

Out▼Smart

JUNE 2001 • Complimentary

Houston's gay, lesbian, bi, and trans magazine

Embracing Pride

2001



**CITY CELEBRITY PICTURES OF PRIDE • PRIDE HIGHLIGHTS & CALENDAR
• PRIDE PARADE MARSHALS DALIA STOKES, MITCHELL KATINE, AND
BLAKE & GORDON WEISSER • CANDACE GINGRICH'S PRIDE MESSAGE**

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Pride Highlights

WHEN I'M 64 . . .

A new organization dedicated to recognizing long-term gay relationships

by Thomas Chelena

I was at the Ripcord the other day and I heard a guy holler across the bar, "Dave, what do'ya say, is this the day?" I saw this Dave shaking his head no and pointing to a man who was ordering a drink at the bar. As some of us do at bars, I went over to talk with the guys and found out there was a "thing" going on between Dave and this guy (I learned his name was Terry). It seemed Dave and Terry must have hit it off and were planning a spontaneous rendezvous in the future, but in the meantime, love blossomed and Dave found himself a boyfriend. Dave, smiling as proud as he could, said, "This is Michael, my new boyfriend." Now a group of guys gathered around to hear the story. Terry joked with the "newlyweds," but, with love in their eyes, Dave and his new boyfriend, Michael, spoke up with as much pride and commitment as any newlyweds and said, "We are going to try and be only with each other." What a cool thing to say; Dave and Michael got lots of hugs and kisses and words of congratulation. I couldn't have been happier for the two of them.



Above: Daniel Malachowski (r) and Thomas Chelena celebrating their 26th anniversary.
Below: Ed Bradshaw (l) and David Leatham celebrating their 25th anniversary.



Dave and Michael need to be encouraged to persevere in their relationship. Who will be there for them? Who will be their role model? Will a couple please help!

There are more couples in long-term relationships than most people think. Even though there is much talk in the media these days about partner benefits and marriage for same-sex couples, there is little knowledge as to the number of same-sex couples in long-term relationships. Some would say it is understandable for the straight community not to realize how many same-sex couples there are, but it is more surprising how many people in the gay community don't realize the large number of long-term relationships.

Last May, Daniel and I celebrated our 25th anniversary of sharing our lives together. We had a full year of celebrations. It started with a banquet at the downtown Hyatt and continued on throughout the year. In preparing the guest list for our anniversary banquet, we realized that many of our friends were also in long-term relationships.

continued on page 31

PRIDE FESTIVAL: The Good Feelings Just Don't Stop

The Houston Pride Festival is back! Most cities' Pride Parade have a festival as a basic component of their pride festivities. And so did Houston. But when the Pride Committee made the bold decision to move the parade to the evening, they decided to put the festival on hold in order to concentrate on making the nighttime parade the celebratory success that it's become. (Indeed, there are now five other cities that have copied us and have nighttime pride parades, according to pride guru Jack Valinski.) So now, five years later, our dynamic Pride Committee decided it was time to bring back the Pride Festival, on the day after the parade—Sunday, June 24, at the Garden in the Heights.

The festival will have food, vendors, speakers, and music all day—and mostly be a place to con-

tinue the good feelings and make pride an ongoing celebration. Although many of the music headliners are still not set, some of the performers will be Sarah Pinsker, Suede, Dave West/ Marcus Hutcherson, the Front Alley Girls, and Christy Claxton.

Stepping into the daunting role of coordinator has been Pride Committee member Jeffrey Neaves. Although he's only lived in Houston for three years, he says, "Before that, I lived in Atlanta, New York, and Amsterdam, so I've lived in cities that had established pride festivals."

Neaves has found pride festivals meaningful in his life for the seemingly simple role of being a place to "hang out."

"A lot of our culture—and here I'm speaking as a gay man—is based around nightclubs and sex," Neaves said, "and there's not a lot of opportunity to meet with other members of the community."

Neaves told about meeting two men in their 80s at the Atlanta Pride Festival. "These obviously weren't men who were going to go to bars or be at the softball games," he said. "They've shown me a lot about what having a long-term relationship is all about. The first Christmas card I send every year goes to them. It was a real learning experience for me to meet these two, and I wouldn't have had the opportunity had it not been for the festival."

The Pride Festival will be Sunday, June 24, 1–7 p.m., Garden in the Heights, 3926 Feagan St. Tickets are \$12 at the gate/\$10 advance, and are available at Basic Brothers (1232 Westheimer), by mail from the Pride Committee of Houston, P.O. Box 66071, Houston, TX, 77266-6071, or at the Pride Committee website: www.pridehouston.org. ■

BOTH PHOTOS - UNCREDTED

Pride Highlights

When I'm 64 continued from page 26

This information could not be ignored and we decided we needed to add to our celebration: it was not to be just a celebration of our relationship, but a celebration of couples in long-term relationships. We asked the guests at each table to determine which couple had been in a relationship the longest. These couples were introduced, recognized, and given the centerpiece from their table, a pink bouquet of roses.

Inspired, we decided to take our 25th anniversary celebration to the streets and began plans to participate in the Pride Parade last June; again, we wanted to take pride not only in *our* relationship, but in the relationships of *all* couples. We settled on a pride theme of "Brides with their bridesmaids; Taking pride and joy in long-term relationships."

Daniel and I wore beautiful wedding gowns and rode in the parade in a convertible; it was a thrill. The rest of our friends

wore bridesmaid gowns or tuxes; some carried signs indicating the number of years they had been in a relationship. It was heartwarming to be so happily received; the crowds loved us. Daniel and I realized that the cheers were not so much for us, as for all couples. We were so happy to have provided

It is understandable for the straight community not to realize how many same-sex couples there are, but it is more surprising how many people in the gay community don't realize the large number of long-term relationships.

this opportunity to speak out for same-sex couples in long-term relationships.

Once again, we were inspired to keep going. Although we'd thought our celebration would end with the Pride Parade, because of the overwhelming interest, we've been led to start an organization to carry on

the celebration of long-term relationships. During the last few months, we have been meeting twice a month to discuss the value of speaking out on same-sex couples in long-term relationships.

Our small group believes that we need to get the word out about the many gay couples in long-term relationships; we'll be in the parade again this year, and are discussing future activities and even political involvement. We invite all couples to join us, male and female, both newlyweds like Dave and Michael, as well as couples like David Leatham and Ed Bradshaw, who are celebrating their 25th anniversary this year.

We welcome your participation in the formation of this organization and/or your participation with us in the Pride Parade on June 23. For more information please contact Ed Bradshaw at 713/861-1104, e-mail Jebshaw@aol.com or myself, Thomas Chelena, at 713/522-7626 or kdlang@aol.com. ■

INTERFAITH PRIDE SERVICE: Diverse Religions, Blessing Pride Month

For the third year in a row, many of Houston's churches and temples will come together for the Interfaith Gay Pride Worship service, to be held June 10 at the First Unitarian Universalist Church on Fannin. This year's speaker will be Unitarian minister Jane Dwinell, president of Interweave, the Unitarians' LGBT organization, and one of the prime movers behind last year's legislation in Vermont allowing gay marriages.

The interfaith pride service is not just ecumenical Christian, but includes Jewish, Buddhist, Native American, and pagan elements. It was started as a grassroots effort three years ago when Grace Lutheran members Madeleine Manning and Victor Schill got together and started talking. "I just got stubborn and said this is going to happen," said Manning. "Such a huge

portion of the prejudice comes from the religious traditions that this is a good place to work and address the resentments and fears in the community."



Victor Schill

The first was at Grace Lutheran. Last year's was at Bering United Methodist, and was attended by more than 350 people. The service is purposely scheduled near the beginning of Pride Month, said Gail Lindsay Marriner, associate pastor of First Unitarian, who has been helping coordinate this year's service.

"The group understands this service as an interfaith blessing of all that follows, all the events of Pride Month," Marriner said.

The service is intended to be both inspiring

and accessible to a range of faiths, and especially involves music. "It changes every year," Manning said. "But we always make it as sensory as possible."



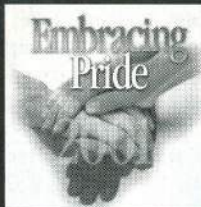
Madeleine Manning

As of press time, supporting or participating congregations include More Light Presbyterian, Community of the Servant Savior, St. Luke's UMC, Temple Beth Israel, Dignity, Kolbe Project, Maranatha MCC, Community Gospel Church, Christ Church Cathedral, Congregation Emanu El, Catholic Student Center, Mizpach Alizim, Grace Lutheran Church, Reconciling in Christ, Lutherans Concerned, St. Stephen's Episcopal, Bering Memorial UMC, First Unitarian Universalist, First Congregational Church, and St. Nichiren Buddhist Temple.

All are invited to attend the Interfaith Gay Pride Worship service on Sunday, June 10, 7 p.m., First Unitarian Universalist Church, 5200 Fannin. ■

BOTH PHOTOS - UNCREDITED

Pictures of Pride



Gary Hensley. Age: 29.
Occupation: Bartender. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Gay. **What part of town do you live in?:** Montrose. **What word or phrase can you invent to describe our diverse community?:**

Perfect. **What color of the rainbow do you identify with?:** Blue. **Where do you feel at home being gay?:** Montrose. **Gayest moment this year?:** New Year's Eve, bartending at Pacific Street. **Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island?:** Chris Durst—the sexiest man alive.



Barbara Sepcie. Age: 54.
Occupation: Registered nurse. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Straight. **What part of town do you live in?:** Deer Park. **What word or phrase can you invent to describe our diverse community?:** Human race. **What color of the rainbow do you identify with?:** Green. **Where do you feel at home being gay?:** Rick's. **What's the gayest thing about you?:** My haircut. **Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island?:** Art Sepcie.



Monica Kennedy. Age: 31.
Occupation: Sales. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Straight. **What part of town do you live in?:** The Heights. **What word or phrase can you invent to describe our diverse community?:** Wonderful. **What color of the rainbow do you identify with?:** Red. **Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island?:** Madonna.

J. Lynn Penny. Age: 61.
Occupation: Retired. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Gay. **What part of town do you live in?:** Granburg, Texas. **What word or phrase can you invent to describe our diverse community?:**



"Family." **What color of the rainbow do you identify with?:** Purple. **Where do you feel at home being gay?:** Anywhere. **Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island?:** My partner.



Debra Malm. Age: 38. Occupation: Letter carrier. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Lesbian. **What word or phrase can you invent to describe our diverse community?:** Tolerant. **What part of town do you live in?:** Montrose — "The Trose." **What color of the rainbow do you identify with?:** Blue. **Where do you feel at home being gay?:**

"The Trose." **What's the gayest thing about you?:** No dresses in my closet. **Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island?:** Mariska Hargitay, the detective from *Law and Order: Special Victims Unit*.



Ernie Edge. Age: 37. Occupation: Engineer. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Gay. **What part of town do you live in?:** Southern suburbs. **What word or phrase can you invent to describe our diverse community?:** Ten percenters, we are part of all segments. **What color of the rainbow do you identify with?:** Blue. **Where do you feel at home being gay?:** Any "gay" event or fundraiser. **And Key West. Gayest moment this year?:** The H.A.T.C.H. prom. It makes me so happy to provide a safe place for young kids to be themselves. **Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island?:** My husband of 11 years. I would be lost without him.



Dan Lindquist. Age: 49.
Occupation: Tax auditor. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Gay. **What part of town do you live in?:** Southwest. **What word or phrase can you invent to describe our diverse community?:** Gay. **What color of the rainbow do you identify with?:** Blue. **Where do you feel at home being gay?:** Everywhere. **What's the gayest thing about you?:** Married to my husband for 17 years. **Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island?:** John Dye.

John Dye. Age: 42. Occupation: Not working at this time. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Gay. **What part of town do you live in?:** Southwest. **What word or phrase**



can you invent to describe our diverse community?: Gay. **What color of the rainbow do you identify with?:** Purple. **Where do you feel at home being gay?:** Home, the Briarpatch, the BRB. **Gayest moment this year?:** Being named Imperial Prince Royal of the Court. **Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island?:** Tom Selleck.

Connie Marmolejo. Age: 31.
Occupation: Production manager. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Homosexual. **What part of town do you live in?:** Bellaire. **What word or phrase**



can you invent to describe our diverse community?: Family. **What color of the rainbow do you identify with?:** All of them. **Where do you feel at home being gay?:** At home. **What's the gayest thing about you?:** That I have never slept with a man. **Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island?:** My other half.



Tommy Murphy. Age: 19.
Occupation: Retail and a student. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Gay. **What part of town do you live in?:** Northwest. **What word or phrase can you invent to describe our diverse**

community?: Gifted. **What color of the rainbow do you identify with?:** Blue. **Where do you feel at home being gay?:** Everywhere. **Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island?:** Greg Louganis.

Judith Valerius. Age: 56.
Occupation: RN clinical coordinator. **Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?:** Straight. **What part of town do you live in?:** Conroe. **What word or phrase can you invent to describe our diverse community?:** People. **What color of the rainbow do you identify with?:**



Yellow. **What's the gayest thing about you?:** I am perfectly at home with gay men. **Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island?:** Sean Connery.

PRIDE GRAND MARSHAL

Dalia Stokes

When it comes to political action, this is where the rubber meets the ROAD

by Pokey Anderson

Photo by Gabriel Tran Photography

Dalia Stokes, voted female grand marshal for the Pride Parade, has two great passions: politics and her family. They come together in grand fashion this June, as she and her partner, Bobbie Bayless, will be celebrating their 25th anniversary. Joining them in the grand marshal float will be three generations of Stokes' family: her mother, her daughter, and her 18-month granddaughter. In a way, the spirit of her brother, Troy Stokes, will be riding with her, too.

"Bobbie believes my brother's spirit inhabited my body after he died," Stokes says. "He was a courageous activist, so ahead of his time, and certainly ahead of me. Honestly, I didn't even understand all he did," she admits.

"I love Annise Parker's description that she's not just out of the closet, she's standing in the front yard," Stokes continues. "I have probably been in the closet with the door open for a lot of years." In the last few years, though, Stokes has been taking the hinges off the door with a crowbar. Or, maybe it's her brother? After his death from AIDS in 1992, recalls Stokes, "there was a void. My older brother's voice had been silenced. It was almost as if I didn't have an option." Stokes got busy.

An attorney specializing in estate planning and probate, Dalia Stokes has had a law practice with her partner Bayless for 18 years. Stokes ran for judicial office in 1996 and 1998 with the Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus endorsement. In 1997, she got the River Oaks Area Democratic Women (ROADwomen) off the ground, serving as its founding president. Stokes also recently co-chaired the Human Rights Campaign dinner in Houston.

Stokes is not just a "see and be seen" activist. No way! She rolls up her sleeves and encourages everyone around her to do the same. It's almost a mantra with her to "take the next step." On a recent Saturday morning before this interview, I ran into Stokes as we were both literally taking steps, blockwalking in the Heights for the Progressive Voters Al-



Clockwise from left: Dalia Stokes, Katherine Stokes, Bobbie Bayless, Lelia Thell, Eleanor Thell (baby)

Some people figure out they're lesbian, then look for a partner. In the case of Dalia and Bobbie, they found each other, and they finally figured out they were *not* just really good friends.

liance, the project that's identifying progressive voters in Houston in preparation for a potential GLBT city referendum.

I asked Stokes how it feels to be elected grand marshal. "Well, I'm overwhelmed. And I was honored for Brandon Wolf just to ask to nominate me. I'm totally pleased." With the other nominee for female grand marshal being Janine Brunjes, the new GLBT liaison for

Mayor Lee Brown, there was no way the community could lose this election.

After her race for appellate court, it struck Stokes that organized business and professional women were nowhere to be found on the local political scene. So, she sent a letter out to about 70 of her campaign supporters, noting that void. One person called. That one person was Muffie Moroney. And Moroney

said, "You know, I think you're right! And, I think we ought to do something about that!"

As Margaret Mead said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Sure enough, four years later, ROADwomen has between 300 and 400 members, and has already left its mark on local politics. Don't be fooled by the "River Oaks" in the group's moniker—neither Stokes nor Moroney live in River Oaks, and they meet at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in the Montrose. They just liked the acronym, and also liked the idea of flying in the face of stereotypes. (For more information on ROADwomen, check out their website at www.roadwomen.com, or write ROADwomen, P.O. Box 22678, Houston, TX 77227-2678.)

Stokes believes that ROADwomen's biggest impact so far has been the focus on hate crimes legislation. After the legislative session in 1999, someone said, "Oh, I can't believe that they didn't pass that James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes bill!" And Stokes said, "I know. But what did we expect?!" But, someone else said, "Well, you know, we ought to do a program on that." Sure enough, Muffie Moroney got going, made some phone calls, and next thing you know, there was an awesome panel assembled. "We had Debra Danburg, and Diane Hardy-Garcia, and Senfronia Thompson, and Jim Rigby, and Louvon Harris. I didn't expect to have that kind of enthusiasm." But the people who had worked so hard on the bill were feeling wonderful that somebody cared, there was a huge turnout, and the enthusiasm reverberated in the room.

"The message came through so loud and clear that it would've passed but for the sexual orientation language in there, and that the Byrd family had been basically really strong-armed to let that drop. And that they hadn't. At the time, not a soul in that room knew that. I am telling you, everyone was stunned! It was just so amazing!"

ROADwomen later assembled a similar, awesome panel for their annual banquet, themed Celebrate Diversity. I was there among the 500 people at the Westin Oaks. It was a wonderful occasion, and I saw people I hadn't seen in years. But, hearing the Byrd family just about made me want to cry. Having suffered an unfathomable loss, and enduring it in the glare of national headlines, they demonstrated such dignity. And steadfastness. And, under pressure by Governor Bush, they just said "no," and insisted on the inclusion of "sexual orientation" in the bill named for their murdered family member.

"Exactly!" says Stokes. "Mrs. Byrd has just been in her little town of Jasper, and she got it. She got it big time. If someone who's been lead-

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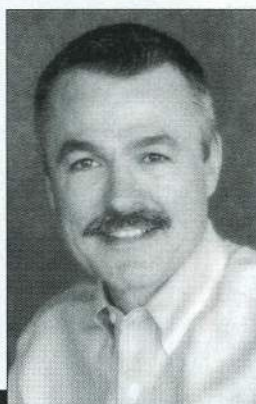
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ing a sheltered life in Jasper, Texas, can get it, then everyone can get it.

"We had this opportunity to turn this terrible tragedy into something positive and worthwhile. And Governor Bush saw to it that that did not happen. So, I guess, of all the things ROADwomen has done, that's one that took a life of its own, and ended up being the biggest statement."

Stokes is a third-generation Texan, and she is tireless in her devotion to the simple idea that everyone should get active in their government, and that the efforts and contributions of local progressives should actually benefit our political landscape here in Houston, and not be directed all out of town. She knows politics inside and out: the players, the issues, the strategies. Eventually, I was able to get her to talk about herself.

Some people figure out they're lesbian, then look for a partner. In the case of Stokes and Bayless, they found each other, and they finally figured out they were *not* just really good friends. At the time, Stokes had been married, divorced, and had a little girl. "I had no idea. No idea!" She met Bayless at Rice. "We just both kind of fell in love with each other, but neither one of us identified it that we were really in love with each other as a lesbian couple. Then it just became an inescapable fact, after a couple of months. And it's almost laughable that our relationship has been so great and so strong for 25 years, and we could've almost missed it, because we were so busy not realizing."

As for her marriage, "Nothing was particularly wrong with that marriage, except for the fact that I found out later I was really just not heterosexual. It's just

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Dalia Stokes on Politics &

Dalia on ROADwomen: ROADwomen is a place where people can come to identify as Democrats for the first time, a place to learn about issues that they haven't tuned into before. And it really was an idea whose time had come. People were starved for this. Part of the mission is to try to work locally to help elect Democrats or encourage Democrats on a local level. And person after person, mainly females, of course, said, "I'm a Democrat, and I work at blah-blah downtown. And if I want to talk politics, I have got to go into my office, close the door, and call somebody. I don't dare have a conversation in the halls. But everybody else does! They're just chatting it up!" I just got someone's renewal today; it said, "I don't get a chance to come to meetings often, but I can't tell you how heartening it is to be a member of a group where I don't feel like the Lone Ranger, so to speak."

Dalia on statewide politics: The sad truth is, Texas has gone Republican. It's too big a state, media markets are so expensive. And, it's just easier for the Democrats to come down and harvest money than it is to try to take this state back.

Dalia on identifying a viable progressive Democratic candidate for the next race for governor of Texas: I was a little concerned, when I read the articles in the *Chronicle* that said Tony Sanchez [current front-runner for the Democratic nomination] had given all this money to Bush and the Republican National Committee. But I thought, well, there's going to be something that's just really compelling about this person that I'm not seeing. Then the articles came out about the kind of bizarre gay-baiting investigation, smear campaign thing. And, I was very troubled by his failure to denounce it even if he supposedly was not involved in it. The first thing I wanted to hear was someone denounce it, and have a good strong healthy position on gay rights. Didn't hear it!

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that simple; we were missing one key component!" Stokes is glad things happened the way they did, though, because her marriage resulted in "a great gift," her daughter Lelia.

Her daughter has made her own journey dealing with growing up in a two-mom household, but she and her baby are coming down from Minnesota to participate in the parade. "It's been a wonderful family unit, and I just can't say enough positive things about that part of our life." As for how Stokes and Bayless manage to also work together, Stokes says it helps that they don't do the same kind of law. "It's been a joy to work together. And recently somebody asked would I want to repeat the whatever years, and I said, well, I'd just really basically be glad to repeat anything with Bobbie, the good years and the bad years, good times and bad times. I mean, it's just been really a great 25 years."

So, now you've met Stokes, and I hope you'll give a big cheer when she and Bayless and family pass by in the parade! ■

Pokey Anderson, a former candidate for public office and a former grand marshal, enjoyed welcoming Stokes out onto "the front lawn." Anderson is a long-time activist and an independent financial planner.

& More Politics

Dalia on George Bush: I can't watch the talking head [political analysis] TV programs. They start with a bogus premise that Bush is president. It's sad.

Dalia on how we can turn our diversity and our conflicts to our advantage: Good question. Well, I always do best when I'm in an environment that is not particularly contentious. I'm not sure that I'm the best consensus builder in the world. But I try to spend my time and money on things where we can find common ground. And some people, I think, spend too much time fighting or being contentious when there's really tons of common ground. And so, I just stay focused on that.

An example is the transgender issue, which I think has been an educational process. People have started to understand more what that means, and what equality for transgendered people means, and how important it is. I certainly have learned a lot. Education is another way of turning conflict into working for us. Education is critical.

Dalia, when asked if any animals would ride with her in the parade: No. None that I know of. But I wish that I could have my carriage drawn by donkeys, you know?

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David R. Garza. Age: 28. Occupation: Residential domestic cleaning. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay in every sense of the word. Thumbs up, or thumbs down? *Queer As Folk*: Up, any gay exposure

is positive—shows we are friendly, nice, bitchy—makes us human. *Oz*: haven't seen it lately. *Will & Grace*: Up, gay life in prime time. I love it, although Karen is really my favorite. *Pet peeve*: Unkindness is the worst. *Favorite vice*: Southern charm. *Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island?*: My mother, I love her dearly. *In the movie of your life, what movie star would portray you?*: Tom Hanks. He's so versatile, just like me! *What would the title of the movie be?*: *Crazy Life of Love and Laughter*.



Jim Sikorski. Age: 45. Occupation: Financial industry executive. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. Thumbs up, or thumbs down? *Queer As Folk*: Up. *Will & Grace*: Up. *Pet peeve*: Bad drivers.

Favorite vice: Drinking/ good sex. *Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island?*: My boyfriend. *In the movie of your life, what movie star would portray you?*: Tom Hanks. *What would the title of the movie be?*: *The True Story, Bitch!*

David Tourne. Age: 30. Occupation: Student/editing. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. Thumbs up, or thumbs down? *Queer As Folk*: Down. *Oz*: Down. *Will & Grace*: Down. *Pet peeve*: Cigarette smoking. *Favorite vice*: Sex. *Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island?*: Madonna. *In the movie of your life, what movie star would portray you?*: Chris O'Donnell. *What would the title of the movie be?*: *Boys World*.



Wayne Gresham. Age: 53. Occupation: Lawyer. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. Thumbs up, or thumbs down? *Queer As Folk*: Down. *Oz*: Up. *Will & Grace*: Up. *Pet peeve*: Attitude and ageism. *Favorite vice*: Joy. *Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island?*: My partner Rick. *In the movie of your life, what movie star would portray you?*: William Hurt. *What would the title of the movie be?*: *My Interesting Life*.

Rebecca Maxwell. Age: 45. Occupation: Consultant. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Straight. Thumbs up, or thumbs down? *Will & Grace*: Beautiful and real to life. *Pet peeve*: Hypocrites. *Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island?*: Brad Pitt. *In the movie of your life, what movie star would portray you?*: Bridgitte Bardou. *What would the title of the movie be?*: *Live Life to the Fullest*.



Carlos Reyes, Jr. Age: 40. Occupation: Event coordinator. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. Thumbs up, or thumbs down? *Queer As Folk*: Up, it's my childhood. *Oz*: Great—too realistic. *Will & Grace*: Great. *Pet peeve*: No children. *Favorite vice*: Sex. *Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island?*: My lover. *In the movie of your life, what movie star would portray you?*: Antonio Banderas. *What would the title of the movie be?*: *Never Meet A Stranger*.

Tom Fricke. Age: 44. Occupation: Innkeeper. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. Thumbs up, or thumbs down? *Queer As Folk*: Fun, but a little bit too much focus on the down side of gay life. *Oz*: Hot. *Will & Grace*: Would be better without Will and Grace. *Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island?*: Matthew Broderick. *In*



the movie of your life, what movie star would portray you?: Michael J. Fox. *What would the title of the movie be?*: *A Star is Born*.



Jeffrey Kuchar. Occupation: Realtor. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. Thumbs up, or thumbs down? *Queer As Folk*: Up, fun portrayals of my friends. *Oz*: Up, extra sexy scenes. *Will & Grace*: Down,

should be Jack and Karen. *Pet peeve*: Pretentious people. *Favorite vice*: Sex. *Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island?*: My next husband. *In the movie of your life, what movie star would portray you?*: Kevin Costner. *What would the title of the movie be?*: *Lookin' for Luv*.

Brian Brookins. Age: 26. Occupation: Bartender and student. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. Thumbs up, or thumbs down? *Queer As Folk*: Up, gets better with every show. *Oz*: Up, great actors. *Will & Grace*: Up, comedy relief. I love Karen. *Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island?*: Antonio Sabato Jr. *In the movie of your life, what movie star would portray you?*: Johnny Depp. *What would the title of the movie be?*: *The Life of a Georgia Peach*.



Jamie Wenner. Age: 29. Occupation: Pride Committee and hotel finance. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. Thumbs up, or thumbs down? *Queer As Folk*: Way up, very past due for network

TV. *Oz*: Up, a very good show. *Will & Grace*: Needs more real life relationship plots. *Pet peeve*: People not open and honest. *Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island?*: Parents and my boyfriend if I had one! *In the movie of your life, what movie star would portray you?*: Will Weaton from *Star Trek*. *What would the title of the movie be?*: *In Search of True Love*.

PRIDE GRAND MARSHAL

Mitchell Katine

The lawyer Houston's GLBT community goes to when they don't know where else to turn

by John W. Stiles

Photos by Tricia Moreau Sweeney

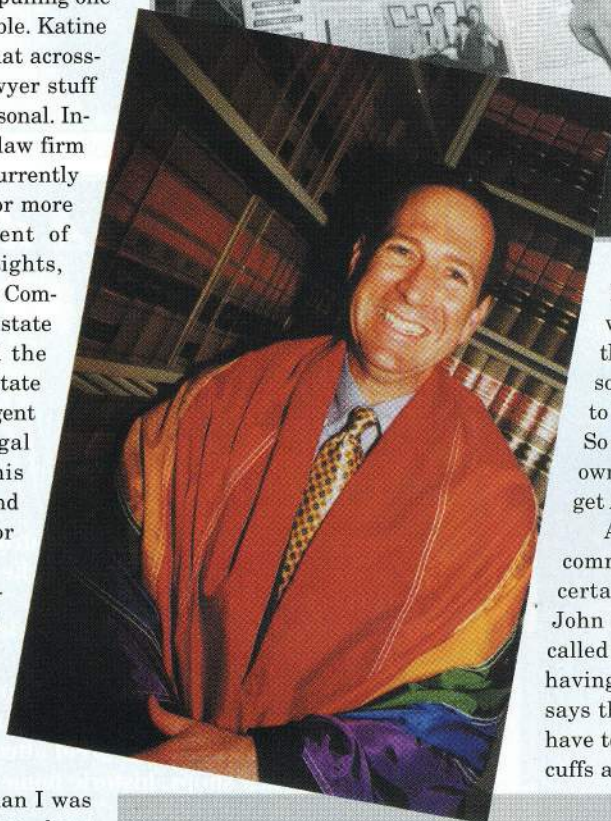
Mitchell Katine, this year's male Pride marshal and lead local attorney in the landmark homosexual conduct case coming before the Texas Criminal Court of Appeals this summer, would rather feed the hungry than give them legal assistance. He tells me this with a big smile. Katine is almost always smiling.

I met Katine at his law office in southwest Houston. He retrieved me from the huge lobby and I followed him into the firm's conference room, pulling one of the 12 chairs away from the huge oak table. Katine selected the chair next to mine. None of that across-the-table, arms-folded-in-smug-repose lawyer stuff for him, Katine is all about up close and personal. Indeed, he was even asked to leave his old law firm because he did too much volunteer work. Currently with Williams, Birnberg, and Anderson for more than 10 years, he's served as president of Houston's Bar Association for Human Rights, chaired the Houston Bar Association's AIDS Committee, was appointed to the Texas Real Estate Commission by Ann Richards, received the Frank J. Scurlock Award from the Texas State Bar for providing free legal services to indigent clients, has conducted countless free legal workshops around the city, teaches at his alma mater South Texas College of Law, and will soon begin teaching a second class for the University of Houston.

Busy guy. What drives him, I wondered. I asked about his earliest memories as a child.

"Mrs. Evangelista's class in third grade where she punished me for talking too much. I would sit outside the classroom in tears singing 'Where Is Love?' from *Oliver*. I always had more energy than I was supposed to have, and that gave my mother ulcers and caused problems at home where they wanted me to grow up and stop being so silly. I continue to have a lot of energy and like to do a lot of things at one time.

"I was a very insecure child. When my parents went on vacation, I didn't know if they were coming back or not. When they sent me away to camp for a month, I hated it. I cried. I was so homesick. I didn't



"Probably the most significant thing that shaped my life is HIV and AIDS. There are so many people not here that I feel a big responsibility to do things in their absence."

know what they were doing while I was at camp. Now I look back and think, my God, I could have been having so much fun had I just had the security to know that I was going to be all right. So at a very early age I started saving my own money, just in case. I felt like I had to get A's and succeed and do really well."

As being voted Pride marshal by the community testifies, Mitchell Katine has certainly succeeded. He was the attorney John Geddes Lawrence and Tyron Garner called for help when they were arrested for having sex in their home. Although Katine says the arresting officers probably did not have to drag them to the squad car in handcuffs and underwear, his quarrel is with the law and not law enforcement. The real harm in the law is not in the danger of arrest, but in the stigmatization associated with criminalizing behavior. Texas' homosexual con-

duct law has been used to support denying permanent residence to a homosexual immigrant, depriving gay parents of custody of their children, even closing the public library to gays and lesbians. Lawrence and Garner's conviction was first overturned and then upheld as their case moved up the appellate ladder. Katine and the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund are prepared to go to the U.S. Supreme Court if necessary. They hope it won't be and that a full hearing before the Texas Criminal Court of Appeals will result in the repeal of the law. State Representative Debra Danburg introduced a bill into the state legislature to repeal the law.

If success as an attorney is measured by the number of calls and visits from clients, opposing counsel, and the police, Katine is a smashing success. Once again, I could hear the receptionist paging Katine. "Sorry," he said as he headed for the conference room telephone. The conversation began amiably enough but, as if a switch had been thrown, the lawyer moved front and center. "Well, I was hoping we could sit down and talk about agreed-to property lines but, if we can't do that, then, of course, we'll have a lawsuit." He was off the phone quickly, and just as quickly the lawyer switch was flicked off as he picked up where he left off. The lawyer switch sees a lot of work, for Michell Katine enjoys the reputation in the GLBT community as the "go to" guy for anyone in need of legal help. He believes quality legal and medical help should be available to everyone, regardless of their ability to pay.

I asked Katine if he always wanted to be a lawyer.

"Really, I went to law school not to be a lawyer but because I liked school. I'd like to stay in school the rest of my life if I could."

And as a child?

"A policeman. *Adam-12* was big when I was growing up. When alarms started coming out in cars and I learned I could turn mine on while I was driving, I would drive with my alarm going just so I could pretend I was a police officer."

What was high school like?

"High school was good. Had some girlfriends. Had some serious girlfriends, you know. Learned about heterosexual sex in high school. I didn't have any gay experiences except fantasies and thoughts. It was really when I went away to college . . . that I discovered homosexuality."

His first boyfriend's parents discovered some of Katine's letters.

"They gave him a choice of returning to college and me or to stay [home] and seek psychological assistance. He chose to return to college and be with me, and his family cut him

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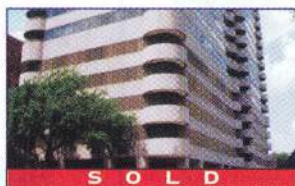
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off. That put stress on our relationship and we eventually broke up [but] remained close for many years. He never returned to school, . . . worked in the bars as a waiter, got HIV, and subsequently died.

"[The] many friends I've lost . . . that awareness still plays a daily role in my life. Probably the most significant thing that shaped my life is HIV and AIDS. There are so many people not here that I feel a big responsibility to do things in their absence. All the activists, all the people in ACT-UP, they're gone."

Appearing on a television panel a few years ago, Katine was asked why he devoted so much time to AIDS-related causes.

"I believe the AIDS crisis will be over someday. I believe I will have children someday, and I believe those children will ask me what I did during that time. And there is no way that I could ever say 'work.' That's what I did? That's nothing."

The ever-present smile was gone. Katine's eyes were full as he continued.

"I want to be able to [say] what I did when it was time to do something. Although the homosexual conduct case is important for civil rights, I don't want that to be my claim to contribution. I feel very fortunate that I've been given the opportunity as a lawyer to help enough people and accomplish enough successes where I could stop. Probably, if I was not in the relationship that I'm in, I would seriously think about leaving . . . and [go] work in some developing country and contribute. That's something that I've always wanted to do and never done. It's just hard getting out of a successful practice, not that I want to. I still have lots to do every day, but if something else were to come along, well, I'm not in this [law practice] forever. There's still more to do." ■

When Stiles isn't writing for OutSmart magazine, he keeps himself busy writing film reviews and essays for his website, www.johnw.stiles.com.



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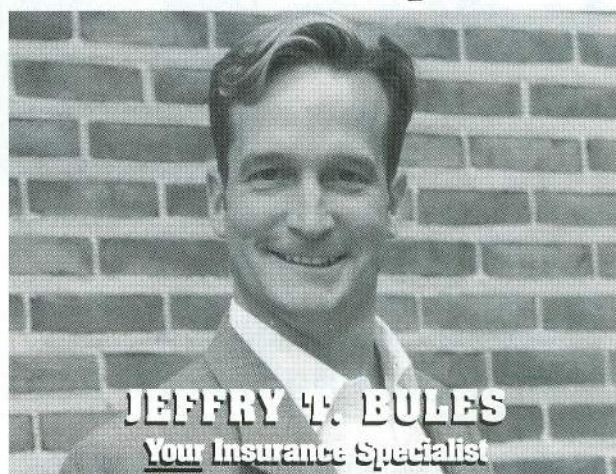
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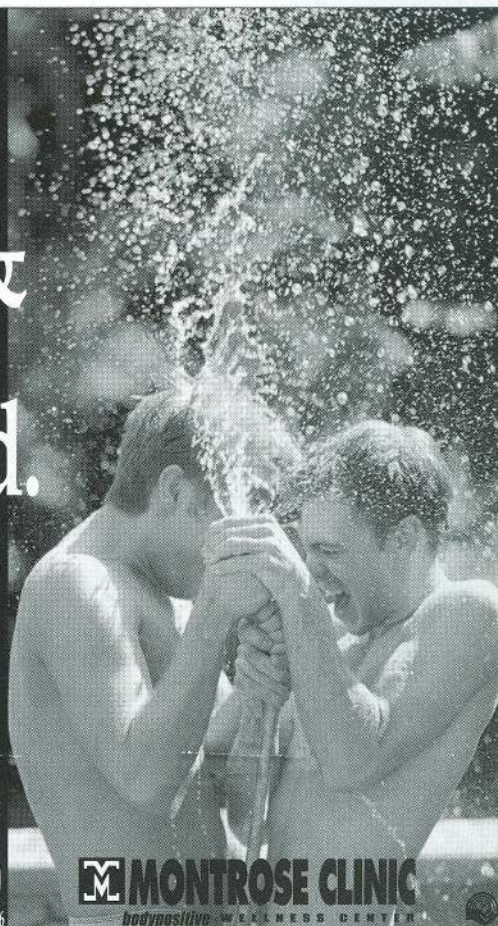
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HONORARY PRIDE MARSHALS

Blake & Gordon Weisser

The "grandparents" of PFLAG advocate for gay children everywhere

by Roger Donley

Photo by J. Roe Photography

Blake and Gordon Weisser were reluctant to be nominated as honorary grand marshals in the Pride Parade. Instead, the Weissers wanted the focus to be on the organization they are so proud to support: Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG). When the community elected both the Weissers and PFLAG as Pride marshals this year, the Weissers were delighted.

The Weissers work tirelessly promoting equal rights for all. Few are as effective or as dedicated: Gordon and Blake have visited school districts, counselors, churches, community centers, and universities as a couple and as speakers on panels. They have lobbied in Austin and Washington and marched in Pride parades. Gordon also has been a Pride Parade judge.

"My personal mission is making PFLAG visible so that other parents will be aware that there is support for them when they learn that they have a gay child," Blake said. Blake joined the PFLAG Houston board five years ago. She volunteered at all three PFLAG-sponsored "Healing the Hurt" educational workshops, which draw hundreds of educators and others from across Texas. She helped coordinate the "Healing the Hurt" conference in 1997. Gordon has been PFLAG's treasurer for three years and was very involved from the beginning with the PFLAG/H.A.T.C.H. Youth Scholarship program. Blake has been a Help Line Mom for the PFLAG Help Line (713-46P-FLAG) for four years. This couple has directly and indirectly touched the lives of hundreds of families in innumerable ways.

Gordon, 74, and Blake, 82, have been married for 25 years. Gordon is Canadian and has two sons who live in Edmonton. Blake grew up in Oklahoma City and has two daughters, Judith in California and Valerie in Delaware. The Weissers have 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

During the 1980s, Blake volunteered at Compass, a ministry to the disadvantaged and unemployed. She became known as "The



When Blake spotted Jesse Helms, she asked him for support for equal rights for gays. He said he felt sorry for them. She responded firmly but politely that they did not need his "sympathy," but wanted equal rights for their children. Helms appeared embarrassed and began sputtering.

Letter Lady" for her work with S.E.A.R.C.H., encouraging the homeless to stay connected with family by writing letters and cards. She also volunteered to teach English to Spanish-speaking children.

When Blake was 61, Valerie came out to Blake. At the time, Valerie was married and had three teenage sons. "It was a shock. My

chief concern was for my three grandsons and how they would be affected," Blake said. She also was very concerned about Valerie and knew that it took a lot of courage for her to come out to her husband and family.

After Valerie came out, the Weissers spent 11 years "in the closet," with no one to speak to about their concerns. They had no

idea there could be a support group for parents like them. Then, one Sunday, a group from PFLAG visited their church.

"The first person I ever heard say she had a lesbian daughter was Gail Rickey," Blake said. A panel of PFLAG parents came to Christ Church Cathedral to speak at the Adult Education Hour. "Now I had hope." Even today, the impact of that experience on the Weissers is almost palpable. Instantly, the Weissers had support and could connect with other parents.

In 1996, Gordon and Blake participated in a campaign called "Moms and Dads Go To Washington." Thirty parents left Houston but a total of 100 parents from all over the United States converged on the capital for appointments with their senators and representatives. The parents lobbied for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and other legal protections for their gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered children.

While at a candlelight service in Washington, Blake experienced a transforming moment. "I remember the moment I became an advocate for children," Blake said. Each participant lit a candle and claimed someone that he or she would stand up for. Blake claimed Valerie. Gordon claimed Valerie's partner of 17 years, Jean. Then Blake in her heart decided, "I will stand up and claim all the children whose parents were not standing up for them."

With characteristic optimism, the Weissers take advantage of every opportunity. When Blake spotted Jesse Helms with a group of constituents in the Capitol, she asked him for support for equal rights for gays. He said he felt sorry for them. She responded firmly but politely that they did not need his "sympathy," but wanted equal rights for their children. Helms appeared embarrassed and began sputtering.

Gordon has received some negative feedback because he is an open supporter of equality. Gordon was a Republican Precinct Chair for two years. Once, an angry member of the Christian Coalition confronted Gordon. "I saw you on the cover of *OutSmart*," he said, as though daring Gordon either to deny it or justify it. "Yes," Gordon replied. The man challenged Gordon again: "I saw you *twice* on the cover of *OutSmart*!" Gordon agreed. Gordon ultimately left the Republican Party because of the radical nature of the precinct. "I wanted no part of their Religious Right business."

Blake encountered homophobia closer to home. When her sister learned that Blake was interviewed at the U.S. Capitol speaking in favor of gay and lesbian rights, she was so angry that Blake feared estrangement. To-



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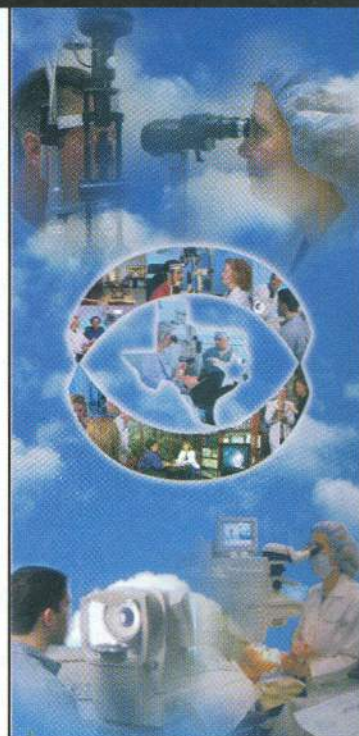
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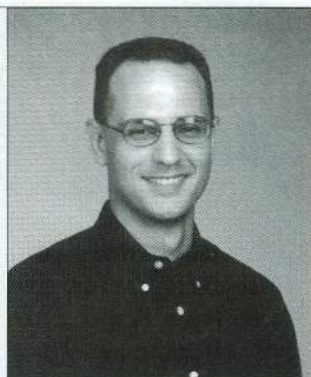
day, Blake's family is slowly becoming more accepting of Valerie and Jean.

The Weissers believe the GLBT community especially appreciates the support of parents. At last year's Pride Parade, the crowds enthusiastically cheered for PFLAG all along the parade route. However, some parade-watchers were surprised to see the Weissers. One shouted in amazement, "Look! It's someone's grandmother!" Later, Blake stopped to hug a young woman who was so moved that she started crying when she saw the PFLAG group.

To many, Blake and Gordon symbolize all supportive parents. For example, once as the Weissers entered a meeting of the GLBT Chamber of Commerce, they were welcomed with "Here comes PFLAG." However, as Blake points out, "PFLAG is more than just parents. Membership includes the GLBT community and fair-minded people willing to stand up for and work for social justice issues."

When asked what members of the community who want to help can do, Blake answered without hesitation, "Join PFLAG." ■

Roger Donley serves on the boards of the Houston chapters of the ACLU and PFLAG, and is an attorney practicing in the Intellectual Property Department at Baker Botts L.L.P.



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PRIDE MESSAGE

What's Pride Got to Do with It?

Pride celebrations are still vital for gay liberation

by Candace Gingrich

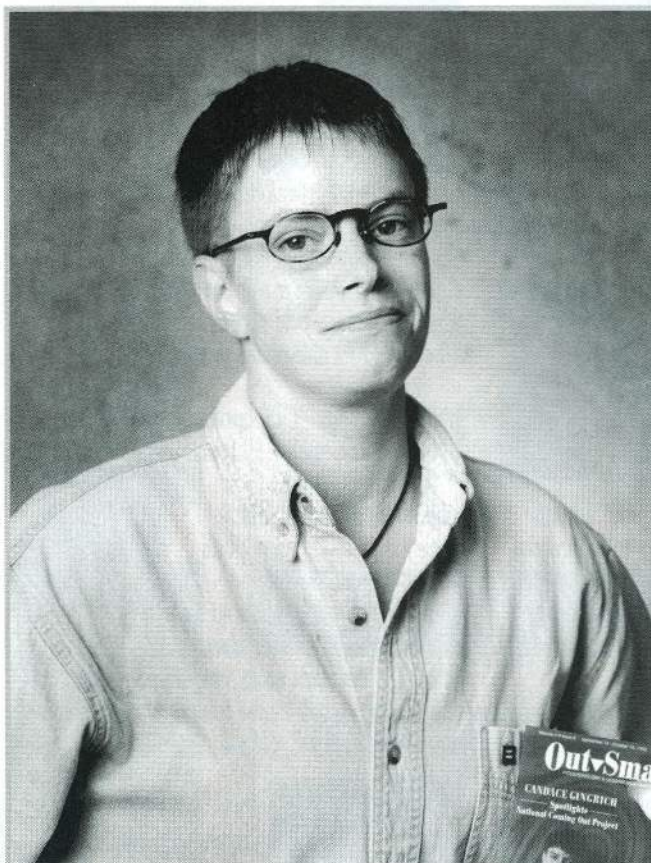
Photo by Charles Anderson for HRC • OutSmart's cover photo by Gabriel Tran Photography

A few months ago, I received an e-mail from someone who wanted to know what "pride" had to do with the GLBT community. Specifically, he wanted to know why it was necessary to hold public pride celebrations. It was enough, he said, to be gay; why did we have to put it on display? Now, I've heard this view thousands of times before from straight people, but this guy was gay himself.

His questioning made me realize that there are probably many GLBT people who came of age in the post-Stonewall era and perhaps don't appreciate the symbolism and function of pride celebrations. Because many of us can be "invisible" as GLBT people if we choose, these events are our community's unique opportunity to display our diversity, to show the public—and each other—who we are. They are also an occasion to acknowledge our successes and plan for the work that is yet to be done. We have come a long way since the 1969 uprising at the Stonewall Inn, but not so far that we have outgrown the need to show and experience our collective pride.

As manager of the Human Rights Campaign's National Coming Out Project, I understand the power and importance of the GLBT community's visibility—both for straight Americans and for ourselves. From a political standpoint, this visibility is crucial; there are still local and national elected officials who think they have no gay constituents, for example. While a politician may be most affected by a lobby visit or handwritten letter, she will not be able to ignore a successful pride event in her own district. Some of them will even join us—a far cry from 30-plus years ago. Our visibility is also a powerful weapon against those who would rather we remain silent and invisible, from those who commit hate crimes to religious political extremists.

Pride celebrations also serve as a crucial entry point into the GLBT community for many newly out or questioning people. As omnipresent as we may think we are, gay people



I still remember my first pride festival—it was the late '80s in Harrisburg, Pa. I marveled at how many people were there, and wondered, *Where have you been all my life?*

Candace Gingrich.

Inset: Gingrich on OutSmart's cover, September 1995.



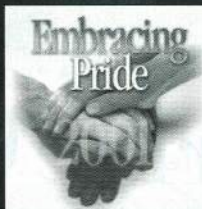
can be hard to find if you don't know where to look. I still remember my first pride festival—it was the late '80s in Harrisburg, Pa. I marveled at how many people were there, and wondered, *Where have you been all my life?* I reveled in the people watching, playing Hacky-Sack and just feeling at home. For many people, pride is the only time of the year they can don their rainbows, display public affection, and feel safe. Until we achieve the America that the Human Rights Campaign mission envisions—where "gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Americans can be open, honest, and safe at home, at work, and in the community"—pride celebrations are still important.

Of all the reasons I can think of to attend pride, the most valuable to me is the feel-good factor. Working for the Human Rights Campaign, I experience daily the ups and downs

of our fight for equality. When a local ordinance fails or another elected official spouts some antigay rhetoric, it takes a little out of me—as it doubtless does for many in our community. Then the local pride celebration comes along, with a chance for renewal and reinvigoration, and the chance to feel open and free. We have much work to do but we can't forget to stop, remember our roots, and be grateful for those who got us where we are today. Enjoy pride to its fullest, and take from it the energy to fight the good fight with a new spirit. ■

The daughter of former House Minority Leader Newt Gingrich, Candace Gingrich is the manager of the Human Rights Campaign's National Coming Out Project.

Pictures of Pride



Tom Gray. Age: 41. Occupation: Head barback at Pacific Street. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. Thumbs up or thumbs down? *Queer As Folk*: Down—only one or

two people are really decent people. Pet peeve?: Cell phones in the fast lane. Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island?: Mark Harmon. In the movie about your life, what movie star would portray you?: Brad Pitt.

Ken Lehneke. Age: 39.

Occupation: Engineering assistant and bartender. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. Thumbs up or thumbs down? *Queer As Folk*:

Don't watch TV. Pet peeve?: Neatness. Favorite vice?: Coffee. Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island?: Brad Pitt. In the movie about your life, what movie star would portray you?: None to describe my life.



Jason Rajkovich. Age: 26. Occupation: Marketing director. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. Thumbs up or thumbs down? *Queer As Folk*: Up, great drama and nightlife. *Oz*: Never seen it. *Will & Grace*: Up, regular lifestyle with gay

portrayal. Pet peeve?: Driving while on cell phones. Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island?: My boyfriend. In the movie about your life, what movie star would portray you?: Richard Gere. What would the title of the movie be?: *Pretty Boy*.

R. Marl Wills. Age: 30.

Occupation: None. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. Thumbs up or thumbs down? *Will & Grace*: Up, positive gay role models.

Pet peeve?: Lying. Favorite vice?: Smoking. Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island?: Myself. In the movie about your life, what movie star would portray



you?: David Schwimmer. What would the title of the movie be?: *Real Life Soap Opera*.



Jerry Lester. Age: 32. Occupation: Inflight attendant with Continental. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Free. Thumbs up or thumbs down? *Oz*: I am the original wizard. *Will & Grace*: Allowed me to stay here thus far. Pet peeve?: Starting to say

something and then cutting it off by saying, "That's okay." Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island?: Halle Berry. In the movie about your life, what movie star would portray you?: Eddie Murphy. What would the title of the movie be?: *Raising Hell*.

Bridget Parks. Age: 27. Occupation: Entertainer. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Bi. Thumbs up or thumbs down? *Oz*: Up. *Will & Grace*: Up, real. Pet peeve?: Cold touches. Favorite vice?: Speed driving. Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island?:



Anthony. In the movie about your life, what movie star would portray you?: Sandra Bullock. What would the title of the movie be?: *Thrown*.



Bryan Smith. Age: 27. Occupation: Bartender. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. Thumbs up or thumbs down? *Oz*: Great! Lots of nice asses. *Will & Grace*: Cute but getting predictable. Pet peeve?: Men who do not bathe. Favorite

vice?: Not the quantity but the quality. Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island?: Tom Cruise. In the movie about your life, what movie star would portray you?: Patrick Swayze. What would the title of the movie be?: *Cocktails*.

Randy Mitchmore. Age: 48.

Occupation: Dentist. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. Thumbs up or thumbs down? *Queer As Folk*: Neutral—it scripts a lot of gay life that I cannot relate to. *Oz*: Never watched it. *Will & Grace*: Two thumbs up. It's fun, positive, serious, light, relevant, real, tacky, mean,



and caring. Reminds me of me. Pet peeve?: Someone that stops in the middle of a door or hallway when I am walking behind them instead of stepping to the side. Favorite vice?: Chocolate. Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island?: Randy Hendrick. In the movie about your life, what movie star would portray you?: Michael Ontkean. What would the title of the movie be?: It has already been made—*Making Love*.



Tim Kernan. Age: 40. Occupation: Registered nurse. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. What part of town do you live in?: Kingwood, soon to be "Queenwood." What word or phrase can you invent to describe

our diverse community?: Sexually enhanced. What color of the rainbow do you identify with?: Red. Where do you feel at home being gay?: In my house. What's the gayest thing about you?: My mind! Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island?: My sister or any family member.



Step Loughlin. Age: 24. Occupation: Publisher's representative. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Queer. What part of town do you live in?: Just inside the city. What word or phrase can

you invent to describe our diverse community?: Queeralicious. What color of the rainbow do you identify with?: Lavender. Where do you feel at home being gay?: Just inside the loop. Gayest moment this year?: Every day. I hardly speak with straight men.

Gavin Houser. Age: 24.

Occupation: IT manager. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. What part of town do you live in?: Montrose. What word or phrase can you invent to describe our diverse community?: Queer. What color of the rainbow do you identify with?: Blue. Where do you feel at home being gay?: Everywhere. Gayest moment this year?: Singing "Respect" in a pink car. Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island?: Ryan Phillippe.



All photos in the Pride 2001 Calendar are from past parades and

HOUSTON GAY AND

What's better than Houston's 23rd annual Pride Parade? How about over a month of pride events to go along with it! The Pride Committee of Houston is once again pleased to promote an array of social, cultural, educational, and charitable events where you can celebrate pride.

Houston is unique among pride celebrations around the country in that we celebrate pride for an entire month. While some might think that's too long, the Pride Committee and the other community organizations who sponsor all these events know that in a diverse

city such as ours, one or two weekends is just not enough time to commemorate, investigate, and celebrate pride. How could you fit all the life and culture of the entire Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival 5 in one weekend? You simply couldn't attend all the workshops and seminars—on everything from GLBT history to writing to spirituality—in just 48 hours. Then there are the numerous sporting events, radio shows, dinners, theatrical performances, dances, and art shows that will entice and engage you. Of course, don't forget all the parties. From the Pride Kickoff Party to the Pride Festival, there is no lack of gatherings to make a true celebration.

You are sure to find an event or activity in the following pages that will entertain and inspire you. Embrace diversity this year and try something new. Go to an event that you normally wouldn't think of attending. Make this the year that you step outside the box and into a vibrant, diverse community.

For the most up-to-date listing of pride events, check out Pride Committee website, www.pridehouston.org. All events are open to the public and attire is casual, unless otherwise noted. Since event details are subject to change, contact the individual event sponsors for any changes, cancellations, or additional information.

—Ken Donnelly, Pride Committee Houston

• • • FRIDAY, JUNE 1 • • •

Pride Kickoff Party

Start off Pride 2001 and a very busy pride weekend with a free buffet, a cash bar, and entertainment. Meet the Pride Parade grand marshals, the Pride Committee, and other members of the community. 7-10 p.m., Sonoma, 1415 California, 713/529-6979.

Movie Night

The community center begins Pride Month with a screening of *Before Stonewall*, the acclaimed 1984 documentary. 7 p.m., Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne, 713/524-3818, e-mail: hlgcc@hotmail.com, web: www.hlgcc.org. \$2.

What Did You Call Me? Contest

The Houston Lesbian and Gay Com-

munity Center sponsors this first annual name-off to find one moniker for our GLBT family. Select one of the choices on our form or write in your own ideas. Entries will appear in a future HLGCC newsletter and on the community center website. Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne, 713/524-3818, fax: 713/639-7595, e-mail: hlgcc@hotmail.com, web: www.hlgcc.org. \$1.

Sleep in a Nest of Flames

A documentary about Charles Henri Ford, who blazed onto the literary scene in 1931 with *The Young and the Evil* (an honest and celebratory depiction of gay life in Greenwich Village) and became a regular fixture in the contemporary art world, mingling between continents and aesthetic movements. Directors James Dowell and John Kolomvakis will present a Q & A.

Part of Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival 5. 7 p.m., Rice Media Center, University Blvd. at Stanford. 713/527-9590, e-mail: hglff@cs.com, web: www.hglff.org. \$5; \$4 students/seniors and SWAMP members.

G...A...why?

What makes something gay? Is it content? Intent? Or is it a matter of perspective? This collection of short works asks that question. The evening includes: *Cucumber Chronicles*, a campy, post-Monty Python semiotic study of a gay personals ad. *Screen Test No. 1* looks at the double life of Timmy, Lassie's owner, and *Screen Test No. 3* reinterprets a 1957 filmed studio personality test for actress Tuesday Weld. *Tell Me Who Ruby Was* creates a composite image of Ruby Wells drawn from the memories of various people in her life. Filmmakers Bryan McHenry

(*Cucumber Chronicles*) and Carolyn Coal (*Tell Me Who Ruby Was*) will be in attendance. A panel discussion on "what makes something gay?" with filmmakers, scholars, and ordinary folks will be held after the films. Part of Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival 5. 8 p.m., DiverseWorks, 1117 E. Freeway, 713/527-9590, e-mail: hglff@cs.com, web: www.hglff.org. \$6, \$5 members.

Not Love, Just Frenzy (Más que amor, frenesí)

Yeye, Monica, and Maria throw a wild party in the hope of finding a roommate. Instead, they become targets of an ex-boyfriend-turned-male-prostitute running from the law, a homophobic undercover cop, a transsexual lesbian pimp, and a trio of drag queens who terrorize Madrid's mass transit system. In the spirit of Almodóvar, this hilarious and raunchy comedy set in

DAR OF EVENTS SPONSORED BY GALLERY FURNITURE

re from past parades and are the courtesy of Pride Committee Houston

LESBIAN PRIDE 2001

the twilight world of Madrid's club scene features devilishly sexy performances from an attractive, young cast set to the pulsating rhythms of an energetic dance soundtrack and drag costumes from out of this world. Shows with *Forever Bottom*, a humorous and clever look at the stigma attached to being on the receiving end in gay male relationships. Part of Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival 5. 9:45 p.m., Rice Media Center, University Blvd. at Stanford, 713/527-9590, e-mail: hglff@cs.com, web: www.hglff.org, \$5; \$4 students, seniors and SWAMP members.

Big Eden

Henry Hart, a successful New York artist, returns to Big Eden, Montana, the town of his childhood, to care for the ailing grandfather who raised him. Back in Big Eden, Henry must come to terms with his relationship with his best friend from high school and the object of his unrequited love. Part of Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival 5. Angelika Film Center, 510 Texas Ave., 713/527-9590, e-mail: hglff@cs.com, web: www.hglff.org, \$6.75; \$4.50 discount shows, seniors, and children.

Glory Box

Written and performed by Tim Miller; this performance piece is a funny, sexy, and politically charged exploration of love, gay marriage, and the struggle for immigration rights for gay people and their partners. Theater LaB Houston, 8 p.m., 1706 Alamo, 713/868-7516. \$30 tickets benefit the Lesbian and Gay Immigration Rights Task Force, or \$20 general public. Also Saturday, June 2.

• • • • • SATURDAY, JUNE 2 • • • • •

Pride Day at Six Flags AstroWorld

Spend a day or two at Six Flags and share your pride. Your \$30 Pride Committee ticket covers admission to AstroWorld on Saturday, including a free BBQ buffet in the private picnic area, free admission to Rich's on Saturday night, and a free pass to WaterWorld on Sunday (or any other day through the season). Holders of pride tickets also get into the park an hour before the general public. Headlining entertainment for Pride Day will be the legendary Village People! Tickets are available at Basic Brothers (1232 Westheimer) or by mail from the Pride Committee of Houston, P.O. Box 66071, Houston, TX, 77266-6071. A special room rate of \$55 for up to four people will be available at the Radisson Hotel Astrodome, 8686 Kirby. Call 800/333-3333 and ask for the "Pride 2001 event" rate. 10 a.m., Six Flags AstroWorld, 9001 Kirby at the 610 Loop, 713/529-6979, e-mail: info@pridehouston.org, web: www.pridehouston.org, \$30, \$35 at the gate.

Finished

This documentary explores the life and death of Alan Lambert, a performer in gay pornography who knew his time as a hot com-



EMBRACE DIVERSITY



modity was limited and acted on this knowledge with a logic that led to his suicide at the age of 25. Shows with *The Fall of Communism as Seen in Gay Pornography*, a disturbing critique of the gay porn industry's infiltration into Eastern Europe. Q & A with director William E. Jones. Part of Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival 5. 5 p.m., Rice Media Center, University Blvd at Stanford, 713/527-9590, e-mail: hglff@cs.com, web: www.hglff.org, \$5; \$4 students, seniors and SWAMP members.

Women

A mysterious and attractive young woman enters the lives of Tom and Karen, a straight man and a lesbian who share a life-long friendship. When they discover their mutual attraction for the enigmatic stranger, they both agree not to see her again in an attempt to preserve their own relationship. However, when their desire becomes more than they can control, the former friends go all out to win over the girl of their dreams. Q & A with first-time director Maia Akiva. Part of Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival 5. 7 p.m., Rice Media Center, University Blvd. at Stanford, \$5; \$4 students, seniors, and SWAMP members, 713/527-9590, e-mail: hglff@cs.com, web: www.hglff.org.

Live Nude Girls Unite!

This documentary focuses on a strike by the director and her fellow exotic dancers and their fight with the California State Labor Board for the right to establish a strippers' union. Shows with *Home for Christmas*, a Norwegian short film. While her mother is preparing the Christmas turkey, Annie tells her she is a lesbian. Part of Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival 5. 9 p.m., Rice Media Center, University Blvd. at Stanford, 713/527-9590, e-mail: hglff@cs.com, web: www.hglff.org, \$5; \$4 students, seniors, and SWAMP members. →

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Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival 5 Closing Party Directors of films at Rice Media Center and DiverseWorks will be in attendance at this party, which features food, alcohol, and a DJ. 9:30-11:30 p.m., Rice Media Center, University Blvd. at Stanford, 713/527-9590, e-mail: hglff@cs.com, web: www.hglff.org.

Big Eden

See description Friday, June 1.

Glory Box

See description Friday, June 1.

SUNDAY, JUNE 3

Pride Day at Six Flags WaterWorld

Use the return ticket you received at Pride Day at Six Flags AstroWorld for a day in the sun and water: 11 a.m., Six Flags WaterWorld, 9001 Kirby at the 610 Loop, 713/529-6979.

Massillon

Director William E. Jones' astonishingly mature first feature is a beautifully contemplative cinematic poem on growing up gay in the Midwest. Over pastoral images of his hometown, Jones narrates intensely personal and at times painful recollections of growing up in conservative Ohio and his eventual misguided migration to California in search of a gay-friendly oasis. Part of Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival 5.5 p.m.,

Rice Media Center, University Blvd. at Stanford, 713/527-9590, e-mail: hglff@cs.com, web: www.hglff.org, \$5; \$4 students, seniors, and SWAMP members.

Just One Time

When New York City fireman Anthony reveals to his fiancée Amy his fantasy for a threesome with her and another woman, she reluctantly agrees after making him promise that he would do the same for her. To douse Anthony's burning desire, Amy enlists Victor, who makes no secret of his crush on Anthony. Part of Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival 5.7 p.m., Rice Media Center, University Blvd. at Stanford, 713/527-9590, e-mail: hglff@cs.com, web: www.hglff.org, \$5; \$4 students, seniors, and SWAMP members.

Not Love, Just Frenzy (Más que amor, frenesí)

See description Friday, June 1.

Big Eden

See description Friday, June 1.

MONDAY, JUNE 4

Lesbian and Gay Voices

Tune in for this magazine-format radio show featuring interviews with both local and national GLBT community leaders and ordinary activists. Each week's show includes a music segment, reviews of GLBT cultural events, and a few comments along the

A HUGE CELEBRATION OF LIFE, PEACE & LOVE

MATT LOCKLIN'S 40TH BIRTHDAY BBQ & DANCE



8 pm to Midnight
Sunday-June 17, 2001
202 Tuam Ave.

Please come celebrate with friends and relatives of this Montrose homeboy-done good. Join us as we honor 40 years of life and a decade of community service to the Houston Gay and AIDS communities. In lieu of gifts for Matt, the Birthday Daddy has requested that needed items or cash donations be made for the homeless residents of the Montrose Cottages emergency housing program. If you know him or have been helped by Matt you are invited - meal and entertainment provided. Celebration will be hosted in the spacious Club Nsomnia birthday & party rental hall.

Party Info: 713/522-6100

THE SEQUEL RETURNS ...THE REVENGE OF

MATT LOCKLIN'S 40TH BIRTHDAY #2 AFTERHOURS



2 AM-5 AM
Sunday Afterhours
202 Tuam Ave.

Our Birthday Daddy Honoree Matt Locklin has served Houston's Gay Community since moving back here in 1991. Director of The AIDS Housing Coalition Houston. CEO of Club Nsomnia Montrose Community hall. Co-founder and two time chairperson of the Thomas St. Health Center Council - AIDS Clinic. Elected Community Advocate on the Harris Co. Hospital District Council-of-Large. Award-winning TV Educational Host & Producer of AIDS Talk Houston TV & Montrose 77006 TV. Founder of the TLC Shelter Program and The Montrose Cottages. Former (D) Pct. Judge. Project LEAP Founding participant. Also served on PWACH and ROHA Board of Directors.

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way: 8-10 p.m., KPFT 90.1 FM, 713/526-4000, fax: 713/529-6929, e-mail: LGVoices@aol.com.

Big Eden

See description Friday, June 1.

• • • TUESDAY, JUNE 5 • • •

Lost and Delirious

Paula, Tori, and Mary (Mouse) are the best of friends at a prestigious boarding school where each helps the other overcome the inherent pains of academic routine, homesickness, and first love. When Paula and Tori's feelings toward each other become romantic, Mouse becomes their confessor and accomplice until the lovers are discovered and she must choose between succumbing to the immovable conventions of society and remaining a loyal friend. Part of Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival 5. 7 p.m., Rice Media Center, University Blvd. at Stanford, 713/527-9590, e-mail: hgff@cs.com, web: www.hgff.org, \$5; \$4 students, seniors, and SWAMP members.

Big Eden

See description Friday, June 1.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6

Live Nude Girls Unite!

See description Saturday, June 2.

Just One Time

See description Sunday, June 3.

Big Eden

See description Friday, June 1.

• • • THURSDAY, JUNE 7 • • •

Remembering the NAMES

View 12'x12' blocks of the AIDS Memorial Quilt honoring local residents; learn about the quilt & how to schedule a quilt display for your school, community group, or company. 5:30-9 p.m., NAMES Project Houston, 4617 Montrose, Suite C-140, 713/526-2637, e-mail: nphinfo@namesproject.org, web: www.namesproject.org. The "Remembering the NAMES" exhibit is on display June 7-28, Thursdays, 5:30-9 p.m.; Saturdays & Sundays, 1-5 p.m.

Reception for Grand Marshals

Join the Stonewall Lawyers Association of Greater Houston and special guests in honoring the 2001 Pride

Parade grand marshals, honorary grand marshals, and honorary grand marshal organization. Proceeds benefit Stonewall Lawyers and PFLAG-Houston. 6:30-9 p.m., Sonoma, 1415 California, 713/779-8441, e-mail: nechlaw@bigfoot.com. Attire semi-casual. \$5, students free with ID.

Big Eden

See description Friday, June 1.

• • • SATURDAY, JUNE 9 • • •

Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride 5K Fun Run/Walk

The Houston Montrose Athletic Association hosts this 3.1-mile race. Proceeds benefit AssistHers. 7:30 a.m., Memorial Drive at Sabine St., 713/874-1686, web: www.geocities.com/houstonpride5k/index.html. \$15 after June 1; pre-registration available.

Remembering the NAMES

See description Thursday, June 7.

• • • SUNDAY, JUNE 10 • • •

Family Storytime

Family storytime is sponsored by the

GLBT Interest Group of the Texas Library Association and includes books featuring non-traditional families such as *Heather Has Two Mommies*, *Daddy's Roommate* and other titles. The public is invited to this outreach to families with GLBT parents. 2 p.m., Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne, 713/466-4438, e-mail: vschill@hcpl.net, web: www.txla.org/groups/glbti.html. Donations welcome.

Annual Interfaith Pride Worship

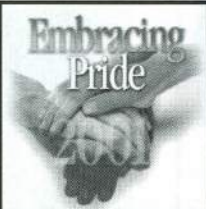
This interfaith workshop service celebrates gay and lesbian spirituality. 7 p.m., First Unitarian Universalist Church, 5200 Fannin, 281/463-7891, e-mail: vschill@hcpl.net.

• • • MONDAY, JUNE 11 • • •

Mayoral Liaison Forum

Janine Brunjes, Mayor Lee Brown's liaison to the GLBT community, hosts her monthly public meeting open to everyone. 5-6:30 p.m., Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne, 713/524-3718, e-mail: hlcc@hotmail.com, web: www.hlcc.org. A moderated online

Pictures of Pride



Freddie Rios. Age: 21. Occupation: Office manager. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. What part of town do you live in?: Southwest. What word or phrase would you

invent to describe our diverse community?: Sisters. What color of the rainbow do you identify with?: Blue. Where do you feel at home being gay?: At home with my friends. What's the gayest thing about you?: My voice. Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island?: Jason Ben.

Brian Bartlett. Age: 23. Occupation: Bartender at Pacific Street. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. What part of town do you live in?: Memorial. What word or phrase would you invent to describe our diverse community?: Montrose. What color



of the rainbow do you identify with?: Blue. Where do you feel at home being gay?: Everywhere. What's the gayest thing about you?: Often change my hair color. Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island?: DJ Limey.



Kevin Fierro. Age: 35. Occupation: Flight attendant. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. What part of town do you live in?: Northside. What word or phrase would you invent to describe our diverse

community?: Queer pro quo. What color of the rainbow do you identify with?: Orange. Where do you feel at home being gay?: Vancouver, Canada. What's the gayest thing about you?: My boyfriend. Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island?: David.



John Coulter. Age: 45. Occupation: In transition—former banker. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. What part of town do you live in?: Southwest. What word or phrase can you invent to describe our

diverse community?: Wonderful. What color of the rainbow do you identify with?: Yellow. Where do you feel at home being gay?: Everywhere. What's the gayest thing about you?: Voice and mannerisms. Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island?: Will Truman.

Stephen Dubay. Age: 44. Occupation: Business owner. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. What part of town do you live in?: Montrose 77006. What word or phrase can you invent to describe our diverse community?: Perfect.



What color of the rainbow do you identify with?: Red. Where do you feel at home being gay?: EPAA. Gayest moment this year?: RSVP cruise. Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island?: My husband.

chat with Brunjes follows on Wednesday, June 13, 9:30-10:30 p.m. at www.talkcity.com in the GLBTForum room.

Dreamweavers: The Craft of Writing Fiction

This new group open to all fiction writers focuses on pride-inspired work this month. 6:30-8:30 p.m., Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne, 713/524-3718, e-mail: hlgcc@hotmail.com, web: www.hlgcc.org, \$5 donation.

Lesbian and Gay Voices

See description Monday, June 4.

TUESDAY, JUNE 12

2001 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 organizations submitting a parade entry application with a late fee. 7 p.m., Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 W Gray, 713/529-6979, fax: 713/529-6929, e-mail: info@pridehouston.org, web: www.pridehouston.org.

THURSDAY, JUNE 14

GCAM Time Capsule

Tonight, the Gulf Coast Archive & Museum of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender History will begin

collecting small objects and paper items for a time capsule to be opened in 25 years. Collecting will continue throughout the year and the time capsule will be sealed at Empower 2001 in October. GCAM encourages everyone to bring something to be placed in the time capsule. 7-10 p.m., Gulf Coast Archive & Museum, 1609 W. Main #4, 713/227-5973, e-mail: info@gcam.org, web: www.gcam.org. Donations welcome.

FRIDAY, JUNE 15

Ranglers' Annual Pride Ride

Skip the traffic and ride the Rainbow Ranglers' chartered bus as we visit five Montrose-area bars. The bus departs from and returns to the Brazos River Bottom. In between are stops at El J's, Mary's, Chances, and The New Barn. Attendees must be over 21 and valid IDs are required. 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m., Brazos River Bottom, 2400 Brazos, 713/524-9500, e-mail: h2k@rainbowranglers.org, web: www.rainbowranglers.org, \$5. Proceeds benefit Rainbow Ranglers Dance Club.

Lesbians United in Coalition Potluck

LUC celebrates pride with a potluck. Hot dogs and sodas are provided. 7-9 p.m., Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne, 713/524-3818. Donations welcome. Proceeds benefit Lesbians United in Coalition and the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center.

A Buddhist Approach to Achieving Victory Over Homophobia

Discrimination is a form of violence. Any form of violence, whether active or passive, is harmful to the individual and to our society. SGI-USA-Houston, an American Buddhist organization whose members support and believe in the inherent value of all life, presents a Buddhist approach to achieving victory over homophobia and the video story of Trevor, a gay youth dealing with homosexuality, rejection, and homophobia. This video was written by an SGI member and became an Academy Award-winning story. An open dialogue will follow our presentation. 7 p.m., SGI-USA-Houston, 3465 W. Alabama, Suite B, 713/622-6181, e-mail: boricuajp@netzero.net, web: www.sgi-usa.org.

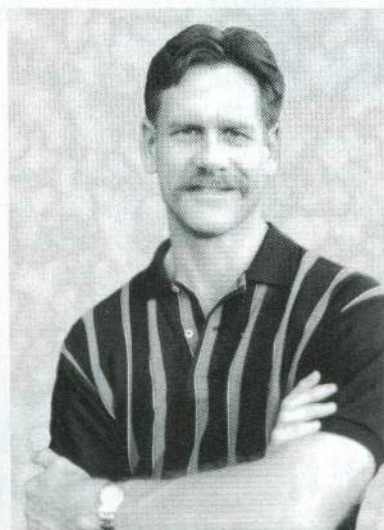


EuPHONEia

Enjoy an evening of live acoustic music performances by Kristi Rae and Joel Stein and Bocados' food and drinks. 8:30-11 p.m., Bocados, 1312 W. Alabama, 713/529-3211, e-mail: mcc@neosoft.com, web: www.gayswitchboardhouston.org, \$10. Proceeds benefit the Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston.

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• • • • • **SATURDAY, JUNE 16** • • • • •

Fifth Annual Houston Billiard Open

The Independent Billiard League of Houston sponsors this annual pool tournament to help raise money for local community organizations. This year's beneficiary is the Montrose Clinic. The tournament is an amateur event open to everyone. Noon, Slick Willies, 1200 Westheimer, 713/522-4814, e-mail: mds@ev1.net, web: www.iblhouston.net. \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door; pre-registration available.

Ranglers' Day of Dance Country

Join the Rainbow Ranglers for three hours of dance

workshops devoted to beginning-level two-step, waltz, shuffle, and swing. No partner is required. Attendees must be 21 and up and may drop in at any time during the event. Leather-soled shoes are recommended. 3-6 p.m., Brazos River Bottom, 2400 Brazos, 713/524-9500, e-mail: h2k@rainbowranglers.org, web: www.rainbowranglers.org.

"That's Entertainment"

The Gay Men's Chorus of Houston shares the stage with the Capital City Men's Chorus of Austin to perform many of your film favorites. Purchase advance

tickets by phone at 800/494-8497 or 877/833-8497 (TDD). 8 p.m., the Kaplan Theater of the Jewish Community Center, 5601 South Braeswood, 713/521-7464, e-mail: info@gmch.org, web: www.gmch.org. Also Sunday, June 17, 3 p.m. \$18 adults, \$10 juniors (under 20) and seniors (over 60).

• • • • • **SUNDAY, JUNE 17** • • • • •

"That's Entertainment"

See description Saturday, June 16.

Dinner at the Center

The Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center celebrates pride with a potluck supper open to everyone in the GLBT family. Bring your favorite dish and nosh with friends while enjoying some live dinner music. 6-8 p.m., Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne, 713/524-3818, e-mail: hlccc@hotmail.com, web: www.hlccc.org. Donations welcome. Proceeds benefit the community center.

• • • • • **MONDAY, JUNE 18** • • • • •

Pride Parade Grand Marshal Reception

Join the Imperial Court of Houston as we salute grand marshals Mitchell Katine, Dalia Stokes, Blake and Gordon Weisser, and PFLAG-Houston. 7 p.m., Guava Lamp, 2159 Portsmouth, 713/529-3482, e-mail: heir21@aol.com. Attire semi-casual.

A Stroll through GLBT History with Ray Hill

The celebrated nationally known activist/playwright/raconteur appears in the world premier of his latest performance piece. 7:30-9 p.m., Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne, 713/524-3818. \$10. Proceeds benefit the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center. Seating is limited.

Lesbian and Gay Voices

See description Monday, June 4.

• • • • • **TUESDAY, JUNE 19** • • • • •

Ranglers' Night of Dance Country

See description Saturday, June 16.




Parade/Festival Volunteer Orientation



Pulling off the annual nighttime Pride Parade and the Pride Festival wouldn't be possible without the help of dozens of volunteer parade marshals and festival staff. Individuals who would like to volunteer are requested to attend this meeting to prepare for the big weekend of pride. 7 p.m., Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 W. Gray, 713/529-6979, e-mail: info@pridehouston.org, web: www.pridehouston.org.

Sing 2001

Celebrate the spirit with a variety of Christian musical performances and readings. 7:30 p.m., Community Gospel Church, 4305 Lillian, 713/880-9235, www.communitygospel.org. Pre-registration required.

Healing Houston's Gay & Lesbian Community

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• • • • • **THURSDAY, JUNE 21** • • • • •

Human Rights Campaign Pride Celebration

Anyone interested in the work of HRC is invited to this informal gathering; features a cash bar, complimentary hors d'oeuvres, and a self-hosted dinner: 6–10 p.m., Farrago, 318 Gray at Bagby, 713/526-2903, e-mail: robertcreeves@aol.com, web: www.hrc.org.

"Whosoever . . ."

This art program affirms being gay (GLBT) and Christian and serves as a catalyst for promoting an effective voice for social change for all. On display Thu. & Fri., 6–10 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m.–3 p.m.; Sun., 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Resurrection MCC, 2025 West 11th St at TC Jester, 713/861-9149, e-mail: mccr@neosoft.com.

Ranglers' Night of Line Dances

See description Saturday, June 16.

Nancy Ford's Dyke Show

Join Nancy Ford and the Vulvamatics for a very special Pride 2001 Dyke Show with drink specials, giveaways, and special guests from the community. 9 p.m.–midnight, N Between, 1100 Westheimer, 713/521-5822, e-mail: txtrihoust@aol.com.

• • • • • **FRIDAY, JUNE 22** • • • • •

Parade Eve

This community center open house features wine

and hors d'oeuvres followed by a screening of the 1996 film *Stonewall* hosted by Lesbian Film Night. 7–10, Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne, 713/524-3818, e-mail: hlccc@hotmail.com, web: www.hlgcc.org. Donations welcome. Proceeds benefit the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center.

• • • • • **SATURDAY, JUNE 23** • • • • •

Pre-Pride T-Dance

Come park and dance before the Pride Parade. 2–8:30 p.m., Sonoma, 1415 California, 713/522-7066, e-mail: longboy@howdy.net.

Parade Party at Katz Deli

Have a great view of the Pride Parade while raising money for AIDS Foundation Houston and the Pride Committee of Houston. Ticket includes food and drink with a cash bar. Purchase tickets at Katz or charge by phone. 6–11 p.m., Katz Deli & Bar, 616 Westheimer, 713/623-6796, e-mail: kellyk@aahouston.org, web: www.aidshep.org. \$30 pre-paid, \$40 at the door; pre-registration available.

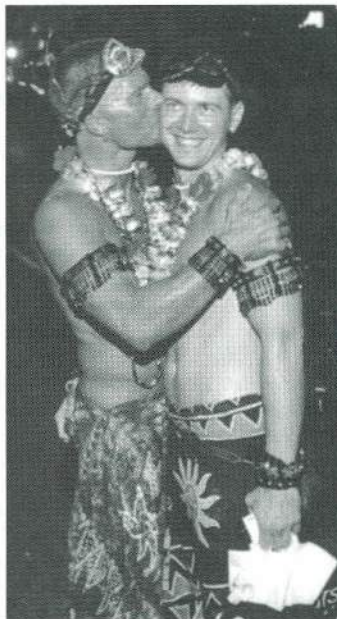
2001 Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride Parade

Join 150,000 under the glow of an 8 1/2-foot disco ball at the fifth annual nighttime Pride Parade, the largest GLBT event in the Southwest. 8:45–11 p.m., Westheimer, Woodhead to Whitney, 713/529-6979, e-mail: info@pridehouston.org, web: www.pridehouston.org.

• • • • • **SUNDAY, JUNE 24** • • • • •

2001 Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride Festival

The Pride Festival returns after a long five-year hiatus. Come experience the local GLBT culture first-hand. Speak with club representatives, shop the vendor bazaar, enjoy the artists and entertainers, and be energized by motivational speeches. Most of all, participate and meet other members of our "family" on a lazy Sunday afternoon. Tickets are available at Basic Brothers (1232 Westheimer) or by mail from the Pride Committee of Houston, P.O. Box 66071, Houston, TX, 77266-6071. 1–7 p.m., Garden in the Heights, 3926 Feagan, 713/529-6979, e-mail:



Pictures of Pride



Mitch Rainey. Age: 36. Occupation: Ultrasonographer. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. What part of town do you live in?: Sugar Land. What color of the rainbow do you identify

with?: Yellow. Where do you feel at home being gay?: Anywhere. Gayest moment this year?: Pride Day. Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island?: Dan DiDonato.

Dan DiDonato. Age: 42. Occupation: Graphic arts. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. What part of town do you live in?: Montrose. What word or phrase can you invent to describe our diverse community?: Delightfully diverse. What color of the rainbow do you identify



with?: Indigo. Where do you feel at home being gay?: Montrose. Gayest moment this year?: Pride Day. Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island?: Brad Pitt.



Dwayne Ross. Age: 33. Occupation: Events manager, Magnolia Ballroom. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay (and single). Thumbs up, or thumbs down?: *Queer As Folk*: Thumbs down—more gay actors need to be playing gay parts. Come out! Come out! *Will & Grace*: Great. Lighthearted. I relate to Jack best. Pet peeve?: Telemarketing. Favorite vice?: Sleeping in late. Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island?: Steve Martin, Matt Damon, Jude Law, Rosie O'Donnell. In the movie of your life, what movie star would portray you?: George Clooney—I should look so good. What would the title of the movie be?: *It's a Wonderful Life, Part 2*.



Cary Hensley. Age: 29. Occupation: Bartender. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. What part of town do you live in?: Montrose. What word or phrase can you invent to describe our diverse community?:

Perfect. What color of the rainbow

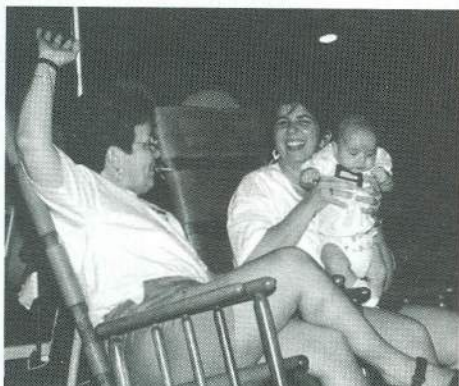
do you identify with?: Blue. Where do you feel at home being gay?: Montrose. Gayest moment this year?: New Year's Eve, bartending at Pacific Street. Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island?: Chris Durst—sexiest man alive.

Rosemary Rey. Age: 24. Occupation: Servant. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Bisexual. What part of town do you live in?: Where do you think? Montrose. What word or phrase can you invent to describe our diverse community?: GLBT sounds like a sandwich, so I like "queer." What color of the rainbow do you identify with?: Red, because it's a vaginal color. Where do you feel at home being gay?: Pink Pussycat Cabaret. What's the gayest thing about you?: My backpack is super gay. Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island?: Tia Pouthabong.





info@pridehouston.org, web: www.pridehouston.org,
\$10 advance/\$12 at the gate.



MONDAY, JUNE 25

Lesbian and Gay Voices

Tune in for this magazine-format radio show featuring interviews with both local and national GLBT community leaders and ordinary activists. Each week's show includes a music segment, reviews of GLBT cultural events, and a few comments along the way. 8-10 p.m., KPFT 90.1 FM, 713/526-4000, fax: 713/529-6929, e-mail: LGVoices@aol.com.

Dreamweavers: The Craft of Writing Fiction

This new group open to all fiction writers focuses on pride-inspired work this month. 6:30-8:30 p.m., Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne, 713/524-3718, e-mail: hlccc@hotmail.com, web: www.hlccc.org. \$5 donation.

THURSDAY, JUNE 28

Key West

Tonight's special performance of this mad-cap, gay male generational comedy benefits the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center. Key West is a frothy, fun, perfect summer bonbon that runs 8 p.m., Fri. & Sat., June 29-August 18, Theater New West at Sonoma, 1415 California. \$25 benefit, \$20 regular performances, 713/522-2204, e-mail: joeleewatts@aol.com.

SATURDAY, JUNE 30

Tootsie Benefit Screening

Hollywood Frame Gallery presents this showing of the great Dustin Hoffman/Jessica Lange picture to benefit the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center. 7:30 p.m., Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne, 713/524-3818. Donations welcome.

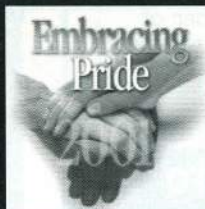
WEDNESDAY, JULY 4

Ranglers' Annual 4th of July Boots & Boxers Ball

Think it's too hot to dance? Check your clothes and check out those boxers! A contest will be held for the best, worst, and most patriotic boxers. 8:30-10:30 p.m., Brazos River Bottom, 2400 Brazos, 713/524-9500, e-mail: h2k@rainbowranglers.org, web: www.rainbowranglers.org. ■

Pictures of Pride

Embracing
Pride



Val Rodela. Age: 35. Occupation: Bartender. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. Thumbs up, or thumbs down? *Queer As Folk*: Up. *Oz*: Up. *Will & Grace*: Up. Pet peeve?: Nontipping customers Favorite vice?: Handcuffs. Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island?: John Travolta. In the movie about your life, what movie star would portray you?: Jack

Nicholson. What would the title of the movie be?: *Bartender Extraordinaire*.

Jeremiah Mercer. Age: 22. Occupation: Bartender. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Straight curious! Thumbs up, or thumbs down? *Queer As Folk*: Up. *Oz*: Down. *Will & Grace*: Up. Favorite vice?: Typeblue eyes, blond hair, swim build. Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island?: Hmmmm, good question... Brad Renfro. In the movie about your life, what movie star would portray you?: Brad Renfro. What would the title of the movie be?: *Coming Home & Leaving ASAP*.



Patrick F. Age: 37. Occupation: Consultant. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. Thumbs up, or thumbs down? *Will & Grace*: Up, love it. Favorite vice?: X. Pet peeve?: Liars, losers, and lousy kissers. Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island?: Sheryl Crow or my niece Carol Barnett. In the movie about your life, what movie star would portray you?: George Clooney or Hilary Swank. What

would the title of the movie be?: *Don't Cry for Me Pasadena*.

Conrad Hernandez. Age: 34. Occupation: Sales. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. Thumbs up, or thumbs down? *Queer As Folk*: Thumbs up. *Oz*: Thumbs up. *Will & Grace*: Thumbs up. Pet peeve?: Rude people. Favorite vice?: Vodka. Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island?: Stephen. In the movie of your life, what what would the title of the movie be?: *Me Me*.



Stephen Haddock. Age: 42. Occupation: Chef. Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, or Straight?: Gay. Thumbs up, or thumbs down? *Queer As Folk*: Thumbs up, gets better every week. *Oz*: Thumbs down, seen one, seen them all. *Will & Grace*: Thumbs up, fab! Pet peeve?: Mean people. Favorite vice?: Ice cream. Who would you like to be stranded with on a desert island?: My partner Conrad. In the movie of your life, what movie star would portray you?: Montgomery

Clift. What would the title of the movie be?: *It's My Life*.

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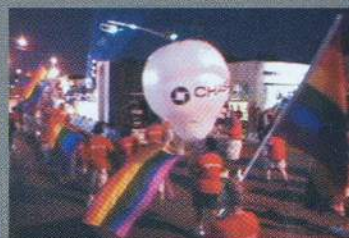
"We've been sel



At Chase, we believe in the power of diversity. That's why we support organizations and events that embrace diversity and help build strong communities. Here are a few community events and organizations we proudly support throughout the year.



AIDS Foundation Houston (AFH) • AIDS Walk Houston in Partnership with Chase • American Indian Heritage Month • Amigos Volunteers In Education & Service (AVES) • Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month • Bering and Friends



• Black History Month • Bringin' In The Green • Camp Hope • Camp Hug • Center for AIDS • Chase Global Day of Service • Disability Employment Awareness Month • DISHES on Ice • Diversity Summit and Career Fair • Empower • Foundation for Interfaith Research and Ministry (FIRM) • Friendly Haven • Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) • Gay & Lesbian Pride Month • Gay & Lesbian Pride Parade • Gulf Coast Archive and Museum (GCAM) of GLBT History, Inc. • Hispanic Heritage Month • The Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce • Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (HATCH) • Houston Black Tie Dinner • Houston Gay and Lesbian Film Festival • Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents (HGLP) • Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center • Montrose Counseling Center • Older Americans Month • Parents Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) • PFLAG/HATCH Youth Scholarship Foundation • Pride Committee of Houston, Inc. • Stone Soup • Texas Lesbian Conference • UNCF Walk • Women's Business Initiative • Women's History Month • World AIDS Day • Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride 2001.



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Photos by Dorian Dwyer