

THE NIGHTTIME PARADE BEGINS AT 9 P.M., SATURDAY, JUNE 26

inside pride

A black and white photograph of a person's back and shoulder, with the title 'inside pride' overlaid in pink and black text. The person's skin is light-colored, and the background is dark. The text 'inside pride' is written in a stylized, pink, serif font with a black outline. The word 'inside' is smaller and positioned above 'pride'. The overall composition is artistic and evocative.

STONE WALL 30

SPRING 1999



...AND THE WINNER IS...
**1999 GRAND MARSHALS
REVEALED!**

PRIDE COMMITTEE OF HOUSTON www.pridehouston.org



Co-Chairs Guy Burns (top) and Michelle Franke (left) and Executive Director Carol Clark (right).
Top photo by Paul Archer, bottom photo by Marcus Cook.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BACK IN THE LATE 1970's, MY SOFTBALL TEAM WAS CALLED "PRIDE."

I remember thinking, "What a strange thing to call a softball team." Now, with my bad back and arthritic knees, I look back fondly on that time in my life. In the five or so years I played on the team, I formed wonderful relationships, some of

LETTER FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

AS WE DRAW CLOSER TO JUNE, we are getting more and more excited about all of the festivities we have planned for Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride 1999. The Committee has worked very hard planning events that will help our community show off its pride.

It may not be very well known, but this Committee works year-round planning events for Houston's Pride celebration. Many volunteers work together to organize and host one of the nation's longest Pride celebrations (over half a month), which culminates with America's original nighttime Pride Parade. Everyone is welcome to join us; there is plenty of work yet to be done!

1999 is going to be the best yet. We anticipate having over 115 entries in the parade and expect the crowd of spectators to swell past 80,000.

To help you keep track of all the community-sponsored Pride events leading up to the Parade, this year's *Pride Guide* will be published in collaboration with the *Texas Triangle* for wider distribution and easy access to the publication. Be sure to pick up the *Triangle* in late May or in early June to get your *Pride Guide*.

Our Committee has had great progress this year, but we've had challenges as well. One of the more difficult decisions we have had to make as Co-Chairs this year was to cancel the pre-parade festival due to a lack of committee resources. We were looking forward to the return of the festival, but this decision will help us to channel more time, effort, and money into other aspects of the Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride you have come to know and love. While we never like making these types of decisions, we know it's all worth it in June when we see so many shining faces in the crowds of people having fun and enjoying one of Houston's best events.

Spend the month of June showing your pride. There are many ways to get in-



Pride Committee of Houston, Inc.

Mission Statement

The Pride Committee of Houston, Inc., is a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization whose purpose is to coordinate and promote events that celebrate the diversity, unity, and history of the lesbian and gay community. We do not discriminate on the basis of age, color, gender, transgender, or bisexual identification, nor do we discriminate against the physically challenged or those who are differently abled.

We are here to commemorate, educate, and celebrate our pride and create a path toward a positive future for all humanity, not excluding any aspect of who we are as people.

Executive Committee

Guy Burns, Co-Chair
Michelle Franke, Co-Chair
Steve Belunek, Secretary
Gary Masse, Treasurer
Business Outreach – open
Raul Garcia, Events/Community Outreach
John Thompson, Events/Community Outreach
Fundraising – open
Clarence Bagby, Media/Public Relations
Jim Duke, Merchandise
Tina Travis, Merchandise
Troy Christensen, Newsletter/Historian
Marcus Cook, Newsletter
Robin Duncan, Parade
Jim Shumsky, Parade
Mark Willis, Parade
Chris Noessel, Pride Guide
Video – open
Cindy Archer, Volunteers
Paul Archer, Volunteers

Board of Directors

Carol Clark, Executive Director
Guy Burns, Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride 1999 Co-Chair
Michelle Franke, Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride 1999 Co-Chair
Brian Keever, Secretary & Banner District
Julie Siska, Treasurer
Nick Brines, Corporate Sponsorships

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I remember thinking, "What a strange thing to call a softball team." Now, with my bad back and arthritic knees, I look back fondly on that time in my life. In the five or so years I played on the team, I formed wonderful relationships, some of which continue even now. I still recognize some of the numerous women I met. When we see one another, there is an intangible bond between us. We are held together by our common memories and experiences. I know "Pride" is a part of that bond. It's the same "Pride" I feel when I put on a Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride t-shirt (buy yours today!), march in Austin with my gay and lesbian brothers and sisters, or tell my new boss that I'm gay.

When you come to the Pride Parade on Saturday, June 26, when you are dazzled by the lights of the nighttime parade, remember that, even though the parade only lasts two hours, the "Pride" we are celebrating, the "Pride" you feel in your heart, lasts a lifetime.

Carol Clark

looking forward to the return of the festival, but this decision will help us to channel more time, effort, and money into other aspects of the Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride you have come to know and love. While we never like making these types of decisions, we know it's all worth it in June when we see so many shining faces in the crowds of people having fun and enjoying one of Houston's best events.

Spend the month of June showing your pride. There are many ways to get involved. Buy Pride '99 merchandise. Join us at the Kick-off Party at Picasso on June 11. Attend any of the many Pride events hosted by our local businesses and organizations. Be there when more than 2000 of our friends invade AstroWorld for the second annual Pride Day on June 20. And, of course, attend the nighttime Pride Parade on June 26.

Whatever your passion, there is sure to be an event that will peak your interest. Don't let Pride '99 pass you by!

Guy Burns & Michelle Franke

Robin Duncan, Parade
Jim Shumsky, Parade
Mark Willis, Parade
Chris Noessel, Pride Guide
Video - open
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Brian Keever, Secretary & Banner District
Julie Siska, Treasurer
Nick Brines, Corporate Sponsorships
Joel Lutringer, Communication & Marketing
Ray Ramirez, Outreach

Legal Counsel

Debra Hunt
Moore and Hunt, Attorneys

Contact Information

PrideLine: 713.529.6979
Fax: 713.529.6929

Pride Committee of Houston, Inc.
PO Box 66071
Houston, Texas 77266-6071

E-mail: info@pridehouston.org
Web: www.pridehouston.org

Meetings

Executive and general meetings are held at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center (1475 W. Gray) on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, respectively. Board of Directors meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at the Hollyfield Conference Center (2700 Albany). All meetings begin at 7 p.m.

Submissions

We encourage you to submit articles or photographs for possible inclusion in *insidepride*. Submitted materials may be edited and cannot be returned without prior arrangement.

interpride

The Pride Committee of Houston, Inc., is a member of the International Association of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Pride Coordinators (Interpride).

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LETTER

FROM THE EDITORS

THE COUNTDOWN TO PRIDE '99 HAS BEGUN. We're pleased to bring you an issue of *insidepride* chock-full of information you'll need to enjoy every minute of it.

We'll introduce you to our 1999 Grand Marshals, tell you where to get outfitted for Pride, let you know the dates of exciting Pride events, and show you how to display your pizzazz on Parade Day.

The members of the Pride Committee have been hard at work preparing for this year's celebration, and they'll tell you what they've been doing. Lots of other organizations in our community have been busy, and we're happy to spotlight two of them: *TV Montrose* and the Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival.

Houston Pride and the whole Houston gay and lesbian community are definitely on the move. None of this would be happening, though, if it weren't for the courage and fabulousness of our gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered forbears. Pride 1999 commemorates the 30th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion of June 1969, the beginning of the modern gay and lesbian rights movement. We mark the occasion with a special section featuring several community members reflecting on the riots and what they mean to us today. Read these views and decide what you can do to keep the spirit of Stonewall alive into the next millennium.

There is a lot of information about Pride '99 available in this issue of *insidepride*, but there is a lot more on the way. To get the complete list of community-sponsored Pride events and upcoming Pride surprises, be sure to check out the *Pride Guide*, which will be published by the *Texas Triangle*, the PCOH website at www.pridehouston.org, and community publications and radio/tv programming. Pride is everywhere!

Troy Christensen & Marcus Cook

INTRODUCING THE 1999 PRIDE PARADE GRAND MARSHALS



1999 Pride Parade Grand Marshals announced at Riva's on Tuesday, March 23, are Sean Carter, Nancy Ford, and the Colt 45's, who were represented by the group's president, Dan Lindquist.

Photos by Paul Archer

SEAN CARTER, NANCY FORD AND THE COLT 45's will serve as the Grand Marshals of the 1999 Gay & Lesbian Pride Parade.

The Pride Committee announced the Grand Marshals for the 1999 Parade on Tuesday, March 23, at a party held at Riva's Italian Restaurant. A large crowd got to congratulate this year's Grand Marshals after they received trophies from PCOH Co-Chairs Guy Burns and Michelle Franke. All of this year's nominees received congratulatory certificates.

Sean Carter, who will serve as Male Grand Marshal for the June 26 parade, has been a very active volunteer for the Royal Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star of Houston, Inc., and other organizations for several years. He has served as Imperial Prince Royale XIII in the Court, among other positions, and has raised tens of thousands of dollars for various charities through the Court. Sean received the Court's Outstanding Community Achievement Award in January 1998 for his efforts.

Sean also serves as Co-Chair of Soiree Aubergine, as Vice President of External Affairs for the Colt 45's and as Chair of the National Leather Association: Houston Toy Drive. He

was also the first Houston man to be named Mr. Gay Texas All-American, a title he used to reach out to other young gay and lesbian people.

Nancy Ford will serve as Female Grand Marshal in the 1999 Pride Parade. Nancy exemplifies gay and lesbian pride through the content of her comedy, music and writing. She has always been unwilling to be closeted or to go mainstream with her musical comedy act. Nancy is the Features Editor and a regular writer for the *Texas Triangle* and writes informative and uplifting pieces for the newspaper that seek to unify the community. She also uses her fame and talent to benefit community organizations and has donated her time, writing and performances to over 30 groups.

Serving as the Honorary Grand Marshal - Organization in the 1999 Pride Parade will be the Colt 45's. This group has distributed over \$723,000 to help people with AIDS over the past 10 years. It raises all money through voluntary contributions from individuals and organizations and through local fundraising activities.

The Colt 45's distributes the money the group raises to

assistance, which is paid directly to service providers for rent, utilities, eye exams and glasses. The Stone Soup Fund supplies meat, fresh fruit and vegetables to the AIDS Foundation Houston's Stone Soup Food Pantry, as well as personal items for Stone Soup clients with available funds. The Till Thacker III Memorial Fund is used for designated disbursements, including a restricted burial fund to help family members of AIDS victims with final expenses.

The Pride Committee is very excited to welcome Sean, Nancy and the Colt 45's as the Grand Marshals for Houston's annual celebration of gay and lesbian pride. They will preside over Houston's third nighttime Pride Parade.

PCOH is also very excited about the success of this year's Grand Marshal election process. For the first time, voting was opened up to the community through mail-in ballots and a day of poll voting at the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center on Saturday, February 20. Over 220 community members in the Houston area voted. About half of the voters used the mail-in ballot and half came to the

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Sean also serves as Co-Chair of Soiree Aubergine, as Vice President of External Affairs for the Colt 45's and as Chair of the National Leather Association: Houston Toy Drive. He raises money for many charities using his live singing talent and is a former Mr. Cousins and the first Mr. Chances. Sean

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GET ON THE BUS VEGAS-STYLE

by Michelle Franke

HAVE FUN AND HELP THE PRIDE COMMITTEE RAISE SOME MONEY.

PCOH is sponsoring a bus trip to the Grand Casino Coshatta in Kinder, Louisiana, on Saturday, May 22, 1999. Get your friends together to join the Vegas-style fun and we'll take care of the transportation. All you have to worry about is whether to play the slots or take a crack at the tables!

The party bus will leave at 8 a.m. and will be back in Houston around 10 p.m. The pick-up and drop-off location is to be announced. You'll have six great hours to roll the dice, pull the slot handle, play blackjack, and party with Pride.

The cost is only \$20 per person and you'll be helping the Pride Committee raise some much-needed funds to put on America's original nighttime Pride Parade. The trip is limited to the first 45 people to reserve a spot on the bus and pay the \$20 fee. So call the PrideLine at 713.529.6979 to find out how to join us.

See you on the bus!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: IMPORTANT DATES FOR 1999

May 5: Deadline for Events Applications

June 1: Deadline for Parade Applications (without late fee)

June 11-26: Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride 1999!

June 11: Pride Kick-off Party at Picasso, 2151 Richmond Ave. in the Shepherd Plaza, 7 p.m.

June 15: Pride Parade Mandatory Meeting and Final Deadline for Parade Applications, Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 W. Gray, 7-9 p.m.

June 20: Pride Day at AstroWorld!

June 26: The Third Annual Nighttime Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride Parade Steps off at 9 p.m. at Woodhead & Westheimer!

Be on the lookout for great community-sponsored Pride events as well! For a complete calendar of events, visit the Pride Committee's website: www.pridehouston.org.

Church of the Kindred Spirits

S.E. Texas and S.W. Louisiana

Sunday Service 7 p.m.
1575 Spindletop Ave.
Beaumont, Texas 77701

Bible Study Thursday 7:30 p.m.
2106 Hazel St.
409-835-4765

**MCC of the Resurrection
Home Group**

PRIDE, POWER & PIZZAZZ ON THE INTERNET

by Troy Christensen

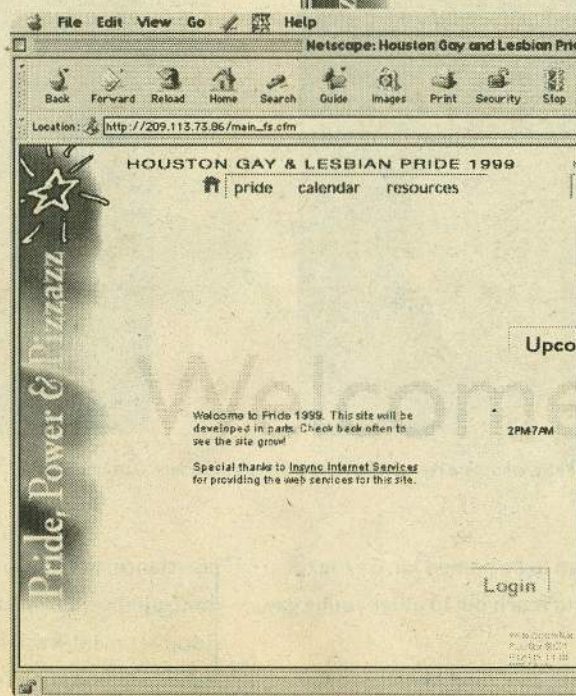
THE PRIDE COMMITTEE HAS HAD A WEBSITE FOR SEVERAL YEARS, but the site has recently been redesigned with pizzazz.

The website project is being spearheaded by Pride Guide coordinator Chris Noessel, who has created a lot of outstanding graphics for the Pride Committee over the years.

When you surf over to the site, you'll see that it has a pretty face, but it's a lot more substantive than that. Currently, the Community Resource Guide and Community Events Listings are maintained by Pride volunteers Jack Valinski and Jone Devlin. The online versions of both these resources are interactive. After you sign up for a free registration with the site, you can get maps and driving directions from your residence to community events. The site also features information for advertisers and Pride sponsors.

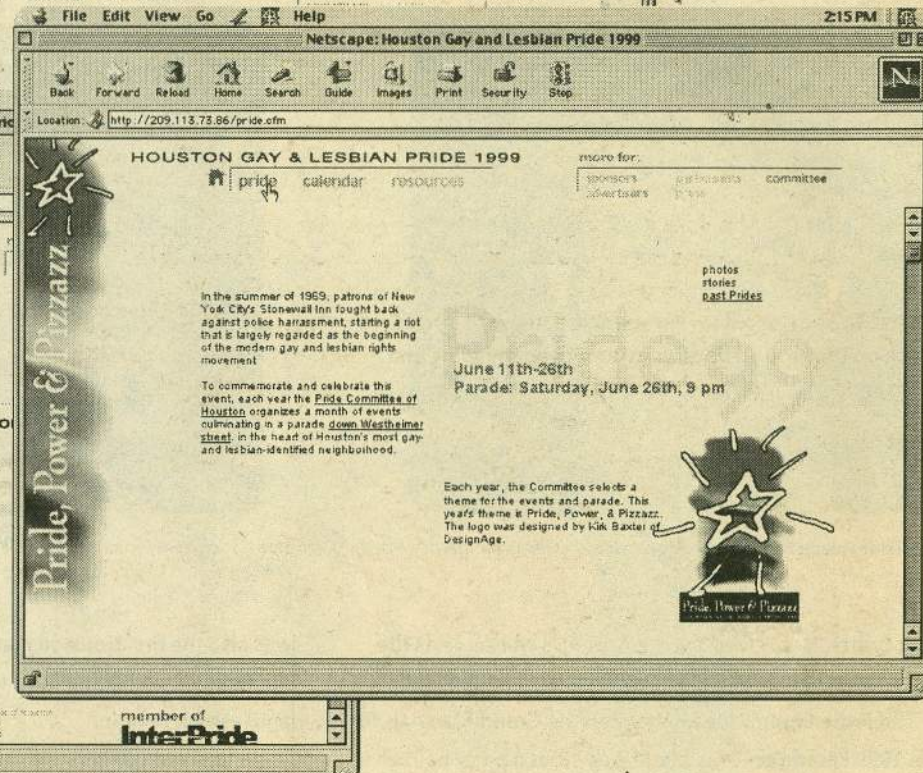
The website is a handy resource for PCOH members as well. A password-protected section includes a Committee roster, by-laws, and forms for exchanging information between members.

Chris has put a lot of time and effort into the redesigned website, but he isn't done yet. The site has a space for photos and stories from past parades, but Chris said he wants to create a page where users can easily post their stories and photos to the web, building an online archive. He said he also wants to finish the established sections for Pride participants and the press.



Like any Pride Committee endeavor, the website project can always use volunteer support. The resource guide and events calendar need continual maintenance as well as community organizations keeping PCOH informed about what's happening around town. You can also help by letting others know about the website; providing feedback about features you like, don't like, or would like; and sending in stories and photos from past Pride events and parades for the online archive. All comments and suggestions are welcome.

PCOH is very grateful to the corporate sponsors of the website, NeoSoft (www.neosoft.com) and InSync



(www.insync.net). NeoSoft provides the PCOH domain name, pridehouston.org, as well as e-mail addresses for the Committee. InSync has donated server space for the website. NeoSoft has also generously provided server space for the PCOH website in the past, but InSync uses server software that is compatible with the new online databases Chris has established.

To best experience the pizzazz of our redesigned website, be sure to view it with the latest version of Netscape Navigator, Microsoft Internet Explorer, or America Online's version of Microsoft Internet Explorer. You can download these at www.netscape.com, www.microsoft.com, and www.aol.com, respectively.

SPONSOR PRIDE AND PUT YOUR BUSINESS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

YARD OF PRIDE 1999

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SPONSOR PRIDE AND PUT YOUR BUSINESS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

by Nick Brines

THE PRIDE COMMITTEE OF HOUSTON WORKS DILIGENTLY YEAR-ROUND TO PRODUCE THE EVENTS, WORKSHOPS, festivals, and the popular nighttime parade that mark Gay and Lesbian Pride for our city each June. With over 80,000 participants in the various pride events, there is ample opportunity for corporations, businesses, and agencies to gain exposure to this audience while supporting the growth and impact of these Pride events.

Through our partnership programs, corporations and local businesses can become sponsors of Houston's Pride events and gain maximum exposure to an untapped market of educated, affluent residents in the nation's fourth largest city. As the largest gay and lesbian event in the Southwest, the opportunities and benefits are incredible.

- You will get the attention of a professional audience whom marketing research has shown to fit in the highly coveted "double income, no kids" category.
- Recent marketing research shows that gay and lesbian consumers are fiercely loyal to brand names. The Pride audience is worth cultivating because of the style-influencing effect the gay community has on consumer trends.
- Your sponsorship support allows you to both promote your business and support community diversity.
- The Pride Committee of Houston maintains the largest and most accurate mailing lists of gay and gay-friendly persons in the region. We also keep a database of all gay community organizations, events, and businesses. We can provide you with maximum exposure to Houston's gay community.
- Your sponsorship is tax-deductible!

Since 1975, the Pride Committee of Houston has grown to become the major source of pride in the city and throughout Texas. We want you to join us.

As the chair of PCOH Corporate Marketing and Sponsorships, I will be happy to meet with you and discuss these opportunities more fully. We can customize a package of benefits that will strengthen your partnership with the Pride Committee of Houston and our community. If you have any questions or if you need any additional information, please contact me directly at 713.743.9556 or by e-mail at nbrines@uh.edu.

YARD OF PRIDE 1999

by Joel Lutringer

SOMETIMES, EXCEPTIONAL PEOPLE TURN A TRAGEDY INTO SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL. Sometimes, people are faced with an overwhelming task and they do the impossible. Sometimes, people are born with a special gift. People in our community have turned our neighborhoods into wonderful places by taking pride in their yards and we want to celebrate their efforts.

The Pride Committee of Houston is launching a new award for the gay and lesbian community. In June, the month of Pride in Houston, one local yard will be honored as the "Yard of Pride."

Gardens and yards in Harris County and its seven surrounding counties – Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller – are eligible for the award. To enter the Yard of Pride 1999 Contest, send the following to Yard of Pride 1999 Contest, Pride Committee of Houston, P. O. Box 66071, Houston, Texas 77266-6071, or e-mail to pride@pridehouston.org:

- your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address
- a picture of your yard or garden (before and after shots are great if you have them!)
- a story about your yard's or garden's development and your efforts to improve it.

Tell us your funny and frustrating anecdotes, what you would do differently, and which parts of your creation turned out even better than you expected.

All entries must be postmarked by Tuesday, June 1. The winner will be announced at the Pride Kick-off Party at Picasso on June 11, but does not need to be present to win.

The winner will receive official Pride merchandise, a lawn sign proclaiming his or her yard the "1999 Yard of Pride," and all related bragging rights. The winner will also be featured on the PCOH website, www.pridehouston.org, and in the Summer 1999 issue of *insidepride*.

Good luck and happy gardening!

A STAR IS BORN

by Troy Christensen

THE PRIDE COMMITTEE GOT TO SEE A LOT OF OLD FRIENDS AND MEET SOME NEW ONES at its "A Star Is Born" social held at the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center on Friday, February 5.

Pride sponsors and supporters were introduced to the '99 Committee, as well as the "star" of Pride 1999, the Pride, Power & Pizzazz logo designed by Kirk Baxter. We also got a peek at the then-in-production Pride t-shirts featuring the new logo. The star logo even appeared on each of the glorious luminaries that Joel Lutringer used to light the walkway in front of the Community Center.

Since the party was held at the Community Center, we gave guests tours of this great Houston resource, as well as the Pride Committee office on the Center's second floor. One computer in the office was logged onto the internet so everyone could see our redesigned website. They even got to talk about the site with its designer, Chris Noessel.

Back on the ground floor, guests enjoyed mingling and munching on great hors d'oeuvres. The Pride Committee really enjoyed welcoming all of our supporters to Pride '99.

BUNNIES ON THE BAYOU

by Troy Christensen

A LITTLE RAIN DIDN'T KEEP LOTS OF BUNNIES FROM ENJOYING EASTER ON THE BAYOU THIS YEAR.

The 20th annual Bunnies on the Bayou party was held Easter Sunday, April 4, at the Fish Plaza at Wortham Center in Houston's Theater District. The Pride Committee was a beneficiary of the party and many PCOH members showed up to celebrate in true Bunny fashion, with candy, eggs, colorful bonnets, and more.

There were some afternoon showers, and some Tinky Winky-festooned bonnets got pretty droopy, but the huge crowd continued to enjoy the music, dancing, and frivolity of the day. And now we know when those little cocktail umbrellas could really come in handy!

The Pride Committee greatly appreciates all of the hard work done by the Bunnies on the Bayou organization and the donations being contributed to PCOH and co-beneficiaries AssistHers, Bering Community Services, Colt 45's, HATCH, Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, PWA Coalition, PFLAG, and Steven's House.

THE STARS ARE BRIGHT

**PRIDE COMMITTEE OF HOUSTON
PROUDLY PRESENTS:**

PRIDE DAY AT THE PARK!

AT



AstroWorld®
A SIX FLAGS® THEME PARK

SUNDAY, JUNE 20, 1999

ADVANCE TICKETS ARE \$20!

**EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH THE PRIDE COMMITTEE
(REGULAR GATE PRICE \$34.58)**

Come play all day — your ticket is good

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THE STARS ARE BRIGHT... DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS

by Guy Burns

FOR ALL YOU FUDDY-DUDDIES WHO DIDN'T MAKE IT OUT OF THE HOUSE ON A "WORK NIGHT," you missed a spectacular show at EJ's on Sunday, March 28. "The Stars are Bright... Deep in the Heart of Texas," a variety show organized by Rainbo de Klown, featured a veritable smorgasbord of local talent ranging from drag (always a classic) to the clarion tones of some of Montrose's most talented singers.

The evening was co-hosted by Rainbo (in guise as the Divine Miss M) and Nancy Ford, our 1999 Female Grand Marshal. The audience sat in awe as they were treated to legendary performances by the likes of Janis Joplin and Ms. Wendy Chicago. The Pride Committee's own Merchandise co-coordinator, Jim Duke, even got in on the act with Ms Wendy, and he looked like he enjoyed every minute of it! And no one could forget the fabulous performance of Judge Judy and her meat tenderizer, err... gavel.

Along with the lip-syncing of these and other divas, the audience was treated to the real-life vocals of Sean Carter, our 1999 Male Grand Marshal; Stacie, introduced as Ms. TGReverything; and Ms. Nevada, an all-time singing favorite around the 'Trose.

By the end of the evening, the EJ's audience had all been treated to true entertainment in the form of a "Variety Show Extraordinaire." The event raised \$270 in donations for Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride 1999, and the Pride Committee is thankful to everyone who helped make the evening possible.



"The Divine Miss M" works her magic on the EJ's crowd.
Photo courtesy of Rainbo de Klown.

SUNDAY, JUNE 20, 1999

ADVANCE TICKETS ARE \$20!

EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH THE PRIDE COMMITTEE (REGULAR GATE PRICE \$34.58)

Come play all day — your ticket is good for all the rides, shows, and adventures the park can throw at 'ya, including the new Serial Thriller, Texas' most thrilling looping suspended rollercoaster!

Wear your Pride t-shirt or tank top and let 'em know you're playing with Pride!

PRIDE DAY AT THE PARK ORDER FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

DAYTIME PHONE _____

EVENING PHONE _____

ALONG WITH YOUR CHECK OR MONEY ORDER, PLEASE SEND THIS FORM AND A SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE TO:

ASTROWORLD TICKETS

OF TICKETS _____ x \$20: _____

PRIDE COMMITTEE OF HOUSTON

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

PO Box 66071

HOUSTON, TEXAS 77266-6071

CHECK #: _____ MONEY ORDER #: _____

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: PRIDE COMMITTEE OF HOUSTON
PLEASE, SEND NO CASH!**

Coy Tow

The Stonewall Riots were the awakening for gay, lesbian, and transgendered persons to unite and stand against the hatred and bigotry of not only individuals, but also of the police force and government. The Stonewall Riots are a reminder to us all that our closets, our unwillingness to speak out, our fear, and our passive attempts to gain acceptance are the very things that keep us from having the very rights on which this country was founded.

The Stonewall Riots represent speaking out, demanding justice, fighting for our very freedom, and being proud of our God-given gifts that include our sexual identity.

Today, our "Stonewall" in Texas is being willing to stand against the injustice of those who hate us and attempt to deny us rights such as adoption and parenthood – against the Christian Reich who continue to devalue the principle of freedom on which this nation was founded.

Ray Hill

I was active in the gay and lesbian movement in 1966, some three years before the Stonewall Rebellion. (In the organizing meeting for the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights in 1979, the planners decided to refer to the 1969 incident as the Stonewall Rebellion, avoiding the term riot.)

One of the principal groups of the movement in the pre-Stonewall era was the Mattachine Society, which took its name from a society of masked French performers and could not imagine gay people coming out of their closets. Their slogan was: "What I do reflects on you, what you do reflects on me, what we do reflects on the entire community." The implication was that queers should control their behavior so that non-queers might learn to like us. Houston did not have a Mattachine group, but an organization called Integrity (not to be confused with an Episcopal Church gay organization of the same name) carried the Mattachine mantle here.

New York's Mattachine Society leadership misread the Stonewall Rebellion and its subsequent importance. I was in the national office for the North American Council of Homophile Organizations in Kansas City when New York Mattachine President Dick Leitsch called from NYC to report that "street hustlers and drag queens had started a riot" near gay bars around Sheridan Square. He had urged the police to use whatever force necessary to restore

quoted as recently as two years ago, but Stonewall veterans still snarl at him when he appears in public. His position in 1969, that everyone participating in the Rebellion should be arrested and prosecuted, has not been well understood in light of how we view the Rebellion now. The trouble I had with Dick had nothing to do with Stonewall. I came out of all closets in 1958. By the time I became aware that there was a Mattachine Society, I was well beyond the closets it supported.

Bruce Burgner

Stonewall. I came of age after the riots. It was only during my coming out when I began to realize what the drag queens of the Stonewall Inn contributed on my behalf. By the time I began dating men, Stonewall was already history. I have never known a time when bars were raided and people arrested simply for being there. I still have great fears, primarily gay bashing and HIV, but Stonewall has made everyday life as a gay person much easier.

Recently, I was camping on the border with my friend Eric. We drove into Mexico for dinner and, upon our return, we were asked the usual questions about nationality and alcohol purchases. The INS officer then asked if I was the registered owner of the car. As this was an unusual question, I simply blurted out the truth, telling him that the car is in my husband's name. The officer looked startled and told us to pull over for an inspection. After a rather lengthy search, we were told that we were free to go. As we drove off, I commented that I believed we were searched because the officer thought we were gay. Eric laughed and said, "No, Bruce, you told him we're gay!" It didn't occur to me that, in outing myself, the officer would assume my friend was gay as well.

Eric and I both live in metropolitan Houston. He is married to a woman named Malynda and I am married to a man named Troy. We have grown accustomed to one another's lifestyle and rarely are we made to feel awkward about our friendship.

Stonewall was instrumental in paving the way for people like me to enter mainstream America. The likes of RuPaul, Quentin Crisp, and myself have become increasingly accepted.

Stonewall gave me the opportunity to look into the face of the law and out myself (and, oops, my straight friend, as well) without fear. That wouldn't have happened before 1969. My hope is that, as we enter into the next millennium,

queers should control their behavior so that non-queers might learn to like us. Houston did not have a Mattachine group, but an organization called Integrity (not to be confused with an Episcopal Church gay organization of the same name) carried the Mattachine mantle here.

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There were three major demands: stop using undercover cops to seduce people into getting arrested for cruising the toilets in the subway system; stop discriminating against gay and transgendered people in NYC housing rent subsidies (and rehire a drag queen who had been fired from the rent subsidy office for helping her sisters); and rebuild and reopen the Stonewall Inn, which had been destroyed in the Rebellion.

The first two demands were agreed to and the city made some effort to keep their agreement for a few years, but the bar was not reopened for many years and then only as a pizza place. The notion that the Stonewall was a gay bar like JR's is not at all true. The Stonewall was like QT's.

At New York University (only a few blocks from the Stonewall Inn), students formed the Gay Liberation Front following a leftist (maybe even Maoist) pattern, while another organization, the Gay Activist Alliance, organized along more centrist lines but advocated being openly gay. The roots for both GLF and GAA had formed before Stonewall, but Mattachine's failure to understand the forces at Stonewall left a vacuum in leadership that GAA and GLF were able to fill quickly. Houston had a GAA group at the University of Houston in the mid 1970's and there were a few people who voiced support for a GLF-model organization, but I don't think they garnered enough numbers to actually have meetings.

I would love to discuss this history but most of those who experienced it with me are now dead. As for Dick Leitsch, I think he is still alive. He was

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Mark Willis

Stonewall is the turning point in gay history, the point where, at least in America, we decided as a group that we had every bit as much right to a public life as anyone else. Before June 1969, gay culture was very covert and secretive. We were allowed to contribute to society on its fringe, or when absolutely needed, and then we were shoved back into the shadows to be victimized by organized crime and the government. Police raids on gay bars, like those in New York, were typical throughout the country. At one of those bar raids in Greenwich Village people just decided they weren't going to accept the situation and fought back. This was unheard of. Three days of rioting let the genie permanently out of the bottle.

One year later a commemorating march from the Village to Central Park brought out more people than anyone had imagined. Parades soon started showing up in other cities around the country. Year after year, the events grew more organized and elaborate, building to the spectrum of events we now know as Pride, which culminates on the anniversary of Stonewall. It is sad to see some cities moving their gay and lesbian pride celebrations away from June to take advantage of cooler weather. Pride loses the significance of Stonewall when it is set in a different part of the year.

Pride In Our Past

But moving the festivities would allow us an opportunity to celebrate Pride with other cities. Houston shares "Stonewall Weekend" with pride events in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, San Francisco, and Atlanta. Although our parades and other events are held in memory of the Stonewall Rebellion that took place 30 years ago, we can't all celebrate our history together.

Brandon Wolf

Stonewall is important to me because it helped lead to my own liberation. Stonewall occurred in June 1969 and the organization that emerged from the riots was known as the Gay Liberation Front. "Liberation Front" was quite a generic term in those days and was used for most any liberation group. Within its first year, a new organization would spin off from the GLF, and it was known as the Gay Activist Alliance. I forget what their philosophical differences were, but GAA was the first gay organization to use a lambda (λ), as I recall. They had dark navy blue t-shirts made with a big orange lambda on the front. They looked hot.

Two members of the GAA, Marty Robinson and his lover, Tom Doerr, appeared on the Dick Cavett show in the early fall of 1970 wearing their GAA t-shirts. That was the first time I remember seeing a gay man live on TV. There had been the (now notorious) CBS documentary, "The Homosexuals," in 1967, but this show was live. When Marty and Tom walked onto the set and sat down, you could hear a pin drop. They were both very attractive men, and they looked great in those lambda shirts. They were also literate and well-spoken.

I was so impressed with this new image of what a gay man could be, that I came out two months later, in October 1970.

Troy Christensen

Today we celebrate Stonewall 30 – the thirtieth anniversary of the event seen as the birth of the modern gay and lesbian rights movement.

Our history isn't nearly that simple.

There were several groups and many individuals advocating equal rights for gay men and lesbians long before 1969 here in America and elsewhere. In fact, the homophile movement that was predominant in gay and lesbian

counterpart, the Daughters of Bilitis, worked to overcome the persecution on all three fronts. It's true that most of this work was done quietly, in a support group setting with straight liberal experts who didn't think gays were as unlawful, sinful, and sick as some other experts believed. And anonymity was a virtue. The records of New York's Mattachine chapter have been donated to the city's public library, but some of the records are inaccessible until the middle of the next century to continue protecting the members' anonymity.

On the other hand, individuals in these homophile organizations were successful in changing discriminatory laws – as out gay people. New York Mattachine President Dick Leitsch may have had struggles with the closet, as Ray Hill suggested, but he got over them. He overturned the city's law prohibiting bars from serving alcohol to groups of three or more gay people, effectively making all gay bars illegal, by staging a "sip-in" for the press. He and two other Mattachine members went to three bars and announced they were homosexuals and wanted to be served alcohol. The first two served them despite the city ordinance, but the third refused them and Leitsch had grounds for an ACLU-supported lawsuit. But with press coverage of the event and an increasingly liberal public, the city was forced to change the law before the suit hit the courts.

Progress was being made in New York, and on the West Coast, as well, but what made Stonewall remarkable was the sea change it brought to gay and lesbian activism – the overnight shift in consciousness that it created. World War II created the landscape of gay America and shaped the way the gay and lesbian community would grow and evolve. Stonewall was a radioactive bomb that sped up that evolution a thousand-fold.

The history of the events that have come to be known as the Stonewall Rebellion is messy and contradictory. On these pages you find recollections and feelings that don't match and accounts differ wildly even among participants and historians who have chronicled the events.

And the history and those first-person accounts are very important. I highly recommend that you get on the internet and find all of the memories of those Stonewall veterans or read Martin Duberman's excellent history of Stonewall or see the 1996 movie called *Stonewall* that was based largely on Duberman's book and adds a fabulous Greek chorus of Motown-singing drag queens.

But what is important to me right now as I celebrate Stonewall 30 and what it did for us isn't the detailed history. What is important is why Stonewall was an evolutionary bombshell.

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There were several groups and many individuals advocating equal rights for gay men and lesbians long before 1969 here in America and elsewhere. In fact, the homophile movement that was predominant in gay and lesbian activism before Stonewall mirrored the gay and lesbian society that thrived in Germany between the 1890's and the 1930's, when Hitler's Nazis obliterated it.

It was our war against Hitler and the Axis powers that set the stage for the rebirth for gay and lesbian activism, but this time, in America. World War II set thousands and thousands of young men adrift from their families, depositing them in port cities like San Francisco, New York, and Houston. Gay men quickly found each other – a lot more easily than they could back on the farm – so they stayed and built communities in the port cities. It was a time of discovery for lesbian women, as well, because it was the first time in American history when women on a wide scale had economic independence from men. Women worked together for the war effort, both inside and outside the military, and some of them decided that they didn't have to wait for a man to get back from the war. They knew who they wanted: Rosie the Riveter!

Gays and lesbians were finally finding one another, but life was still hard in postwar America. The country had a period of incredible prosperity, but gay men and lesbians could only share in the fortune if they kept their lives very secret. The law, the church, and the medical profession conspired to ensure that being gay was absolutely unacceptable: exposure would most likely get you kicked out of your job or apartment or thrown in jail without legal recourse, denounced from the pulpit, or institutionalized for your psychologically defined sickness.

Still, in the late '40s and the '50s – well before Stonewall – individuals and organizations like the mostly gay male Mattachine Society and its lesbian

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Stonewall was ours. And everyone saw us.

Until Stonewall, we had had a passive role in the growth of our community. We benefited from the social upheaval brought by the war, but we didn't create. And when we were active, it was in small numbers and an unassuming fashion.

But at the Stonewall Inn, we started a riot! We shoved the police into the Stonewall! We scared the straights! We returned in greater numbers to do more of the same night after night! We let everyone know it was us doing it! We were proud of ourselves!

You can't be proud of something you – or your people – didn't do. Until Stonewall, we couldn't have had a lot of pride. The pride we earned at the Stonewall Inn made all the difference.

It was like the spark of Zeus that the Stoic philosopher Epictetus spoke of – Zeus gave us all a bit of his divinity, and once we realize we have it, no one, not even Zeus himself, can take it away from us.

It was inevitable that a new, more outspoken, more radical gay activism would emerge from Stonewall and would sweep across the country and around the world. How could all of these gay people, how could the fire in their hearts, be denied?

Our history after Stonewall continues to be fractured, contradictory, and fraught with missteps. But today we have pride – or the spark of Zeus, or fire in our hearts, or whatever you want to call it – and no one can take that away from us. We will come out, we will demand justice, we will be free. We cannot be denied.

Power For Our Future

COME OUT WITH PIZZAZZ ON

The 1999 Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride Parade is only two months away. It's been a full, fun packed year of planning. Ever wondered what goes into the making of a fabulous parade? Have you always wanted to become more involved in our community, to be able to show your pride? One person can make more of a difference when working with others. Don't stand alone – join us! Be a part of Houston Pride and show your colors. Call the PrideLine at 713.529.6979 or e-mail us at info@pridehouston.org to find out how you can help.

There are lots of other ways to show your pride on Parade Day. The following articles will show you how to build a float and light up the night with your wardrobe. Also be sure to read about the trophies you might win with your parade entry and how to be safe during and after the nighttime parade.

GET YOUR APPLICATIONS FOR PRIDE EVENTS AND PARADE ENTRIES TODAY

by Troy Christensen

Two fantastic ways to support Pride and get great publicity for your business or organization are hosting a Pride event and participating in the Pride Parade on Saturday, June 26.

BUILDING YOUR AWARD-WINNING PARADE FLOAT

by Jim Shumsky

Building a float for the 1999 Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride Parade isn't as hard as you think – probably the hardest part is coming up with a theme. Remember to be creative because you might walk or “float” away with a prize.

If you were not able to attend our Float Building Seminar on April 20, here are a few tips and suggestions for you to show your “Pride, Power & Pizzazz.” The 1999 Pride Parade Rules define a float as “any motorized or manually powered entry which has been constructed in such a manner that the individual components create a unified whole,” so there is a lot of room to come up with creative interpretations.

You'll need several items before you start. Be sure to have tools handy for your volunteer workers – power circular saws, electric jigsaws, screw guns or screwdrivers, electric drills, staple guns, hammers, and stepladders. Once you come up with a theme, a color plan, and a lighting plan for your float, you'll have to buy, rent, or borrow the materials needed to execute your plan. You'll also need a vehicle to pull your float. A full-sized pick-up truck with a one-ton towing capacity (probably a V-8 with a good cooling unit) is ideal for pulling a big float. But floats can be built on trailers, small trucks, cars, wagons, or anything motorized. Just

you have access to a capable technician who has the proper tools and equipment. If you have electrical requirements, consult a qualified electrician. Great floats don't have to be highly technical, though. Animated elements and prop movements can be human-powered. You can use simply pulleys and rope to make props rotate and move.

FLOAT LIGHTING

Once you've conceived a dazzling design, plan how to light it. The most glorious production in the daylight can be dull at night under the artificial street lights. Effective lighting will ensure that your design is brilliant at night, too.

Your float is in the spotlight – keep your lights on your float and not in the crowd's eyes. The less light shed on the audience, the pavement, or another float, the more effective the illumination is for your own display.

Light can also add a lot to your design. Every float should have a climactic point, the place where you display your organization's logo or the main element of the float. Shape the upper levels of the float to lead the eye up to this point and point a floodlight at it for maximum attention. You can also use colored bulbs or filters over your lights to add to your float's color scheme. People and animated figures on your float should also be spotlighted.

To learn more about lighting your production, stop by Light Bulbs Unlimited at Westheimer and Commonwealth and check out the supply of new and exciting items that are being stocked just for our event. The staff can also tell you about the important issue of lighting safety.

FOR PRIDE EVENTS AND PARADE ENTRIES TODAY

by Troy Christensen

Two fantastic ways to support Pride and get great publicity for your business or organization are hosting a Pride event and participating in the Pride Parade on Saturday, June 26. In fact, these are the two things that really make our season of Pride in Houston: over two weeks of informative, entertaining, enriching, and fun events; and our grand finale, the annual nighttime Pride Parade.

There are many types of events you can host during Pride 1999. Past events have included dances, sports and recreation, concerts, workshops, socials, benefits, worship services, and many others. These events draw a lot of attention from the community and can help to bring in new customers or members.

You also have a variety of entry types from which to choose when you put your business or organization in the parade. We all love a big, bright float, but you can also have a walking unit or a vehicle. And remember to present your entry with pride. Your organization could win a trophy!

Your first step in planning to host an event or have an entry in the Pride Parade is to get an application, fill it out and return it to PCOH with the required application fee. You can get event applications and parade applications by calling the PrideLine at 713.529.6979. You can also fax us at 713.529.6929 or e-mail us at info@pridehouston.org. If you have any questions about planning your event, get in touch with Raul Garcia and John Thompson, the Events co-coordinators, at those contact numbers. Questions about your parade entry can be answered by the Parade co-coordinators Robin Duncan, Jim Shumsky, and Mark Willis.

Don't wait too long to decide how you're going to participate in Pride 1999. The deadline for event applications (to make sure your event gets listed in all Pride publicity) is Wednesday, May 5. The deadline for parade applications without a late fee is Tuesday, June 1, and the parade application deadline with a late fee is Tuesday, June 15 at the Mandatory Parade Meeting, which will be held at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 W. Gray, 7-9 p.m.

You'll need several items before you start to build your float. Tools handy for your volunteer workers – power circular saws, electric jigsaws, screw guns or screwdrivers, electric drills, staple guns, hammers, and stepladders. Once you come up with a theme, a color plan, and a lighting plan for your float, you'll have to buy, rent, or borrow the materials needed to execute your plan. You'll also need a vehicle to pull your float. A full-sized pick-up truck with a one-ton towing capacity (probably a V-8 with a good cooling unit) is ideal for pulling a big float. But floats can be built on trailers, small trucks, cars, wagons, or anything motorized. Just keep towing capacity and the danger of overheating in mind – don't try pulling the Titanic with a mo-ped!

Pick an appropriate spot for constructing your float. There should be enough room for both your float and off-float work areas. Make sure you can use a nearby garage or another covered space. After you put in a lot of work, the last thing you want is to have your float ruined by one of our quick and unexpected five-minute rainstorms for which Houston is oh-so-famous.

The most important thing about building your float is to have fun doing it. Volunteer float-building can be a great bonding experience for your organization.

FLOAT DESIGN

All entries must adhere to height, width, and length restrictions and all must be able to navigate the parade route and make all turns required by the parade route. When designing your float, keep in mind that your float may not be greater than 14 feet high, 40 feet long, or 16 feet wide, and the wheel base may not be over 12 feet wide.

After you choose your float size, determine the message you want to convey, staying within the parameters of the parade theme if possible. You can compete for many different trophies and each has its own parameters. If your theme is humorous, make sure no one will be offended by it. It is the expressed purpose of the 1999 Pride Parade to promote a positive image of the gay and lesbian community.

Other important design considerations are your equipment and the capabilities of your float builders. If you plan to include elaborate props or woodwork, make sure that

upper levels of the float to lead the eye up to this point and point a floodlight at it for maximum attention. You can also use colored bulbs or filters over your lights to add to your float's color scheme. People and animated figures on your float should also be spotlighted.

To learn more about lighting your production, stop by Light Bulbs Unlimited at Westheimer and Commonwealth and check out the supply of new and exciting items that are being stocked just for our event. The staff can also tell you about the important issue of lighting safety.

To light your float, you can get many varieties of lights. You can use battery-powered lights, but standard electrical lights are much more effective on a float. These are powered by a generator that you can rent from Parades, Etc. or Aztec Party Rentals.

FLOAT CONSTRUCTION

You have a lot of leeway in how you want to construct your float, but most floats are built on trailers with wood beds. These are easy to move to and from the parade route. A hay trailer is ideal for float building.

First, build a skirt frame from 2" x 2" pieces of wood and fasten the frame to the trailer bed with hinges. The hinges will allow the sides of the skirt to be folded onto the bed of the trailer when the float is being transported to and from the parade. The skirt frame is used to hide the wheels and undercarriage. Be sure to terminate the skirt approximately 16 inches from the ground and allow for tongue movement at the front of the float.

Once you have your frame completed you are ready to decorate your float. You'll want to cover its wood bed, skirt, wheels, and undercarriage. You can use a variety of materials, such as floral sheeting strips, tissue paper, or tinsel fringe. But with those oh-so-famous Houston downpours, you might want to consider colored vinyl sheeting. It's particularly attractive and completely water-resistant.

When your base is complete you can construct and decorate the top of your float. In this aspect, your imagination and your planned design are your only limits. Remember to secure each element very well. Also, include well-secured braces that the people on your float can hold while your float is moving.

PARADE DAY

...AND WHICH TROPHY WILL YOU WIN?

One trophy will be awarded in each of the following categories. Each parade entry is asked to declare the categories in which it would like to compete by completing the Awards Qualification section of the Parade Application.

PRIDE, POWER & PIZZAZZ: Best interpretation of slogan. All entries are eligible.

SPIRIT OF MONTROSE: Best Overall. All entries are eligible.

STONEWALL: Unit that best commemorates pride. Unit does not have to conform to slogan.

GYPSY ROSE: Best out-of-town. Out-of-town entries are eligible.

EDISON: Best non-professional lighted entry. Lighting done by a non-professional.

RAINBOW LIGHTS: Best professional lighted unit. Lighting done by a paid professional.

RUBY SLIPPER: Best walking unit.

HOUSTON: Best non-professional motorized unit.

TEXAS: Best professional motorized unit.

You can also light yourself with glowing neon accessories, like necklaces, bracelets, and pins. These are available through mail-order catalogs and at local novelty and party-supply stores.

And don't forget to wear bright clothing. Look through your closet. Your neon-pink shirt that was so hip in the 80's is great fashion again at the nighttime parade.

There are a lot of street lights along the parade route, so you'll need to do a lot to really stand out. Comfort and safety should always be your first concerns, though.

Have a great time planning how you're going to light up the night. The stores have large selections and helpful staffs. However, plan ahead of time and don't wait to make your purchases, or you might find many items sold out.

We look forward to seeing you bright and shiny at the parade. Remember, if you have pizzazz, you will also find the power and the pride to be the best you can be!

BE PROUD AND SAFE AT THE NIGHTTIME PARADE

Houston's first two nighttime Pride Parades have been huge successes. We haven't heard about increased danger since the parade was moved to the nighttime, but we urge every-

TRAVEL AROUND THE WORLD WITH PRIDE

by Troy Christensen

The commemoration of Stonewall and the celebration of Pride happens all around Texas, all around the U.S., and all around the world.

Listed below are the dates for 1999 pride celebrations across America and around the world. You can get a lot more information about these events by visiting www.interpride.org, the website for Interpride, the international association of pride groups.

UNITED STATES

Alabama: Birmingham, 6/13; Arizona: Flagstaff, 7/9-10; Phoenix, 4/17; California: Chico, 8/29; Claremont, 10/9; Davis, 6/6; Fresno, 9/19; Long Beach, 5/22-23; Los Angeles, 6/12-13; Oakland, 9/1-30; Palm Springs, 11/6-7; Pasadena, 9/18; Riverside, 7/17; Sacramento, 6/12; San Diego, 7/23-25; San Francisco, 6/26-27; San Luis Obispo, 7/17-18; Santa Cruz, 6/6; Simi Valley, 5/2; Visalia, 5/16; Colorado: Boulder, 6/19-27; District of Columbia: Washington, 6/13; Washington Black Pride, 5/28-30; Florida: Fort Lauderdale, 2/7; Jacksonville, 6/19; Tallahassee, 6/16-19; Tampa, 7/2-5; Georgia: Atlanta, 6/25-27; Macon, 6/18-27; Illinois: Chicago, 6/27; Indiana: Indianapolis, 6/12 & 9/18; Iowa: Cedar Rapids, 6/19; Maine: Bangor, 7/?; Portland, 6/18-19; Maryland: Baltimore, 6/5 & 6/12; Massachusetts: Boston, 6/12; Hyannis/Cape Cod, 7/17; Lawrence, 6/14-19; Michigan: Detroit, 6/4-6; Grand Rapids, 6/11-12; Minnesota: Minneapolis, 6/26-27; Missouri: Kansas City, 6/12; St. Louis, 6/26-27; Nebraska: Omaha, 6/20; Nevada: Las Vegas, 5/8; New Jersey: Asbury Park, 6/6; New Mexico: Albuquerque, 6/12; New York: Brooklyn, 6/12; New York, 6/20-27; Queens, 6/6; Ohio: Cleveland, 6/19; Oregon: Portland, 6/19-20; Pennsylvania: Penn State, 3/19-27; Philadelphia, 6/13; Pittsburgh, 6/20; Rhode Island: Providence, 6/26; Rhode

EDISON: Best non-professional lighted entry. Lighting done by a non-professional.

RAINBOW LIGHTS: Best professional lighted unit. Lighting done by a paid professional.

RUBY SLIPPER: Best walking unit.

HOUSTON: Best non-professional motorized unit.

TEXAS: Best professional motorized unit.

LIGHT UP THE NIGHT WITH PIZZAZZ

by Ray Ramirez

Lighting yourself for the 1999 Pride Parade can be the pizzazz you add to the festivities.

There are several things you can do to make yourself bright for the nighttime parade. Lighting yourself can be very inexpensive and a lot of fun.

Electric lights that you can put on yourself start under \$10. These lights are battery-powered and have flexible wiring. The batteries can be slipped under your shirt or into one of your pants' back pockets. You can also sew a small temporary pouch for the batteries on the inside of your clothing with long, quick stitches of thread.

Lights powered by AA batteries work best. Larger battery units can be heavy and cumbersome and they won't necessarily make you any brighter. AA-battery units and larger units support about 10 small white lights. You can find battery-powered strings of lights at area lighting stores, including Light Bulbs Unlimited at Westheimer and Commonwealth.

When using battery-powered lights, don't turn them on until your parade unit turns onto Westheimer on the night of the parade. You don't want to run out of juice halfway through the route!

BE PROUD AND SAFE AT THE NIGHTTIME PARADE

Houston's first two nighttime Pride Parades have been huge successes. We haven't heard about increased danger since the parade was moved to the nighttime, but we urge everyone to be alert and use caution. Please follow these tips to assist with ensuring your safety.

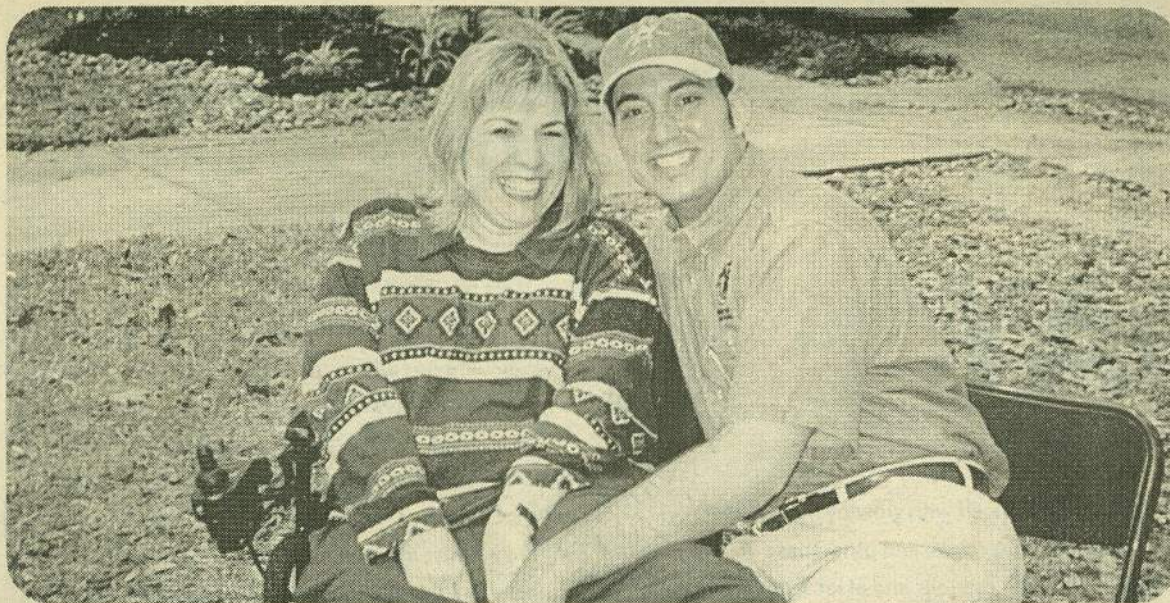
- Plan your walking route. Use familiar streets and well lit pathways. Never take poorly lit streets.
- Don't travel alone. Take a friend for the walk or go where other people are near.
- If you are walking alone, stay near the curb. Avoid alleys, shrubs, and entrances where someone may be hiding.
- Avoid carrying extra money or valuables. Keep purses and bags close. Don't allow them to dangle.
- Be alert and aware of any potentially dangerous places.
- Trust your instincts. If you have doubts, leave the situation.
- Don't hitchhike, pick up hitchhikers, or accept rides from strangers.
- If a car pulls along beside you and the driver asks you a question, avoid getting near the car.
- Have your keys ready before you enter your vehicle or residence.
- Before you enter your car, look into the backseat.
- Keep your car doors locked at all times.
- Park in areas that will be well lit at the time of your return.
- If you are going to leave with someone you have just met, introduce them to someone you know.
- If trouble does occur, be calm and try to defuse the situation.

If you are being harassed or followed, call 911 and ask for police assistance. If you are a victim of an attack, report the crime. The police will need your assistance to help stop the attacker from claiming more victims.

6/27; Indiana: Indianapolis, 6/12 & 9/18; Iowa: Cedar Rapids, 6/19; Maine: Bangor, 7/?; Portland, 6/18-19; Maryland: Baltimore, 6/5 & 6/12; Massachusetts: Boston, 6/12; Hyannis/Cape Cod, 7/17; Lawrence, 6/14-19; Michigan: Detroit, 6/4-6; Grand Rapids, 6/11-12; Minnesota: Minneapolis, 6/26-27; Missouri: Kansas City, 6/12; St. Louis, 6/26-27; Nebraska: Omaha, 6/20; Nevada: Las Vegas, 5/8; New Jersey: Asbury Park, 6/6; New Mexico: Albuquerque, 6/12; New York: Brooklyn, 6/12; New York, 6/20-27; Queens, 6/6; Ohio: Cleveland, 6/19; Oregon: Portland, 6/19-20; Pennsylvania: Penn State, 3/19-27; Philadelphia, 6/13; Pittsburgh, 6/19; Puerto Rico: San Juan, 6/26; Rhode Island: Providence, 6/13-19; South Carolina: Columbia, 6/10-13; **Texas**: Austin, 6/6; Corpus Christi, 6/5-6; Houston, 6/11-26; San Antonio, 6/12; Fort Worth, 6/6; Utah: Salt Lake City, 6/13; Vermont: Burlington, 6/19; Virginia: Richmond, 10/9-10; Washington: Seattle, 6/27; Wisconsin: Milwaukee, 8/6-8

INTERNATIONAL

Argentina: Buenos Aires, 11/?; Ciudad de Córdoba, 11/10-17; Rosario, 6/29; Australia: Melbourne, 1/31; Perth, 9/26-10/30; Sydney, 2/5-27; Austria: Vienna, 6/19; Belgium: Brussels, 5/8; Brazil: Curitiba, 6/26-27; Goiânia, 6/26-28; Juiz de Fora City, 8/12-15; Sao Paulo, 6/27; Canada: Barrie, Ontario, 6/19-27; Calgary, Alberta, 6/12-20; Edmonton, Alberta, 6/19; Fredericton, New Brunswick, 6/26-28; Montreal, Quebec, 7/26-8/1; Ottawa, Ontario, 7/9-18; Prince George, British Columbia, 9/3-5; Regina, Saskatchewan, 6/19-26; Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, 6/20-26; Toronto, Ontario, 6/21-27; Vancouver, British Columbia, 7/24-8/2; Chile: Santiago, 6/28; Denmark: Copenhagen, 8/7; England: Birmingham, 5/30; London, 7/3; London PAF, 6/18-7/11; France: Lille, 6/19; Germany: Cologne, 6/25-7/4; Munich, 7/15-18; Oldenburg, 6/26; Hungary: Budapest, 6/10-13; Italy: Rome, 6/26-?; Mexico: Tijuana, 6/?; New Zealand: Auckland, 2/6-20; Northern Ireland: Belfast, 6/19; Portugal: Lisbon, 6/28; Scotland: Edinburgh, 6/19; Glasgow, 10/22-30; Sweden: Stockholm, 7/28-8/1; Switzerland: Fribourg, 7/3; Zimbabwe: Harare, 6/26



Pride Committee Co-Chair Michelle Franke and PCOH Board Member Joel Lutringer greet voters at the Grand Marshal open voting day.
Photo by Jim Shumsky

TV MONTROSE EXPANDS ITS BOUNDARIES AS OUT TV IN TEXAS

ONE YEAR AGO, TV MONTROSE BEGAN MAKING GAY AND LESBIAN TELEVISION HISTORY. It is one of America's first commercially produced programs to air in the same time slot during prime time each week on a non-municipal access channel. Starting May 3, the program will begin airing in both Houston and Dallas as *Out TV in Texas*, with plans to cover the gay and lesbian community all over the state.

TV Montrose/Out TV can be seen in Houston every Monday at 8 p.m. on Warner Cable Channel 74.

Channel 74 used to be a pay-per-view channel, so you may need to manually input the channel the first time you watch it and program your remote control to stop on it automatically in the future.

You can also see *Out TV* at Lobo Cafe at 3939 Montrose, Suite S, on Mondays at 8 p.m. and on Wednesdays at 7 p.m.; at Guava Lamp at 2159 Portsmouth, on Mondays at 8 p.m.; and at JR's Bar & Grill at 808 Pacific, on Mondays at 8:30 p.m.

Out TV is dedicated to showing our entire community the way it really is, beyond typical negative stereotypes.



Merchandise co-coordinator Jim Duke displays the new denim and suede Pride cap at the Grand Marshal Announcement Party.
Photo by Paul Archer

February 19 and from community members who took part in the Grand Marshal open voting day at the Community

1999 HOUSTON GAY & LESBIAN FILM FESTIVAL UNSPOOLS MAY 28-JUNE 6

HOUSTON'S THIRD ANNUAL GAY AND LESBIAN FILM FESTIVAL will take place at six theaters between May 28 and June 6.

The 1999 Houston Gay and Lesbian Film Festival will feature over a dozen films and short film series at the Angelika Film Center, the Aurora Picture Show, DiverseWorks, the Landmark Greenway Theatre, the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, and the Rice Media Center. The fiscal sponsor again this year is Southwest Alternate Media Project.

THEATER INFORMATION

ANGELIKA FILM CENTER: 500 Texas; 713.225.5232; call for ticket and film information

AURORA PICTURE SHOW: 800 Aurora Street (between N. Main and Cornell) in the Houston Heights; tickets, \$5 suggested donation; 713.868.2101; <http://web.wt.net/~grover>

DIVERSEWORKS: 1117 East Freeway; tickets, \$6 general admission, \$5 DiverseWorks members and students; for reservations 24-hours in advance, call 713.228.0914

LANDMARK GREENWAY THEATRE: 5 Greenway Plaza, tickets, \$6.75 general admission, \$4.50 discount shows, senior citizens, and children; 713.626.0402

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS HOUSTON: 1001 Bissonnet, enter through the Main Street doors; tickets, \$5 each film, \$4 for MFAH members, seniors and students; 713.639.7515

RICE MEDIA CENTER: Rice University Campus Entrance #8 (University Blvd. at Stockton Drive); tickets, \$5 each film; 713.527.4853

FILM AND EVENT SCHEDULE

Get Real, Greenway, Friday, May 28

The Righteous Babes (followed by *Wavelengths* and *Khush*), MFAH, Saturday, May 29, 5 p.m., and Monday, May 31, 5 p.m.

It's In The Water, MFAH, Saturday, May 29, 7 and 9:30 p.m., and Monday, May 31, 7 p.m.

Dear Jesse, MFAH, Sunday, May 30, 5 and 9 p.m.

cover the gay and lesbian community all over the state. TV Montrose/Out TV can be seen in Houston every Monday at 8 p.m. on Warner Cable Channel 74. Channel 74 used to be a pay-per-view channel, so you may need to manually input the channel the first time you watch it and program your remote control to stop on it automatically in the future.

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Out TV is dedicated to showing our entire community the way it really is, beyond typical negative stereotypes. Positive television exposure of our community is a good way to change negative attitudes of those in mainstream society.

Another goal of the program is to foster better understanding and unification of the many subcultures that comprise our community. The positive stories on Out TV aim to erase homophobia in our own community, find common ground between gay men and lesbian women, and stop the infighting between the organizations that represent us.

For the past year, TV Montrose has been "Television for All People." And Out TV hopes to bring "Equality through Visibility." If you haven't tuned in yet, check it out. It's making a positive difference through television for gay and lesbian equality both inside and outside our community.

For more information, call TV Montrose/Out TV at 713.523.6302.



Merchandise co-coordinator Jim Duke displays the new denim and suede Pride cap at the Grand Marshal Announcement Party. Photo by Paul Archer

February 19 and from community members who took part in the Grand Marshal open voting day at the Community Center the next day. The raves just kept coming at the Grand Marshal Announcement Party at Riva's on March 23, and the PCOH benefit at EJ's on March 28.

Our hottest items are definitely the new denim caps featuring the full-colored 1999 Pride logo. They come in two different styles. There's an all-denim cap for rugged use, and a dressier cap with a suede bill for more formal affairs (but not for those affairs in the Oval Office!). Some people are even getting both styles so they don't have to make up their minds.

Other great merchandise items include our traditional all-cotton t-shirts. These feature the rainbow-hued 1999 Pride logo and can be purchased in black or white and in a variety of sizes. Our sales racks will soon feature tank tops and sleeveless t-shirts to help you stay proud and cool in the legendary Houston heat. We will also be adding a variety of Pride-themed pins to wear on your new duds.

You can find these items being sold or displayed at a number of locations around town, including Basic Brothers, Crossroads, the Fitness Exchange, Leather by Boots, Lobo, the Lovett Inn, Nighthawks Leather, and Walgreen's on Montrose.

We'll also be found frolicking and selling Pride merchandise at several upcoming events, including the Westheimer Street Fair on May 1 and 2, the Pride Kick-off Party at Picasso on June 11, and the Mandatory Pride Parade Meeting at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center on June 15.

We would like to thank all of our customers for their great support and encourage everyone to check out our new merchandise. If you have any questions or suggestions for spots to sell our wares, please call the PrideLine at 713.529.6979 and ask for Jim or Tina, your happy and proud merchandise co-coordinators.

members, seniors and students; 713.639.7515

RICE MEDIA CENTER: Rice University Campus Entrance #8 (University Blvd. at Stockton Drive); tickets, \$5 each film; 713.527.4853

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Dear Jesse, MFAH, Sunday, May 30, 5 and 9 p.m.

Cavafy (preceded by *A Summer Dress*), MFAH, Sunday, May 30, 7 p.m.

Short Works: *Scent Uva Butch*; *Goodnight, I Love You*; *Sleep Come Free Me*, Aurora Picture Show, Tuesday, June 1, 7:30 p.m.

French Twist, Rice, Wednesday, June 2, 6 p.m., and Friday, June 4, 7:30 and 9:30 p.m.

Homo Heights, Rice, Wednesday, June 2, 8 and 10 p.m., and Saturday, June 5, 7:30 and 9:30 p.m.

Lone Star Hate, Rice, Thursday, June 3, 6 p.m.

Relax... It's Just Sex, Rice, Thursday, June 3, 7:30 p.m.

Hallelujah, Rice, Thursday, June 3, 9:30 p.m.

Fairytales and Fireworks (short works): *Fireworks*; *Pink Narcissus*; *The Story of the Red Rose*, DiverseWorks, Friday, June 4, and Saturday, June 5, 7 p.m.

QuAC Mix-Up Video!, DiverseWorks, Friday, June 4, 9 p.m.

Dykes In Wonderland (short works): *My Cunt*; *She's Real*, *Worse Than Queer*; *Twisted Sheets*; *Elizabeth Taylor Sometimes*; *Nice Girls Don't Do It*, DiverseWorks, Saturday, June 5, 9 p.m., and Sunday, June 6, 5 p.m.

Homo(In)Visibility: Film Festivals Come of Age (panel discussion), DiverseWorks, Sunday, June 6, 6:30-7:45 p.m. Free.

Closing Party for the Third Annual Houston Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, DiverseWorks, Sunday, June 6, 8-10 p.m. Free.

For more information, contact Paul Brockman at 713.807.8354, or by e-mail at paul@mbbmc.com.

ATTENTION PRIDE 1999 SHOPPERS

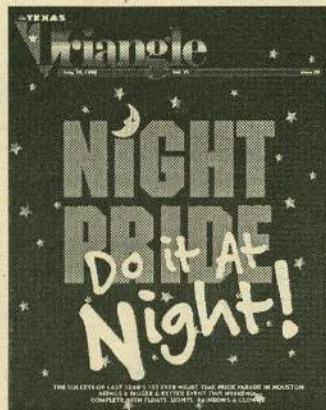
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