

CAT CORA'S APPETITE FOR ACTIVISM
SEX TOURISM UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL
BOB SMITH'S FIRST BOOK
DAVID KOPAY'S NEXT CHAPTER
MEXICO CITY'S CULTUREQUAKE
RACHEL MADDOW:
PROGRESSIVISM'S SMART, TANGY GO-TO GIRL

JOHN WATERS
GOES MAINSTREAM
(ACTUALLY, IT'S THE OTHER WAY AROUND)

PRIDE

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF HOUSTON PRIDE 2008



08

PRIDE HOUSTON

30

30



YEARS

WE ARE FAMILY



inside.

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Dear Pride 2008 Reader,

This year is our 30th year! As we celebrate this great milestone, we look back through our history here in Houston. Our theme this year is "We Are Family." While there are many personal implications to this theme, it is also a throwback to what was happening 30 years ago. I know we are truly blessed by all of the hard work that has been done to make it easier to be ourselves 100 percent of the time.

On Saturday, June 28, 2008, more than 100 great community businesses and organizations will descend on Westheimer. Take a moment to appreciate their unique benefit to our city and to you. I am truly inspired by the amazing power of Pride. There is no way to describe the energy, passion, and effort that goes into our annual celebration. We also welcome you into the festival, which, for the first time, will be free to the public.

I think it is also important to take a moment to think about Pride's Mission Statement. Our Mission Statement contains three key words that every person in Pride uses to guide our actions; Commemorate, Celebrate, and Educate. In our actions and our history projects we will commemorate the milestones that have brought our community to today. We will celebrate our success and the wins that have been brought to our community through great leaders and hard work. Many of these people make up our great list of Past Grand Marshals. And through our festival, and by visibility in the parade, we will be open in providing education about the opportunities our community has to offer.

A true treat to me is to share Pride with someone for their first time. Every year is someone's first Pride, and it reminds me of the understanding, comfort, and new direction my first Pride gave me. I was in college at the time and not sure how I would fit into this massive city and the world at large. Pride is the one time of the year where you can look around and see just how many people make up and support our great community. If this is your first Pride, please know that the organizations in the parade are always looking for new friends and new members. You can also find a great number of organizations represented at the Festival.

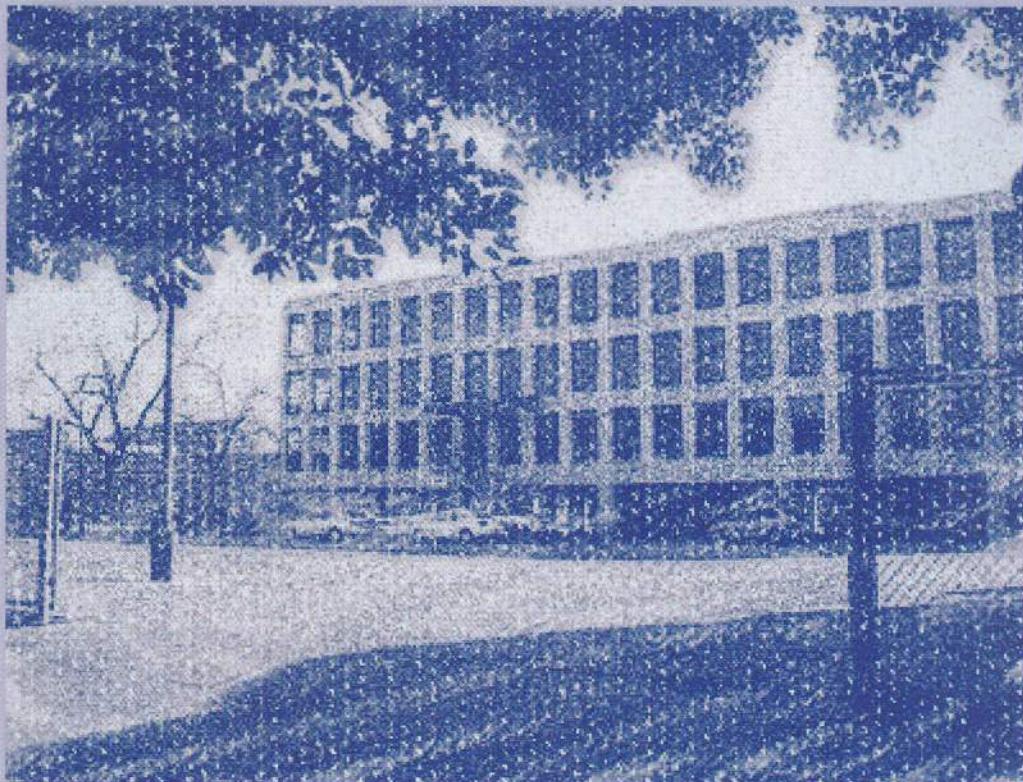
I wish you a very Happy Pride!

Thank you,

Brad Odom
President, Pride Houston



Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender: Your quality of life matters.



LIFE Counseling
General Psychotherapy

HIV Counseling

Anti-Violence Services
Hate Crimes • Domestic Violence • Sexual Assault

Outpatient Chemical Dependency Treatment

HATCH Youth Services

SPRY Senior Services
Seniors Preparing for Rainbow Years

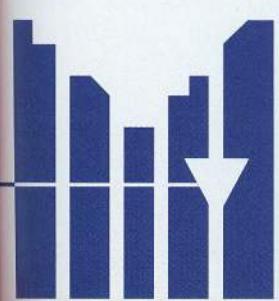
Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston
24-hour crisis hotline, information and referrals 713.529.3211

GLBT Foster Care Referrals for Parents & Youth

Education, Prevention, Outreach
Case Management

Employee Assistance Program

You should not have to educate your therapist about your sexual orientation, gender identity or HIV status before addressing your needs!



MONTROSE COUNSELING CENTER

401 Branard Street • 2nd Floor
Houston, Texas 77006-5015

713.529.0037

www.montrosecounselingcenter.org



United Way of Greater Houston

greetings

Greetings,

As mayor of Houston, I am pleased to send greetings to the GLBT community in Houston.



Houston is a city that celebrates the diversity of its population, including people of all sexual orientations. The strengths of this great city are in the men and women who make up our diversity.

To maintain Houston's position in the global marketplace, Pride Houston, Inc. has successfully assisted in providing the available resources and information to support Houston's diversity. I commend Pride Houston for its encouragement in strengthening the diversity of the exciting city we call home.

Best wishes for much success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill White".

Bill White
Mayor

Happy Pride Week!

As Houston's first openly gay elected official, it has been my honor to serve you and the entire city these past 10 years.

We've made tremendous strides locally, nationally and internationally by electing more GLBT candidates and supporters, changing the community's image in the media and changing minds as well as hearts — sometimes even our own.

Achieving equal rights still looms in the distance, but we march toward the horizon together. I hope to continue in public service for many more years, but I will always fight for equality.

Have the best Pride Week ever!



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Annise D. Parker".

Annise D. Parker
City Controller



BE A PAL
ORIGINAL
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Saturday,
8:45 - 11:00
on lower
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Here are a
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BE A PART OF THE NATION'S ORIGINAL NIGHTTIME PRIDE PARADE!

*Saturday, June 23, 2007
8:45 - 11:00 p.m.
on lower Westheimer between
Woodhead and Whitney*

Here are a few suggestions to make everyone's Pride more enjoyable...

•Drink plenty of water. Houston in June is very hot, even at night.

•Get there early. Did you know that Houston Pride is more than just a Parade? Come early and enjoy live entertainment, food, and fun in our Festival area.

•Walk, take public transportation, carpool. Parking can be scarce in the area on Parade and Festival day and the traffic leaving can be heavy.

•Respect our neighbors. Help keep Montrose the unique, friendly, beautiful neighborhood it is. Please do not park on lawns, block driveways or disturb the neighbors. You also show your respect by using a trash can.

•Dress light. Don't know what to wear? Why not try a new Pride Houston T-Shirt or tank top!

•Keep the pets at home. Sure your pet has Pride, too, but a crowd of more than 150,000 might scare the GLBT right out of Fluffy!

•Don't worry, be happy! If you encounter any problems please let one of the many volunteer Parade marshals along the route know.

•Invite everyone. Pride celebrates our diversity and the Parade and Festival just aren't the same without it.

•Play it safe! This may be Montrose, but you're still in a big city! Don't ruin your celebration by becoming a victim of crime. Call 911 if there is trouble!

Welcome to Pride Houston 2008!

Thank you for joining us for PRIDE Houston 2008. Houston is one of the most diverse and opportunity-rich cities in the country. I currently serve as City Council Member, at-Large Position Two and Vice Mayor Pro-Tem. When I was 19 years old, I fell in love with Houston and made this city my home. I now play a role in improving Houston which is a great honor and responsibility.



As a member of the GLBT community, I am aware of the importance of PRIDE. Each year, we come together to speak out about critical issues that affect our lives each day. PRIDE is more than a parade. We are commemorating hard-fought battles and victories, like Stonewall, and Lawrence vs. Texas.

Welcoming you to PRIDE allows me the opportunity to say thank you to the community that I call family.

Enjoy the festivities!

Sue

Sue Lovell
Council Member At-Large Position Two
Vice Mayor Pro Tem

Dear LGBT community,

As the City Council representative of Montrose, the heart of Houston's GLBT community and home of Pride Houston, I wish you a Happy Pride Week!



I'm very proud that the community celebrates every year in our district. The GLBT community has taken pride and a sense of ownership in the Montrose area, and I will continue to work with you to preserve the identity of this vibrant neighborhood.

Over the past few years, the GLBT community has shown its power when it bands together, and people all over the city have taken notice.

I join you in your fight against discrimination and encourage you to continue to show solidarity in that fight.

Together, we can make great progress in this city.

Sincerely,

Wanda Adams

Wanda Adams

PFLAG/HATCH Youth Scholarship Foundation

Scholarship Requirements

The scholarship application deadline is April 30 of each year.

Student Requirements

Ages 17-26

Must self-identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered

Houston-area resident, or attend Houston-area college

Financial need

Essay

Interview

Continue 2.0 GPA

to continue scholarship

Youth Scholarship Foundation

The PFLAG/HATCH Youth Scholarship Foundation offers a scholarship program to assist worthy gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered youth in the Houston area in pursuing a college education. The scholarship program is for students who have demonstrated outstanding achievement while in high school or college. Application packets are available for download from the website.

In addition to helping provide for higher education, the Foundation hopes that our scholarship recipients will provide positive role models for other youth who cannot be open about their orientation, and encourages the scholarship recipients to volunteer their time with GLBT community groups.

PHYSF

P.O. Box 667010 • Houston TX 77266
(713) 416-8470 email: info@physf.org
www.physf.org

pride events

for 2008

PRIDE IDOL
THURSDAY, JUNE 12
GUAVA LAMP, 570 WAUGH

FOP WINE TASTING
SATURDAY, JUNE 21
LOCATION TBA

KICK OFF PARTY
FRIDAY, JUNE 27 @ 7 PM
METEOR, 2306 GENESEE

FESTIVAL & PARADE
SATURDAY, JUNE 28

AFTER PARTY
SATURDAY, JUNE 28
SOUTH BEACH, 810 PACIFIC

BROADWAY BARES - HOUSTON
SUNDAY, JUNE 29
LOCATION TBA

HOUSTON COMING OUT DAY
(NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY)
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11
LOCATION TBA

ROCK WITH PRIDE CONCERT
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12
LOCATION TBA



PRIDE HOUSTON

Pride Houston is an energetic group of committed volunteers who meet year-round to develop, organize, coordinate, and promote the Pride Parade & Festival and other annual events for our community. It is our goal to create the means by which gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons can commemorate, educate, and celebrate; we build on our past while creating new paths toward a positive future for all humanity, not excluding any aspect of who we are as people.

letter from the editor

I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone and thank you for supporting our community. Our organization has been around for 30 happy years, propelled by the excitement and dedication of our volunteers and staff. Over these past 30 years, we have gone through many changes and rebirths, but these volunteers have continued to work diligently to see that Pride Houston stays afloat. I would like to thank those who have been a part of that great effort.

During the past year, pride has encountered many trials, but we have stayed strong. We have gathered a team that is working around the clock to make this year's events fabulous; without them, many people's "gay time" would be taken away. So from the community and myself, I would

like to thank all of you, who have been, and are, a part of that team.

I would also like to thank the photographers and contributing authors, without whom this magazine would not be possible. It is your passion and generosity that have made this project fun, exciting and informative.

I hope that you enjoy the pages to come and that they may inspire you to create change in our world and even within our own community. The messages and pictures within are close to the hearts of the members of our community, so it is my hope that we have presented them in a way you will find appealing and useful.

It is with great honor that I present to you the 2008 Pride Houston Pride Guide.

Happy Pride!

shout outs



EDITOR IN CHIEF
PRODUCTION MANAGER
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

pamela paige palmer
christian palmer
nancy ford
sally huffer
jenifer pool
brian greul
dalton dehart
yvonne feece
pride houston library

friends of pride

Become a Friend with Benefits!

If you've enjoyed Houston's Pride festivities over the years, then Friends of Pride is the group for you! Your financial contribution will help support the important work of Pride Houston, and you'll enjoy great benefits in return.

The Wine Tasting is the signature "Thank You" event for our Friends of Pride (or FOPs, as we affectionately call them). You'll stroll from station to station, sampling wines from a variety of the the world's premier wineries, noshing on an extensive offering of appetizers, and mingling with your fellow FOPs. The Wine Tasting is always held at an intriguing, visually interesting venue, and it has truly become a "must be there" event for our community.

Friends of Pride also enjoy a bevy of Parade and Festival Day benefits. Your entry to the festival is free, and you'll enjoy free ice water, shade and reserved Porta-Potties at our FOP hospitality area, adjacent to the festival. The VIP bleachers provide our Friends with the best seats in the house for viewing our spectacular Night Time Parade. Of course, private Porta-Potties and cash bar also help make the VIP bleacher area THE place to enjoy the Parade. And for those Friends who join at the \$300 level or higher, you even get private reserved parking space!

As you can see, Friends of Pride offers you a great way to support the GLBT community and have a lot of fun at the same time! For as little as \$35, you can become a Friend with benefits today. The chart at the right explains the benefits you receive with each donation level. Sign up by visiting our Web site: www.fophouston.org.

We look forward to meeting you at our Friends of Pride gatherings next year.



At the \$35 Opalescent Opal level you receive:

- The FOP lapel pin
- Individual recognition on “thank you” Web page

At the \$75 Sweet Ruby you receive:

- The FOP lapel pin
- One pass for Parade VIP seating (cash bar and private Porta-Potties)
- OR
- One ticket to the Wine Tasting Event
- Individual recognition on “thank you” Web page

At the \$100 Vibrant Amethyst you receive:

- The FOP lapel pin
- One pass for Parade VIP seating (cash bar and private Porta-Potties)
- One ticket to the Wine Tasting Event
- Individual recognition on “thank you” Web page

At the \$150 Warm Amber level you receive:

- The FOP lapel pin
- Two passes for Parade VIP seating (cash bar and private Porta-Potties)
- Two tickets to the Wine Tasting Event
- Individual recognition on “thank you” Web page

At the \$300 Sexy Garnet level you receive:

- The FOP lapel pin
- Four passes for Parade VIP seating (cash bar and private Porta-Potties)
- Four tickets to the Wine Tasting Event
- One Festival and Parade Day reserved parking place
- Individual recognition on “thank you” Web page

At the \$500 Whimsical Topaz level you receive:

- The FOP lapel pin
- Six passes for Parade VIP seating (cash bar and private Porta-Potties)
- Six tickets to the Wine Tasting Event
- Two Festival and Parade Day reserved parking places
- Individual recognition on “thank you” Web page

At the \$1000 Luminous Emerald level you receive:

- The FOP lapel pin
- Ten passes for Parade VIP seating (cash bar and private Porta-Potties)
- Ten tickets to the Wine Tasting Event
- Two Festival and Parade Day reserved parking places
- Individual recognition on “thank you” Web page
- Sponsorship of the Parade Centerpiece



galler

United we stand



14

The following essays were written and compiled to educate and inspire our community. Unfortunately, as a lesbian

woman, I do not fully or accurately understand all of the issues that the gay, bisexual, and transgender communities face. It is true that we all have some common trials, but many are not issues shared throughout our entire joint community. It is the hope of the authors that after reading these pieces you will have a better understanding of each sect of our community and, as a result, be better equipped to help and understand the entire community.

BY [B]

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The last 30 versus The next 30

BY [BRIAN GREUL]

I think the best way to appreciate gay history is to look at how good we have it in comparison to our friends in earlier times. I've been fortunate, as a gay man, to have no idea what a bar raid is like. I understand that at one time the Houston Police Department could be counted on to raid bars, arrest gays, and cart them off to jail like the pound rounding up stray, confused dogs. We've all heard about the Stonewall Riots, and we've all heard about the late '70s and early '80s and the days before safe sex was an integral part of gay life.

We've truly come a long way. I remember in 1993, when I got out of the U.S. Army and moved to Houston, that I knew that I needed to live in Montrose to be in the gay community. Pretty much all of us lived in Montrose or River Oaks at the time. I'm sure there were gay people outside the Loop 610 ... I just didn't know any of them. I now know gay guys who live in every segment of the city from the Woodlands to Clear Lake and from Baytown to Katy. While we don't have domestic partnerships, we are more or less accepted by our fellow citizens. That represents tremendous progress for us in our city.

Perhaps just as important, we have seen HIV go from a certain death sentence to a disease that has a good outlook for treatment and chronic management. Medicines and our knowledge of how to use them have made leaps and bounds, and as a result we no longer have a stream of needless deaths and funerals. At one time a diagnosis meant just a few years to live and battling many obscure

fun fact:

the rainbow flag
was created as a
gay symbol in 1978
by gilbert baker

illnesses. Now a diagnosis of HIV still involves some life changes, but the advances in medicines are generally able to keep people healthy so that they can be bothered by normal problems like high blood pressure, old age, and arthritis. Who would have thought we'd be glad to see that?

While I think it goes without saying that our lives as gay men don't revolve around the bars, it's important to acknowledge that they are an important social component of our lives. Much has changed in Houston where Gay bars are concerned. Heaven burned to the ground and South Beach rose from the ashes. The Briar Patch, one of Houston's oldest gay bars, moved from the Medical Center to a home in Montrose and then retired for good. EJ's expanded to a second location, In-N-Out, located in the Heights.

Even our Pride Parade has changed, for the better. At one time we used to have it in the afternoon in the sweltering heat. I remember marching in the parade a couple of times when it was during the day. Then the parade was moved to the night and our penchant for putting on a good show was allowed to come out. It's never been the same since we made that change.

The last 30 years have been momentous for gay men in Houston. Only through continued work, commitment to our friends and neighbors, and keeping the pressure on our politicians will the next 30 bring as many good and wonderful changes.



30 years ago and from now

BY [NANCY FORD]

Funny — no photo has ever been produced portraying that big, butch bulldyke in dungarees with a pack of Lucky Strikes rolled up in her T-shirt sleeve heaving that trash can through the window at New York City's Stonewall Inn back in 1969.

Nonetheless, this is the image my mind's eye goes to when I think of that melee. I see big, butch bulldykes with their buzz cut hair, wrestling themselves out of the arms of New York's finest, hurling those trash cans toward equality.

I wonder if those BBB's had any idea of what their actions would bring forth that night. I wonder what their needs were, beyond a Budweiser and a Zippo lighter.

Thirty years ago in Houston, the women and men in our community had a remarkably clear idea of what our community's coming needs would be. Within the same one-to-two year period, gay and lesbian organizations sprang forth in bumper-crop fashion. Montrose Counseling Center, Montrose Clinic (now Legacy Community Health Services), Houston Pride Band, Houston Gay (now GLBT) Political Caucus, and, last but not least, the group that would later become Pride Houston were all born of equal parts necessity and desire.

For 30 years these groups have served the basic and not-so-basic needs, whether related to health, politics, the arts and more.

Thirty years from now, what will we as a community, particularly we lesbians, need? Will AIDS still be a concern? Will some other health or political crisis decimate our community. Will that crisis simultaneously band us together against a common cause, making us even

stronger than ever? Will the term GLBT become antiquated, our equal rights finally being bestowed upon us, relegating our second-class citizenship to the trash bins of history? Will *The L*

Word still be on television, with Bette and Tina moving into a retirement center?

How the hell should I know? How can I presume to predict what tomorrow holds for us, let alone the future? I don't even know yet how this commentary will end.

But I do have hope. I hope that gay men and lesbians don't have to wait 30 years to be granted full rights to marry.

I hope those of us who wish to may have children.

I hope that those of us who want to will be welcomed into the armed services to defend our country, without worrying about who does or doesn't ask or tell.

I hope we can finally work and play as we choose without fear of being jumped in a dark alley or tied to a fencepost to die.

I hope *The L Word* goes on forever.

Yes, I do have hope. And even though the term is losing its impact, being pimped out this year by every sweet-talking politician in place of an actual platform, it is hope that has keeps our community alive. Hope got us through Hitler's Holocaust. Hope got us through AIDS. Hope is even getting us through eight years of the Bush administration. So far.

So this June, as we look back in our collective rear view mirror on 30 years of Pride, I hope our future is an equally grand and glorious amalgam of creativity, strength, and power. You know, like our Pride Parade, but without all the humidity.

And, somehow, on June 28, through all the glitz and sparkle and collective jubilance that is our Pride Parade, if you happen to see a big, butch bulldyke in dungarees with a pack of Lucky Strikes rolled up in her T-shirt sleeve walking the route in a ghostly fashion, reminding us where we've been, how far we've come, and how far we have to go, remember that she has a story to tell.

Do yourself a favor and take time to listen.



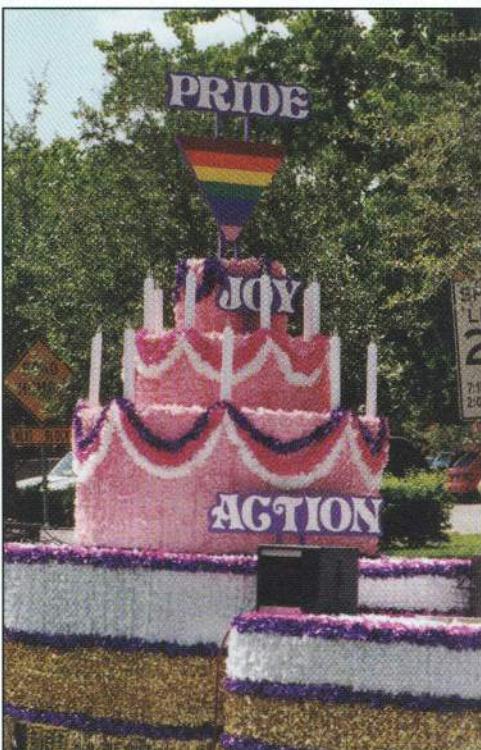
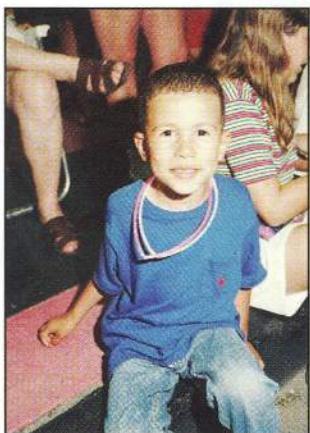
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fun fact:

according to
the 2000 census,
more than 1 million
have same-sex
coupled parents

BY [SALLY HUFFER]

You can't make me

Why is there so much discomfort blending the 'B' in the GLBT?

Heterosexual Privilege. These two words were given to me by a friend who explained that if you're in a same-sex relationship, you may be out and proud, but if you're in a straight relationship, or no relationship, you'll abandon the community and get to appreciate all the blessings showered upon the status quo. That makes sense. Nobody likes a turncoat. Perhaps people think we're the Benedict Arnolds of the community.

Some people think you're so highly sexualized that you'll need both a man and a woman to be satisfied. Potential partners become insecure, thinking they may never be enough, or that they may be pressured into having group sex. Some people may mistakenly anticipate group sex. Monogamy and bisexuality are entirely separate.

And don't we all know someone who put his/her heart and soul into a new relationship, only to get dumped when the lover decided to return to the safety net of being in a heterosexual

relationship? Was the person bi-curious? Was the person just exploring? Who knows? He or she wasn't honest when they hooked up – perhaps afraid that nobody would be interested in someone unsure of himself or herself. You can't play with someone's heart like that. You just can't. It's not fair.

It doesn't surprise me when some people bristle when they find out I'm bisexual. Am I using it as a stepping-stone to "come out already?" I think I'm pretty self aware, so I doubt it. A recent study concluded that many bisexual women are distinctly oriented toward bisexuality. It isn't a phase. I've always felt that if someone needs the label as a stepping-stone, I'm glad it's there. I know some people who wish they could re-label themselves, but because they are so entrenched in the gay or lesbian communities, they worry that their friends would feel betrayed if they were their authentic bisexual selves. Now that's peer pressure!

For me, as long as Milla Jovovich and Keith Olbermann are in this world, I'm not picking a side.



transgender: we've come a long way?

BY [JENIFER POOL]

It wasn't that long ago in Houston that a man or woman dressed in the clothes of the opposite "sex" was subject to arrest, fine or jail. That means that many of the clothes that are in style today would place any woman at risk of arrest. This City of Houston ordinance, called the "Mask Law," was used by the police to harass and terrorize the gay and lesbian community as well as the drag queens and kings (transgenders).

It was difficult to get the ordinance repealed with an environment in City government made up of long time council members and old school "Bubba's" who would rather assault gay, lesbian and transgender people than actually speak to them. We were the target of indiscriminate violence from citizens as well as the police. We were not alone; the Hispanic population was at risk for random violence from the same people. It was a time of danger for the gay, lesbian and transgender communities.

With the tireless effort of activists, Phyllis Frye and Ray Hill among others, the City ordinance was repealed. How that was accomplished is an incredible story itself — one for another time.

How is the transgender community today? Better than it was back then, but much still needs to change. The danger has passed but not entirely; care must be taken for the transgender community, even though the streets of Houston are safer. Transgenders are still subject to losing their jobs, being denied services as well as medical care, and being harassed by government bureaucrats just for being "who they are."

They are still challenged at every turn by religious zealots who believe that it is their duty and calling from God to punish down those they disapprove of due to the dogma of hate from

the pulpit. A religious leader who preaches hate in the name of the "One" who preached only love of thy neighbor has missed the point.

It has appeared in the last few years that things were going to change

fun fact:

homosexuality
can now be
traced back
to 12,000 BC

for the better not only for transgenders but also for the gay and lesbian community with ENDA (Employment Non Discrimination Act) moving forward in the House of Representatives. Then in November 2007 the transgender community was rocked by Rep. Barney Frank's pronouncement that certain wording was to be dropped from EDNA: Gender Identity (transgender) or gender expression (anyone not conforming to accepted norms of their sex/gender). That means all of those in the gay and lesbian community who don't "pass" as straight were being dropped from EDNA. The "Judas" in this betrayal was the trusted gay and lesbian organization HRC (Human Rights Campaign). Their complacency in allowing the incomplete bill to move forward was inexcusable. HRC's betrayal of their "mission statement" condemns too many in the gay and lesbian community and all of the transgenders to the possibility of a longer term second class citizenship.

There is a brighter future, however. Out of the ENDA debate another GLBT advocacy coalition was created (United ENDA). In addition society is changing and we can see it through the media. Many more gay, lesbian and transgender characters are appearing on primetime television and in movies.

There are changes in laws coming from local communities that recognize that equality for everyone can only strengthen society.

There will always be those who will stand against liberty and equality. For the transgender community, with the support of their brothers and sisters in the gay and lesbian community, we all will live the dream set forth in the Declaration of Independence.



SATURDAY, JUNE 28TH
THE OFFICIAL AFTER PARTY
AND PROUD SPONSOR OF THE 2008
HOUSTON GAY GLBT PRIDE PARADE

South Beach presents
adult video star and Men's Magazine
2008 Man of the Year,

JOHNNY CASTLE

live at South Beach after the Parade.

MIDNIGHT SHOW.

Receive your FREE personalized and
autographed model photo of Johnny or
have your photo taken with Johnny for
only \$5.00 per photo.

Texas's Favorite Circuit DJ
and the toast of the International
Circuit Party Scene...

Direct from Los Angeles,

DJ Roland Belmares

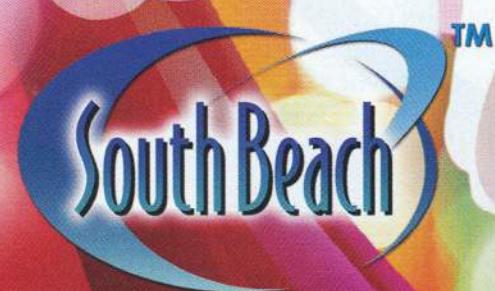
Come join the party.
One Mighty Weekend,
White Party Miami,
Winter Party, Splash,
Pavilion Fire Island, Wonderland Los Angeles.

Avoid the line and purchase your tickets early.

\$15 in advance/\$20 at the door

Tickets on sale at Meteor, South Beach,
JR's Bar & Grill, M2M Fashion Style Lounge,
Male Uwear and Hollywood.

Tickets go on sale June 6th



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Houston's #1 Official After Party

THE YEAR TO L I V E . L O V E . B E . •2008•

Leading the world with messages of tolerance, inclusion, and acceptance are the many Pride Marches and Festivals held throughout the year. Each event is a unique vehicle for the GLBTI Community to show that we are an integral part of the general, broader population. Gay men, Lesbians, Bisexual men and women, Transgender people and Intersex individuals march in solidarity along streets in every corner of the Globe inviting politicians, interest groups, and commercial enterprises to join in, to show that discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity is not a concept we as a people should tolerate.

Although we have come a long way, there is still a long way to go. Homophobia, political intolerance, and societal indifference still plague many communities. Government policy is still used as a weapon against us. Relationship recognition, such as marriage or civil unions, is still only available in a select number of countries, albeit a growing number. While these inequalities exist anywhere around the world, the significance of the Pride movement will remain as strong and relevant as ever.

The International Theme for 2008 is *Live Love Be*. Throughout the year, take this theme with you as you work and play and remind your friends, colleagues, and family that the adoption of the simple spirit behind these three little words can make a real difference to millions of people around the world. Pride events touch the hearts of the young and the not-so-young alike. Members of our community who remember how difficult it was to be themselves, and those who need to know now that it is OK to **BE** whatever you are, and be able to **LIVE** and **LOVE** throughout your life without discrimination or condemnation.

InterPride is the International Association of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Pride Coordinators. We are a networking and support organization for the organizations that produce LGBTI Pride Events. On behalf of our member organizations around the world, we are honored to present you with this calendar of events and information. These events are produced to inform and celebrate your local LGBTI community and anyone who may be visiting your area. Make attending an LGBTI Pride Event a necessary element of your travel plans, as well as an important responsibility in your home town.

The following pages contain a comprehensive list of Pride events produced by InterPride member organizations throughout the world, for 2008 through May 2009. For an up-to-date list, including any changes that may occur, please visit our Web site at www.interpride.org anytime. We encourage you to be involved in the many marches, parades, festivals, parties, and other events available to you. Educate yourself, your family, your friends, as well as your enemies on the issues at hand and how people are people, regardless of gender, race or sexuality, and deserve the same rights as the rest of the community has enjoyed without having to justify their right to have them.

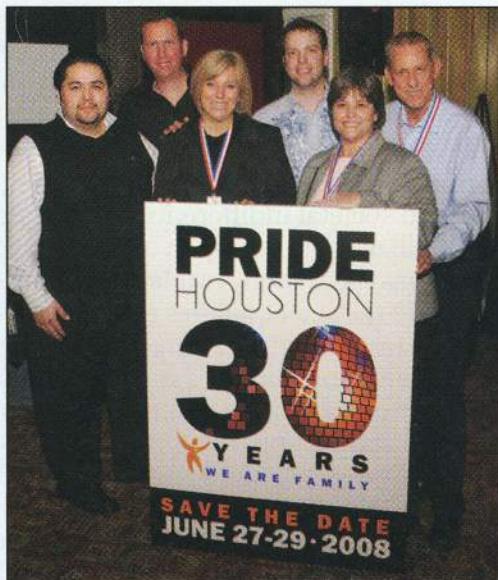
Happy Pride!

2007 grand marshals

The Grand Marshals for the 2008 Pride Celebration have been announced! Pride Houston wishes to thank those who voted to select this year's Grand Marshals and extend our special thanks to all of the distinguished nominees for their participation. Each nominee was selected based on their tireless efforts, commitment, and outstanding contributions to the community in areas such as social, political, health, welfare, education and business. It is their continued mentoring, volunteer efforts, generosity, and leadership that ushers our community into a better future.

FEMALE GRAND MARSHAL: KELLY MCCANN

As Chief Executive Officer of AIDS Foundation Houston, she is one of Houston's exemplary and highly visible lesbian leaders. Since 1979 she has conducted her personal and professional life as an out lesbian, never faltering, never changing her pronouns, and never wavering from being proud of who — and what — she is.



HONORARY GRAND MARSHAL: JULIE EBERLY

A supportive mainstay of Houston's GLBT community, she is easily recognized and loved by anyone who has fallen into the realm of her sparkling smile and all-encompassing hug.

As a longtime Development Director for AIDS Foundation Houston, she has been instrumental in raising much needed funds for those living with and otherwise affected by HIV.

ORGANIZATION GRAND MARSHAL: AIDS FOUNDATION HOUSTON

In recognition of their exceptional accomplishment of implementing community programs that educate, promote disease prevention, and provide client services for individuals and families within our community.

MALE GRAND MARSHAL: DALTON DEHART

An outstanding member of our community since arriving in Houston in 1985, you can hardly go to a GLBT function in the Houston area where you won't see him running around lining up people for a picture. It is his photos that have captured those special moments for the community. Since 1986 he has shot more than 12,000 rolls of film and more than 700,000 pictures. His love for the community is seen as he moves people together with "OK darlin' you need to move over here and darlin' you need to stand there." He has developed an online database of those pictures that can be researched for use today and far into the future.

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ICOH

2007 GRAND MARSHAL
HONORARY ORGANIZATION

The Imperial Court of Houston — The Space City Empire (better known simply as ICOH) received the honor of Organizational Grand Marshal for the 2007 Parade. ICOH is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charity dedicated to raising funds for worthwhile charities within the Houston community with causes ranging from HIV/AIDS to breast cancer and missions as diverse as the environment, education, and empowerment.

The "Empire" is camp in nature, and its members play the game of "historical royalty." Somewhat similar to Mardi Gras krewes who have Kings and Queens, ICOH is led by an Emperor and an Empress who "reign" as co-presidents for a year. The positions are elected by an open vote of the community, just like that of Grand Marshal. The group focuses on raising funds "dollar for dollar" by hosting events such as drag shows, car washes and cook-offs. To date, after only five years, the organization has raised more than \$300,000 for charity.

This year, ICOH is being led by Apollo Emperor Jeff Wallace and Gemini Empress Rose, who have chosen Bering Omega Community Services as their beneficiary. "Yes, it is a lot of fun getting crowned and having folks bow and curtsey to you," stated Jeff and Rose, "but the job that we do is very serious. Working with our membership as well as serving as leaders in the community is a second full-time job. But knowing that we are helping people in need makes it all worthwhile."

Even though ICOH is only in its sixth reign, the group has received numerous awards and

recognition throughout the community. Most recently, ICOH was received this year's Community Ally Award by the

Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce.

The road to success has not always been smooth as the creation of ICOH

was not an easy accomplishment. Several of ICOH's charter members left a similar organization that did not have an elected board, was not a federally recognized charity and, because of its international membership, focused much of its time on communities outside of Houston. The small group of 18 individuals decided to create a group that did not affiliate with any larger group, focused on the Houston community, and allowed its members to oversee the leadership of the organization. The group became the first of its kind in Houston to receive its 501(c)(3) status from the IRS. "There were people that said some very negative things when we started this journey, and to this day there are some out there that still call us 'rebels,'" stated Sean Carter, founder of ICOH. "But just as fraternities and sororities, leather clubs and business groups ...we have similarities as well as differences from other organizations. Our members are proud to be a part of a very close knit family, and looking at how many people in need that we have helped over the years ... I am extremely proud of what this organization has accomplished."

ICOH has prided itself in its dedication to democracy by listening to its members and giving them the ultimate power of management and supervision over the group. There have been many obstacles to overcome but through it all, ICOH has proven that "we can all do something good for our brothers and sisters in need, have fun and serve as positive role models in the process."



ICOH holds its biggest fundraiser each year in October where the newly elected monarchs are crowned. This year's event (Enthronement VI) will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Downtown on October 11. For more information about the event or ICOH, please go to www.spacecityempire.org or call 713-226-2220.





A panel of independent judges reviewed more than 100 entries in the nighttime Parade. Judges for the 2007 Parade were Uchenna and Joyce Agu, winners of *The Amazing Race*; Holly Clapham of the Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau; *Project Runway* winner and owner of Lot 8 Boutique Chloe Dao; KHOU Channel 11 meteorologist Dan Meador; designer and architect Adam Vuong; Director of Merchandising for Lot 8 Boutique; and longtime Friend of Pride, Gary Wood. Emcees for the Parade were Ernie Manouse, host of the award-winning *InnerVIEWS* program on Houston PBS along with 104.1 KRBE personalities Roula & Ryan and Special K.

Pride Houston announced the winners of the 2007 Houston Pride Parade at an awards ceremony at La Strada on Friday, June 29.

JUDGES' CHOICE

- PFLAG
- Planned Parenthood
- Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church

STONEWALL (BEST SOCIAL COMMENTARY):

- AIDS Foundation Houston

ARIA (BEST CREATIVE SOUND):

- Tony's Corner Pocket

FABULOUS (BEST COSTUMES):

- Asians & Friends Houston

RAINBOW (BEST LIGHTING):

- Charles Armstrong Investments

RUBY SLIPPER (BEST WALKING):

- JP Morgan Chase/BeringOmega

JUDY GARLAND (BEST PERFORMANCE):

- Houston Pride Band

LONE STAR PRIDE (BEST INTERPRETATION OF THE 2007 THEME):

- Texas Gay Rodeo Association

PINK DIAMOND (BEST FLOAT BY A FOR-PROFIT COMPANY):

- Silver Eagle Distributors (Bud Light)

PRISCILLA (BEST FLOAT BY A NON-PROFIT GROUP):

- Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church

SPIRIT OF MONTROSE (BEST OVERALL):

- Bering Memorial United Methodist Church

20

PRIDE PARADE AWARD WINNERS

CHAIRS

- Eric
- Craig

VOLUN

- Mary

PARADI

EXTRAC

- Chris

FESTIV

EXTRAC

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VOLUN

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07 VOLUNTEER AWARD WINNERS

CHAIRS OF THE YEAR

- Eric Skains (Events Committee)
- Craig Snead (Parade Committee)

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR:

- Mary & Kathy ("The Ladies")

PARADE DAY VOLUNTEER EXTRAORDINAIRE:

- Chris B.

FESTIVAL DAY VOLUNTEER EXTRAORDINAIRE:

- Robert Rines

AT LARGE "GAME DAY"

VOLUNTEER EXTRAORDINAIRE:

- Karen Morry

OLD-TIMERS AWARD:

- Mike Kelley

NEWBIE AWARD:

- Matthew Nelson

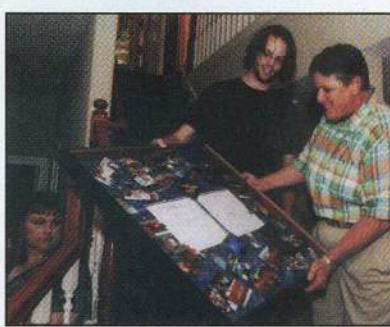
FRESHEST IDEAS AWARD:

- John Buffington

JACK OF ALL TRADES AWARD:

- Troy Christiansen

*Congratulations to
these great members
of the Pride Houston
family of volunteers!*



PRIDE HOUSTON

30

YEARS

WE ARE FAMILY