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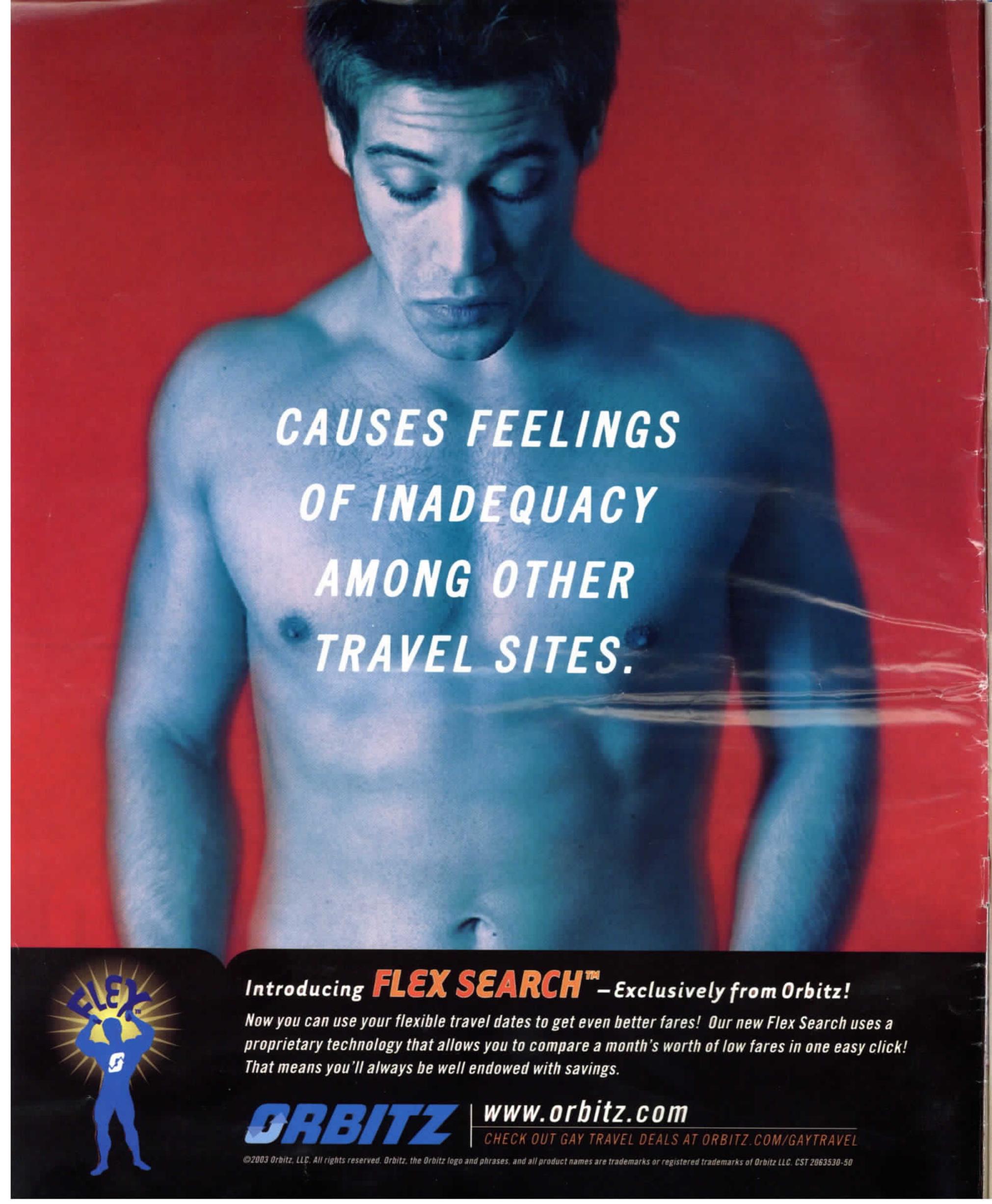
July 4, 2003

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An In-depth
Look at the Historic
Supreme Court Ruling



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Nation Reacts to Supreme Court Ruling

By Brent Brumley

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

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

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

ings made by the nation's highest court.

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

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

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

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

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

"While today's decision is heartening, I was very disappointed in Justice Scalia's offensive comments on the ruling. They are beneath the dignity of the Court," said Pelosi.

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

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

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

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

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

The survey also revealed that Americans almost equally

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Human Rights Campaign said the ruling—overturning



ings made by the nation's highest court.

Although the current President remained silent on what is a broad and potentially far-reaching issuance by the Court, the slate of potential Democratic nominees who will contend for his job in next year's election had plenty to say.

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

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

Presidential candidate John Kerry agreed.

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

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

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

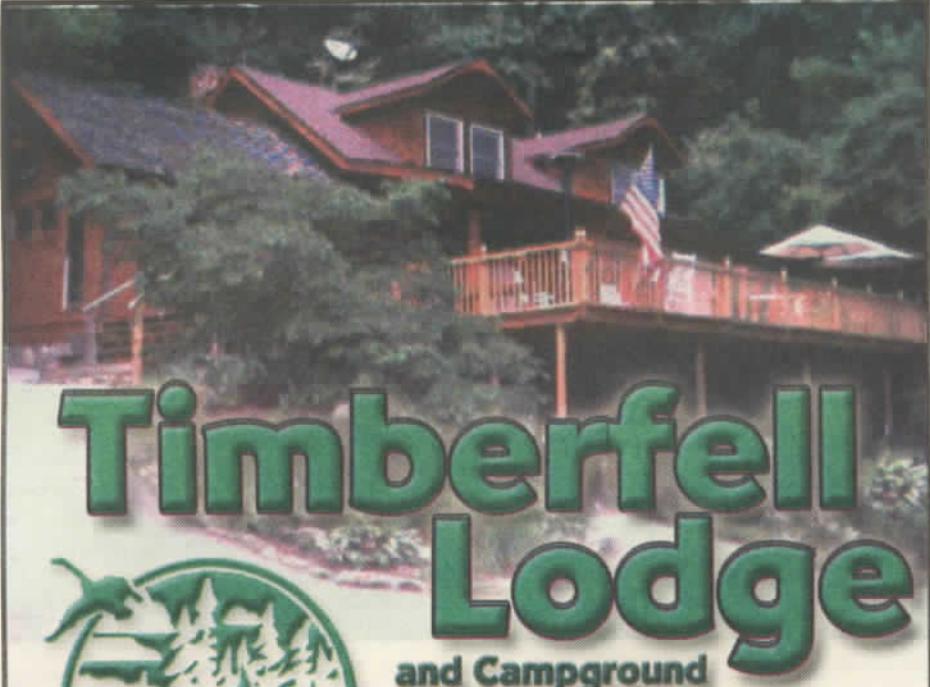


Houston Rally following Supreme Court decision

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

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

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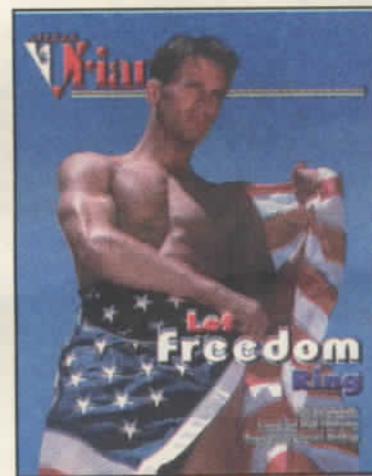
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Celebrate
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Houston Pride Swells In Wake of Sodomy Decision

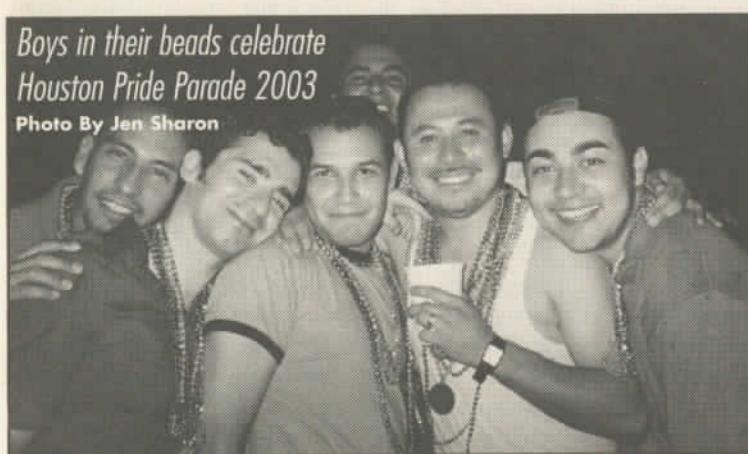
By Jone Devlin

"There was more of everything this year."

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

Boys in their beads celebrate Houston Pride Parade 2003

Photo By Jen Sharon



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

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

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

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

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



Court used in deciding the case was so broad "that legal scholars are viewing it as a landmark case for privacy and civil rights."

Katine talked too about the "Romeo and Juliet" case out of Kansas, in which an 18 year old male was sentenced to 15 years in prison for having sex with a 16-year-old male. Had the 16-year-old been a female, the young man's sentence would have been no more than a year. "In the wake of the Supreme Court decision on June 26, the Kansas Supreme Court vacated the case, and it is currently being reconsidered in light of the *Lawrence* decision," Katine said.

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

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

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

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

Diversity, Sparkle Lead the Way Down Westheimer

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

The Turtle Creek Chorale/The Strangerettes were easily the most popular entry in the Parade. The Strangerettes are a drag version of The Rangerettes, complete with costumes and a knock-'em-dead drill routine. Hailing from Dallas, the Strangerettes (bad hair and all), had the audience in the palm of their hands from the moment the parade started. They were also one of the few entries that performed throughout the parade, rather than just in front of the judges' stand.

The Greater Houston Chamber of Commerce, meanwhile, blew everyone away with their shopping carts full of rainbow flag material. The crowd loved it as GHCC weaved and danced before the judges with carts and rainbow flags gleaming.

The J.P. Morgan Chase Pride team managed to continue their winning streak this year, with a float complete with a piggy bank and giant coins. Chase, whose offices in downtown Houston boast one of the biggest Pride Teams in the country, is a long-time parade favorite. The Gulf Coast Archives and Museum were another favorite, as they celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of Pride with replicas of Pride T-shirts (complete with logos) for the last two and a half decades. Jimmy Carper, member of GCAM, later confessed that not all of the shirts made it onto the float, as the pipe on which they were originally mounted ended up giving way under the weight of 25 cardboard tees. Enough of them did make the cut however to allow GCAM



PCOH President
Nick Brines

Photo By Nancy Ford

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

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

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

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

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

Texas Triangle congratulations to all of the 2003 winners.

2003 Houston Pride Parade Award Winners

- Ruby Slipper Award for Best Walking Unit: Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce
- Gypsy Rose Award for Best Out-of-Town Unit: Turtle Creek Chorale's The Strangerettes
- Edison Award for Best Lighting, on a Non Professionally Built Unit: Community Gospel Church
- Houston Award for Best Non Professionally Built Motorized Unit: The Krewe of the Moons of Uranus
- Rainbow Lights Award for Best Lighting on a Professionally Built Unit: Diageo Smirnoff Twist
- Texas Award for Best Professionally Built Motorized Unit: JP Morgan Chase P.R.I.D.E. Team
- Stonewall Award for Best Commemoration of Pride: Donald R. Watkins Memorial Foundation
- Silver celebration Award for Best Interpretation of Theme: Gulf Coast Archive & Museum of GLBT History, Inc.
- Spirit of Montrose Award for Best Overall Entry: Turtle Creek Chorale/The Strangerettes

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Nation Reacts...

Continued from pg. 3

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

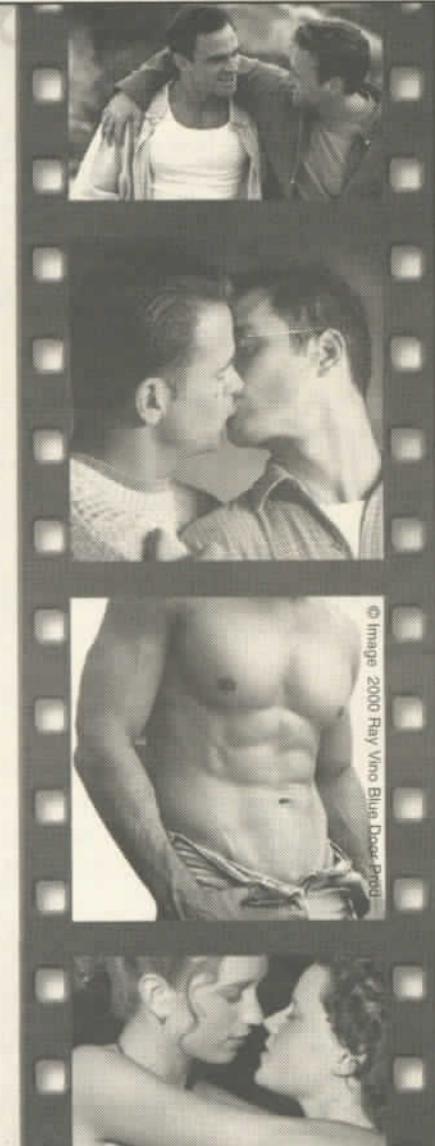
"The religious right continues to scare Middle America with buzz phrases such as 'special rights' and 'same-sex marriage,'" said Randall Ellis, Executive Director of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas. "It is time to put an end to the rhetoric of the religious right. LGBT Americans are in search of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

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

The language of the proposed constitutional amendment states:

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

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



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Gay Latino Radio Show Celebrates 10 Year Anniversary

By Brent Brumley

DALLAS—Sin Fronteras, a gay Latino radio show, celebrates 10 years of being on the air in this north Texas city today, July 4. Organizers say the decade anniversary marks a significant milestone not only for longevity, but also because Sin Fronteras is the country's first

and longest-running Spanish language gay Latino radio show.

Sin Fronteras airs on Dallas Community radio station KNON 89.3 FM and can also be heard on the internet at www.knon.org. Known as The Voice of the People, the show is on from 10 p.m. to midnight. Jesús Cháirez, Executive Producer and DJ, believes this time slot represents the perfect hours to serve the diverse Dallas-Fort Worth gay Latino community. When the program first began, it went on the air as a one hour radio show, but due to popular support during pledge drives Cháirez was offered an additional hour for Sin Fronteras.

Cháirez says he obtains

news and information from various Latino groups and gay Spanish internet services located in the United States and México. The material is used to fill part of the two-hour program which also features International Dance Latino, Rock en Español and Spanish alternative music.

Because of the diverse Spanish music played on Sin Fronteras, Cháirez says the program also has a large audience of straight Latino listeners. The program's founder says he appreciates the straight listening Latino community and believes it is important when they tune in for the music they are also exposed to news about the GLBT community and have no doubt that an openly gay Latino is producing the show.

Cháirez is a second generation Mexican-American born and raised in East Dallas. His communications career began when he first accepted a job as an agent with the local office of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). He is also well known in the local arts community as an art photographer and president of a Latino arts collective he formed called ARTE (Artists Relating Together & Relating).

After leaving the FCC in April of 1993 he began volunteering for KNOM. Shortly thereafter he was offered the opportunity to start his own radio show. He picked the name Sin Fronteras, which translates to how Cháirez says he lives his life: without borders—bilingual and bi-cultured. The show's producer says July 4 also holds a double meaning for Sin Fronteras. It's not only Independence Day in the USA, but also Independence Day from the dominant Tejano and Regional Mexican music formats that are most popular in the area.

Because of Sin Fronteras' high visibility, Cháirez is often called upon to do Spanish language interviews on issues that affect the GLBT community.

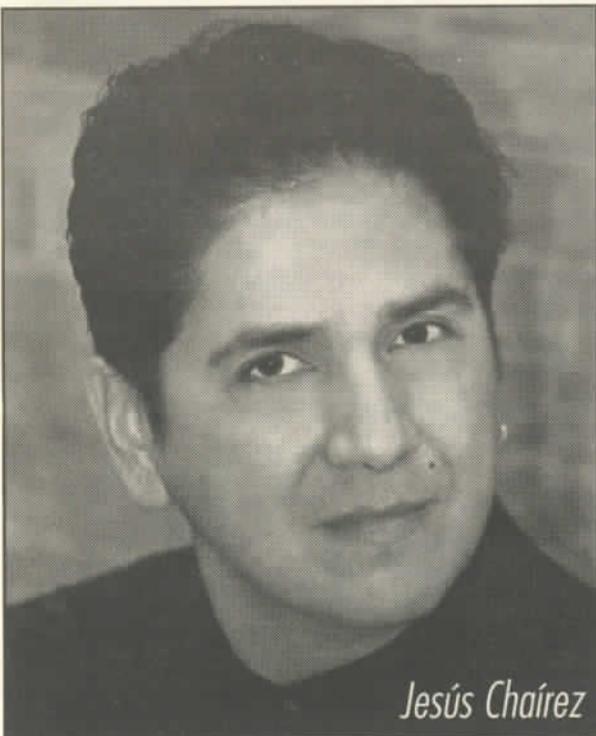
"Every time I am on Univision and Telemundo television stations here in Dallas, I get more listeners," says the show's host. Most recently Cháirez spoke on-camera concerning the U.S. Supreme Court decision striking down the state's sodomy law.

In the ten years Sin Fronteras has been on the air Cháirez says he has made many long lasting friendships. Overall, the programming pioneer feels the last decade has provided a fun and wonderful experience but has also required a lot of hard work. The demands of producing the show every week have caused Cháirez to question what the future might hold.

"I really don't know," said Cháirez. "I have thought about leaving radio but with Sin Fronteras being the first Spanish language gay Latino radio program in the USA and the longest running gay Latino radio show in the United States and México, it is sort of hard to leave that behind."

Whatever the future holds for Cháirez, it appears creating Sin Fronteras was an idea ahead of its time and unique in its purpose. Within the past year, other gay Latino radio shows have started transmitting in Miami, Chicago and Seattle.

For more information on Sin Fronteras, call 214-826-8869 or e-mail at SinFronteras@hotmail.com.



Jesús Cháirez



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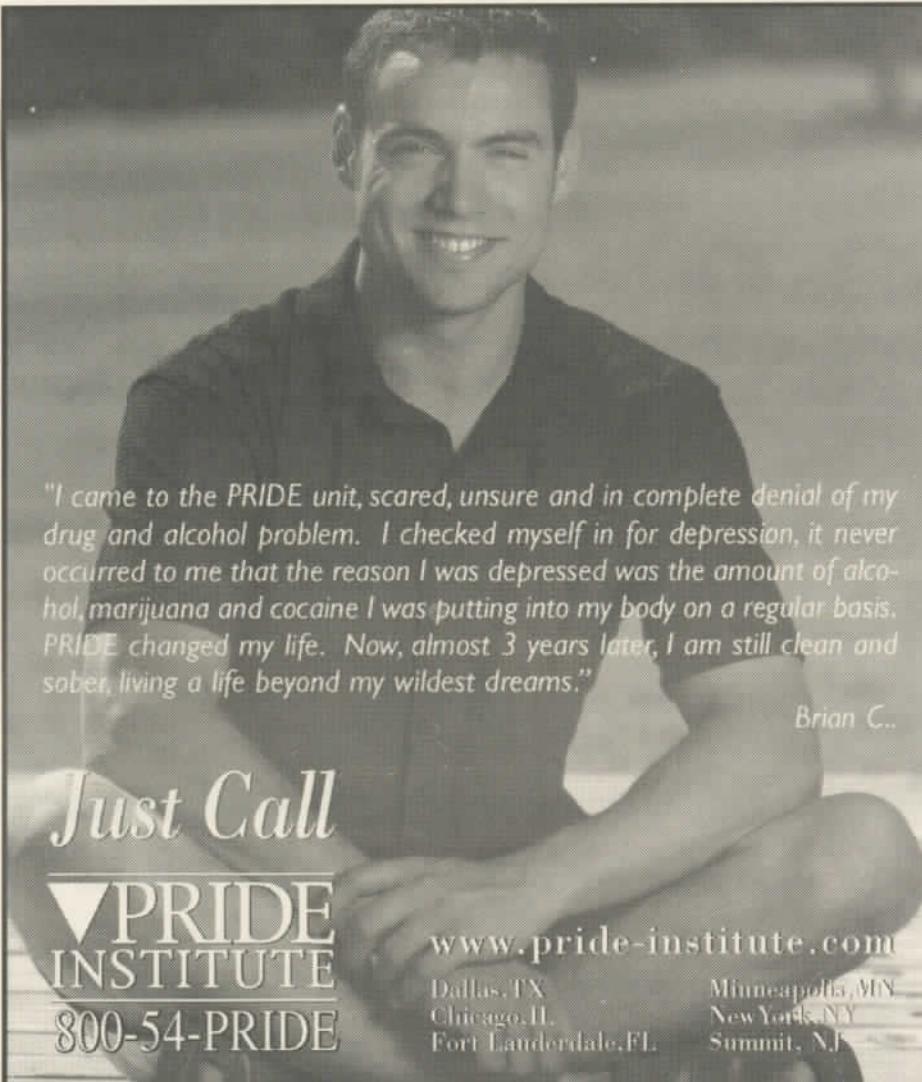
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National News

By Ann Rostow

Backlash

EVERYWHERE—The country is waking up this week to an eruption of gay rights that began with the legalization of same-sex marriage in Ontario, Canada, and exploded with the decision in *Lawrence v. Texas*. But, believe it or not, there's a great deal more to come. Ahead in the next week or so, two more major gay rights rulings await.

First, the opinion of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, in which the justices will decide whether or not to legalize same-sex marriage in the state. The court usually rules within 130 days of oral arguments, which would set a deadline of July 10. They could rule earlier; they could rule later. What they will say is difficult to anticipate, but one of the strong possibilities is that they will end marriage discrimination in Massachusetts, and perhaps legalize same-sex marriage at once.

Imagine the impact of such a decision, coming just days after the sodomy case headlines. To many Americans who do not follow legal news, and do not realize that these cases take months or years to reach a conclusion, it would seem as if the *Lawrence* decision had triggered a domino effect.

Likewise, a second case is coming to a major crossroads. The challenge to the Florida law that bans single and partnered gay men and lesbians from adopting children, made huge headlines in the gay and national press when a lower court upheld the law in late August of 2001. The ACLU appealed the ruling to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit, where oral arguments were heard last March. The 11th Circuit has likely held its decision in abeyance pending the ruling in *Lawrence*, which touched on the critical issue of whether morality alone can define a legitimate state interest in a discriminatory statute. While the *Lawrence* ruling doesn't guarantee that the conservative 11th Circuit will strike the ban on gay adoption, it creates hope.

Yes, we could lose in Massachusetts, and Florida could preserve its right to ban gay adoptive parents. But there is at least a chance that one or two more gay rights bombshells will hit within days. For the members of the gay community who have kept track of the news and who expect these developments, victory would be yet another cause for celebration, but not a surprise. For many others, a sudden legalization of marriage in Massachusetts and/or the end of Florida's ban on adoption would leave them shell-shocked.

The backlash from the *Lawrence* decision has already begun. Further victories, combined with a presidential election year, will make gay rights one of the hottest topics of 2004. And the debate will be focused, not on "gay rights" as an amorphous trend, but on one single issue—gay marriage. It is here that conservatives have drawn a line in the sand, and the time is coming when the community of gay activists must step up to that line and defend it.

To date, the gay community has never fought the flat out war for same-sex marriage, which will soon become unavoidable. Gay activists have run electoral campaigns for marriage five times; in Hawaii, in Alaska, in California, in Nebraska, and in Nevada. But in none of these political venues have campaigners asked the voters to recognize the justice of equal marriage rights, and help gay couples achieve them. Instead, in each of these efforts to avoid anti-marriage measures from winning public approval, gay campaigns have avoided the "M-word," and argued that anti-marriage laws discriminate against harmless same-sex couples in a myriad of ways. That's true, but the tactic was easily countered in all five instances with the explanation that the law in question simply preserved the traditional definition of marriage, and had no effect on civil rights.

The gay community must now be honest. We do not want to preserve the so-called "traditional" definition of marriage. We want it changed to include same-sex couples, period. Although much of the fight for marriage will take place in the courts, the conservatives are now taking the issue to the halls of Congress through the Federal Marriage Amendment (FMA), a proposal to preserve the status quo by amending the federal Constitution to prohibit same-sex marriage.

Introduced last year, the FMA was considered a fringe idea and failed to advance. Proponents tried again this year, although their introductory press conference drew little attention, and they could not drum up a Senate sponsor. Observers have rightly dismissed the effort up until now, noting that the process required to amend the U.S. Constitution is so onerous, that the FMA advocates have no chance of success.

This calculus is likely to change, as support for the FMA becomes a conservative litmus test for politicians in an election year. This week, Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist told ABC News he supports the FMA. "I absolutely do. Of course I do."

Expect others to join him, and look for a Senate version to be announced with a splash. If the Massachusetts court does its part, the FMA snowball will really begin to pick up speed.

There are several ways to defeat the Federal Marriage Amendment, but only one provides a real victory. One can argue that it is flatly wrong and it is un-American to enshrine nasty bigotry in the very text of the Constitution itself. One can argue that same-sex marriage rights should be determined without short circuiting the American process of courts and state legislatures. Or, one can argue, as one should, that gay and lesbian couples deserve equality in marriage. Vast majorities of the younger generation believe in equal marriage, and we are approaching an even split in middle aged opinion. We can and will win a battle against the FMA if we don't play hide and seek games with the word "marriage," and if we start telling the country why gay inclusion is essential.

The gay community and its allies do not need a majority to defeat the FMA. In order to amend the U.S. Constitution, Congress must pass a proposal by a two thirds majority, and three quarters of all state legislature must then ratify the idea within ten years. If indeed the FMA becomes an all-or-nothing vehicle for anti-marriage conservatives, the gay community must rally, not the whole country, but a solid third, either in Congress or in the states. This time, with everything at stake, we must frame the debate not hide from it. Enough Americans will support our right to marry if we ask them. But who can say what will happen if we run for cover as we have in the past? If the gay community cannot stand tall and articulate the case for same-sex marriages, it cannot expect its allies to do it for them.

The stakes are indeed high. While courts will almost certainly legalize same-sex marriage in the future if given the chance, the Federal Marriage Amendment would strip them of that opportunity. As its author, Matt Daniels of the Alliance For Marriage explains, "It takes the courts completely out of the business of social revolution and remaking the family at the request of activist groups." What it actually does, is take the courts completely out of the business of analyzing marriage law, and it must not be allowed to become reality.

The backlash against the advance of gay civil rights is surely around the corner. But it's a small price to pay for the progress we have achieved, and will continue to achieve. It's a backlash we can handle.

Supreme Court Vacates 17-Year Sentence for Randy Teen

KANSAS—On Friday, one day after its decision in *Lawrence v. Texas*, U.S. Supreme Court vacated a related Kansas ruling and sent the case of Matthew Limon back to the state court of appeals without comment. Matthew Limon, you may recall, was the teenager sentenced to 17 years behind bars for having consensual sex with another youth. Under Kansas law, the penalty for a heterosexual teenager caught in the same circumstances would have been a maximum of about a year.

In contesting Limon's extraordinarily harsh sentence, the American Civil Liberties Union did not challenge Kansas's right to outlaw teenage sex. Instead the civil libertarians questioned the different treatment of gay and straight teenagers, that arguably violated the Equal Protection Clause. In the Limon case, Matthew's sentence was even longer than it might have been, due to a previous sex bust on his juvenile record. But however it arose, he was ordered behind bars for nearly two decades for the "crime" of having consensual oral sex with a teen three years his junior.

The sentence was upheld by the Kansas Court of Appeals, the state supreme court declined review, and the ACLU petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the case last year. The Court neither accepted nor rejected review, and it was assumed that the *Lawrence* decision would determine Limon's fate.

But *Lawrence*, as you know from reading all the recent analysis, was based not on the right to equal protection that governs Limon's case, but on the right to privacy. One might conclude, therefore, that the Court sent the case back for reconsideration, not because Limon was treated differently than a heterosexual counterpart, but because the adult sodomy statute that underlies his punishment has been deemed unconstitutional. The ACLU did not contest the sodomy statute in its case, but it is no longer enforceable, and the post-*Lawrence* context may lead the Kansas court to a new conclusion. Alternatively, the Supreme Court may expect Kansas to draw from *Lawrence* the notion that same-sex couples have an equal stake in the right to privacy as heterosexuals. Thus, if you must punish kids for their underage shenanigans, you must punish them equally.

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Community *Briefs*

Transitions Sets 'Grease' Sing-Along Fundraiser

AUSTIN—Grab your friends and prepare for the ultimate "Summer Night." On Saturday, July 26, 2003, as a benefit for Project Transitions and the Austin Gay and Lesbian International Film Festival, the Grease SING-A-LONG is appearing at The Paramount Theatre. Featuring a full-length showing of the classic movie with a twist, the event is a joint production of Project Transitions, an agency that provides hospice and housing for people living with HIV/AIDS and the Austin Gay and Lesbian International Film Festival, which celebrates its 16th year August 21 through September 1, 2003.

The *Grease* SING-A-LONG is a unique theatrical event that invites participants to shout-out, dress in costume, and most importantly, SING-A-LONG! Taking on a *Rocky Horror Picture Show* environment this annual sing-a-long event has played to sell-out crowds at the prestigious Paramount Theatre in downtown Austin. The *Grease* premiere is expected to draw 1,200 guests, some in full *Grease* regalia from the Pink Ladies, to the T-Birds, to a "beauty school drop-out"—all a part of what makes *Grease* one of the world's most favorite movies.

The event includes a costume contest, stage show and audience participation. Tickets for the *Grease* SING-A-LONG are \$20 for general admission and \$10 for children under 12. Command box seating is also available for groups of 8 for \$500.

All proceeds directly benefit Project Transitions and the Austin Gay and Lesbian International Film Festival.

Info: www.agliff.org, www.ProjectTransitions.org or call 512-454-8646.

Malibu Barbie Beach Party to Benefit People Living with AIDS

AUSTIN—On Saturday, July 26, the United Court of Austin is hosting the Malibu Barbie Beach Party cabaret show to raise money for The Wright House Wellness Center and Project Transitions; non-profit agencies that provides supportive care to people living with HIV/AIDS in Central Texas.

The International Court System is a non-profit organization that raises money for AIDS/HIV. It began 38 years ago in San Francisco and has grown to include a network of 68 chapters worldwide. The Emperor and Empress lead the Court to coordinate charity events that benefit local AIDS agencies. Due to the efforts of The United Court of Austin, more than \$400,000 has been donation in Austin during the past ten years.

Miss GiGi LaRouge is producing Malibu Barbie Beach Party. Attendees are encouraged to come in costume, as prizes will be awarded for Best Barbie and Ken Creation—Male and Female. The show also includes a lavish buffet with a champagne fountain and Malibu Rum drinks specials all night long, organizers said.

Info: gigilarouge@evl.net.

Presidential Candidate Dean to Speak in Front of City Hall

DALLAS—Democratic presidential candidate Howard Dean, M.D., will speak at a free public rally Sunday, July 13, 7 p.m. on the steps of Dallas City Hall. With a backdrop of modern skyscrapers, the former Vermont governor will deliver his resounding message: "You have the power to take back our country."

"It's an appropriate analogy to this campaign," said local campaign volunteer Tony McMullin, Chair of the Dallas organizing committee for the rally. "Just as the modern buildings stand out in the city, Dr. Dean stands out among the other candidates. He is running a very modern campaign, with grassroots support being gathered largely from the Internet and word of mouth. And he's committed to not only beating George Bush in 2004, but re-energizing the Democratic Party in the process."

The tenets of Howard Dean's political position and his history in politics defy most popular labels of liberal, moderate and/or conservative, according to Dean supporters. Governor Dean's platform of a strong America, fiscal responsibility, a balanced budget and health care for all Americans, they say, will appeal to the mainstream Texas voter looking for much-needed relief in the midst of the current economic crisis. He also holds strongly to the rights of states in matters such as gun control. Dean believes the time has come for all Democrats, including those in the state of Texas, to stand up for what they believe and present real options to the American people.

As Governor of Vermont for 12 years, he balanced the budget and brought health care to nearly 100 percent of the state's population. In the past few months, Howard Dean has gone from a virtual unknown to winning several significant straw polls, including a landslide victory over other Democratic party candidates in the recent Move On primary (www.moveon.org), garnering more than 43 percent of the nearly 318,000 online votes. As Dean puts it, "We are the great grassroots campaign of the modern era, built from mousepads, shoe leather, and hope."

The rally is free to the general public, but donations to the campaign are welcomed. Dallas City Hall is located at 1500 Marilla Dr.

PFLAG Scholarship Recipients to be Announced

HOUSTON—The next PFLAG meeting, scheduled for Sunday, July 13, 2 p.m. will be especially exciting, according to organizers. At this time, scholarship awards for Houston area gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students will be announced at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 5501 S. Main.

To be eligible for the awards, each of the students is required to submit an application citing their school and extracurricular accomplishments, PFLAG spokesperson explained in a release. They must write an original essay describing their educational goals, and send two letters of reference from people who know of their achievements. And finally, each student has been personally interviewed by panels of four interviewers.

One year ago, the PFLAG/HATCH Youth Scholarship Foundation awarded a total \$73,500 in scholarships, in part to new applicants and in part to extend previous awards from two years to four years. By this year's deadline of May 1, 2003, the number of new applications was more than double last year's 15 applications, so fundraising efforts were increased.

"Thanks to the increased generosity of our donors, to our acceptance as a beneficiary of more community events and the success of our annual Spring Fling dinner in April, we expect to award more total dollars this year to a larger number of students," said Gary Texeira, president of the PFLAG/HATCH Youth Scholarship Foundation. "The high quality of our applicants makes scholarship decisions difficult, but we will continue to provide much needed financial help to our Houston GLBT youth."

Texeira further noted that several donors will present some of the awards on July 13, giving them the chance to meet the students one on one. These award presentations create a compelling and moving occasion, listening to some of the applicants stories and needs and recognizing their accomplishments.

Small groups, after the program, provide an opportunity to discuss issues, concerns, and celebrations in a safe, confidential environment. Special groups for spouses and Spanish-speaking persons are available.

After the meeting participants are invited to gather for dinner at Cafe Express at the Museum of Fine Arts, 5601 Main.

PFLAG Houston also offers mid-month sharing groups on the third Tuesday of each month 7:30 p.m. at the Church of the Epiphany Outreach building, 9600 S. Gessner; and the third Thursday of the month 7:30 p.m. at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church's Chatham Room, 1805 Alabama at Woodhead.

Chamber Plans for Amazing Race Houston

HOUSTON—Each July the Houston gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce hosts a fun event that encourages guests and members to come together for social and networking. On Friday, July 11, 6 p.m. the group will gather for the "Amazing Race Houston". Everyone who calls or emails a reservation in by July 9, 12 noon will be given details and information and will be assigned to a team.

Each team will work together as clues are given, tasks are completed and each team works to get to the next destination of food and fun.

The registration for the evening for members is \$10 each (guests, \$15) when paid in advance by credit card or by check to The Chamber, PO Box 66129, Houston TX 77266-6129.

The evening offers food and drinks throughout the evening of fun, organizers said.
Info: 713-523-7576.

Houston Women's Festival Announces New Coordinator, Location

HOUSTON—The Houston Women's Festival has announced that Jeanne Smith is the new festival coordinator. According to organizers, Smith has been an active member of the community for many years and has successfully produced events in Houston, most notably a benefit called "Music Makes the Miracle" in 2002.

"We first worked with Jeanne in 1993 on a video production about the musical group, Fem to Fem," said festival producer Shirley Knight. In 1999 Jeanne served as one of the festival emcees.

"I sincerely thank her for stepping up this year to help produce our ninth annual festival. Jeanne's skills, expertise and energy are just what we need to sustain and build this community event."

Switching location from Garden in the heights, the 2003 Houston Women's Festival is set for Saturday, October 25 at Jones Plaza downtown (the site of Party on the Plaza). Jones Plaza is a full city block surrounded by the Alley Theater, Jones Hall and the Angelica Theater. Amenities include a stage, dressing rooms, a café, and plenty of new restrooms with attendants.

The Houston Women's Festival is produced by Athena Art Project, a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization that supports the artistic endeavors of women. Info: www.hwfestival.org.



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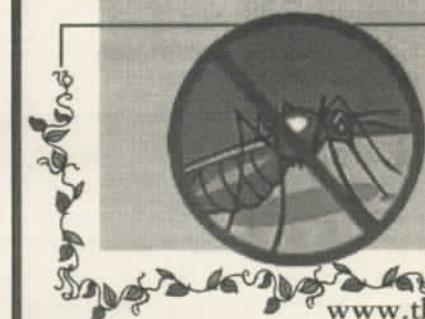
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News With A View

By Ann Rostow

Dear Miss Manners

A friend of mine has just forwarded some news on the emerging etiquette of same-sex weddings, which unlike the old fashioned, "anything goes" commitment ceremonies, are of course going to be bound by more formal traditions and rituals.

On the day of a gay wedding, for example, it's inappropriate for the two grooms to see each other at the gym.

Gay and lesbian couples should be sure to have on hand: "something bold, something flirty, something trashy, something dirty."

It's considered bad luck for either of the grooms to have dated the priest.

It is tasteless for wedding singer to play/sing "Let's Hear It For the Boy," "It's Raining Men," or "I Will Survive."

I would personally add to that list "I'm Coming Out," and "YMCA."

Finally, for the guys, the father of the Bottom pays for everything.

As we await the Massachusetts marriage ruling and consider the implications of legal marriage in Ontario, we can anticipate the unique contributions that the vibrant gay and lesbian community will bring to this hallowed institution. I suggest, among other things, that the ex-lovers of each bride organize the wild "stag party" for the woman their ex-lover is about to marry. Of course, many of the same women will be the ex-lovers of both brides, leading to double the festivities for the more promiscuous members of the wedding party.

How Does Your Garden Grow?

Oh, speaking of promiscuous lesbians, one of my favorite human categories, I just read a *Newsweek* article entitled: "Like Every Other Couple. Do committed gays have better sex than straight couples?" According to *Newsweek*, the answer is on the whole, no. The guys might have more sex on average than heterosexual couples, but the girls have sex so rarely that the comparison turns into a wash.

Lesbian relationships, says Dr. Robin Holmes of the University of Oregon, "tend to be egalitarian and very companion oriented. To introduce sex sometimes breaks up that dynamic. If we're improving the yard and we just picked out plants together and it felt really good, it's a different type of energy to be like, 'Now let's run upstairs and have sex.'"

This is why I never did yard work with any of my lovers. I don't know how many times one of them would turn to me in bed and say, "Now let's run outside and plant something," but I always declined. There's far too much emphasis on gardening in lesbian relationships, as Holmes implies, and it's a turn off. As a matter of fact, there's far too much egalitarian companionship between women, something I never let intrude into my partnerships. Once you start going down that road—the road to "compromise," "listening" to each other, "respect" for each other's interests, and the rest of that hokum—you'll invariably find yourself picking out trowels in the Home Depot tool department in short order. From there, it's a hop skip and a jump to a drab relationship where the only bursts of color emerge in the pansy patch.

Ladies, we now have a constitutional right to sodomy. Let's use it.

How Pretty is Your Pansy?

I've been covering so much serious news that I would like to fill the rest of this entire column with a combination of nonsense, irrelevant asides, minor news tidbits, and gossip. In order to accomplish this goal, I will have to dispense with items like the decision by the Maryland Board of Education to protect school kids from sexual orientation harassment. The Board voted 8-3 on June 24, becoming the ninth state in the country to institute a safe schools policy. I will also deal cavalierly with the news that the Pew Foundation withdrew a \$1 million contribution to the Philadelphia-based Cradle of Liberty Boy

Scout Council, while the local United Way is also thinking about rocking the Cradle. The Council won praise recently for deciding to ban sexual orientation discrimination, but after a hard cuff from the mother bears at the National Council, they quickly reversed themselves.

Instead of pursuing these stories at length, let's turn to the New Jersey state senate candidate, openly gay Democrat Jim Morrison, who is being pressured to withdraw his candidacy on account of a "pretty penis" contest that he entered in his younger days. The contest, said county Democratic Committee Chair Charlie Cart, is an embarrassment. "I don't think legislators should have that kind of judgment," he told the *New Jersey Herald*. "Our party is weak as it is."

Morrison has no intention of stepping down and does not care whether or not the incident is publicized. "If you print it," he told the *Herald*, "just make sure you tell people I won the contest."

I know a lot of discerning voters who would give due consideration to this kind of qualification. Particularly if Morrison presented his credentials, let's say, onstage at a Human Rights Campaign dinner.

A gay politician named Jim

Earned a nickname of "Donkey," not "Slim."

His award-winning member

Paid off in November

When voters went out on a limb.

Oh, I absolutely don't have time for limericks. That one was quick, but obviously relies on a rigid definition of "limb."

Behind Office Doors

Now here's a juicy item from the *New York Daily News* that surely has the WABC TV newsroom abuzz. Daytime news anchor Steve Bartelstein is accused in a lawsuit of stalking writer/producer Roderick McCullom, both on and off the job. According to McCullom's suit, filed last week in Manhattan court, Bartelstein poked around outside McCullom's apartment, trying to see in with a laser pointer and checking out the scene with binoculars. Bartelstein, the complaint alleges, propositioned McCullom at work, took drugs on duty, and posted nude photos of himself on America Online. Bartelstein calls the charges "completely false," and plans to counter sue for defamation.

Gosh, why doesn't anything exciting like that happen in our workplace? Perhaps it would help if we had more than two employees in the Austin office. It's difficult for Amie and I to shoulder the burdens of drug use, harassment, night stalking and misuse of the Internet all by ourselves. We can barely manage cigarettes and booze as it is.

More Horror Stories from the Workplace

I have a few other lawsuits in the pipeline. At George Washington University in D.C., a lesbian staffer in the IT department, Kami Groom, says her supervisor became hostile after he learned of her sexual orientation, and she wants a million bucks in damages. The supervisor, writes Gay Financial Network, insists Groom was an incompetent schemer, but her previous performance reviews belie that notion.

And how about this interesting development at the IRS? According to the June 26 *Washington Post*, (that was SODOMY RULING DAY! Let Freedom Ring! Sing with me now. *Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord...*)

I'm continuing to sing with one part of my mind and will write this story with the other half. Now this is quite a fascinating story. I'm not singing anymore. It must have been lost in the hoopla of THE MOST PROFOUND GAY LEGAL VICTORY IN HISTORY! (...truth is marching on. Glory Glory Alleluia, Glory Glory Alleluia...)



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The story concerns a government computer specialist, who applied for a job with the IRS about three years ago. The anonymous man never heard anything about his application, and forgot about it, assuming the department had picked someone else. Months later, however, one of the IRS workers involved in the interviews told him that he was well suited to the position, but he had been blackballed by the woman in charge due to his sexual orientation. The man filed a complaint, based on Clinton-era rules banning sexual orientation discrimination in federal hiring. After an investigation by the Office of Special Counsel, the supervisor has been stripped of her duties for a year, and suspended without pay for 45 days.

I know, it sounds as if she gets to do nothing for 320 days at full pay, but there aren't too many details in this report and that can't be true, can it? Anyway, it's good news, because the last thing we need is homophobic IRS people. A bigoted EPA analyst is one thing, but anti-gay bias from our tax auditors for example, could be disastrous.

"This \$568.00 deduction for gardening tools? Would you explain how this is work related?"

"Look, it's complicated. My co-worker was stalking me, and I couldn't have sex...I mean obviously, she was right there in my bedroom window with a laser pointer and anyway I had to do something because I couldn't explain to my partner why I—um—why I couldn't—um—and I couldn't afford a big confrontation with my colleague because there's no one else to answer the phones and I can't concentrate with the phones ringing and ringing and ringing..."

"I'm sorry, that doesn't sound like a valid..."

"Look, I've had it with you and your whole robotic, narrow-minded homophobic outfit. You have absolutely no understanding of what my world is like as a lesbian. This 'interview' is over."

Baby, It's Cold Out There

Now, here are several more pages of news that it seems I haven't looked at yet. We'll go through them together, OK? A survey in Norway concluded that the children of gay parents are not bullied or treated badly by their peers, Gay.com reports. Well, that's Norway. That's not America. It's probably too cold to harass anyone up there.

"Hey Sven!" (tremble tremble chatter chatter) "Your fffffaather's a fffffaaaggggotttt!"

"Wha—what?" (chatter chatter tremble)

"Oh, forgggett it."

I Love a Parade!

Here's some news on the Cleveland Heights domestic partner registry, that will be sent to the voters for approval next fall thanks to a successful petition drive by gay activists. Want to hear more about it? OK, then. Let's move on to the ACLU suit against the city and county of Honolulu.

The civil libertarians filed a federal suit on June 27, after the Hawaii Christian Coalition's "Family Day" parade refused to allow three gay groups to march in the July 5 event. The city and county of Honolulu are co-sponsors of the celebration, and as such, the ACLU contends that the organizers may not discriminate. Honolulu, in turn, says the parade is privately run, which if true, would indeed allow the Christian Coalition or whoever to prohibit gay groups from participating.

In 1995, the Supreme Court ruled that the Boston St. Patrick's Day Parade organizers had a right to discriminate against the formal participation of an Irish GLBT group. The various floats in a parade, said the Court, reflect the message of the organizers, and the organizers of a parade have control over the content of their message under the First Amendment. The ruling was a good one, because it protects the right of Gay Pride parade committees to ban a contingent led by Fred Phelps, for example. But it must certainly mean that the Hawaii parade people have the right to keep it in the Family, as long as it's not a government-led affair. I guess the ACLU has decided that the parade is a semi-public function or something. I dunno. Doesn't say here in the AP report.

Wait! Here's the Honolulu Advertiser version that quotes the ACLU's Brent White. There's "an unbelievable amount of evidence," he says, that proves the city and county are up to their eyeballs in the "Kid's Parade." The city, in turn, says it's involved in the Family Day series of events, but not the Kid's Parade.

Oh who cares!

We're starting a new chapter in the history of the gay rights movement! Why would we want to march in the Honolulu Kid's Parade when we could be wedding in Windsor, or dallying in Dallas? We're on the brink of a new era.

Throw down your trowels!

Allons enfants de la Patrie, le jour de gloire est arrivé. Sing with me.

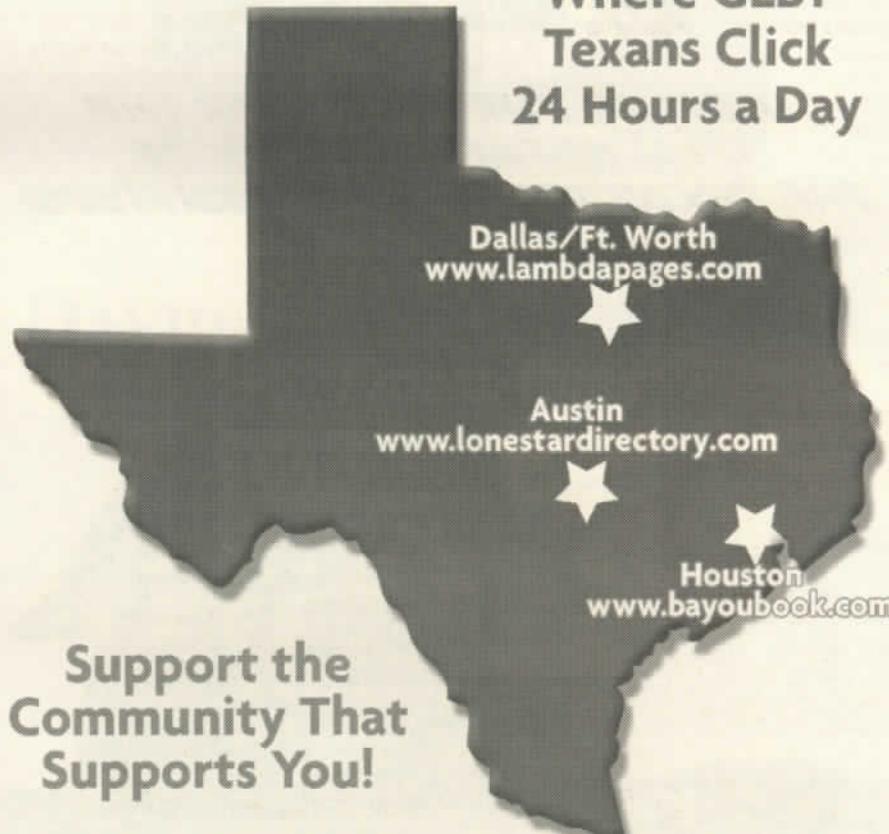
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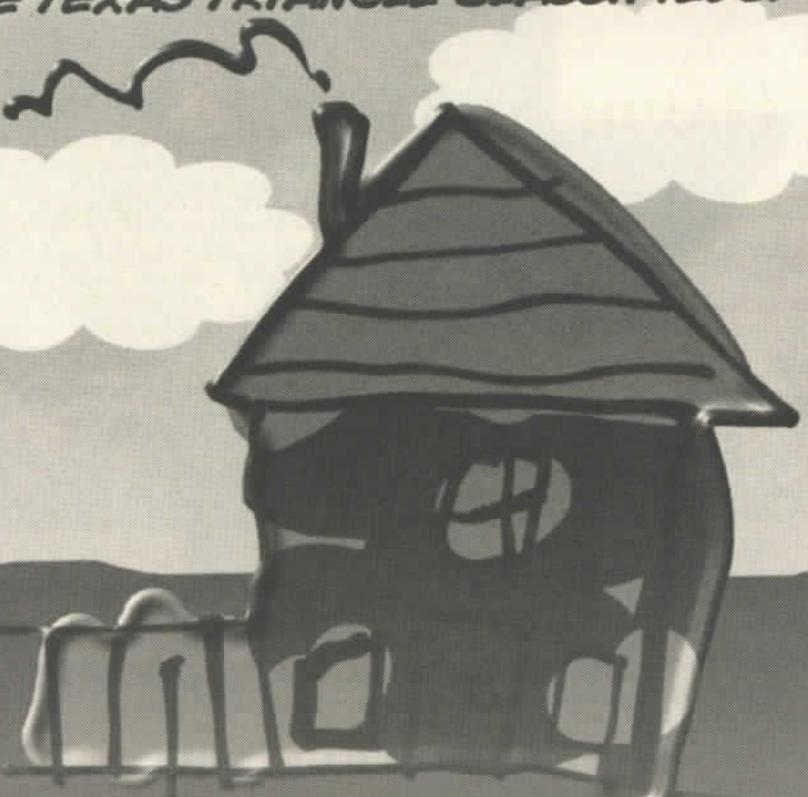
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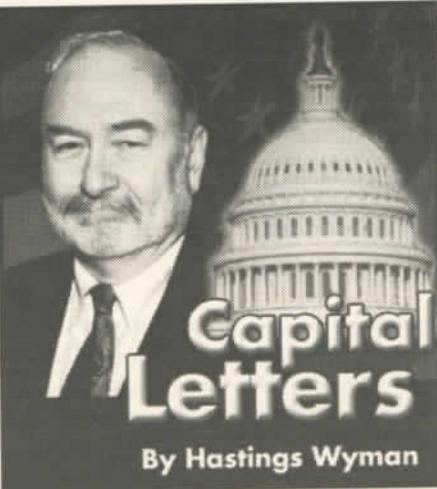
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Anatomy of a Campaign

The victory of longtime gay activist Adam Ebbin in the June 10 Democratic primary for the House of Delegates—tantamount to election in Virginia's heavily Democratic 49th District—provides a road map for aspiring gay politicos across the country. Although not all districts are as diverse and as liberal as Ebbin's, his by-the-book campaign can be adopted successfully by gay candidates in many areas.

For starters, Ebbin has been active in Democratic and gay causes in Northern Virginia since 1990 and built a network of friends and contacts in the political community, gay and straight. He founded the Virginia Partisans Gay and Lesbian Democratic Club, which has since affiliated with the Stonewall Democrats. He also worked his way up in the ranks of party politics, serving as first vice chair of the 8th Congressional District Democratic committee and on the party's state committee.

Earlier this year, when an incumbent member of the state House of Delegates announced her retirement, Ebbin was in a good position to run for the seat. He had already taken the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund training course “and followed what they told me,” he says. Three months before the primary, he quit his job as Chief Deputy Commissioner at the state Department of Labor and Industry and began campaigning full time. He knocked on doors, compiled a list of likely supporters to turn out on election day, and raised \$48,000 for his campaign (he spent \$60,000, so he's got \$12,000 in debt).

Ebbin also lined up impressive endorsements from politicos in the region, many of whom he knew from his years

working in the political vineyards. Two state senators, a state delegate, a sheriff, and the mayor of Alexandria, among others, gave public support to his campaign. (Ebbin did not have all the district's political muscle behind him, however. The retiring incumbent, for example, endorsed one of his opponents.)

Ebbin credits the gay community with providing significant help to his campaign. He was endorsed by such openly gay officials as Arlington County Supervisor—and likely congressional candidate—Jay Fisette; Alexandria City Councilmember-elect Paul Smedburg; Washington, D.C. City Council members Jim Graham and David Catania (a Republican); and Congressman Barney Frank (D-Mass.), who signed a direct-mail piece for him. Gays in Richmond held a fundraiser for him. The Victory Fund helped him raise money and donated the time of several interns. He was also assisted by the Virginia Partisans, the gay group he helped found.

The vast majority of the district's voters are straight, however. The diverse electorate includes lots of Hispanics, African Americans, Asians, and plain old WASPs. In his campaign material, Ebbin cited his gay affiliations, but his campaign themes applied to everyone: removing the sales tax on groceries, favoring choice on abortion, and providing more funds for education.

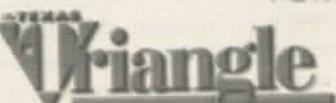
On election night, Ebbin came in first with 29 percent, followed by second- and third-place contenders with 28 percent and 27 percent. Another gay candidate in the race, AIDS activist Nathan Monell, received 5 percent. Ebbin's two best precincts were those with the largest number of gay voters.

Ebbin's victory not only provides a gay voice in an otherwise very conservative governing body, but his election in a suburb of the nation's capital made news that was read by the national political establishment, including Capitol Hill and the White House. Let's hope it will persuade some of the ubiquitous gay political operatives in Washington to go home and run for office, perhaps returning years hence as members of Congress.

Hastings Wyman publishes *Southern Political Report*, a nonpartisan biweekly political newsletter. He can be reached care of this publication or at HWymanSPR@aol.com.

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By Steven Morris

The Karma Call

It is the dream of bitter exes everywhere. The epitome of vengeance. The pinnacle of payback. The ultimate revenge.

The Karma Call.

My best friend Melanie got her Karma Call this week. It was totally out of the blue and hit us all like bitch slap from Zsa Zsa. But it was worth it.

Melanie and her evil ex (as we like to call him) were married over 20 years ago. They lived in hell for six years. It wasn't that the relationship was all that bad, but they lived in Tyler. That's about as close as you can get to the fiery pit without getting a serious sunburn. They lived a typical suburban life until the other shoe finally dropped. He cheated on her.

Now I won't go into the details of the messy divorce—they were both in some ways to blame, no one is ever perfect in these situations—but he really dragged her through the emotional mud. He ended marrying the woman he cheated on her with soon after the divorce was final.

But it was for the best. Melanie moved to Dallas, went back to school, married a wonderful man, and survived many more difficult things than a cheating husband. And best of all, she met me. After 14 years, the bitter divorce (and for that matter, most of the marriage,) was just an unfortunate speedbump on the way to a better life.

She had very little contact with the evil ex after the divorce except to settle things like selling the car and other legal issues. On one strange visit he made to town to see a show we were doing, I finally got to meet the little weasel. I don't say that to be mean, or even to describe his personality; he really looked like a little weasel, it was kind of creepy. But I digress.

So imagine her surprise a couple of weeks ago when an email appeared in her inbox with a very cryptic message. After nearly 14 years with almost no contact at all, he sent her his address and phone number and said "but my contact information may be changing soon."

Let me explain. Melanie is a gay man in a straight woman's body, so like any good queens, we were highly suspicious of this message. We finally decided it meant he and the little harpy he was mar-

ried to were moving to Dallas and he was giving Melanie a warning.

It's much easier to be a gracious ex when the offending member, all puns intended, lives 300 miles away. But as soon as he moves into town, there is always that risk of running into him at the Krispy Kreme hanging over your head which makes civility a much more difficult concept.

But we were wrong. A week later the Karma Call came.

The Karma Call is when all of the pain, hurt, and embarrassment inflicted by one person comes back to bite that person on the ass. The weasel was calling not because he was moving to town, but because he had been divorced for over a year and he finally wanted to apologize.

Melanie was very gracious and even agreed to meet him for lunch. So we immediately hit the mall. We got her a saucy new haircut, a low-cut blouse, a brand new water bra, and some platform sandals so she could tower over his little weaselness.

But the night before the big event, she panicked. What was this really all about? Was there some other subtext to this meeting? Was there some other bombshell just waiting to go off?

I couldn't help but wonder how I would react under the same circumstances. I hold very little hope of ever receiving any kind of apology from my own evil ex. He could never apologize for running over a curb in my new car when we were together, so how could I expect him to apologize for running out on me when I needed him most?

But did I really need—or want—an apology from him? What would it change? That breakup forced me to reevaluate my life and make changes that I have never regretted. I can't even imagine where my life would be if we had stayed together. I moved back to Dallas, went back to school, and survived many more difficult things than a selfish husband. Just like Melanie. Maybe that's why we are best friends.

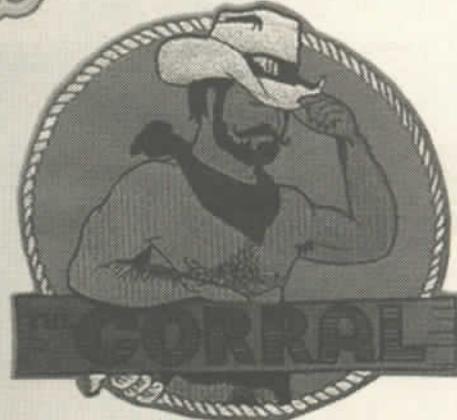
So the next day Melanie got all dolled up and went to meet her ex for lunch. And other than the fact that it was a half-hour before he finally looked up from her chest and commented "nice blouse," it went perfectly well. There was no subtext, no bombshell, and no secrets. He was just being friendly. They had a nice lunch and he asked her when she got to be so tall.

On the way home, Melanie stopped to get a bottle of wine. As she browsed the shelves of Central Market, thinking about how much she had grown over the last 14 years, a stock boy walked by and caught sight of her plunging neckline and the wonders of a water bra and promptly ran head first into a rack of gourmet pasta.

That was the best revenge of all.

Steven Morris can be reached at homogenizedfyp@hotmail.com

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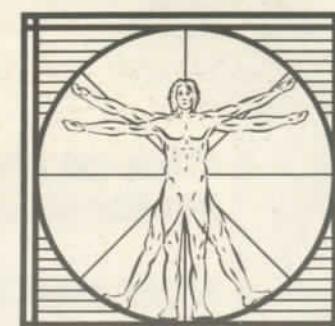
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Letters...

Kudos

Hats off to you and your team for stopping the presses and covering the event of a lifetime for the GLBT community—the Supreme Court ruling! This is a milestone event for us and you took the risk to make sure you gave your readers the most current information available. We appreciate your hard work and efforts.

Keep up the great work, and here's to much more future success for the *Texas Triangle*!

Jeff Hurt
Irving, Texas

A Liberated Libertarian

I congratulate the U.S. Supreme Court on its decision to strike down Texas' sodomy law. As a gay man and a Libertarian, I support the Court's decision that there is a right to privacy within one's home. While most people assume they are free to do what they wish while in their own residences as long as they don't hurt anyone else, the government often does not make that same assumption.

Republicans often talk about "limiting government." Is that true? The Republicans in the last Legislative session had no problem forcing the state further into peoples' lives if it advanced the party's social and moral agenda. Women now have to wait 24 hours before terminating a pregnancy—while having to review all sorts of dubious and medically questionable state propaganda. Children will now have to sit through a thinly disguised state-mandated prayer at the beginning of their school day. The Legislature took time away from all sorts of other pressing problems to declare that marriage is solely between a woman and a man.

The so-called "homosexual agenda" (which consists primarily of conservative desires, like wanting to get married and be able to serve openly in the military) has nothing on the Republican Party moral agenda. While the Republicans hypocritically claim to be for limiting the scope of government, it has been under their watch that the federal budget deficit has ballooned faster than any time in American history. My advice to a voter who is looking for a candidate who will consistently support getting the government out of your bedroom, your checkbook and your life: Vote Libertarian.

Robert Hansen
Austin, Texas

The Bible Tells Me So

When Jesus sent his disciples into the world to proclaim God's love for all, he gave them this warning: That he was sending them out as sheep amongst wolves. He also told them that if any place did not accept them, they were to shake the very dust of it from their sandals, and move on.

The Supreme Court has ruled that we have the same rights of privacy in our intimate relations as any other citizen of this nation. We have been told, officially, what we have always known that we are just as human as our "straight" friends and neighbors.

Some of them still don't want to believe that. Some of them are still afraid of us because they still want to be God's special children, so in order to fulfill God's commandment to love your neighbor as yourself, they want to make us over in their own image, so they can pretend we're just like them, and they won't have to face the prospect of loving the "despised Samaritan." They are eager to fulfill the letter of the Great Commandment, but not the spirit of it.

They are not following the example of Christ, nor are they preaching his gospel. These people who call themselves Christians are preaching totalitarianism: We will love you only when you realize that you must become just like us, and if we don't love you it's because God doesn't love you, either.

Bullshit.

Christ died for my sins. My sexuality, my transgendered nature, isn't one of them. This is the most perfect and precious gift God gave us, and we aren't meant to throw it away, set it aside, or blaspheme our Creator by denying it. We aren't meant to throw it about like Mardi Gras beads, either. Our sexuality is the ultimate expression of our love for one another, and we should give and receive it with the full awareness of that preciousness.

We are children of God, who created us and calls us good, and we should rejoice in that fact, regardless of orientation or gender.

If you are in a church that doesn't recognize this, get out and find one that does, or at least find one that doesn't beat you up and try to make you into something other than yourself.

We may have won a secular victory, but we haven't yet won a spiritual victory, as those who've been diligently guarding our freedoms will tell you. The Christian Right (which is

so pitifully neither) is out there, they are strong, and they are cornered.

They want to evangelize us out of existence, and if their elected government won't help them, they'll vote in one that will.

Our votes won't be enough. Secular victory isn't enough. Living out our lives as GLBT people isn't enough. We have to evangelize them right back, learn our Scriptures better than they ever will, counter their fear, ignorance and hatred with the greatest weapons we have—our love and our selves.

If a church won't accept you as yourself, walk out. If a church does accept you, even if it isn't a "gay church," even if you suspect them of playing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," stay. Give it your blessing. Get involved with it, and when the people who serve and worship God side by side with you see you as the child of God you are, without the prefix of your sexual orientation, then we've won the spiritual victory. When our nature is completely unquestioned, then we'll have won the war.

Make no mistake. Our fight for justice in this world has barely begun. The law which allowed the prosecution of Lawrence and Garner may be gone, but the underlying cause that triggered the event—the refusal of God's commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves—still exists.

*Karen Over
Austin, Texas*

Miles to Go...

There's no doubt that the Supreme Court's decision which, in effect, legalizes homosexuality as long as it is practiced between consenting adults in the privacy of one's home, is a milestone in gay civil rights. No other event since Stonewall will have such a profound effect on all our lives.

I fear, however, that while celebrating, we will be too complacent in guarding our newly won status and dignity as human beings. As we have already observed, attacks are already accelerating against our liberties as gay citizens. Attending the rally in Austin after the decision was announced, I was shocked, embarrassed and disappointed to see so few brothers and sisters there to celebrate this truly momentous event that has changed our lives forever. I had feared the park would be dangerously overloaded with people. Instead there was only a small group there.

The religious right and Republican conservatives are already gearing up to sour the sweet taste of our victory as they consider granting any rights to gays, even their privacy, as immoral and an attack on "family values." Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., was but one to criticize the decision, saying it could lead to increased prostitution and drug dealing. He also said he would support a new amendment to the U.S. Constitution banning gay marriages. Unfortunately, with all their talk of "compassion," this is the real Republican Party speaking. Those breathlessly waiting to hear a comment from President Bush affirming the rights of gays as human beings may well suffocate.

If you want to see how others spew hatred toward gays and distort facts, all you need to do is go to an all too typical website at www.cultureandfamily.org. These people even blame gays for Hitler and his atrocities, forgetting that Hitler destroyed as many gays as he could in concentration camps.

This is to warn everyone that we must not rest on our laurels. First, we must let all our social and business contacts and our fami-

lies know that we are gay and proud so that they realize that gays are everywhere and that we are human and just like them except for our sexuality. We must, of course, act responsibly with our newly won rights.

Very importantly, we must support groups that fight for our rights both financially and with our volunteerism. This includes the Human Rights Campaign at www.hrc.org, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force at www.nglf.org, Lambda Legal Defense And Education Fund www.lambdalegal.org, and, of course, our own wonderful LGRL of Texas at www.lgrl.org.

And, of course, we must support political candidates, such as Howard Dean who are not afraid to speak out and fight for our rights.

While we celebrate, we must all work together to guard our newly won rights. To not do so will be to squander this incredible opportunity for equality bestowed upon us by the Supreme Court.

*Claude M. Gruener
Austin, Texas*

The Real Agenda

The Supreme Court decision to overturn the Texas sodomy law is important for gay Texans not because we were actively prosecuted under section 21.06 of the Penal Code; but because it stigmatized us.

Every gay young adult, every gay man and woman, knew that how we expressed our love was a criminal offense. No matter how emotionally 'well-adjusted,' and no matter how exemplary our lives became, in Texas we knew we were criminals in the eyes of the legislature. It was a psychological burden.

The decision was overturned based on the "due process clause" of the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. That ties the gay rights movement to the greater civil rights struggle. In the history of civil rights, the courts have always been the advocate of fairness for people the democratic process disenfranchised. It is a proud day when American courts overturn antiquated ideas about morality and basic fairness.

So I celebrate the "due process clause" of the our Constitution, guaranteeing all U.S. citizens "life, liberty, [and] property." And as far as the "homosexual agenda" noted in Justice Scalia's dissent, I invite everyone—gay and straight—to participate in our "agenda," including fabulous shopping, great food, beauty, fashion, family, and love.

*A. Arro Smith
Austin, Texas*

A Hot Time in H-Town

Our thanks to all the staff of the *Texas Triangle* for the accommodations in Houston for Pride '03. We had a great time celebrating with the people of Houston—especially in light of the Supreme Court's recent decision and Houston's part in that story.

Thanks for the room, the bag of goodies and the seats in the bleachers.

Best wishes to all of you for success in your work at the *Triangle*!

*Sincerely,
Randy Martin and J.R. Martinez
Texas Triangle's 2003 Got Pride? essay winner
Dallas, Texas*

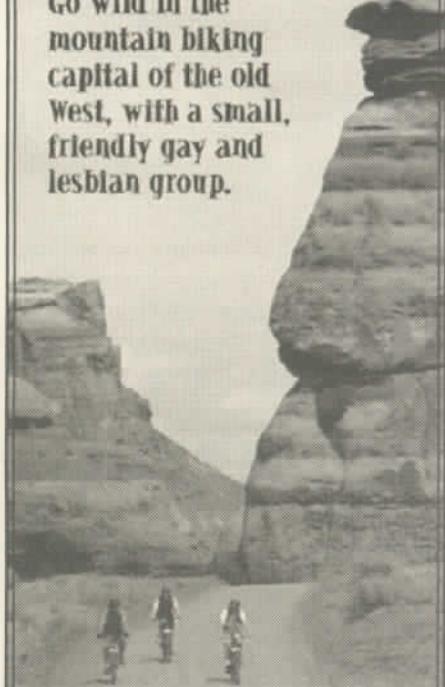
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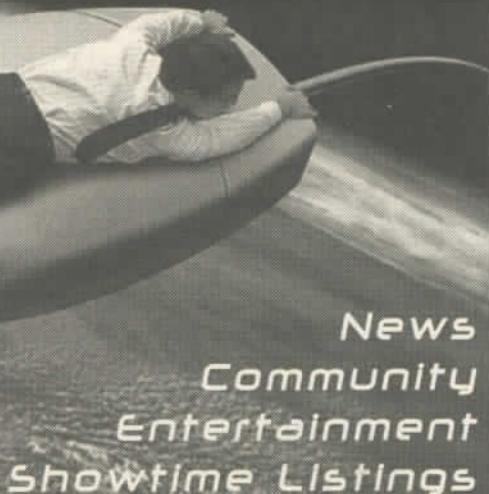
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Participants Needed for Groundbreaking Study of African-American Lesbian Health

WASHINGTON, DC—The Mautner Project is seeking Black lesbian and bisexual women age 18 and older to participate in the first comprehensive national survey of African-American lesbian health. Led by Mautner Project Health Promotion and Research Director, Cheryl Pearson-Fields, the groundbreaking "Spirit Study" is designed, implemented, and evaluated by African-American lesbians and draws on partnerships with national and community-based organizations serving Black women who partner with women.

"As members of two medically underserved populations, African-American lesbians may face double jeopardy in terms of mortality and morbidity from cancer and other diseases," says Fields. "But because Black women who partner with women have not been well represented in health studies, very little is known about our health status and health needs. Our hope is that the Spirit Study will help bridge the information gap preventing Black lesbians from receiving the health services they need and deserve."

The Spirit Study is completely confidential, and participants can complete the survey at their convenience online at www.spiritstudy.org or can request copies by phone/TTY (202-332-5536), email (mautner@mautnerproject.org), or postal mail (Spirit Study, 1707 L Street NW, Suite 230, Washington, DC 20036). The Mautner Project includes a postage-paid return envelope with every survey requested.

Spirit Study outreach is being conducted throughout the country through community partners, including African-American and GLBT publications, newsletters, social groups, sports teams, churches, and internet sites, as well as community health centers, Pride events, and projects. Among the organizations partnering on the Spirit Study are the Zuna Institute, United Lesbians of African Heritage (ULOAH), Unity Fellowship Church, Women in the Life, National Black Lesbian and Gay Lesbian Leadership Forum, Sophisticated Lady Productions, and Venus Magazine.

The study is being guided by a Scientific Advisory Committee made up of noted African-American lesbian and allied health researchers, clinicians, and

educators, including Former Assistant Surgeon General Dr. Marilyn Gaston, MD; Lucille Adams-Campbell, MD, Director Howard University Cancer Center; Alicia Matthews, PhD, Director, Psychosocial Oncology Program, University of Chicago; Lisa Bowleg, PhD,



Assistant Professor Department of Psychology University of Rhode Island; Nicole Cozier Boyd, MBA/MS, Public Education Director Ovarian Cancer National Alliance; and Joyce Hunter, DSW, Director of Community Liaison Programs, HIV Center for Clinical and Behavioral Studies, New York State Psychiatric Institute.

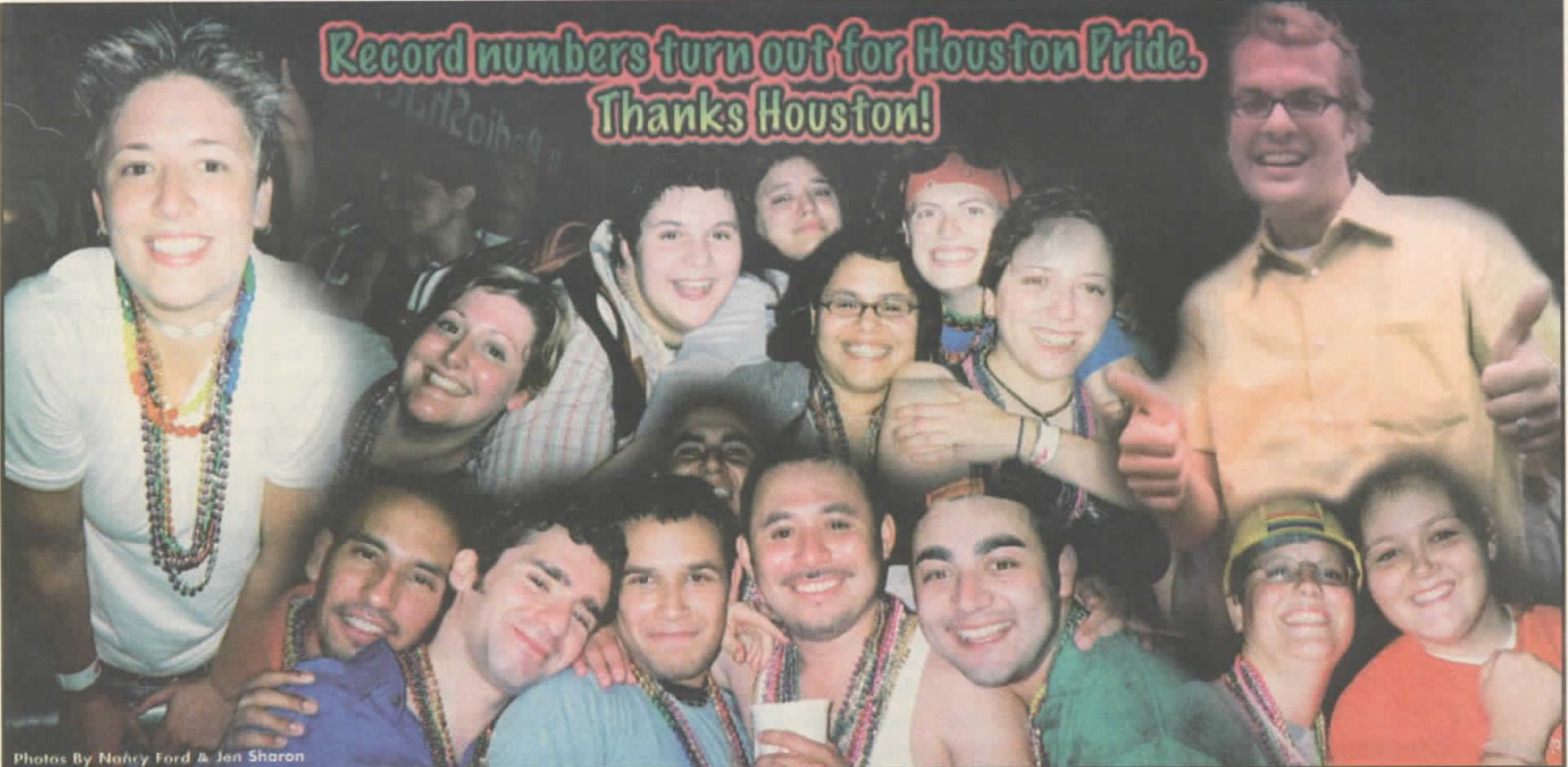
This innovative research project is partially supported by a grant from the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, which is funding the breast health segment of the study.

"It is one of the Komen Foundation's highest priorities to empower all women in the fight against cancer by providing them with the resources and information they need to make educated decisions about their health," says Komen's Director of Public Policy, Diane Balma.

Founded in 1990, the Mautner Project is the national lesbian health organization. Its mission is to improve the health and well-being of women who partner with women and their families through direct services, education, research, and advocacy.

For more information about participating in the Spirit Study or if your organization is interested in joining as a community partner, please call 202-332-5536 or email cfields@mautnerproject.org.

Record numbers turn out for Houston Pride.
Thanks Houston!



Photos By Nancy Ford & Jen Sharon

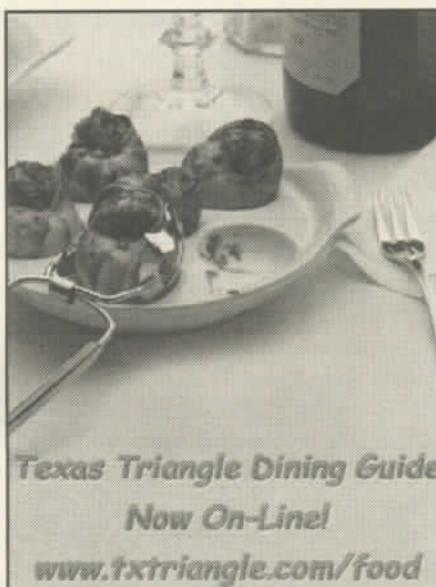
You can kiss my butt!

We mean that literally. The Texas Sodomy Law was found to be unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court on June 26, 2003 making consensual anal and oral sex between same sex partners in Texas legal for the first time in 30 years. It's a landmark case for LGBT rights, but there are still discriminatory laws out there and more are on their way. Last session lawmakers filed five anti-gay bills at the Texas Legislature. Those bills will be back next session, and we, as a community, must be ready to fight them. That's where The Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas comes in. We lobby at the state level on behalf of the LGBT community to stop anti-gay/lesbian bills before they become laws. Call 512.474.5475 to find out how you can help kick some butt at the Texas Legislature.



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Liberty and Justice For All

By Ann Rostow

In the five days since the Supreme Court announced the ruling in *Lawrence v. Texas*, the reactions have poured forth in a deluge. Hard legal analysis has been in shorter supply, and the ruling itself contains nuances that are open to interpretation. As of Monday, lawyers at Lambda Legal Defense, and at gay rights law offices around the country are continuing to parse the words of Justice Anthony Kennedy, in search of all the possible ramifications of the *Lawrence* majority opinion. But they're doing so with a metaphorical glass of Champagne in their hands.

First of all, the opinion was a surprise.

The Court had two options. First, they could rule that the Texas law violated the right to equal protection by treating same-sex couples differently than heterosexuals. Alternatively, they could rule that the ban on consensual and noncommercial sex ran afoul of the Constitution's directive that no state shall "deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law." The notion of a Constitutional "right to privacy" has evolved through the Court's analysis of the right to liberty expressed in this clause and elsewhere in the Bill of Rights.

Liberty or equality? Are we equal? Or are we free? The Court does not rule on two weighty Constitutional issues in one case, so the question was a source of agonizing suspense for the legal community. If the lawyers had set up a betting pool, however, the odds would have favored an equality ruling.

Just eight years ago, this same Court issued a strong 6-3 Equal Protection ruling in a gay rights case, striking a Colorado amendment that preemptively prohibited the passage of gay rights laws. Justice Kennedy wrote that opinion in *Romer v. Evans*, joined by Sandra Day O'Connor and the four so-called liberal justices. The Equal Protection

Lawrence Opinion Lifts Gays out of the Constitutional Gutter

Violation in the *Lawrence* case was arguably even starker than the breach in *Romer*. Yes, the Colorado amendment made a whole class of people a stranger to their laws, but the discriminatory Texas statute put two actual people behind bars for 24 hours for an act that would have been legal had they been straight. Further, the Texas law and others like it were routinely used to demonize homosexuals as presumptive criminals. Nor did Texas provide a legitimate reason, beyond an appeal to traditional morality, for singling out gay couples for special punishment.

The privacy argument, on the other hand, was seemingly a tougher nut to crack. Only 17 years ago, the Court had expressly ruled that Georgia had the right to make moral laws that governed consensual conduct in the bedroom. Indeed, laws against prostitution, adultery, fornication and other activities are enforced against consenting adults behind closed doors. Should your bedroom arbitrarily be beyond the power of the state? The answer is clearly no, as states retain the right to prosecute drug use, violence, and other lawbreaking wherever it might occur. The Supreme Court rarely overturns its own opinions, let alone an opinion not yet 20 years old. And Justice O'Connor voted in the 5-4 majority, making it even more unlikely she would join an uprising against *Bowers v. Hardwick*.

A second cause of speculation was even more critical. Would the Court issue a broad, majority opinion? Would it fracture into several groups, perhaps a four-member opinion, a two-justice concurrence and three-man dissent? Or would it patch together a majority for a narrow decision?

The possibilities compounded. Narrow statement of equality? Broad expansion of

privacy? Powerful Equal Protection ruling? Would the opinion be technical? Inspiring? Legalistic? Wide-reaching? There were no bets on this one, only hopes and fears. And the prospect of complete defeat was a terrifying, albeit unlikely, prospect that lurked unspoken underneath the uncertainty.

When the *Texas Triangle* stopped the presses last week, we knew we'd have about 30 minutes to cover the opinion before the print window closed. Cleverly, we wrote an 800-word story the night before, lauding an Equal Protection ruling and getting ready to fill in a few gaps with details the next day. Instead, that story was scrapped as the Court went in the other direction and we scrambled to revise our article.

Notably, Justice O'Connor declined to overrule her own vote in *Bowers v. Hardwick*, and sidestepped the majority to write her own separate opinion, striking the Texas law on Equal Protection grounds. But the other five members of the *Romer* majority spoke as one in expanding the right to privacy to cover the otherwise-legal sexual choices of consenting adults, both gay and straight. More importantly, in the process, they hammered home the idea that a Constitutional right to gay equality is implicit in the very nature of our right to consensual intimacy. It was the best of all worlds. As conservative Jay Sekulow of the American Center for Law and Justice put it, it was "a grand slam home run for the other side."

Writing for the majority, Anthony Kennedy made clear that the decision to rule on liberty rather than equality, was not a question of which argument was correct, but which argument would produce the strongest

and clearest statement on the rights of gay and lesbian couples.

"As an alternative argument in this case," he wrote, "counsel for the petitioners...contend that *Romer* provides the basis for declaring the Texas statute invalid under the Equal Protection Clause. That is a tenable argument, but we conclude that the instant case requires us to address whether *Bowers* itself has continuing viability. Were we to hold the statute invalid under the Equal Protection Clause, some might question whether a [sodomy] prohibition would be valid if drawn differently, say, to prohibit the conduct both between same-sex and different-sex participants."

In that paragraph, Kennedy credits the equal protection argument and moves on, highlighting the Court's desire to state explicitly that sodomy bans are profoundly wrong for all couples, and that *Bowers* was a mistake. But in the next paragraph, he goes further.

"Equality of treatment and the due process right to demand respect for the conduct protected by the substantive guarantee of liberty are linked in important respects, and a decision on the latter point advances both interests."

Equality and liberty are "linked" in Kennedy's opinion, but it was essential to link equality to privacy, and not the other way around. If the Court had struck the Texas law as discriminatory, it would not have automatically followed that adults have a right to make their own otherwise-legal sexual choices. *Bowers* would have still stood, on very shaky legs but still alive. And the impact on the gay community would have depended on the scope of the opinion.

But by striking the same-sex only law on privacy grounds, the opinion takes for grant-

By placing gay and lesbian couples on equal footing with heterosexuals, Kennedy for the first time in Court has acknowledged the reality of gay and lesbian couples, perverts, and others who may indeed be res-

ed the premise that gay men and lesbians have the same rights to intimacy as heterosexuals, thus equality is a prerequisite for the Court's privacy conclusion. Kennedy goes further, arguably including homosexual couples in the entire sweep of the Court's previous privacy rulings.

The 1997 decision in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* (upholding *Roe v. Wade*), wrote Kennedy, "confirmed that our laws and tradition afford constitutional protection to personal decisions relating to marriage, procreation, contraception, family relationships, child rearing and education....

"At the heart of liberty," he continued, quoting *Casey*, "is the right to define one's own concept of existence, of meaning, of the universe, and of the mystery of human life. Beliefs about these matters could not define the attributes of personhood were they formed under compulsion of the State." Persons in a homosexual relationship may seek autonomy for these purposes, just as heterosexual persons do."

In his dissent, Antonin Scalia lit into

what he sarcastically called Casey's "sweet mystery of life" passage. "If the passage calls into question the government's power to regulate *actions based on* one's self-defined 'concept of existence, etc.' it is the passage that ate the rule of law."

But the language at issue is a quintessential statement of the roots of freedom, not a license to commit grand theft auto because it advances one's sense of meaning. By placing gay and lesbian couples on equal footing with heterosexual couples in such terms of human dignity, Kennedy for the first time in Court history lifts us out of the category of lawbreakers, perverts, and others who may indeed be restrained under compulsion of the State.

As such, Kennedy makes only cursory reference to the parade of horrors that conservatives insist will follow homosexual couples down the slippery slope to create a world of sexual and moral anarchy.

For Scalia, laws against consensual gay sex remain in the category of those prohibiting bestiality, adult incest, prostitution, obscenity, and bigamy. Striking same-sex sodomy laws on sweeping privacy grounds, he wrote, will logically prevent a state from enforcing any morality-based proscription. Scalia bizarrely adds laws against masturbation to his list of now-threatened safeguards that protect society. (Fortunately, we have yet to encounter such a statute, although a legitimate state interest could be advanced on public health grounds. You can go blind, you know.)

For Kennedy, however, there seems no need to differentiate between homosexual couples on the one hand, and man on dog aficionados on the other. "The present case does not involve minors," he writes. "It does not involve people who might be injured or coerced...It does not involve public conduct

but not forever.

In Scalia's view, the majority opinion "effectively decrees the end of all morals legislation," and "dismantles the structure of constitutional law that has permitted a distinction to be made between heterosexual and homosexual unions, in so far as formal recognition of marriage is concerned." What possible justification remains for prohibiting same-sex marriage, he asks? "Surely not the encouragement of procreation since the sterile and the elderly are allowed to marry."

Sarcastic perhaps, but it is still nice to hear the most ardent foe of the gay community destroy the one putative legitimate state interest that is used by opponents of gay marriage to justify unequal marriage laws.

The founding fathers, Kennedy concluded, "knew times can blind us to certain truths and later generations can see that laws once thought necessary and proper in fact serve only to oppress. As the Constitution endures, persons in every generation can invoke its principles in their own search for greater freedom."

The U.S. Supreme Court has seen a certain truth about the nature of sexual orientation, and has written dignity and humanity into constitutional law, offering American gays and lesbians the fundamental freedoms on which their nation was founded for the first time.

Last Thursday night, the gay community in San Francisco lowered the giant Rainbow Flag on the corner of Castro and Market Street, and raised the Stars and Stripes in its place.

...ing with heterosexual couples in such terms of lawbreakers, perverts, and others who may indeed be restrained under compulsion of the State.

or prostitution." Kennedy does not situate gay men and lesbians on the slope to begin with, so the danger of slipping into the libertine orgy pit does not threaten his logic. Instead, he places us on the same safe plane with heterosexual couples, and in doing so, paves the way for the legal rulings of the future that will address true equality on this not-yet-level playing field—specifically the right to marry.

"The *Lawrence* case," Kennedy continued, "does not involve whether the government must give formal recognition to any relationship that homosexuals seek to enter." Indeed, it was not a same-sex marriage case, and the principles of liberty expressed in the opinion do not lead instantly to the freedom to marry. The Texas sodomy law and others, Kennedy wrote earlier, "seek to control a personal relationship that, whether or not entitled to formal recognition in the law, is within the liberty of persons to choose without being punished." The question of formal recognition is open for now,



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Naughty Austin Celebrates New Space

By Sandra Beckmeier

AUSTIN—When Blake Yelavich arrived in Austin he hoped to eventually form a producing company, staging neither Fringe Theater nor large musical productions, but a kindred mix of "adult" off-Broadway comedies.

Today, bawdy off-Broadway style shows have found a home all their own. Arts for Real is the new performance complex of Naughty Austin Productions, the local company of unstoppable creatives who have proudly unveiled their new 6,500 square foot venue a new production, soundstage, office space, and many plans for the future. Writer/producer Blake Yelavich is thrilled the successes have brought the company to this milestone.

Naughty Austin began as a cabaret show that Yelavich wrote to fill late night slots at the State Theater. The company parodied shows running at the State, thus forming the name Naughty Austin, due to the finicky brand of theatrical commentary.

It hasn't been an easy road to find NA home without being asked to make a lot of compromises. Once a deal for Arts for Real was secured, he created Arts Entertainment Group, a 501c non-profit, which formally opened June 12 for production management. Theater Professionals Unlimited, an Austin arts consulting group, will maintain an office in the building. Acting classes by some of Austin's most respected teachers will begin later in the month.

Yelavich credits his partner, actor Kirk Addison, and company members with unyielding support for his ambition. "After looking at our yearly budget from last year, I decided that enough was enough," Yelavich said. "We spent so much in rent payments, which was eating up profits, so I personally bit the bullet. I cashed in part of my 401k and gathered up my savings and got into a space of our own. In the long run, rent for our company will be lower, rent for other companies will be cheaper and Austin will have another arts space. It is a win-win-win situation for everyone."

He and his partner Kirk have poured "blood, sweat and tears" into decorating the interior of the building, Yelavich said. "The almost-complete theater is a showplace, literally. We didn't want a space that was nothing more than a warehouse painted black with a couple of lights hung. Arts On Real is a beautiful building with a new parking lot, formal lobby, professional offices and a flexible theater space. I believe it is a space that will develop into a true arts development in the coming years."

"In the beginning we wore all the hats, spending hard earned money from our day jobs to rent space, buy set and prop materials and pay the actors," Addison added. "Both Blake and I worked for years in this town as community actors, which were almost always non-paying jobs. So we decided from the start that compensation to actors was to be a staple of our shows, as actors are the core to making a show work. Although it was a financial strain for both of us, we decided that we could have full artistic and production value control over our own shows."

NA continued to have success after success with its unique brand of shows, that, although not always gay-themed, usually bore a gay "sensibility." Then came the production of *Making Porn*.

"Blake and I decided that it was time to hire some actual porn stars, at which time we negotiated and contracted Chris Steele and Ryan Idol to star," Addison said. "This show not only became our most successful financial endeavor to date, it also became the largest audience attended show ever produced at Hyde Park Theatre. That set in motion the idea that we should venture out and get a theatre of our own, whereby we called the shots and set the calendar."

The variety of shows Yelavich performed in early on in his theatrical career impacted the types of shows he would later produce in his thirties. Before moving to Austin he performed as an actor in over 60 staged productions, but the former body builder turned writer was more interested in developing a writing career.

Yelavich credits a strong circle of friends for emotional support. "We're growing as a company and I am growing as a writer, but I also hear what our great audiences tell me, and want us to deliver."

"As I have said, we listen to what gay and lesbian Texans want to see," he said, "and we are so very glad to be a part of their entertainment."

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

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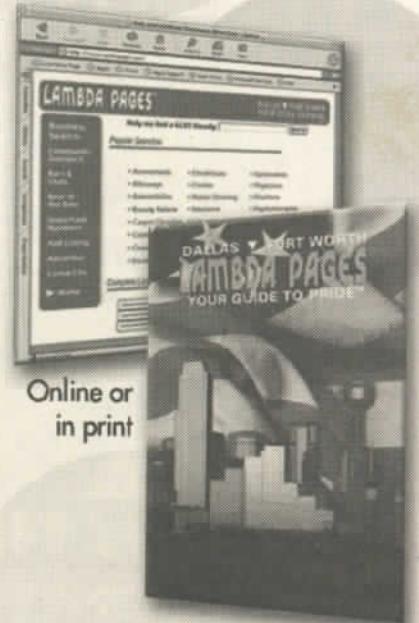


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Between the Covers

By Jone Devlin

Sex Crime Panic

By Neil Miller

Sioux City, Iowa in the 1950s was a Norman Rockwell painting of small town America, with its tree-lined streets of cottages in neighborhoods where everyone knew everyone else and no one locked their doors or windows at night. Kids ran in and out of each other's houses, and women—the majority of whom didn't work, spent their days visiting over back fences and taking care of their families.

So in 1954, when an eight-year-old boy named Jimmy Bremmers was kidnapped from in front of a neighbor's house, panic set in. Things only got worse when Bremmers' body was found a month later.

Though body was too decomposed for investigators to know anything beyond the identity of the victim and that he had died as a result of a blow to the head, rumors abounded.

It was said that Bremmers had been sexually violated, stolen by a sex maniac and killed when he tried to escape. Even the arrest of an itinerant music salesman by the name of Ernest Triplett did nothing to calm the citizenry.

In response to the pressure, local officials came up with a law that would allow those identified as "sex perverts" to be rounded up and incarcerated in a local mental institution "until they were cured". This law also gave local police broad rights to pick up these "sex perverts" prior to their breaking any laws, in order to "keep the streets safe".

For close to a year the law languished on the books; then, another child, 18-month-old Donna Sue Davis, was kidnapped from her crib. She was found brutally murdered two days later. The baby had been sexually violated, covered with cigarette burns, and strangled. The citizenry, already tense, was in an uproar.

Try though they might, the police could get no leads on the Donna Sue Davis case. County officials, knowing that leaving the case unsolved was going to hurt them at the polls, seized on a wonderful distraction tactic—the unused sex pervert law.

Within a month of the Davis murder, 19 local gay men had been rounded up in a series of sting operations and sent to Mount Pleasant Hospital to be "cured." The "crimes" of these men ranged from

propositioning undercover police officers to wearing pink shirts. Once "pinched," the men were encouraged to give the name of others "like them." When it was all said and done, seventeen men would be sent to Mount Pleasant, where they were forced to spend the next six to nine months.

For most of these men, Mount Pleasant was a scary, brutal place. They were not allowed to interact with any of the other inmates, except at the Friday night dances, where they were encouraged to dance with female patients as part of their "therapy". Worst of all, they were never told when, or if, they were going to be released. Trapped, in despair, their careers and in some cases their families

SIOUX CITY JOURNAL
SIOUX CITY, IOWA TUESDAY, JULY 23, 1955

SEX-CRIME PANIC

A JOURNEY TO THE PARANOID HEART OF THE 1950s

Persons who are judged to be "criminal sexual psychopaths" under a new state law will be treated at the state mental hospital at Mount Pleasant. It was decided Friday at a meeting called by Governor Leo A. Hogg.

The law, which has as one purpose the prevention of crimes such as two recent sex murders of children at Sioux City, was passed by the last legislature.

Under it, the court may order a medical examination for a suspected sex criminal. Following the examination, the report of which is secret, a final court hearing is held to determine if the person should be sent to a mental hospital. This hearing may be before a jury, if requested. If the person is committed, the law states he is to be treated and a report made to



Mount Pleasant Hospital To Treat Sexual Deviates

NEIL MILLER

destroyed, the men found themselves daily, ironically, fighting for their sanity.

Sex Crime Panic outlines a time and place that is not so far in the past for many gay people. More than forty years after the incarceration, these men were so scarred by what had happened that the majority of them would not talk to the author about their ordeal. Those that did, with a notable exception, insisted that he use pseudonyms.

A frightening glimpse into our history, *Sex Crime Panic* by Neil Miller is a horrifying look at the bad old days of being gay.

Sex Crime Panic by Neil Miller is published by Alyson, and is available at fine GLBT bookstores everywhere.

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



THE DREAMZONE

BY DR. KATIA AND LAURI

"Dreams show us how to find a meaning in our lives, how to fulfill our own destiny, how to realize the greater potential of life within us." —Marie-Louise von Franz

The Trees Have Ears

I dreamed someone gave me this little tree, which I proceeded to plant in my backyard. Right before my very eyes, I watched it grow and grow until it was about fifty feet tall. I stood there in amazement when all of a sudden it began to grow fruit. As the fruit got bigger, they turned out to be ears! Tell me the truth. Is it time to call the white coats to carry me away and lock me up?

Hilda, 41

Greenville, South Carolina

Lauri responds: Quite the contrary! This dream is showing you what a good listener you are! You have a gift for listening to and understanding others. When someone bears his or her soul to you, you

bear your fruit. er uh. ear. Like the tree, this is a gift that will continue to grow and branch out. Don't keep this quality hidden away from others by keeping it in your backyard.

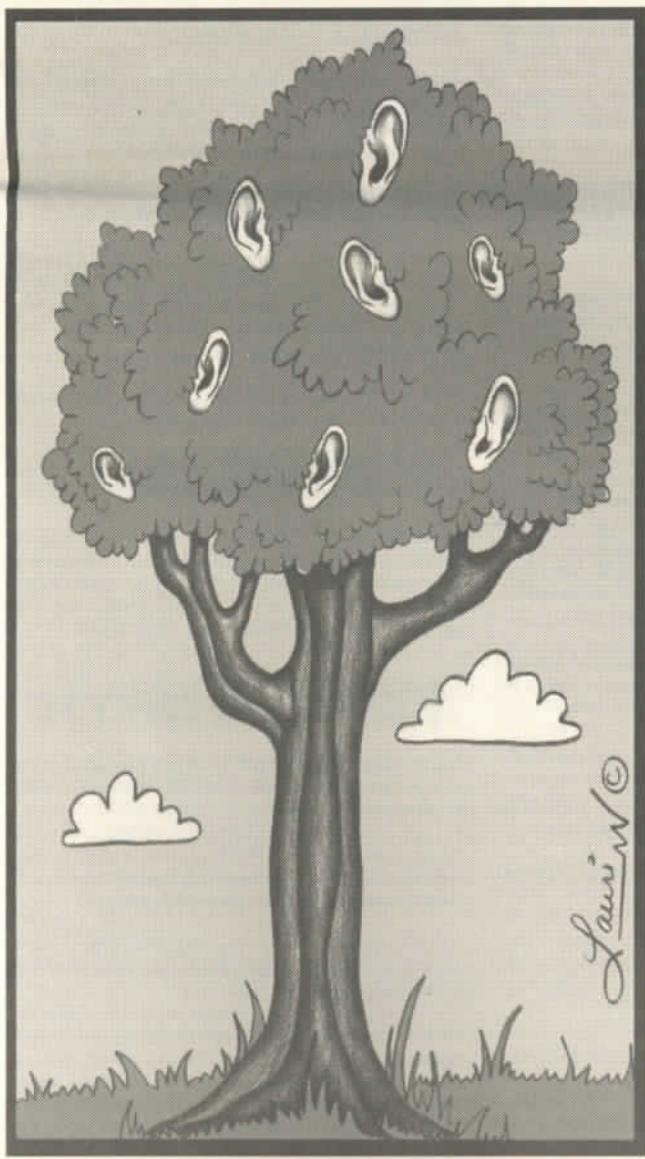
Corpus Delecti?

I dreamed that my son was in our home by himself. He still lives with me, by the way. When I returned from work I found him dead with his throat slit. In my dream I had an idea who had done this but then I quickly awoke.

Jeanne, 53

Corpus Christi, Texas

Dr. Katia responds: Are you feeling cut off from your son? Is someone or something trying to "drain the life" out of your son? Are there concerns that he might move out or the opposite fear—that he might never move out? You say you had an idea who the murderer was. If that person is a real person in your lives, you are afraid of that person's influence or actions regarding your son. If the murderer was unknown to you, just a fictitious person created by the dream, you fear some unknown "outside" force is trying to harm your son or cut him off from you.



"So, What Did You Dream Last Night?"—a journey into the mysterious dreaming mind—is a hard back coffee table book full of beautiful pictures and more than 70 actual dreams and their interpretations. Visit www.thedreamzone.com to order your copy.

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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

First Friday Dinner Club, a group of professional gay men and lesbians who gather once a month to socialize and network meets on the first Friday of each month, beginning July 11. Info: firstfridays-subscribe@yahoo-groups.com.

Celebrate independence at Midtowne Spa's Sodomy Freedom rock 'n' roll parties with DJ Candyman, DJ Dig'M, and DJ Danny C. July 4-6, 5815 Airport Blvd. Info: 512-302-9696.

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 fmdofsparks@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/binetaustin 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@texas.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

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 texsite@aol.com.

Midtowne Spa of Austin and the Texas Department of Health conduct free, confidential HIV/Syphilis testing Tuesday, July 8 and 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/fasttrackrunners.

Austin Tennis Club meets for regular tennis session at South Austin Tennis Center, Fridays, 7-9 p.m. Info: www.austintennisclub.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

High Tech Happy Hour meets Friday, July 11, 5:30 p.m. Nuevo Leon, 3211 Oak Lawn Ave. Info: 214-522-3331.

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.

HEALTH & FITNESS

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

Lambda Alamon 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 5 and holidays). Se habla espanol. Info: Ruben, 214-540-4446.

SPIRITUALITY

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

A contemporary praise and worship community church is currently being organized in Dallas. Curious? Info: 972-669-5777.

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.GAYelpaso.org. LAMBDA Parents meet Saturdays, 7:30 p.m. Info: www.LAMBDA.org. Both groups meet at the Community Center, 216 S. Ochoa.

FORT WORTH

Trinity Metropolitan Community Church worships Sundays, 11 a.m. 1846 W. Division St., Suite 305. Info: 817-265-5454 or www.trinitymcc.net.

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.tcgpwa.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.

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

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.

Time to start again. Help celebrate 26 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 concerte! 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 Genessee.

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/lesbianldg>.

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@yahoogroups.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.

FUND-RAISERS

Join Mr. Lonestar 15 Barry Fiddick and Lone Star Boys of Leather for B.A.R.R.Y.S. @ Mary's.... Naturally. A benefit auction, raffle and yard sale. Sunday, July 6, 3 p.m. Mary's patio. Benefits International Puppy & Trainer Contest and Mr. Lonestar Fund.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

The Rainbow Ranglers offer free country and western dance lessons Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30 p.m. Brazos River Bottom. Info: www.Rainbowranglers.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: montrossoccer@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.beringmc.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 Jerabec 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., Ripcord, 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 worships services on Sundays, 11 a.m. 567 Cedar Grove. Info: 936-646-7214 or leol@eastex.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 mwtprime@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://glccsa.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/glccsa.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, IH-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.sarasanctuary.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 homemade
Attire: Casual
Average Menu Price: \$5.50

Hickory Street Bar & Grille

800 Congress Avenue
Austin, TX 78701
512-477-8968

Type of Cuisine: American, Fabulous Food bars, Gourmet 1/2 lb. Burgers and Delicious Entrees, Certified Angus Steaks, Brunch Buffet, Garden Patio. An Austin Casual Dining Tradition.
Attire: Casual
Average Menu Price: \$5-\$10

Hut's Hamburgers

807 W. 6th Street
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



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www.rays-steaks.com

Kerbey Lane Cafe

North- 12602 Research Blvd 512-258-7757
Central- 3704 Kerbey Lane 512-451-1436
South- 2700 South Lamar 512-445-4451
www.kerbeylanecafe.com

Type of Cuisine: Comfort food

Austin cultural icon. Serving Kerbey Lane classics, pancakes, pasta, tex-mex, distinctive sandwiches, wholesome.. wholesome salads, and homemade desserts from our own bakery.

Attire: Casual

Average Menu Price: \$6.50

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

Ruby's

512 W. 29th Street
Austin, TX
512-477-1651

Type of Cuisine: Texas BBQ

Restaurant description: Standard barbecue fare including brisket, Elgin sausage, ribs, chopped beef and smoked chicken. Also Cajun and vegetarian offerings.

Attire: Casual

Average Menu Price: \$6.00

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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508 West Avenue, Austin 78701

Thanks to The Texas Triangle readers for voting Hut's Hamburgers
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12602 Research
512-258-7757

CENTRAL

3704 Kerbey Lane
512-451-1436

SOUTH

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IT'S SHOWTIME

AUSTIN

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

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

The Flaming Idiots star in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, benefiting Wright Wellness House. Friday, July 11, 7 p.m., Fiesta Gardens Clubhouse, 2101 Bergman. Tickets: \$15-\$20. Info: 713-467-0088.

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

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 Karen Finley in *Make Love*, through July 6; and *Penny Arcade* in New York Values, July 9-12. 2307 Manor Rd. Tickets: \$15-\$30. Info: 512-478-LAVA.

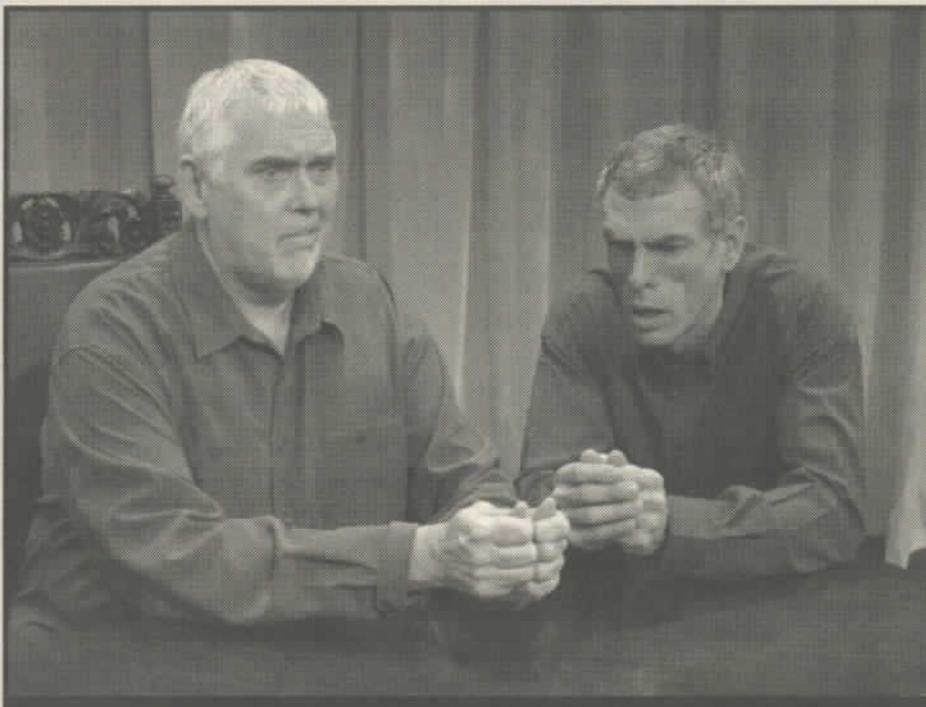
Zachary Scott Theatre Center presents *Fully Committed*, through Aug. 31; and *Beehive*, July 10 through Aug. 30. 1421 W. Riverside Dr. Info: 512-476-0541, ext. 1, or www.zachscott.com.

DALLAS

Bath House Cultural Center presents the *Festival of Independent Theatres (FIT)* July 10-August 2. 521 E. Lawther Dr. Tickets: \$5-\$45. Info: 214-528-5576 or www.bathhousecultural.com/fit2003.html.

Dallas Wind Symphony presents a program of John Philip Sousa, July 4, 1 and 4 p.m. Meyerson Symphony Center. Info: 214-565-9463.

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



DALLAS—Jim Brochu (left) and Steve Schalchlin star in *The Big Voice: God or Merman*, through July 6. Trinity River Arts Center, 2600 Stemmons Freeway, Suite 180. Info: 214-219-2718.

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

Paul J. Williams returns in *Dishing It Out*, July 11-13. Trinity River Arts Center, 2600 Stemmons Freeway, Suite 180. Tickets: \$17. Info: 214-630-5491.

FT. WORTH

Hip Pocket Theatre presents *Bad Girls in the City*, July 5-27. Oak Acres Amphitheatre, 1620 Las Vegas Trail N. Tickets: \$6-\$12. Info: 817-246-9775 or www.hipocket.org

GALVESTON

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

HOUSTON

Legendary Houston vocalist *Dana Rogers* performs with *Larry Staszak* and *Jose-Miguel Yamal* for the brunch crowd every Sunday in July, 11:30 a.m. 'til 3 p.m. Sambuca Jazz Cafe, 909 Texas.

It's a very special Independence Day *Deck Show* with Nancy Ford. Start your weekends happy with music, comedy, and a cold one on 1415's outside deck. Friday, 8 p.m. 1415 Bar & Grille (formerly Sonoma), 1415

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*, July 11 through Aug. 2. 1706 Alamo. Tickets: \$10-\$15. Adult themes. Info: 713-528-0884 or www.theatrelab.org.

Theatre New West presents *Jerker* through July 12. Adult themes. 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

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://gay-sa.net/gsaair.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.jackejet.com.

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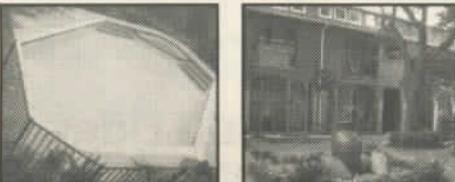
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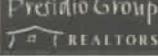
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Born this week

You have a sense of true understanding and real sacrifice. Dedicated to long-range goals, you are future-oriented and intuitive. You are also sensitive and can get lost in the clouds on occasion. You are not too logical or very practical at times. Security is very important. You also love cooking, growing things, and music. You communicate with consummate skill, and it is stimulating just being with you. You are no doubt a touch too sober at times, but when it comes down to taking care of business, you really shine. Famous people born this week: Ann Landers (July 4), Leona Helmsley (July 4), Neil Simon (July 4), Huey Lewis (July 5), Sylvester Stallone (July 6), George W. Bush (July 6), Pierre Cardin (July 7), Ringo Starr (July 7), Kevin Bacon (July 8), Tom Hanks (July 9), O.J. Simpson (July 9), David Brinkley (July 10) and son of Cher, Elijah Blue Allman (July 10).

Aries • March 21-April 20

You may find that your standard support systems are lacking this week; some sort of temporary obstacle may appear. You may feel frustrated. Everything points to your taking the initiative. The good news is that you feel healthy and naturally ready to cope. Notable Aries Reba McEntire was born March 28, 1955.

Taurus • April 21-May 21

This is not perhaps the best time to make important decisions that affect your living situation or life circumstances. Others may challenge your authority or the direction you are taking. Events could conspire to make it difficult for you to act. Someone may tend to stifle your freedom. Notable Taurus Tammy Wynette was born May 5, 1942.

Gemini • May 22-June 21

This is a time for thinking and ideas. Be careful that you don't go on a spending spree, for you may appreciate the beauty and value of everything you encounter today. You could feel loving and warm to those around you, and you are appreciative of your own life and self, in general. Notable Gemini Hank Williams Jr. was born May 26, 1949.

Cancer • June 22-July 21

Your taste in art and appreciation in general are heightened. This is perhaps a good time to select furnishings, colors, or the finer things of life. Or just sit back and enjoy what you have, to live life—your sense of value is to the fore. You may find yourself looking for a little romance, too. Notable Cancer Linda Ronstadt was born July 15, 1946.

Leo • July 22-August 23

This is a great time; good fortune and plain old luck surround you. It is easy for you to make correct decisions, find the right path, and move forward where career and success are concerned. Life's problems seem manageable and easy to solve. The career path is open and clear. Notable Leo Kenny Rogers was born August 21, 1938.

Virgo • August 24-September 22

You may be able to bring a group together with words or ideas that transport others. Poetry, art and music may be possible now. Your whole world may seem trance-like or dreamy. Movies, books, and all forms of escape could prove very enjoyable. New ways to communicate. Notable Virgo Conway Twitty was born September 1, 1933.

Libra • September 23-October 22

You could be most persuasive with others and eloquent in speech and communication. The situation is a natural for self-expression and lends itself to your particular ideas and thoughts. A good conversation with those you love is possible. Notable Libra Alan Jackson was born October 17, 1958.

Scorpio • October 23-November 22

Your value system may receive a challenge from a new, independent streak that wants to break away and try new things. You may not appreciate the urge to upset and change things. You may discover new and unconventional feelings; bursts of temper or other emotions may occur. Notable Scorpio Dwight Yoakam was born October 23, 1956.

Sagittarius • November 23-December 21

This is a time to have new thoughts and sudden insights, and to get an unexpected boost in the way you think, speak, or write. Communications are facilitated; connections of all kinds—news and so on—are furthered, often at the expense of tradition or established order. Notable Sagittarius Jim Morrison was born December 8, 1943.

Capricorn • December 22-January 20

Inner searching and a sense of being vulnerable and exposed could tempt you to drop your responsibilities and spend more time on personal growth. It may be difficult to concentrate on your duties during this time. You can really focus on how to get where you want to go. Notable Capricorn Dolly Parton was born January 19, 1946.

Aquarius • January 21-February 19

You discover new and different reasons or ways to enjoy and appreciate life. A kind of mini-revolution may find you altering your value system, allowing you to like new things. Try a new approach to love and compassion. You become one with the creative force. Notable Aquarius Clint Black was born February 4, 1962.

Pisces • February 20-March 20

This is a time during which you are unusually motivated or driven in new and unexpected directions. You could receive unexpected backing and, in general, your efforts are successful and reach new heights of originality. New and unexpected emotions may come up. Notable Pisces Mary-Chapin Carpenter was born February 21, 1958.

CHelseA Boys



CHARACTER PROFILE

NATHAN

AGE: 43
SIGN: Aquarius
HEIGHT: 5 foot 5
WEIGHT: 170
WAIST SIZE: Next question...
PLACE OF BIRTH: Long Island, NY
ENDOWMENT: Big things come in small packages (Let's just say Jeff Stryker would be jealous)
FAVORITE THINGS: Boys, baseball, and Baskin-Robbins
OCCUPATION: Mind-numbingly boring desk job
BEST FRIEND: Four-legged: Miss Marmelstein. Two-legged: Richard Hammond
FAVORITE SEXUAL POSITION: Any that I can get...
PET PEEVE: The sexual bias against short, dumpy, 40-something guys in the gay community
DREAMS & GOALS: To fall in love again

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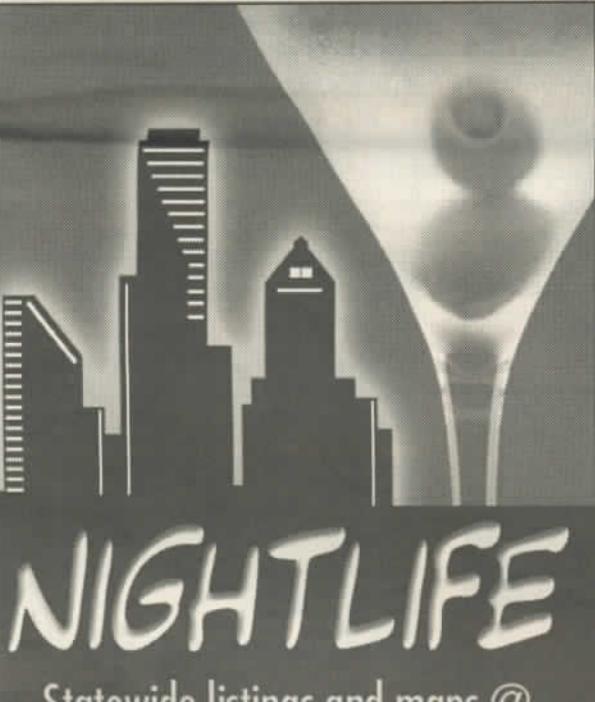
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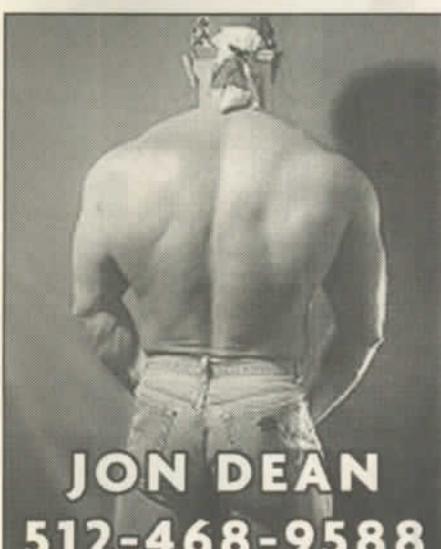
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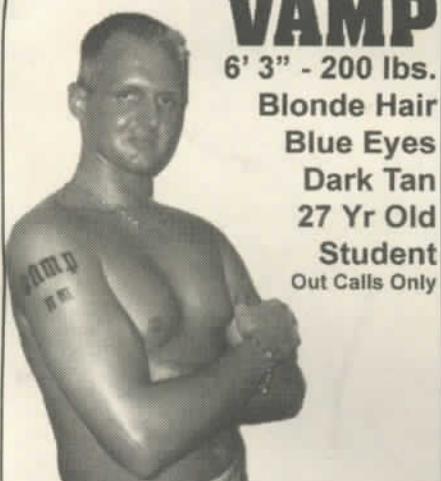
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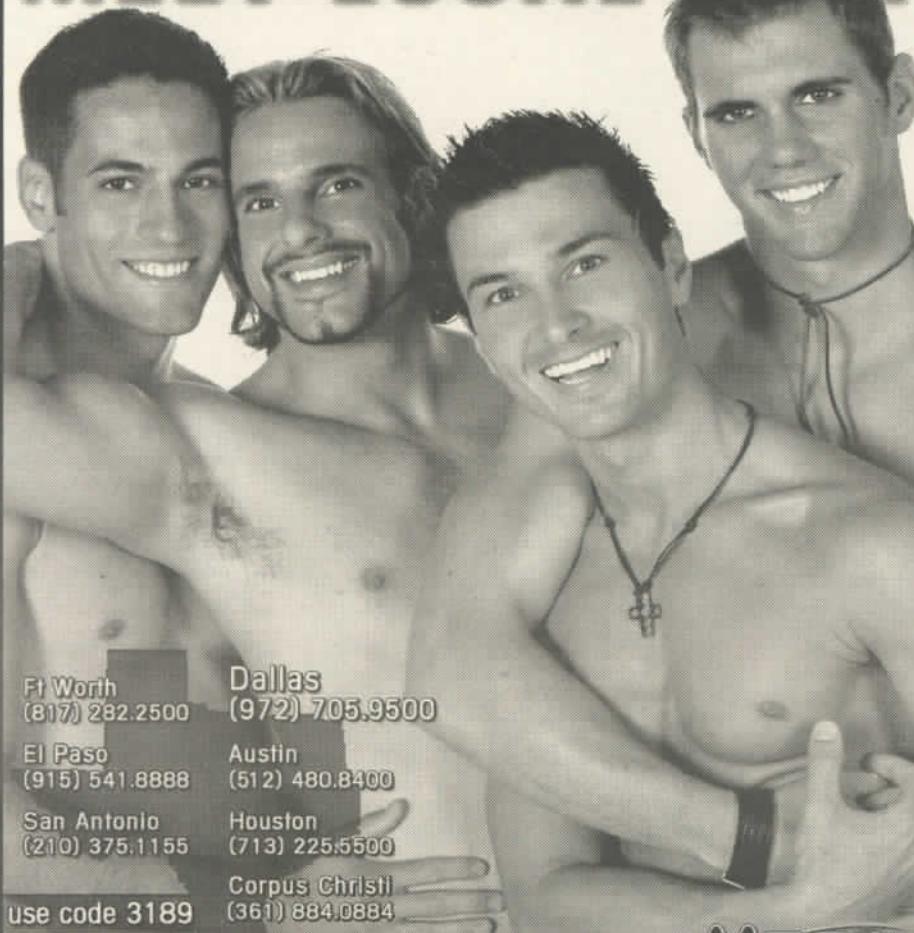
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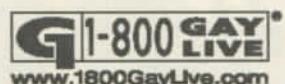
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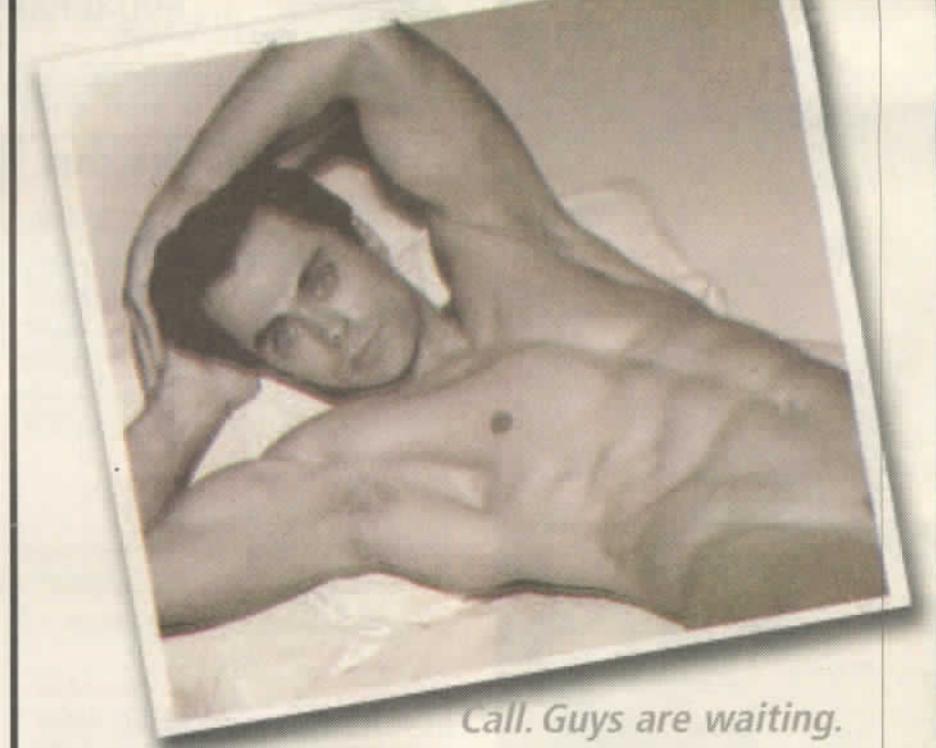
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