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October 15, 2004

Vol. XIII

Issue 2

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Republicans File Suit to Overturn 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'

Lawyers on behalf of Log Cabin Republicans filed suit Tuesday morning against the United States government seeking to overturn the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, which requires the discharge of gay and lesbian service members. *Log Cabin Republicans v. United States of America* was filed in the United States Federal District Court for the Central District of California.

Log Cabin is filing the suit on behalf of its gay and lesbian members currently serving in the United States Armed Forces. "Public opinion, the experience of our allies, and the national security interests of our nation all lead to the inescapable conclusion that gays and lesbians should be allowed to serve openly and honestly in our military," said Log Cabin Republicans Executive Director Patrick Guerriero.

"A lawsuit should not be necessary, when public opinion overwhelmingly favors gays and lesbians serving openly and honestly. A lawsuit should not be necessary when the experience of our allies in the war on terror, including Great Britain, Israel and Australia, all allow gays and lesbians to serve openly and honestly. A lawsuit should not be necessary when our military has lost thousands of needed military personnel under this policy. However, under these circumstances, where we are a nation at war fighting a global war against terrorism, we can no longer sit by and wait for our elected officials to find the political courage to do

the right thing," said Guerriero.

The suit asserts that the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy imposes a discriminatory set of rules on gay and lesbian members of the Armed Forces in violation of their constitutional rights of due process, freedom of speech, and equal protection. The challenge requests a declaration that the policy is unconstitutional, and a preliminary and permanent injunction enjoining the government from enforcing the policy.

Global law firm White & Case LLP is representing Log Cabin Republicans on a pro bono basis. The White & Case team is being led by Dan Woods and Marty Meekins from the firm's Los Angeles office.

"Previous challenges to the policy failed mainly because *Bowers v. Hardwick* allowed governmental criminalization of homosexual conduct, but recent Supreme Court decisions demand an immediate reconsideration of the policy under the U.S. Constitution, which is why White & Case was so interested in being involved," said Woods, head of White & Case's litigation practice in Los Angeles.

Woods said those key decisions include *Romer v. Evans*, where in 1996 the Supreme Court held that government-sponsored discrimination against gay and lesbian Americans could not be justified solely by animus or "morality." In 2003, the Court overruled *Bowers* in *Lawrence v. State of Texas*, and held the con-

stitutional fundamental right to privacy includes the right for gay and lesbian Americans to engage in private, intimate relationships without State interference. Finally, the Supreme Court most recently limited the Defense Department's discretion to infringe upon Constitutional due process rights in *Hamdi v. Rumsfeld*, which held that enemy combatants, even in wartime, must be afforded due process rights.

"These decisions require a reexamination of the reasoning employed in prior decisions upholding the 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy, and they compel a finding and declaration by the court that the policy violates the Constitution," added Woods.

White & Case lawyers are well versed in the constitutional issues involved with the service of gays and lesbians in the United States Armed Forces. Last year, White & Case helped draft an amici brief submitted by the Log Cabin Republicans in support of the petitioners in the Supreme Court's case of *Lawrence v. State of Texas*, arguing successfully that an American's right to liberty under the Due Process clause includes the right to engage in private consensual conduct without governmental intervention. In the early 1990s, the firm also successfully represented Keith Meinhold in the landmark decision in *Meinhold v. U.S. Department of Defense*, which challenged the military's previous prohibition of gays and lesbians in the military.

"This case is fundamentally about correcting a misguided governmental policy based on prejudice towards gay and lesbian Americans. A decade of experience with the policy demonstrates that it actually weakens our national defense," said Meekins. "It seems especially offensive to compel members of the Armed Forces, who fight to protect our liberty, to deny them their constitutional right to freedom of speech and to engage in private, intimate relationships."

The Commission also looked at the President's stand on the Federal Marriage Amendment.

"The most publicized gay rights policy of this administration is that of same-sex marriage. This is an area of particular concern because it illustrates the President's willingness to restrict group and individual rights in an unprecedented manner."

"President Bush has stated unequivocal support for a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriages. If passed, the amendment would be the first in U.S. history to limit rather than preserve and expand the rights of a group."

In addition to marriage rights, the Commission also took note of the President's position on the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

"The Bush administration also opposes passage of ENDA, which would add sexual orientation to existing federal employment discrimination protections and effectively prevent the unfair discharge of gay and lesbian employees."

"In another attempt to limit protections for gay men and lesbians in the workforce, in February 2004, Bush-appointed U.S. Special Counsel Scott Bloch removed all materials from

Report Criticizes Administration on Gay Rights Record

A draft report detailing findings on the Bush Administration's record over the last four years on civil rights was released at a meeting last Friday of the United States Commission on Civil Rights (USCCR). The report, entitled "Redefining Rights in America: The Civil Rights Record of the George W. Bush Administration, 2001-2004", includes a highly critical review of the administration on GLBT issues.

Democrats say the comprehensive draft details the blatant lack of progress George Bush has made on civil rights in America during the last four years, placing special emphasis on Bush's record of contempt for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) community, and the lack of progress made

Initiatives.

With regard to President Bush's Judicial Appointments the report stated: "President Bush also nominated anti-gay-rights individuals to other prominent positions. For example, he nominated Alabama Attorney General William Pryor to the United States Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit. As Alabama's attorney general, Pryor submitted a brief to the Supreme Court in favor of a Texas same-sex anti-sodomy law and labeled his postponement of a family vacation to avoid a day when many gay men and lesbians attended Disney World a 'value judgment.'"

With regard to Attorney General John Ashcroft, the Commission reported on his record on GLBT issues both past

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The opening summary of the report, prepared by staff for the Commission's review states: "This report finds that President Bush has neither exhibited leadership on pressing civil rights issues, nor taken actions that matched his words."

"This new report makes clear what most Americans already know: George W. Bush is hostile to the gay and lesbian community," said Democratic National Committee (DNC) Chairman Terry McAuliffe. "For the past four years, the Bush administration has taken us in the wrong direction, trying to limit the rights of GLBT Americans. We need a president like John Kerry who will work for all of us and lead us in a new direction toward a stronger America."

The USCCR is an independent, bipartisan agency established by Congress in 1957. It is directed to investigate complaints alleging that citizens are being deprived of their right to vote by reason of their race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, or national origin, or by reason of fraudulent practices. It is also charged with studying and collecting information relating to discrimination or a denial of equal protection of the laws under the Constitution.

The draft report reviewed judicial appointments, actions of the Attorney General, the Federal Marriage Amendment, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and Faith Based

Initiatives.

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With regard to Attorney General John Ashcroft, the Commission reported on his record on GLBT issues both past and present.

"Attorney General Ashcroft was an outspoken opponent of gay rights during his tenure in the Senate, voting against the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) and Hate Crimes Prevention Act (HCPA)...During his confirmation hearing, Ashcroft pledged that he would permit DOJ Pride, a voluntary organization of gay, lesbian, and bisexual Department of Justice (DOJ) employees, to continue using DOJ facilities to celebrate Gay Pride Month...In 2003, however, the attorney general notified DOJ Pride that it could not celebrate Gay Pride Month in a DOJ facility because the White House had not issued a proclamation recognizing the month. He eventually relented and offered to host the event in the department, but made DOJ Pride responsible for all costs.

"Gay Pride was not treated equal to other diversity celebrations, such as Black History Month or Hispanic Heritage Month. For example, requiring DOJ Pride to pay for its celebration activities was a policy not required for other diversity events, and there was no White House proclamation declaring the importance of the celebration.

"Perhaps most troubling is the failure of the attorney general, as the officer responsible for investigating and enforcing the nation's civil rights laws, to uphold equal treatment in his own agency."

The Commission also looked at the President's stand on the Federal Marriage Amendment.

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"The Bush administration also opposes passage of ENDA, which would add sexual orientation to existing federal employment discrimination protections and effectively prevent the unfair discharge of gay and lesbian employees."

"In another attempt to limit protections for gay men and lesbians in the workforce, in February 2004, Bush-appointed U.S. Special Counsel Scott Bloch removed all materials from the Office of Special Counsel's (OSC) Web site relating to sexual orientation discrimination in the federal government, including training guides and complaint forms. In addition, he suspended enforcement of sexual-orientation bias cases."

And finally, the Commission's report discussed discrimination against gays and lesbians resulting from Bush's Faith Based Initiatives

"The right to be free from discrimination is a civil right, but under charitable choice and the faith-based initiative, organizations receiving federal funds could discriminate against other persons who have been historically subjected to discrimination. Religious employers can do so by citing "religious incompatibility" to justify or cover up their actions. Similarly, the administration's initial faith-based proposals did not include any language to prohibit religious groups from discriminating against gay men and lesbians. The administration considered and declined a request by the Salvation Army to adopt regulatory language that allows religious organizations to make decisions based on sexual orientation and exempts them from state and local laws that bar such discrimination. The administration left open the potential for such discrimination by pointing out that prevailing federal civil rights laws do not specifically prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation."

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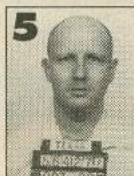
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This week's issue and cover image is dedicated to Barbara Shields.

We love you Babs.

Michael & The Brunch Bunch

Second Convict Executed for Slaying of Tyler Man

By Nancy Ford

Donald Aldrich, 39, was executed by lethal injection Tuesday evening in Huntsville, Texas for the fatal shooting of the 23-year-old Nicholas West on November 30, 1993.

Aldrich was the second man executed for the slaying, the 16th this year in Texas and third in eight days. Two more are scheduled for this month.

In February 2003, Henry Earl Dunn went to the Texas death chamber after similarly describing events that led to West's killing Nov. 30, 1993. (See www.txtriangle.com/archive/1034/topstories.htm for more details on this case.) Dunn said he was at the Tyler park known for gay cruising where West, a medical clerk, was lured under the guise of seeking sex. Instead, he was abducted and taken to a remote area of Smith County. There, West was stripped, ordered to his knees and shot as many as 15 times.

A third member of the gang, David McMillan, who was 17 at the time of the attack, received a life prison term.

Aldrich was on parole after a pair of convictions, one for burglary in Smith County and a second for robbery in Dallas County. Authorities believed Aldrich was the leader of what became known as the "CB gang," so named because they first became acquainted over CB radios. For months the gang, in which Aldrich was known as "Sundance", preyed on

gay men in the Tyler area. The attack on West was the third in a week involving gay men.

Confessing to police, Aldrich claimed he didn't like gays because at age nine he had been raped by a gay cousin.

Aldrich, though he admitted to playing a role in the abduction of West, insisted he did not kill him.

"I'm not totally innocent," said Aldrich, according to the *Associated Press*. "I was part of a crime that ended in the death of a young man, but did not play a part in his death."

Dunn, however, blamed Aldrich for what he said was a crime that "got out of control."

Authorities believed both were participants.

"Aldrich is one of these guys who thinks he's smarter than anyone else," David Dobbs, a former Smith County assistant district attorney who prosecuted the case, told the *AP*. "He tried to spin it to police." Ballistic tests showed two guns were shot, authorities testified.

Aldrich's attorneys were not disputing his guilt but raised questions about trial and execution procedures in three unsuccessful appeals.

Aldrich was interviewed as one of the men whose contempt for homosexuals led them to murder in filmmaker Arthur Dong's *Licensed to Kill*. An examination of the minds and motives of men whose contempt for homosexuals led them to murder, the film won the Best Documentary Director and Filmmakers Trophy Awards at the 1997 Sundance Film Festival. As seen through the eyes of murderers, the film examines the social, political and cultural environments of convicted killers and questions whether society had given them a "license to kill" homosexuals.

Displaying contradictory sensitivity for a convicted murderer, Aldrich penned a number of poems while incarcerated. Aldrich's poems can be found at

<http://people.freenet.de/DeathRow/Dontraurigkeit.html>.



Donald Aldrich

TCRP Sues Two City of Austin Clinic Employees for Victimizing HIV+ Patient

The Texas Civil Rights Project filed suit in Travis County District Court last week on behalf of "John Doe" against the City of Austin and its employees Patricia Burdett and Michelle

Mr. Doe made complaints, Burdett increased her intimidation and retaliation against him. As a result, Mr. Doe's health deteriorated and he no longer feels secure in seeking treatment at the clinic for his life-threatening

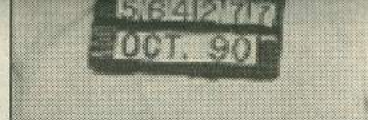
the Texas Constitution. By law, someone who makes an unlawful disclosure is liable for a penalty between \$5,000 and \$10,000 for each willful disclosure. The suit also demands strong policies, procedures, and training

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The Texas Civil Rights Project filed suit in Travis County District Court last week on behalf of "John Doe" against the City of Austin and its employees Patricia Burdett and Michelle Avery. The purpose of the lawsuit is to bring change to the David Powell Clinic and bring attention to the plight of people who are HIV positive during Austin's AIDS Awareness Month.

The suit alleges that Burdett and Avery willfully and recklessly disclosed Mr. Doe's HIV status in public, in violation of the law. Burdett and Avery gained access to his confidential medical information only because they were employees of the Clinic.

TCRP claims Burdett repeatedly violated the law by revealing Mr. Doe's HIV status to other patients and to strangers in public. The group says she also harassed and taunted Mr. Doe, cursed him and used prejudiced slurs, and sabotaged his appointments and status as a patient. Burdett and Avery are reported to both have revealed that he is HIV positive to a number of people at a local restaurant during happy hour, including friends of Mr. Doe.

The organization says the City of Austin was aware of the illegal disclosures by its employees, yet did not enforce policies or training to stop them. In fact, after

Mr. Doe made complaints, Burdett increased her intimidation and retaliation against him. As a result, Mr. Doe's health deteriorated and he no longer feels secure in seeking treatment at the clinic for his life-threatening condition.

October has traditionally been Austin's AIDS Awareness Month, and TCRP's suit highlights not only the physical difficulties that face people with HIV, but the ignorance, fear, and prejudice.

"This is the very thing that keeps people who might be HIV infected from coming forth to be tested and treated," said Jim Harrington, TCRP Director, "especially in the Hispanic and African American communities, which have the highest rates of new infection and where cultural and family situations make disclosure more problematic. The message has to be loud and clear to the public...your privacy will be totally secure and protected, if you come forward. That is the intent of this suit."

The David Powell Clinic provides outpatient primary care on an outpatient to HIV positive patients. Despite the disclosure and abuse, Mr. Doe is grateful to other employees of the clinic.

Mr. Doe's suit alleges violations of the Texas Health and Safety Code and his right to privacy under

the Texas Constitution. By law, someone who makes an unlawful disclosure is liable for a penalty between \$5,000 and \$10,000 for each willful disclosure. The suit also demands strong policies, procedures, and training at the clinic to prevent further disclosures from ever happening again.

Mr. Doe called Burdett's conduct "reckless and mean." He said, "Having a friend learn I was HIV positive from a stranger was one of the saddest and scariest moments of my life. Nobody has a right to publicize my private, personal information or purposely jeopardize my health. I no longer feel secure going to the clinic, though my life may depend on it."

TCRP Attorney Wayne Krause said, "One really unsettling issue is that we don't know how many other disclosures clinic workers have made. It's not just about Mr. Doe—how can patients trust the City to keep their medical information confidential? We encourage any other patients who have had their HIV status illegally disclosed by the City to contact TCRP. The disclosures aren't just disturbing, they're illegal. If the City won't put a stop to them, we will do so with a court order."

Harrington also said this was the fifth such suit that the Project has had to file in Texas against medical providers who illegally disclose HIV status.

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NOVEMBER 5 - 14

Dallas and San Antonio Stonewall Democrats Plan Voter Events

After a fruitful year of fund-raising events, record-setting club membership gains and sizable donations, Stonewall Democrats of Dallas is prepared to spend \$12,000 to get the GLBT vote out in these coming weeks.

"Our political committee met this past month to discuss how best to use funds we've collected this year and we've come up with a three-prong strategy," said Jesse Garcia, SDD secretary. "We're targeting 18 predominantly-GLBT precincts, around 5,000 to 10,000 homes, with mailers announcing voting location and dates. Second, we're printing thousands of reminder cards with polling locations and times to hand out to Cedar Springs' patrons at the Crossroads. Lastly, we're bringing state and local candidates down to our community with a 'Pride at the Polls' rally at Sue Ellen's."

The "Pride at the Polls" rally will be held from 1 to 5 p.m., Sunday, October 24, at Sue Ellen's, located on 3903 Cedar Springs Rd.

"Stonewall Democrats of Dallas is giving the GLBT community at large the opportunity to meet the people that will best represent our issues and causes from full funding of AIDS healthcare and research to equality in Texas," said SDD President Shannon Bailey. "This is a free event. We ask the community to give these candidates an hour or two of your Sunday afternoon to learn about the issues at stake."

Aside from appearances by judicial candidates, county-wide candidates, candidates for state and U.S. representative seats, the event will feature free food, live music and rides to the polls for the last day of Early Voting.

Events like this one have proved popular for the SDD in the past. More than 200 people attended a similar function held at Sue Ellen's for 36 candidates running in 2002. The SDD expects a higher turnout because the excitement over the presidential race and the strong candidates running locally.

"Come November 2, all of us in the SDD want to say we did everything we could—financially, physically and emotionally—to make a difference locally and nationally to get fair-minded politicians elected," said Garcia. "Now it is up to the community to show up and do their part. Vote."



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Aside from appearances by judicial candidates, county-wide candidates, candidates for state and U.S. representative seats, the event will feature free food, live music and rides to the polls for the last day of Early Voting.

Events like this one have proved popular for the SDD in the past. More than 200 people attended a similar function held at Sue Ellen's for 36 candidates running in 2002. The SDD expects a higher turnout because the excitement over the presidential race and the strong candidates running locally.

"Come November 2, all of us in the SDD want to say we did everything we could—financially, physically and emotionally—to make a difference locally and nationally to get fair-minded politicians elected," said Garcia. "Now it is up to the community to show up and do their part. Vote."



At the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas' Sept. 21 meeting, members wrote checks and donated cash totaling \$2,222 to local GLBT-friendly candidates: (left to right) Harriet Miller for State Representative (D-102); Gary Page for U.S. Representative (D-24); Dennise Garcia for the 303rd Family District Court; Carlos Cortez for the 116th Civil Court; Lupe Valdez for Dallas County Sheriff; Carter Thompson for Criminal District Court, Place 3; Bill Bernstein for U.S. Representative (D-5); and Don Adams for Criminal District Court, Place 2. All have been invited to attend the "Pride at the Polls" Rally, along with a dozen other candidates and elected officials.

Meanwhile, the Stonewall Democrats of San Antonio invite everyone from the LGBT Community to show their Pride and March to Vote for John Kerry as the next President of the United States of America.

The Alamo City group will be gathering for a rally on Saturday, October 23 at the Diversity Center Parking Lot located at 531 San Pedro (corner of San Pedro and Warren) and they encourage all LGBT and LGBT-friendly people to gather with them as they Rally and March to the Polls to vote for the Kerry/Edwards ticket as well as all other Stonewall-endorsed Democrats.

"We are encouraging everyone to come out and help us make a statement. The LGBT Community is going to make a difference in this very important election year," said Dan Graney, Stonewall Democrats Co-Chair. "We are voting for our lives," added Kathy Kennedy, Stonewall Democrats Co-Chair.

The rally will begin at 3 p.m. and will run 'til 5 p.m. After the rally, the group will march to the Via Metro Center located at 1021 San Pedro to cast their votes. The Bexar County Election Department has designated this site as an Early Voting location. All registered voters, no matter where they live in Bexar County, may vote at this location on this day. Everyone is welcome to attend and show their Voting Pride.

For more information on the rally or about voting, contact Dan Graney at 210-494-7442 or dcraney@yahoo.com or Kathy Kennedy at 210-861-1503 or kkennedy134@cs.com.

Trio Joins Forces to Raise Funds for Community

By Sonna Alton

Don Gill is a fairly common name among Houston AIDS service organizations, having raised close to \$1 million in the 12 years he has spent in the fundraising community.

Don Gill Live 2004, recently co-hosted by Clay Hardy and Jules Czarnik, made one more dream a reality with the purchase of a new leg press/extension weight machine and an adjustable weight bench for the Montrose Clinic's Body Positive Wellness Center.

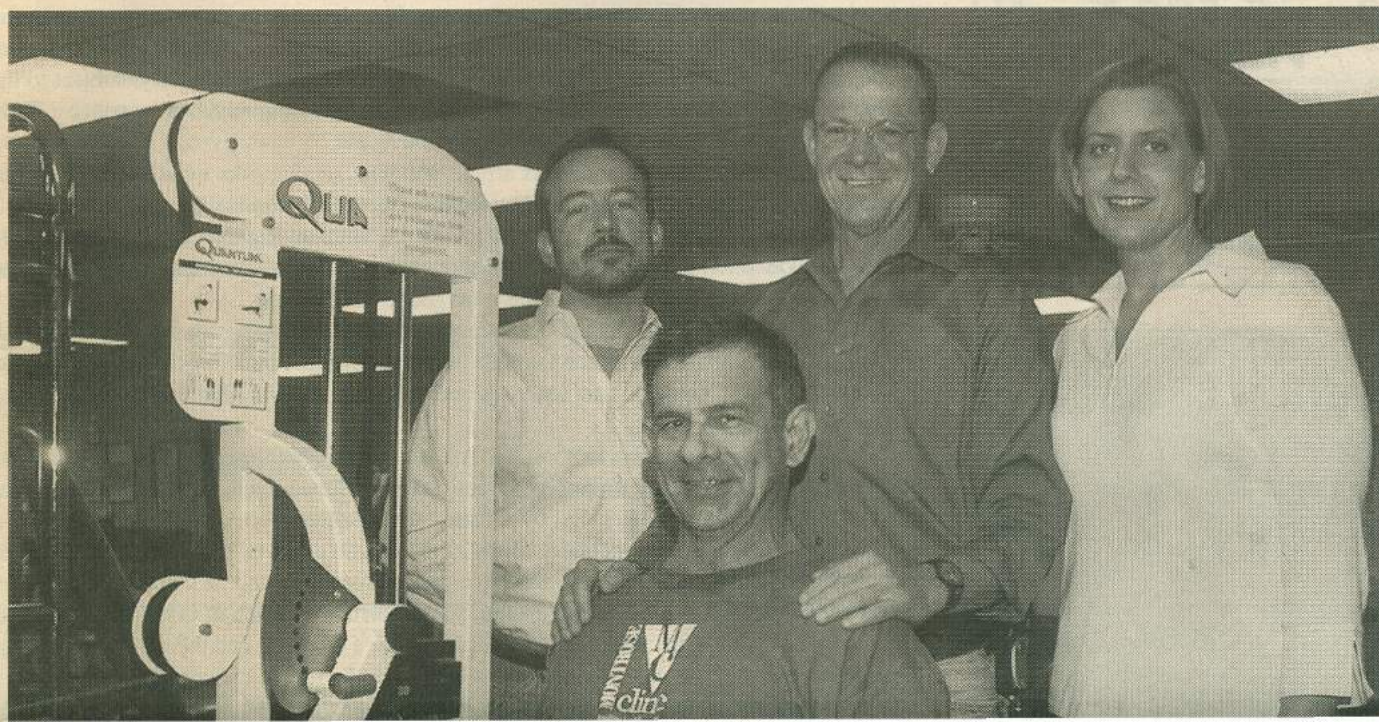
"The generosity of this donation is truly amazing and hugely appreciated by clients and staff alike," said Body Positive Director Kate Mahan stated. "The new equipment has allowed us to improved the quality and look of our gym for all of our current clients and program graduates."

Don, Clay and Jules first teamed up in 2003 for the Don Gill Live Gospel Jubilee benefit and have been working together since.

HIV-related. Now we are able to branch out and serve the whole GLBT community." Clay is the newest member of this successful trio. "God has given me a talent to sing and now I have the opportunity to touch many lives with this gift," he said. "I sang my first community gospel number at the Rip Cord," added Clay. Don has a special talent for getting people to donate. "It is crucial for the MC to get the crowd engaged and to keep repeating the message throughout the benefit," he said. "You can not be successful in fundraising without a passion for it and you must do it from the heart."

Other successes include Nights in Black Leather which have raised nearly \$100,000 for community charities; Don Gill Live has added another \$45,000.

Gill says he was introduced to fundraising through the fabulous Lady Victoria Lust whose life was cut far too short. She left behind a positive impression on Gill of how important it is to get involved and to care.



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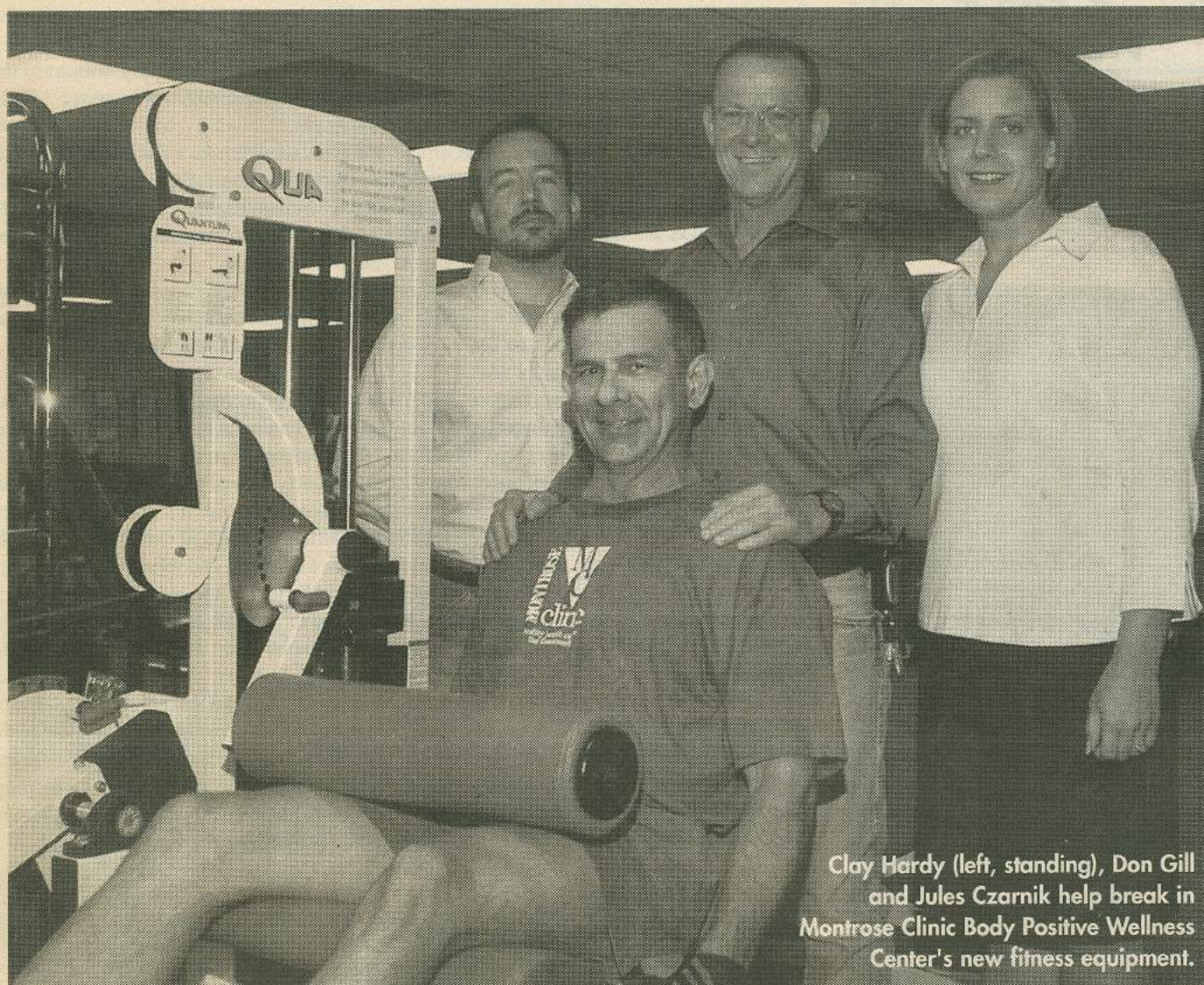
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Don, Clay and Jules first teamed up in 2003 for the Don Gill Live Gospel Jubilee benefit and have been working together since.

fabulous Lady Victoria Lust whose life was cut far too short. She left behind a positive impression on Gill of how important it is to get involved and to care.



Clay Hardy (left, standing), Don Gill and Jules Czarnik help break in Montrose Clinic Body Positive Wellness Center's new fitness equipment.

Time and time again when someone contacted Gill with a need he would get busy 'til the need became reality. In January 2004, Rev. Resurrection MCC's Dwayne Johnson approached Gill to raise the funds needed to sponsor a Habitat For Humanity home. Again the trio got busy and a family in need now has a beautiful place to call home.

"Fundraisers create opportunity, raise community awareness, provide quality entertainment and are usually free to the public," added Czarnik. "In the early days, the shows were all

Montrose Clinic extends a big heartfelt thank you to Don, Clay, Jules, and to all of the fabulous individuals and community groups who give so willingly of their time, talents and monies to help others who are less fortunate. We have a great GLBT community here in Houston because of all of you.

Sonna Alton is Director of Communications for Montrose Clinic.



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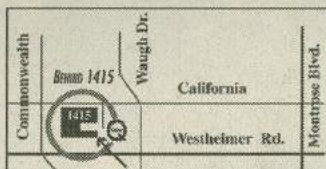
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National news

By Ann Rostow

We've Just Begun To Fight

Louisiana's anti-marriage amendment will be evaluated by the state supreme court, after a five-judge appellate court panel kicked the matter upstairs without a ruling. The amendment, banning same-sex marriage and other legal ties between same-sex couples, was passed by some 78 percent of Louisiana voters on September 8. Three weeks later, Baton Rouge Judge William Morvant struck the amendment as unconstitutional, based on the fact that the language forced voters to take an up or down stand on two separate issues. Voters who might have voted yes on the marriage ban and no on a second section outlawing "substantially similar" legal ties were effectively disenfranchised.

Morvant's ruling was appealed simultaneously to the appellate court and the state supreme court. Although the justices declined direct review and asked the appellate panel to hear the matter first, it seems as if the intermediate step was nothing more than a formality. The judges conferred briefly on Wednesday before sending the case to the justices without comment.

Meanwhile, the Arkansas Supreme Court has given the green light to that state's anti-marriage amendment, sending it to the November 2 ballot despite a challenge by the American Civil Liberties Union. The ACLU had argued that the Arkansas amendment was wordy and vague. "Legal status for unmarried persons which is identical or substantially similar to marital status shall not be valid or recognized" in the state under its terms, "except that the legislature may recognize a common law marriage from another state between a man and a woman [and] has the power to determine the capacity of persons to marry, subject to this amendment, and the legal rights, obligations, privileges, and immunities of marriage." Come again?

In an interesting *Associated Press* article, the wire service asks what has happened to Arkansas's gay rights groups in the run-up to this election? Arkansas Equality Network has folded for lack of funds, despite a grant from the Human Rights Campaign, while the Regional AIDS Interfaith Network fell apart over the summer. According to the AP, a new group, Arkansans for Human Rights has emerged to fill the void.

In Georgia, the case against the Peachtree amendment is heading for a date with the state supreme court on October 19, when Lambda lawyers will argue both that the Georgia amendment impermissibly contains two issues in one measure, and also that the language is illegally vague.

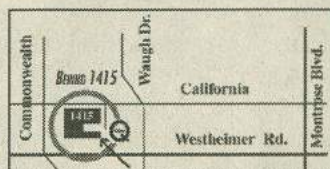
Ohio election officials are looking into massive name-collecting fraud by two paid petitioners who solicited names to qualify an anti-marriage amendment for the November ballot. The investigation was triggered by a form letter, written from a state representative to thank people who signed the petition. Many of those who received the letter were outraged, and contacted authorities to protest and have their names removed. It's not at all clear that the probe will have any effect on the eventual anti-marriage election in Ohio, or its outcome. There are simply too many other names to make up for a shortfall, and there is too much support for this anti-gay amendment in Ohio as well as in the rest of the country.

Finally, marriage activists in Kentucky have raised three times the cash as have all five



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Finally, marriage activists in Kentucky have raised three times the cash as have all five of the groups trying to place an anti-marriage amendment in the constitution. No on the Amendment has amassed \$326,000 between May and October, compared to a total of \$103,000 raised by all five of the anti-marriage groups combined. Kentucky is no exception to the national trend, and polls indicate some 70 percent are expected to vote in favor of the marriage amendment. But it's significant that gay rights groups in many states are outdrawing their conservative foes financially, and will at the very least be able to go down fighting, educate the electorate for the next battle, and as Evan Wolfson of Freedom to Marry puts it, "lose forward."

Thou Shalt Not Mess With the Establishment Clause

It's not a gay rights news story on the face of it, but the decision by the U.S. Supreme Court to evaluate the status of the Ten Commandments has an impact on our community nonetheless. Those in American society who would bring down the wall separating Church and State are the same cohort who would recriminalize same-sex relationships, preempt legal recognition of same-sex couples in any form, and dissolve, where possible, the legal ties between same-sex parents and their children. The notion that "the Bible says so," and the corollary, that the Bible underlies and dictates American law, are the driving ideals of an ever-growing fringe on the Christian right—a group that bears close watching.

This week, the Court agreed to review two Decalogue cases. In the first, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit ruled that a Ten Commandments plaque on the grounds of

the Texas State capitol was perfectly constitutional. But in the second, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit ordered several public establishments in McCreary County, Kentucky (including a courthouse and a school) to take down their Ten Commandment displays on First Amendment grounds. Nor are these rulings the only two in conflict. According to the petition for review of the Texas case, at least seven of the 12 federal appellate circuits have weighed on the subject, three in favor of Decalogue displays and four opposed.

The justices have not examined the place of the Ten Commandments since 1980, when the Court struck a Kentucky law that mandated posting the Commandments in public school classrooms. Since then, the Legal Times reports, over two dozen lower courts have taken a position one way or another. Presumably, no court would uphold a state law insisting on the presentation of the Commandments in a school or elsewhere, but the question of whether the rules can ever be displayed under public auspices is more complicated.

In general, courts ask three questions when determining whether a public institution has violated the Constitution ban on the establishment of a state religion. First, does the public institution have a secular purpose for its activity? Second, does the activity enhance or inhibit religion? And finally, does the activity constitute an excessive entanglement with religion? By "religion," courts are usually looking at particular faiths rather than generic references to higher powers or to an otherwise unspecified "God."

As for the Ten Commandments, its advocates have argued that the commands are generic, and comprise a secular and commonly-accepted list of proscriptions that form the basis of American law. In the Texas case, the Fifth Circuit ruled that the out-of-the-way plaque was hardly an excessive entanglement with religion, that the Decalogue was a gift and did not reflect an ulterior motive on the part of government, and that the inoffensive display did not promote religion and was one of many different types of monuments scattered around the capitol grounds.

Most of you remember the scene over in the Montgomery, Alabama, courthouse last year, where Judge Roy Moore was forced by court order to remove a two-ton marble Commandments slab from the middle of the rotunda. Likewise, in the Kentucky case that the

High Court will combine with Texas, McCreary County officials went to great lengths to keep their Ten Commandment displays even in the face of court rulings against them. In an effort to create "secular" presentations, officials mounted copies of the Star Spangled Banner, the Bill of Rights, the Mayflower Compact, the Declaration of Independence, the Magna Carta, the Preamble to the Kentucky Constitution, and the plumber's bill for the kitchen sink. As for the Decalogue, the county fathers' new display explained:

"The Ten Commandments have profoundly influenced the formation of Western legal thought and the formation of our country. That influence is clearly seen in the Declaration of Independence, which declared that, 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.' The Ten Commandments provide the moral background of the Declaration of Independence and the foundation of our legal tradition."

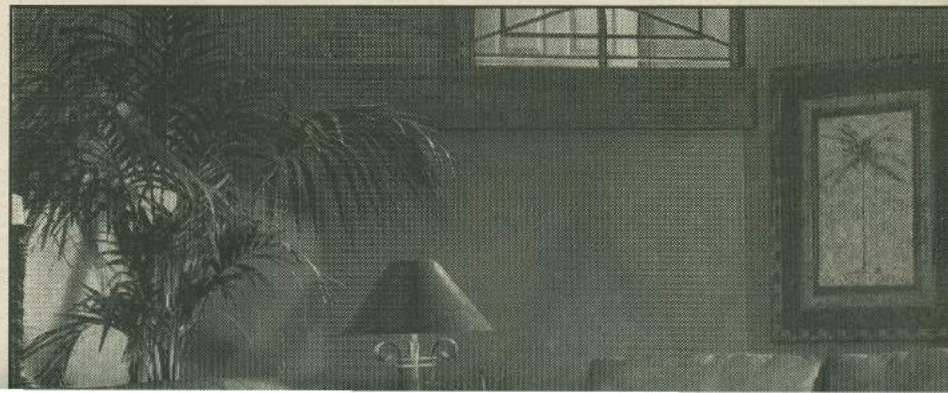
The two-one Sixth Circuit majority was not impressed, noting that the juxtaposition of these totemic national documents actually emphasized the non-secular nature of the Commandments, making their inclusion even less appropriate. As for the rationales, the court said basically that announcing that the Ten Commandments provided the moral background to the Declaration of Independence did not make it so, and that plenty of historians held a different view.

Where will the Court fall? It's clear from previous dicta and statements that the three conservative justices want to reinstall the Ten Commandments and other Christian symbols to their "rightful" place in American society. As you know, the Court had a chance to clarify the scope of the First Amendment with the pledge of allegiance case, but chose instead to duck the central issue with a technical ruling on standing. The irony, perhaps, is that many of us would not have a problem with the live animal creche in the town square every December, or the Ten Commandments carved into the courthouse wall, as long as the Christian community maintained respect for the religious views and secular decisions of their fellow Americans. Even more ironically, most Christians do just that, but the others are too scary to ignore.



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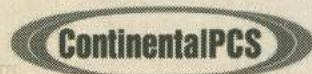
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Community



ALGPC Endorses Candidates for November 2 General Election

On October 7, 2004 members of the Austin Lesbian/Gay Political Caucus endorsed eleven candidates in the November 2nd General Election. At the Candidate Forum and Endorsement Meeting, members reviewed written responses to ALGPC's candidate questionnaire, heard from the candidates or their representatives and then posed questions.

At the conclusion of the meeting, members voted to endorse the following candidates:

US House of Representatives, District 25: Lloyd Doggett (D)
Texas Supreme Court: David Van Os (D)
Texas House of Representatives, District 48: Kelly White (D)
Texas House of Representatives, District 50: Mark Strama (D)
Third Court of Appeals: Jan Patterson (D)
Third Court of Appeals: Diane Henson (D)
345th District Court: Stephen Yelenosky (D)
353rd District Court: Margaret Cooper (D)
Travis County Court-at-Law #5: Nancy Hohengarten (D)
Travis County Sheriff: Greg Hamilton (D)
Travis County Constable, Precinct 5: Bruce Elfant (D)
Info: www.Outaustin.org or 512-474-0750.

OUTer Launches for GLBT Sci Fi Fans

The OUTer Gay and Lesbian SciFi/Fantasy Film Festival announces its first Exhibition to be held in Austin on November 4.

The OUTer Gay and Lesbian SciFi/Fantasy Film Festival was born from the desire of many gay and lesbian science fiction fans to exhibit and promote gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered films and videos in the genre of science fiction and fantasy. With few science fiction/fantasy film festivals out there and none with the focus of the GLBT community, the need for such a festival is wanted," OUTer organizers told the press.

Austin was chosen for this festival because of its growing wealth of talent, industry and support for independent filmmakers, they added.

For more information or submission form, access www.outerfilmfest.com or send email to outerfilmfest@hotmail.com.

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Austin was chosen for this festival because of its growing wealth of talent, industry and support for independent filmmakers, they added.

For more information or submission form, access www.outermoviefest.com or send email to outermoviefest@hotmail.com.

Comics Headline 'A Night at the Majestic'

Tickets are now on sale and going fast, organizers say, for "A Night at The Majestic" featuring Joy Behar, co-host of ABC's daytime talk show *The View*, along with out comics Bob Smith and Judy Gold. The show takes place on Sunday, October 24 at Dallas' Majestic Theatre, located at 1925 Elm Street. It benefits AIDS Interfaith Network and Turtle Creek Chorale, and is sponsored by American Airlines.

"A Night at The Majestic' is a fantastic way to support these worthy charities, while enjoying a hilarious evening of fun!" say organizers.

Tickets can be purchased through Ticketmaster at www.ticketmaster.com/artist/932701, or 214-373-8000, starting at \$28. A small number of VIP tickets are also still available for \$125. VIP ticket holders receive orchestra-level seating and entrance to the post-show VIP reception.

Fashion Extravaganza to Benefit San Antonio AIDS Foundation

North Star Mall, Advanced Medical Imaging and MAC VIVA GLAM have joined together the fashion leaders and medical community to organize Fashionation, a fashion event fundraiser to benefit the San Antonio AIDS Foundation, on Wednesday, November 10, at the Municipal Auditorium.

"North Star is pleased to be partnering and sharing in this event with other leaders in our community," says Camilla Basse, retail marketing manager for North Star. "We also hope this event will continue to raise awareness and support for organizations that contribute to the physical, emotional, and spiritual well being of the people living with AIDS and their healthcare providers."

Participating merchants from North Star include A'GACI, bebe, caché, Dillard's, Foley's, Lillie Rubin, MAC VIVA GLAM, Macy's and Visible Changes.

Mitchell Productions has enlisted students from the fashion department of the University of the Incarnate Word to help create an elaborately orchestrated fashion event.

The main goals of Fashionation are to expose the community to the good works of the San Antonio AIDS Foundation and introduce it to a new audience. All proceeds from the event will benefit the San Antonio AIDS Foundation.

"HIV/AIDS in San Antonio reflects San Antonio's diverse make-up with infection among youth, minorities and women, the fastest growing," David Ewell, Executive Director of the San Antonio AIDS Foundation explained. "With no recent treatment advances or vaccines, prevention, including HIV antibody testing, remains our greatest weapon against this terrible disease."

Proceeds will help the Foundation increase its education and testing efforts for Bexar and surrounding counties, especially among youth.

Fashionation will begin with "supper by the bite" catered by The RK Group and cocktails by Grey Goose. A silent auction will also help supplement fundraising efforts and offer attendees a variety of unique items from local artists, craftsman and businesses. The evening will culminate with an elaborate fashion show that will showcase North Star Mall retailers, local celebrity models and much more.

Table seats start at \$75 and show-only tickets are available for \$20. Info: www.fashionation.org or 210-225-4715.

In Memoriam

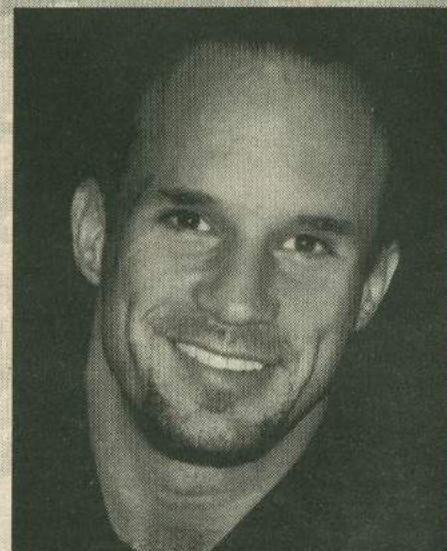
Christopher Allen Graham

Christopher Allen Graham, 34, passed on October 3, 2004 at his home in Manhattan, New York. Chris was in the company of his partner of six years, Fred Caputo, and that of several friends as he passed into God's hands. Chris courageously battled AIDS for many years and during his last few days, he truly revealed the incredible and brave man that he was.

Chris was born and raised in San Antonio and is survived by his mother JJ, brothers Brian, Bruce, and Mitchell and sister Shannon. He was also loved and cherished by Noel Rodriguez, Alex Chavarria, Glenn Footman, Tim Anthony, Nelson Vergel and Tracy Stajcar and many others that he met throughout his life.

Angels come to us in many ways. Chris had an incredible way of lifting one up and inspiring people to be more than they ever thought they could be. His endless love and caring for others filled the lives of everyone that he touched. He will truly be missed.

Chris also shared his passion for the gay and lesbian community by working for the Resource Group of Houston. He was also successfully self-employed as a Certified Personal Trainer in Houston, Dallas and New York City. In addition, Chris loved to entertain and shared his passion for his community with others. Among his many titles, Chris proudly represented his home state as Mr. Gay Texas All American. He was a true inspiration as he had an unbelievable way of making one



accept the person they were and to acknowledge that it was OK.

A loving partner, friend, confidant, and mentor, a true inspiration, Chris touched the lives of so many people. Chris had an insatiable thirst for life—a life that should be celebrated and honored.

A Memorial Mass will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, November 5, at St. Paul The Apostle Church in New York City. Family and friends are invited to attend. In lieu of flowers, please contact Noel at Noelindallas@hotmail.com for a list of preferred charitable organizations.



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**Saturday
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dive on in

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ALONG CAME THE SPIDERS

Skeleton

recent treatment advances or vaccines, prevention, including HIV antibody testing, remains our greatest weapon against this terrible disease."

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Fashionation will begin with "supper by the bite" catered by The RK Group and cocktails by Grey Goose. A silent auction will also help supplement fundraising efforts and offer attendees a variety of unique items from local artists, craftsman and businesses. The evening will culminate with an elaborate fashion show that will showcase North Star Mall retailers, local celebrity models and much more.

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ble way of lifting one up and inspiring people to be more than they ever thought they could be. His endless love and caring for others filled the lives of everyone that he touched. He will truly be missed.

Chris also shared his passion for the gay and lesbian community by working for the Resource Group of Houston. He was also successfully self-employed as a Certified Personal Trainer in Houston, Dallas and New York City. In addition, Chris loved to entertain and shared his passion for his community with others. Among his many titles, Chris proudly represented his home state as Mr. Gay Texas All American. He was a true inspiration as he had an unbelievable way of making one

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News With A View

You're Doin' Fine, Oklahoma!

Here's a twist in one of our closest Senate races, the contest in Oklahoma for Don Nickles' seat that pits Republican Congressman and whacko conservo-doctor, Tom Coburn, against his Democrat House colleague, Brad Carson. According to the Associated Press, Coburn went off on an intriguing tangent on August 31, telling a small campaign audience that "rampant" lesbianism had become a major problem in southeastern Oklahoma's public schools. Coburn said a campaign worker from Coalgate described the phenomenon as so serious, that school officials will only let one girl go to the bathroom at a time.

"Now think about it," Coburn urged the crowd. "Think about that issue. How is it that that's happened to us?"

(And why, many of us wonder, wasn't it happening back in the mid-'70s in Central Texas?)

Somehow, Brad Carson's campaign got hold of a tape of the discussion and released it to the public as an example of Coburn's tendency to wander around in left field without a mitt. Speaking to the Associated Press, the School Superintendent in Coalgate, Joe McCully, said this was the first he had heard of the alleged rampant lesbianism in his district. "He knows something I don't know," McCully said of Coburn. "We have not identified anything like that. We have not had to deal with any issues on that subject—ever."

Coburn subsequently said that the comment "was taken out of context to make something an issue in this campaign that is not." This is the same guy, by the way, who according to Salon.com told fellow Republicans last spring that the gay community "has infiltrated the very centers of power in every area across this country," and wields "extreme power." Well that explains it, then. We've got Joe McCully in our hip pocket, and we're having our way with anyone who sets foot in the Coalgate High ladies' room. One girl at a time, of course.

In related news, vandals struck Carson's Tulsa campaign office on Sunday night, writing "Carson lies," "Liberal," and "Leave Tulsa alone." Tough town! As of October 10, Carson was up by two points, at 40 percent to Coburn's 38 percent.

Open Wide!

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ity count somewhere down the line?

I don't know exactly what he said. I mean, what can you say when you're caught jacking off into a syringe and downloading the contents into someone's mouth without permission? Did he think the women wouldn't notice his seedy behavior? And more importantly, why is the Dental Board still mincing around with Dr. Freakazoid? For God's sake, just confiscate the man's picks and mirrors and send him on his way. Maybe he can run for the Oklahoma state legislature or join the Catholic church.

Come to the Cabaret!

Armand has also sent me news that breast implants are catching on among men with psychological problems in Shanghai. According to Reuters, there's a macho version of a breast implant that bulks up your pectoral muscles.

Thanks, Armand. Keep 'em coming.

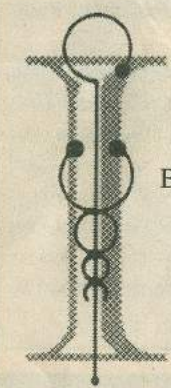
It's not as if Armand does all my research work. I discovered the new gay German cannibal story all by myself, for example. Actually, I'm not sure the term "cannibal" is applicable, because although the latest victim was dismembered, he was not eaten and he may not have been partially stored in the fridge as early reports suggested. According to the German wire service, DPA, the "mutilated remains" of a 33-year-old piano teacher were found in the suspect's apartment in one of Berlin's more dangerous neighborhoods. The men had met in a gay S&M chat room and one early article sported the enticing headline: "Germany Rattled By New Gay Cannibal." But now it appears to be nothing more than your run-of-the-mill gay S&M murder in Berlin. According to DPA, "police dismissed lurid tabloid press reports that the murderer, an unemployed house painter, had told police officers: 'I wanted to eat parts of the corpse.'"

And I could imagine the whole thing from the paint-stained overalls to the Marlene Dietrich accent. Ah, well. Maybe next week.

Speaking of singers beginning with "M," you heard, I'm sure, that Melissa Etheridge has breast cancer, but is expected to be just fine. Etheridge's publicist said the cancer was caught in an early stage, and that she is expected to make a "speedy and complete recovery." She has had to cancel a dozen concerts in seven cities.

DeMinted

Shifting back to politics, our friend Jim DeMint, the GOP Senate can-

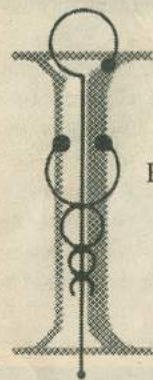


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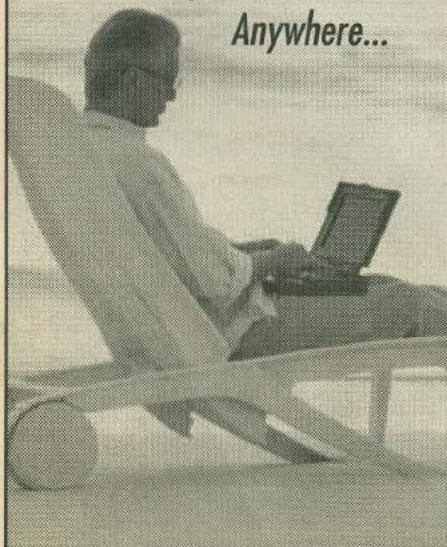
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Open Wide!

I know. I wrote that whole thing about Oklahoma without mentioning the goddamn football game. In fact, I'm finally going to follow the standing instructions of my California editors and refrain from discussing Big Twelve and/or University of Texas football for the entire season. Yes, the entire season. No Longhorn comments. No analysis. Nothing about the offensive coordinators. Nothing about our fifth loss against Oklahoma in as many years, nor a word about my fifth personal lost bet on this annual fiasco.

I'm over it. Instead, let's talk about what my news list refers to as "semen dentist," a gift from Armand in LA who sent me the AP item, dated Charlotte, North Carolina. According to the wire service, dentist Dr. John Hall has been accused of injecting his own sperm into the mouths of six female patients, while a seventh patient has charged the man with "gyrating against her lower body in a sexual manner." The accusations are backed up by several former employees, who brought their suspicions to police last year.

Hall's license was temporarily suspended by the Dental Board a year ago November, but was (inexplicably) restored last February with the proviso that Hall may not tend to women patients without a chaperone. Hello! Now, the man is facing hearings by the Board to determine his ultimate fate. One of his former assistants, Cheryl MacLeod, told examiners that Hall would send her out of the office to fetch things that were not needed or used, and that she also saw him make women swallow a strange substance from a syringe. Eventually, MacLeod and another assistant took the used syringes out of the trash and gave them to the police. Later, police found several more syringes in Hall's desk, all loaded up with semen and, um, ready for action. Hall explained that he was taking a drug that might affect his sperm count, so—uh—so what? He was, ahhh, keeping his sperm handy for, um, a mutil-

toral muscles.

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DeMinted

Shifting back to politics, our friend Jim DeMint, the GOP Senate candidate from South Carolina, has sorta kinda apologized for a debate comment the other day, when he said openly gay men and women should not teach in public schools. But here's the latest. A few days after the debate, DeMint told an interviewer that unwed pregnant women should not be allowed to teach in public schools either. Then, he turned around and apologized for that particular assertion, while deliberately not refuting his anti-gay remarks.

"As my wife often reminds me," said DeMint in reference to the slam on pregnant teachers, "sometimes my heart disengages from my head and I say something I shouldn't and that's what happened yesterday. I clearly said something as a dad that I just shouldn't have said."

Then, during the second debate last Tuesday, DeMint appeared to retract his entire discourse on the subject of public school teachers when he was asked about both gay and pregnant teachers. "I answered that question as a dad, with my heart," DeMint said. "I shouldn't have answered that question. It's a local school board issue, and I apologize because it's distracted from the debate, and I want to focus on the issues that can help us build a better future in this country." Nonetheless, as the local press noted, it wasn't clear if DeMint was sorry for what he had said, or simply apologizing for having caused a stir.

I haven't seen any new polling on that race since these contortions, but I did read that DeMint is not doing himself any favors of late. He was leading Inez Tenenbaum by six points as of October 6 and I assume the race has tightened since then. You go, Inez!



By Ann Rostow

Funny Bunning?

Now speaking of the Senate races, get this! I read a fascinating account of the Kentucky Senate race on Salon, which suggests that the 73-year-old incumbent Jim Bunning is acting extremely weird, and is suspected by some of being in a declining mental state. The Kentucky seat was expected to be a slam-dunk for the Republicans, and Bunning had a 20-plus point lead earlier this summer. But that was before he started behaving oddly, reading speeches slowly in a monotone, lashing out with inaccurate negative ads (that have backfired), and lying about statements that had been recorded on videotape. (In one instance, he told a group of Republicans that his opponent, Daniel Mongiardi, looked like one of Saddam Hussein's sons, and dressed like one of them too. On another occasion, he wrongly told a Chamber of Commerce group that federal funds would not be available for one of two bridges scheduled to be built in Louisville. Both times, Salon reports, Bunning denied making these remarks until the evidence emerged.)

Anyway, Bunning was supposed to debate Mongiardi last Monday, but he abruptly cancelled, explaining that he had to be in Washington, even though the Senate has no business scheduled. Mongiardi's offer to fly to Washington was rejected, and instead, the Senator has taped a debate from a closed location in D.C., where there is no way of making sure that he is not receiving help. That debate will air Wednesday night, but people who have seen it tell Salon it looks as if Bunning is reading off a teleprompter. Bunning leads that race by six points, but it sounds as if he could be on the verge of a free fall, doesn't it?

Activist, Heal Thyself

Let's see what else we have on our plate. Do you recognize the name Phil Burress? You should. He is the leader of the anti-gay forces in Ohio, the man on the front lines of the Buckeye anti-marriage amendment and the captain of the line defending Cincinnati's anti-gay Amendment XII from a repeal effort. What I hadn't realized, however, is that Mr. Burress is a "recovering porn addict" as the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* puts it, and has been married three times. Burress has set himself up as a crusader against porn by having his (current) wife read and review porn books and flicks and summarize her findings. That way, Burress doesn't have to tempt himself with the offending material.

How do these people get away with this! Doesn't anyone notice that an abnormally high percentage of these moral crusaders are themselves deeply disturbed by their own sexuality, whatever that might be? You've got Peter LaBarbera sneaking into gay sex clubs to "monitor" the goings on, Fred Phelps drawing little pictures of gay male orgies and faxing them around the country, while Lou Sheldon and his daughter, Andrea, pore over the latest gay porn books for their own "research." Creeps! They make Dr. Hall look like Marcus Welby.

Letters...

Submit your thoughts to
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Ignorance is Alive and Well in the White House

I wish to express my concerns regarding our Vice President and his apparent lack of knowledge surrounding the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the United States, especially among African American women. I was watching that debate with great interest and was totally appalled at the Vice-Presidents answer—for a leader of our country, a country that us 20+ years into the HIV/AIDS pandemic to *not* be aware of that simple statistic is totally unacceptable, especially those of us in the HIV prevention arena, and most especially those of us who are HIV positive.

The attitude Mr. Cheney exhibited show just how "out of touch" our elected officials are with their constituencies.

I further strongly encourage the remaining debate monitors to press the Presidential candidates to challenge each candidates stand on the HIV/AIDS issue—lay out some *real* things they intend to offer show us the money (and be honest about it—not what they did to the Global Fund). To admit that abstinence only does not work, to tell the truth about the efficacy of proper condom use.

Senator Kerry at least has some info on his web site (www.johnkerry.com/issues/health_care/aid_s.html) regarding his views on dealing with the pandemic. Why Senator Edwards was unable to quote this statement is of large

really stand.

People are still dying, folks, and "We Can Do Better" and "Four More Years of the Same" will not address the issue.

Brenda Thomas
 Via internet

Love Notes

I have told you this before, but I want to reiterate how much I enjoy your column. Every week, I can't wait to turn to it to enjoy your sense of humor.

It is refreshing to read such witty accounts of world news from someone literate. I have a degree in English, and when you allude to literary works, like Eliot's "Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock," I just rejoice. You have a great sense of humor, and I think that the *Triangle* would do well to keep you on staff (feel free to forward this...maybe you will get a raise).

Thanks for making me laugh.

Cidney
 Via internet

I am happy to see gay relationships highlighted in a series of articles in the *Texas Triangle*. My partner of over 21 years and I don't see too much in the way of long term relationships and we always are interested in learning more about other gay relationships.

Keep up the good work!

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You Can Call Me Fifi

Well, I have only a few paragraphs left to rail about the Australian election (nasty conservatives strengthened their hand), to tell you about the Russian politician who supports the death penalty for gay sex (fortunately he lacks political allies on this issue), and to tell you about the Quebec man who has won a thousand bucks from a car dealer who called him "fifi," a rude slang word for gay.

According to the CBC, the man sued Roger Poirier Automobile, a dealership 70 kilometers northeast of Montreal, after salesman Marcel Bardier employed what the judge called "hurtful and vexatious terms" to describe the unidentified plaintiff. The use of the expression Fifi, continued Judge Michele Pauze, "adds to the disgrace and lack of respect of human dignity" that homosexuals in particular may have to suffer. *Mais c'est affreux tout ça!*

And finally, despite all my warnings in these pages, readers of the gay press apparently sat on their hands while far right Christians elected Park Gillespie the winner of Showtime's *American Candidate* reality show. "If God shows me any more kindness and love that is so undeserved, I think I will melt," Gillespie told the Focus on the Family newsletter disarmingly after his victory. "It's been about Him since the beginning, and I am humbled and honored by the entire experience."

Listen, let's be fair about this, OK? We will cede Mr. Gillespie this win with graciousness and good sportsmanship. In turn, the conservative Christian right can be equally magnanimous on the evening of November 2, when the Big Guy in the Sky comes out for Kerry and Edwards and all of us yellow dogs get that warm and fuzzy feeling.

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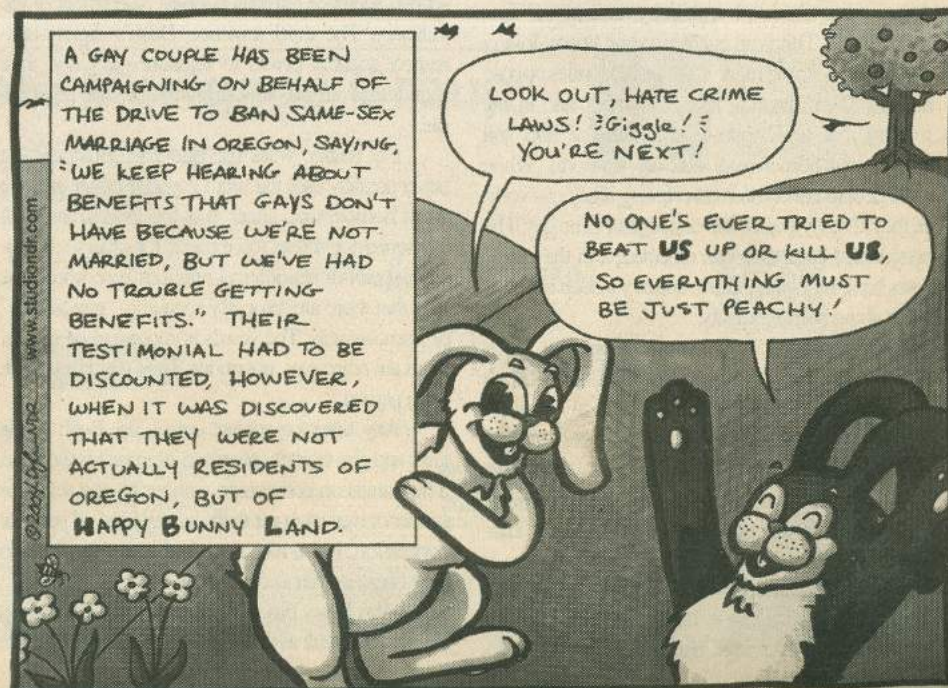
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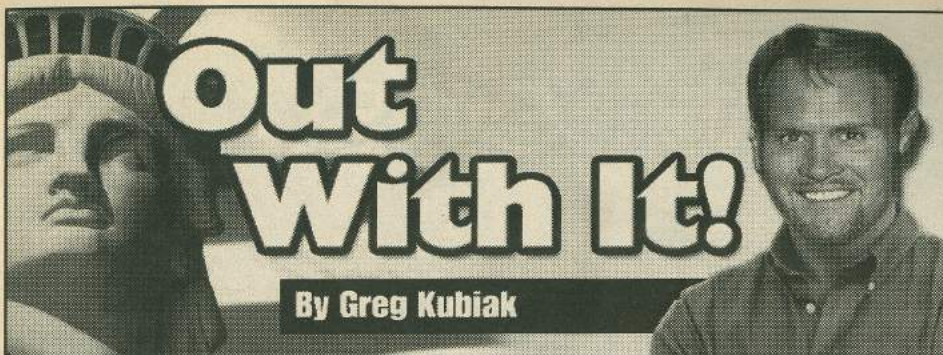
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Keep up the good work!

Mark & Lyndon
Via internet





Reunions and Retreating

"This above all: to thine own self be true, And it must follow, as the night the day, Thou can not then be false to any man." —from William Shakespeare's Hamlet

I don't remember reading much Shakespeare in high school. And by college, English literature took a back seat to political science. But when I returned to my university for a class reunion, I got a stark reminder of why those words are important.

It had been a good ten years since I'd gone back to my alma mater on an autumn football home game weekend. So when the chance presented itself in the form of a class reunion, I thought, "Why not?"

Of course, no reunion would be complete without the "get-reacquainted luncheon", the "see how much has changed" campus tour, and the reception/dinner with class pictures.

I was waiting in the registration line for the lunch last Friday, when I ran into Lisa—the one person in my class I figured I could count on to show up. Not because she would-

n't have anything better to do, but because I sensed in her a mature and balanced love of the place and the people.

The last I'd heard from Lisa, she moved out of state, finished her pre-med studies, and married a professional athlete. I just love hanging with over-achievers.

Just as we were moving to the lunch in the Student Union ballroom, Lisa and I ran into Aline. It took me a split second more to recognize her, but I remembered my freshman year using some name recognition technique that linked Aline to her hometown of Granite, Oklahoma. (I guess I pictured her likeness etched in a granite hillside or something.)

So, off the three of us went to find a seat in the crowd of 400 for lunch.

Making small talk with someone you've not seen in one or two decades can be a challenge, even for the best of conversationalists. I discovered that Aline ran her own business and was married. She laid a trap that I never saw coming causing me to make a socially inexcusable mistake.

"So, Aline, do you two have any kids?"

People in the South and Midwest ask this

all the time, having not learned yet from the learned coast-dwellers that this, and the marriage question, are not appropriate. They could be sterile or have had stillbirths. You should wait for them to offer such information. But then the topic was fair game.

"No. But we've got two loving dogs that we spoil to no end. How about you? Are you married?"

I should have known it was coming. "Stupid," I called myself.

I mumbled a polite, "No, that hadn't happened yet," as we found our seats and someone else to greet.

Of course, I felt horrible about my response. My partner, wearing a ring that matches mine, and our dog were back home. Both deserved more complete honesty than that.

But in my defense, I told myself during the wilted lettuce salad that my response was not in any way inaccurate. I was not legally "married." And in fact, if the President had his way, I would be Constitutionally forbidden to do so, in addition to the current legal restrictions barring my doing so.

For all I knew in that moment, Aline was married to a Southern Baptist televangelist who recently preached against gay marriage, or she was on her state's Re-Elect Bush committee. Who wants to pick a fight before cheesecake?

Plenty of other conversation ensued during the lunch, so when it was over, the three of us said we'd see each other in a few hours at the picture-taking reception.

By then, I felt more comfortable with Aline and Lisa and the other former class-

mates we'd connected with. In conversation, I dropped lines about "we" went to New York last month and "my partner and I" just got a dog. I was fully prepared to answer any question about being gay and in a relationship.

No more closeted responses to who I really am!

I pumped out my chest—ready to take any blows from a former classmate who may have taken a fundamentalist turn since our college days. But none came.

So after Lisa made a comment about her husband and his business, I asked.

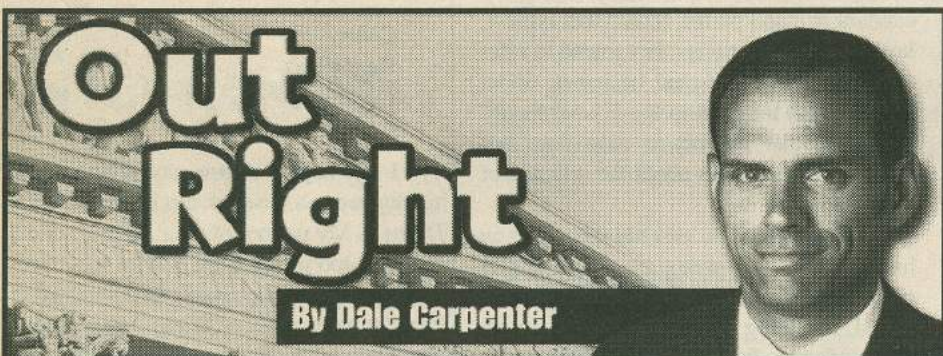
"So what *is* Mark doing these days?" I had just lit a short fuse.

For the next 15 minutes, Lisa railed at what a lying cheat, petty, sorry sonofabitch "that man" was. (She'd divorced Mark and remarried.) Carefully wielding her second glass of Chardonnay to illustrate her disdain for "that man," Lisa enlightened us as to what she would tolerate as a wife and life partner to a man.

After her controlled rant, I was able to tell Lisa than I too met a new, wonderful man. We bonded just like we had when we were freshmen years before.

We both apparently learned a lot since our days in college. Mainly that it is important to be true to yourself first, or "thou can not then be false to any man," just like Billy Shakespeare said.

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



Double-Talk in the

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Highlighting the homosexuality of an opponent's child is a very odd way to begin an answer. While the moderator's question itself had vaguely referred to Cheney's "family experience," nothing in it stated that Cheney's daughter is gay. Edwards must have known that his own comments would be the first time millions of people would hear about it.

gone back to my alma mater on an autumn football home game weekend. So when the chance presented itself in the form of a class reunion, I thought, "Why not?"

Of course, no reunion would be complete without the "get-reacquainted luncheon", the "see how much has changed" campus tour, and the reception/dinner with class pictures.

I was waiting in the registration line for the lunch last Friday, when I ran into Lisa—the one person in my class I figured I could count on to show up. Not because she would-

Oklahoma. (I guess I pictured her likeness etched in a granite hillside or something.)

So, off the three of us went to find a seat in the crowd of 400 for lunch.

Making small talk with someone you've not seen in one or two decades can be a challenge, even for the best of conversationalists. I discovered that Aline ran her own business and was married. She laid a trap that I never saw coming causing me to make a socially inexcusable mistake.

"So, Aline, do you two have any kids?"

People in the South and Midwest ask this

For all I knew in that moment, Aline was married to a Southern Baptist televangelist who recently preached against gay marriage, or she was on her state's Re-Elect Bush committee. Who wants to pick a fight before cheesecake?

Plenty of other conversation ensued during the lunch, so when it was over, the three of us said we'd see each other in a few hours at the picture-taking reception.

By then, I felt more comfortable with Aline and Lisa and the other former class-

men years before.

We both apparently learned a lot since our days in college. Mainly that it is important to be true to yourself first, or "thou can not then be false to any man," just like Billy Shakespeare said.

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



Double-Talk in the Presidential Campaign

Every public discussion of gay issues in America is packed with ambiguity, nuance, and double meaning. This is an egalitarian and liberty-loving country with strong religious faith: Majorities oppose anti-gay discrimination in employment and in the military, but also oppose gay marriage and still believe that homosexual acts are immoral. While most people are comfortable having a gay co-worker, they'd never want a son or daughter to be gay. The presidential campaign has reflected, and the candidates have manipulated, the country's deep ambivalence about homosexuality.

George W. Bush has developed a stock response to almost any gay-related question. It involves both substantively opposing gay equality and rhetorically reassuring everyone he's not a bigot, all without ever using the word "gay."

Consider Bush's various statements on gay marriage over the past year. Collected and condensed, they amount to this: "I believe marriage is between a man and a woman. Activist judges and local officials are trying to change this definition, so we must protect marriage. But as we debate this, let's

treat everyone with dignity and respect."

The man-and-woman mantra of the first sentence enjoys 70 percent support in elections, but especially appeals to religious conservatives. The second sentence exploits populist resentment of the judiciary. The third sentence, Bush's dignity-and-respect mantra, pivots to reassure gays and their friends and families that Bush doesn't hate gay people.

No matter what the question, Bush almost never actually uses the word gay. (He never uses the word homosexual, either. It is too clinical and old-fashioned for some, too explicit for others.) A substantial part of his political-religious base rejects the idea that there are, properly speaking, "gay people" or homosexuals. The words homosexual or gay for them are adjectives, not nouns. They describe an act, not a person.

Any time the subject comes up, Bush wants gays and gay-friendly people to interpret his words as a humanitarian concession without having religious conservatives interpret them as any kind of political concession. It is a nice rhetorical trick that plays on the hopes and fears of everyone.

John Kerry has a different challenge but plays similar rhetorical tricks. While he has a long Senate

record of supporting gay equality, he never mentions gay issues in his presidential campaign unless asked about them.

Even when asked, his answers have gotten increasingly Delphic. His stock response on gay issues now involves confirming he supports liberty while reassuring us he's not for license.

So while he supported letting gays serve in the military during the Democratic primaries, Kerry has since voiced concerns about "unit cohesion" and morale. These are code words for opposing gays in the military.

On gay marriage, Kerry always deploys the man-and-woman mantra. (See above.) Asked to defend his position, he invokes his "religious" convictions. That's a nod to religious conservatives.

When Missouri passed a state constitutional amendment banning gay marriages even before a single judge there had ordered the state to recognize such marriages, Kerry told the mainstream media he had "no problem" with the amendment. Advised later by a gay reporter that the amendment also banned civil unions, Kerry said he opposed it. Informed still later that the amendment did not in fact ban civil unions, his campaign said he had no position. So, as Kerry might put it, he actually did support the amendment before he opposed it before he was neutral.

Most richly ambiguous of all was the performance of John Edwards in the vice presidential debate. Asked about gay marriage, Edwards peppered his response with the man-and-woman mantra no fewer than three times while declaring his opposition to a constitutional amendment and his support for largely unspecified "benefits" for gay couples.

And here is how Edwards began his answer: "Let me first say that I think the vice president and his wife love their daughter. I think they love her very

much. And you can't have anything but respect for the fact that they're willing to talk about the fact that they have a gay daughter, the fact that they embrace her. It's a wonderful thing. And there are millions of parents like that who love their children, who want their children to be happy."

Highlighting the homosexuality of an opponent's child is a very odd way to begin an answer. While the moderator's question itself had vaguely referred to Cheney's "family experience," nothing in it stated that Cheney's daughter is gay. Edwards must have known that his own comments would be the first time millions of people would hear about it. Why would he introduce this fact into a nationally televised debate?

To many listeners, Edwards' answer humanized the gay-marriage issue by calling attention to the effect that denying marriage has on the lives of actual people. It also affirmed the morality of loving one's own children, gay or not. That message needs to be heard by families who have rejected gay children.

But learning of Cheney's gay daughter likely had a very different effect on some of Bush's conservative supporters. It suggested that the administration might not be as trustworthy on gay issues as they had thought. After all, Edwards just told them that the Cheney half of the Bush-Cheney ticket has been infiltrated by the enemy.

Did Edwards intend to produce that homophobic but politically useful effect? He predictably denies any double meaning. Such is the complexity of talk about gay issues in this country that we'll never really know.

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

Real Estate

Triangle

Buy • Sell • Rental • Mortgage • Insurance

Live vs. Online Mortgage

By Benjamin Sullivan-Coate

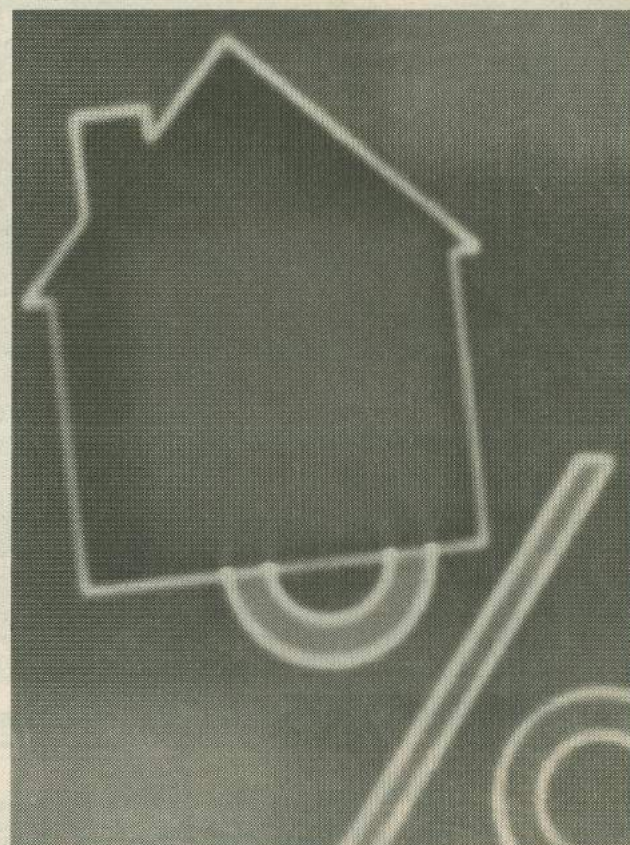
These days, it seems you can do just about anything online. An increasing number of homebuyers are even using the Internet to arrange the financing to buy their new homes. Online lending is advertised as being quicker and cheaper than conventional mortgage lending. However, most buyers

will find that by selecting a live, local mortgage expert they can avoid of an array of potentially agonizing or costly mistakes.

Many borrowers assume that an online lender can deliver a loan faster than can a "real world" lender. In most cases, that is not true. You can call or visit a mortgage banker in your neighborhood and they will have immediate access to an automated underwriting system. Generally, you can get an answer within minutes. The answer might be an immediate approval. If not, your mortgage expert will assist you in identifying what documentation is required to process the loan application. That way, you won't waste time gathering unnecessary information and documentation. Either way, you will have direct and immediate contact with someone who is acquainted with your needs and is uniquely qualified to make recommendations that further your financial goals.

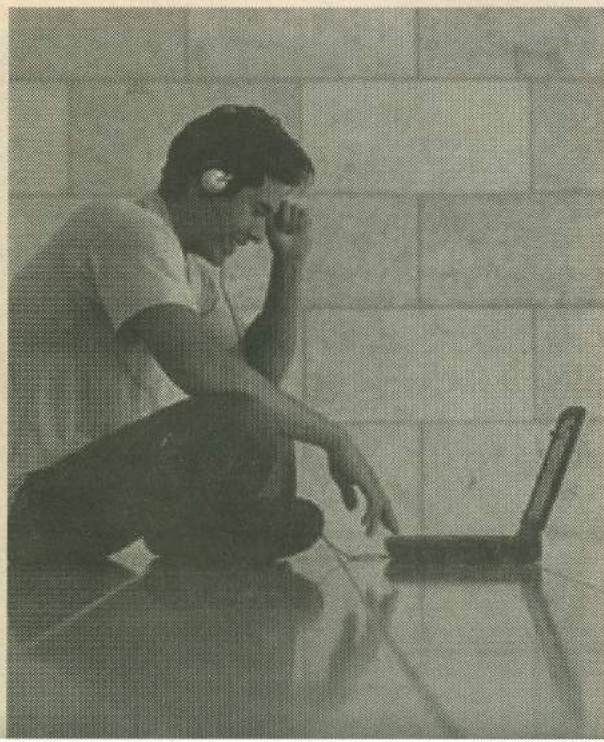
Some things in life just are not "one size fits all". A mortgage is one of those. Because of this, mortgage websites typically don't work well for shoppers with less than top-notch credit or for first-time homebuyers who have unique financial goals. A personal understanding of the customer's situation makes a mortgage banker an invaluable asset.

One of the biggest complaints about online lenders is the lack of customer service. When you work with someone local, they have a vested interest in making sure you are happy with your choice of financing. They are also accountable if things go wrong. Should a prob-



you could find yourself alone in dealing with the problem.

The Internet itself is an excellent source for information that can be used to compare loans and to learn about the mortgage process. There are many unbiased resources available to help the consumer become more educated. Take that knowledge and discuss your home financing options with a local mortgage banker. The choices you make today can affect you and your family



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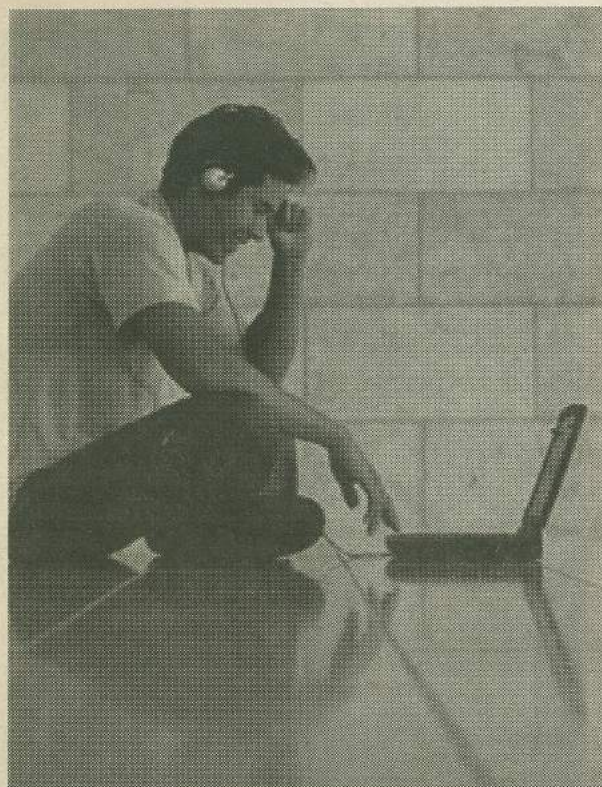
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One of the biggest complaints about online lenders is the lack of customer service. When you work with someone local, they have a vested interest in making sure you are happy with your choice of financing. They are also accountable if things go wrong. Should a problem occur when doing business with an online lender



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The Internet itself is an excellent source for information that can be used to compare loans and to learn about the mortgage process. There are many unbiased resources available to help the consumer become more educated. Take that knowledge and discuss your home financing options with a local mortgage banker. The choices you make today can affect you and your family for many years to come!



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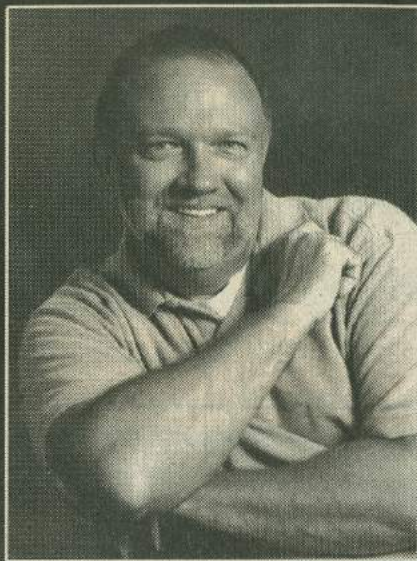
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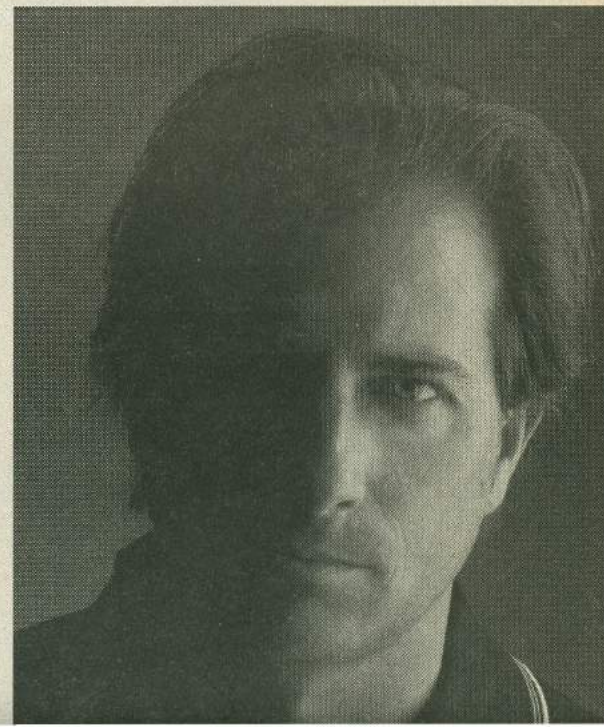
By Bill Evans

Over the past few months, I have really enjoyed introducing you to some of the clients and friends that I have worked with here in Austin. This month, I am honored to introduce you to yet another great friend (and occasional client), Bryan. Some of you may already be fans of Bryan's, and you may be familiar with his Austin-based web-site.

Bryan was actually referred to me by some of our mutual friends, and after a brief meeting, things just kind of clicked between the two of us. We immediately connected on many levels, and found we had a lot in common. We also found that our individual strengths and weaknesses complimented each other. I knew a lot about the housing market in Austin, and Bryan could come to my rescue more than once to fix my computer and internet challenges!

Bryan started our business relationship with a list of criteria that we worked together to fulfill. Being an A-type personality, he was more interested in the bottom-line than he was with the minutiae of the transaction. This is what Bryan had to say about the experience he had with me as his REALTOR®:

"I found Bill after some



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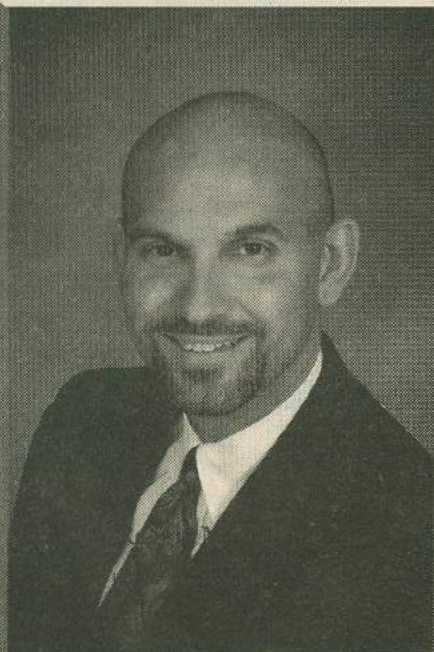
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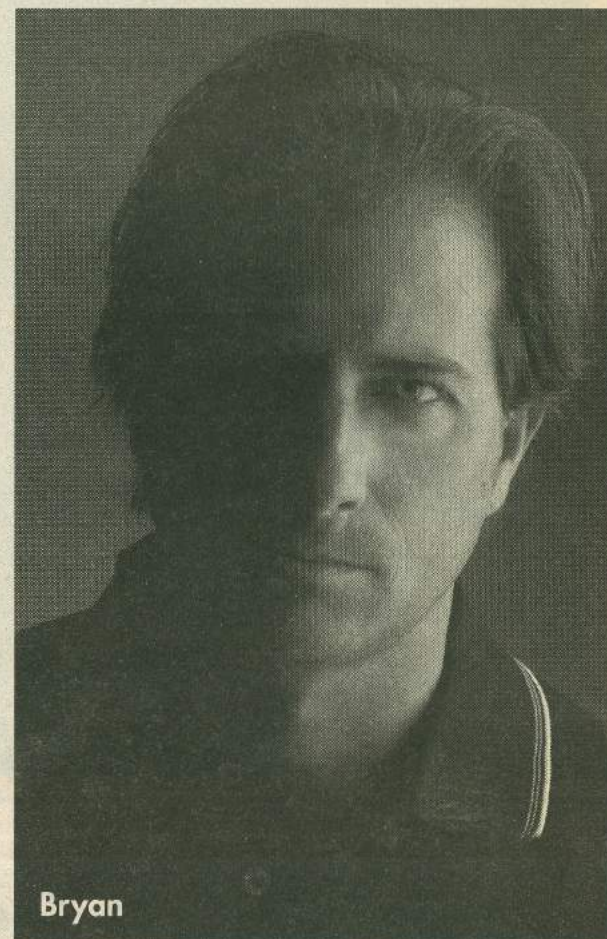
"I found Bill after some major shake-ups in my life. He listened intently as I outlined where I was and where I wanted to go. Bill quickly made my goals his own. Suddenly it was like I had a whole team working for me!

One of Bill's best attributes is his tenacity. We managed to find an awesome house, and despite a difficult set of circumstances, Bill made it all happen.

After two years in that house, we stumbled onto another terrific house that I knew would be the next investment and my stepping stone to a larger plan. Again, Bill was there for the whole process, making things "happen" as he often does and guarding against any missteps on my part. Soon, I suspect, I will be looking for the next house to invest in, and I will for sure have Bill at my side to help me realize my goal.

I got more than I bargained for. Not only did I get a terrific REALTOR®, but I also got an awesome friend."

It is really a pleasure meeting new friends and helping them realize their goals, whether it is to purchase their first home, or to sell their existing home and move up to their next property. If you or someone you know is looking for a good and qualified REALTOR®, someone who will put your wants and needs above his own, feel free to give me and my team a call. We are available to you at 512-458-3730. You can always reach me on my cell phone, 512-797-7587, or by e-mail, bill@austinrealpros.com.



Bryan

Real Estate



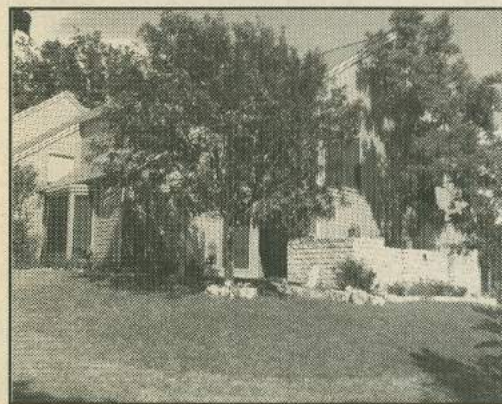
World of Tennis Offers Unique Living Opportunity

By Fred Wells

One of the world's "top 50" tennis resorts, the World of Tennis condominium complex has completed a \$1,500,000 re-do, face lift, makeover. It is now rejuvenated and absolutely stunning. Gone is the brown cedar siding—so '70s!—and replacing it is ship-lap Hardiplank® in a Williamsburg green that the paint company calls Mountain Mist. The entire complex is now accented with limestone walls at the end of each building.

Located 23 miles northwest and only 35 minutes from downtown Austin, the family friendly World of Tennis is in Lakeway on Lake Travis. Known to divers as the clearest fresh-water lake in Texas, Lake Travis is almost 25 miles long stretching to Marble Falls and is dotted with a score of intimate coves off the main body of the lake.

If you have dreamed of owning a home in the Texas Hill Country, your timing could not be better. Recent sales have ranged from \$97,000 to \$160,000; some fully furnished! Truly, an investment grade opportunity. Whether for an intimate weekend and vacation getaway or a full time home, the townhouses at the World of Tennis can be your dream come true.

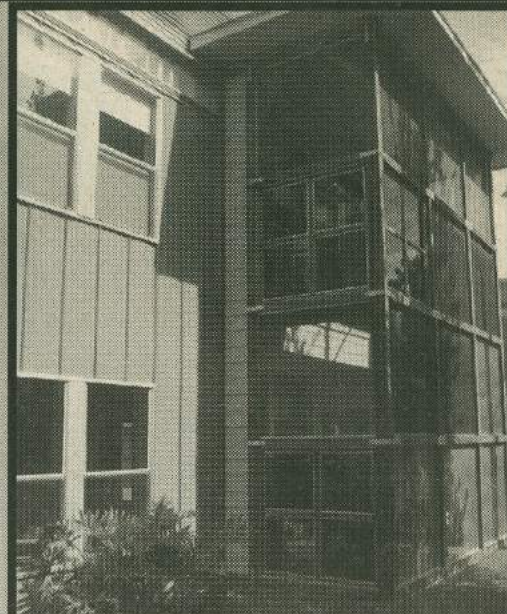


square feet; 2,000 square feet; and 2,180 square feet.

Your pleasure is what Lakeway is all about. Five golf courses within ten minutes, Lake Travis within five minutes, or strenuous sun bathing just out your door—all provide the resort atmosphere you so richly deserve. Built in the '70s by three gentlemen from Dallas (Lamar Hunt, Bob Albert and Albert Hill, Jr.)

The townhouses at the World of Tennis range in size from a cozy 2 bedroom, 2 1/2 baths at 1610 square feet to 4 bedrooms, 4 baths at 2,272 square feet. In between there are three three-bedroom, three-bath plans: 1,680

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This flexible dwelling is part stand-alone townhouse and part loft. What a concept! Arrange the rooms where you want, move them when you want. One of four exclusive units recently built in the Brentwood neighborhood. Downstairs (700 sq ft) features scored/polished concrete floors. As you walk up the custom crafted metal stairs, you enter a 1240+ sq ft area of bedrooms, study, and additional living. The floors upstairs are uniquely designed birch, and the entire 2nd floor is wrapped in a polygal stripe, so There is always sunlight to cheer you. Also a 2 story screened porch. Appliances included.

Offered at \$344,900 - James

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AUSTIN TENNIS, GOLF & LAKE RESORT



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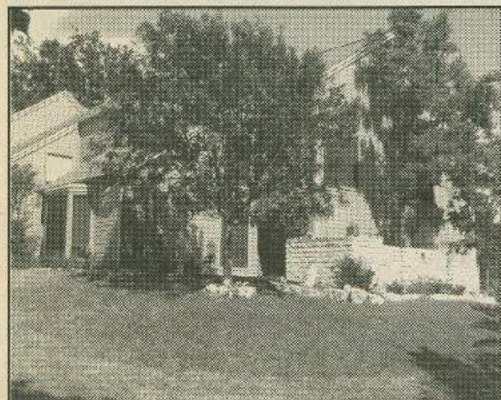
square feet; 2,000 square feet; and 2,180 square feet.

Your pleasure is what Lakeway is all about. Five golf courses within ten minutes, Lake Travis within five minutes, or strenuous sun bathing just out your door—all provide the resort atmosphere you so richly deserve. Built in the '70s by three gentlemen from Dallas (Lamar Hunt, Bob Alpert and Albert Hill, Jr.), almost all of the 106 units have had interior makeovers, new appliances, countertops, floors, etc. The resort-style floor plans are very open and feature floor to ceiling windows, along with a tennis court off each back patio. Many plans have a second level deck providing spectacular views of the hill country with memory making sunsets.

The World of Tennis clubhouse, adjacent to the townhouses and known for the racquet shaped pool, is part of The Hills Country Club and is owned and operated by Club Corporation of America. The "Swim and Trim" membership is currently offered at only \$78 per month and features a recently expanded, 6,000 square-foot fitness facility. And there is a new golf package, called "player development", at the beautiful Yaupon and Live Oak courses costing only \$90 per month with no initiation fee. This could possibly be the biggest bargain in golf.

The Home Owners Association fees include exterior structure maintenance (windows, doors, roof, siding, etc.), structure insurance, landscaping and maintenance of landscaping for 21 beautiful acres, trash collection, exterminator service, landscape lighting, auto gate and exterior window washing twice each year. These extensive services allow you travelers to "lock it and leave it" without a care.

You deserve this opportunity to change your life with a night or two visit to the secure and secluded World of Tennis. Let me arrange a special rate rental for your preview trip. Call Fred Wells at 800-975-5820 or 512-965-5820, Keller Williams Realty. E-mail: Lwells1@austin.rr.com.



when you want. One of four exclusive units recently built in the Brentwood neighborhood. Downstairs (700 sq ft) features scored/polished concrete floors. As you walk up the custom crafted metal stairs, you enter a 1240+ sq ft area of bedrooms, study, and additional living. The floors upstairs are uniquely designed birch, and the entire 2nd floor is wrapped in a polygal stripe, so there is always sunlight to cheer you. Also a 2 story screened porch.

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Come see this fun, fresh, attractive, secluded and secure 21 acre complex. Each townhome backs up to a tennis court, there are 5 golf courses in the immediate area and Lake Travis is but a splash away. Soaring vistas. Auto Gate. Floor to ceiling windows. Wet bars. Solar Screens. Air strip. Spacious, open and bright. The perfect weekend get-a-way for full time luxury living. Only 35 minutes to downtown Austin. Ask about the Resort Rental Program. Solid, steady income return on your investment. As this is written, we have two 3/3's fully furnished: \$122,500 (#139) and \$129,500 (#177). Then there is a totally redone stunner at \$155,000 (#172). See each of these at casa360.com

★ **Fred Wells** ★ 800-975-5820 ★
Keller Williams Realty

Each year, the month of October is traditionally slated as Breast Cancer Awareness Month. But this year, the designation took on new meaning when legendary lesbian rocker Melissa Etheridge announced the cancellation of her remaining *Lucky* tour dates as a result of her own recently-diagnosed breast cancer.

According to her publicist Marcel Pariseau, Etheridge will undergo surgery. Her doctor is expecting a speedy and complete recovery.

"I am fortunate to be under a wonderful doctor's care and thankful that this was caught early," said Etheridge, 43, in a statement to the press. "I am looking forward to a quick and full recovery."

The news comes on the heels of the announcement that Etheridge had been cast in an upcoming sitcom loosely based on her life. She had also recently landed the role of a transgendered character in the made-for-television movie, *Southern Comfort*. No word yet on how the diagnosis will affect either project.

What is expected, however, is that Etheridge's announcement will likely bring a new awareness to the scourge of breast cancer, inspiring thousands of lesbians world-wide to pay at least as much attention to their own breasts as they do to the breast of others.

The staff of *The Texas Triangle* wishes Melissa a uncomplicated and inspiring

Breast Cancer

A new awareness

Michele Forsten, a New York City-based writer, is familiar with that scourge of breast cancer, herself. The following Messays chronicling her experience with breast cancer have been recognized by the 2004 Sarah Pettit Memorial Awards for Excellence in LGBT Media, winning second place.

Vestiges of the Closet

An Orthodox Jewish doctor and a lesbian feminist patient? It didn't seem like a great idea to me back in 1996 when I first starting seeing Dr. A., a breast radiologist who specialized in lumpy breasts like mine.

The truth is, though I am culturally Jewish, I know little about Orthodoxy and assumed that because Dr. A. followed a strict religious practice, he would also be homophobic.

My reservations about him only increased during my first visit to his office, when he beckoned a parade of white-coated colleagues into the exam room to look at the sonogram screen. "You are a very complicated case," he said, by way of explanation, as my already fragile sense of self began to crumble. In most situations, being told you're unique would be a compliment; here, what he said made me feel like a freak in a sideshow.

Unfortunately, I'd been used to having this kind of attention paid to my breasts. They were filled with solid lumps, cysts and scar tissue from previous surgeries to remove benign tumors. Since I was 16 these intruders had popped up in my breasts to the beat of a drummer not in my band. The turmoil within my breasts, combined with my family history, called for vigilant monitoring.

On that first visit to Dr. A., I noticed a small framed photo on a shelf in the exam room. Six attractive young people, ranging in age from about ten to early twenties, posed at the beach. Making conversation, I asked who they were.

"They're my kids," Dr. A. answered. "I don't get to spend much time with them. I'm always working. It's amazing my wife hasn't divorced me." This could have provided a natural segue to a discussion about my "wife," but I didn't go there. While I'm out at work and to my family and friends and most of my doctors, I stayed in my

Thanks to Dr. A's vigilance, an early malignancy was discovered in my right breast two years ago. I decided to have a double mastectomy with immediate reconstruction. At the time of diagnosis, I was one year older than my mother was when she died. Dr. A just might have saved my life.

A lesbian patient and an Orthodox Jewish doctor? It works just fine for me.

Just Say Mastectomy?

In 1987, when Nancy Reagan chose to have a mastectomy instead of a breast conserving lumpectomy, I remember thinking, "once a reactionary, always a reactionary." Even back then it was clear that there was no survival advantage to having the more disfiguring surgery. By choosing a mastectomy "she has set us back ten years," one breast cancer specialist said at the time, as thousands of women followed Reagan's lead and the number of mastectomies performed climbed in the months after her surgery.

As someone who wore a "Just Say Moe" (as in The Three Stooges) T-shirt in ridicule of Reagan's "Just Say No" to drugs campaign, I—a lesbian feminist and a Democrat—never pictured having anything in common with her. Yet when I was diagnosed with breast cancer in February 2002, I went one better than Mrs. Reagan—I had a double mastectomy.

"If a malignancy is ever found, you should think of having mastectomies," the radiologist who always spent hours on my mammograms and sonograms prophetically said a few months before my diagnosis. "Your breasts are so dense and filled with tumors that it's hard to know everything that's growing in them."

Since all my many biopsies over a 30-year period had turned out benign and I had recently passed the age my mother was when she

full recovery.”

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The truth is, though I am culturally Jewish, I know little about Orthodoxy and assumed that because Dr. A. followed a strict religious practice, he would also be homophobic.

My reservations about him only increased during my first visit to his office, when he beckoned a parade of white-coated colleagues into the exam room to look at the sonogram screen. “You are a very complicated case,” he said, by way of explanation, as my already fragile sense of self began to crumple. In most situations, being told you're unique would be a compliment; here, what he said made me feel like a freak in a sideshow.

Unfortunately, I'd been used to having this kind of attention paid to my breasts. They were filled with solid lumps, cysts and scar tissue from previous surgeries to remove benign tumors. Since I was 16 these intruders had popped up in my breasts to the beat of a drummer not in my band. The turmoil within my breasts, combined with my family history, called for vigilant monitoring.

On that first visit to Dr. A., I noticed a small framed photo on a shelf in the exam room. Six attractive young people, ranging in age from about ten to early twenties, posed at the beach. Making conversation, I asked who they were.

“They're my kids,” Dr. A. answered. “I don't get to spend much time with them. I'm always working. It's amazing my wife hasn't divorced me.” This could have provided a natural segue to a discussion about my “wife,” but I didn't go there. While I'm out at work and to my family and friends and most of my doctors, I stayed in my shell that time.

When I left Dr. A.'s office that day, I didn't know if I'd ever return. But I did, again and again, because he turned out to be so down-to-earth and so relentless in his determination to gain the upper hand on the chaos within me.

Eventually, I brought Barbara, my partner, to an appointment that involved needle core biopsies of suspicious lumps, introducing her as “the person I live with.” Dr. A. welcomed her into the exam room and explained my situation in more detail than either of us could absorb. On subsequent appointments—I saw him twice a year—he referred to her as my “roommate” or “friend.”

I didn't correct him. These visits to Dr. A. were stressful enough; I didn't want to worry about whether he would drop me as a patient if he knew I was queer or treat me differently. The fact that he had the knowledge and skill to determine whether I had a life-threatening disease, gave him a power that made me feel very vulnerable. Eventually, though, I began referring to Barbara as my partner. He didn't seem to get it. But his obliviousness wasn't bothersome enough to make into an issue.

Still, lying on Dr. A.'s table, I had plenty of time to contemplate whether it matters if he knows I'm a lesbian. To be honest, the urge to make sure Dr. A. knows ebbed over the years because I became secure with the relationship Barbara and I had built with him and I accepted certain things about him. Like when he would say I was on his top ten list of most difficult cases, I knew it was his way of expressing concern, not consternation.

have saved my life.

A lesbian patient and an Orthodox Jewish doctor? It works just fine for me.

Just Say Mastectomy?

In 1987, when Nancy Reagan chose to have a mastectomy instead of a breast conserving lumpectomy, I remember thinking, “once a reactionary, always a reactionary.” Even back then it was clear that there was no survival advantage to having the more disfiguring surgery. By choosing a mastectomy “she has set us back ten years,” one breast cancer specialist said at the time, as thousands of women followed Reagan's lead and the number of mastectomies performed climbed in the months after her surgery.

As someone who wore a “Just Say Moe” (as in The Three Stooges) T-shirt in ridicule of Reagan's “Just Say No” to drugs campaign, I—a lesbian feminist and a Democrat—never pictured having anything in common with her. Yet when I was diagnosed with breast cancer in February 2002, I went one better than Mrs. Reagan—I had a double mastectomy.

“If a malignancy is ever found, you should think of having mastectomies,” the radiologist who always spent hours on my mammograms and sonograms prophetically said a few months before my diagnosis. “Your breasts are so dense and filled with tumors that it's hard to know everything that's growing in them.”

Since all my many biopsies over a 30-year period had turned out benign and I had recently passed the age my mother was when she died of breast cancer (46), I was pretty sure I was going to beat the cancer rap. But a regularly scheduled mammogram showed an area of increased calcification that was eventually diagnosed as invasive ductal carcinoma.

The diagnosis was made while I was on vacation in Florida. I hadn't given my doctor a phone number where I could be reached, figuring if the news was bad it could wait. A photo from the trip shows me at poolside, my natural cleavage peeking out from my orange bathing suit top, for what was the last time.

A few days later, back in New York, my partner and I listened while the surgeon told us his treatment recommendation: skin-sparing total mastectomies. I had been seeing this breast surgeon for checkups for 18 years, long enough to know that he didn't frivolously recommend surgery.

“If you were to opt for a lumpectomy instead, we would have to remove all the other growths in your breast and biopsy them to make sure there was no other cancer,” he said. “That would greatly deform the breast.”

And the other breast? “I suggest a prophylactic mastectomy because you have a number of lumps in that breast, any of which could hide a cancer.” My partner and I left the surgeon's office with the names of two plastic surgeons, about to start a journey neither one of us wanted to make.

At home, in between bouts of crying, I weighed my options. I had had it with being probed and biopsied. The only choice that made sense for me was the one that would require the least amount of fol-

low-up in the future. I understood that having double mastectomies did not eliminate the chance of a local recurrence, new primary breast cancer or a metastasis. But my chances of being diagnosed with another breast cancer were greatly reduced.

If I hadn't had a history of prior surgeries and biopsies, if my breasts hadn't been loaded with tumors, I never would

Michele Forsten and 'Charlie'



have chosen such a radical solution. I focused on fact that I was taking this action to improve the quality of my life, however long or short it might be. My reconstructed breasts would have no lumps in them—the first time since I was 15 that this would be the case.

I realized that every woman has to make her own decision about lumpectomy versus mastectomy based on her specific medical condition and her own gut feeling. There's no right or wrong. Seventeen years later, Nancy Reagan is still with us, a survivor. So far, her choices seem to have worked for her. I hope I have this, too, in common with the former first lady.

Deconstructing My Breast Reconstruction

When the poet/activist Audre Lorde was diagnosed in 1978 with cancer in her right breast, she had a single mastectomy and opted not to wear a prosthesis. In her classic *Cancer Journals*, she drew a connection between her fight to live and the Amazon warriors of Dahomey, who supposedly had their right breasts cut off to be more effective archers.

Picking up where Lorde left off, activists like poet Marilyn Hacker use their mastectomies to give visibility and a human face to breast cancer.

Hacker even had her lover write the words "Act Up" above her mastectomy scar and "Fight Back" below it before posing for a photo that appeared in the 1996 "Lesbians Kissing" wall calendar and in a lesbian magazine.

I wanted my breast cancer experience to be as different from my mother's as possible (and hopefully, the outcome would be different, too). Since the idea of implants was unappealing to me, I was happy to learn that the reconstruction could be done using tissue from my abdomen. "You'll get a tummy tuck in the bargain," the plastic surgeon assured me. Cancer-free breasts? A flatter stomach? This option sounded pretty good to me.

In the weeks before the mastectomies and the reconstruction, I dealt with the anxiety in the way I do—through humor. The idea of part of my belly becoming my breasts naturally lent itself to puns. Some of the better ones my friend Stan and I came up with went like this:

When I laugh very hard, should I call it a bosom laugh?

If I lose money in the stock market, will I go tit up?

When I feel passionate about something, should I say I have a fire in my breasts?

Will you now be my abdominal buddy?

Little did I know how painful and debilitating the surgery would be.

Fast-forward to a year and a half later. The new breasts turned out quite smaller and have a less pleasing shape than the ones they replaced; it took cancer for me to discover what a size queen I really was. The biggest loss, however, is that my manufactured breasts don't harden when I'm cold or have an orgasm—a constant reminder that they are just for show.

But I do take comfort in knowing that these breasts, however fake, sit on my chest and I know that I need that reassurance. So, I'm not like an

Amazon warrior of Dahomey and I'm not going to bare

which would remove all my breast tissue and replace it with tissue from my abdomen—and whether I would need chemotherapy. I cried a lot. Charlie wasn't even a blip on the sonar screen of my worry and panic.

Four days after the surgery I was discharged from the hospital to begin what was to be a three-month recovery period at home. Immediately, I noticed that Charlie was walking smack into the furniture every time he was in the room with me, which wasn't often. When I looked into his formerly beautiful green eyes, what stared back at me were blood red orbs. He looked absolutely demonic but acted pathetic, mostly hiding a closet. Interacting with a pet was supposed to be an antidote for stress, but seeing Charlie in this state was increasing mine.

Charlie was always somewhat of a fragile kitty. When we adopted him we couldn't take him home until he had a hernia operation. He also had bad teeth that brought with them astronomical dental bills. A few years ago, the vet said his kidney function had deteriorated and recommended daily subcutaneous fluids. Soon after we started administering them, Charlie perked up and began to take on some of the characteristics of a dominant cat—wrestling with BJ for a favorite sitting spot and eating remnants of food in her bowl. For 13 years, BJ had run the show, but about a year ago Charlie started to make more frequent guest host appearances.

"High blood pressure blew out Charlie's retinas; he can only see shadows," the vet said. According to him, Charlie would compensate for the loss of sight. "It's not devastating to him as it would be for you. Give him time to re-acclimate himself to the apartment. He'll adjust."

Sure enough, although Charlie still walked into things, the incidences were less frequent and the impact less hard. I was encouraged that he did stay out in the main room more, and even went to his playpen to hone his nails just like before he went blind.

Watching Charlie's recovery helped me with mine. "If Charlie can bounce back from blindness, I can do this," I told myself on the many occasions that the pain from my surgery was unbearable.

Circumstances have changed both Charlie and me and there's no going back.

He was a hunter and liked to stalk the cloth "bait" dangling from a toy fishing pole. That's no longer an option. What he does instead is rub against a catnip toy that I hold. He has also taken to plopping his body in areas that make it hard to avoid stepping on him, like outside the bathroom door. It's as if he's saying, "I can't see anymore so you're the one who has to be careful."

As for me, I have to learn to live with reconstructed breasts that can't replace the real thing and with all the uncertainty a cancer diagnosis brings.

Charlie's blindness sharpened my awareness of his mor-



have chosen such a radical solution. I focused on fact that I was taking this action to improve the quality of my life, however long or short it might be. My reconstructed breasts would have no lumps in them—the first time since I was 15 that this would be the case.

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Deconstructing My Breast Reconstruction

I was what they called "a late bloomer," so when women were burning their bras in the '60s, I was buying padded ones to stop being called flat-chested by the girls in my class. At 16, I was taller and skinnier than any of them, had unruly curly hair while other white girls wore theirs long and straight, and I wasn't interested in boys. I didn't need one more thing (no tits) to set me apart.

My mother, who filled a 36B cup, assured me that she didn't "develop" until after she gave birth to me and my sister. She even showed me the falsies she used to wear. I ended up not having children, but found when I gained a few pounds around the time I turned 40 I began sporting a modest cleavage that was perfect for my small frame. I also liked the sensation of my breasts jiggling when I walked.

What I didn't like about my breasts was that they produced tumors faster than they could be biopsied. All had been benign until February 2002, when at age 47 I was diagnosed with cancer in my right breast. Doctors recommended a skin-sparing double mastectomy, and there was no question in my mind that I would have immediate reconstruction. The memory of my mother's chest after her mastectomy in 1972 was a big reason. Where the fullness and smoothness of her breast once was, there was flatness, broken by a thick angry scar that ran down her chest. The cancer metastasized, and four years later, she was dead.

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Fast-forward to a year and a half later. The new breasts turned out quite smaller and have a less pleasing shape than the ones they replaced; it took cancer for me to discover what a size queen I really was. The biggest loss, however, is that my manufactured breasts don't harden when I'm cold or have an orgasm—a constant reminder that they are just for show.

But I do take comfort in knowing that these breasts, however fake, sit on my chest and I know that I need that reassurance. So, I'm not like an

Amazon warrior of Dahomey and I'm not going to bare my chest in public, though I respect those women who choose not to have reconstruction. I'm keeping my clothes on and co-chairing the New York City Lesbian Cancer Support Consortium, a collaborative effort by community-based organizations, healthcare agencies and individuals to establish and maintain an ongoing program of support for LBT women with cancer and those who love them. In my own way and on my own terms, I am a fighter, too.

Blind Lessons

It started with the photographs. Whenever I come back from vacation, I use up the roll of film on my two 14-year-old cats, BJ and Charlie. This time, when the photos came back, my partner noticed that one of Charlie's eyes was bloodshot. We shrugged it off to forgetting to use the red-eye setting.

That was on January 30, 2002. On February 1 everything and everyone went on the back burner as I was diagnosed with breast cancer and a double mastectomy with immediate reconstruction was scheduled for February 26.

While my mother had died of metastasized breast cancer in 1976 and I myself had had many benign breast tumors removed over the past 30 years, the news hit me hard. I needed to find ways to adjust to the realities of having a life-threatening disease, the impending 6 1/2 hour surgery—

"High blood pressure blew out Charlie's retinas; he can only see shadows," the vet said. According to him, Charlie would compensate for the loss of sight. "It's not devastating to him as it would be for you. Give him time to re-acclimate himself to the apartment. He'll adjust."

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As for me, I have to learn to live with reconstructed breasts that can't replace the real thing and with all the uncertainty a cancer diagnosis brings.

Charlie's blindness sharpened my awareness of his mortality. And that naturally gets me thinking about mine. When I start worrying about what might happen, I take a look at him contentedly lying in the middle of the rug and realize I need to enjoy the good things in my life right here, right now. It's nice having him as a role model. ▼

Come to their window

Lesbian Health Initiative Rainbow Health Fair
Saturday, November 6, 8:15 a.m.-3:15 p.m.
Montrose Clinic, 215 Westheimer

As Etheridge said, one of the strongest enemies of breast cancer is early detection. With that fact in mind, Houston's Lesbian Health Initiative (LHI) invites lesbians to its biannual Rainbow Health Fair. In addition to free mammograms courtesy of MD Anderson Cancer Center Mobile Mammography Program, the event offers manual breast exams, Pap tests, HIV/STD testing and counseling, osteoporosis bone density testing, blood pressure checks, blood glucose testing, total cholesterol testing and educational materials.

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According to plan—

Vortex's 'Wake' Liberates and Disturbs

By Sandra Beckmeier

"I would like to write a book which would drive men mad, which would be like an open door leading them where they would never have consented to go, in short, a door that opens onto reality." —Antonin Artaud, 1925

The VORTEX Repertory Company launched its 17th season paying homage to 20th century French performance theorist/playwright/poet, Antonin Artaud. His *Wake for the Dark Poet: The Antonin Artaud Project* was developed by the Vortex repertory company and

France. For the majority of life he revolted against insincerity in literature, a discipline he believed was too dependent on texts that were essentially meaningless. He protested against morality and rationality, instead he sought to ignite a new kind of emerging theater in France, one characterized

Throughout the piece characters are literally in your face, ranting and yelling, running, bouncing, and crawling.

The scenery is much like one would imagine to see while walking through a mental institution where delusion is at first a solo refrain, but everyone joins in to finish the tune. The staging utilizes mechanical devices to further the visible and audible frenzy with piercing and dissonant sound and speech effects, at times merging the natural and artificial world. Artaud believed that a play that contains the repressed forces of man would liberate him from them. As such the stage beckons us with a fissure of Artaud's consciousness, where his shadow and the voices that haunted him come to life.

Artaud's illness is shown and described in its entirety, and allows us to see the range of his creative genius through an unfiltered lens. Scott Daigle's performance as the adult Artaud is compelling as he moves through the artist's frenzied world of shock therapy and addiction with absolute mental abandon.

Betsy McCann and Melissa Vogt portray Poko and Cici, the masked comic players who introduce Artaud's short theatrical fables; puppets are the principal actors. Here ten-foot tall puppets lose their hands and their tongues as marionettes fall in love. Designed by Francesa Marquis and Heather Jarry the intricate detail of these wooden and paper mache creatures are intoxicating to watch come to life. The narrator,



**VORTEX Repertory
 Company presents
 Wake for the Dark
 Poet: The Antonin
 Artaud Project,
 through Oct. 31.
 2307 Manor Road in
 Austin. Info:
www.vortexrep.org
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Photo by Kenneth B. Gall

Go Bella Works in a series of salons and workshops to engage a cast and with incantation rather than buttered language wrought with prejudice.

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Photo by Kenneth B. Gall

Go Bella Works in a series of salons and workshops to engage a cast and crew of more than fifty artists more intensively into the creative process. Conceived and directed by VORTEX Associate Artistic Director Heather Barfield, adopting Artaud's fondness for furnishing a physical, nonverbal idea of theater (an Eastern theatrical tradition) drew from a collection of works published in 1925 entitled *The Umbilicus of Limbo* to construct the work. The result is an engaging and visually stimulating production filled with performance art that underscores Artaud's claim that the goal of the theater is in spiritual terms, and a true play will liberate the subconscious, disturbing the tranquility of mind and the senses of its audience.

Antonin Artaud was born on September 4, 1896 in Marseille,

repressed forces of man would liberate him from them. As such the stage beckons us with a fissure of Artaud's consciousness, where his shadow and the voices that haunted him come to life. Artaud's illness is shown and described in its entirety, and allows us to see the range of his creative genius through an unfiltered lens. Scott Daigle's performance as the adult Artaud is compelling as he moves through the artist's frenzied world of shock therapy and addiction with absolute mental abandon. Betsy McCann and Melissa Vogt portray Poko and Cici, the masked comic players who introduce Artaud's short theatrical fables; puppets are the principal actors. Here ten-foot tall puppets lose their hands and their tongues as marionettes fall in love. Designed by Francesa Marquis and Heather Jarry the intricate detail of these wooden and paper mache creatures are intoxicating to watch come to life. The narrator, played by Gabriel Maldonado, is superb as the hyper-real, showy provocateur. Maldonado sets the tone of the show with believable reverence for the absurd. This is a stage production that will bewitch an audience into a kind of trance. The production is swarming with performance art, spoken word, puppets, mimes, vignettes, stage plays, and radio sketches; offering a seasoned creative journey by fifty artists who have produced a comprehensive biographical sketch of the enigmatic artist, whose endearing life's work continues to challenge the logical mentality.

with incantation rather than buttered language wrought with prejudice, insincerity and narcissism. Although he was one of the early followers of surrealism, he ultimately broke from the movement because of the range of his ideas that went beyond the psychic-imaginary. He was plagued by mental illness throughout his life. At the age of eighteen, he was briefly cared for in a sanitarium. Sadly these institutions became his home later in life. He died in 1948.

A rather large cast (twenty-nine players) reveals a world of talent for performing an avant-garde, and an extreme fondness for Artaud's work. Here there is closer contact between actors and spectators leaning on Artaud's performance theory, "theater of cruelty" that initiated what we now know as "theater in the round."

Our reviewer's rating:



Entertainment Briefs

Maureen McGovern to Visit the Meyerson

There's got to be a morning after. In fact, make that two mornings after. On both October 29 and 30, Academy Award-winning songstress Maureen McGovern joins the Dallas Symphony Orchestra in a pre-Halloween concert event at the Meyerson Symphony Center. The enduring vocalist is scheduled to perform favorites written by composer Richard Rodgers, including "My Favorite Things," "Surrey with the Fringe on Top" and "My Funny Valentine."

In a tip of the baton to the approaching Halloween holiday, conductor Lawrence Loh will also lead DSO through Saint-Saens' "Danse Macabre Op. 40" and Strauss' "Lucifer Polka Op. 266", among other selections.

Tickets may be purchased by phone 214-692-0203; online at www.DallasSymphony.com; by mail directed to the Dallas Symphony box office, P.O. Box 50249, Dallas, Texas 75250-0249; or in person at the Dallas Symphony Orchestra box office in the lower level of the Meyerson Symphony

Center.

Patrons mentioning they learned about McGovern's appearance by reading *The Texas Triangle* will receive a complimentary drink or dessert at the concert.



Maureen McGovern

OUT TAKES to 'Cruise the Crossroads'

Volunteers with OUT TAKES Dallas (www.outtakesdallas.org) have announced they will be at the corner of Throckmorton and Cedar Springs every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evening every weekend in October through November 13 (except Saturday, October

ty to win great OUT TAKES Dallas prizes.

OUT PASSES are available for \$100 at either Tapelenders (Dallas location only) or the UPS Store on Cedar Springs. Each OUT PASS provides unlimited access for the holder to the screenings throughout the Festival. OUT PASS sales opened on October 8 and will run until are sold, organizers said. Any remaining OUT PASSES at the start of the Festival will be

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Volunteers will be available during "Cruisin' the Crossroads" for information on how to buy tickets, how to be a sponsor, or how to volunteer during the Festival. The community is invited to stop by for more information, or they are encouraged to visit the website at www.outtakesdallas.org.

OUT TAKES Dallas, the Annual Lesbian and Gay Film Festival is scheduled for November 5-14.

On Saturday, October 16, OUT TAKES Dallas will also sponsor GayBINGO, supporting the Resource Center of Dallas. During the event, the GayBINGO audience will have the opportunity to learn more about the OUT TAKES Dallas Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, while also having the opportuni-

ty to win great OUT TAKES Dallas prizes.

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Tickets will be available at the Magnolia Box Office and the OUT TAKES Dallas Web site starting on or about October 15. Seats will be limited for each screening; organizers encourage patrons to get tickets early—and get plenty!

The mission of OUT TAKES Dallas is to enlighten, educate, enrich and entertain diverse communities about gays and lesbians through the medium of film and video and to contribute funds to organizations seeking to foster similar goals. OUT TAKES Dallas is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

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Chicks Suck

'Dracula: A Woman Scorned' Premieres at Hyde Park Theater

By Sandra Beckmeier

It's that time of year again, punctuated by cooler temperatures and doses of rain. As we pass the Autumn equinox and head into winter, Halloween approaches and Hyde Park Theater with a chick and dude productions have staged a new consideration of *Dracula*, the gothic romance classic to celebrate.

Dracula: A Woman Scorned, is a gender-bending dive into the murky darkness of the vampirical underworld, where we find the dreamy and languid movements of Countess Dracula and her minions, the frantic madness of Dracula's unknowing henchman, Renfield, and the slow withdrawal into soullessness of Countess Dracula's series of unassuming victims.

Playwright Shanon Weaver's treatment to the original tale puts more than a few spins on the vampire myth. While keeping the spine-tingling impact that made the story a masterpiece, he infuses the vampire hunt with a pleasant surprise: an abundance of lesbian erotica. Though at times the audience is left with a dominant Victorian puritanical attitude here and there, or an opinion I could have done without, there are intriguing new character twists, and enunciations of earlier climatic themes where women play a predominant role.

Weaver successfully shifts the paradigm, placing females in both lead roles—

Renfield, who is confined to a mental asylum. Under a lock and key, and the care of Dr. Shanon Van Helsing, a psychiatrist, played by Debbi DeSimone who works in her father's institution for the deranged, Renfield prods his way out to wreak havoc on the vampire.

Dr. John Seward, Van Helsing's father (played by Joel City) and the father of Lucy (played by Leslie Hollingsworth) is the last one to be convinced an evil master exists. Renfield played by Weaver, delivers an



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OMNIUM GATHERUM

By THERESA REBECK and ALEXANDRA GERSTON-VASSILAROS

Directed by DAVE STEAKLEY

**A New
Comedy
With A
Twist!**



CROWNS

By Regina Taylor. Adapted from the book **CROWNS:
PORTRAITS OF BLACK WOMEN IN CHURCH HATS** by Michael
Cunningham and Craig Marberry. Directed by Dave Steakley

**The Joyous New Gospel
Musical with "Hattitude!"**

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Get \$1-Off Concessions Drinks!**

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Janis Stinson. Photos: Kirk R. Tuck

Kenneth, and the slow withdrawal into soullessness of Countess Dracula's series of unassuming victims.

Playwright Shanon Weaver's treatment to the original tale puts more than a few spins on the vampire myth. While keeping the spine-tingling impact that made the story a masterpiece, he infuses the vampire hunt with a pleasant surprise: an abundance of lesbian erotica. Though at times the audience is left with a dominant Victorian puritanical attitude here and there, or an opinion I could have done without, there are intriguing new character twists, and enunciations of earlier climatic themes where women play a predominant role.

Weaver successfully shifts the paradigm, placing females in both lead roles—as villain and arguably hero, redefining the appeal of the feminine mystique lost behind many Gothic novels, when spirited young women, either governesses or new brides, go to live in large gloomy mansions populated by peculiar servants and precocious children who were presided over by darkly handsome men with mysterious pasts.

Although myths and legends about vampires had existed since ancient times, the genre of Gothic romance literature flourished in the late 18th and early 19th centuries in England. Bram Stoker's *Dracula* was first published in 1897. It is perhaps one of the most popular stories ever told.

Weaver's Countess Dracula is a 600-year-old widow, damned to purgatory, declared unclean, having committed suicide after losing her husband to a war. She is played by the wildly nocturnal Andrea Skola, whose rapturous voice haunts the ill-fated



Hyde Park Theatre and a chick and dude productions present *Dracula: A Woman Scorned*, through Oct. 23. 511 W. 43rd. Tickets: \$5-\$15. Info: www.hydeparktheatre.org or 512-479-7530.

incredible performance as the scattered psychotic-turned vampire hunter.

Weaver and partner/director Melissa Livingston's start-up theater company, chick and dude productions, promise at least one original production per year, this their first following the award-winning *Hit*, also written by the playwright. *Dracula: A Woman Scorned* is a polished production with a flair for the avant-garde with its stark set and seasoned actors. It is an enthralling re-incarnation of a haunting Gothic tribunal.

Our reviewer's rating: **b**

Voting Ballot For The 2004 TEXAS TRIANGLE ROUND UP AWARDS

Here's your chance to pick your favorites! Fill out the ballot and send it in to the
Texas Triangle Round Up Awards, mail to 1012 N. Bishop Ave., Dallas TX 75208 or fax to
Dallas: (214) 946-0402, Austin: (512) 485-3127, Houston: (713) 521-5830

VOTE ONLINE AT WWW.TXTRIANGLE.COM/ROUNDUP

See the results for your city in the December 10th issue of The Texas Triangle.

CITY _____

Favorite Restaurants:

best breakfast spot _____
best 24-hour restaurant _____
best brunch _____
best vegetarian _____
best Greek _____
best Chinese _____
best Italian _____
best Mexican _____
best Thai _____
best Margarita _____
best burger _____
best patio _____
best place for people watching _____
most romantic restaurant _____
best restaurant to take family to _____
best bar-be-que _____
best buffet _____
best take-out food _____
best Caesar salad _____
best fast food _____
best coffee house _____
best new restaurant _____

Favorite Bars & Clubs:

best all-around bar _____
best leather _____
best lesbian _____
best dance _____
best cabaret/piano _____
best c&w _____
sexiest staff _____
friendliest staff _____

best gift store/boutique _____
best toy store for adults _____
best second-hand/consignment shop _____
best full-service grocery store _____
best antique shop _____
best computer/high tech store _____
best jewelry store _____
best health food/nutritional store _____
best leather shop _____
best liquor store _____
best tux rental _____
best athletic apparel/equipment _____
best cellular service _____
best auto dealership _____
best eyewear/optical shop _____
best music store _____

Favorite Beverages

Best beer _____
Best liquor _____
Best soft Drink _____
Best non-alcoholic drink _____
Best energy drink _____

Favorite Places:

best bed & breakfast _____
best weekend getaway _____
best neighborhood to live in _____
best park _____
best bike/walking trail _____
best hotel _____

Favorite Services:

best hair salon/barber _____
best massage _____

best cosmetic surgeon _____
best apartment locator _____
best attorney _____

Favorite Community Endeavors

best annual fundraising event _____
best glbt role model _____
best glbt organization _____
best local politician/elected official _____
best state politician/elected official _____
best place of worship _____

Favorite Arts & Entertainment Venues:

best radio station (general) _____
most glbt friendly radio station _____
best TV station (general) _____
most glbt friendly TV station _____
best independent film theater _____
best mainstream movie theater _____
best local stage production _____
best touring stage production _____
best local entertainer (drag) _____
best local entertainer (other) _____
best art gallery/museum _____
best live music venue _____

Favorite Fun Things:

best festival _____
best local sports team _____
best tourist destination in your city _____
best glbt "family" website _____
best glbt "adult" website _____
best place to meet someone who's responded to
your personal ad _____
best place to pick up free condoms _____

best vegetarian _____
 best Greek _____
 best Chinese _____
 best Italian _____
 best Mexican _____
 best Thai _____
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best all-around bar _____
 best leather _____
 best lesbian _____
 best dance _____
 best cabaret/piano _____
 best c&w _____
 sexiest staff _____
 friendliest staff _____
 best off the beaten path _____
 best happy hour _____
 best martini _____
 best theme night _____
 best drag show _____
 best club dj _____
 best after hours _____
 best place to shoot pool _____
 best straight bar _____

Favorite Retail:

best pet supply shop _____
 best pet store/adoption center _____
 best video rental _____
 best adult video rental _____
 best bookstore _____
 best furniture _____
 best apparel _____
 best piercing/tattoo studio _____

best jewelry store _____
 best health food/nutritional store _____
 best leather shop _____
 best liquor store _____
 best tux rental _____
 best athletic apparel/equipment _____
 best cellular service _____
 best auto dealership _____
 best eyewear/optical shop _____
 best music store _____

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 best hotel _____

Favorite Services:

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 best massage _____
 best gym _____
 best personal trainer _____
 best medical practitioner _____
 best dentists _____
 best chiropractor _____
 best veterinarian _____
 best mechanic _____
 best handyman/woman _____
 best bank/financial institution _____
 best mortgage banker _____
 best insurance agency _____
 best real estate agency _____
 best real estate agent _____
 best travel agency _____
 best airline _____
 best florist _____

best gbt radio station _____
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Did we forget a category?

Please include any of your own personal favorites in the space below:



AUSTIN • DALLAS • FORT WORTH
HOUSTON • SAN ANTONIO

IT'S SHOWTIME

ADDISON

Rover Dramawerks presents *War of the Worlds*, through Oct. 30. Addison Theatre Centre Studio Theatre, 15650 Addison Rd. Tickets: \$8-\$10. Info: tickets@roverdramawerks.com or 972-849-0358.

AUSTIN

Austin Playhouse presents *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, through Oct. 31. Penn Field, 3601 S. Congress, Bldg. C. Info: www.austinplayhouse.com or 512-476-0084.

Austin Symphony presents Peter Bay conducting *Orli Shaham, piano*, Oct. 22-23; and Irv Wagner conducts *Halloween Children's Concert*, Oct. 24. Info: www.austinsymphony.org or 512-476-6064.

Ballet Austin presents *Peter Pan*, Oct. 15-17. Info: www.balletaustin.org or 512-469-SHOW.

Hyde Park Theatre presents *Dracula: A Woman Scorned*, through Oct. 23. 511 W. 43rd. Info: www.hydeparktheatre.org or 512-479-7530.

Out Youth Austin and Trinity United Methodist Church present *Camp*, and *Odd Sock*, Friday, Oct. 15, 7:30 p.m. Trinity United Methodist Church, 600 E. 50th St. Benefits both organizations. Tickets: \$2-\$6. Info: 512-419-1233.

Performing Arts Center presents *Takács Quartet*, Oct. 22. University of Texas. Info: www.utpac.org or 1-800-731-7469.

Rude Mechanicals presents *Cherrywood*, Oct. 21 through Nov. 14. The Off Center, 2211-A Hidalgo St. Tickets: \$10-\$15 Info: www.rudemechs.com or 512-476-7833.

State Theater presents *Nightswim*, through Oct. 24. 719 Congress Ave. Info: www.statetheater-company.com or 512-472-5470.

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 at 5 p.m., followed by *Outspoken* at 6 p.m. Info: www.koop.org or 512-472-1369.

North Texas, Dallas and Ft. Worth, airs every Sundays, 1 p.m. on KNON 89.3FM. Info: www.geocities.com/lambdaweekly.

Pocket Sandwich Theatre presents Steven Jay Crabtree's *Dysfunctional Halloween Divas*, Oct. 15-16, 11:15 p.m. 5400 E. Mockingbird #119. Tickets: \$10. Info: 214-821-1860.

FT. WORTH

Circle Theatre presents *A Moon for the Misbegotten*, Oct. 15-Nov. 20. 230 W. 4th St. Info: www.circletheatre.com or 817-877-3040.

Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra presents *Rawls Sings Sinatra, Rawls Sings Rawls with Lou Rawls*, through Oct. 17. Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St. Info: www.fwsymphony.org or 817-665-6000.

Hip Pocket Theatre presents *Yeti Songs From Mt. Analogue*, through Oct. 30. 1950 Silver Creek Rd. Tickets: \$6-\$12. Info: www.hippocket.org or 817-246-9775.

Texas Ballet Theatre presents *Cleopatra*, Oct. 22-24. Bass Performance Hall. Info: www.texasballettheatre.org or 817-763-0207.

HOUSTON

90.1 KPFT-FM offers two GLBT-themed shows: *After Hours*, airing each Sunday morning, 12 midnight-4 a.m.; and *Queer Voices*, airing Mondays, 8-10 p.m.

Alley Theater presents *The Exonerated*, through Oct. 31; and *Leading Ladies*, through Nov. 7. 615 Texas Ave. Info: www.alleytheatre.com or 713-228-8421.

ComedySportz performs improv comedy in its new home. 901 Town and Country Blvd. Info: 713-868-1444.

Country Playhouse presents *Riff Raff*, through Oct. 30. 12802 Queensbury. Info: www.country-playhouse.org or 713-467-4497.

DiverseWorks presents *El Chonchon*, through Oct. 16. 1117 East Frwy. Info: www.diverse-

Center. Info: www.houstongrandopera.org or 713-546-0246.

Houston Symphony presents Carlos Miguel Prieto conducts *Jose Feghali, piano*, Oct. 16-18. Info: www.houstonsymphony.org or 713-224-7575.

Infernal Bridegroom Productions presents *Mes-si-ah (or, How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Tom Cruise)*, through Oct. 30, 8 p.m. The Axiom, 2524 McKinney. Tickets: \$5.99-\$15. Info: 713-522-8443.

Rice Players presents *The Laramie Project*, through Oct. 16. Hamman Hall, 6100 Main St. Tickets: \$8-\$16. Info: www.rice.edu/players or 713-348-7529.

Society for the Performing Art presents *Bruce Wood Dance Company*, Oct. 15; and *Porgy & Bess*, Oct. 22. Info: www.spahouston.org or 713-227-4-SPA.

Stages Repertory Theater presents *Castro's Beard*, through Oct. 24; and *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, through Oct. 31. 3201 Allen Parkway in Houston. Info: www.stagestheatre.com or 713-527-8243.

The Dyke Show with Nancy Ford returns! Open mic—bring your CD's, instruments, poetry and anything you want to juggle. Saturdays, 9 p.m.-12 midnight, with legendary bartender, Vicci Lindsey. Club 1415, 1415 California St. Info: www.nancyford.com or 713-961-2867.

Theater LaB Houston presents *Mrs. Farnsworth*, through Oct. 24. 1706 Alamo. Tickets: \$22-\$25. Info: www.theaterlabhouston.com or 713-868-7516.

Theatre Suburbia presents *The Calling of Jericho Jones*, through Oct. 16. 1410 W 43rd. Tickets: \$10. Info: 713 682-3525.

Theatre Under the Stars presents *A Chorus Line*, Oct. 21-Nov. 7. Hobby Center for Performing Arts. Info: www.tuts.com or 713-558-8887.

PLANO

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

SAN ANTONIO

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.

Majestic Theatre presents *San Antonio Symphony Pops Series: Riders in the Sky*, Oct. 15-17; and *Oliver!* Oct. 19-24. 224 E. Houston St. Info: www.majesticempire.com or 210-226-3333.

STATEWIDE

PrideVision presents *Jack E. Jett's Homo-Neurotic* on Austin Music Network Channel 15, Sundays, 8:30 p.m. and Thursday, 11:30 p.m.; Houston Media-Source, Mondays, 10:30 p.m.; and on DCTV Comcast Channel 27, Fridays, 10:30 p.m.

SHOWCASE



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Vocal Chamber Music Series presents *A Hand of Bridge*, Sunday, Oct. 31, 3:15 p.m. Mesquite Arts Center, 1527 N. Galloway. Tickets: \$5. Info: 972-216-8122.

VORTEX Repertory Company presents *Wake for the Dark Poet: The Antonin Artaud Project*, through Oct. 31. 2307 Manor Rd. Info: www.vortexrep.org or 512-478-LAVA.

Zachary Scott Theatre Center presents *Omnium Gatherum*, through Oct. 17; and *Crowns*, through Nov. 7. Info: www.zachscott.com or 512-476-0541.

DALLAS

Dallas Symphony Orchestra's *Claus Peter Flor conducts*, through Oct. 17; and Peter Flor conducts *Verdi's Requiem*, Oct. 21-23. Info: www.DallasSymphony.com or 214-692-0203.

Kitchen Dog Theatre presents *Jesus Hopped the A Train*, through Nov. 6. McKinney Avenue Contemporary, 3120 McKinney Ave. Info: www.kitchendogtheater.org or 214-953-1212.

Lambda Weekly Radio, gay and lesbian radio of

Hip Pocket Theatre presents *Yeti Songs From Mt. Analogue*, through Oct. 30. 1950 Silver Creek Rd. Tickets: \$6-\$12. Info: www.hippocket.org or 817-246-9775.

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dos chicas theater commune presents *Little Fascist Panties*, through Oct. 23. Helios, 411 Westheimer. Tickets: \$8-\$10. Info: 832-283-0858.

Ensemble Theatre presents *That Serious He-Man Ball*, through Oct. 17. Info: 713-520-0055.

Gay Men's Chorus of Houston presents *James & Friends*, Oct. 23-24. Info: www.gmch.org or 713-521-7464.

Halloween Magic presents *The Best Little Whitehouse in Texas: The Crawford Wives*, Oct. 23-24. Edwin Hornberger Conference Center, Benefits various community charities. Tickets: \$25+. Info: www.halloweenmagic.org.

Houston Concert Band presents *Fall Concert with the Rice Symphonic Band*, Sunday, Oct. 17, 3 p.m. Rice University's Grand Hall, Rice Memorial Center. Info: www.houstonconcert-band.org.

Houston Grand Opera presents *Madame Butterfly*, Oct. 22-Nov. 13. Wortham Theater

Wood Dance Company, Oct. 15; and Porgy & Bess, Oct. 22. Info: www.spahouston.org or 713-227-4-SPA.

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SHOWCASE



OLOC (Old Lesbians Organizing for Change) presents its annual Gathering, Oct. 14-17, with headliner Deidre McCalla, Saturday, Oct. 16, 7 p.m. Renaissance Houston Hotel. Tickets: \$50. Info: info@oloc.org or 713-664-9891.

Between the Covers

By Jone Devlin



At Swim, Two Boys

By Jamie O'Neill

It is the year 1915 when the up-and-comer Mr. Mack, who will do anything to be measured among "the quality" of his small Irish town, realizes that his youngest boy has taken up with the illegitimate eldest son of the town drunkard. Worse than Doyler Doyle's parentage, however, is the fact that he is a rebel, an ardent supporter of an Ireland free of British rule and an admitted socialist.

But Jim Mack, a wide-eyed innocent with a gentle spirit and a firm belief in goodness and mercy, finds that there is something about young Doyle he just cannot resist. Therefore, in spite of his father's edicts, even in spite of the warnings of the priests and the nasty whippers of the local populace, he continues to meet with Doyle day after day, as the rebel youth teaches him to swim.

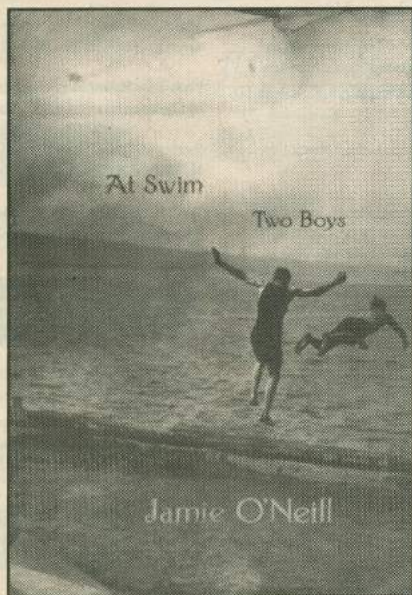
As the boys' friendship deepens, they make a pact. On Easter Sunday 1916, they will swim together to the

has lived a hardscrabble life always, and is not above prostituting himself to put some money in his pocket. Yet with Jim, he is nothing but gentle, tirelessly fostering the dream that someday both boys will be schoolteachers, two old men living a bachelor life out in the quiet Irish countryside.

Yet as the revolution in Dublin heats up, Jim and Doyler find themselves facing an important decision. Should they be a part of the revolution? Or should they make their escape, back to the rocks of Wales, back to where they both felt they would and could become immortal?

Readers will be captivated by this heartbreaking story of two sixteen year olds caught up in the turmoil of first

love during a time of war. Doyle is everything Jim Mack has been told all of his life to avoid, a revolutionary, a commoner, a heathen and an infidel. But the feelings Doyle awakens in him, though they leave him feeling



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800 Congress Ave.
Austin, Texas 78701
512-477-8968

Type of Cuisine: American

Attire: Austin Casual

Average Menu Price: \$5-\$10

Hut's Hamburgers

807 W. 6th St.
512-472-0693

Type of Cuisine: Burgers & More

Attire: Casual

Average Menu Price: \$4.50

Thanks to The Texas Triangle
readers for voting
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6 Years In A Row!



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porter of an Ireland free of British rule and an admitted socialist.

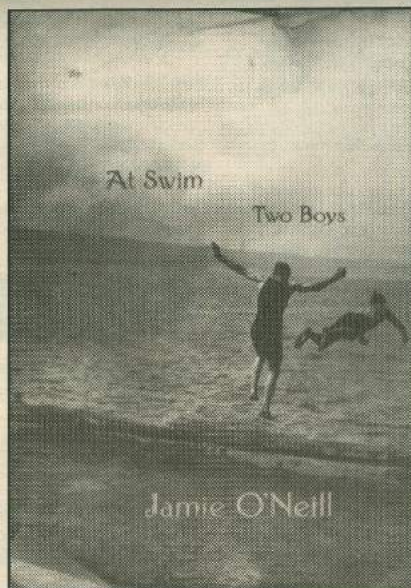
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pers of the local populace, he continues to meet with Doyle day after day, as the rebel youth teaches him to swim.

As the boys' friendship deepens, they make a pact. On Easter Sunday 1916, they will swim together to the coast of Wales, just barely visible from the beach where they practice their swimming. What neither boy knows is that in that one short year, everything they have hoped for and believed in until now will drastically change, including their feelings for each other.

At Swim, Two Boys is a multi-layered love story, as O'Neill explores young love as well as love of country, love of family, honor and duty. Doyler has all the passion of a typical young revolutionary, wanting nothing more than to grab a gun and single-handedly bow the entire British Empire to his will. Jim Mack, meanwhile, wants nothing but a quiet life for himself and Doyler, as they set up housekeeping far from the madness of politics and the judgment of society at large.

Jim lives in a world of denial, and Doyler tries, as much as he can, to shelter Jim and protect his illusions. Doyle



heats up, Jim and Doyler find themselves facing an important decision. Should they be a part of the revolution? Or should they make their escape, back to the rocks of Wales, back to where they both felt they would and could become immortal?

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love during a time of war. Doyle is everything Jim Mack has been told all of his life to avoid, a revolutionary, a commoner, a heathen and an infidel. But the feelings Doyle awakens in him, though they leave him fraught with guilt, also point to the fact that life cannot always be lived by other people's rules.

There are not enough novenas or prayers to the sacred heart to stop Jim Mack from following Doyle, into the ocean, out to the rocky coast of Wales, or off to the streets of Dublin, where young men just like he and Doyler are picking up guns and dying in the name of freedom.

At Swim, Two Boys is a tale that will have readers alternately laughing and crying as they follow the journey of two of the most unforgettable characters and one of the most unforgettable stories in GLBT literature. It is published by Scribner.

Our reviewer's rating:



THEM

IN



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

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6 Years In A Row!



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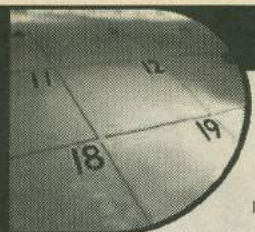
Thanks Texas Triangle Readers for voting Frank & Angie's

Voted Best Italian In Austin
6 Years In A Row!

(512) 472-3534

508 West Avenue, Austin 78701

Calendar



ABILENE

B.C.A.R. (Big Country AIDS Resources) offers services and counseling for HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C, and seeks volunteers. 1109 Walnut St. Info: www.geocities.com/bcar1109 or 325-672-3077.

Exodus Metropolitan Community Church worships Sundays, 10:45 a.m. 1933 S. 27th St. Info: www.exodusmcc.org or 325-669-2927.

PFLAG of the Big Country meets the first Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 3150 Vogel Ave. Info: www.geocities.com/pflag_bc.

AUSTIN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Austin Gay Lesbian Chamber of Commerce's Amy Krause and her partner Deb host a sunny Volleyball/Tennis Social, Sunday, Oct. 17, 3 p.m. 11506 Boulder Ln. Business Networking/New Office Open House, Tuesday, Oct. 19, 6:30 p.m. Presidio Group, REALTORS Office, 1701 Koenig Ln. AGLCC's Nonprofit Expo benefits AIDS Service of Austin, Sunday, Oct. 24, 12 noon-2 p.m. at the Capitol. Info: www.aglcc.org or 512-336-0941.

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

Austin Gay Power Boaters meet monthly. Info: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SSDizyQueen>.

Bisexual Network of Austin meets for TGILB socials every Friday, 7 p.m. Bi Women's Discussion Group meets second and fourth Tuesday, 7 p.m. Info: www.msain.org/binet/austin or 512-370-9573.

Center for Women's Business meets weekly for lunch, 912 Bastrop Hwy., Suite 210. Info: 512-472-8522.

First Friday Dinner Club for professional gay men and lesbians meets the first Friday of each month. Info: joshloker@prideofaustin.com.

Gender Me, a peer support/social group for FTMs and those interested, is forming. Info: sebastian@ppraustin.org or Sebastián Colón, 512-275-0171, ext. 114.

HangOut, a UT group promoting sexual diversity, meets Wednesdays, 10 p.m. Little City, 10th and Congress. Info: www.comethangout.org.

Interested in starting a Long Yang Club for Central Texas? Info: www.longyang-club.org/newsite/directory.htm or Gary Tawes69@yahoo.com

Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas meets for volunteer nights every Thursday, 6-9 p.m. Info: www.lgtr.org or 512-474-5475.

Lug Cabin Republicans Austin meets the second Thursday of each month, 6:30 p.m. Info: <http://austin.lugcabin.org/>

PFLAG-Austin meets the third Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m. Trinity United Methodist Church, 600 E. 50th. Info: 512-312-PFLAG.

Project Transitions needs volunteers to assist at Doug's House, its five-bedroom AIDS hospice and Top Drawer, its thrift store on the corner of 49th and Burnet.

Austin Gay Softball seeks experienced players for weekly game. Info: softball_tx@hotmail.com or 512-477-7116.

Austin Lonestars Rugby Club practices Tuesdays and Fridays, 7 p.m. Burnet Middle School. Info: www.lonestarsrugby.org or 512-796-0716.

Austin Night Flyers Rugby Football Club practices Wednesdays and Saturdays. Info: www.austinnightflyers.org or info@anfc.com.

Austin Tennis Club meets Fridays, 7-9 p.m. South Austin Tennis Center. Info: www.austintennisclub.com or austintennisclub@yahoo.com.

Austin Valkyries Women's Rugby Club invites interested women to join. Info: www.austinvalkyries.com.

EveryWoman's Self Defense and Sun Dragon Martial Arts celebrate their 15th anniversary, Friday, Oct. 22, 7 p.m. at Ruta Maya. Otherwise, they offer women's only and co-ed classes in karate and personal safety workshops for men or women, with emphasis on avoiding hate crimes. 203 E. Riverside Dr. Info: www.sundragon-martialarts.com or 512-416-9735.

Fast Track gay runners meet Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. Info: www.geocities.com/fasttrackrunners or Jim, 512-453-8878.

Friends of David Powell Clinic seeks volunteers for fund-raising activities, clerical work, and data base collection. Info: Henry, 512-389-3958.

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

Heart of Texas Hoedowners offer free dance lessons, Sundays, 6 p.m. and Tuesdays, 8 p.m. Rainbow Cattle Company, W. 5th. Info: <http://www.hoedowners.org> or contact Don at dx_dj@hotmail.com.

Hike, camp, and canoe with Adventuring Outdoors. Info: www.main.org/adventuring or 512-236-7176.

Midtown Spa of Austin and the City of Austin Department of Health conduct free and confidential HIV/STD testing, each Monday, 1-5 p.m. during half-price room day, and every other Tuesday, 9 p.m. "till midnight, with complimentary food and Latino music. 5815 Airport Blvd. Info: 512-302-9696.

Rainbow of Recovery Narcotics Anonymous meets Saturdays, 8 p.m. St. David's Hospital, cafeteria private dining room. 919 E. 32nd.

Rainbow Rollerblades roll the second Monday of each month, 8 p.m. Rollerblades welcome. Skate World Northwest, Anderson Mill Rd. Tickets: \$6, benefiting community charities. Info: www.main.org/rainbowskate or James, 512-296-0881.

Stop the spread of HIV/AIDS by talking about sex in bars on 4th or 6th St. AIDS Services of Austin Prevention Team. Info: 512-406-6167.

Swimmers—interested in a team for workouts and/or competitions? Info: AustinSwimming@aol.com or 512-658-5874.

Waterloo Counseling Center offers support and therapy groups for GLBTs including: Transgender Support; Kids with GLBT Parents; Men's and Women's Coming Out; and Men's, Women's and Mixed Gender Psychotherapy groups. Intake required. Info: www.waterloocounseling.org or 512-444-9922 ext. 204.

SPIRITUALITY

Austin Gay Men's Meditation Group welcomes all spiritual paths. Sundays, 7 p.m. Austin Shambhala Meditation Center, 1702 S. 5th. Info: <http://www.austinshambhalameditationcenter.com> or Sharon, 512-448-3220.

GLBT Professional Network, a Texas A&M University faculty, staff, and graduate students group, meets the first Monday of each month. Info: <http://glbt-psn.tamu.edu/>.

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

CENTRAL TEXAS

Texas Hill Country Faeries, Elves & Satyrs' gay men enjoy nature spirituality, magic, warm-hearted fellowship, and silliness. Info: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/thcfes/>.

COLLIN COUNTY

Collin County Gay & Lesbian Alliance social, political and educational organization meets regularly. Info: www.ccglia.org or 214-521-5342, ext. 1715.

DALLAS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BiNet Dallas meets the first Friday of each month, 7 p.m., John Thomas Gay and Lesbian Center, 2701 Reagan; and the third Saturday of each month, 10:30 a.m., La Madeleine (Lennon at Oak Lawn). Info: alexandre@icnet.com or www.geocities.com/binetdallas.

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

Dallas Fort Worth Prime Times meet for General Meeting, Oct. 17, 3 p.m. John Thomas Community Center, 2701 Reagan St.; and Prime Dinner, Oct. 26, 6:30 p.m. Mario and Alberto, 425 Preston Valley Shopping Center. Info: information@primetimes-dfw.org or 972-504-8866.

Dallas Gay and Lesbian Bar Association. Info: www.dglba.org or 214-540-4460.

Dallas Transgender Alliance (DTA) 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/dtalliance.

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

Friends Associating and Relating (FAR) meets in locations other than the bars. Info: 214-328-6749.

FStop Photography Club meets the second Wednesday of each month, 8 p.m. Info: Ron, rdmddor@aolmail.net or 214-244-4806.

Lambda Group of Al-Anon meets Monday and Thursday nights, 8 p.m. 2438 Butler St., Suite 106. Info: 214-363-0461 or www.dallasal-anon.org.

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

Leadership Lambda Toastmasters meets Mondays, 6:30 p.m. Oak Lawn Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Rd. Info: 214-219-1908.

Positive About Living Social group (formerly Positive Personals) meets Thursdays, 6 p.m. Joe's Place, 4117 Maple Ave. Info: manager@brickdallas.com or 214-520-2497.

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.

Pride Institute-DFW offers continued care support for GLBTs who have been in a substance abuse treatment center within the last year. Tuesdays, 6 p.m. Free. Info: Jack Hamilton, 214-351-9909.

Team Dallas Aquatics seeks swimmers and divers of all ages and abilities. Info: www.TeamDallasAquatics.com.

Texas Twisters gay/lesbian country-western dancers, meets on the fourth Sunday of each month, 7 p.m. Line dance lessons, Wednesdays, 8:30 p.m. Round-Up Saloon. Info: www.texas-twisters.org or 972-993-2021, ext. 5052.

Volunteers! Voluntarios! Help with Outreach HIV education/condom packet assembly session, the first and third Saturdays of each month, 10 a.m.-12 noon. Ayudenos con llenar paquetes de condones, educacionales del VIH cada primer y tercer sábado del mes, de las 10 de la mañana hasta mediodía. Info: 214-540-4446.

SPIRITUALITY

Cathedral Business Network meets the second Tuesday of each month for lunch, 11:30 a.m.; and the fourth Tuesday of each month for breakfast, 7:30 a.m. Doubletree Hotel Campbell Center, Northwest Hwy. Info: www.cathedralthxpe.com or 214-351-1901, ext. 135.

Compassionate Heart Sangha meets Wednesdays, 7 p.m. Info: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/compassionateheartsangha> or 214-637-1954.

Jubilee Christian Fellowship worships at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Rainbow Room thrift shop now open. 4225 Ross Ave. Info: www.jubileeTX.org or 214-528-3655.

North Texas Radical Faeries meet for a monthly podcast and heart circle. Info: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NTRadfae>.

Sanctuary of Love worships Sundays, 10:30 a.m. and Wednesdays, 7 p.m. 3917 N. Hall. Bible study is Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., 3717 Prescott. Info: 214-520-2260.

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: www.unt.edu/ally or Dr. Dan Emmerheiser, 940-565-2456.

GLAD (UNT's Gay and Lesbian Association of Denton) meets Wednesdays. Info: <http://orgs.unt.edu/GLAD>.

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

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

EL PASO

LAMBDA Parents meet Saturdays, 7:30 p.m. Community Center, 216 S. Ochoa. Info: www.LAMBDA.org.

gaital. Info: www.gaylca.org or 512-336-0941.

Austin Gay Lesbian Social meets the second Wednesday of every month, 7-9 p.m. Rainbow Cattle Co., 305 W. 5th. Info: www.AustinGayLesbianSocial.org.

Austin Gay Power Busters meet monthly. Info: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SSDizzyQueen>.

Bisexual Network of Austin meets for TGIB socials every Friday, 7 p.m. Bi Women's Discussion Group meets second and fourth Tuesday, 7 p.m. Info: www.mainorg/binetx.org or 512-370-9573.

Center for Women's Business meets weekly for lunch, 912 Bastrop Hwy, Suite 210. Info: 512-472-8522.

First Friday Dinner Club for professional gay men and lesbians meets the first Friday of each month. Info: joshkoker@prideofaustin.com.

Gender Me, a peer support/social group for FTMs and those interested, is forming. Info: sebastian@ppaustin.org or Sebastian Colon, 512-275-0171, ext. 114.

HangOut, a UT group promoting sexual diversity, meets Wednesdays, 10 p.m. Little City, 10th and Congress. Info: www.comhangout.org.

Interested in starting a Long Yang Club for Central Texas? Info: www.longyang-club.org/newslet/directory.htm or Gary Travis69@yahoo.com

Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas meets for volunteer nights every Thursday, 6-9 p.m. Info: www.lgrt.org or 512-474-5475.

Log Cabin Republicans Austin meets the second Thursday of each month, 6:30 p.m. Info: <http://austinfo.org>.

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

Project Transitions needs volunteers to assist at Doug's House, its five-bedroom AIDS hospice and Top Drawer, its thrift store on the corner of 49th and Burnet. Info: Reichert@ProjectTransitions.org or Andy, 512-454-8646.

Safe Space meets Wednesdays, 7 p.m. University of Texas, Jester West Fireplace Lounge. Info: Demeareguy@yahoo.com.

Sapphirer women meet in a non-alcoholic, non-smoking environment throughout the month. Info: Sapphirer.org or 512-833-5040.

She Says, a UT organization for lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning women, meets Tuesdays, 6 p.m. in Texas Union 4.224. Info: <http://www.queenut.org/shesays/>.

Women on Motorbikes (WOMB.) offers fun, collaborative and scenic motor-cycle rides for women. Info: wombmoto@hotmail.com.

FUND-RAISERS

AIDS Walk Austin 2004 steps off in front of the Capitol, Sunday, Oct. 24, 2 p.m. Street Fair begins at 12 noon with live music, food vendors and a children's area. Registration: www.aidswalkaustin.org or 512-452-WALK.

Central Texas Boys of Leather cookout the second Sunday of each month, 5 p.m. Chain Drive patio, 504 Willow. Benefits CTBL charities. Tickets: \$5. Info: www.ctbl.org.

HEALTH & FITNESS

American Cancer Society's Dialogue helps lesbian cancer patients, their families, and friends cope. First and third Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. St. David's Health Resource Center, 3000 North IH-35. Info: Velma Valero, 512-919-1911.

Austin Frontrunners meets Sundays, 7-45 a.m. Info: Charles, www.frontrunners.org or 512-473-8334.

Austin Gamblers Bowling League meets Tuesdays, 8:20 p.m. Dart Bowl, 5700 Grover. Info: austingamblers@yahoo.com or Steve Cawthorn, 512-647-7073.

Heads-Caldwell Women's Center offers a support group for women who experienced childhood sexual abuse. Info: Lynette, 512-396-3404, ext. 242 or 1-800-700-4292.

Heart of Texas Hoedowners offer free dance lessons, Sundays, 6 p.m. and Tuesdays, 8 p.m. Rainbow Cattle Company, W. 5th. Info: <http://www.hoedowners.org> or contact Don at bc_dj@hotmail.com.

Hike, camp, and canoe with Adventuring Outdoors. Info: www.mainorg/adventuring.org or 512-236-7176.

Midtown Spa of Austin and the City of Austin Department of Health conduct free and confidential HIV/STD testing, each Monday, 1-5 p.m. during half-price room day; and every other Tuesday, 9 p.m. 'til midnight, with complimentary food and Latino music. 5815 Airport Blvd. Info: 512-302-9696.

Rainbow of Recovery Narcotics Anonymous meets Saturdays, 8 p.m. St. David's Hospital, cafeteria private dining room, 919 E. 32nd.

Rainbow Rollerblaters roll the second Monday of each month, 8 p.m. Rollerblades welcome. Skate World Northwest, Anderson Mill Rd. Tickets: \$6, benefiting community charities. Info: www.mainorg/rainbowskate.org or James, 512-296-0381.

Stop the spread of HIV/AIDS by talking about sex in bars on 4th or 6th St. AIDS Services of Austin Prevention Team. Info: 512-406-6167.

Swimmers—interested in a team for workouts and/or competitions? Info: AustinSwimming@aol.com or 512-658-5874.

Waterloo Counseling Center offers support and therapy groups for GLBTs including: Transgender Support; Kids with GLBT Parents; Men's and Women's Coming Out; and Men's, Women's and Mixed Gender Psychotherapy groups. Intake required. Info: www.waterloocounseling.org or 512-444-9922 ext. 204.

SPIRITUALITY

Austin Gay Men's Meditation Group welcomes all spiritual paths. Sundays, 7 p.m. Austin Shambhala Meditation Center, 1702 S. 5th. Info: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MeditationGM> or Shawn, 512-448-3330.

Kingdom Seekers in Christ Jesus worships 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.whosoevenet.net. 81 San Marcos St. Info: Rev/Thout/WhoSoEvenet or 512-322-0049.

MCC Austin at Freedom Oaks worships Saturdays, 7 p.m. and Sundays, 9 and 11 a.m. 8601 S. 1st Street. Info: www.mccaustin.com.

Plum Blossom Sangha meditates Sunday evenings, 6 p.m. Austin Yoga School, 1122-C S. Lamar. Info: 512-576-9523.

Soulforce Austin meets at a different church, synagogue, or temple the first Thursday of each month, 7:30 p.m. Info: www.soulforceaustin.org.

Trinity United Methodist Church worships Sundays, 9 and 11 a.m. 600 E. 50th. Info: www.tumc.org or 512-459-5835.

BEAUMONT

The smoke-free Lambda A.A. Group meets Wednesdays and Saturdays, 8 p.m. 1385 Calder. Info: 409-866-6165.

BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION

Brazos GLBT Oral History Project is collecting oral histories of GLBT people who have or do live in the Bryan-College Station area or have attended Texas A&M University. All experiences and levels of outness are welcome. Info: <http://www.brazoshistory.org> or brazoshistory@yahoo.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BiNet Dallas meets the first Friday of each month, 7 p.m. John Thomas Gay and Lesbian Center, 2701 Reagan St.; and the third Saturday of each month, 10:30 a.m., La Madeleine (Lemmon at Oak Lawn). Info: alexandre@bnet.com or www.geocities.com/bnetdallas.

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

Dallas Fort Worth Prime Times meet for General Meeting, Oct. 17, 3 p.m. John Thomas Community Center, 2701 Reagan St.; and Prime Dinner, Oct. 26, 6:30 p.m. Mario and Alberto, 425 Preston Valley Shopping Center. Info: information@primetimes-dfw.org or 972-504-8866.

Dallas Gay and Lesbian Bar Association. Info: www.dglb.org or 214-540-4460.

Dallas Transgender Alliance (DTA) 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.

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

Friends Associating and Relating (FAR) meets in locations other than the bars. Info: 214-328-6749.

F-Stop Photography Club meets the second Wednesday of each month, 8 p.m. Info: Ron.rmaddox@aol.com or 214-244-4806.

Lambda Group of Al-Anon meets Monday and Thursday nights, 8 p.m. 2438 Butler St., Suite 106. Info: 214-363-0461 or www.dallasal-anon.org.

Lambda Pride Toastmasters meets every Friday, 6:30 p.m. Cathedral of Hope, Room 106. Info: www.lambda pride.com.

Leadership Lambda Toastmasters meets Mondays, 6:30 p.m. Oak Lawn Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Rd. Info: 214-219-1908.

Log Cabin Republicans-Dallas meets the fourth Monday of every month. Info: www.dallaslogcabin.org or 214-346-2115.

Monogamous couples new to Dallas, call Committed For Fun. Info: roni69@hotmail.com or 214-395-6774.

PFLAG Dallas meets the second Thursday of each month. Info: www.pflagtexas.org.

Purple Light trans support group meets second and fourth Sunday of each month. John Thomas Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 2701 Reagan. Tickets: \$3. Info: www.goldkopar.com/purple.

Stonewall Democrats of Dallas registers voters meets the third Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m. Ojeda's Restaurant, 4617 Maple Ave. Info: Dallas@stonewalldemocrats.org or Shannon Bailey, 214-328-4906.

HEALTH & FITNESS

A League of Our Own (ALOOO) gay bowling league bowls Thursdays, 8 p.m. Richardson Lanes. Info: 972-231-2695.

Immunocize classes held Monday-Friday, 10:30 a.m., Resource Center of Dallas. Info: www.resourcecenterdallas.org or 214-528-0144.

Lambda Group of Al-Anon meets Monday and Thursday nights, 8 p.m. 2438 Butler St., Suite 106. Info: 214-363-0461 or www.dallasal-anon.org.

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: ross@malecare.com or 972-247-7444.

Nelson Tebedo Health Resource Center offers confidential sexually transmitted disease screening and treatment for \$50. Anonymous or confidential HIV testing: \$20. Appointments encouraged. Info: 214-528-2336.

Justice-Christian Fellowship worships at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Rainbow Room Thrift shop now open, 4225 Ross Ave. Info: www.JubileeTX.org or 214-528-3655.

North Texas Radical Fories meet for a monthly potluck and heart circle. Info: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NTRadfor>.

Sanctuary of Love worships Sundays, 10:30 a.m. and Wednesdays, 7 p.m. 3917 N. Hall. Bible study is Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., 3717 Prescott. Info: 214-530-2260.

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: www.unt.edu/ally or Dr. Dan Emmerheiser, 940-565-2456.

GLAD (UNT's Gay and Lesbian Association of Denton) meets Wednesdays. Info: <http://orgs.unt.edu/GLAD>.

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

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

EL PASO

LAMBDA Parents meet Saturdays, 7:30 p.m. Community Center, 216 S. Ochoa. Info: www.LAMBDA.org.

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) meets the third Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m. El Paso MCC, 900 Chelsea. Info: www.geocities.com/pflagelpaso or 915-751-9046.

Under 22? Youth OUTreach meets Thursdays, 6 p.m. and Saturday, 7 p.m. Info: www.GAYelpaso.org.

FORT WORTH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GLSEN Tarrant County meets the second Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m. Bernigani's. Info: www.gbsentarrant.org or 817-294-5101.

Meadowbrook Rainbow Neighbors meet Tuesdays, 6-8:30 p.m. Flash Point Boogie Burger, 3510 E. Lancaster Blvd. Info: meadowbrooknews@webtv.net.

PFLAG Fort Worth meets the first Thursday of each month, 7 p.m. 1st Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1959 Sandy Ln. Info: <http://pflag-fortworth.org> or 817-428-2329.

Rainbow GLBT Nurses seeks members. Info: rainbownurses@sbccglobal.net or 817-346-8314.

Tarrant County Stonewall Democrats (TCSD) meets the second Monday of each month, 7 p.m. Tommy's Hamburger Grill, 5228 Camp Bowie Blvd. Info: tarrant@stonewalldemocrats.org or Bayless Camp, 817-913-8743.

Tarrant County Gay Pride Week Association meets the third Sunday of each month, 3 p.m. Info: www.tcgpw.org.

Trinity River Bears meet the third Wednesday of each month, 7:30 p.m. Comal Club. Info: www.trinityriverbears.com.

FUND-RAISERS

Artists Against AIDS presents its 10th annual Reception and Silent Art Auction, Oct. 15-16, 7 p.m. Fort Worth Community Arts Center. Benefits Tarrant County AIDS Interfaith Network (TCAIN). Tickets: \$25-\$100. Info: 817-923-2800.

HEALTH & FITNESS

Pride Institute-DFW offers continued care support for GLBTs who have been in a substance abuse treatment center within the last year. Mondays, 6 p.m. Free. Info: Kelly Burdick, 817-966-0761.

SPIRITUALITY

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

Angel of Hope Christian Church worships Sundays, 10:30 a.m. 901 Page St. Info: www.angelofhope.org or 817-920-7767.

Celebration Community Church worships Sundays, 9 and 11 a.m. Bible study, Wednesdays, 7 p.m. 908 Pennsylvania Ave. Info: www.celebration-community-church.com or 817-335-3222.

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

Fort Worth Church Project/First Jefferson Church, 1959 Sandy Lane. Info: www.fortworthchurch.com or 817-595-6925.

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

FRISCO

FriscoPride offers monthly social events. Info: www.friscopride.com or info@friscope.com.

GALVESTON

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

Want an MCC (the Metropolitan Community Church) in Galveston? Please complete the online survey at www.GalvestonMCC.org.

HOUSTON

ANNOUNCEMENTS

American Veterans for Equal Rights-Houston meets the first Monday of each month, 7 p.m. Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 3400 Montrose. Info: AVERHouston@yahoo.com or www.averus.org.

An Uncommon Legacy Foundation, promoting the visibility, vitality and strength of the lesbian community, meets the third Wednesday of each month, 6:30 p.m. Hollywood Cafe. Info: 713-520-1142.

BiNet Houston meets Thursdays, 7 p.m. Hobbit Cafe, 2243 Richmond.

each month, 7 p.m. Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 3400 Montrose Blvd., Suite 207. Voter registration application cards are available at Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond Ave. Info: voter@hglpc.com.

Houston GLBT Community Center offers various programming for Houston's GLBT community. 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. Info: www.HoustonGLBTcommunitycenter.org.

Lesbian & Gay Immigration Rights Task Force-Houston chapter meets every second Thursday, 8 p.m. and the last Wednesday of each month. Bering Memorial Methodist Church, room 230. Info: LGIRTF-Houston-owner@yahoo.com or 713-426-3128.

Montrose Social Group (MSG), a peer-led community, meets Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. Bering Church, room 224. Info: www.msghouston.org.

Pride Committee of Houston meets the second Tuesday of each month. 1415 California. Info: www.pridehouston.org or 713-529-6979.

Resurrection MCC offers American Sign Language instruction, Sundays through Nov. 14, 2 p.m. 2025 W. 11th St. Info: 713-861-9149, ext. 112.

Stonewall Lawyers Association of Greater Houston (SLAGH) meets the first Thursday of each month for lunch, 11:30 a.m. Chef G's Seafood and Steakhouse, 1915 Westheimer. Tickets: \$10-\$20.

University of Houston Graduate School of Social Work's Fourth Annual Jenkins Distinguished Lecture presents Judy Shepard: The Legacy of Matthew Shepard. Tuesday, Oct. 19, 7 p.m. University of Houston's Cullen Performance Hall. Info: 713-743-2255.

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

FUND-RAISERS

Old Lesbians Organizing for Change presents its annual Gathering, Oct. 14-17, with headliner Deirdre McCalla. Saturday, Oct. 16, 7 p.m. Renaissance Houston Hotel. Tickets: \$50. Info: info@oloc.org or 713-664-9891.

RSICSS presents Drag Queen Bingo, Tuesdays, 9 p.m. Meteor, 2306 Genesee. Info: 713-710-0268.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

Bike For A Better City meets for a ride and football, Sunday Oct. 17, 11 a.m.; 32nd Houston Moonlight Bicycle Ramble is Sunday, Oct. 31, 1:15 a.m. Lambda Center, 1201 W. Clay. Info: www.bikehouston.org or 713-523-6381.

Body Positive Wellness Clinic offers a three-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.

Director of Bering Support Network Ken McLeod facilitates Jump Start, a group for GLBT persons living with disabilities. Second and fourth Fridays, 11 a.m. Info: 713-526-1017, ext. 208.

Frontrunners run three miles and socialize on Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. and Sundays, 8 a.m. Memorial Park Tennis Center. Info: http://home.swbell.net/latathon/houf.htm, latathon@swbell.net or 713-522-0899.

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

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

Spu 10 p.m.-1 a.m., Meatrack 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Rich's 10 p.m.-1 a.m. Classes are also offered for individuals newly diagnosed with Hep C. Info: 713-830-3000.

Montrose Counseling Center presents Living Well with HIV support group. Mondays, 1:15-2:45 p.m. Info: Bob Hergenroeder, LCSW, 713-529-0037, ext. 322.

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

Montrose Counseling Center's Women Living with HIV support group meets Wednesdays, 1 p.m. 701 Richmond Ave., Room 15. Info: Rufina Basu, 713-529-0037, ext. 312.

Montrose Soccer Club is beginning registration for its upcoming season and has open spots on its men's team for Gay Games 2006 in Chicago. Info: www.geocities.com/MontroseSoccer.

OutSkate Roller Skate Club hosts Gay Skate Night, Wednesdays, 8 p.m. Zenith Roller Rink, 8075 Cook Rd. Tickets: \$5. Info: dobie367@aol.com or 281-933-5818.

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

PWA Coalition and Doctors Hospital's HIV/AIDS support group meets the first Wednesday of each month, 5:30 p.m. Doctors Hospital Medical Office Building, 509 W. Tidwell. Info: Craig Overstreet, 281-765-7313.

Rainbow Ringers country and western dancers give lessons, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30 p.m. Brazos River Bottom. Info: www.Rainbowrangers.org.

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.

Team Houston (Gay Games) meets the second Sunday of each month, 4 p.m. GLBT Center, 4200 Montrose Blvd., Suite 207. Info: GayGamesTeamHouston-owner@yahoo.com

SPIRITUALITY

Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church offers all-Spanish worship every Saturday, 7 p.m. 2025 W. 11th St. 713-861-9149 or 713-303-3409.

Bering Spiritual Support Group meets Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. 1427 Hawthorne. Info: 713-526-1017, ext. 208.

Congregation Beth Israel gay and lesbian study group meets first Thursday of every month, 7:30 p.m. Beth Israel, 5600 N. Braeswood. Info: Rabbi Glickman, 713-771-6221.

Feminist Group meets Sundays, 10:45 a.m. First Unitarian Universalist Church's Sojourner Truth Room, 5200 Fannin. Info: www.houston-womensgroup.com, HouWG@aol.com or Iris Greer Sizemore, 713-529-8571.

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

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

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church worships Sundays, 10:30 a.m. Adult Education is Sunday, 9 a.m. 2515 Waugh Dr. Info: office@gracelutheran.org

SAN ANGELO

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PFLAG San Angelo meets the first Thursday of each month, 7 p.m. First Christian Church, 20 North Oakes. Info: pflagtexasccouncil@yahoo.com.

SPIRITUALITY

First Christian Church of San Angelo worships Sundays, 10 a.m. 20 N. Oakes. Info: www.fcgsanangelo.org or 325-653-4523.

St. Paul Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) worships Sundays, 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. 11 N. Park on Info: www.stpaul-sa.org.

Unity Church of Christianity of San Angelo worships Sundays, 5237 S. Bryant Blvd. Info: www.unityofsanangelo.org or 325-651-6830.

SAN ANTONIO

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Club Poz San Antonio meets monthly. Info: ClubPozSAT@aol.com or 210-341-0133.

Cheer San Antonio practices Sundays, 2 p.m. Olmos Park. Info: www.geocities.com/cheersanantonio or Mitch, 210-380-7574.

Diversity Center's M2 is a peer social and support group for GLBTQ young adult men and their allies, 19 to 29 years old. Diversity Center of San Antonio. Info: 210-223-6106.

Diversity Center's Positive Outlook HIV social/support group meets Sundays, 4 p.m. for potluck dinner. MCC Rainbow Cathedral lower level, 611 E Myrtle. Info: info@glossa.org or 210-223-6106.

Diversity Center's Spectrum Group, a peer support group for youth ages 12 to 18, meets weekly. MCC Rainbow Cathedral lower level, 611 E. Myrtle. Info: info@glossa.org or 210-223-6106.

Diversity Center Transgender Support Group is facilitated by Christie Lee Littleton. MCC Rainbow Cathedral lower level, 611 E Myrtle. Info: christielee@glossa.org or 210-223-6106.

Stonewall Democrats of San Antonio need volunteers to help with phone banking, Oct. 17, 1-9 p.m. North East Side Democratic Campaign Headquarters, 7034 San Pedro; and Oct. 18, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Grady's Bar-B-Que, 6510 San Pedro. Bring your cell phone. Info: Dan Graney, dgraney@yahoo.com or 210-494-7442.

Stonewall Democrats of San Antonio meet Monday, Oct. 18, 6:30 p.m. Grady's Barbecue, 6510 San Pedro. Info: www.sdstx.org.

Texas Tradition Cloggers offer classes for children to advanced level, Monday nights, 5:30-9 p.m. Turner Club, 120 9th St. Info: www.texas-traditioncloggers.com or C.D. Crady, 210-535-6155.

SPIRITUALITY

Abundant Grace in Christ Jesus worships Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Bible Study Wednesdays 7 p.m. 10415 Perrin-Beitel, Suite 106. Info: 210-445-5156.

Dignity/San Antonio, gay and lesbian Catholics, worships Sundays, 5:30 p.m. St. Ann's Church, 1334 W. Ashby. Info: 210-340-2230.

Metropolitan Church of San Antonio worships Sundays, 10:30 a.m. 611 E. Myrtle. Info: www.mccsa.org or 210-472-3597.

First Unitarian Universalist Church worships Sundays, 10:30 a.m. 62

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

FRISCO

FriscoPride offers monthly social events. Info: www.friscopride.com or info@friscopride.com.

GALVESTON

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

Want an MCC (the Metropolitan Community Church) in Galveston? Please complete the online survey at www.GalvestonMCC.org.

HOUSTON

ANNOUNCEMENTS

American Veterans for Equal Rights-Houston meets the first Monday of each month, 7 p.m. Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 3400 Montrose. Info: AVERHouston@yahoo.com or www.waverus.com.

An Uncommon Legacy Foundation, promoting the visibility, vitality and strength of the lesbian community, meets the third Wednesday of each month, 6:30 p.m. Hollywood Cafe. Info: 713-520-1142.

BiNet Houston meets Thursdays, 7 p.m. Hobbit Cafe, 2243 Richmond. Info: www.flash.net/~bhouse or 713-467-4380.

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

Community Awareness for Transgender Support (CATS) meets Wednesdays. Houston GLBT Community Center, 3400 Montrose Blvd., Suite 207. Info: Paige, 281-624-7056.

Esperamos concerte! Charla Espanola, or Spanish Chat, meets every other Thursday. Agora, 1712 Westheimer, 7 p.m. Info: charlaespanola@msn.com or 713-416-7203.

Feminists—need more? Join FEMNET. Subscribe to by emailing FEMNET-subscribe@yahoo.com with the word 'subscribe' in the subject area.

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

Gay? Mature? Hungry? Try Houston Prime Timers. Info: www.prime-timerswww.org/houston or 713-867-3903.

Gulf Coast Archive and Museum of GLBT History, Inc. 1609 W. Main, #4. Tours by appointment only. Info: www.gcam.org or 713-227-5973.

HATCH, Houston's GLBT youth group, meets Fridays, 7-10 p.m., and Sundays, 6-9 p.m. Info: www.hatchyouth.org or 713-529-3590.

Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus meets the first Wednesday of

FUND-RAISERS

Old Lesbians Organizing for Change presents its annual Gathering, Oct. 14-17, with headliner Deidre McCalla, Saturday, Oct. 16, 7 p.m. Renaissance Houston Hotel. Tickets: \$50. Info: info@oloc.org or 713-664-9891.

RSICSS presents Drag Queen Bingo, Tuesdays, 9 p.m. Meteor, 2306 Genessee. Info: 713-710-0268.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

Bike For A Better City meets for a ride and football, Sunday Oct. 17, 11 a.m.; 32nd Houston Moonlight Bicycle Rumble is Sunday, Oct. 31, 1-15 a.m. Lambda Center, 1201 W. Clay. Info: www.bikehouston.org or 713-523-6381.

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Frontrunners run three miles and socialize on Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. and Sundays, 8 a.m. Memorial Park Tennis Center. Info: <http://home.svbell.net/lanathon/houf.htm>, lanathon@svbell.net or 713-522-0899.

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

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

Gay/Lesbian Breakfast Club walks each Saturday, 9:30 a.m., Memorial Park Tennis Center. Info: <http://members.aol.com/morningclub/index.html> or 281-437-0636.

Lambda Houston (Alcoholics Anonymous) is open seven days a week. 1201 W. Clay. Info: 713-521-1243.

Lone Star Volleyball Association (LSVA) play Sundays, 4:30 p.m. St. Thomas University's Jerabee Center. Info: www.LSVA.org or 713-717-5782.

Lesbian Health Initiative (LHI) presents its Rainbow Health Fair, Saturday, Nov. 6, 8:15 a.m.-3:15 p.m. Montrose Clinic, 215 Westheimer. To schedule mammograms: 713-603-0023. To schedule Pap tests: 713-830-3075.

Lynne Shepherd facilitates Lesbian Coming Out Night, first and third Wednesdays of each month, 6 p.m. Houston GLBT Community Center, 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. Info: www.HoustonGLBTCommunityCenter.org or 713-524-3818.

Montrose Clinic offers free HIV testing Mondays at Brick's 4-8 p.m. and O on Pacific 9 p.m.-1 a.m.; Tuesdays at 611 Club 4-8 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, EJ's 10 p.m.-1 a.m., and Midtowne Spa 10 p.m.-1 a.m.; Thursdays at All-Star News 4-8 p.m., BRB 8 p.m.-12 midnight, Cousins 8 p.m.-12 midnight, Fridays at EJ's 10 p.m.-1 a.m., Midtowne

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.

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Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church worships Sundays, 10:30 a.m. Adult Education is Sunday, 9 a.m. 2515 Waugh Dr. Info: office@gracelutheran-houston.org or 713-528-3269.

Introduction to Buddhism is offered each Tuesday, 7 p.m. 634 W. Temple. Info: Carlton, 713-862-8129.

Jewish Congregation Mishpachah Alizim meets the second Friday of each month, 8 p.m. Baby Barnaby's, 602 Fairview. Info: mishpachah@onebox.com or 866-841-9139, ext. 1834.

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

LIVINGSTON

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

MINERAL WELLS

Gay? Mature? Mineral Wells Prime Timers meets the second Saturday of each month, 324 Whispering Oaks Southwind. Info: mwprime@yahoo.com or 940-325-0325.

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Diversity Center's Positive Outlook HIV social/support group meets Sundays, 4 p.m. for potluck dinner. MCC Rainbow Cathedral lower level, 611 E Myrtle. Info: info@glccsa.org or 210-223-6106.

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Metropolitan Church of San Antonio worships Sundays, 10:30 a.m. 611 E. Myrtle. Info: www.mccsa.org or 210-472-3597.

First Unitarian Universalist Church worships Sundays, 10:30 a.m. followed by LGBT Interweave lunch, each fourth Sunday. Info: 210-344-4695.

River City Living Church worships Sundays, 11 a.m. 202 Holland. Info: rc@rivercitylivingchurch.org or 210-822-1121.

Spirit of Peace United Church of Christ worships Sundays, 5 p.m. First Unitarian Universalist Church, IH-10 and Loop 410. Info: www.spiritof-peacechurch.org.

Travis Park United Methodist Church worships Sundays, 9 and 11 a.m. 230 E. Travis. Info: www.travispark.org.

SEGUIN

Volunteer with Southern Animal Rescue Association (SARA), Sundays, 9 a.m. Info: Tracy, sarasanc@svbell.net or www.sarasanctuary.org.

WACO

PFLAG-Waco meets the second Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m. PFLAG-Waco Pub Nite is the third Saturday of each month, 7 p.m. 507 Jefferson Ave. Info: www.pflagwaco.org or 254-757-1284.

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.

HOROSCOPE

www.triangle.com/horoscope

October 15-21, 2004

Aries, March 21-April 20

Your emotional drive and sense of things may be at odds with your best interests or the way to proceed. You could make some bad decisions, be too generous, or squander your resources. You feel like being different, trying something new and unusual.

Taurus, April 21-May 21

You may not like the ideas or thoughts of someone who confronts you. What they say may seem inappropriate or be unappreciated. You may enjoy getting away from routine and doing something completely different for a change. Independence is valued.

Gemini, May 22-June 21

Your mind is quick and sharp, and your words are the only weapon you will need. Someone may tend to put the damper on what you say or think, or in some way manage to restrict your ability to communicate. You may have rebellious thoughts or plans.

Cancer, June 22-July 21

You may find yourself being put to good use by your friends, or it could be that circumstances force you to reorganize and be more conservative. You may have insights or breakthroughs in regard to your living situation or life circumstances. Also, get ready to hatch some eccentric ideas.

Leo, July 22-August 23

You may well be reminded of your various responsibilities. This is a good time to get down to the nitty-gritty and take care of some business you have postponed. Obligations may come to your attention. A meeting with someone older or in authority is helpful.

Virgo, August 24-September 22

Correct choices may be at odds with your sense of values. You may not appreciate the easy way or clear-cut option, and choose a more difficult path. You might feel love or greater compassion for an older person and think more about what is really important and of lasting value.

Libra, September 23-October 22

You may not feel like being very emotional and might tend to ignore any emotional needs that you might have. Your sense of values may be in conflict with your feelings. This is perhaps a time to think and study, for you have a real appreciation for ideas and thoughts.

Scorpio, October 23-November 22

This is an easy, calm time that should find everything running in a smooth manner. Ideas and interaction with authority figures or older people may be in the fore. You are at your mental best with sharp ideas and clear thoughts. This is an excellent time to make decisions.

Sagittarius, November 23-December 21

This is a very lucky week for making plans or decisions and finding your way through just about any problem you may discover. You feel successful and able to cope. Good advice from a guide or older person may be forthcoming. This is a very physical time, too; exercise or romance is in order.

Capricorn, December 22-January 20

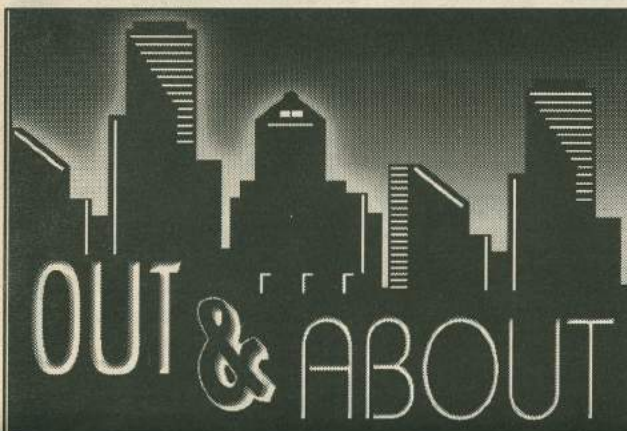
Your mind is quick and sharp, and your words are the only weapon you will need now. You have insight into your emotions and drive, and you can talk about your feelings with great insight and fluidity. Don't take chances or risks just now; be satisfied with the ordinary and usual.

Aquarius, January 21-February 19

You may not value something extraordinary or unusual. Instead, you find yourself appreciating what is quite normal or ordinary. You may be very forceful in what you say and think. With all of this emotional energy, you could speak or communicate very well. You have mental drive.

Pisces, February 2-March 20

You may be especially dynamic and assertive just now. There is a lot of energy and drive available. You may not value something extraordinary or unusual. Instead, you find yourself appreciating what is quite normal or ordinary. This is an excellent time to make decisions and take care of mental work.



Crews Inn	3215 N. Fitzugh	214-526-9510
Dallas Eagle	2515 Inwood, #107	214-357-4375
Dewayne's Oasis	5334 Lemmon Avenue	214-528-6234
Hidden Door	5025 Bowser	214-526-0620
Hideaway	4144 Buena Vista	214-559-2966
Joe's Place	4117 Maple Ave.	214-219-5637
JR's	3923 Cedar Springs	214-559-0650
Kaliente	4350 Maple Ave.	214-520-6676
Male Boxx	5006 Lemmon Ave.	214-219-8269
Mickey's	3851 Cedar Springs Rd.	214-319-MICK
Midtowne Spa	2509 Pacific	214-821-8989
Pub Pegasus	3326 Fitzhugh Ave	214-559-4663
Round-Up Saloon	3912 Cedar Springs	214-522-9611
Side 2 Bar	2815 Oak Lawn	214-528-2026
Sue Ellen's	3903 Cedar Springs	214-559-0650
The Brick	4117 Maple Ave.	214-521-2024
The Club Dallas	2616 Swiss	214-821-1990
The Pavilion	325 Centre St.	214-941-2145
Tin Room	2514 Hudnall	214-526-6365
TMC	3014 Throckmorton	214-559-0650
Village Station	3911 Cedar Springs	214-559-0650
Woody's	4011 Cedar Springs	214-520-6629

Cousins	817 Fairview	713-528-9204
Decade's	1205 Richmond	713-521-2224
E/J's	2517 Ralph	713-527-9017
Guava Lamp	2159 Portsmouth	713-524-3359
Inergy Club	5750 Chimney Rock	713-668-7310
J.R. s/Sante Fe	808/804 Pacific	713-521-2519
Keys West	817 West Dallas	713-571-7870
Mary's, Naturally	1022 Westheimer Rd.	713-527-9669
Meat Rack	2915 San Jacinto	713-528-2028
Mela's	302 Tuam	713-523-0747
Meteor	2306 Genesee	713-521-0123
Midtowne Spa	3100 Fannin	713-522-2379
Montrose Mining Co.	805 Pacific	713-529-7488
New Barn	2715 Waughcrest	713-521-9533
O Houston	710 Pacific	713-523-0213
Rainbow Room	527 Barren Springs Rd.	281-872-0215
Ripcord	715 Fairview	713-521-2792
South Beach	810 Pacific	713-529-7623
The Club Houston	2205 Fannin	713-559-4998
Vibrations	6130 Richmond	713-975-8385

LONGVIEW

what you say or think, or in some way restrict your ability to communicate. You may have rebellious thoughts or plans.

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OUT & ABOUT

Statewide listings and maps @
www.txtriangle.com/nightlife

AMARILLO

The 212 Club 212 W. 6th St. 806-372-7997

ARLINGTON

1851 Arlington 1851 Division St. 817-2759651

AUSTIN

Bout Time 9601 N. I-35 512-832-5339
 Charlie's 1301 Lavaca 512-474-6481
 Chain Drive 504 Willow 512-480-9017
 Dick's Deja Disco 113 San Jacinto 512-457-8010
 Midtowne Spa 5815 Airport Blvd. 512-302-9696
 Oil Can Harry's 211 W. 4th St. 512-320-8823
 Rainbow Cattle Co. 305 W. 5th St. 512-472-5288
 Sidekicks Austin 110 E. Riverside Dr. 512-804-2797

BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION

Halo 121 N. Main St. 979-822-6326

BROWNSVILLE

Ibiza 4177 N. Exprwy 77 956-350-3840

CONROE

Ranch Hill Saloon 2111 Airport Road 936-441-6426

CORPUS CHRISTI

Hidden Door 802 S. Staples St. 361-882-5022
 Mingles 512 S. Staples St. 361-884-8022

DALLAS

Bamboleo's 6102 Maple Ave. 214-358-2515
 Buddie's II 4025 Maple Ave. 214-526-0887

Crews Inn	3215 N. Fitzugh	214-526-9510
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TMC	3014 Throckmorton	214-559-0650
Village Station	3911 Cedar Springs	214-559-0650
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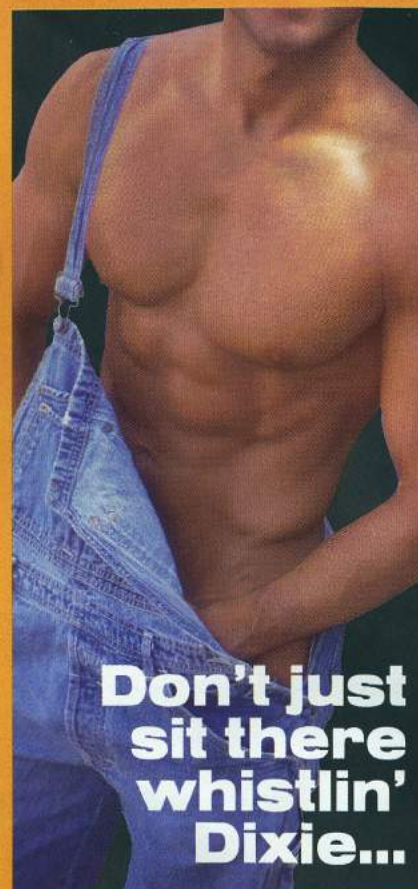
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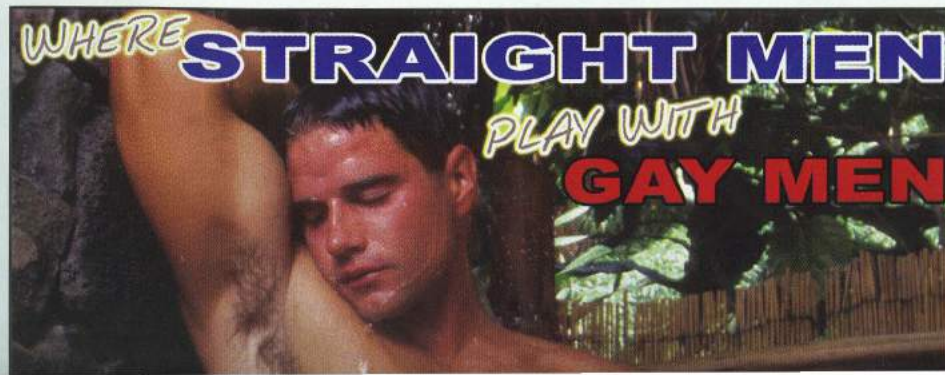
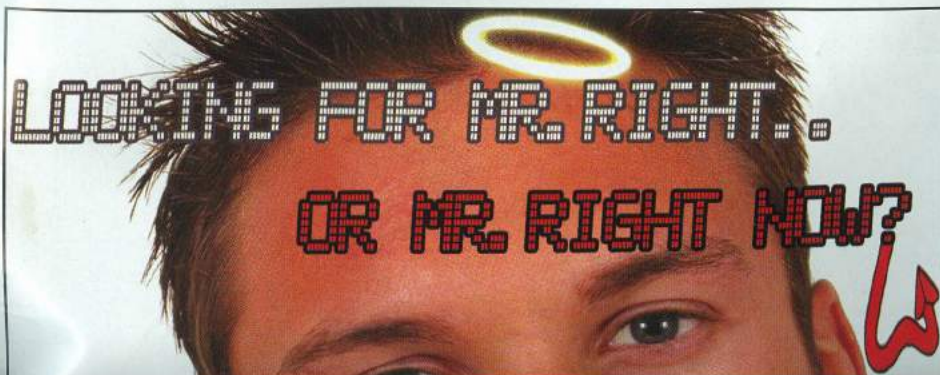


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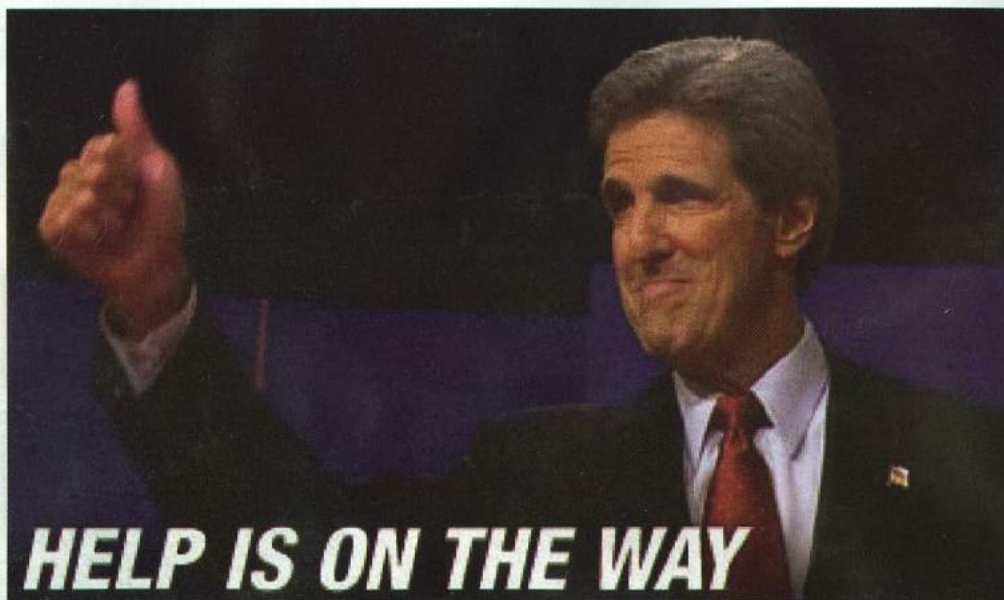
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**For Early Voting locations and times,
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Stonewall Democrats of Austin
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ken@stonewallaustin.org
512.383.1754

President Ken Stewart

Vice President Christina Ocasio

Meeting-Tuesday, Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m.
Magnolia Cafe, 1920 S. Congress Ave.

Dallas

Stonewall Democrats of Dallas
www.stonewalldemocratsofdallas.org
info@stonewalldemocratsofdallas.org
214.328.4906

President Shannon Bailey

Vice President Dana Wilson

Meeting-Tuesday, Oct. 19, 6:30 p.m.
Ojeda's Restaurant, 4617 Maple Ave.

El Paso

Borderland Stonewall Democrats
borderlanddemo@yahoo.com
915.637.5780

President Michael Flores

Meeting-Monday, Oct. 25, 6:30 p.m.
Jaxon's Restaurant, 4799 N. Mesa St.

Fort Worth/Arlington

Stonewall Democrats of Tarrant County
www.tarrantstonewall.org
president@tarrantstonewall.org
817.913.8743

President Bayliss Camp

Vice President Lynn Johnson

Meeting-Monday, Nov. 8, 7 p.m.
Tommy's Hamburger Grill, 5228 Camp Bowie

Houston

Stonewall Democrats of Houston



HELP IS ON THE WAY

Mon. Oct. 18 through Fri. Oct. 22
Sat. Oct. 23 and Sun. Oct. 24
Mon. Oct. 25 through Fri. Oct. 29

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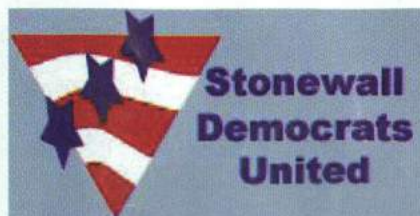
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Houston

Stonewall Democrats of Houston

www.stonewallhouston.org

mark@stonewalldemocrats.org

713.854.8773

San Antonio

Stonewall Democrats of San Antonio

www.sdsatx.org

dcgraney@yahoo.com

210.494.7442

Co-Chair Kathy Kennedy

Co-Chair Daniel Graney

Meeting-Monday, Oct. 18, 6:30 p.m.

Grady's Barbeque, 6510 San Pedro Ave.

**Want to start a Stonewall Chapter in
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Shannon Bailey at 214.328.4906**