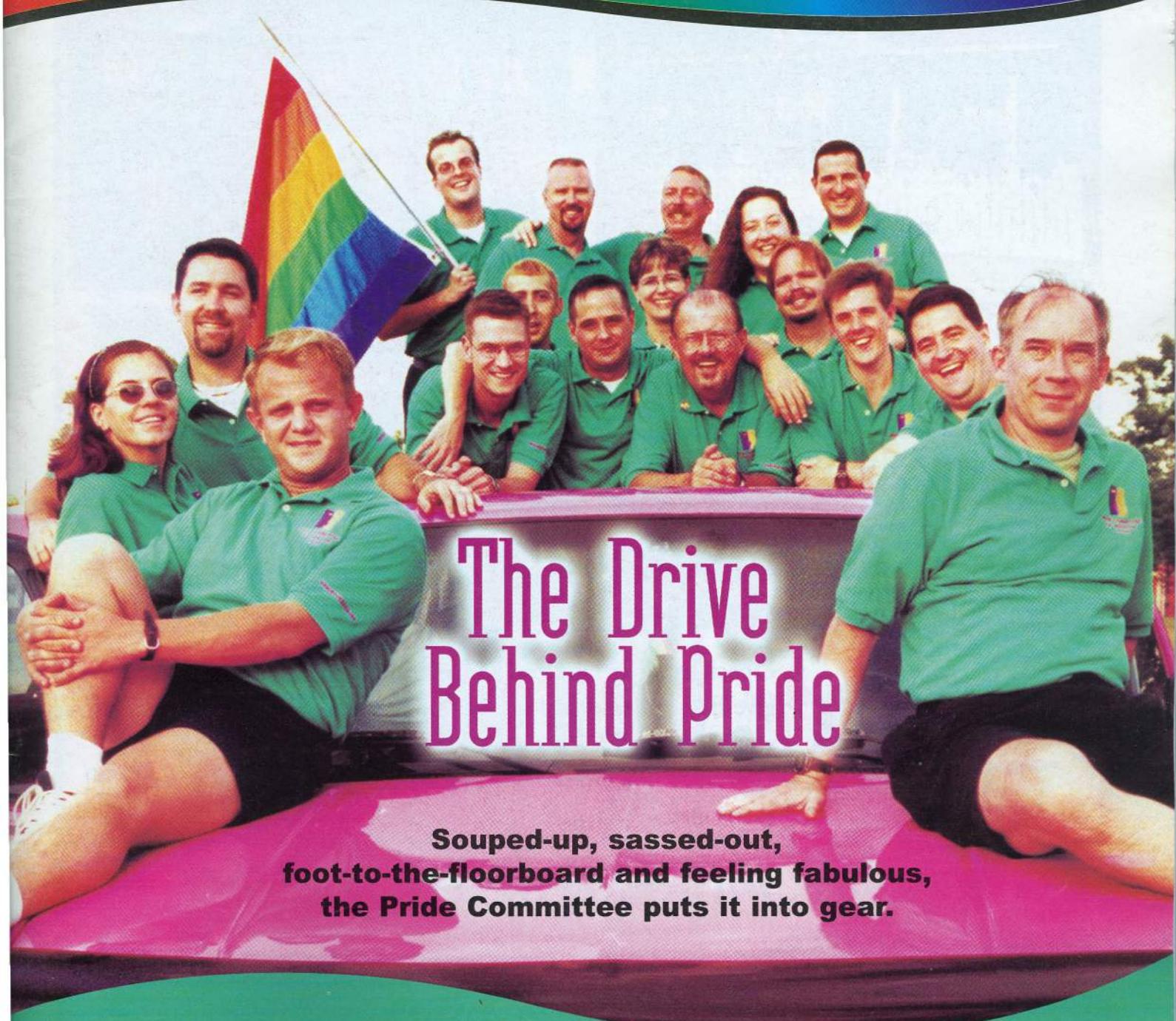


OutSmart

JUNE 2000 • Complimentary

Houston's Gay and Lesbian Magazine



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the Pride Committee puts it into gear.**

INSIDE:

Your Complete Pride Guide: Pride Grand Marshals Tori Williams, Rev. Don Sinclair, Richard Wiederholt (in memoriam) • Pride Co-host Ernie Manouse • Pride Calendar

Upfront With Ernie

PBS's Ernie Manouse is
Gay Pride Parade's co-host

Ernie Manouse has been part of Houston's Gay Pride Parade for many years, but this year it's official—he is co-hosting with Maria Todd. "I'll let her do all the hard work," he jests. "She'll have to read the book and I'll make jokes. I'll do the easy stuff."

OutSmart: How did your career in communications start?

Ernie Manouse: I was born in upstate New York, a place called Binghamton. I was there until I graduated high school. Then I went to Chicago to go to school at Loyola. One of my teachers was always saying that the way [my friend] Gail and I would joke with each other in class, that we really should host a radio show. A radio producer in the class said, "If you wanna come in and host my radio show some week, you're welcome to it." So we went. We got there and the hostess of the show, a Miss Teen USA, didn't know we were coming or why we were there, and we said, "Well, we're here to host." She was a bit livid and walked out and went home, but I guess she

And "easy" is an appropriate word for what it was like to interview him. Of course, it's no wonder, considering his major in college was communications, and this past May marked his four-year anniversary as co-host of Channel 8's *Weeknight Edition*.

turned on the radio and listened to the show, and midway through the show she called the station manager and resigned her job, and said, "Those two are having more fun than I've ever had, let them have the show." And all of a sudden we had a radio show in Chicago. We were on for two years.

How did you wind up in Houston?

I saw an ad actually, for Houston Public Television Broadcasting cable looking for a host for *Weeknight Edition*. I was helping a friend of mine move. We were going to lunch, and she said, "Why don't you come back to my apartment and you can help me unpack the boxes." I thought, *Hmmm, you know I got a tape I gotta get out in the mail.* So I went home and I sent the tape here. If she'd have



by Blase DiStefano

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offered me something better to do that afternoon, I wouldn't be here now.

I had wanted to do radio because I didn't want to put on the makeup, I didn't want to shave, and I didn't want to get dressed up, all the things I hate doing. Which I have to do every single day now...it's funny the way that turned out.

So, how are you involved with the Gay Pride Parade?

It's my third year working on the parade. Two years ago I kinda played on the mike, but then last year, I thought, this is [KRBE's] Maria Todd's event; she promotes it, and we don't do that much promotion over at the station, so last year I said that I would be there for the support. So she told them that if she did it again this year, she wanted me there. I mean we've done it together, but now it's officially together.

Now for what might be some hard stuff —are you openly gay?

I don't know that I'm openly gay. I do know that I don't deny that I am gay. I'm not closeted.

But I need for you to set the parameters.

Right. You see, the thing is I've never said it, and I assume anyone who watches our show,

if they watch enough and pay attention, they know. The same way Doris [Childress, his co-host] doesn't go on air and talk about being married to her husband, I don't go on air and say that I am gay. I don't deny that I am.

This whole conversation we're having now, can it be printed?

I don't know, you're the editor.

I'm leaving it up to you whether you want it printed.

OK, in Chicago, they profiled me in I think it was called *Nightlines*, and I was openly gay. When I moved down here, it's not that I didn't follow that line, I just never pursued it. I don't care if anyone knows.

I'm not going to be the one who's responsible for you being fired.

Right. I don't think I have to worry.

I can't imagine Channel 8 doing that. Although I do

know Channel 8 is conservative.

Extremely. We are very sensitive to our audience, and we pay very close attention, *very* close attention to what they ask for. In that parameter, the station itself is not antigay, but a lot of people in the community seem to think because of *Tales of the City*... [Channel

8 edited Armistead Maupin's series because of frontal nudity.]

I had never called Channel 8 until I called them for that.

That's what you have to do. We did something the other night where Andrew Edmondson just mentioned the gay and lesbian film festival, just for 30 seconds at the end of the show. We got two extremely angry phone calls about how in the world can you continue to put that kind of stuff on the air, that we're not going to continue to support you if you do. It was only two phone calls, OK? But there were none that came in that said, "Thanks for doing that. That's the kind of stuff we want to see. That's what we believe in. That's good to have."

The gay community and any community that wants their point of view represented on the air has to take the initiative to call in when they see something they like.

OK, now for something completely different. Before conducting interviews, do you come up with a list of questions?

I've never prepared questions ahead of time. But when trying to get Yoko Ono for our show in Chicago, I decided as a courtesy to her to submit a list of questions. I got an e-mail back saying, "Yoko's fine with it, she's looking

continued on page 50



Ernie Manouse and Maria Todd at last year's parade.

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PRIDE GRAND MARSHAL

Tori Williams

When her community gets sick, we can know that Tori is thinking about us...and our dogs and cats

by Maria E. Minicucci

As a recently transplanted Yankee, I have been familiarizing myself with Houston's "queer" history bit by bit. And, it seems that one name in particular keeps coming up. Over the past two years, I have heard the frequent and favorable comments people make about Tori Williams. This year, our community is showing their respect and admiration for Tori by electing her as the female grand marshal for the Pride Parade. At the time of this announcement, I still had not had the pleasure of actually meeting Tori. So, I jumped at the chance to meet with her so that *OutSmart* readers everywhere can also be introduced to Tori and why she was elected.

Tori (crowned grand marshal) with Honey Bear



RENE BRAUD

When I called her to set up a meeting time, she was eager, pleasant, and responsive. We met for dinner and almost immediately we both jumped in and began to exchange information about each other in the natural, affable way of two prospective friends. In fact, I had to remind myself that I was there for a purpose and to garner specific information.

I was very forthcoming about having heard so much about her since coming to Houston. She was both pleased and curious about which community activities people associated her with. We both exclaimed simultaneously, PET PATROL! In 1987, in response

to the rapid-fire way AIDS was bulldozing through our lives, Tori started the nonprofit organization to help care for pets whose owners were incapacitated from AIDS. She filled me in excitedly about what an incredible experience this was for her, the pleasure of working with the devoted animal lovers (a.k.a. volunteers), and how successful the Pet Patrol became. Her greatest joy was watching "hard-core" homophobes break down their prejudices once they had an opportunity to meet and relate, human to human, with gay people.

Referring back to the printed bio, Tori picked out one event in her "lesbian →

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career" of which she is particularly proud. As a teenager, she attended Miss Porter's School in Farmington, Connecticut, the epitome of white-gloves training for young ladies (and indeed, Tori was given the same bedroom that Jackie Kennedy had occupied 10 years earlier). Years later, when Tori was nominated for the school's

Promoting Pride Through Community Volunteering, she submitted an update to her alumnae newsletter. She courageously described herself as, "Sane lesbian working in an insane social service world. My partner...and I have two dogs and are happy living in Houston."

Tori's coming-out submission to Miss Porter's School tells us quite a bit about why she was elected grand marshal. Good thing too, since every time I asked her, "Why do you think you were elected grand marshal?", she could not give me a definite answer and seemed much more bewildered than anyone else who knows anything about Tori Williams. Yes, she has put in year after year of worthy efforts in a range of volunteer organi-

zations, from An Uncommon Legacy to Body Positive. Her most recent undertaking has been AssistHers. In three short years, AssistHers has gained the respect, credibility, and appreciation of Houston's GLBT communities. And, rightly so. Due to Tori's initiative, humanitarianism, and skills, AssistHers has recruited and trained 250 volunteers prepared to provide a range of care services to critically ill lesbian women.

For her "day job," Tori is the council coordinator for the Ryan White Council on HIV/AIDS Education. Her after-hours

involvement spans decades and focuses on a range of issues significantly affecting gays and lesbians. Her private hours are spent with a close circle of friends she considers to be "family," indulging her pets, and indulging her love of grabbing an idea and running with it.

What will she run with next? Her passion continues to be focused on improving "chronic care" services. Why did Tori Williams get elected as this year's grand marshal? I suspect that it is not only for her volunteer ac-

tivities. After spending some "quality" time with Tori, I could state, unequivocally, that it is the quality of her passion, humility, intelligence, her sense of calm and confidence that makes Tori Williams a winner!

Maria E. Minicucci is president of the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center and the director of the Center for Creativity, Knowledge and Change.

Sane lesbian working in an insane social service world. My partner...and I have two dogs and are happy living in Houston.

...and I have two dogs and are happy living in Houston, Texas."

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Ernie Manouse

continued from page 46

forward to doing the show." Every answer of hers was a yes or a no. We had about 20 questions, and I'm on maybe question 16, and we're about 45 seconds into the interview. I'm like, *I can't go anywhere else because once I hit the end of my questions, that's all she had approved.* The question was something like, "What's more important, being an artist or being a mother?" And it turned her around, and all of a sudden, she just started talking, and she was talking about how important motherhood is to her and that's her first and primary responsibility and that's what she sees as her legacy. And I said "Thank God!"

Weeknight Edition is now airing Mon.-Fri. at 10 p.m. with a repeat the next day at 12:30 p.m. on PBS Channel 8. To voice your positive (or negative) comments, call 713/748-8888.

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HONORARY PRIDE GRAND MARSHAL

Dr. Don Sinclair

A small-town East Texas Methodist minister builds one of the leading AIDS-care ministries in the country

by Ann Walton Sieber

When Dr. Don Sinclair came to Bering United Memorial Church as their new pastor in June 1986, the house of worship was in trouble.

One Saturday deep in August, the lay officials from the troubled congregation gathered in Fellowship Hall. They were \$70,000 in the hole, and had been for quite some time. The former church of mayors and many of Houston's founding German families, Bering had undertaken a new ministry in the 1970s under the leadership of the Rev. Ron Pogue, reaching out to the gay, hippy Montrose neighborhood in which it was located. However, the '80s were a difficult time for Houston, and what money there was was fleeing to the suburbs; Bering was so deep in debt that

for two years its members had been seriously studying whether they should disband.

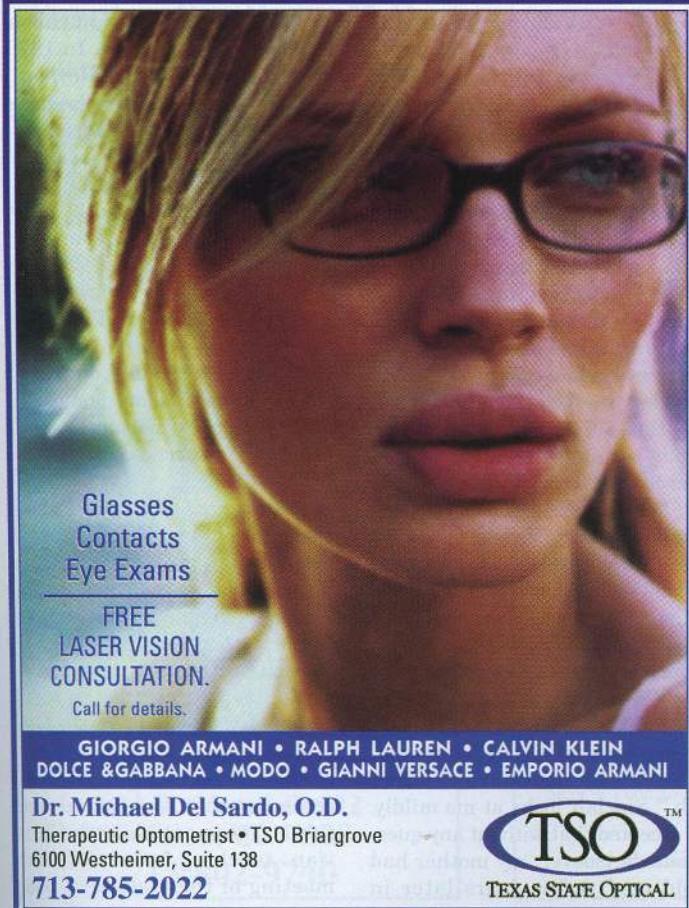
On that August Sunday, Sinclair remembers, one prominent member of the community spoke up, a lesbian woman: "We want to do things in the community, but when we spend our money on outreach, the AC goes out." With a sense of timing that could only be chalked up to the almighty, the AC in the Hall conked out at that exact moment.

A crisis time indeed for the most progressive and inclusive Methodist church in Houston. And there stood Bering's new pastor, Dr. Don Sinclair, a self-defined "dumb cluck"

Bering's pastor from 1986 to 1996, Don Sinclair and his wife, Kathy. "I went from being called a nigger lover in the '70s to a gay lover in the '80s."

about gay issues, whose East Texas boyhood left him so ignorant about homosexuality that he had once had to ask a fellow Air Force colleague to explain what the word "faggot" meant. But that hot August gathering had all the trappings of a moment of truth; and while Sinclair may not have known much about gays, he knew about moments of truth.

"I asked what I knew was the key penetrating question," Sinclair said. He faced his new congregation as the room started to get uncomfortable in the August heat. →



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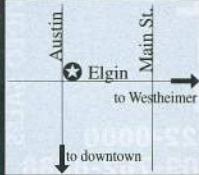
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"Does the Lord of history need a congregation sitting on this street corner?"

Bering's diverse congregation—part prominent gays and lesbians, part older "grandmother types," part a little bit of everybody—looked back at this down-home man with the homely manner and the doctorate in theology. And with the unanimity of a choral group, the congregation answered: "Yes."

"Next," their minister asked them, "the question is: Why?"

Again, like a choral group, they spoke with one voice: "AIDS."

Here, again, Sinclair knew what to do. In his pre-Bering life, Sinclair had studied the black ghettos in order to learn how to rebuild community. "I learned that if you want something different done," he says, "you find you an inner city church with about 200 people—and one, preferably, that's broke."

He told his new fellowship: "I can lead you in building a plan to do what you care about doing about AIDS. I know nothing about it, but I do know how to get something done. It must be prac-

tical, and you must be dedicated to doing it."

And dedicated the Bering congregation certainly proved themselves to be. They put together what Dr. Sinclair describes as "the most magnanimous plan" for serving the unmet need of those with AIDS. Along with the help of the City of Houston, they formed the Bering Community Service Foundation. They started with a spiritual support group ("we didn't want to use the word religious," Sinclair says. "I said if any of the members of this church tries to make any of these patients Christian or Methodist, you're in trouble with the minister"); then a free counseling center; and then a dental clinic, because AIDS patients were being refused treatment by dentists all over Houston.

They were helped by "angels" as various as Carolyn Farb, the Alley Theatre, Red Scare for John Henry Faulk, and a female ambulance driver from Alief who appeared from out of the blue to comfort and take to Ben Taub a badly dehydrated AIDS patient in Pasadena who other ambulance

drivers had refused to pick up.

Now, 14 years later, the clinic is one of the top facilities in the country for low-income AIDS care, and has been used as a model from China to Israel. Last year, it joined with Episcopalian-supported Omega House to become Bering Omega Community Services, and served more than 2,800 clients. With a staff of about 50, and more than 400 volunteers, Bering Omega has an operating budget over \$3 million.

And as for the bankrupt church? "If you do something significant, your church will prosper," Sinclair says, which is borne out by the fact that Bering just completed a \$1.4-million facelift. Although Sinclair retired four years ago this June, and moved with his wife, Kathy, 75 miles north to Cold Spring, his impact is by no means forgotten: he was selected by the community he served to be this year's honorary grand marshal in the Pride Parade.

At first and even fifteenth glance, Don Sinclair may have seemed an odd man for the job of rescuing Bering.

Sinclair came from the small East Texas town of Minden, raised in a church that only claimed 21 members. His mother was so provincial that she was terrified when he married a "big city girl" from Houston. Set on becoming a Methodist minister from his teenage years, Sinclair followed a predictable route: served in the Air Force; attended various theological institutions; worked for the Methodist Annual Conference staff in the early '60s; pastored so many different churches before coming to Bering, he's lost track of the number.

But although Sinclair came from straight-arrow stock, he learned early on to think for himself.

"I've always found strength in the willingness of things to be what they are. I just don't understand people who don't lust for true things," Dr. Sinclair says, with the kind of quiet steadfastness with which one states a core belief.

When Don was a boy, he asked his mother about Adam and Eve. "Oh yes, that's true," she said. "That's why men have one less rib." Sinclair looks at me mildly. "I accepted that without any question whatsoever; my mother had told me." A few years later in

school, his class was discussing a body that had been found by local officials in a shallow grave; the sheriff had not yet been able to determine if it had been a man or a woman. "Why don't you just count the ribs?" the young Don asked.

"I became the joke of the year," remembers Sinclair, without laughing very much. "It wasn't that I cared about being the joke of the year. What really bothered me was that my mother had taught me that as the gospel truth...and she was dead wrong."

"After that, I knew I was on my own with every subject," he concluded. "I have been deathly afraid of things that aren't true my whole life."

Sinclair brought this "lust for true things" to his consideration of homosexuality. "I had already learned that the Bible didn't have enough to say about this to build a case," he says.

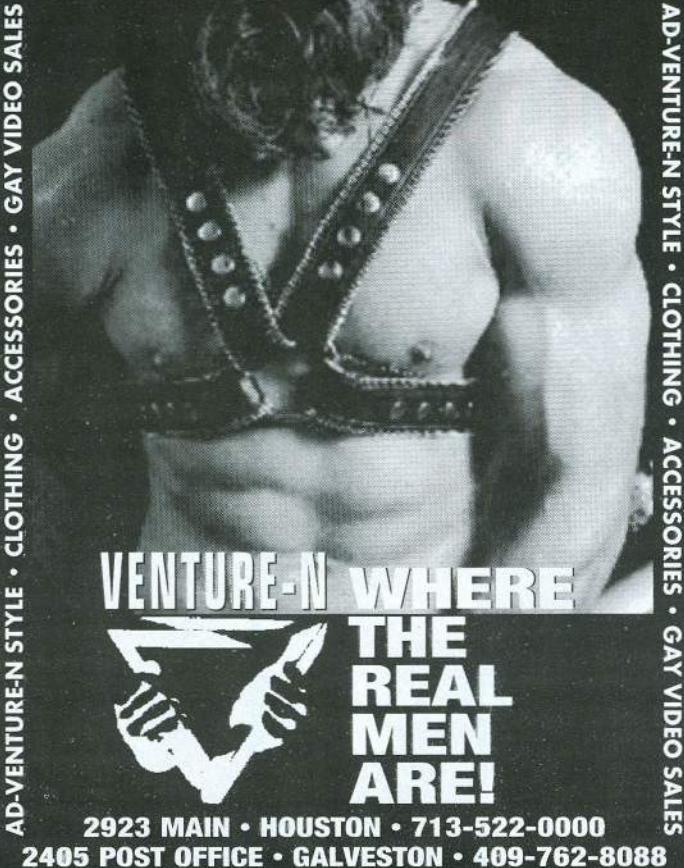
"...Through the years when homosexuality was mentioned, the fangs came out. It made people instantly fearful, made them hate other people. And so I asked, What is it? I couldn't understand what could generate that kind of hate."

When Sinclair came to Bering, he did have cause to think about gay issues once before. In 1979, his youngest son, Stanley, only age 19, was stabbed in the heart by two men who the police think were hired killers. The assailants were never caught, nor did police determine a motive. In the aftermath of the murder, somebody came to Sinclair and asked gently, "Did you know your son was gay?"

Confused and grief-stricken, Sinclair didn't find any support within the Methodist church in his questioning about homosexuality. "There was nobody to go to," he says. "You certainly didn't run to your bishop."

During his tenure at Bering, Sinclair not only oversaw the development of the Bering Community Service Foundation, he also became a visible advocate to the wider Methodist orthodoxy for inclusion and respect for gays. In 1972, the delegates to the Methodists' nationwide body, the General Assembly, which meets once every four years, had approved a resolution that homosexual practice is "incompatible with Christian teaching." At the local meeting of the Methodist body,

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PRIDE GRAND MARSHAL IN MEMORIAM

Richard Wiederholt

"You'll be in our heart...always."

by Ann Walton Sieber

Richard Wiederholt's time on earth was filled with new beginnings, angels, dreams sought and dreams found, and practically as many lives as a cat. Richard was an angel to the community himself, which is why he was elected this year's male Pride grand marshal, and why "the lights along Westheimer will shine a little dimmer" since Richard passed away on April 28, at age 56, just six weeks before he was due to ride in the parade with his pride, grandson Sean, on his lap.

In talking to those who loved Richard, some common themes emerge: his gregarious positive attitude; his love for his daughter and his grandson; his tendency to drive on the sidewalks by the Seawall in Galveston; his ever-pressing interest in teaching others and helping the community.

"I have awakened to my world," Richard wrote in an essay, quoting from a song written by a friend of his. "Please wake up to yours."

Richard was the youngest in a close-knit northern Missouri farm family; they grew most of their food, including the cows from which they got their beef. Richard married, had a daughter, Karie, and became a teacher and then school principal in Missouri and Iowa. He moved to Houston, continuing his career in education, eventually becoming chairman of the Educational Leadership Department at the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

But by that time, one of his new lives was working its way to the surface, and he resigned his job in 1982.

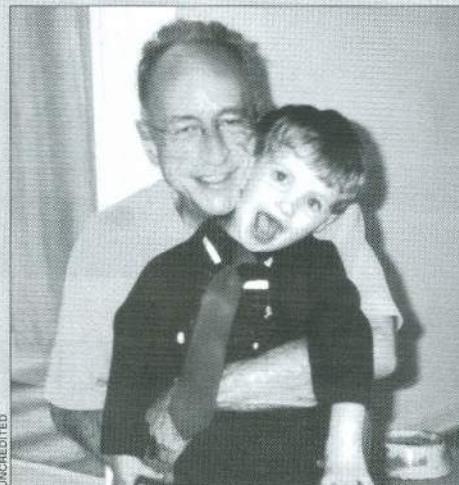
"Leaving education was a difficult decision to make," he wrote, "but leading a closeted personal life was more difficult. I'm a people-oriented person and I have a need to share my personal experiences at work and my work experiences at home."

According to his sister Pat O'Connor, Richard's dream had always been to open a retail clothing store. Basic Brothers started as a vintage clothing outlet. Pat remembers that whenever she came to visit, she'd have to get up early to go to garage sales with Richard and his partner, Jerry Prox, to buy up 501 jeans, which they'd wash, iron, and size. So Richard got his store, while Jerry, who had quit his job as an engineer, started his own line of swimwear, Hot Lines.

Basic Brothers ("your out and proud clothing store") and Hot Lines thrived, providing a hub for community happenings.

"We became the headquarters of not just the Pride stuff, but the information source for everything," says Ken Claude, Basic Brothers vice president and Dick's longtime friend and collaborator in good deeds and mischief. "People would call and say, 'Do you know who has tickets to the Garden Party?' or 'Is BCBC doing a New Year Eve's thing?' and so on. There's a lot of the community that doesn't go to the bars, and this was before Crossroads and Lobo."

But then, in 1987, Jerry became very ill with AIDS and died. Within the space of three months, Richard also lost his mother, his best friend, and found out that he himself was HIV positive.



Richard Wiederholt with grandson Sean: "You find meaning in your life and you find a purpose and you find value. I think that summarizes why we're here. But each of us has to find that out for ourselves."

In the aftermath, Richard started becoming much more active in the community. To list all his activities would take up this entire page, but he played prominent roles in the Gay and Lesbian Chamber, Body Positive, the Mr. Gay All-American Contest, the Garden Party, among many others, as well as visiting schools to teach students about AIDS.

"He encouraged all of us [at Basic Brothers] to work out in the community in addition to working in the store," Ken says. "He especially wanted to make sure all the youth who were coming out had all the resources and knowledge they needed to come out right."

"We were the grandpa and grandma of Montrose," says Marion Coleman, who was

often Richard's cohort on the many community boards. "We didn't consider ourselves to be leaders, we always saw ourselves as part of the community. It was more compassion for what we were and where we were and what we need to be."

In 1996, he got liver toxicity from the protease inhibitors. Richard was admitted to the hospital, where both his liver and kidneys suddenly crashed. The doctors admitted they didn't know what to do. What happened next was so dramatic that Barbara Rommer interviewed him for her book about near-death experiences, *Blessing in Disguise*, which came out in April, and is already in its second printing. Using the pseudonym "Rudolf" for Richard, this is an excerpt from the account she published:

"I was in the hospital bed...and suddenly there was this harsh sound like the roof was being moved. I was surrounded by smoke...and engulfed in the flames.... It was the scariest thing!... Then, as quickly, I was immediately transported to this other very peaceful, real bright place and there was this angel there.... I felt love from her. I felt peaceful. She said: 'We want you to go back.' I asked her why.... She said: 'Even though you are no longer a formal teacher at the university, everyone you touch you teach and you are going to be touching a lot of people. That's your purpose. Go back and teach and love people and just be yourself.'

"Then I was in yet another place again, very peaceful.... When [Jerry] died he looked very ill, very emaciated. But there he was and he was an angel.... He said: 'Rudie, you can't stay. You're not finished. You have too much to do there.' He told me: 'You're on earth for a very short time. Where you are going afterward you will be going forever, so enjoy what you can while you are on earth.'... He told me to enjoy my grandson and let him get to know me.... I told him: 'I don't think I have the energy to go back.' ...At that point I clutched my chest, not with pain, but it was this burst of energy in my chest, my heart, and then I was back in the hospital bed."

When Richard awoke, his kidney failure was gone, although the doctors had done nothing.

Richard had three near-death experiences, but returned to live with a renewed sense of purpose. And good thing, for not long after, he met Ian Leffler, and they were joined in a holy union in April last year. "I saw Richard when he was the happiest," Marion says. "He just looked so happy when he was with Ian."

Richard Wiederholt spent his life doing just as the angel had instructed him: He taught others, he loved people, and he was himself. When we're marching in the Pride Parade, Richard, you'll be there with us. ■

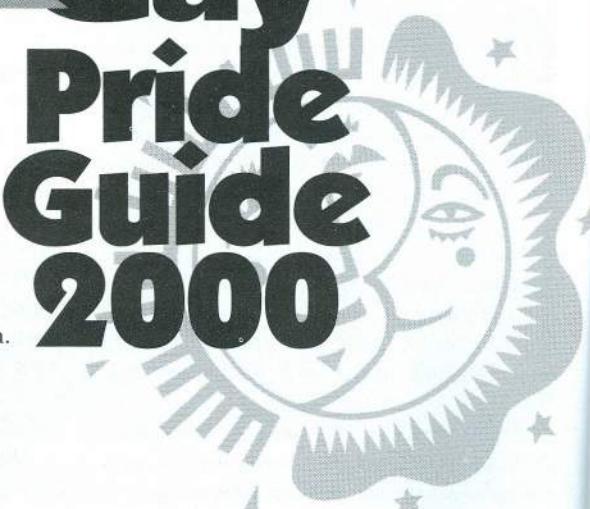


HOUSTON Lesbian & Gay Pride Guide 2000

"TAKE PRIDE, TAKE JOY AND TAKE ACTION"

with the scores of events that make up Houston Lesbian & Gay Pride 2000. The following pages include a month of diverse social, educational, cultural, recreational, and charitable events in which you can participate and celebrate your Pride.

Pride 2000 features the return of several long-running events, including the 28 programs of Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival 4 (see OutSmart's May issue for complete film fest guide), concerts by the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston, the Gay Pride 5K Fun Run, the HATCH Prom, and many others. There are also several new events, like the opening of the Gulf Coast Archive and Museum. You can find all of the details about these events here and, for the most up-to-date event information, check out the Pride Committee of Houston website at www.pridehouston.org.



MARK YOUR CALENDERS

Join the Pride Committee at the Pride Kick-off Party at the Lovett Inn on Friday, June 9, and continue Pride kick-off weekend with us at AstroWorld, Rich's, and WaterWorld during "Pride Weekend in the Park." The beautiful climax of Pride 2000, the fourth annual nighttime Pride Parade, steps off at 9 p.m. on Saturday, June 24, on Westheimer between Woodhead and Whitney.

PRIDE 2000 EVENTS

MONDAY, JUNE 5

"LESBIAN AND GAY VOICES"

Houston's premier LGBT radio show will spend the month of June covering the history of Pride, our community and various Pride events. 8-10 p.m., **KPFT 90.1 FM**, 713/529-6979, e-mail: info@pridehouston.org.

THURSDAY, JUNE 8

"HOMOSEXUALITY AND THE BIBLE"

Multiple views through videos, discussion and teaching on what the Bible says about homosexuality. You will learn that God loves you just the way you are! Discover that the Bible is your friend. Throughout June, and throughout the year. 7-9 p.m., **Central Congregational Church**, 1311 Holman, 713/683-1867, e-mail: maranatha@ev1.net.

"A SLIGHT VARIANCE"

A sneak-preview staged reading of a new play by Pomo Afro Homo Brian Freeman about the hidden life of gay men before World War II, 8 p.m., **DiverseWorks**, 1117 East Freeway, 713/223-8346, e-mail: info@diverseworks.org, web: www.diverseworks.org, \$6, \$5 members.

FRIDAY, JUNE 9

PRIDE KICK-OFF PARTY

Start Pride 2000 with a free buffet, a cash bar, and entertainment. Meet the Pride Parade grand marshals and other members of the community. 6-10 p.m., **Lovett Inn**, 501 Lovett, 713/529-6979, e-mail: info@pridehouston.org, web: www.pridehouston.org.

JUMP START

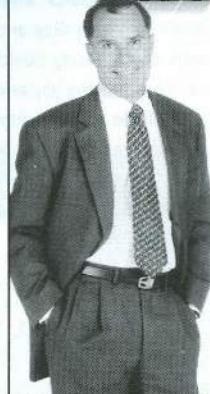
Party open to the public with complimentary hors d'oeuvres and giveaways. 6 p.m., **JR's Bar and Grill**, 804 & 808 Pacific, 713/521-0193.

TAKE PRIDE, TAKE A LOOK, TAKE HOME A PIECE OF ART

Opening reception showcases local gay artists through their photography, drawings, and paintings. 7-10 p.m., **Hyde Park Gallery**, 711 Hyde Park, 713/526-2744, web: www.hpag.com. Exhibit runs through June 30.

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LIFE SMILES



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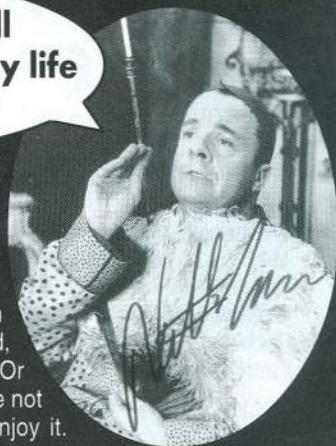
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SATURDAY, JUNE 10

2000 GAY PRIDE 5K FUN RUN

2000 Houston Gay and Lesbian Pride 5K fun run/walk emphasizing health and fitness. This fun run is not only for the gay and lesbian community but for the whole community with proceeds benefiting AssistHers. 7:45 a.m., Sabine at Memorial, 713/874-1686, e-mail: silentrunner@rocketmail.com, web: www.geocities.com/houstonpride5k/index.html, \$12 & \$15.

GENYE ALLEN SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

Softball tournament in memory of Genye Allen, a Resurrection MCC board member. 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Resurrection MCC, 1919 Decatur St., 713/861-9149, \$150 per team.

PRIDE WEEKEND IN THE PARK

Come share your Pride while you frolic in the park. Your \$25 discount ticket covers admission to **AstroWorld** on Saturday, with a BBQ buffet and entertainment available only to Pride ticketholders. Use your Pride ticket as cover charge to Rich's nightclub Saturday night. On Sunday, June 11, your Pride Weekend in the Park ticket gets you into WaterWorld for a day of wet fun to round out Pride Kick-off Weekend. Tickets are available at Lobo and Basic Brothers and by mail from the Pride Committee of Houston, P.O. Box 66071, Houston, TX 77266-6071.

A special hotel per-room, per-night rate of \$55 for up to four people is available for the weekend at the Radisson Hotel Astrodome Convention Center. Call 1-800-627-6461 and ask for the "Houston Pride Celebration" rate. 10 a.m., AstroWorld, 9001 Kirby at Loop 610, 713/529-6979, e-mail: info@pridehouston.org, web: www.pridehouston.org, \$25.

SUNDAY, JUNE 11

"SING A NEW SONG"

Second annual gay pride interfaith worship service, with sermon by **Rev. Dr. Janie Spahr** and performances by the **Gay Men's Chorus of Houston** and music worship leaders from many congregations. This is a combined effort by Lutherans Concerned, More Light Presbyterians, Reconciling Methodists, and others. 7 p.m., **Bering Memorial United Methodist Church**, 1440 Harold, 713/526-1017, e-mail: vschill@stic.lib.tx.us. Free.

MONDAY, JUNE 12

EMPLOYEE TURNABOUT SHOW

Benefit show to raise money for the 800 Pacific Street Employee Emergency Fund and a local charity. The show will take place on the bar's Santa Fe side. 9 p.m., **JR's Bar and Grill**, 804 & 808 Pacific St., 713/521-0193. Free.

"LESBIAN AND GAY VOICES"

90.1 KPFT. See June 5 for description.

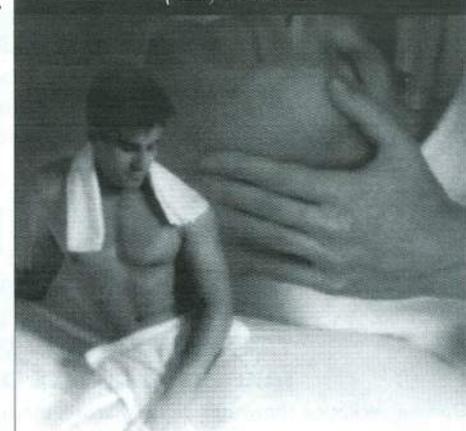
TUESDAY, JUNE 13

2000 PRIDE PARTICIPANT MANDATORY MEETING

All groups participating in the Pride Parade are required to attend this meeting, except for those located outside a 50-mile radius of the city. The meeting is also the deadline for all entry applications submitted with a late fee. 6:30-8:30 p.m., Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 W. Gray, 713/529-6979, e-mail: info@pridehouston.org, web: www.pridehouston.org.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 15

GULF COAST ARCHIVE AND MUSEUM PREVIEW GALA

GCAM will host a preview gala for Houston's GLBT community museum with wine and cheese provided. \$15. 7-9 p.m., 2507 Capitol, 713/227-5973, e-mail: gcam@mail.com, web: www.houstongayweb.com/gulfcoastarchive. The museum's grand opening will be Friday, June 16, 6-9 p.m., and Saturday, June 17, noon-6 p.m. and it will be open Sat. & Sun., June 17 and 18, noon-6. (See article p.6)

RESURRECTION MCC: PROUDLY ON THE MOVE

Seminar regarding our current ministries and the impact they have on our community. 7 p.m., Resurrection MCC, 1919 Decatur, 713/861-9149.

"HOMOSEXUALITY AND THE BIBLE"

Central Congregational Church. See description June 8.

FRIDAY, JUNE 16

GULF COAST ARCHIVE AND MUSEUM GRAND OPENING

The grand opening of Houston's GLBT community museum. Friday, June 16, 6-9 p.m., and Saturday, June 17, noon-6 p.m. and it will be open Sat. & Sun., June 17 and 18, noon-6. (See article p.6), 2507 Capitol, 713/227-5973, e-mail: gcam@mail.com, web: www.houstongayweb.com/gulfcoastarchive., \$15.

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"OUTLAW—QUEER LIKE RAY HILL"

A one-character (and what a character!) performance about early activism for GLBT equality in Houston. Runs Friday-Sunday, June 16-18 and Wednesday-Friday, June 21-23, 8 p.m., Ashland Street Theater, 2600 Ashland, 713/426-3019, e-mail: rayhill@echonet.com, \$12.



FAIRY TALES opens June 23 at Theater New West at Sonoma

(see p. 65 for more information)

SATURDAY, JUNE 17

HOUSTON BILLIARD OPEN

This pool tournament is held each year to help raise money for local community organizations. The tournament is an amateur event open to everyone. Rules are BCA.Noon, **Slick Willie's**, 1200 Westheimer, 713/524-4190, \$10, e-mail: gvargas@swbell.net, web: www.iblhoustan.net.

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RAINBOW RANGERS' DAY OF DANCE COUNTRY

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FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST OPEN HOUSE

Let's get to know each other as we introduce you to the First Unitarian Universalist Church and its support programs for the GLBT community. 7-9 p.m., First Unitarian Universalist Church, 5200 Fannin, 713/526-5200, e-mail: church@firstuu.org, web: www.firstuu.org.

H.A.T.C.H. PROM

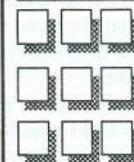
A safe prom for sexual minority teens, their friends, and supporters. 8-11 p.m., the Lovett Inn, 501 Lovett, 713/942-7002, e-mail: hatch@neosoft.com, web: www.hatchyouth.org, free for ages 13-20, \$20 for adults.

"BROADWAY BABIES"

Annual Pride concert focusing on the history of Broadway with selections from the 1930s to the present. 8-10:30 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 5601 S. Braeswood, 713/521-7464, e-mail: info@gmch.org, web: www.gmch.org. Another concert will be held Sunday, June 18, 3 p.m., \$15 advance, \$18 at the door.

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PICTURES of Pride

Our Pride Committee

Name: Jack Valinski **Age:** 46 **Occupation:** Consultant **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?**: Gay **Years out:** 18 **We've had Ellen and Vermont—what would you like to see happen next in the gay movement?**: There are still young people out there who have a struggle in life, if we can make it easier for them to be who they want to be. **What would you like to let all straight people know?**: I would just like them to really know us as people. **What is one of your favorite things about being gay?**: The variety in our community. **If GLBT people were in the majority, what do you think the world would be like?**: We don't need to be a majority, we just need to understand each other.



Name: P.J. Sanzone **Age:** 37 **Occupation:** Medical field **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?**: Lesbian **Years out:** 6 **We've had Ellen and Vermont—what would you like to see happen next in the gay movement?**: More states to legalize rights and benefits for same-sex couples. **What would you like to let all straight people know?**: Gay, lesbian, and transgender people are people you know and love (open your eyes). **What is one of your favorite things about being gay?**: I can be myself, open and honest. **If GLBT people were in the majority, what do you think the world would be like?**: A happier place.

Name: Manny Gutierrez **Age:** 27 **Occupation:** Musician/actor **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?**: Gay **Years out:** 5 **We've had Ellen and Vermont—what would you like to see happen next in the gay movement?**: Total acceptance. **What would you like to let all straight people know?**: There are lots of us. **What is one of your favorite things about being gay?**: Honesty. **If GLBT people were in the majority, what do you think the world would be like?**: Peace.



Name: Ken Donnelly **Age:** 36 **Occupation:** Project manager for web development **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?**: Gay **Years out:** 4 **We've had Ellen and Vermont—what would you like to see happen next in the gay movement?**: Election of a gay-friendly or even gay president. **What would you like to let all straight people know?**: We are all basically the same; we want to love and be loved. **What is one of your favorite things about being gay?**: When you come out, how you are immediately part of a bigger family that is there to support you. **If GLBT people were in the majority, what do you think the world would be like?**: No more wars; great parties.



"OUTLAW—QUEER LIKE RAY HILL"

See description June 16.

SUNDAY, JUNE 18

COLT 45'S 24TH ANNIVERSARY

Show benefiting the **Colt 45's Stone Soup Fund** and celebrating their 24th anniversary. Features door prizes and a light buffet. 8-10 p.m., **Brazos River Bottom**, 2400 Brazos, 713/526-6077, e-mail: jmcneil228@aol.com, web: www.colt45s.org. Free.



"Outlaw—Queer Like Ray Hill"
(see page 61 for more information)

"OUTLAW—QUEER LIKE RAY HILL"

See description June 16.

MONDAY, JUNE 19

GRAND MARSHALS' RECEPTION

Jointly hosted by **Colt 45's** and the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, "charity and politics" come together for an evening of celebration in honor of this year's grand marshals and the Pride Committee of Houston. Complimentary buffet and cash bar provided. 8 p.m. entertainment: "Houston Pride...The Light of the Rainbow" is hosted by **Mr. BRB 2000, Sean D. Carter**, with members of the **Royal Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star of Houston, Inc.**, and benefits the Pride Committee of Houston. 7 p.m., **Brazos River Bottom**, 2400 Brazos, 713/521-1000, e-mail: carter721@aol.com, web: www.hgipc.org. Free.

COMMUNITY PRIDE APPRECIATION PARTY

Take Pride and Take Joy and we'll show you the Action! Party favors and giveaways all night. 9 p.m.-2 a.m., **Pacific Street**, 710 Pacific, 713/523-0213, web: www.pacificstreet.com. No cover when you wear your Pride 2000 T-shirt.

"LESBIAN AND GAY VOICES"

90.1 KPFT. See June 5 for description.

TUESDAY, JUNE 20

"MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE 2000"

Area churches send their best representation to participate in a **gospel concert** celebrating our Lord, Jesus Christ. 7:30 p.m., Community Gospel Church, 4305 Lillian, 713/880-9235, e-mail: cgospel@communitygospel.org, web: www.communitygospel.org. Attire: semi-casual. Free: registration required to participate.

ROLLER BALL 2000

Roller skating Pride party. 8-11 p.m., 5006 W 34th (off 290), 713/410-7215, e-mail: lrsc@neosoft.com, web: neosoft.com/~lrsc, \$5.

RAINBOW RANGLERS' NIGHT OF DANCE COUNTRY

Three hours of beginner-level dance lessons including waltz, two-step, shuffle and swing. Part two in a four-part series. Continuous attendance is not required. 8-11 p.m., **Brazos River Bottom**, 2400 Brazos, 713/524-9500, e-mail: h2k@rainbowranglers.org, web: www.rainbowranglers.org. Attire: semi-casual. Free.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21

POTLUCK NIGHT

Potluck dinner with country western dance lessons for beginners and open dancing for all. 7:30-9:30 p.m., The New Barn, 1100 Westheimer, free. 713/681-4631.

"OUTLAW—QUEER LIKE RAY HILL"

See description June 16.

THURSDAY, JUNE 22

HIV/AIDS IN THE LESBIAN/GAY COMMUNITY—NEW CHALLENGES

A panel will discuss current issues, challenges, and trends of the HIV/AIDS epidemic affecting the gay/lesbian community. 6:30-8:30 p.m., **Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center**, 803 Hawthorne, 713/794-2980, e-mail: swalker@hlt.ci.houston.tx.us. Free.

"HOMOSEXUALITY AND THE BIBLE"

Central Congregational Church.
See description June 8.

"OUTLAW—QUEER LIKE RAY HILL"

See description June 16.

RAINBOW RANGLERS' NIGHT OF LINE DANCES

Three hours of continuous line-dance lessons featuring the newest steps direct from the international gay and lesbian country western dance scene. Part three in a four-part series. Continuous attendance is not required. 8-11 p.m., **Brazos River Bottom**, 2400 Brazos, 713/524-9500, e-mail: h2k@rainbowranglers.org, web: www.rainbowranglers.org. Attire: semi-casual. Free.

STAR SEARCH GOLD KARAOKE FINALS

Competition for singers with the opportunity to win \$150 cash and an additional \$50 donation to a charity of the winner's choice. Competition will take place on the bar's Santa Fe side. 9 p.m., **JR's Bar and Grill**, 804 & 808 Pacific, 713/521-0193. Free; registration required.

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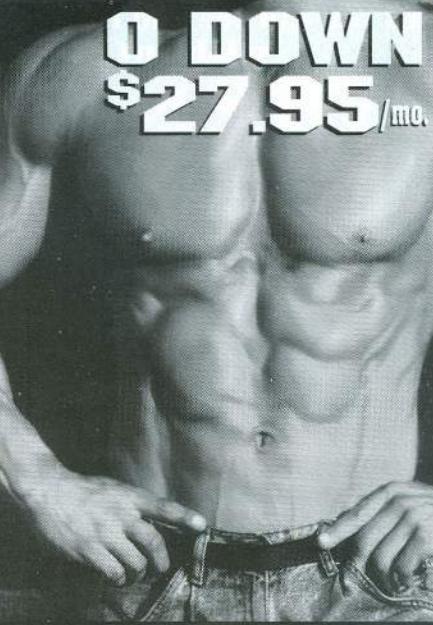
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**I'm Roy Green from Houston.
Back in 1990 when I was diagnosed HIV-positive,
I expected I would probably become sick and die...**

Instead, to commemorate a decade of *living with HIV*, I am helping in the fight against AIDS by *riding my bicycle across Texas!*

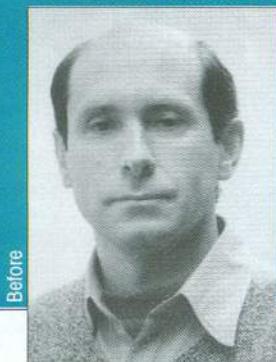
Soon, I will participate in a 4-day, 325-mile bicycle journey across Texas to help raise operating funds for AIDS service organizations in Texas and the American Foundation for AIDS Research. I must raise a minimum of \$2300 in pledges and I really need your help! Please contact me **today** and **provide your address** so I may send you information about the Texas AIDS Ride! Thank you for your support!

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Before



After

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PICTURES of Pride

Our Pride Committee

Name: Jim Duke **Age:** 32 **Occupation:** Designer **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Gay **Years out:** 10 **We've had Ellen and Vermont—what would you like to see happen next in the gay movement?:** Everything!—marriage, equal rights, equal protection under the law for all! **What would you like to let all straight people know?:** It's not special rights, it's equal rights! **What is one of your favorite things about being gay?:** Being involved in a community that is fighting for good causes can be very rewarding. **If GLBT people were in the majority, what do you think the world would be like?:** GLBT could serve in the military, and the parades would be better!



Name: Gary Masse **Age:** Old enuf **Occupation:** Business management consultant **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Gay **Years out:** 10 **We've had Ellen and Vermont—what would you like to see happen next in the gay movement?:** Equal rights. **What would you like to let all straight people know?:** Tolerance. **What is one of your favorite things about being gay?:** The camaraderie and acceptance. **If GLBT people were in the majority, what do you think the world would be like?:** More tolerant, less hateful.

Name: Cindy Archer **Age:** 30 **Occupation:** Technical writer **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Straight **We've had Ellen and Vermont—what would you like to see happen next in the gay movement?:** For starters, ENDA or similar legislation would help end workplace persecution based on homophobia! **What would you like to let all straight people know?:** They can help make a difference in people's lives by supporting GLBT rights. **What is one of your favorite things about being gay?:** Well, my favorite thing about the gay community is the sense of family—the families we choose. **If GLBT people were in the majority, what do you think the world would be like?:** A lot less overpopulated and narrow.



Name: Nick Brines **Age:** 29 **Occupation:** Fundraiser and public relations **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Gay **Years out:** 12 **We've had Ellen and Vermont—what would you like to see happen next in the gay movement?:** ENDA, end of DOMA, and end of "Don't ask, don't tell"—I want it all! **What would you like to let all straight people know?:** We can hold hands in public, too. **What is one of your favorite things about being gay?:** We have way more fun; could the dance music be any better?! **If GLBT people were in the majority, what do you think the world would be like?:** A lot more colorful, and the workday wouldn't start until 1 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 23

"THE BRANDON TEENA STORY"

Thirty years after the brutality at Stonewall the assaults against queers continue. A discussion will follow the documentary. Proceeds benefit the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center. 7 p.m., **Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center**, 803 Hawthorne, 713/524-3818, \$5 donation.

"FAIRY TALES"

A joyous, heartwarming musical review celebrating gay and lesbian pride. Opens Friday, June 23 and runs Fridays and Saturdays through August 5. 8 p.m., **Theater New West** at Sonoma, 1415 California, 713/394-0464. \$20.

"OUTLAW—QUEER LIKE RAY HILL"

See description June 16.

SATURDAY, JUNE 24

RAINBOW RANGLERS' DAY OF LINE DANCES

Three hours of continuous line-dance lessons featuring the newest steps direct from the international gay and lesbian country western dance scene. Part four in a four-part series; continuous attendance is not required. 1-4 p.m., **Brazos River Bottom**, 2400 Brazos, 713/524-9500, e-mail: h2k@rainbowrangers.org, web: www.rainbowrangers.org. Attire: semi-casual. Free.

PRE-PARADE DINNER AT SONOMA

Park early, enjoy dinner, and walk to the parade. Get a complementary appetizer with dinner. 5-9 p.m., Sonoma, 1415 California, 713/522-7066. Free.

2000 HOUSTON LESBIAN & GAY PRIDE PARADE

Join 100,000 under the glow of an 8 1/2-foot disco ball at the fourth annual nighttime Pride Parade, the largest Pride Parade in the Southwest. 9-11 p.m., down Westheimer, from Woodhead to Whitney, 713/529-6979, e-mail: info@pridehouston.org, web: www.pridehouston.org. (Coming in from out of town? Check out the Holiday Inn Select at Greenway Plaza for a flat, per-night rate of \$69 per room for up to four people. Call 713/523-8448 and ask for the special "Houston Pride Celebration" rate.)

DANCE FEVER

A post-parade party with professional dancers throughout the club. 11 p.m.-2 a.m., **JR's Bar and Grill**, 804 & 808 Pacific, 713/521-0193. Free.

SUNDAY, JUNE 25

POST-PARADE PATIO PARTY

A final hurrah inside and out with a DJ, dancing, and \$1 mimosas. 3 p.m., **Sonoma**, 1415 California, 713/522-7066. Free.

THURSDAY, JUNE 29

"HOMOSEXUALITY AND THE BIBLE"

Central Congregational Church. See description June 8.

PICTURES of Pride

Our Pride Committee



Name: Lynn Sixkiller **Age:** 43 **Occupation:** Associate accountant. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?**

Years out: 3 **We've had Ellen and Vermont—what would you like to see happen next in the gay movement?:** Total equality. **What would you like to let all straight people know?:** We're people just like them and there is no reason for fear or hatred. **What is one of your favorite things about being gay?:** Being able to be an individual and finally feel true to myself. **If GLBT people were in the majority, what do you think the world would be like?:** Normal.



Name: Brian Keever **Age:** 47 **Occupation:** Media

Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay **Years out:** Too many, never in. **We've had Ellen and Vermont—what would you like to see happen next in the gay movement?:** Real gay rights. **What would you like to let all straight people know?:** I am a human being with feelings. **What is one of your favorite things about being gay?:** Everything of my life as a professional homosexual. **If GLBT people were in the majority, what do you think the world would be like?:** A peaceful, nice planet with style.



Name: Bill Burford **Age:** 43 **Occupation:** Sales

Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay **Years out:** 22 **We've had Ellen and Vermont—what would you like to see happen next in the gay movement?:** Equality for all. **What would you like to let all straight people know?:** We are no different. **What is one of your favorite things about being gay?:** Freedom. **If GLBT people were in the majority, what do you think the world would be like?:** Happy.



Name: Jamie Wenner **Age:** 28 **Occupation:** Hotel

management **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Gay **Years out:** 10 **We've had Ellen and Vermont—what would you like to see happen next in the gay movement?:** More government money spent on fighting hate crimes. **What would you like to let all straight people know?:** Hate for any race, sex, religion, or sexual preference is an illness in itself. **What is one of your favorite things about being gay?:** Being able to express myself in a way that makes me proud. **If GLBT people were in the majority, what do you think the world would be like?:** Well for one, your social calendar would be filled with gay weddings every weekend.