

NOW IN OUR 10th YEAR
Houston's gay, lesbian, bi, and trans magazine
JUNE 2003 • COMPLIMENTARY

Out ▼ Smart

TRUE COLORS



The original 8-hue rainbow flag inspires 10 pages of Pride portraits

Choices, Choices! See Our June Guide



Dad Is Out: Interview with B.D. Wong



TRUE COLORS

Photography by David Lewis

The restored hues of the rainbow flag inspire our Pride 2003 portfolio

Twenty-five years ago, a flag with eight color bars fluttered for the first time over San Francisco. Glenn Baker made that proud pennant, which became the internationally known emblem for our people — but with six bars after subsequent flag makers dropped two of the colors.

For the silver anniversary of his creation, Baker has restored the rainbow flag to the original design. He and a team are crafting a massive version, nearly 1 1/2 miles long and 16 feet wide, which will unfurl at Key West Pride on June 15, stretching from the Gulf of Mexico to the Atlantic. Segments of Baker's flag will travel this month to Pride

celebrations across the United States, including the Houston parade.

We salute the colors. On the next 10 pages, the classic rainbow flag hues accent portraits of men and women from the vibrant, multi-everything community — remarkable, ram-bunctious, occasionally irritating — that we know. We are the rainbow.

ANDY MILLS

Retired, Mary's Manager 1976-1985
Pride Parade Grand Marshal, 1982
Founding Director, Montrose Singers
Founding Director, Montrose Symphonic Band
Bayou Blue



MARION COLEMAN

House of Coleman
Pride Parade Grand Marshal, 1982
Diana Foundation
Log Cabin Republicans
A Christmas Songfest
Kindred Spirits Reunion
Houston Challenge Foundation

David Lewis

olio

10 pages,
portraits
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PERRIE DOLPH

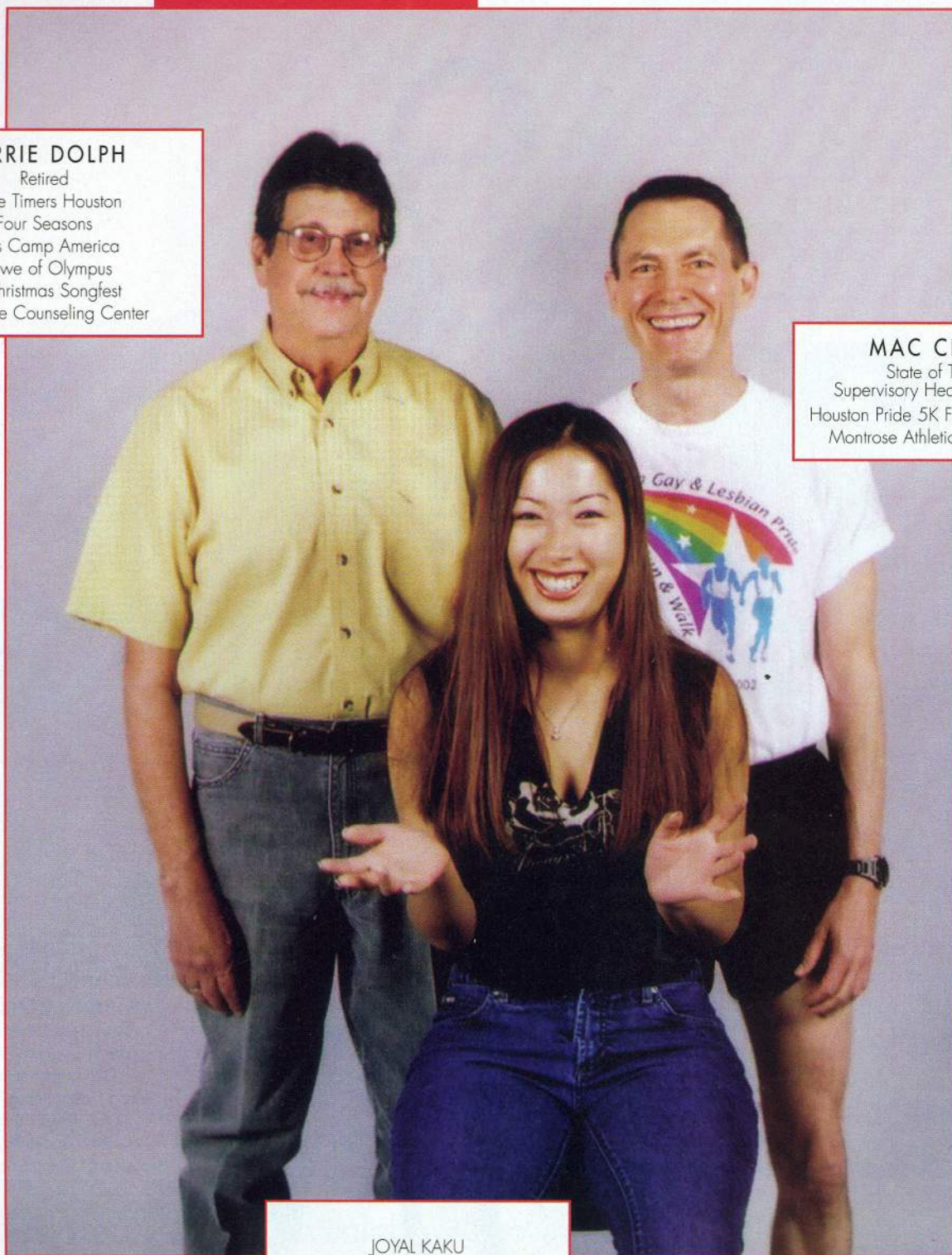
Retired
Prime Timers Houston
Four Seasons
Miss Camp America
Krewe of Olympus
A Christmas Songfest
Montrose Counseling Center

MAC CRONE

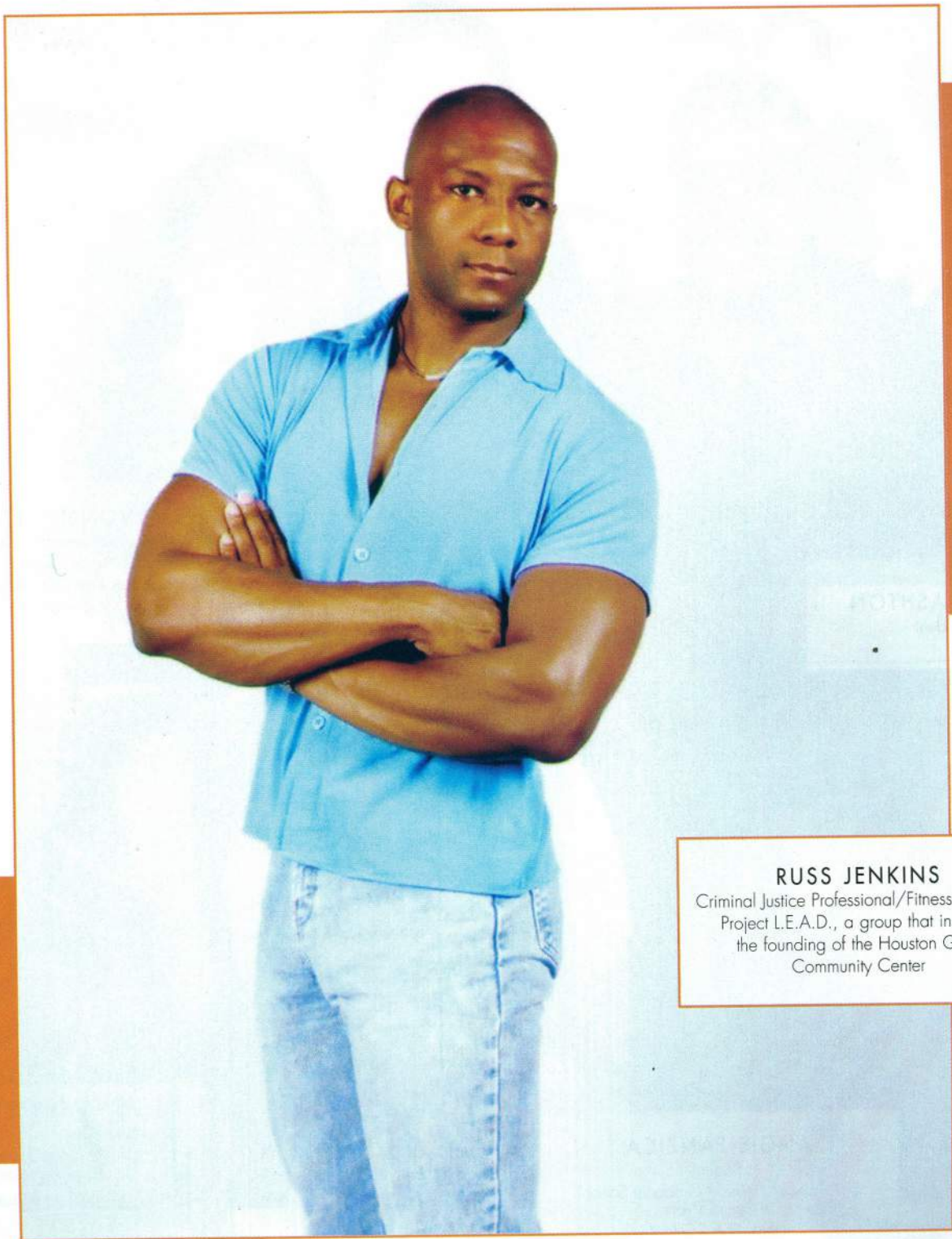
State of Texas
Supervisory Hearing Officer
Houston Pride 5K Fun Run & Walk
Montrose Athletic Association

JOYAL KAKU

Student and Restaurant Worker



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& Walk
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RUSS JENKINS
Criminal Justice Professional/Fitness Instructor
Project L.E.A.D., a group that inspired
the founding of the Houston GLBT
Community Center



REBECCA MAHAFFEY

Administrative Assistant
and Student
Bewitched Ball
Leisure & Arts Promoting Healing/LAAPH
Pride Committee of Houston

DIANA ASHTON

Student

YVONNE FEECE

Photographer and Student
Bewitched Ball
Leisure & Arts Promoting Healing/LAAPH
Pride Committee of Houston

ANGIE PANZICA

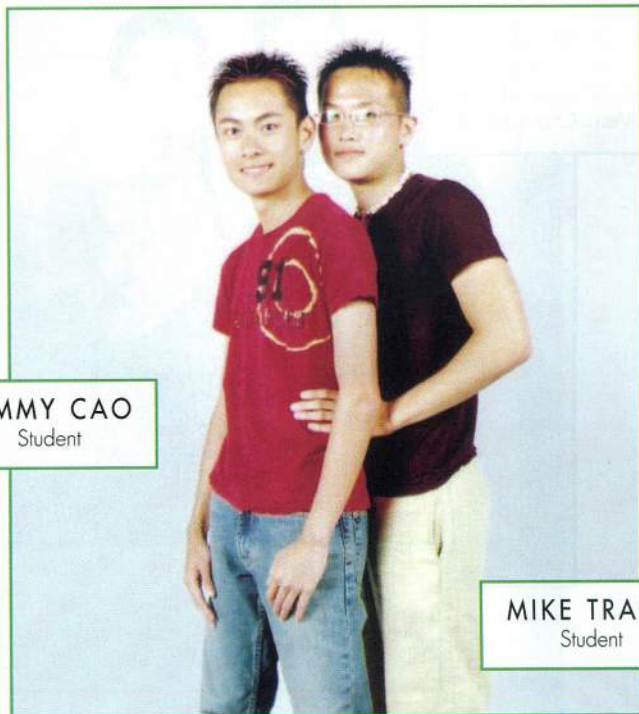
Student
University of Houston Graduate School
of Social Work
Intern, H.A.T.C.H./
Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals

CE
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ouston



JESSICA VAN SHELTON

Female Impersonator
Imperial Court of Houston-Space City Empire
PAWS/Pets Are Wonderful Support
Jessica performs as Cher in a July 12
PAWS benefit at EJ's.



TIMMY CAO
Student

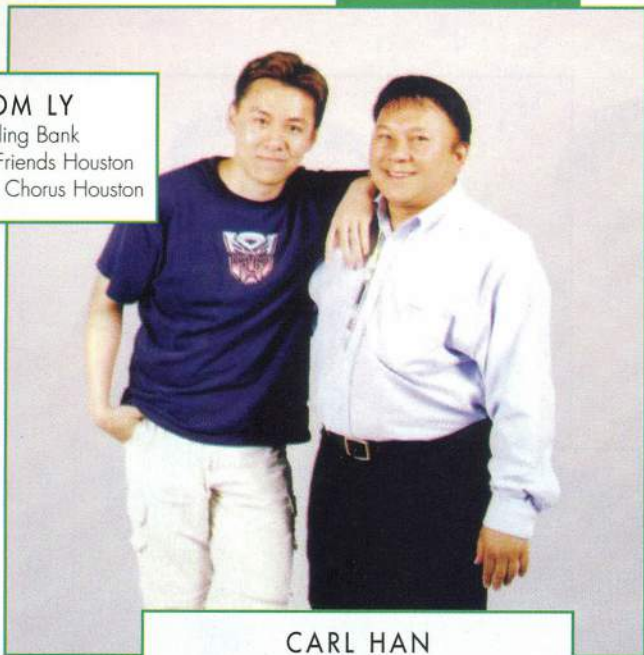
MIKE TRANS
Student



RON HELAIRE

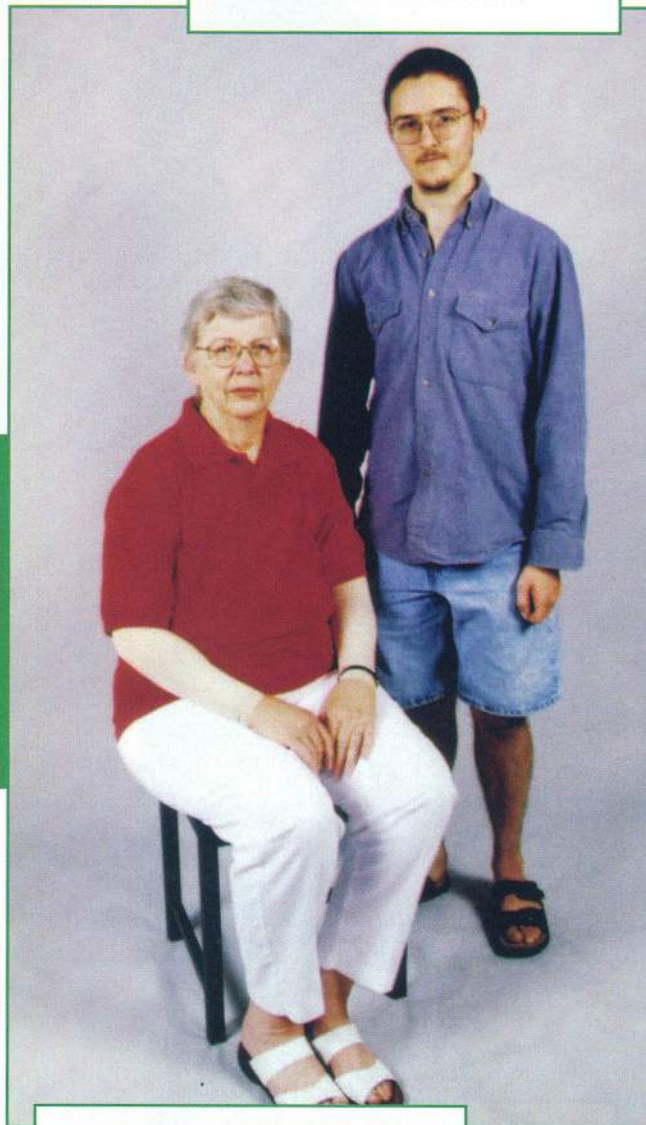
Technology Manager
Human Rights Campaign National Business Council

TOM LY
Sterling Bank
Asians & Friends Houston
Gay Men's Chorus Houston

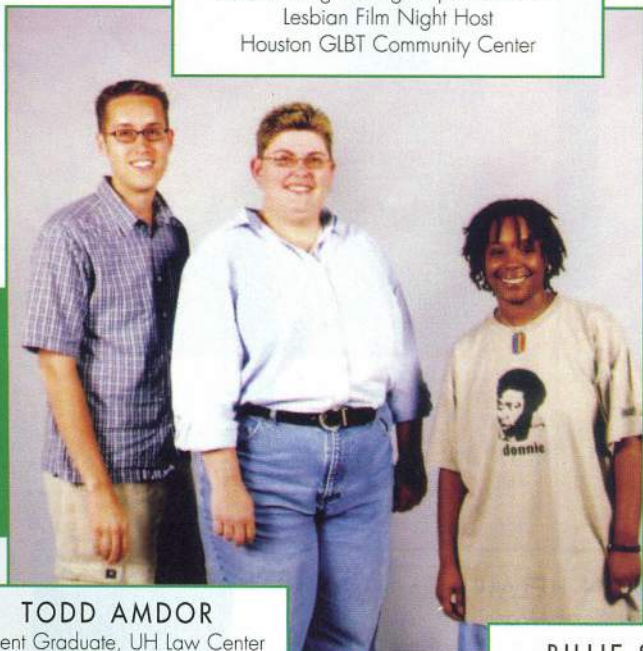


CARL HAN
Discopen.com
Vietnamese & Multilingual Translation Service
Asians & Friends Houston

BRIAN M. CARLSON
Student
H.A.T.C.H./Houston Area Teen
Coalition of Homosexuals



CINDY HAMMACK
Offshore Engineering Project Scheduler
Lesbian Film Night Host
Houston GLBT Community Center



TODD AMDOR
Recent Graduate, UH Law Center
Texas Human Rights Foundation
Hollyfield Foundation

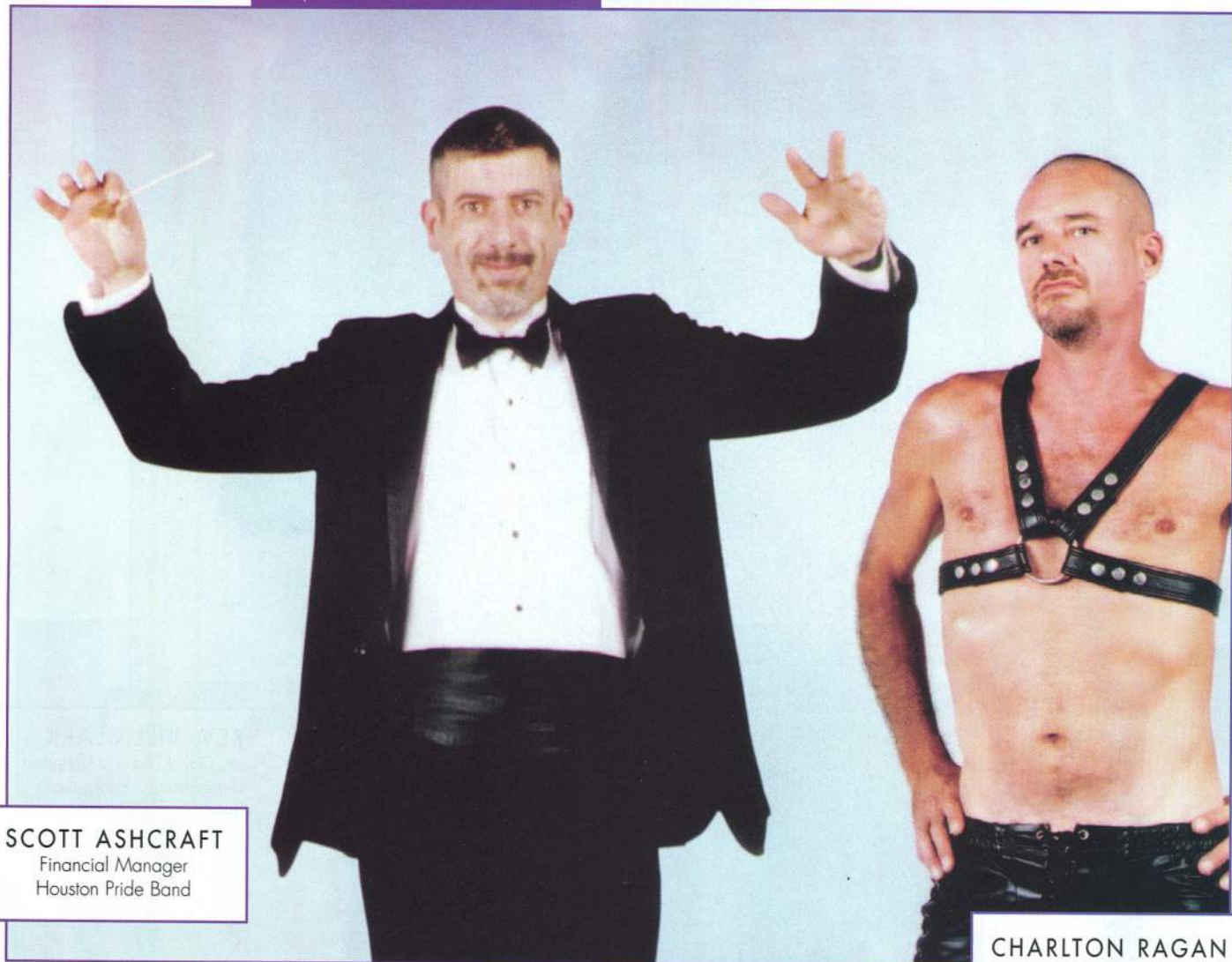
ARDEN EVERSMEYER
Retired
LOAF/Lesbians Over Age Fifty
OLCC/Old Lesbians Creating Change
Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project

BILLIE SIMON
Poet and Writer
Appletree Publishing



JUDY REEVES
Gulf Coast Archive & Museum of GLBT History
Imperial Court of Houston-Space City Empire
Theatre Suburbia

REV. BILL CLARK
Henry David Thoreau Unitarian
Universalist Congregation

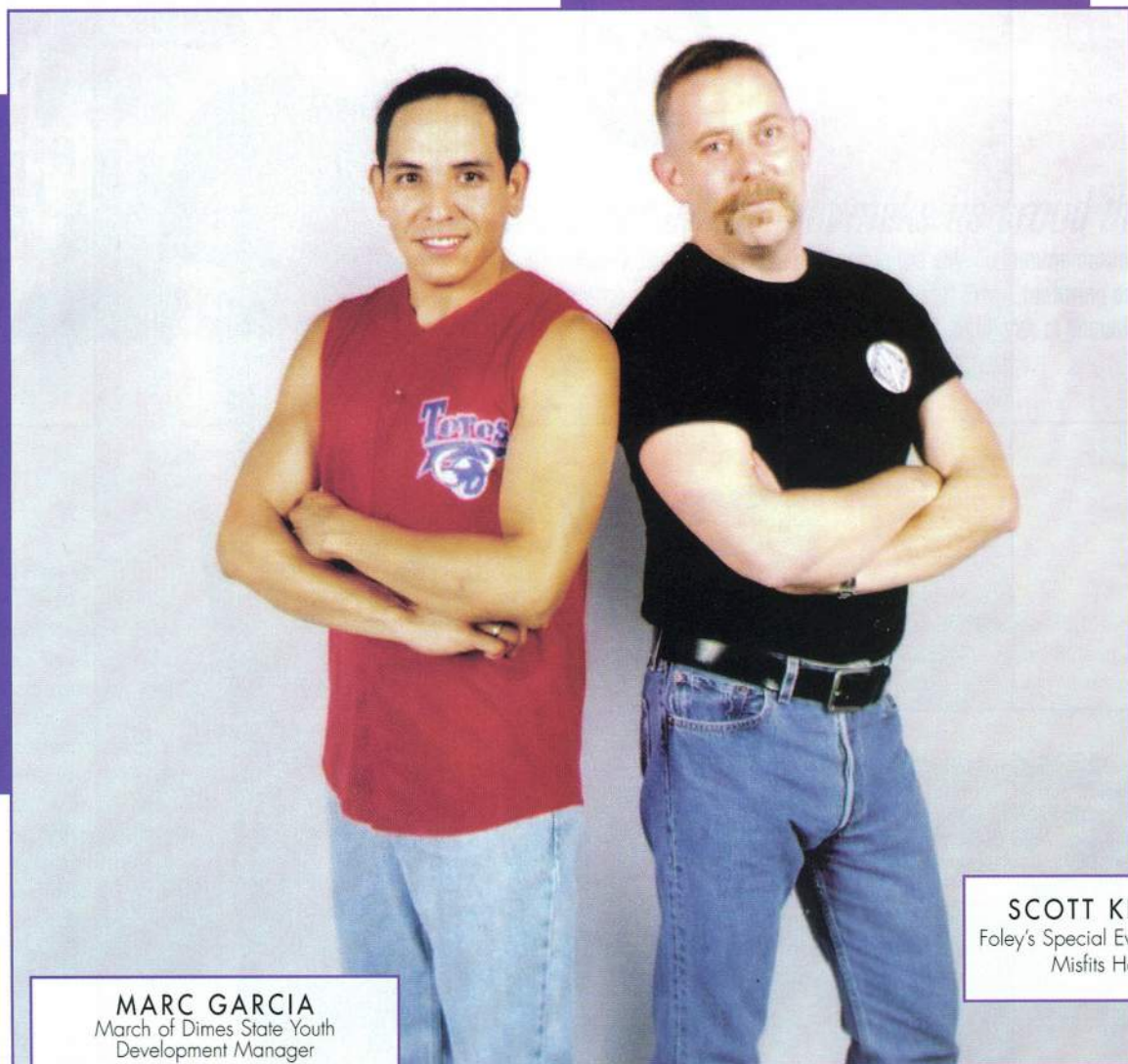


SCOTT ASHCRAFT
Financial Manager
Houston Pride Band

CHARLTON RAGAN
Retired Steelworker
Houston Pride Band

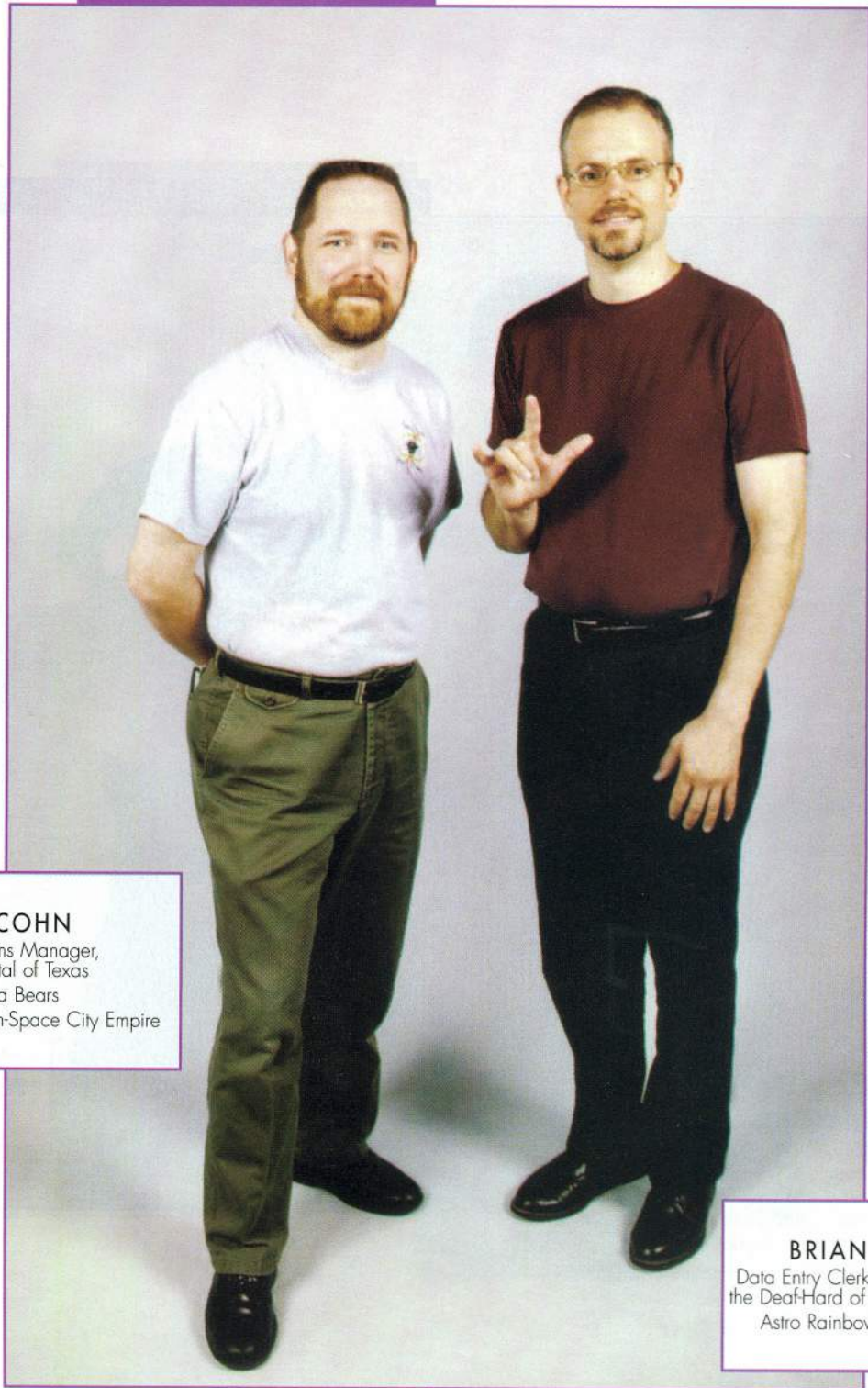


RAGAN
elworker
ide Band



MARC GARCIA
March of Dimes State Youth
Development Manager
Houston GLBT Community Center
Montrose Softball League

SCOTT KENYON
Foley's Special Events Manager
Misfits Houston



ROBERT COHN

Information Systems Manager,
Woman's Hospital of Texas
Houston Area Bears
Imperial Court of Houston-Space City Empire

BRIAN DETERMAN

Data Entry Clerk and Health Educator for
the Deaf-Hard of Hearing, Montrose Clinic
Astro Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf

For details on the history and restoration of the rainbow flag, check out www.rainbow25.org.

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WE LIKE A PARADE IN JUNE

And the other events that make us proud this month

This year marks the 25th year of Pride parades in the city. To commemorate the milestone, the Pride Committee of Houston has planned 25 Days of Pride, featuring events presented by a range of community groups. Here, we present a few highlights of committee-designated "official" events. See page 47 for more Pride month activities.

① Kickoff Party

Friday, June 6, 7-10 p.m.

The Pride Committee will honor individuals who have served as parade grand marshals over the past quarter century—and who are collectively the 2003 grand marshals. The Lady Chablis, who gained national fame when she appeared in *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, will attend the event (Heritage Hall, JPMorgan Chase Building, 707 Travis). Free (donations for the Pride Committee accepted). www.pridehouston.org

② Fitness Exchange Health & Fitness Fair

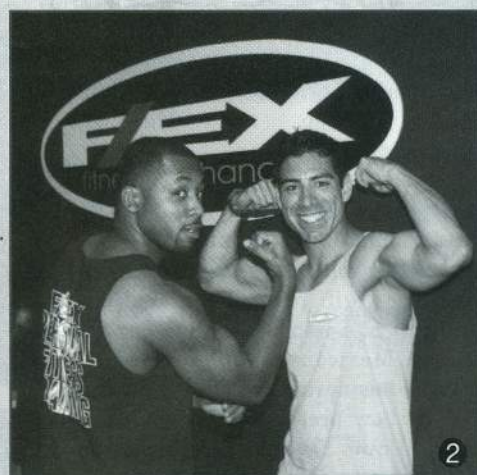
Saturday, June 7, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

The gym in Montrose (4040 Milam) will mark 25 years in business with complimentary health screenings and displays from community health professionals and Houston Buyers Club. Free. Fitness Exchange members are invited to a June 8 party at South Beach. www.fitnessexchange.cc

Concert in the Park

Sunday, June 8, 2 p.m.

The Houston Pride Band will celebrate its 25th-anniversary year with an afternoon of music in Woodrow Wilson Park (Fairview at Yupon). The band will serve ice cream and collect items for Stone Soup Pantry. Free. www.houstonprideband.org



Grand Marshal Reception

Monday, June 9, 7-9 p.m.

The Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star of Houston honors the parade grand marshals of the past 25 years at Chances (1100 Westheimer). www.rsicss.org →

MAN

an Educator for
Montrose Clinic
of the Deaf



1 Civil Rights Celebration

Friday, June 13, 7-9:30 p.m.

Lambda Legal will host an evening to celebrate the U.S. Supreme Court case against the Homosexual Conduct Law. The event at Meteor (2306 Genesee) will feature Lambda legal director Ruth Harlow and entertainment by Jimmy James and Jerry Atwood's Funky Cabaret. \$35 at the door, \$25 in advance. www.lambdalegal.org

2 LHI Rainbow Health Fair

Saturday, June 14, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Lesbian Health Initiative will offer free mammograms by appointment and other health screenings at no cost or minimal cost at Montrose Clinic (215 Westheimer). www.lhihouston.org

Community Law Day

Saturday, June 14, noon-5 p.m.

More than 20 individuals from the Stonewall Law Association of Greater Houston will address a variety of legal matters throughout the afternoon at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church (1440 Harold). www.slagh.org

3 Cuerpos Calientes y Comida

Wednesday, June 18, 7-10 p.m.

AVES (Amigos Volunteers Education and Services, Inc.) will present this Latino-themed night at South Beach (808 Pacific) featuring a Mexican buffet provided by Michaeline's Restaurant & Catering and an underwear show presented by Papi Wear (www.papiinc.com). DJ Cubanito will provide music. \$10 at the door will benefit AVES. www.aves-health.org

Houston Pride 5K Fun Run and Walk

Saturday, June 21, 7:30 a.m.

The Houston Montrose Athletic Association sponsors the annual race in Memorial Park. This year's event will benefit AssistHers. Registration is \$15 before June 13, then \$20.

www.geocities.com/houstonpride5k/index.html

4 Pride Day at AstroWorld

Saturday, June 21, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

AstroWorld marks its own milestone this year—35 years in business. Hop on the rides with your family members and *scrrream*. \$35 in advance, \$39.95 at the gate will benefit the Pride Committee and Q-Patrol. www.pridehouston.org

Family & Youth Day

Sunday, June 22, 1-4 p.m.

JPMorgan Chase will host this annual kid-friendly event in Memorial Park, featuring a moonwalk, face painting, and treats. Free.



Explaining HIV Drug Resistance: A Patient-Friendly Approach

Wednesday, June 25, 8:30-10 a.m.

The Center for AIDS (1407 Hawthorne) will host a breakfast meeting with Andrew Zolopa, M.D., from Stanford University, who has lectured widely on strategic management of HIV disease. Free, RSVP required. www.centerforaids.org

5 Could Angels Be Blessed

Thursday, June 26, 8:30 p.m.

In the summer of 1945, the family of a dead gay soldier receives a visit from a young soldier who brings a startling revelation. \$10 admission at the Theatre Suburbia show (1410 W. 43rd) will benefit the Gulf Coast



Archive & Museum of GLBT History. www.gcam.org

6 Pride Cabaret: Before the Parade Passes By...Again!

Friday, June 27, 8 p.m.

The first Pride Cabaret last year was a smash hit and a showcase for an astounding cast of community talents. Ken Williamson again directs the can't-miss show at the Alley (615 Texas). \$50. www.pridehouston.org →



1 Baile 2003

Friday, June 27, 9 p.m.-2 a.m.

GLOBO (Gays & Lesbians Organized by Orgullo) will present this black-tie dance and community fundraiser at the Radisson Astrodome (8686 Kirby). Entertainment will include the Houston band La Traizion, Austin-based Alma Tejana, and Miss Lupita. \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door.

Steel Pride

Friday, June 27, 9 p.m.-2 a.m.

The Grey Party will present this evening of entertainment at Meteor (2306 Genesee) to preview Steel Weekend, the new October GLBT fundraising event. Donations accepted at the door. www.steelparty.com

2 Out of the Bars and Into the Streets with Q-Patrol

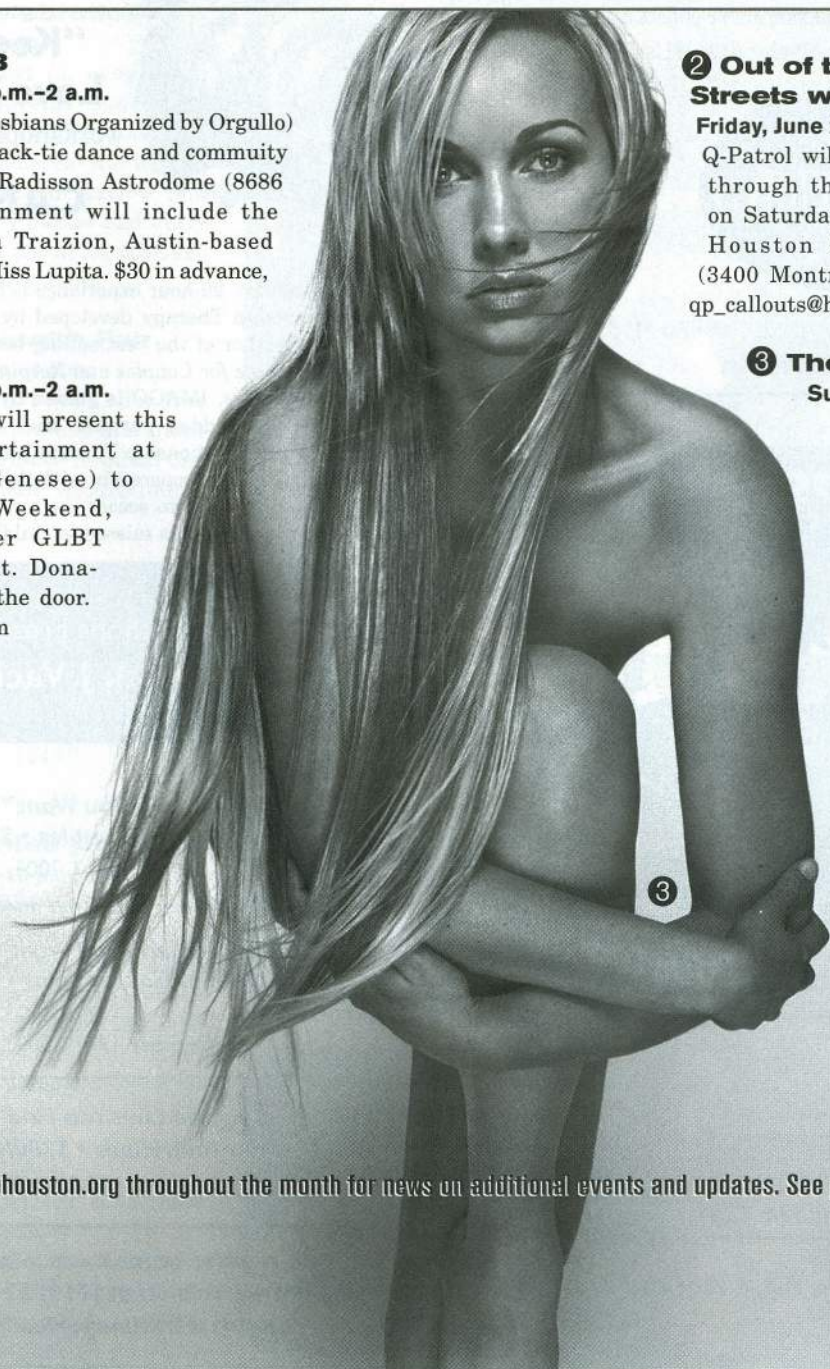
Friday, June 27, 9:30 p.m.

Q-Patrol will host a special reconnaissance through the Montrose area—and again on Saturday night. Q-Patrol meets at the Houston GLBT Community Center (3400 Montrose Blvd., Suite 207). E-mail qp_callouts@hotmail.com if you plan to attend.

3 The Parade

Sunday, June 28, 8:45 p.m.

Rolling along Westheimer from Woodhead to Whitney, the Silver Celebration parade will feature appearances by dance diva Amber and *Queer as Folk* cast member Robert Gant. Amber will then perform at a post-parade party at Rich's. www.pridehouston.org



Check www.pridehouston.org throughout the month for news on additional events and updates. See page 47 for more June events.

"We're Queer, too, a

Long in the vanguard of the fight for transgender rights, **Phyllis Randolph Frye** sees positive direction for the movement

by Tim Brookover
Photographs by David Lewis

Phyllis Frye is the Quentin Crisp, the Bella Abzug, the Sidney Poitier of the transgender movement in Houston, and perhaps the country," Ann Walton Sieber wrote a year ago in this magazine. "Forthright and smart, Phyllis was out there when nobody in Houston was out there as a transgender."

[*"O Pioneers!"* April 2002] • We still look to the redoubtable Ms. Frye, activist and attorney, for her expertise and sense of history and humor. In April, she spoke to the Stonewall Law Association of Greater Houston on recent developments in transgender civil rights. That appearance inspired this recent conversation with Frye.

Phyllis, what are some of the recent developments in transgender [TG] civil rights?

More transgenders are coming out. A larger number of them are FTM [female to male]. Three major court rulings were announced in February plus action in Britain's House of Lords. There continues to be lots of grassroots legal work to get inclusive LGBT bills or to add gender identification in places where it was left out years ago. And more lawyers who are TG are taking a part.

What do you think is the most important of these developments?

Coming out and staying out is the most important. When you come out, you educate people about who we are. It is more difficult for bigots to remain so when they have to compare their stereotypes and myths against someone they know. Coming out will always remain the *single most important* thing to do.

What factors have led the movement to this point?

In 1992, I convened the first international TG law conference. At that time, there were no LGB legal groups that did anything for TG legal rights. Each year over the next six years we had another conference. Almost all attendees were non-lawyers. I trained them all in "Billie Carr" grassroots political action. From what I have observed, most of the grassroots TG activists today are second-, third-, fourth-, or fifth-generation folks who trained others from those folks who attended my conferences. You can read about this in the

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My perception is that progress has often been slow, sometimes steady, but then followed by a recent rush of positive developments. Is this perception accurate? If so, to what do you attribute this "rush"?

It's kind of like boiling water. All you see is the water taking in energy until it finally erupts. In this movement we began the fight for TG inclusion in the early 1990s. Let me restate that: We began the fight for *re*-inclusion. We were a part of the *beginning* at the Stonewall Riots, but were forced to the sidelines because LGs worried about the way we looked. Too bad. We're queer, too, and we are here!

Can you identify a particular event or moment that made a difference in the movement?

Yes, it is in the Chapter 22 that I referred to above. In the fall of 1994 and spring of 1995, we were working with U.S. Senator Jim Jeffords—then the chair of the Senate Health and Human Services committee. He was going to introduce a TG-inclusive ENDA [Employment Non-Discrimination Act] that I had drafted. But HRC [the Human Rights Campaign] got to him, and the old bill was introduced. On the day the old bill was introduced, all but two of the national TG leaders were in Houston for the fourth TG law conference. We met, discussed the HRC betrayal, and began the big, coordinated push.

Without question, you have played and continue to play a major role in advancing rights for transgender individuals. Who are some of the other individuals and groups that have also been integral to the movement?

I have to salute both PFLAG [Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians & Gays] and NGLTF [National Gay & Lesbian Task Force]. Both groups have decided that they will *not* endorse a bill that is not inclusive of the entire community.

Locally, the early work was led by Sarah

DePalma. It has been picked up by Vanessa Edwards Foster, Beth Richard, Brenda Thomas, Sara Rook, and many others. Anyone who went to the recent TG Unity Banquet in April saw their energy.

But the most significant thing, in my opinion, is the emergence of both the FTM community and those TGs who are people of color. Both of these groups make up a large part of what we will be when we are all out. And both groups wreak havoc to the stereotype of high heels and sequins on white MTF folks.

Where do we go from here?

Unfortunately, the fight nationally still is for us to see an ENDA Bill that reflects the entire LGBT community. While the Houston LGBT groups are finally inclusive, as are the groups in our state, there are still some holdouts.

Coming out and staying out is the most important. When you come out, you educate people about who we are. It is more difficult for bigots to remain so when they have to compare their stereotypes and myths against someone they know. Coming out will always remain the single most important thing to do.



To these folks, I suggest they go to www.transgenderlaw.org and see all the different localities and states that are now with TG protective laws.

I have predicted since my podium speech at the 1993 March on Washington that the TG folks will be instrumental in the granting of legal, same-sex marriage. Read my law review article on the subject on my www.transgenderlegal.com website.

Someday, the conflicting laws about the legal sex of TG people will lead to more same-genital marriages (on my website, click on Littleton). Hopefully, some LG lawyers will ask the courts why, in equal protection, TG same-genital folks can get married, but same-genital LGB folks cannot.

What can transgender individuals do to help secure rights for themselves and their

community?

Come out. Study my website. Join the local TG groups, especially TGAIN [Texas Gender Advocacy Information Network] and participate. Study the www.transgenderlaw.org website. *Quit voting conservative*. Join the local GLBT political caucus and get the name changed. Come out and stay out.

What about gay, lesbian, and bisexual allies of the transgender community? How can we be most helpful and effective?

Bless them. I love them. What they can do is not let folks get away with leaving *gender identity and expression* out of sexual-orientation language. When folks don't include bisexual, allies must speak up. When folks don't include transgender, allies must speak up.

Look at what we have done with the state bar of Texas. It was the *first* state bar to use "sexual orientation and gender identification" in the name of one of its sections. This was the same group that brought Anita Bryant to its Houston convention in 1978. If we can do that with this group, it can be done with any group in any conservative locality.

Sometimes divisions remain in our community be-

tween gay men and/or lesbians and transgender individuals—and bisexuals as well. How can we all break down those divisions?

I think the allies can do most of this. The allies must speak up when it is not popular or convenient.

How does the movement for transgender rights fit into the broader movement for GLBT rights?

Well, as I said before, we started it in the 1969 Stonewall Riots. When the LGB community leaders or politicians needed money, they always went to the TG/drag folks to raise it. And besides, most discrimination against gays and lesbians is actually about their gender presentation—either too feminine for men or too masculine for women. It is all part and parcel of the same fight. ■



OUT IN HOUSTON

1 GLOBO leaders **Blana Trevino** (l-r), **Rachel Demo**, **Joe Sandoval**, and **Domingo Ovalle** prepared and served barbecue at EJ's on March 22.

2 The Center for AIDS honored founding director **Joel Martinez** (center) at a March 20 reception at the home of **Julie Greenwood**. Members of Martinez's family joined him: **Victoria Peña** (l-r), **Marco Peña**, **Teresa Peña**, and **Jeordano Martinez**.

3 **Kelly Rowland** of Destiny's Child appeared at the March 9 AIDS Walk, which attracted more than 7,500 participants.

4 On March 8, **Leslie Townsend** (r) signed copies of her memoir, *Hiding in Plain Sight*, at Borders River Oaks. Friend **Chris Cassamassima** congratulated her.

5 At the Feb. 14 Lesbian Health Initiative benefit at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites Galleria, comic headliner **Suzanne Westenhoeffer** (r) posed with LHI president **Lucy Watson**.

6 At the March 15 Human Rights Campaign dinner, city council candidate **Sue Lovell** (l) posed with Permanent Partners Immigrant Act non-supporter U.S. Rep. **Chris Bell** (r) and his wife, **Alison Bell**.

7 On Feb. 25, Montrose Clinic executive director **Katy Caldwell** (c) celebrated the dedication of the new Robert R. Lewis Eye Exam Room with ophthalmologist **Scott Sawyer** (r) and **Terrence Baggott**, chairman of the LTR Lewis Cloverdale Foundation, which supported the expansion.

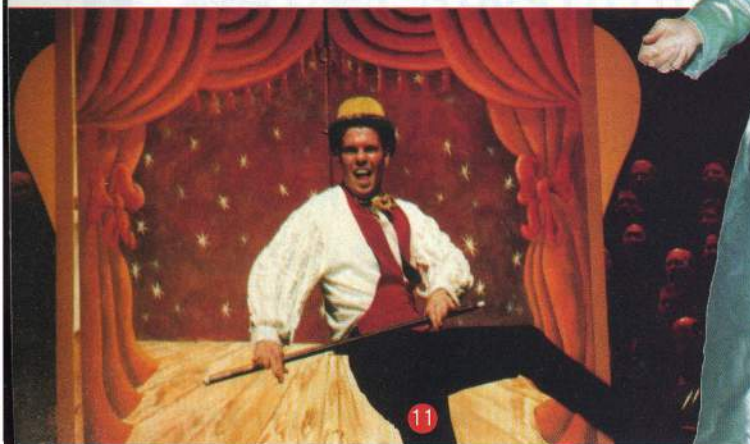
8 **Marshall Maxwell** (r) and **Kris Walters** provided entertainment at Bringing in the Silver, the Montrose Counseling Center benefit on March 14.

9 **Jack Jackson** once again donned a costume to raise funds at the counseling center event.

10 **Rob Arcos** (l-r), **AmyBeth Gilstrap**, and **Ernie Manouse** attended the March 23 Oscars party at Landmark/River Oaks benefiting the Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival.

11 **David Hoey** high kicked at the March 22 Gay Men's Chorus of Houston show at Wortham Center.

12 At the Feb. 15 anti-war rally along Allen Parkway, Bering Memorial United Methodist Church minister **Rev. Troy Plummer** (in pink shirt) helped hoist the banner. L-r, from Plummer: **Walter Treash**, **Rev. Marilyn Meeker-Williams**, and **Rev. David Meeker-Williams** also protested.



ALL PHOTOS - DALTON DEHART