or preempt what is obviously a painful and complex process." Williams, who will consecrate John as Bishop next October, wrote that he will make "a pastoral visit to West Africa" in the next few weeks, and urged Anglicans "to give each other a little more time and space for thought, as we try to find how we can walk in step as the Body of Christ—not falling over ourselves because of anxiety and suspicion."

American Gay Couples Hop Canadian Border to Wed

TORONTO—Toronto is extending business hours at City Hall in anticipation of a deluge in demand for marriage licenses over gay pride weekend. By last Friday, June 20, the *New York Times* reports that the city had issued 175 licenses to same-sex couples, including 10 to Americans. Cities throughout Ontario are granting licenses like mad, and several American couples have hopped over the border from Detroit to Windsor to tie the knot.

In Niagara Falls, the *National Post* reports that the churches are refusing to conduct same-sex marriages on religious grounds. Normally, this wouldn't be a problem, but justices of the peace in the honeymoon Mecca stopped performing marriages five years ago for some reason. As such, the city has issued four licenses, but the couples have not been able to follow through with the wedding. A license must be forwarded to the provincial authorities by the minister or judge who performs the marriage ceremony, and the province then issues a marriage certificate.

Perhaps Niagara entrepreneurs can take a lesson from those in London, Ontario, who have just opened a drive-through gay wedding chapel just a short distance from the Michigan border. According to 365Gay.com, the Crystal Wedding Chapel offers everything from a Cd\$159 "quickie," to a Cd\$2,599 deluxe wedding, with limo, photographs, video, dinner and hotel room. Or, for Cd\$799, an Elvis impersonator will walk couples down the aisle, sing a song, and pose for pictures. "Some say it's pretty tacky," said owner Dale Brewster, "but people are always getting married in places like hot air balloons, on beaches, underwater—this is just

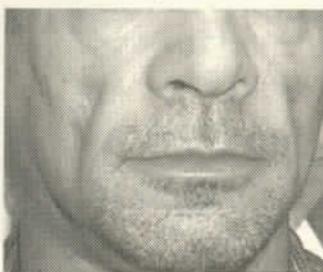
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another option. It's really not that outrageous."

A great deal of litigation is expected to accompany the eventual legalization of marriage throughout Canada, and it has already begun with the legalization of marriage in Ontario. One newly married couple is planning to file a complaint against the authorities in the province of New Brunswick, who are refusing to let the two men take a shared name despite their legal wedding. According to CBC News, the New Brunswick Justice Minister is studying the Ontario court ruling that legalized marriage two weeks ago, and seeking advice from the federal government on how to treat same-sex marriages in his province.

Internal divisions within Canada are likely to be resolved within months, however. Last week, Prime Minister Jean Chretien announced the governing Liberal Party will draft legislation legalizing same-sex marriage nationally, and ask the Supreme Court to review the bill to make sure it will withstand legal challenges. A vote in Parliament is expected this fall.

The Liberals' plan is a sensible one, even though the Parliament has no authority to overrule the Ontario Court of Appeals. Nonetheless, the same-sex marriage bill is expected to pass, and a legislative vote will add weight to the change in policy. A stamp of approval from the Supreme Court, in turn, will preempt any attempt by the province of Alberta to resist gay marriage through legal technicalities. Alberta is the only Canadian province in opposition to gay marriage, and has threatened to maintain its own heterosexual definition of marriage. But under Canadian law a province may not exempt itself from policies that are under federal control. The Supreme Court will be asked specifically to confirm that the definition of marriage is a federal matter, and experts in the country say Alberta has no legal leg to stand on.

In other marriage news, Canada might be overshadowed in a matter of days as the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court prepares to rule on the status of gay marriage. The ruling in Goodrich v. Department of Public Health, expected by July 10 at the latest, will be the final word on the case and, as a state matter, may not be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. There's a great deal of optimism surrounding the Goodrich ruling, but few dare to jinx the outcome by voicing their hopes. Still, the Massachusetts high court is known for a couple of rulings in support of same-sex families, and the legal arguments that swayed three courts in Canada have been brilliantly articulated by the attorneys at Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders.

A victory in Massachusetts would present U.S. courts with a separate question of marriage recognition. Canada will force the issue of whether a state must recognize a legal marriage performed in another country. Massachusetts would demand whether a state must recognize a legal marriage performed elsewhere in the United States. The second question is the fundamental one, and the answer—yes—seems clearly grounded in the Constitution's mandate that all states give "full faith and credit" to the public acts, records and judgments of all sister states. The Supreme Court has never ruled on whether the Full Faith and Credit Clause covers marriages, but they are likely to see such a case in the next decade.

Even if Massachusetts falls short of legalizing marriage, some state will eventually do so. The most likely candidate is New Jersey. This Friday, one day after we expect the Supreme Court to rule on the challenge to the Texas sodomy law brought by Lambda Legal Defense, Lambda's lawyers will present oral arguments in a Trenton courthouse, seeking the right to marry for several same-sex couples in the Garden State. New Jersey has asked the court to dismiss the case.

According to Lambda, the judge may well issue a ruling from the bench, immediately following the 10 a.m. arguments. If the state's motion is denied, Lambda could subsequently file a motion for summary judgment, asking the court to rule, as a matter of law, that the plaintiffs' constitutional rights are violated by New Jersey's discriminatory marriage statute. Ultimately, the case will wind up before the New Jersey Supreme Court, which is a fine place to seek resolution. New Jersey's top court is known for independent thinking and an expansive view of civil rights.

This is indeed an extraordinary summer in the lives of gay and lesbian Americans, and an extraordinary week. Here we have the pending legalization of marriage in Canada, and the possibility of legal marriage in the United States, and yet neither of these two stories are the top gay rights news headlines of the moment. That ranking is reserved for another story, which remains tantalizingly on the horizon.

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Metropolitan Community Church's General Conference & World Jubilee Comes to Dallas July 1-6!

Join MCC, the world's largest church group for the GLBT community, for an international celebration of God's gifts of spirituality and sexuality!



July 6 - Former Minnesota Viking, Esera Tuaoalo will share his personal journey of faith as an openly gay man and father during the conference's closing worship service, on Sunday, July 6.



July 1st - Theatre presentation of "Late Night Catechism." Maybe you fell asleep in catechism when you were younger... but Sister will make sure you're wide awake for a special performance of this hilarious, award-winning theater comedy.



July 3rd - "Sing for the Cure" Concert. The Women's Chorus of Dallas will celebrate the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation in a fantastic evening of music, along with members of the Turtle Creek Chorale and the Oklahoma Men's Chorus.



July 6th - Human Rights Brunch. Meet pioneer civil rights activist and recipient of the MCC Human Rights Award, Barbara Gittings. For 40 years, Barbara and her partner, Kay Tobin Lahusen, have been in the forefront of Gay Liberation. Gittings is shown to the right with Isabel Miller at a Dallas "Hug-A-Homosexual" Booth run by the Task Force on Gay Liberation in 1971.

Individual Weekend Registration Passes for July 4-6 are available for \$150! Day Passes are also available for \$50!

Here are just a few of the many programs you won't want to miss at our World Jubilee:

WORKSHOPS AND INSTITUTES:

- Activism: Then and Now
- Omgender
- Because HIV Isn't Over
- Bad Boys of the Bible/Bad Girls of the Bible

- Queering The Bible
- International Perspectives On War and Peace HIV
- Programs for Local Communities Plus... More than 75 workshops, institutes, and affinity groups!

WORSHIP:

Tuesday 9:30 - 10:45 AM - Opening Worship
Wednesday 7:30-8:30 PM - Healing and Wholeness
Thursday 7 - 8:15 PM - Sexuality & The Body
Friday 7-8:15 PM - Discovering Liberation
Sunday 3-4 PM - Closing Worship Celebration
(Worship Services are Free & Open to the Public)



Conference will be held at Wyndham Anatole Hotel
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Visit www.mccchurch.org for more information on events, activities and a full listing of workshops and guest speakers! Register online!

Community *Briefs*

Events Slated for KOOP Radio's 3rd Annual Summer Fruit Festival

AUSTIN—During the week of June 29, 91.7FM-KOOP Radio hosts the third Annual Summer Fruit Festival to commemorate the Stonewall Riots, celebrate Gay Pride Month and benefit community radio. 91.7FM-KOOP Radio, now streaming on-line at www.koop.org, is a community radio station providing a diverse array of programming, emphasizing programs that deal with local issues and serving communities that are under-represented by mainstream media. Currently, 91.7FM-KOOP Radio provides Austin's only programming for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities.

The "Summer Fruit Festival" includes events aimed at honoring the gay rights struggle during the anniversary of the Stonewall Riots of 1969, which some consider the beginning of the gay rights movement in America. On Sunday, June 29 from 9 a.m. 'til 10 p.m., 91.7FM-KOOP Radio is pre-empting its usual programming in order to provide its Stonewall Media Event, a full day of programming for the GLBT community. The day will include live performances by area bands, interviews with the ACLU, *The Man Who Would Be Queen* author J. Michael Bailey, *Texas Triangle*'s Nancy Ford, comedians Georgia Ragsdale and Suzanne Westenhoefer, comedian Paula Poundstone, musical performer The Gay Pimp, singer/poet Sharon Bridgforth, a tribute to Audre Lorde, radio drama *Sex & Mayhem*, archived tapes about the history of the Stonewall Riots, GLBT literature, a discussion about discrimination against gays in the Rastafarian community and more.

Programming is available on-line at www.koop.org.

Boys4Toys Plans 4th Annual Summer Party

DALLAS—Boys4Toys, a gay-oriented area nonprofit that collects toys for critically abused and underprivileged children, has announced plans for its fourth annual Attitude & Shade (A&S 4) fundraiser. The four-day dance event will feature an electrifying lineup of international DJ talents entertaining partygoers amid exotic safari settings. Proceeds will benefit Boys4Toys' mega toy-drive event this December.

The adventure begins Thursday, July 3, with "Manhunt" at the Sheraton Dallas Brookhollow Hotel from 10 p.m. 'til 4 a.m. Joining A&S 4 from his residency at world-famous London nightspot, Heaven, DJ Wayne G will man the turntables. The nighttime safari will continue underground with Attitude 4 official afterhours event "Jungle Beat" Friday, July 4, from 3 a.m. 'til 8 a.m. in the Sheraton's subterranean Rolm Room. DJ DeMarko of Montreal's Black & Blue Festival will spin.

"This is the first time we've ever tried an after-hours, so we don't really know what to expect," says Boys4Toys chairman J. Chris Leeds. "I think it will be a great venture, though, since each of the back-to-back events will be conveniently located within feet of one another. Besides, DJ DeMarko is excellent."

Following "Jungle Beat," partygoers will have downtime to shower and disco-nap before A&S 4 recommences at the Sheraton poolside with "Safari Shade" Friday, July 4, from noon 'til 6 p.m. with DJ Patrick Phillips. Partygoers donating a new, unwrapped toy during "Manhunt" or "Safari Shade" will be entered in hourly drawings to receive a ticket to the A&S 4 closing party, "Tribal Tea."

Event planners encourage partygoers to take advantage of the Sheraton's special \$69 room-rate offer by calling 214-630-7000 and mentioning "Boys4Toys" while making reservations. "Guests should book rooms early. Last year's event filled the hotel," says Leeds. "Plus, the Sheraton is donating \$10 back to Boys4Toys for every room booked each night. It's a very excited and welcoming hotel."

Boys4Toys expects nothing less than an exceptional turnout, including hundreds of locals and visitors from all over the country. "Last summer's event drew over 500 people," says Leeds. The popularity of Boys4Toys' events has ranked the group, which operates solely through volunteer support, among the most well respected circuit-event production collectives in the state. The group prides itself on its fresh décor, virtuoso DJ talents and overall organization. "Of course, our cause—bringing down barriers between the gay and straight communities, while helping children—is what we're most proud about," Leeds adds.

The event continues Saturday, July 5, as The Brick hosts Boys4Toys-sanctioned event "You Tarzan, Me Jane" from 10 p.m. 'til 4 a.m. DJ Monty Q returns to Dallas to with a trademark set of melodic, high-energy mixing. Sunday, July 6, A&S 4 winds down with DJ Josh Gram. An intimate, Dallas-meets-New York club atmosphere lies beneath the surface of downtown's concrete jungle at "Tribal Tea," hosted by Umlaut from 6 p.m. mid-night. Planners assure guests ease in finding Umlaut, located at 1602b Main St. Both free and valet parking will be conveniently available, and each guest will receive a free CD.

Event passes may be purchased securely online until June 30 through 420Tickets, accessible from www.boys4toys.org. Each \$60 pass will admit one guest to the following

three events: "Manhunt," "Safari Shade" and "You Tarzan, Me Jane." Passes purchased online will be available for pickup Thursday, July 3, in the Boys4Toys hospitality area. Event passes may also be purchased at Union Jack, Zeus Toys, Off the Street, Outlines, Dulce, Skivvies, The Brick and Moby Dick. Individual event tickets are available at each event's door: "Manhunt" (\$40), "Jungle Beat" (\$10), "Safari Shade" (\$20), "You Tarzan, Me Jane" (\$15) and "Tribal Tea" (\$10).

Founded in 1999, Boys4Toys is a 501(c)(3) designated nonprofit that collects toys for critically abused and underprivileged children in Greater Dallas under its commitment to strengthening community ties. Since its inaugural toy drive in December 1999, Boys4Toys has donated over 20,000 toys via its direct beneficiaries, Dallas Children's Advocacy Center (DCAC) and WFAA Channel 8 Santa's Helpers.

For additional event, volunteering or sponsorship information, please visit Boys4Toys' Web site at www.boys4toys.org, or call 214-522-5200 or info@boys4toys.org.

Dallas Transgender Alliance Announces New Educational Scholarship, Events

DALLAS—Dallas Transgender Alliance, Inc. (DTA) announced a new \$500 transsexual educational scholarship, one awarded in the fall and one in the spring, based on funds availability and other criteria. The purpose of the scholarship, organizers say, is to give a recently transitioned transsexual man or woman, who demonstrates financial need, the opportunity to succeed in their new life, through career training.

DTA has also announced its 1st Annual TransBenefit Formal Banquet, Saturday, Sept. 13, 2003, at the Resource Center of Dallas' Rainbow Room. The formal event features a catered dinner with guest speakers, live entertainment, and presentation of the 2003 DTA Community Ally Awards. Proceeds after expenses, will benefit program development and the charitable outreach services of DTA.

Additionally, DTA and the Cathedral of Hope have tentatively set Friday, November 14, 2003, 7 p.m. as the date to recognize the 5th Annual National Transgender Day of Remembrance (Nov. 20), memorializing the victims of gender-based hate crimes, and create awareness about gender-based violence within our communities. Last year's service drew more than 50 people, and this year's event is predicted to be even larger, organizers said.

"DTA is celebrating over one year of charitable service in the community," said DTA President Tylana Marie Coop. "From our volunteer circle of gender speakers, to our community awareness events and newly developing services, DTA is making a difference, one positive outreach effort at a time."

DTA will also be developing a Transgender 101 Seminar, co-sponsored by the Resource Center of Dallas, later this year.

Access www.dallastransgenderalliance.com for more detailed information and to download and print a copy of the scholarship application. Some restrictions and qualifications apply. Availability may vary, based on funding. Info: 214-540-4475 or dtgaliance@yahoo.com.

Montrose Clinic Offers Quick Results for National HIV Testing Day Today

HOUSTON—Montrose Clinic has announced extended hours for National HIV Testing Day, Friday, June 27. The clinic, located at 215 Westheimer, offers testing beginning at 11 a.m., and extending 'til 5 p.m.

Today, Montrose Clinic will have professionally trained counselors who will administer the Orasure Rapid HIV Antibody Test, providing results in twenty minutes. The HIV test consists of completing a risk-assessment and having blood drawn. Results are given in a private, one-on-one setting to maintain confidentiality.

"National HIV Testing Day is a call to action program," said Dr. Juan Garza, medical Director of the Montrose Clinic. "Say yes to the test, to help reduce the barriers to promote HIV testing among high-risk communities, specifically the African American and Latino communities, and men who have sex with men."

In 1985, Montrose Clinic became the second HIV testing site in the United States to offer anonymous and/or confidential HIV testing and counseling in a culturally sensitive, nonjudgmental environment.

It is estimated that more than 100,000 people currently living in the United States are HIV positive, with approximately 40,000 new infections occurring each year. "With the advent of new antiviral therapy and treatment options, early diagnosis leads to earlier treatment and longer life. Don't guess, take the test," said Garza.

Info: 713-830-3000.

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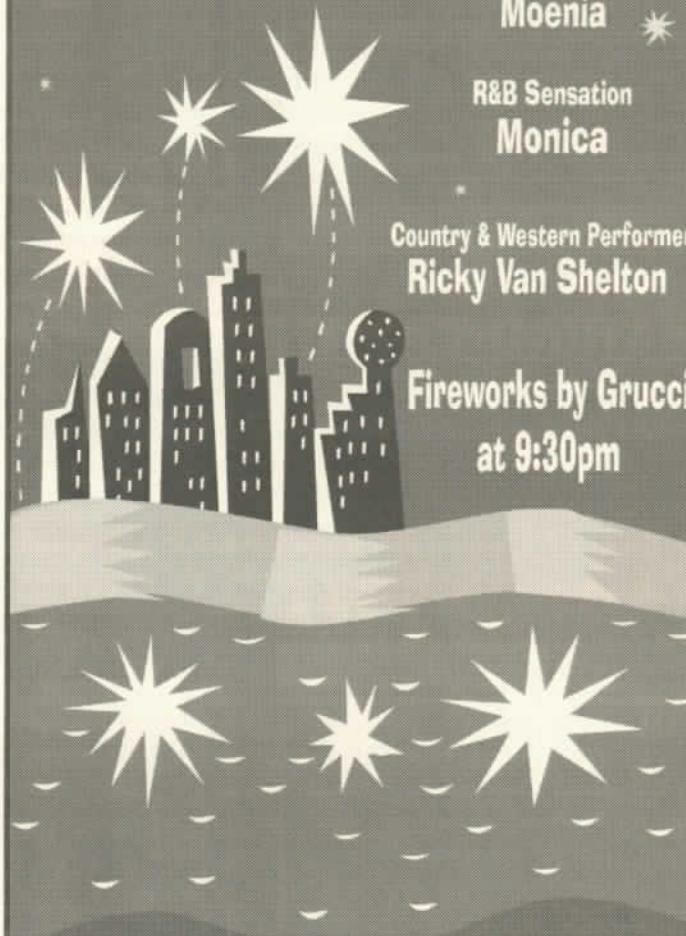
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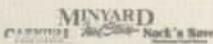
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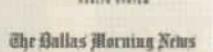
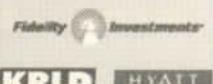
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News With A View

By Ann Rostow

Waiting for Lawrence

So a whole bunch of us were floating online like a group of surfers waiting for a tsunami in the calm before last Monday's Supreme Court announcements. Dale and Nancy were watching CNN Headline News. I was relentlessly calling the Supreme Court opinion line. But the nerves, the adrenaline, the fear, and the excitement once again drained away into combination of relief and disappointment. No opinion. The Champagne stayed on ice.

Dale went off to write about the Justice Department's pride policies (yawn), and I immersed myself in the New Mexico gay rights repeal effort (won't qualify for the 2003 election), the Suffolk County domestic partner registry (defeated), and the upcoming marriage of Portia De Rossi and Ringo Starr's daughter (no date set).

The Court added Thursday, June 26, to their announcement schedule, and since they have five opinions left to announce, it stands to reason that they will announce them all that morning. The *Triangle* has held the presses tomorrow until 10 a.m., about 15 minutes after the opinion is announced, so I envy you, the readers of this issue, who most likely know the outcome while I am sitting here on Wednesday going nuts. I'm assuming we'll "win," but within that category lies defeat as well as victory.

I'm not celebrating a narrow privacy decision, or a butchered plurality with six different opinions. This is our main chance and I'm nervous about it.

It's a Beautiful Morning!

Let's force ourselves through mental discipline alone to take a look at the other blips on our news radar, ignoring for the moment, the massive footprint of *Lawrence* that takes up half the screen.

Focus on the Family has contributed an item from their daily newsletter, a research study that indicates people who count their blessings and have a positive view of life are happier and healthier than those who find fault and obsess about their problems. I couldn't agree more, but I must observe that the Focus on the Family newsletter uses most of its space to rant and rave about homosexuals, feminists, and randy teenagers, and to urge readers to spend their day fuming over irate letters to legislators. Physician! Heal thyself.

Stop Your Bellyaching, Ladies

The Family turns positive in its next item, however, congratulating the Southern Baptists for changing their pro-life policy by getting rid of language that supports abortion if the mother's health is in question. This business about the mother's health, the Baptists warn, is a "deceptively appealing" loophole that basically justifies abortion on demand. It evolved during the 1970s, they say, when the denomination's leaders were "blinded by the spirit of the age on this issue." The news item quoted a counselor, Jean Maloof, who said an abortion exception for a woman's health can be misused. "It can be a convenient excuse," she noted.

Hey! What about those so-called ectopic pregnancies? From what I've read, there are many selfish women who seek medical intervention just because a fertilized egg is growing outside the uterus, where it will eventually develop and burst a fallopian tube or some other internal organ. These unborn babies are routinely murdered by cold-blooded doctors, who speculate that the mother might die if she does not have the pre-born child killed. Maybe she will and maybe she won't. But we know for sure that the little one won't survive such a procedure, don't we?

Bulldogs Bulldogs, Bow Wow Wow

In weird Bush news, here's an anecdote from the Yale reunion he held at the White House the other day, as told to the *San Francisco*

Chronicle's Leah Garchik by one of the attendees. One of Bush's classmates has transitioned to female in the 35 years since the boys were gathering at the tables down at Mory's. "You may remember me as Peter when we left Yale," she told the President. Bush reportedly took her hand without hesitation and said: "Now you've come back as yourself."

What do you make of that? Does Bush have naturally good human instincts? If so, why doesn't he use them?

I was in the class of 1978, (thank you, legacy admissions policy), and spent many a night at Mory's. We would order giant goblets, containing about a gallon of alcohol in one of three colors, red, green or maybe black. The cup was passed around the table, and each participant had to keep drinking while everyone else sang the official Mory's drinking song as slowly as possible. I charged all my drinks to an account of sorts that my father had to settle before I could graduate. Who knew?

Alphabet Soupcon

I'm all for demonstrating against George W. and company, but I am relentlessly opposed to adding more letters to our community acronym. Hence, I have mixed reactions to a press release from Queers for Peace and Justice, that calls for a more radical pride celebration that takes a stand against the Prince of Darkness and his war council. That's fine. But calling our community "LGBTSTI & Queer" is not. Where will it end? There's no limiting principle here.

Speaking of war and Bush, I just read a *Washington Post* poll that indicated a 56 percent majority of Americans favored military intervention in Iran to put a halt to the country's nuclear weapons program. And one in four Americans believe for some reason that Iraq used chemical and biological weapons against U.S. troops in the March conflict. Who are these people? I wonder how many Americans would back an armed conquest of France to retaliate for their opposition to our Iraq invasion plans. I bet there's at least 20 percent in favor. On the positive side, support for Bush and his adventures is still high, but it's slipping a bit.

Conservo-Creep

I shouldn't have gotten started on Bush, but it's too late now. On Tuesday, the *Post* reports, he sent a White House position paper of some sort over to Congress, urging lawmakers to protect "religious hiring rights" for faith-based organizations that may receive federal funds. The man never gives up. Religious hiring rights would allow any conservative church that's running some social program to turn away or fire gay and lesbian applicants and employees, based on the idea that the candidate doesn't share their religious beliefs. That's fine for a private church, but dead wrong for a church that is operating a social service paid for by tax dollars.

Having failed to pass a discriminatory version of his faith-based initiative, or whatever it was called, Bush is now trying to get employment discrimination locked into the text of other pending social service bills, like the Workforce Investment Act, a job training bill, and the new Head Start bill. The position paper also said the President will "urge courts to provide guidance on whether faith-based organizations are required to comply with state and local ordinances that restrict their ability to participate in federally funded formula and block grant programs." Translation: Bush will try and strong arm some court to exempt tax-subsidized church programs from having to comply with local gay rights laws. Well, at least he was nice to his MTF classmate.

Here Comes Da Scout

We must get back on track. You may have heard about the California Supreme Court ruling that allows state judges to maintain

their ties to the Boy Scouts, as long as they announce them to lawyers or others involved in a case who might find the connection relevant. Everyone seemed pleased with the decision, but it seems awfully murky to me. California judges are prohibited from associating with any group that discriminates on the basis of sexual orientation and other factors, but there has long been an exception for "non-profit youth groups." San Francisco's bar association and others asked the high court to remove that exception and toughen up the ethics code, but in essence, the court declined. The bottom line is it's going to take time for some people to shake off that warm fuzzy feeling they attach to the Scouts, and replace it with the hostility the Scouts deserve. Hint. Don't think about the sweet little boys in their cute uniforms. Think about the control freak bigots over in the Texas headquarters with their tight shirts, big bellies and baggy suits. OK, OK! Go ahead and think about the cute boys in their uniforms. But just the ones over 16, please.

You Go, Girl

There's some big news over in Arizona. Well, it's big under our normal standards, that is. Last weekend, Governor Janet Napolitano surprised gay activists in the state by signing an executive order banning sexual orientation discrimination in the state government workplace. The news was announced to a standing ovation at the Arizona Human Rights Fund's fundraising dinner on Saturday night, the *Arizona Republic* reported. Growled Len Munsil of the Center for Arizona Policy: "She's governing like she's a Third World dictator; it's ridiculous." I'm no expert, but I haven't read about any gay rights initiatives from Third World dictators lately, have you? Most of them think of us as loathsome scabs on the infectious fringes of sinful society, and I think at least one of them has suggested that our pets be euthanized. At any rate, a few days later, several spoil sport legislators were questioning the governor's right to change state workplace policy unilaterally and muttering about a lawsuit, but that probably won't come to pass.

Blah Blah Blah

Do we care about state hiring practices in Arizona? Do we care about the proposal for a domestic partner registry in Cleveland Heights that has qualified for the ballot? Do we care about some revision in the language of New York's criminal code that changes the definition of anal rape from "deviate sexual intercourse" to something prettier? No! We care only about tomorrow's Supreme Court opinion and we can't stand the wait any longer!

Land of Enchantment

Oh, but here's something sort of strange that you should know. I haven't quite figured this out myself. I just saw it today on the Associated Press, and the headline reads "Gay Rights Bill Has Glitch." The story refers to the new law in New Mexico that ends discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. According to the AP, the legislature sent "the wrong version of the bill" to the governor's desk, and the governor signed it. Under whatever the governor signed, businesses with less than 15 employees are exempt from the state Human Rights Act. But current law says that businesses with less than four staff are exempt. Hence, the governor inadvertently released all businesses with four to 14 employees from having to follow state civil rights law. The legislature may have to reconsider the whole thing, and the AP reports that lawmakers may revisit the entire gay rights debate. Huh? That's just terrible if true. Can't they just scratch out 15 and put 4 and have everyone initial it?

In one more interesting story out of New Mexico, the state supreme court ruled last week that an unmarried heterosexual couple should be considered close enough for one member to sue for loss of consortium after a car crash. The plaintiff couple was together for 30 years, but only married recently. Before they were married, someone smacked into their car and the man hurt his back. After they were married, the same thing happened again, and the man's back was reinjured. I know, this is complicated. From what I vaguely understand, (BECAUSE I CAN'T CONCENTRATE ON ANYTHING BUT THE SUPREME COURT OPINION) the woman was allowed to sue the second driver for loss of consortium, but was not allowed to sue in the first instance, because she and her man were not married. The high court reversed that decision, ruling that the determination of whether a couple is close enough to suffer from the loss of their sex life after a car crash is one for a jury to decide, and could not automatically be ascertained by the presence, or lack, of a marriage license. Obviously, this bodes well for gay and lesbian couples. At least for the lucky few who get into horrible car crashes and can't have sex anymore.

Now, I'm going to hit the Champagne store and restock for tomorrow. Happy Sodomy Day!



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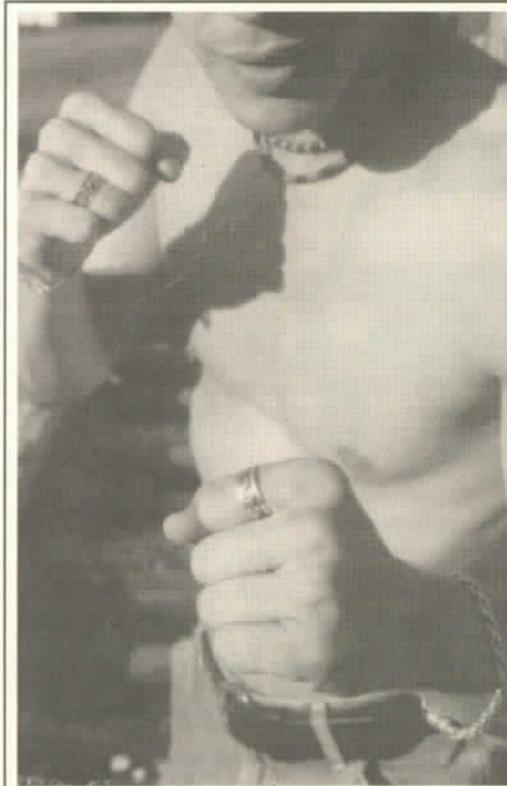


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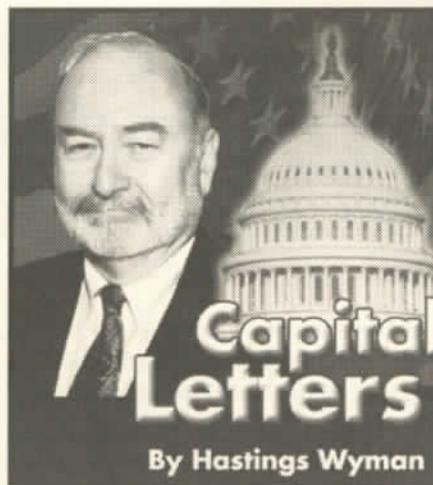
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Capital Letters
By Hastings Wyman

Sen. Patty Murray: Dodging the Bullet

With the U.S. Senate closely divided and the White House recruiting viable Republican contenders across the country to keep the Democrats from regaining control, Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) has been high on the list of potentially vulnerable incumbents. A strong supporter of the gay community—Murray scored 100 in the last Human Rights Campaign (HRC) legislative ratings—the two-term liberal lawmaker's defeat would be a major loss for us, especially if she were replaced by a conservative GOPer with an antigay rating.

Murray, however, is looking stronger by the minute. The first good news for her re-election prospects was that Congresswoman Jennifer Dunn (R) decided not to oppose her. Had Dunn challenged Murray, she would have been a formidable foe. For starters, Dunn, as a woman, could attack Murray without looking like a bully. Moreover, Dunn's voting record on social issues is moderate. She is pro-choice and overall rates 52 percent conservative, 47 percent liberal on social issues, according to the *National Journal*—a record that would appeal to many Northwest voters. (Dunn's moderation, however, does not extend to gay issues: She only scored 17 percent with HRC.)

Now the GOP's best hope is Congressman George Nethercutt, the giant-killer who knocked off Speaker of the House Tom Foley (D) in the 1994 Republican tsunami. Nethercutt looks like he's also having

second thoughts about the race, but if he runs, his strong conservatism would make him a weaker candidate than Dunn would have been. Also, he's from Eastern Washington, which is a less populated part of the state. For gay voters, a Nethercutt candidacy would produce an especially clear choice: He rated a lousy zero on the HRC scorecard.

This is not to say that Nethercutt would be a pushover for Murray. On the contrary, he does have a lot of name ID in the state for beating Foley and probably would have a pot full of money to mount a high-powered campaign. Nethercutt had only \$82,000 on hand as of March 31—hardly enough to jump-start a campaign—but he cites \$12 million as the amount he would expect to raise to run against Murray. With control of the Senate in the balance, the national GOP could make sure he raises that amount.

While Nethercutt is conservative, he is quirky enough to present himself as a GOP maverick. For example, he led a battle to relax trade restrictions with Cuba, essentially to help agricultural exports from his district. Moreover, he would be sure to attack Murray for her statement in December 2002 contrasting Osama bin Laden's building of schools, day-care centers, and health-care facilities in the Middle East with Americans "just being the people who are going to bomb in Iraq and go to Afghanistan."

Even with Nethercutt's assets, however, Murray would be favored—though not a slam dunk—in a race with Nethercutt. To counter the soft-on-Osama charge, she's been working on homeland security money for the port of Seattle. Moreover, at the end of the first quarter she had a hefty \$1,610,000 in her campaign kitty and knows how to get more: She served as chair of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, a major fundraising post. The political oddsmakers were initially calling Murray potentially vulnerable. Now they're shifting to the view that she's probably safe. Thus, this "mom in tennis shoes"—as Murray dubbed herself in her first Senate campaign in 1992—is likely to continue as a strong supporter of gay causes in the U.S. Senate.

Hastings Wyman can be reached care of this publication or via email at HWymanSPR@aol.com.

Letters...

0, Canada!

After the very public threats to us Canadians over our position on Iraq and our recent decision to relax pot laws, I am very curious to see what new threats will be hurled at us over our bold decision to legalize gay marriage in Canada.

It will be equally as interesting to see what discriminatory laws the U.S. feds will have to put in place to invalidate Canada's marriage laws and the impact it will have on the U.S.

I am very proud that our government has the guts to not leave this issue for the Supreme Court but to tackle it head on and push it through regardless of veiled threats from con-

Colin Brownlee
Vancouver, Canada

Del Grande

Great article on Phyllis and Del! Your publication keeps getting better and better. Thanks for being there.

An anonymous reader
via internet

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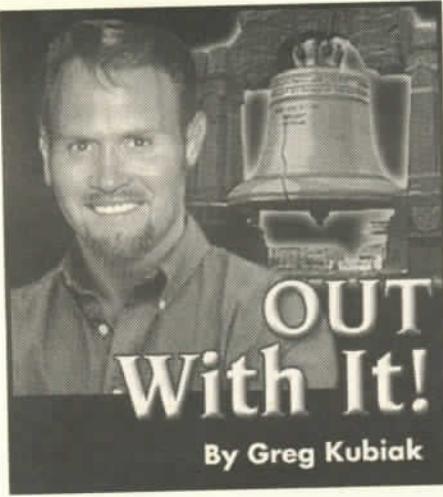
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Six Degrees of Segregation

With every Pride celebration comes the perennial debate about gay unity, a GLBTQ agenda and (whether or not we are a) "community". So before you put away your rainbow flag, God Made Me Gay button and your Banderas Mesh V-neck Muscle Shirt (International Male, \$24.99) until Pride 2004, here's my two-cents worth.

Gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning Americans are unified by little more than our sole distinction from the heterosexual majority—the fact that we don't have sex like them.

And for purposes of defining "heterosexual majority", I'll include in that group straight-oriented asexuals and celibate priests (both of them.)

Leaders in the gay community, or the more politically correct GLBTQ community, will tell you that marriage and adoption rights, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," employment non-discrimination, and/or hate crimes laws should be the policy part of a GLBTQ "agenda," (referred to by the religious right as the "militant homosexual agenda").

But my own instinct is we won't have much of a community until and unless we break down the current barriers that exist.

The first thing that separates our community is age. How can the young and old agree on an agenda when they're not even in the same room. Some of my friends contend that age is not that big a factor.

But if it's not, why do they always grimace when their age comes up around younger people? I know that is largely true for straights, too. But since they always knew they were straight, there's none of that "catching up" with life that so many gay men and lesbians feel they need to do since they frittered away time before they came out.

Related to the age factor, is beauty. I don't mean to suggest that good looking people only hang out with good looking people. That would be snobbish. And I don't mean to suggest that ugly people only hang out with ugly people. That would be mean. I just mean that we all want to be more beautiful, and that takes a lot of time. How can you develop an agenda when you're constantly at the gym so you can fit into your 30 inch jeans? (OK,

34's.) Further, it's hard to be part of community-building when you're working overtime to help pay for your botox injections.

And speaking of work, nothing promotes segregation like disparities in income. Again, this one is pretty similar in the straight world too, but GLBTQ's have honed this divisor with great precision. In some gay circles, measuring your money can be as intimidating as showering after Phys Ed in high school. It's not that some people actually discuss the size of their salary, raise or bonus. But some people could save time handing you a copy of their W-2 rather than talking about their next cruise, their new car, their suit from Neiman's, their new Italian marble tile shower or how close their table was to Hillary at the HRC dinner.

And while we're on the subject of dinner placement, being a G, an L, a B, a T or a Q is just like high school. We all sit together at lunch; that is, we segregate by orientation and race. Again, this is not unique to "us". Straights have their social clubs, community causes and favorite bars, too. And in most cases, the people there look an awful lot alike.

Related to this factor is how relationships affect community barriers. After a break-up with a boyfriend some time ago, a friend asked if I missed doing "couple things." I was dumbfounded. "What do you mean," I asked. "You know, doing to dinner at the homes of other couples, going on trips together, skipping the gym...."

"No," I sternly replied. We'd been living two separate, single lives: going to bars, traveling with friends and going to the gym. (Come to think of it, it probably was best that relationship ended.)

So, with the "Grass is Always Greener" theory in mind, I believe what drains a lot of energy with gay men and lesbians is their obsession with either being in a relationship, or envying those not tied down by one.

The final degree of segregation is our clustering into interest groups. How can we ever hope to develop any semblance of a "gay agenda" when everyone is at sub-committee meetings?! There are gay groups for runners, State Department employees, Christians, accountants, swimmers, Muslims, golfers, victims of incest, singers, swingers, poets, wrestlers and skaters. Specialized groups exist for everyone from Latino Lawyers to the Pink Pistols (for gay gun enthusiasts). With so much diversity, is it any wonder no one has time to work on a cogent "agenda."

But don't feel badly about these six degrees of segregation. It makes it too complicated for subversive straights to infiltrate our "community."

Greg D. Kubiak, author, activist and segregation analyst, writes "Out With It!" for the Texas Triangle and can be reached via this newspaper or by e-mail, GKubiak@aol.com.

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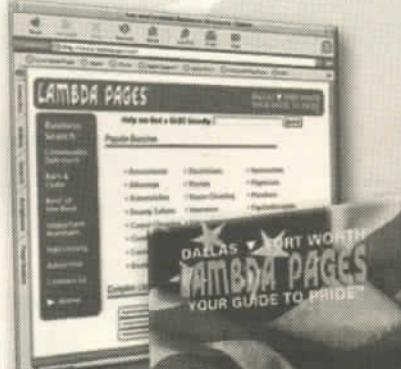
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Criminalized by Desire

By Chalee Snorton

I remember the first time I heard the word "sodomy." I grew up in a small town on the outskirts of Columbia, South Carolina. As a child, I remember the many times family friends would drop by the house. My mom would banish me from the kitchen, the prime spot for chitchat, so the grown folks could have some private time to discuss adult matters. Obviously, this was my cue to go to the next room, press my ear against the wall and listen to the lively conversations taking root on the other side.

Straining to overhear the juicy bits of gossip whispered in hushed tones, I remember hearing the term "sodomite" in connection with some of the more colorful, flamboyant men that attended my church or taught at my school. At that age, I had no idea what sodomy meant, and yet the term frightened me.

The way that people talked about it made it clear that those "sodomites" were not people I should associate with.

It was not until much later I understood the precise meaning of sodomy, and it was about that time that I began to understand that "sodomite" was really code for gay. In many ways, I would say that when I figured out the truth about sodomy, I also found out the truth about myself.

As a young lesbian grappling with identity questions, I recognized how that criminalizing and dehumanizing term implicated my own desires. It also illuminated for me the relationship—and the blurred boundaries—between laws, identities and my own imagination. For it was at that time that I truly understood: laws are not merely words on paper; they are lived realities in the prisons of our minds.

Clearly, as an African American lesbian, sodomy laws were not the only place I looked to understand how laws have historically—and currently—tried to limit the potential and possibilities for my life. Even now, when I walk down New York City streets and feel the gaze of police officers sizing me up, I go through the laundry list of identities that have been used to mark me as

"criminal," "suspicious" and "deviant."

I begin an all-too-familiar internal dialogue, "Is it because I'm black? Or because I look like a lesbian? Or are they reading me as a young boy? Is it because of my age?...Or my clothes? In many ways, these brief interactions with the police reaffirm for me the way laws shape not only how society perceives us, but also the ways we perceive ourselves.

The Supreme Court's 1986 decision in *Bowers v. Hardwick* showed how can be designed to put people in their "place" psychologically, furthering our mental repression and imprisonment as LGBT people.

It is probably part of the reason that I was unable to find support from my music teacher, often the subject of many adult conversations I overheard as a child, when I was coming out. Perhaps he too was struggling against his own psychic prison walls, coming to grips with what it means to be a black gay man teaching at a small Catholic school in a rural Southern town.

Yet there have been some rulings that have not only served to remove the prison lock of legal repression, but also to open the door to new possibilities for a people controlled by the stigma the law created.

In 1954, the United States Supreme Court handed down the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* decision that declared separate educational facilities "inherently unequal," and as such, a violation of the 14th Amendment. In 1973, the Supreme Court ruled Texas' abortion laws "vague," declaring the laws as written violated the appellant's 9th and 14th Amendment rights in the historic and still-controversial *Roe v. Wade* decision.

Lawrence v. Texas represents a case of monumental importance that has the potential to reshape what it means to be LGBT in America. A due process ruling would grant LGBT people in this nation the right to the privacy of their own bedrooms. And an equal protection ruling would put an end to laws that target LGBT people as second-class citizens deserving of unequal treatment under the law.

A victory, whether we win on one or both rationales, would not only serve to publicly decriminalize expressions of love among LGBT people (and yes, even some heterosexuals), but also present us with a challenge to break free the mental chains we LGBT people find ourselves in every state across the country.

In most states, sodomy laws no longer prevent us from doing what we want behind closed doors, but they continue to subtly prevent us from seeing ourselves as full citizens who deserve the same rights, recognition and esteem as heterosexuals in this society.

I received an email recently from a teenager. He said organizations like GLAAD and others made it easier for him to come out at 16 in his small town in South Carolina. Since I am not that much older, I began to experience for the first time the validity of a term I learned in college: "gay generationality." It refers to the notion that the LGBT community is like a family.

In our family, we have elders and youth, adults and adolescents all learning from one another. It is important, regardless of the ruling from the Supreme Court, for older generations to refuse to serve as wardens of the mental prisons that encircle too many of our youth, but to stand up and be proud of who we are.

The email also made me see my commitment to social justice in a new way.

When I think about my work at GLAAD in connection with a broader movement to end homophobia, I recognize how we are not simply asking for equal rights and protections, inclusive coverage and reporting. We are working so we may provide future generations of LGBT people the right to imagine themselves in any way they choose—both publicly and within the confines of their own mind.

Chalee Snorton is the New York-based Southeastern Regional Media Manager for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD). For more information, and to view GLAAD's *Lawrence v. Texas* media resource kit, visit <http://www.glaad.org>.

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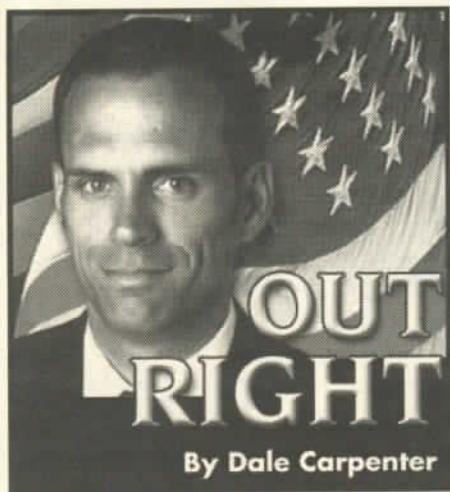
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Pride and Prejudice at DOJ

Was the recent decision of the Department of Justice not to pay for a gay employee group's pride celebration a sign of Bush administration prejudice against gays? The answer is a rather complicated "no." But as with most things involving the administration's policy on gays, what you see depends very much on where you stand.

Let's recall some recent history. When John Ashcroft was nominated to be attorney general, many gay activists predicted disaster. Ashcroft had long supported religious-right political and cultural causes and was on record as opposing just about everything on the gay agenda. There was testimony, which Ashcroft disputed, that he had once refused to hire someone who was openly gay.

In response to criticism that he was anti-gay, Ashcroft pledged during his confirmation hearings that he would not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation. He further pledged that he would permit a group of gay employees, known as DOJ Pride, to meet in the

department's building on the same basis as other employee groups.

These pledges did nothing to mollify Ashcroft's gay critics, including the Human Rights Campaign, who continued to oppose him. Some of them lambasted gay Republicans as lackeys for backing Ashcroft's nomination.

For the past two years, Ashcroft has failed to be the ogre on gay rights he was predicted to be. One might reasonably complain about his civil rights record on other matters, especially some of the domestic security precautions taken after September 11, but it has been hard to identify specifically anti-gay policies coming from the Justice Department.

In fact, just the opposite has happened. One of the most high-profile death penalty prosecutions conducted by Ashcroft's Justice Department has been that of a man charged with an anti-gay hate crime, allegedly killing two campers in a national park because of their sexual orientation.

There have been no allegations the Justice Department has discriminated against gays in employment. Many gay people work for the department with no fear of losing their jobs, and have no problem being openly associated with a gay employee group. That's thanks to Ashcroft's pledge not to discriminate and thanks to President Bush's decision to keep in place an executive order barring anti-gay discrimination in federal employment.

In his treatment of DOJ Pride, Ashcroft also kept his confirmation promise. For two years the group was allowed to hold an annual gay pride celebration at agency headquarters. Last year Ashcroft sent his top deputy, Larry Thompson, to speak at the celebration.

The department even subsidized the event.

All this enraged social conservatives, who saw Ashcroft as their champion in the Bush administration.

Then came the recent dustup over department sponsorship of the DOJ Pride celebration, a controversy that seemed to confirm the fears of Ashcroft's gay critics.

Exactly what happened is in some dispute. According to DOJ Pride representatives, a department official told the group they could no longer hold their event on agency grounds. According to the DOJ, the department merely told the group it would no longer "sponsor" the event, meaning the department would no longer help pay for it.

Whichever version of events is accurate, it is now clear DOJ Pride can meet on department grounds, as it has since Bush and Ashcroft took charge. However, the federal government will no longer subsidize the pride celebration.

Is this a defeat for gay rights, a sign of Ashcroft's and/or Bush's anti-gay prejudice? DOJ Pride, backed by HRC, denounced the decision as "a step backward."

Whether it's a step backward depends on where we rightfully stood to begin with. If the government ought properly to subsidize all federal employee groups' celebrations, as it did in the case of DOJ Pride in the first two years of the Bush administration, the decision is indeed a step back.

The problem with that view is that the DOJ does not help pay for events organized by *any other employee group*.

"We looked at who we sponsored for the past two years, and the only

group was DOJ Pride," explained a department spokesperson. "This year we decided against it. It just wasn't fair to have us funding them and not others." (DOJ Pride alleges the department does provide facilities rent-free to other groups. I haven't been able to confirm that claim, which flies in the face of the department's public statements.)

Seen against the backdrop of a general non-subsidization practice, the gay employees' request for money looks a lot like a plea for special privileges. From this standpoint, the department's refusing to pay for a pride celebration wasn't a step back. Indeed, the fact that Ashcroft's department allows the event to be held at all is a step forward from what most gay activists expected before he became attorney general.

As on so many other matters, the Bush administration gets no credit for this from gay activists. The worst is always presumed.

In the grand scheme of things it doesn't much matter whether the Justice Department agrees to help pay a few hundred dollars for a pride celebration. Nobody's life, liberty, or property depend on it.

However, much of the gay-rights struggle is a fight over symbols and trophies. The fact that a gay employee group exists, and is allowed to meet, in a Justice Department headed by a religious conservative in a Republican administration ought to be seen as a victory. Now there's cause for pride.

Dale Carpenter is a law professor. Some of his past columns can be read at www.indiegayforum.com. He can be reached at OutRight@aol.com.

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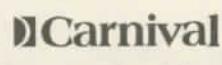
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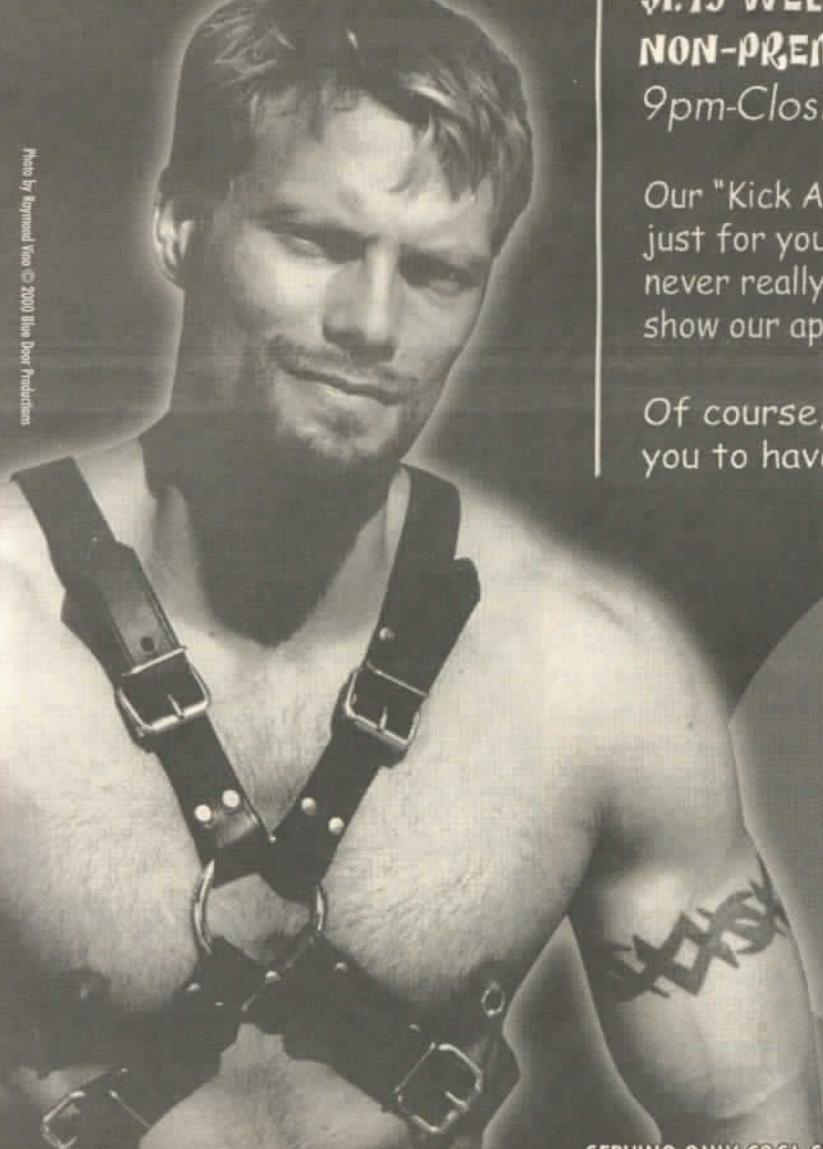
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Got Pride?

Texas Triangle congratulates Dallas' Randy Martin who submitted the winning entry in our 2003 Got Pride? contest.

On Saturday, June 28, he and a guest will enjoy deluxe accommodations at the Sheraton Suites Houston, complete with a welcome gift bag filled with fabulous surprises to remind them of

Houston's Twenty-Five Years of Pride: The Silver Celebration.

Thanks to all proud readers who submitted inspirational and amusing entries. Below are Randy's entry, and two more of our favorites.

Happy Pride 2003!

I Like My Roots Just the Way They Are

By Randy Martin
Dallas, Texas

So maybe I'm not the most fashionable queer in the Pride Parade. After all, I like to run around without a shirt even though I don't have a set of fabulous abs and worse yet, I'm as white as an X tab. I also like to wear leather, but honestly, I'm so nelly that I look like Leather Bo Peep. And I've bleached and dyed my hair so many times that I wouldn't remember my natural hair color if it weren't for intentionally letting the roots show—which I've been warned about by numerous self-proclaimed fashion police. But I like my roots just the way they are, brunette—I think.

Ahh! My hair! It has been a source of shame for much of my life. All I ever wanted was to have hair like everyone else. But no, my hair had to be different—too curly to blow

in the wind and not curly enough to have a "fro" (oh, how I wanted to look like Michael Jackson in my younger days—and his younger days, too). Too coarse and heavy to spike up even with the thickest gel on the market and too wild to flatten into a sexy Caesar cut. And then there's the color. You know, there's a reason they came up with "brunette"—it's because brown sounds just too damn boring. It doesn't have the ring of "blond" or the depth of "black" or the exoticness of "red." It's just brown.

So I decided to cover it up. Jazz it up. Color it, straighten it, shave it, highlight it, perm it, just plain change it. However, no matter how much money and time I spent on following or setting hair fashion trends, my roots always eventually started to show. And then one day I fell in love.

I had just gotten a bleach job and fresh cut. I was wearing it spiked that night and this guy caught my ear, "Hey, cool hair!" Oh, what a come-on line. It worked! I was his. But, what about my secret? Would he love me if he knew the

truth?

So I tested the waters. I let him in gradually. I told him about how I grew up Catholic with all the trimmings: Catholic school, altar boy, youth group and seminary. He didn't run. I told him how I was raised by a single mother on the edge of a trailer park, with my mom's alcoholic boyfriend. He didn't laugh. And I told him that I didn't have sex until I was 27 years old, except for being molested at age five. He didn't crumble.

So I decided to take the risk. I chose my thirtieth birthday to tell him the truth. "I need to tell you something important and I have chosen my birthday to do so, because the gift I need from you is to be able to be myself around you." And then I removed my baseball cap to reveal my brown roots and said, "I'm not a natural blond." And he said, "Happy Birthday. I like your roots, just the way they are."

We're walking together in the Pride Parade this year. And I'm not covering my roots!

The Power of Pride

By Donald R. Nenadai
Austin, Texas

It may not seem like the best year to be a member of the GLBT community here in Texas, but the inhumane actions of others cannot destroy the pride we have in our hearts for who we are and what we have done in this society. I am not proud of the fact that some individuals have attempted to strike at humanity by legislating the definitions of "love" and "commitment" with passage of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) because discrimination and hate have no place in a civilized society. All it takes is a moment of time to pause and reflect upon the actions of some heroes in our community to realize that the Power of Pride is alive and well and living in Texas.

In New York, lesbian Jeanne Newland has been fighting for unemployment benefits granted to individuals forced to give up their jobs when their partner relocates for another position. Her efforts at trying to win this case have met with resistance from people seeking to deny her status in a committed, loving relationship, but her persistence has lead to success and she appears headed to victory in a precedent setting case.

Here in Texas, two gay men, Tyron Garner and John Lawrence, were engaged in consensual sex in the privacy of Mr. Lawrence's home when they were arrested for "breaking the law." Seeking to protect their individual rights, these two men have fought relentlessly to clear their names and establish that heterosexuals are not the only individuals in this country who can engage in physical acts of love. Even though they have exposed themselves to ridicule and discrimination. Mr. Garner and Mr. Lawrence have brought their case all the way to the United States Supreme Court seeking vindication and hoping that common sense will prevail. We can only hope that the wisdom and experience of the court will allow for a ruling that befits human decency.

In 2000, Vermont Governor Howard Dean took a courageous act when he signed into law the nation's first legislation allowing for gay civil unions, granting gay couples nearly all the benefits of marriage. In his own words, Governor Dean

said, "I think it is a courageous and powerful statement about who we are in the state of Vermont." Indeed it is, and it puts the actions of some other states to shame.

It does not matter that Texas has passed a DOMA, because Gay Pride continues to grow each and every day that we recognize our individual self worth and the positive actions of others. The state of Texas may tell me that I cannot be married to another man, but I am married to my partner Glenn and proud of it. We know what love is, and no one can take away the love and commitment two human beings share with one another.

Always be proud of your feelings. Always be proud of your actions. Always be proud of your brothers and sisters in the community.

Proud Boy Singing

By Joseph Hart
Houston, Texas

Standing here at 34 years old, I guess I am somewhere between Generation X and a mid life crisis. The word Pride and its meaning has never been anything I have ever really focused on for any amount of time.

My life started off in Montrose in a large Italian family. Montrose. How could I not be gay? Location as well as a family full of "different kinds" as Grandma would say; it was only natural that I was gay.

Now you would think since 40 percent of my family was gay or lesbian that we would fly a flag higher than anyone. Only it was not like that at all. We were never treated any different, not any worse or any better. My family didn't believe it was right to single any one out for the color of their skin to their sexuality. So, growing up gay I was never made to feel any different as some may have been made to feel. I am so lucky to have a great family.

Never one to fly a flag or even go to a march or go to any type of pride festival, all that changed last year.

I found myself doing a show called *Naked Boys Singing*. Myself along with the rest of the cast must have done a hundred shows here in Houston before taking the show on the road to San Antonio. In Houston it was the same every week-

end, get naked sing and dance. We could leave the front door open and no-one would even care. Then there was San Antonio. It was in San Antonio that I understood for the first time in my life—I was different. I was never made to feel different before, but here I stand completely naked on stage waiting for the curtains to open to a room full of people, and I was feeling sad. Sad that the different way I was feeling must have been the way that all the gay men before me must have been made to feel. Through their struggle, something I have never have to face I am able to stand here on stage and sing show tunes naked. My thoughts of feeling "different" for the first time were based on the fact that in San Antonio the theatre hired two off duty cops to work the front door for our protection. The cast extremely nervous about the fact that at any time the police could come in and arrest us for "public indecency", we were all just a little on edge. Scared enough to have planned how we were going to escape if need be.

On that stage in San Antonio I finally understood what every gay man before me was fighting for. If that show was a straight nude musical comedy, no security would have been needed. But we were gay, doing the number one gay show in the world. Those that fought before us so we could walk arm and arm, fought to have gay bars, gay shows and everything else we take for granted, it was on that day that I finally understood what the fight was all about. I was sad that day because all the years that my family spent loving me, teaching me that being different isn't wrong barely seemed to help the fear I felt as I performed. It was during that time that I made the decision that my voice, silent all these years had to finally really sing. Not on stage, but in the real world. Just because I was lucky with a loving family full of understanding doesn't mean everyone was raised the same way.

So if you have been quite all these years because nothing has really effected you. Think about everyone who has marched and gave up so much just so you can sit at that gay coffee house and sip your latte as gay or butch as you please. Simple things we enjoy, we enjoy because those before us sang.

A year later, the flag that now flies in front of my house has real meaning.

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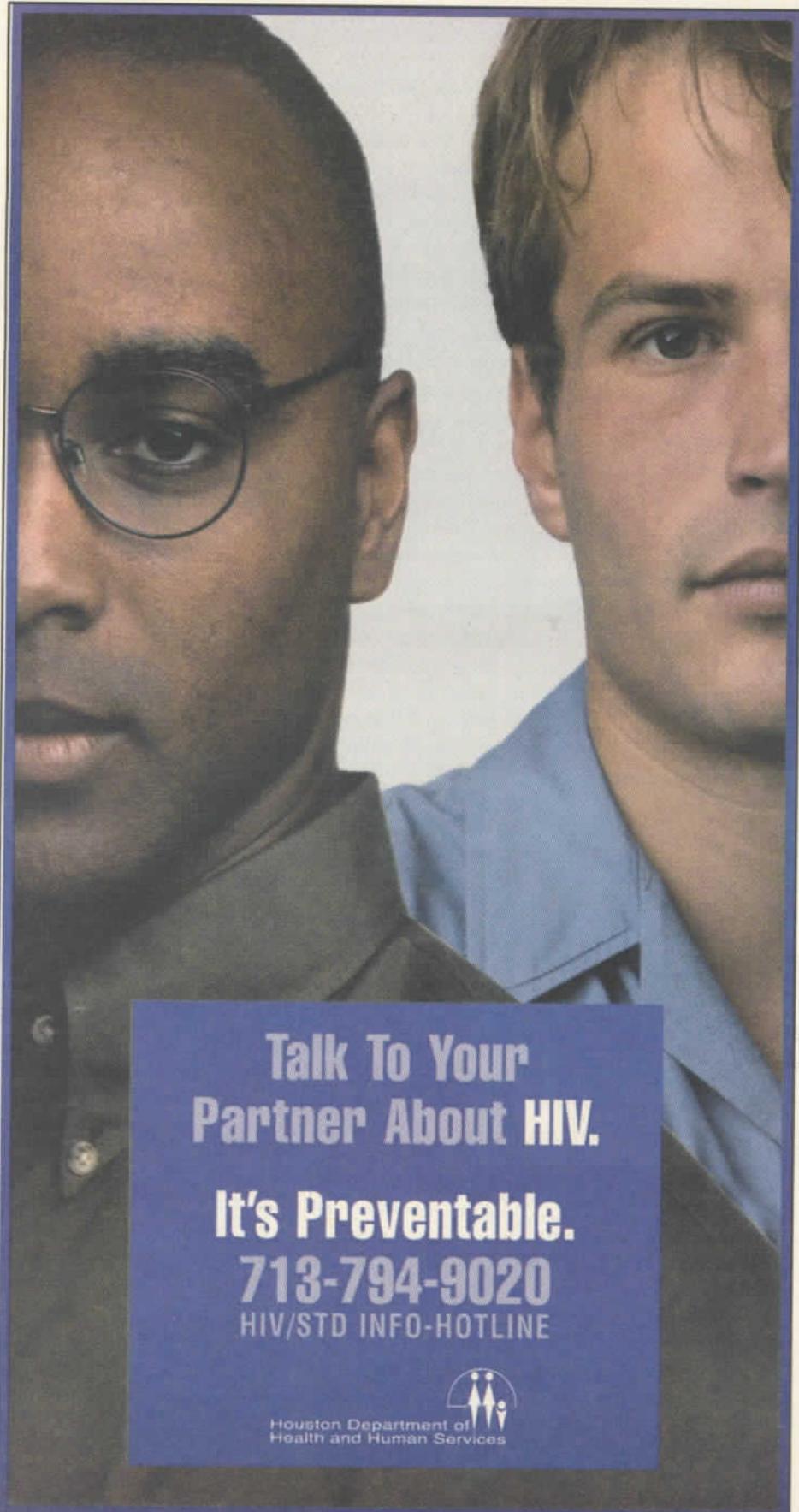
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Partial Equality?

By Lisa Mottet

Once again the debate over transgender-inclusion in the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) is on. Yet this year it is different: there is now virtual unity in the national gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) movement that transgender protections should be added to ENDA before reintroduction. We have spoken with one voice to Congress.

What are we hearing back? That Congress is not ready to include transgender people in ENDA—that the lead sponsors are worried about losing co-sponsors. Here at the Task Force, we know that any expansion of ENDA may result in an initial drop off in co-sponsorship levels for the bill, whether we added domestic partner benefits or added transgender coverage. But, we think that any temporary drop in support for ENDA is absolutely worth it. If it is not done now, the whole movement may regret it.

Transgender people are simply not expendable from our community, our movement or our legislation. By not covering gender identity or expression, just for short-term political expedience, we cut out parts of our community—and not just those who identify as transgender—we also cut out major segments of our gender non-conforming gay, lesbian and bisexual (GLB) community. These results are incomplete and unacceptable. There is no such thing as partial equality.

Some think that transgender rights are simply not gay issues, forgetting that we are tied by our common history and our common culture. However, we are connected by much more than that; we are also connected by our ability to shake off gender expectations, whether in our choice of life partner or in our everyday gender expressions.

Because of this gender non-conformity, all GLB and T people remain at risk for violence and discrimination. The violence against us will not end until we win the cultural battle—a battle that is as much about gender expression and gender freedom, to be different in any way, or to be outside of the norm, just as much as it is about the right to be gay. Until it is acceptable to be different in any of these ways, no one is safe from violence and discrimination just because of who they are. Until we all have the right to express ourselves and create ourselves however we wish, we shall not be free.

The good news is that we still have time to change course. The temporary loss of political support that some supporters predict is solvable—by changing the legislation and engaging in concerted education now. In the current climate of hostility to all civil rights issues, in a Congress controlled by those who are anti-gay, ENDA is stalled. Adding transgender coverage cannot stall the bill any more than it already has been. In fact, it may take years before

Congress will be fair-minded enough to finally pass ENDA. And imagine a Congress controlled by such fair-minded leaders; stop and think how wonderful that would be! And, guess what? If we do our jobs correctly, that fair-minded Congress will also pass transgender protections.

Let's also remember to learn from our movement's experience at the state and local level. The last state to pass an anti-discrimination law was New Mexico—and it passed with sexual orientation and gender identity both included. New Mexico is not a liberal state; in the 2000 Bush/Gore election it was one of the yellow "too close to call" states. Transgender protections have now passed in all sorts of seemingly unlikely places such as Louisville, Kentucky; El Paso, Texas; and Peoria, Illinois. As a result of these efforts, thirty-nine million Americans now live in jurisdictions with explicit anti-discrimination protections for transgender people.

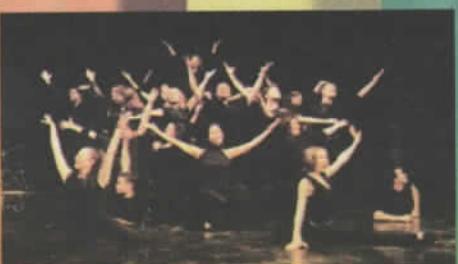
The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has been doing a lot of work at the state and local level on passing transgender-inclusive legislation through our Transgender Civil Rights Project. The Task Force already knew that transgender rights were important and capable of passing, but the Project has proven beyond any doubt that if you devote the effort and resources on transgender rights, they pass right along with GLB rights.

It turns out that legislators respond to clear information about transgender discrimination the same way they respond to anti-gay discrimination. They are outraged and want to stand with us. If legislators are at the point that they will take the perceived political risk to pass gay rights, they will pass transgender rights—if they have been properly educated. Recognizing this, the statewide GLBT political groups have also changed strategies at the state level; introducing transgender-inclusive legislation has become the norm instead of the exception.

Let's fix ENDA now so that when the train starts moving, all of us will be on board. Let's think about it this way—we will either get what we are committed to (transgender inclusion) or we will get what we settle for (transgender exclusion). This may also be an opportunity to revisit other compromises in the bill. Perhaps it is time to consider broadening coverage beyond employment to other areas in which we are all at risk for discrimination. Let's marshal all of our allies, and all of our resources, and get on with passing meaningful anti-discrimination legislation for all of us. Together, the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender movement can create incredible change.

Lisa Mottet is the Legislative Lawyer for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Transgender Civil Rights Project.

HOUSTON GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER PRIDE *Silver Celebration*

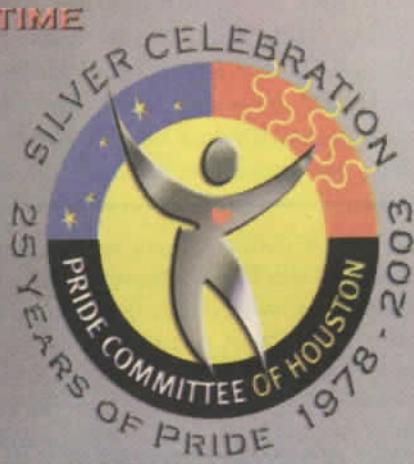


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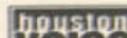
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2001 Dalia Stokes and Mitchell Katine
2000 Richard Wiederholt* and Tori Williams
1999 Nancy Ford and Sean Carter
1998 Bob Bouton and Jackie Doval
1997 Deborah Bell and Jimmy Carper
1996 Bill Havard and Jeanette Vaughan
1995 Suzanne Anderson and Don 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 Rivas
1979 Thelma Hansel*

*deceased



Houston Grand Marshals Reflect

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 Mexican" like him was "hanging around with queers."

1979 was the year when Bagneris chose to suffer

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 her in white, put a crown on her head and the crowd

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 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."

2003 Houston Pride Parade Route

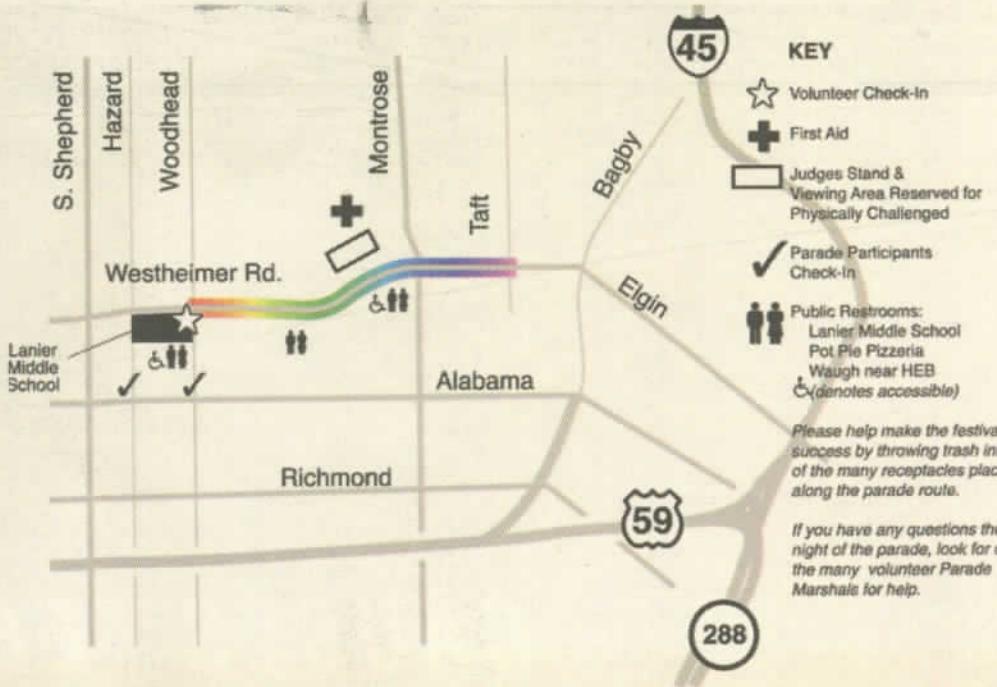


► (1) Pokey Anderson, Female Grand Marshal 1984

► (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.



Please help make the festival a success by throwing trash into one of the many receptacles placed along the parade route.

If you have any questions the night of the parade, look for one of the many volunteer Parade Marshals for help.

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 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 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

ect on 25 Years of Pride

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-marshals, 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.'"

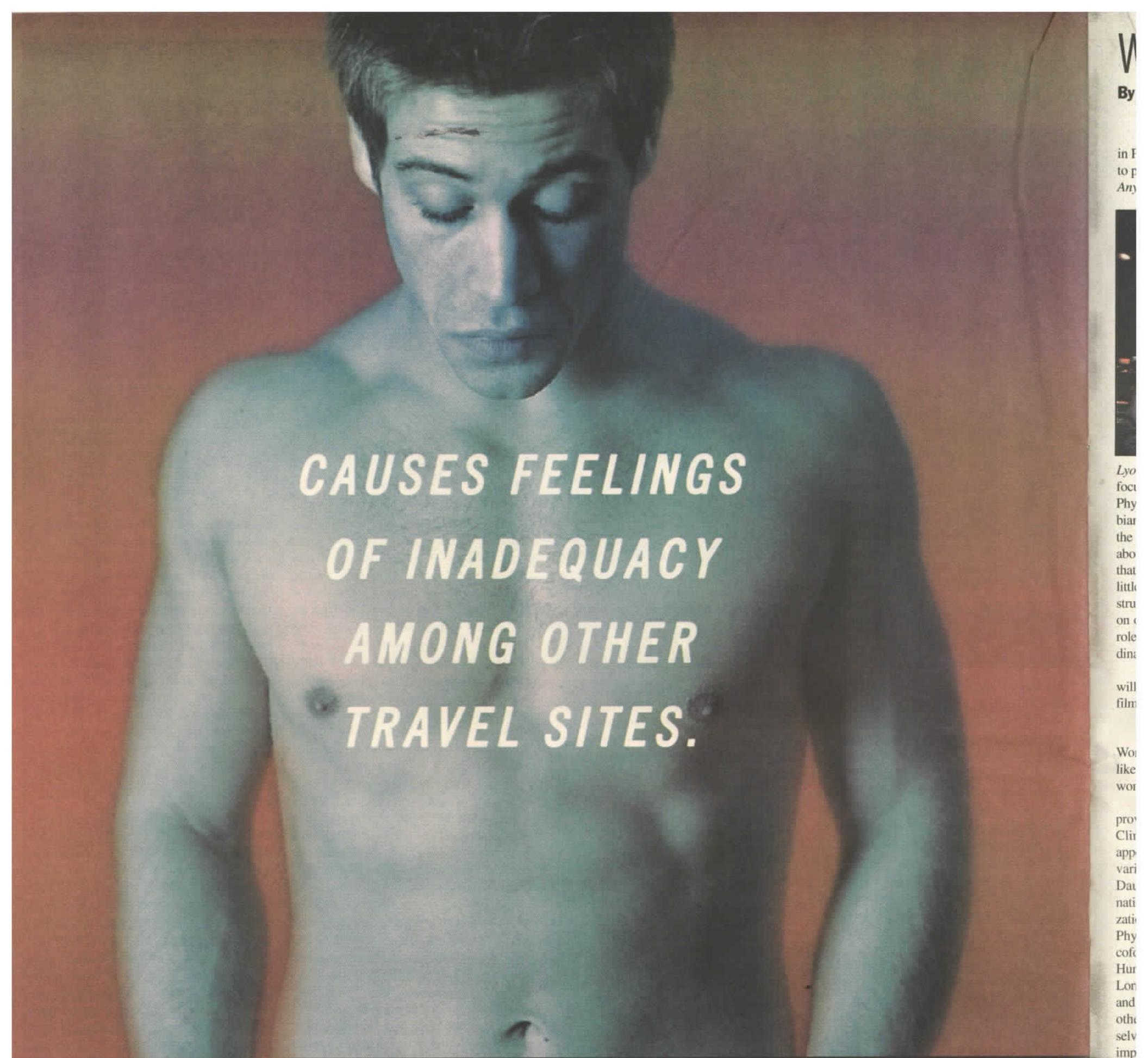
Once she settled into her Grand Marshal role, however, Anderson ended up enjoying it immensely, though she also remembered some of the physical discomfort that came with being a GM in that era before the night parade. "My dog, Kelli Jean, rode with me, much to her dismay," Anderson recalls. "It was the 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.

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." ▼



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Why We Loved 'Secret No More'

By Nancy Ford

Last week in conjunction with its Profiles in Pride film series, *Texas Triangle* was proud to present the Southwest premier of *No Secret Anymore: The Times of Del Martin & Phyllis*



Lyon. The brief but satisfying documentary focused on septuagenarians Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon, witnesses to and creators of lesbian political history in the United States since the mid-20th century. What's so impressive about Joan E. Biren (JEB)'s documentary 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.

There are several more reasons the film will undoubtedly take its place in the GLBT film culture as essential viewing:

The film's production companies, Woman Vision and Moonforce Media, sound like names conjured around the campfire at a women's music festival.

Pithy and provocative commentary is provided by luminaries including former Clinton White House appointee Virginia Apuzzo; various members of Daughters of Bilitis (the nation's first lesbian organization, founded by Del and Phyllis); *Ms. Magazine* cofounder Margaret Sloan-Hunter; legendary activists Lorri L. Jean, Kerry Lobel, and Urvashi Vaid; and many other women who themselves have made indelible impact on the women's and GLBT equal rights movements.

High production value from director/producer/writer Dee (It's Elementary) Mosbacher (a last name frequently heard throughout *Bush 1*, though strangely absent from *Bush 2: the Sequel*).

It gives us reason to use the name "JEB" in a positive context.

An inspirational glance at one of Phyllis' prize possessions hanging amid scores of other memories and awards: a photo of her with Eleanor Roosevelt (even if it is only a back shot).

Even, constrained narration by the impeccable Kate Clinton. We would love to hear that blooper reel.

An hysterical peek at bookcovers of early lesbian pulp fiction, including *The Abnormal Ones*, *Warped*, and *First Person, Third Sex*.

Shots of early Daughters of Bilitis Halloween parties. About half the attendees wore fake mustaches.

The same old frenzied rantings of anti-gay protestors as they hold their children and protect 'family values' bear strong resemblance to their 21st century counterparts. It is shockingly

amusing (or perhaps amusingly shocking) to realize how little antigay rhetoric has changed since the '70s.

Early prototypes of Del and Phyllis' *The Ladder*, the nation's first lesbian publication. It reminded me of the old *Dimensions*, published 1986-96 out of Lubbock (yes, Lubbock) for southwest U.S. lesbians.

Early protest signs and chants. Personal favorites: 'Smash Phallic Imperialism'; 'I am your worst fear—I am your best fantasy'; and '3-5-7 and 9, Lesbians are mighty fine.'

Early shots of softball players. They looked like they had more fun, even though they had less equipment.

Early newspaper photos of '70s-era gay and lesbian couples who braved being photographed by San Francisco press and police as they entered a fundraiser for the Del and Phyllis' Council on Religion and the Homosexual. Remember them the next time



you attend a GLBT fundraiser and walk through the foyer of that posh hotel holding your partner's hand.

Production donors ranging in diversity from AT&T to Wells Fargo, from Elizabeth Birch and Hilary Rosen to Honorable Nancy Pelosi. And Korn. Swear to God. Korn.

References to young lesbians, first called "baby butches", who roamed the streets of New York City in large gangs. Talk about a perfect world.

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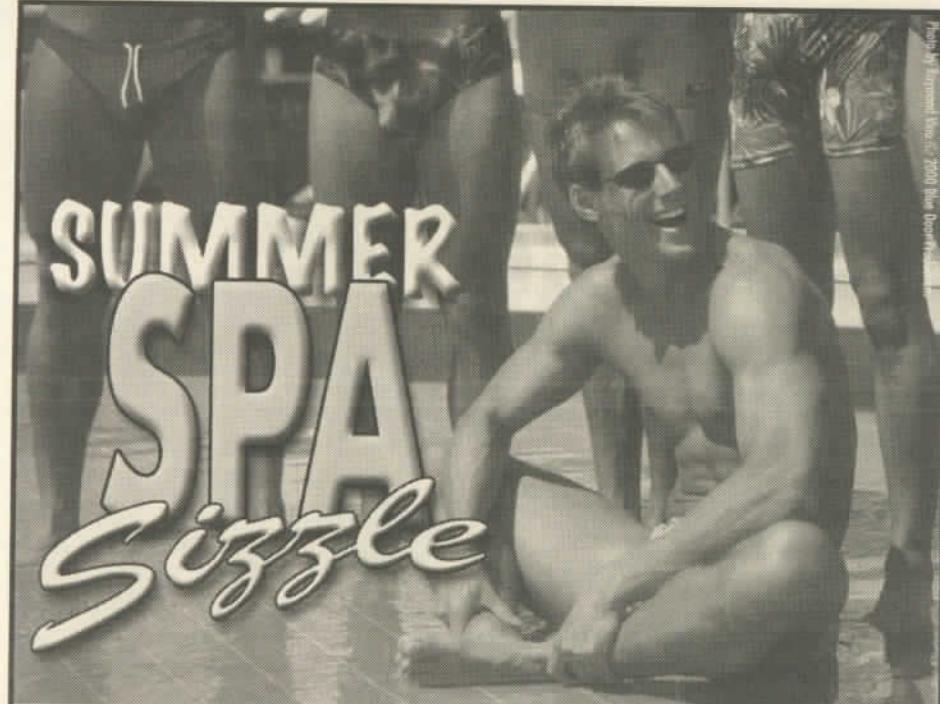


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'Mambo Girl' Mucho Hysterical

By Chuck Perroncel

HOUSTON—One does not have to "be-in-the-nude" to appear on the Bi-en-venue (now Stargaze Theatre) stage. *Mambo Girl*, by Texan Steve Lovett, wraps men and women, women as men, and men as women, in acres of linen, lace, taffeta, and satin for his parody of the Spanish novella, which is a spoof on itself and on soap opera, which is the ultimate spoof on the tedium of life!

Touted as "a bizarre, absolutely hilarious, ridiculous, really, really irreverent and totally incorrect comedy," *Mambo Girl* is all of those things. Low comedy (farce), it is played by an exceptional cast who have mastered the fine art of tickling your belly button by careful comedic timing. One can almost see the hand of director Mikel Reper who has adopted comedic stage timing as a way of life. One hears the *ba-dum-pum* of the drum as each punch line is delivered and we move quickly to the next set up. And what lines Lovett has produced! He finds it shamelessly impossible to walk past a tortilla mais. Pure corn!

A delightful cereal that rattles your ribs (even if it doesn't stick to them), the story line might be called *The Sound Of Mariachi*, with a touch of *Cinderella* and a pinch of *Mommy Dearest* for chili salsa. Evil villains get theirs and virtue is rewarded, but not before every ear of corn has been peeled, shucked and roasted.

Briefly: Wicked sister Antoinetta (Oliver Blanco) steals money-grubbing Pepe el Greco (Gene Griesbach) from good-but-impoverished sister Veronica (Amy Kennedy).

In order to keep body and soul together, Veronica becomes a ... what? No, you of the feathly menta! She's too kind good and virtuous to become a puta. She becomes a governess at the Casa de Lagrimas (House of Tears), where vile Dona Carla de Lagrimas (Janice Dickard) presides from

her wheel chair over her too-kind husband, Don Donnie de Lagrima (Christian DeVries) and her ADHD nina, Chickleta (too-precious-for-words Ryan Zuckaro). Little monster Chickleta falls into a coma and is seen at the opening of Act Two as a pair of blonde pig tails protruding from a humongous funerary urn. Fear not, we have not seen the last of this girl. Actually, death has done her a world of good: she is a far nicer child when resuscitated. Through all of these hijinks, Maid and Greek Chorus Maria Montez (Beverly Hutchison, a powerball of stage energy and wit) keeps us informed of just what the hell is going on. This is necessary because, unlike the soaps, the action is fast. Well, usually the action is fast. We get about five TV seasons in one and a half hours, and they include a host of other characters.

This cast is perfectly cut out for farce. Each is an excellent character actor; they do their jobs exceptionally well. Large bouquets of flores de los muertos to each and every one.

A final note: Bienvenue/Stargaze Theatre founder Christian DeVries usually does it all—direct, act, repair the roof, paint the scenery. His decision to turn over the reigns to director Mikel Reper on this one was brilliant. Reper presented himself splendidly in this his directorial debut. House Manager Cameron Wyont did yeoman's work on lights and sound. This freed DeVries to concentrate on the set and costumes, both rather elaborate for this little-engine-that-could theater.

Catch this one for an evening of great fun!

Stargaze Theatre presents Mambo Girl through July 12. 3722 Washington Ave. Info: 713-426-2626.

Our reviewer's rating: **A**

www.txtriangle.com



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AMATEUR STRIP CONTEST



HOSTED BY
ROXANNE COLLINS

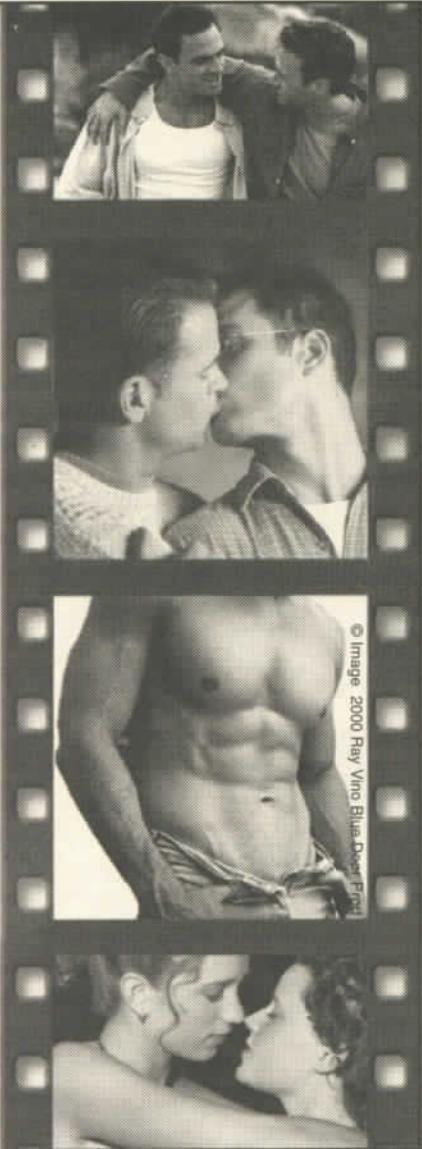
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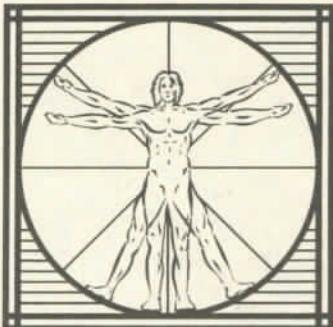
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Between the Covers

By Jone Devlin

**Harry Potter and the
Order of the Phoenix**

By J.K. Rowling

At long last the newest installment in the Harry Potter series has hit the worldwide market place.

Was it worth the wait? Yes and no.

This latest installment in J.K. Rowling's topselling series about a boy wizard is much darker than previous novels, which may make it prohibitive for smaller children. It is also long, about 870 pages' worth, which may make it prohibitive for older children and adults who just can't see themselves getting through anything that lengthy.

Book 5 is also, unlike the previous four Potter books, a slow starter, with Rowling taking much longer to set up situations and events than she has in the past. While this is with good reason given that *The Order of the Phoenix* is by far the most complicated, plot-wise, of all the Harry Potter books, it may also turn some readers off.

That said, however, Book 5 still has all of the same wonderful magic and mayhem as the previous four books in the series. In this episode Harry and his mates, Hermoine and Ron, are moving through their fifth year at Hogwarts. Year five is a challenge in more ways than one, as the trio suffers through loads of homework, pressure about their O.W.L. (Ordinary Wizarding Level) exams, and, in the case of Harry, their first serious bout with romance.

Yet as if that weren't enough there are other, deeper issues as well. First, Lord Voldemort is back, but no one from the Witch World government to many of the students at Hogwarts, believes it.

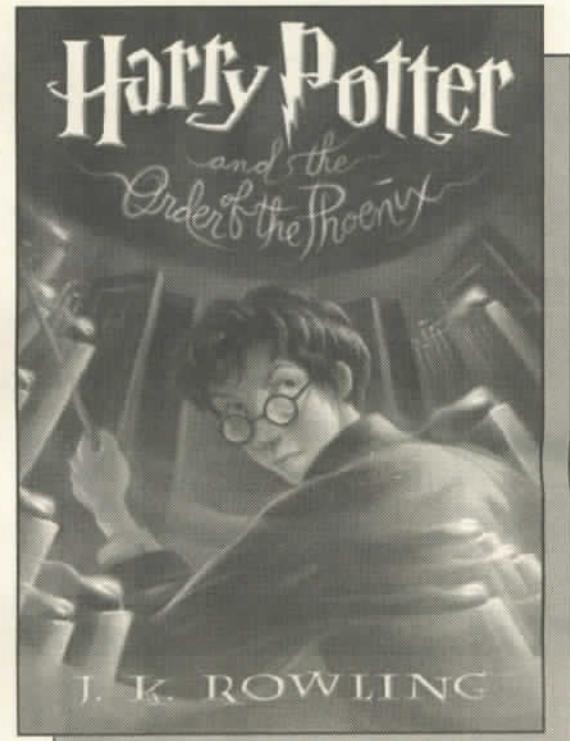
Second, due to complications between Dumbledore and the Ministry of Magic (caused in large part by Dumbledore's insistence that Voldemort is a clear and present danger) the school has been taken over by a truly grotesque character named Dolores Umbridge. Umbridge is a short, overweight, simpering witch who hides her truly malignant nature under horrid sprays of lace and a sickly sweet demeanor. She is easily the most horrible Potter character to date, outdoing even the Malfoys for pure, unadulterated evil.

All the old favorites are back as well, from Professor McGonigal to Fred and

George Weasley (who truly come into their own in Book 5) to the castle ghosts and the slimy Snape. Snape, in fact, has much to do in this novel, as he is forced to serve as a liaison between Harry and the Order of the Phoenix, as well as personally teach Harry special procedures in the defense against the dark arts.

As Harry learns from Snape, he also learns about Snape, and the revelations he discovers will forever change him and his relationship to the Professor.

Book 5 also begins to show the characters in a more mature light. Harry and the other kids in his group are starting to think more about life after Hogwarts as they make decisions about school and future careers. Harry is also starting to feel



the pressures of being constantly in the limelight; he begins to chafe at some of the restrictions that have been placed upon him, just as any typical fifteen-year-old would.

Filled with the taut drama, character development, and the wonderful plot twists and turns for which Rowling is famous, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* is more than guaranteed to leave the reader eagerly waiting for Book 6...just not quite as eagerly as they waited for Book 5.

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix by J.K. Rowling, is published by Scholastic, and is available at bookstores everywhere.

Our reviewer's rating: **B+**

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Houston Pride 2003—The Silver Celebration

Houston's GLBT community will both commemorate Stonewall and celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary of its Pride Parade over the course of twenty-five event-packed days. The month-long celebration culminates on Sunday, June 29 with the spectacular Nighttime Pride Parade.

As Pride Committee of Houston's Official Media Sponsor for the fifth consecutive year, *Texas Triangle* proudly urges our readers to join in the remaining events.

Friday, June 27

11 AM-5 PM

National HIV Testing Day

Montrose Clinic
215 Westheimer
Houston, TX 77006
Cost: Free
Info: Montrose Clinic
713-830-3000
admin@montroseclinic.org
www.montroseclinic.org

8 PM

Pride Cabaret: Before the Parade Passes

By... Again!
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
Radisson Astrodome
Sam Houston Ballroom
8686 Kirby Dr.
Houston, Texas 77054
713-642-9797
Cost: \$30 pre-sale, \$35 at the door

Grey Party, Inc. presents STEEL PRIDE
Meteor
2306 Genesee

Houston, Texas 77006

Cost: Donations accepted at door.
Info: The Grey Party, Inc.
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

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)
qp_callouts@hotmail.com

9 PM-3 AM

Official Pre-Parade Party
Rich's
2401 San Jacinto
Houston, TX 77002
www.richs-houston.com

Saturday, June 28

6-8 PM

Pre-Parade Concert Featuring Amber
Bud Stage, along Pride Parade route on
Westheimer

8:45 PM

America's Original Nighttime Pride
Parade
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

9 PM-3 AM

Official Post Parade Pride Party
Rich's
2401 San Jacinto
Houston, TX 77002
www.richs-houston.com

Spoiled Boyz Present The Silverlining
PRIDE03

The Gatsby
2540 University Blvd. @ Kirby in
Rice Village
Houston, TX 77005
Cost: \$20 in advance. Tickets available
at M2M Fashions & Richs
Benefits the Pride Committee of
Houston. An M2M Entertainment
production.
Info: www.spoiledparties.com
unhinged@u-p.org
www.u-p.org

Queer as Folk—THE BABYLON TOUR
South Beach Night Club
810 Pacific
Houston, TX 77006

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Photo: Kirk R. Tuck

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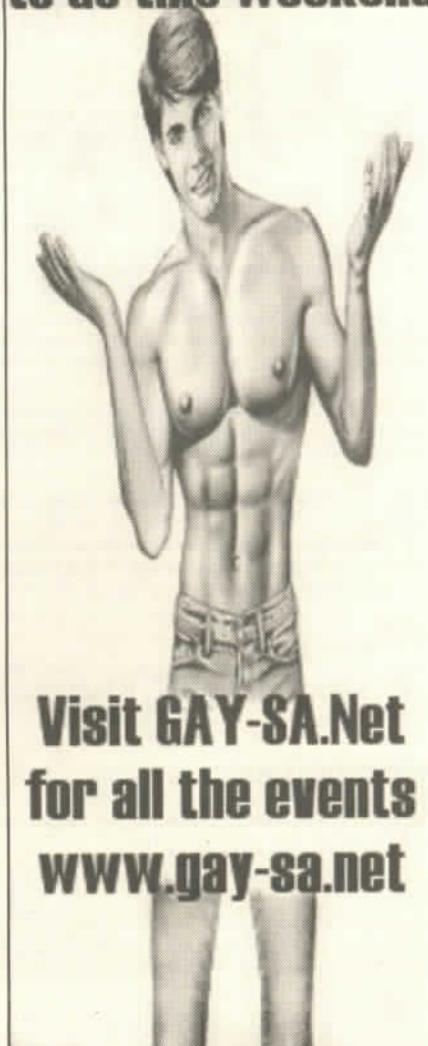
A New Culinary Comedy by BECKY MODE

Directed by DAVE STEAKLEY

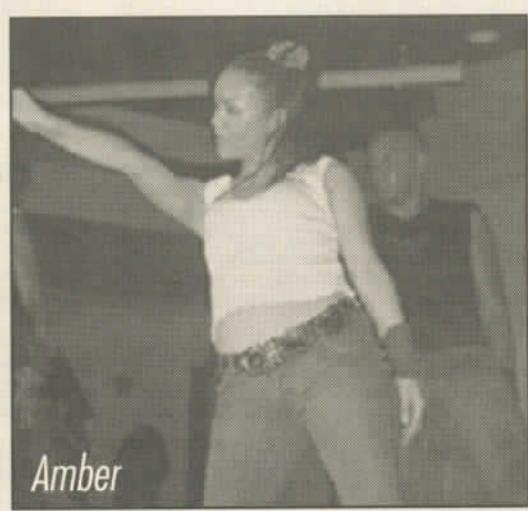
"Wickedly Funny!" — *New York Times*

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Prior to Saturday night's Houston 2003 Pride Parade, Kofi and Ernie Manouse emcee the Bud Pride Stage, located between Half-Price Books and Hollywood Video on Yoakum. The line-up of performers is as follows:

6:20 pm -Country/western vocalist Sean Carter
6:30 pm -Vocalist Michelle Malone
6:40 pm -Miss Gay Houston Roxanne Collins
6:50 pm -Mr. Gay Houston Quinton Courts
6:55 pm -Spiritual singers Jules and Clay
7:05 pm -Rainbow Wranglers dance troupe
7:20 pm -Texas Triangle's Nancy Ford
7:35 pm -Leather entertainer Buz Lawson
7:45 pm -Miss Gay Texas Katherine York
7:55 pm -Violinist Catherine Burnside
8:05 pm -Dance Diva Amber

Calendar

ALVIN

CATS meets every first Friday, 7 p.m. for fun, food, music and a movie. Open to all trans individuals. Info: 281-585-8089; 1-866-234-8883 or tghelp@tghelp.org.

AUSTIN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Austin Chapter of the National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI) presents Hidden Identity, Gender Acceptance and Embracing Diversity with author Donna Rose. Monday, June 30, 7:30 p.m. Milwood Branch Library, 12500 Amherst Dr.

Forbidden Fruit presents How To Strip For Your Partner, Sunday, June 29, 6 p.m. 108 E. North Loop Blvd. Tickets: \$12. Adult women only. Info: 512-453-8090.

Julie Nelson, Keller Williams Realty and Jan Hill, WR Starkey Mortgage present a free Family Home Buyer Class. Tuesday, July 15, 6:30 p.m. at Alamo Title, 2222 and Mopac. Reservations: Samantha, 512-306-6375.

Austin Prime Timers, a social organization for mature gay and bisexual men and those who admire them, meet at the Austin History Center. Info: 512-447-7035.

SapphFire, a non-drinking, non-smoking lesbian social organization meets every third Friday, 7 p.m. Sunday potluck brunches each first Sunday. Info: 512-833-5040 or frndsparks@yahoo.com.

She Says, a UT organization for lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning women, meets every Tuesday evening, 6 p.m. in Texas Union 4.224. www.utexas.edu/students/she-says.

Safe Space educates area schools, religious institutions, UT students, faculty and staff on GLBTQA issues. Wednesdays, 7 p.m. University of Texas, Jester West Fireplace Lounge. Info: Demeureguy@yahoo.com.

Austin Gay Lesbian Leather Social is the second Wednesday of every month, 7-9 p.m. at The Rainbow Cattle Co., 305 W. 5th. Newcomers welcome. Info: www.AustinGayLeatherSocial.org.

Interested in forming a Gay Young Professional Association organization for University of Texas 20-something graduate students and young professionals to network? Info: gpa@email.com.

Kelly Griffis and Courtney Harrell host a lesbian lounge (including dinner) each Tuesday, 6 p.m. at Gurlz Cellar, 213 W. 4th St. Info: 512-479-8482 or www.gurlzcellar.com.

Center for Women's Business meets for informative noon lunches at least once a week at 912 Bastrop Hwy., Suite 210 (Wells Fargo Bank Building). Info: 512-472-8522.

PFLAG-Austin meets the third Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m. Trinity United Methodist Church, 600 E. 50th. Info: 512-302-PFLAG.

The Bisexual Network of Austin sponsors TGIB socials every Friday.

7 p.m. The Bi Women's Discussion Group meets every second and fourth Tuesday, 7 p.m. Bi Boyz BBQ is monthly. Info: www.main.org/binautin or call 512-370-9573.

ART

Women & Their Work presents Melanie Crader's The Basics, through August 2. 1710 Lavaca St. Info: 512-477-1064 or wtw@txas.net.

FUND-RAISERS

The Central Texas Boys of Leather holds a cook-out each third Sunday of the month, 5 p.m. Chain Drive patio, 504 Willow. Benefits CTBoL charities. Tickets: \$5.

HEALTH & FITNESS

AustinCharityYoga.net meets for open class Saturday, June 28, 1-3 p.m., at Yoga Yoga North. Benefits Animal Trustees of Austin. Tickets: \$10. Info: www.AustinCharityYoga.net.

The Austin Lonestars, Austin's inclusive rugby football club, practices Wednesdays and Saturdays. Info: www.lonestarsrugby.org or 512-445-5242.

The Austin Night Flyers Rugby Football Club practices on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Info: www.austinnightflyers.org or texlite@aol.com.

Midtowne Spa of Austin and the Texas Department of Health conduct free, confidential HIV/Syphilis testing every other Tuesday, 9 p.m.-12 midnight. 5815 Airport Blvd. Info: 512-302-9696.

Women interested in exploring your sexual identity and other issues in a safe, non-judgmental environment are encouraged to attend Waterloo Counseling Center's Women's Coming Out Group. Group runs for 10 weeks, \$10 per session. Info: Trish, 512-444-9922, ext. 315.

Waterloo Counseling Center's Men's Coming Out Group provides a safe place for men who are exploring thoughts and feelings related to issues of sexual identity, disclosure and relationship building. \$10 fee for each session. Info: Rick, 512-444-9922, ext. 310.

American Cancer Society's Dialogue helps lesbian cancer patients, their families, and friends better understand and learn to live with cancer. Meets first and third Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. St. David's Health Resource Center, 3000 North IH-35. Info: Velma Valero, 512-919-1911.

Rainbow Rollerskaters roll on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, 8 p.m., benefiting community charities. Rollerblades welcome. Skate World Northwest, Anderson Mill Rd. Tickets: \$6. Info: 512-851-9576 or dbaker62@earthlink.net

Fast Track, a running club for gay men, meets Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. Info: Jim, 512-453-8878 or www.geocities.com/asttrackrunners.

Austin Tennis Club meets for regular tennis session at South Austin Tennis Center, Fridays, 7-9 p.m. Info: www.austin-tennisclub.com or austintennisclub@yahoo.com.

Sun Dragon Martial Arts offers courses for women and gentlemen. Co-ed karate classes are fun and non-competitive. Women's classes in karate and Tai Chi. Personal safety workshops for men or women, with emphasis on avoiding hate crimes. 203 E. Riverside Dr. Info: 512-416-9735.

Texas 360 Aquatics, the newest swim team in Austin, seeks swimmers of all ages and abilities to join the team. Info: texswim360@hotmail.com, texas360aquatics.com or Chris, 512-565-7750.

HIV Wellness Center seeks personal trainers to work with people living with HIV/AIDS. Minimal pay is negotiable. Info: Monica, 512-467-0088.

Do you want to help stop the spread of HIV/AIDS? Would you be comfortable talking about sex in bars on 6th or 4th Street (like you don't already)? If so, then volunteer with the AIDS Services of Austin prevention team. Info: 512-406-6167.

Hike, camp, canoe, and do other overwhelmingly wholesome activities with Adventuring Outdoors, a gay recreation group. Meet them at a potluck on the first Wednesday each month, or help plan new activities on the third Tuesday. Info: Peter, 512-374-9688 or www.main.org/adventuring.

The Friends of David Powell Clinic seeks volunteers of all ages and backgrounds to assist in fund-raising activities, clerical work, and data base collection. The David Powell Clinic specializes in the treatment of HIV infected clients, and serves the uninsured and the under insured residents of Austin and Travis County. Info: Henry, 512-389-3958.

Austin Gamblers Bowling League, Austin's only gay and lesbian league, meets Tuesdays, 8:20 p.m. at Dart Bowl, 5700 Grover. Info: Steve Cawthorn, 512-647-7073 or austingamblers@yahoo.com.

Austin Frontrunners meets for its weekly walk/run each Sunday morning, 7:45-8 a.m. Then it's time for breakfast. Info: Charles, 512-473-8334 or www.frontrunners.org.

Hays-Caldwell Women's Center is currently forming an evening support group for men who experienced childhood sexual abuse. Info: Lynette, 512-396-3404, ext. 242 or 1-800-700-4292.

SPIRITUALITY

Kingdom Seekers in Christ Jesus offers worship and study Sundays, 10:30 a.m. and Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., or via Time Warner Cable, Channel 11, Tuesdays 10 p.m. Webcast at www.whosoever.net. 81 San Marcos St. Info: 512-322-0049 or RevTHoult@WhoSoEver.net.

BEAUMONT

Lambda A.A. Group meets Wednesdays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. All meetings are open and smoke-free. 1385 Calder. Info: 409-866-6165.

BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION

GLBT Professional Network, an officially recognized organization for GLBT Texas A&M University faculty, staff, and graduate students, meets the first Monday of each month. Info: <http://glbt-pn.tamu.edu>.

Friends Congregational Church (UCC), an open and affirming congregation, worships Sundays, 8:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., and Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. 2200 Southwood Dr. Info: 979-693-7021, www.friends-ucc.org, or friends@myriad.net.

DALLAS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dragonflies Dallas (gay Asian and Pacific Islanders) meets first Saturday of every month, 6 p.m. John Thomas Gay and Lesbian Community Center. Info: www.dragonfliesdallas.org.

Lambda Pride Toastmasters meets every Friday, 6:30 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, Room 106; off Nash at Inwood. Info: www.lambdapride.com.

Purple Light, a support group for the trans community meets the fourth Sunday of each month at the John Thomas Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 2701 Reagan. There is also an informal social get-together the second Sunday of each month. Cost: \$3. Info: www.goldleopard.com/purple.

Club Francais Gai de Dallas is open to anyone who speaks fluent French. Info: club-francais-dallas@paris.com.

Committed For Fun, a new, social group meets weekly, giving monogamous couples the opportunity to meet other couples for friendship, outings, and traveling. Couples new to Dallas or those who are on a short visit who would like to see the city are encouraged to call. Info: 214-395-6774 or roniq69@hotmail.com

DTA, Dallas Transgender Alliance meets every second Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m., at the Dallas Oak Lawn Public Library Auditorium, 4100 Cedar Springs Rd. Info: www.geocities.com/dtgalliance.

Friends Associating and Relating (FAR) is a support group with educational and social activities giving gay men and lesbians a place to meet other than the bars. Info: 214-328-6749.

Gay? Mature? Hungry? Dallas/Ft. Worth Prime Timers meet several times throughout the month for meals and fellowship. Info: 972-504-8866.

Baffled by bisexuality? BiNet Dallas meets the first Friday of each month for support/discussion, 7 p.m. at the John Thomas Gay and Lesbian Center, 2701 Reagan and the third Saturday of the month for brunch, 10:30 a.m. at La Madeleine (Lemmon at Oak Lawn). Info: alexande@ticnet.com or www.geocities.com/binetdallas.

Dallas Gay and Lesbian Bar Association meets for lunch the second Thursday of each month, 12 noon. Dallas Bar Association (Belo Mansion), 2101 Ross Ave. Info: 214-540-4460.

Immunocize classes held Monday-Friday, 10:30 a.m., Centrum Sports Club. Info: 214-521-5124, ext. 1108.

Lambda Alanon meets Thursday nights, 8 p.m. at 2438 Butler, #106. Info: 214-887-6699.

Team Dallas Aquatics, a gay and lesbian U.S. Masters team, seeks swimmers and divers of all ages and abilities to join. Regular coached practices, six days per week. Info: www.TeamDallasAquatics.com.

Texas Twisters, Dallas/Fort Worth's gay and lesbian country-western dance club, holds its general membership meetings on the fourth Sunday of each month, 7 p.m., at various locations. www.texastwisters.org or 972-993-2021, ext. 5052.

Positively Young provides resources, provides psychological and emotional support for HIV/AIDS infected youth and their parents/guardians. Info: Human Services Network, 972-283-0468.

MaleCare Dallas, a gay men's prostate cancer support group meets on the third Wednesday of each month. Bethany Presbyterian Community Center, 4523 Cedar Springs Rd. Info: russ@malecare.com or 972-247-7944.

Pride Institute-DFW offers continued care support for GLBTs who have been in a substance abuse treatment center within the last year. Free. Tuesdays, 6 p.m. Info: Jay Lewis, 214-207-5903.

Nelson-Tebedo Health Resource Center offers screening and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases each Wednesday, 6-8 p.m. 4012 Cedar Springs. \$50. For appointments, call Donna Parks, RN, BSN at 214-528-2336.

Latinos! H.O.T. esta caliente! Charlamos y empaquetamos condones, de las 10 a.m. hasta las 12, el primer y tercer sábado de cada mes (excepto el 5 de Julio y días festivos). We chat and make condom packets, from 10 a.m. until noon, every first and third Saturday of each month (except July 5th and holidays). Se habla español. Info: Ruben, 214-540-4446.

SPIRITUALITY

Metropolitan Community Churches presents General Conference and World Jubilee, the world's largest gay and lesbian spirituality conference. July 1-6. Info: www.MCCchurch.org.

A contemporary praise and worship community church is currently being organized in Dallas. Curious? Info: 972-695-5777.

Grace Oasis Apostolic/Pentecostal Church conducts weekly GLBT Affirming Bible Studies. Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. John Thomas Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 2701 Reagan St. 972-928-7380 or RevCCM@Yahoo.com

Trinity House of Spirituality offers Buddhist meditation and Reiki sharing circle. Wednesdays, 7 p.m. Info: 214-637-1954.

DENTON

Ally Program at University of North Texas offers programs, resources and diversity training. Info: Dr. Dan Emenheiser, 940-565-2456 or www.unt.edu/ally.

GLAD (Gay and Lesbian Association of Denton), the University of North Texas' gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered and/or straight student organization meets Wednesdays. Info: <http://orgs.unt.edu/GLAD>.

Lavender Circle, UNT's queer feminist organization meets Thursdays. Info: <http://orgs.unt.edu/lavendercircle>.

Interweave, Unitarian Universalists for GLBT Concerns, offers discussion and socializing the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month, 7 p.m. Denton Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 1111 Cordell. Info: Mark, 940-891-1457 or markcoomes@yahoo.com.

University of North Texas Delta Lambda Phi fraternity meets Sundays. Info: <http://orgs.unt.edu/dlp>.

EL PASO

Under 22? Youth OUTreach meets Thursdays, 6 p.m. and Saturday, 7 p.m. for lively discussions, activities, and community involvement. Info: www.GAYel Paso.org. LAMBDA Parents meet Saturdays, 7:30 p.m. Info: www.LAMBDA.org. Both groups meet at the Community Center, 216 S. Ochoa.

Tarrant County Gay Pride Week Association meets the third Sunday of each month, 3 p.m. to help organize the annual Ft. Worth parade and picnic events. www.tcgppwa.org.

Agape Metropolitan Community Church worships Sundays, 10:30 a.m. 4615 E. California Pkwy. Info: 817-535-5002 or www.agapemcc.com.

GLSEN Tarrant County works to create an atmosphere of respect for all members of school communities regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. Meets the second Tuesday of every month, 7 p.m. at Bennigan's. Info: 817-294-5101 or www.glsen-tarrant.org.

June 27, 2003 • The Texas Triangle 30

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Celebration Community Church, a church for all denominations, offers worship services Sundays, 9 and 11 a.m.; and Bible study, Wednesdays, 7 p.m. 908 Pennsylvania Ave. Info: 817-335-3222 or www.celebration-community-church.com. Rev. Carol A. West, Pastor.

Fort Worth Church Project is pastored by David Boger, an openly gay graduate of TCU's Brite Divinity School. First Jefferson Church, 1959 Sandy Lane. Info: 817-595-6925 or www.fortworthchurch.com.

At Angel of Hope Christian Church, they don't just believe in diversity, they embody it. Sunday service, 10:30 a.m. 901 Page St. Info: 817-920-7767 or www.angelofhope.org.

Fellowship of Love Outreach Church services include Sunday School for adults and children 9:30 a.m.; morning worship, 10:30 a.m.; Sunday evening, 6 p.m.; Wednesday evening, 7 p.m. 901 Bonnie Brae. Info: 817-921-5683 or www.folochurch.com.

FRISCO

FriscoPride is social organization for the gay and lesbian community in Frisco, offering monthly social events. Info: www.friscopride.com or info@frisopride.com.

GALVESTON

Lambda Galveston (Alcoholics Anonymous) meets Thursdays, 8 p.m. and Sundays 7 p.m., 1409 39th St.

HOUSTON

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stonewall Democrats of Houston meet Monday, June 30, 6:30 p.m. at Bibas One's A Meal, 608 West Gray Ave.

Houston Area Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) meets Fridays, 7-10 p.m., and Sundays, 6-9 p.m. Info: 713-529-3590 or www.hatchyouth.org.

Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston provides information, nonjudgmental support, and anonymous counseling to the GLBT community. Info: 713-529-3211 or www.gayswitchboardhouston.org.

Hey girls! It's GRLBar with Amanda, every Friday night, 9 p.m., with happy hour prices 'til 11 p.m. and special drink prices all night long. Upstairs patio at Rich's, 2401 San Jacinto.

Help celebrate 25 years of Pride in Houston by becoming a volunteer with PCOH. Meets the second Tuesday of every month. Info: www.pridehouston.org, volunteers@pridehouston.org, or 713-529-6979.

Esperamos conocerte! Charla Espanola, or Spanish Chat, meets every other Thursday at Agora, 1712 Westheimer, 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome for fun, engaging, and informal conversation en espanol. Info: charlaespanola@msn.com or 713-416-7203.

WIPsociety is a pansexual leather, Levi, BDSM, fetish, legal, adult entertainment and social club. Info: WIPsociety@prodigy.net or 281-564-0615.

The Stonewall Law Association of Greater Houston hosts Law Professionals Mixer, each second Wednesday at Meteor, 2306 Genesee.

Gay? Mature? Hungry? Houston Prime Timers meet several times throughout the month for meals and socializing. Info: 713-867-3903 or www.primetimersww.org/houston.

American Veterans for Equal Rights, Houston Chapter meets the first Monday of each Month, 7 p.m., at the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne. Info: B.K. Silva, AVERHouston@yahoo.com or 281-415-6876.

Discuss the priorities of the GLBT community as well as the Mayor's thoughts with Janine Brunjes, the Mayor's Liaison to the GLBT community. Roundtables are scheduled the third Thursday of each month, 7-8 p.m. Info: 713-520-1142.

The Blue Stockings Salon book group for lesbians meets every other Wednesday. Info: <http://www.geocities.com/lesbianlgd>.

Lesbian & Gay Immigration Rights Task Force-Houston chapter meets every second Thursday, 8 p.m. Bering Memorial Methodist Church, room 230. Info: Chris, 713-426-3128 or crigdon072@hotmail.com

Houston Chapter of Inmate Families Organization (INFO)

meets the second Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. of each month at Montrose Library, 4100 Montrose. Info: 713-515-3736.

Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus general meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month, 7 p.m. at the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 3400 Montrose Blvd., Suite 207. Info: voter@hglpc.com.

The past is present. Gulf Coast Archive and Museum of GLBT History, Inc., 1609 West Main, #4. Open by appointment only. Info: 713-227-5973 or www.gcam.org.

BiNet Houston meets Thursdays, 7 p.m. at the Hobbit Cafe, 2243 Richmond. Bi-questioning people, GLBT, and all open-minded people are welcome. Info: 713-467-4380 or www.flash.net/~bihouse.

Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center offers varied programming for Houston's GLBT community, including a display of memorabilia from the collection of the Gulf Coast Archive and Museum of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender History, as well as paintings from the Positive Art Workshop. 3400 Montrose. Info: 713-524-2022.

An Uncommon Legacy Foundation meets the third Wednesday of each month, 1400 Hermann Drive in the Gallery, first floor. Info: 713-520-1142.

Astro Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf meets at Montrose Clinic, 213 Westheimer. Info: aradhoutx@aol.com for meeting dates.

Cyberwomen, unite! Need info about health, politics, resources, a calendar of community meetings and events, and more? Log on to FEMNET, a free Email list of interest to feminists and lesbians in the Houston/Galveston area. To subscribe to The Feminist Online Network, send an email to FEMNET-subscribe@yahoo.groups.com with the word subscribe in the subject area.

A Feminist Group for all women meets every Sunday, 10:45 a.m. in the First Unitarian Universalist Church, 5200 Fannin at Southmore Sojourner Truth Room, 3rd floor. Info: Iris Greer Sizemore, 713-529-8571 or Laura Reich, 713-529-1886 or ChzHead005@aol.com.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

Come 'out' to the Houston Comets' Pride Day on Saturday, June 28. Compaq Center. Tickets: \$8-\$25.50. Info: Ericka Bowman, 713-963-7334.

The Rainbow Ringers offer free country and western dance lessons Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30 p.m. Brazos River Bottom. Info: www.Rainbowringers.org.

Lesbian Health Initiative meets the first Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m., at Alternative Health and Wellness. Info: 713-603-0023.

Montrose Counseling Center provides culturally affirming, quality and affordable services primarily to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender individuals. Info: 713-529-0037 or www.montrosecounselingcenter.org.

The Montrose Soccer Club practices Saturdays, 10 a.m. at Woodrow Wilson School, Fairview at Yupon. Info: montrosesoccer@yahoo.com or 713-862-9491.

Houston Roughnecks Rugby Club practices Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. Info: www.roughnecksrugby.org.

Bike for a Better City Bicycle Club is currently seeking members. 713-523-6381.

Grupo de Apoyo para Latinos gay y bisexuales VIH positivos. Lunes 6:30 p.m. Para mas informacion llama al 713-830-3025. Montrose Clinic, 215 Westheimer.

Positive Women, a professionally facilitated support group for HIV positive women, meets Thursdays, 11 a.m. at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1427 Hawthorne. Lunch, child care and transportation provided. Info: 713-526-1017, ext. 206.

Recovery From Food Addiction—A Twelve Step Program meets every Thursday, 12 noon. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1801 W. Alabama. Info: www.geocities.com/RFA77235/ or 713-673-2848.

Lambda Houston (Alcoholics Anonymous) is open seven days a week and hosts 40 group meeting each week. 1201 W. Clay. Info: 713-521-1243.

Director of Bering Support Network Ken McLeod facilitates Jump Start, a group for GLBT persons living with disabilities such as MS, cerebral palsy, amputations, head trauma, and/or neuro-deficits. Second and fourth Fridays, 11 a.m. Info: 713-526-1017, ext. 208.

GLBTQ? HIV/AIDS? Grieving? Lonely? Bering Support Network wants to help. Info: 713-526-1017 or www.beringumc.org.

Join the Gay/Lesbian Breakfast Club for a three-mile walk each Saturday, 9:30 a.m. the Memorial Park in front of the tennis center. They then adjourn to Java Java Cafe, 911 11th, for breakfast. Info: 281-437-0636 or http://members.aol.com/morningclub/index.htm.

The Lone Star Volleyball Association plays Sundays, 4:30 p.m. St. Thomas University's Jerabeck Center. Info: 713-717-5782 or www.LSVA.org.

Body Positive Wellness Clinic offers a 3-month core program for HIV positive men and women consisting of supervised exercise training and nutritional counseling as well as optional massage therapy and chiropractic care. Graduates of the program are encouraged to continue using the facilities and receiving all services. Info: 713-524-2374.

The Montrose Clinic offers free HIV testing Mondays at Brick's 4-8 p.m., Club Xcape 9 p.m.-midnight; Tuesdays at 611 Club 4 p.m.-8 p.m., and The Club Houston 8 p.m.-12 midnight; Wednesdays at Mary's 4-8 p.m., Ripecord, 9 p.m.-12 midnight, E/J's 10 p.m.-1 a.m., and Midtowne Spa 10 p.m.-1 a.m.; Thursdays at BRB 8 p.m.-12 midnight, Cousins 8 p.m.-12 midnight; Fridays at E/J's 10 p.m.-1 a.m., Midtowne Spa 10 p.m.-1 a.m., Meatrack 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Classes are also offered for individuals newly diagnosed with Hep C. Info: 713-830-3000.

SPIRITUALITY

Integrity (GLBT Episcopalians and Friends) meets each fourth Sunday, 12:30 p.m. for brunch. Maria Selma Restaurant, 1619 Richmond.

GLBT Pentecostals meet Tuesdays, 7 p.m. for Bible study and prayer. Info: 936-931-3761 or Wgb1947@cs.com.

The Bering Spiritual Support Group, Houston's oldest and largest HIV/AIDS group, meets Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1427 Hawthorne. Info: 713-526-1017, ext. 208.

Worship services at First Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston are Sundays, 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., with brunch offered between services. 5200 Fannin. Info: 713-526-5200 or www.firstuu.org.

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA) welcomes everyone to its traditional Lutheran worship service on Sundays at 10:30 a.m., preceded by Adult Education at 9 a.m. 2515 Waugh Dr. Info: 713-528-3269, or office@grace-lutheran-houston.org.

Interested in worshipping with Christians who have a liberal view on gender and sexuality issues and/or are gay and lesbian members of the Church of Christ? Call Michael, 713-868-3318.

The Jewish Congregation Mishpachat Alizim meets for Sabbath services the second Friday of each month, 8 p.m. at Baby Barnaby's, 602 Fairview. Info: 866-841-9139, ext. 1834 or mishpachat@onebox.com.

Congregation Beth Israel hosts a monthly study group led by Rabbi Whitman and Rabbi Glickman for gay and lesbian Jews in the Houston area. First Thursday of every month, 7:30 p.m. at Beth Israel, 5600 N. Braeswood. Info: Rabbi Glickman, 713-771-6221.

New Covenant Christian Church holds worship service at the GLBT Community Center, 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. Sundays, 10:30 a.m., Info: 713-984-5806 or 713-524-8541.

All-Spanish worship services are celebrated every Saturday, 6 p.m. in the chapel of Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, 2025 W 11th St. 713-861-9149 or 713-303-3409.

A Feminist Group meets Sundays, 10:45 a.m. in the Sojourner Truth Room, 3rd floor of the First Unitarian Universalist Church, 5200 Fannin at Southmore (elevator accessible). Info: Iris Greer Sizemore, 713-529-8571, www.houstonwomensgroup.com, or HouWG@aol.com.

An introduction to Buddhism is offered each Tuesday, 7 p.m. at 634 W. Temple in the Heights. Info: Carlton, 713-862-8129.

LIVINGSTON

Grace Assembly, a gay/gay affirming church, offers aerobics classes on Monday, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 7 p.m.; a GLBT support group (with dinner), Thursdays, 7 p.m.; and worship services on Sundays, 11 a.m. 567 Cedar Grove. Info: 936-646-7214 or leo1@castex.net.

MINERAL WELLS

Mineral Wells Prime Timers, an organization for older gay and

bisexual men and their younger admirers meet the second Saturday of each month, 324 Whispering Oaks Southwind. Info: 940-325-0325 or mwprime@yahoo.com.

SAN ANTONIO

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cheer San Antonio, a new performance cheerleading squad practices Sundays, 2-4 p.m. at Olmos Park. No experience required. Info: www.geocities.com/cheersanantonio or Mitch, 210-380-7574.

Christie Lee Littleton facilitates the Transgender Support Group, Metropolitan Community Church, 611 Myrtle. Info: 210-472-3597 or ChristieLee6@aol.com.

The Gay + Lesbian Community Center of San Antonio offers a wide variety of GLBT social, health, and educational programs. Open Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Sunday, 1-6 p.m. Metropolitan Community Church, 611 E. Myrtle. Info: 1-866-452-2724, 210-223-6106 or <http://glcsa.org>.

San Antonio Prime Timers (mature gay and bisexual men) meet several times throughout the month for meals and socializing. Info: 830-980-8744 or saprimetime049@aol.com.

Texas Tradition offers clogging lessons each Thursday night, 6:30 p.m. (beginners); 7 p.m. (intermediate); and 8 p.m. (advanced). Southside Lions Park Community Center, 3100 Hiawatha.

Y.U.T.H. Group (Youth United To Help), a peer support and social group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning youth meets the first and third Sundays of every month, 4-6 p.m., 611 E. Myrtle. Info: 210-223-6106 or yuth@glcsa.org.

SPIRITUALITY

Abundant Grace in Christ Jesus holds services at its new location at 10415 Perrin-Beitel Suite 106. Contemporary Praise and Worship Service on Sundays, 10:30 a.m.; Prayer/Outreach Service, Sundays 6 p.m.; Bible Study Wednesdays, 7 p.m. Info: Pastor Greg Harman, 210-445-5156.

Discover why *Triangle* readers voted Metropolitan Church of San Antonio's Rainbow Cathedral the best place to worship in San Antonio. Sunday services, 10:30 a.m. 611 E. Myrtle. Info: 210-472-3597 or www.mccsa.org.

Spirit of Peace United Church of Christ, a Just Peace, Open and Affirming congregation in the liberal Christian tradition, worships Sundays, 5 p.m. at First Unitarian Universalist Church, 1H-10 and Loop 410. Info: www.spiritofpeacechurch.org.

Travis Park United Methodist Church—the Church with An Open Heart, Open Minds, Open Doors—invites the GLBT community to worship. Contemporary worship services at 11 a.m. on Sundays. 230 E. Travis. www.travispark.org.

SEGUIN

Southern Animal Rescue Association (SARA), Texas largest no-kill animal sanctuary for more than 600 domestic animals has weekend volunteer opportunities every Sunday, 9 a.m. with hands-on animal care. Catered lunches and lots of fun provided. Info: Tracy, sarasanc@swbell.net or www.sarasancuary.org.

WACO

PFLAG-Waco meets the second Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 4209 North 27th St. Meet for chat, drinks and perhaps a meal at PFLAG Waco Pub Nite, the third Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m. Info: www.pflagwaco.org or 254-776-3806.

Does your organization have a special event of interest to GLBT Texas that you would like to publicize? Please email txtrihoust@aol.com by Monday for publication in next Friday's issue.

Dining GUIDE

AUSTIN

Frank & Angie's Pizzeria

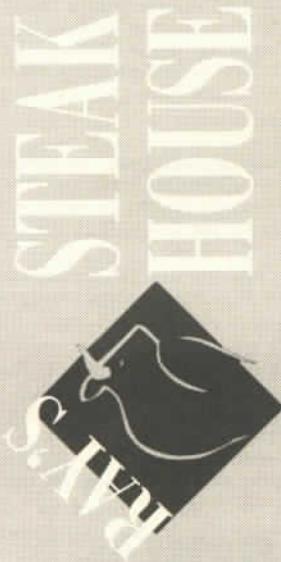
508 West Avenue
Austin, TX 78701
512-472-3534

Type of Cuisine: Italian

Frank & Angie's cooks begin each day by making dough and sauce from scratch using the freshest ingredients, all of our dishes are home-made

Attire: Casual

Average Menu Price: \$5.50



An Austin Original

chef owned restaurant

Black Angus Steaks,
Chops & Shrimp
& Exceptional Wine List

- Phenomenal Lunches
- Delightful Desserts

Lunch: Monday-Friday 11:30-2
Dinner Daily: Sunday-Wednesday 5:30-10
Thursday-Saturday 5:30-11

Reservations Accepted • Reasonably Priced
3010 Guadalupe Galleria Oaks Shopping Center
512-478-0000 13376 US Hwy. 183 N.
www.rays-steaks.com



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**Voted
Best Italian
In Austin
6 Years In A Row!**
(512) 472-3534

508 West Avenue, Austin 78701

Thanks to The Texas Triangle
readers for voting
Hut's Hamburgers

Best Burgers In Austin

6 Years In A Row!



807 West 6th Street,
Austin 78701
(512) 494-1500

Austin, TX 78703

(512) 472-0693

Type of Cuisine: Burgers & More

"God Bless Hut's"—Come see why year after year Austinites vote for Hut's as serving the best Hamburgers in town

Attire: Casual

Average Menu Price: \$4.50

Ray's Steakhouse

3010 Guadalupe

Austin, TX

512-478-0000

<http://www.rays-steaks.com>

Type of Cuisine: Steakhouse

Ray's steakhouse is chef-owned and everthing from the delectable appetizers to the steaks, seafood, pork chops, lamb chops and veal reflects Ray's expertise

Attire: Casual

Average Menu Price:

Lunch \$8—\$10

Dinner \$17—\$30

DALLAS

Hunk's

4000 Cedar Springs

Dallas, TX 75219

214-522-1212

Type of Cuisine: Burgers & Shakes

Attire: Casual

Average Menu Price: \$5

HOUSTON

NIKO NIKO'S Greek American Cafe

2250 Montrose

Houston, TX 77006

713-528-1308

Type of Cuisine: Greek

Montrose's Original Greek Restaurant Since 1977. Specializing in Gyros, Lamb Shanks, Fried Shrimp...A True Classic Cafe. "Best Greek Food" TX Triangle Readers Survey

Attire: Casual

Average Menu Price: \$6-\$12

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since 1977.

The Gods Say...
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Eat Well.

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GREEK & AMERICAN CAFE

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www.txtriangle.com

IT'S SHOWTIME

AUSTIN

All and Center for Women & Their Work present *amniotic/flow*, June 27 and 28. Tillary Street Theater, 701 Tillary St. Tickets: \$10. Info: www.allgo.org.

Arts for Real presents *Tricks*, through July 12, 8 p.m. 2826 Real St. Info: www.naughtyaustin.com or 512-472-2787.

Different Stages presents *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, June 27 through July 19. The Auditorium on Waller Creek, 4100 Red River. Tickets: \$12-\$14. Donations of canned goods benefits AIDS Services of Austin Food Bank.

Paramount Theatre presents *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, through June 29. Info: 512-469-SHOW or www.startickets.com.



AUSTIN—Vortex Repertory Company presents Tim Miller's *Us* (pictured), June 27-29; Karen Finley in *Make Love*, July 2-6; and Penny Arcade in *New York Values*, July 9-12. 2307 Manor Rd. Tickets: \$15-\$30. Info: 512-478-LAVA.

Rude Mechanicals presents *Grrl Action 2003*, through June 29. The Off Center, 2211-A Hidalgo. Info: 512-476-7833 or www.rudemechs.com.

Sally Jacques presents *Where Nothing Falls*, through June 29, 8:30 p.m. 2101 E. St. Elmo, South Tech, Building One. Tickets: \$10-\$15. Info: 512-454-TIXS.

Salvage Vanguard Theater presents *tempOdyssey*, through June 28 at The Off Center, 1705 Guadalupe. Info: 512-474-5576 or www.bathhousecultural.com/fit2003.html.

SVT6 or www.salvagevanguard.org.

Taylor Cage hosts *Queer Waves*, a showcase for GLBT musicians and special guests on KOOP 91.7 FM every Saturday, 4:30 p.m. *This Way Out* airs Fridays 5 p.m., followed by *Outspoken* at 6 p.m. Info: www.koop.org or 512-472-1369.

United Court of Austin presents *8-ball Pool Tournament* the third Wednesday of each month, 7 p.m. with cash prizes and drink specials. Benefits Wright House Wellness Center. Dick's Deja Disco, 113 San Jacinto.

Vortex Repertory Company presents Tim Miller's *Us*, June 27-29; Karen Finley in *Make Love*, July 2-6; and Penny Arcade in *New York Values*, July 9-12. 2307 Manor Rd. Tickets: \$15-\$30. Info: 512-478-LAVA.

Kitchen Dog Theatre presents *Curanderas!*, through June 29. McKinney Avenue Contemporary (The MAC), 3120 McKinney Ave. Info: 214-953-1212 or www.kitchendogtheater.org.

Lambda Weekly Radio, gay and lesbian radio of North Texas, Dallas and Fort Worth, airs every Sunday, 1 p.m. on KNON 89.3FM. Info: www.geocities.com/lambdaweekly.

FT. WORTH

Texas Triangle Profiles in Pride presents *Hope Along the Wind: The Life of Harry Hay*. Sunday, June 29, 7:30 p.m. Downtown Public Library, 500 W. Third. Free admission! Sponsored in part by Q Cinema. Info: www.txtriangle.com or 214-946-0401.

GALVESTON

The Strand Theatre presents *Galveston! The Musical*, July 11-Aug. 3. 2317 Ship's Mechanic Row. Tickets: \$25-\$35. Info: 1-409-763-4591.

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It's *The Deck Show* (get it?) with Nancy Ford. Start your weekends happy with music, comedy, and a cold one on 1415's outside deck. Every Friday, 8 p.m. 1415 Bar & Grille (formerly Sonoma), 1415 California. Info: 713-522-7066.

ComedySportz presents improv comedy every Friday night, 8 p.m. Lambert Hall, 1703 Heights Blvd. Tickets: \$10. Info: 713-868-1444 or www.comedysportzhouston.com.

Country Playhouse presents *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, July 12 through August 9. 12802 Queensbury Ln. Tickets: \$17-\$22. Info: 713-467-4497 or www.countryplayhouse.org..com, molly@commoner.

dos chicas theater commune presents *Bonjour, la, Bonjour*, July 11 through Aug. 2. Herlios, 411 Westheimer. Tickets: \$6-\$10. Info: 713-201-0193.

GoGirlsMusic.com celebrates Houston Pride with Sarah Golden, Elizabeth White, Sean Wiggins, Carol Plunk, and Nancy Ford. Friday, June 27, 8 p.m., Rhythm Room, 1815 Washington Ave. Tickets: \$8. Info: www.gogirlsrock.com.

Laugh in the Woods presents improvisational comedy Friday nights, 9 p.m. Holiday Inn, 16510 Interstate 45 North Freeway and FM 1960. Info: 281-821-2570.

Main Street Theatre presents *The Women*, through July 29; and *Working*, July 10 through Aug. 3. 2540 Times Blvd. 713-524-

6706 or www.mainstreettheater.com.

Masquerade Theater presents *City of Angels*, through June 28. 1537 N. Shepherd Dr. Info: 713-861-7045 or www.masqueradetheater.com.

Pink Ribbon Project presents *Pink Popcorn*, July 9-11. Tickets: \$15-\$30. 800 Aurora St. Info: 713-526-1907, ext. 2.

Stages presents *Always, Patsy Cline*, July 9 through August 17. 3201 Allen Parkway. Tickets: \$25. Info: 713-527-0220.

Stargaze Theatre presents *Mambo Girl* through July 12. 3722 Washington Ave. Info: 713-426-2626.

Theatre LaB presents *Medea, The Remix*, June 27 through July 10. 1706 Alamo. Tickets: \$10-\$15. Info: 713-868-7516 or www.theatrelab.org.

Theatre New West presents *Jerker* through July 12. 1415 California. Tickets: \$20. Info: 713-522-2204.

Theatre Under the Stars presents *The Sound of Music*, July 6-11. Miller Outdoor Theatre, Hermann Park. Free. Info: 713-558-2600.

90.1 KPFT-FM offers two GLBT-themed shows, *After Hours* (airing each Sunday morning, 1-4 a.m.), and *Queer Voices*, (airing Mondays, 8-10 p.m.)

PLANO

ComedySportz DFW performs Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30 p.m. at Parkway Plaza Shopping Center, 3115 W. Parker Rd., Suite B #330. Info: 972-964-3866 or www.ComedySportzDFW.com.

SAN ANTONIO

Jump-Start Performance Co. presents Festival de Libre Enganche, through June 29. Blue Star Arts Complex, corner of S. Alamo and Probant. Info: 210-227-5867.

Alamo City Men's Chorale seeks singing and non-singing members. Info: Paul, 210-495-SING (7464).

GaySanAntonio.net presents its weekly radio show each Saturday, 2 p.m. Info: <http://www.gaysa.net/gsair.htm> to listen to news, events, commentary and music.

TV LAND

Texas' *The Jack E. Jett Show* airs in Dallas, Fridays, 10:30 p.m. on channel 27; and in Houston, Mondays, 11 p.m. and Saturdays, 12:30 p.m. on Houston Media Source, Time Warner channels 16 and 17. Info: www.jackejett.com.

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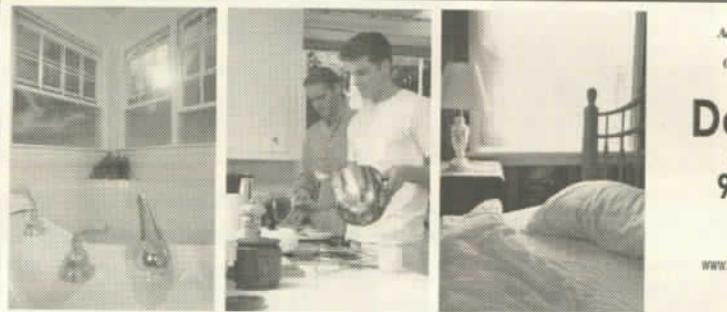
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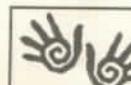
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You are a very sensitive person who can depend on feelings and intuition to get around in life. Possessing good common sense, you are always very practical and down to earth, mothering and protective to all. Security is very important to you. You also love cooking, growing things, and music. You communicate with consummate skill, and it is stimulating just being with you. Your high degree of mental concentration makes you an excellent student, able to excel in speaking, writing, and all types of communication skills. Famous people born this week: Julia Duffy (June 27), H. Ross Perot (June 27), Kathy Bates (June 28), John Dillinger (June 28), Slim Pickens (June 29), Mike Tyson (June 30), Pamela Anderson (July 1), Dan Aykroyd (July 1), Imelda Marcos (July 2), Montel Williams (July 3), Geraldo Rivera (July 3), Tom Cruise (July 3), Aaron Tippin (July 3).

Aries • March 21-April 20

Circumstances may augment and stimulate appreciation and enjoyment of your life situation. Your system of values may deepen, providing you with a better sense of discrimination and good taste. Purchasing, selecting colors and so on are at a high. Your sense of value is to the fore. Notable Aries Mariah Carey was born March 27, 1969.

Taurus • April 21-May 21

You might like to ignore responsibilities and do some socializing, but realities may demand that you tend to business and forget your friends for the moment. The crowd may ignore you and leave you (old sober-sides) to take care of business. Someone older may tend to stifle your freedom. Notable Taurus Grace Jones was born May 19, 1952.

Gemini • May 22-June 21

There may be a new appreciation for old responsibilities and duties. Problems are valued for the lessons they represent. Independence, as well as anything unusual or different, is valued. You may enjoy getting away from routine and doing something completely different for a change. Notable Gemini Mike Myers was born May 25, 1963.

Cancer • June 22-July 21

This week is a good time to consolidate and organize your affairs or rearrange your living situation. You could be seen by others as just the person to be put in charge of a project. However, others may disagree with what you say or think or in some way oppose your ideas and thoughts. Notable Cancer O.J. Simpson was born July 9, 1947.

Leo • July 22-August 23

Outer circumstances and the flow of events make it easy for you to make clear decisions, see the road ahead, and move forward. Things seem to fall in place, and progress is easy. Be careful not to overextend or bite off more than you can chew. This marks the start of increased responsibility. Notable Leo Magic Johnson was born August 14, 1959.

Virgo • August 24-September 22

This week marks the beginning of a restless time which could find you trying new and unexpected ideas, especially pertaining to your career. You may feel like breaking out and getting away from the path you have taken up to now. You can expect sudden breaks from the routine. This is a time of emotional breakthrough and discovery. Notable Virgo Cameron Diaz was born August 30, 1972.

Libra • September 23-October 22

Your desires are strong, and you will want to enjoy yourself. Romance is very possible. There is a basic drive to appreciate and taste life, and a strong drive to unify and simplify. You want something more imaginative and less mundane. But push too hard and you could be too dominating. Notable Libra Heather Locklear was born September 25, 1962.

Scorpio • October 23-November 22

You may find yourself at odds with someone you care about or someone in authority over questions of values. You may not appreciate what they represent. You may not like the ideas or thoughts of someone who confronts you; what they say may seem inappropriate or be unappreciated. Notable Scorpio Larry Flint was born November 1, 1942.

Sagittarius • November 23-December 21

Independence, as well as anything unusual or different, is valued. You may enjoy getting away from routine and doing something completely different for a change. Enjoy and appreciate yourself and your life during this time. Financial and aesthetic matters could be under siege. Notable Sagittarius Jeff Bridges was born December 4, 1949.

Capricorn • December 22-January 20

You are entering a possibly explosive time during which a rebellious urge within you presents an emotional challenge. You may have to resist attempts to divert your drive and energy in directions that will take you nowhere. There's a lot of heavy energy around; be careful what you do with it. Notable Capricorn Howard Stern was born January 12, 1954.

Aquarius • January 21-February 19

Read a romantic book or take in a movie—ideas and thoughts will have greater meaning and form just now. You may be very eloquent or forceful in speaking or communicating. People will understand just what you mean. Someone may tend to stifle your freedom. Notable Aquarius Morgan Fairchild was born February 3, 1950.

Pisces • February 20-March 20

It could be easy for high-sounding ideas and false ideals to mislead you into making career or vocational decisions that are wrong for you. Be careful that you don't involve yourself in some plan to misguide or deceive another. Ideals are real and reality is as we always dreamed it would be. Notable Pisces Dr. Seuss was born March 2, 1904.

that nothing lasts forever; things are always changing. Colors in dreams can be very significant. The color violet will often symbolize relaxation, nostalgia and memories. So take some time to appreciate the beauty in the people and places in your life—before they all "wilt away."

A Stinging Revelation

I dreamed that this huge wasp was trying to sting me. It would hover in the air, adjust its stinger so that it was aimed directly at me, and then it would fly at me full force! I would swat at it and each time I did it slowly turned into a kitten until it was the cutest, furriest, helpless little thing I've ever seen.

Ann, 29

Greenville, South Carolina

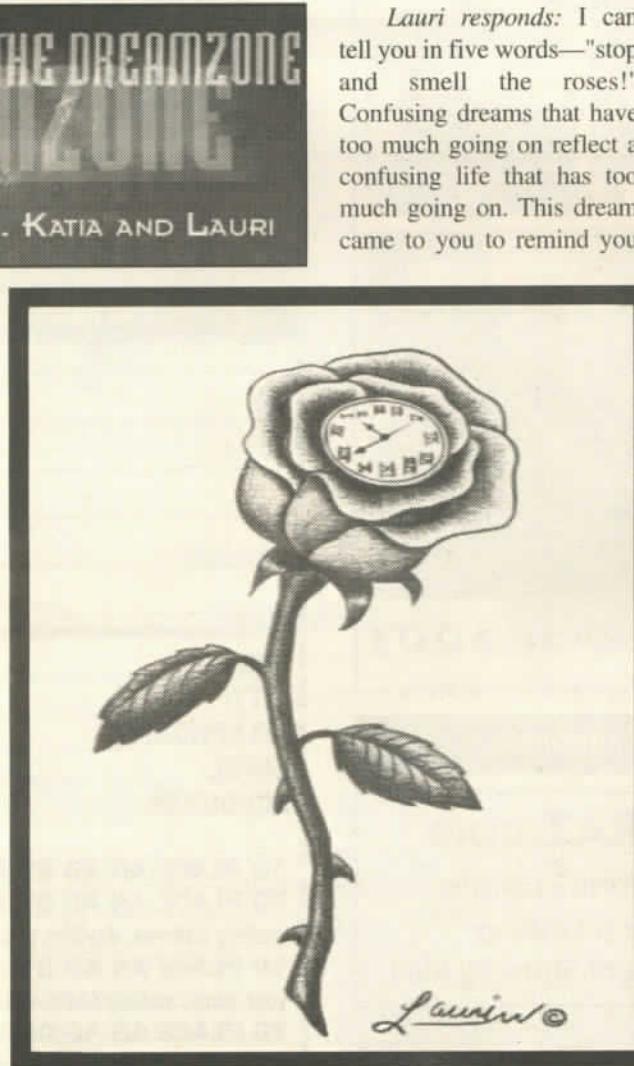
Dr. Katia responds: The wasp represents something you are trying to avoid—some sharp (and painful) issue, situation or relationship. You fear this problem and think it's going to harm you, but in reality it's helpless and cute! This dream is trying to help you resolve an unreasonable fear. Once you take steps to defend yourself (swatting at it) you suddenly see there is no need to be alarmed. In fact, the issue or relationship is dependent on you (you used the word helpless) and actually needs your nurturing. Don't be overly defensive, and stop avoiding whatever it is. It needs you and it's aiming right for you.

Finally! A dream book that will really help you! "So, What Did You Dream Last Night?" is a journey into the mysterious dreaming mind. Visit us at www.thedreamzone.com to sign up now - pay later - for your autographed copy and free shipping

Flower Power

I always have very disjointed and confusing dreams that jump from here to there and have too much going on. They are very hard to follow and remember. A few nights ago I was having another one of those dreams but I was able to remember a tiny part of it. I saw this beautiful flower that looked kind of like a rose but with large violet petals. The flower was closed at first and then it slowly began to open. When it fully opened it revealed a clock inside! I don't know what time the clock read but the flower then began to wilt and the only way I can describe it is fade away. I was very moved by this image. I would greatly appreciate it if you could tell me what this means, if anything.

Maureen, 38
Boston, Massachusetts



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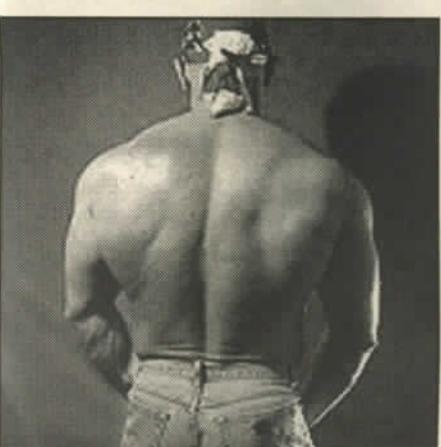
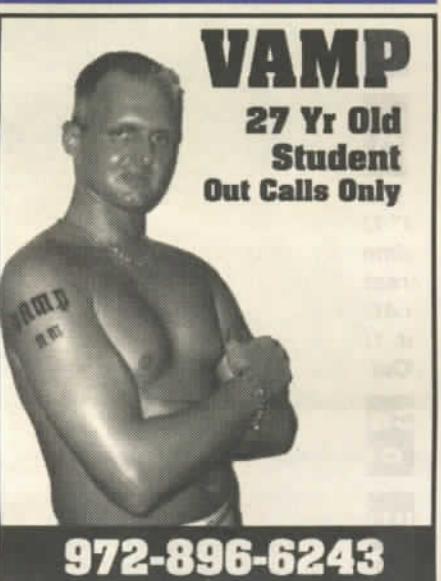
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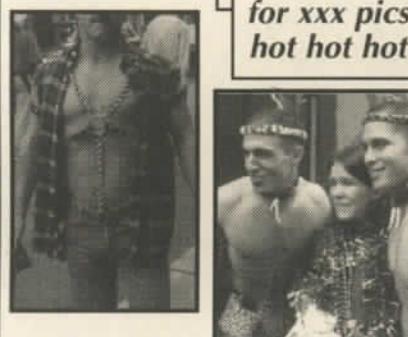
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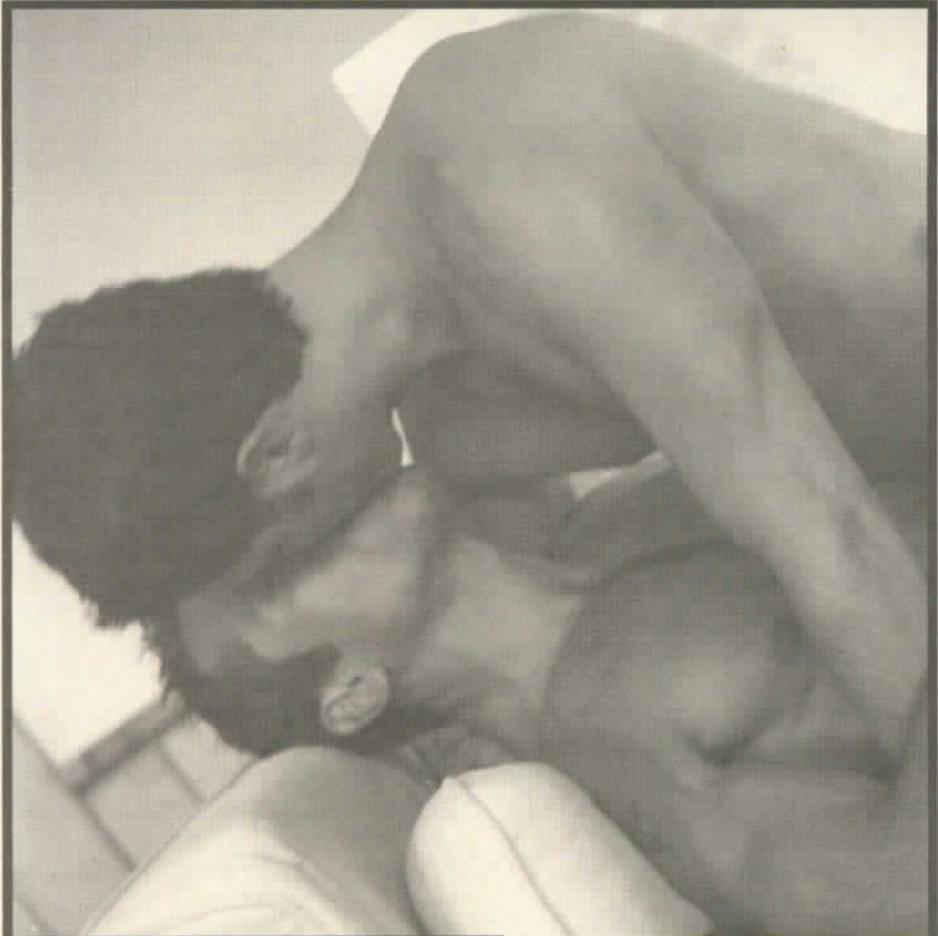
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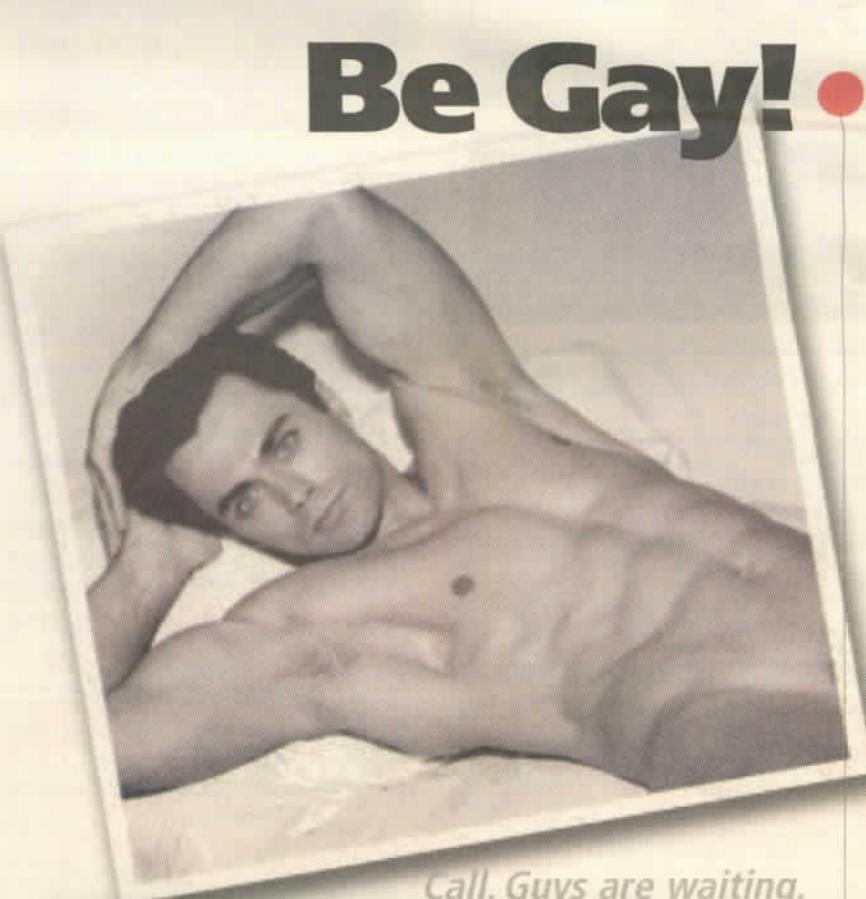


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