

JUNE 2004

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

Out Smart

PRIDE AS BIG AS TEXAS

Our guide to a wild month plus more Pride inside!

10 YEARS — www.outsmartmagazine.com — 1994-2004

PRIDE COMMITTEE OF HOUSTON

presents

PRIDE AS BIG AS TEXAS

"Lift-Off" Party

The Pride Kick Off
featuring **Jai Rodriguez**
from "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy"
and DJ **Mark Tarbox**
Saturday, June 12 9:30pm-3am
George R. Brown Convention Center

Empower Business Expo

Brought to you by
The Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce
Saturday, June 12 1pm-6pm
Sunday, June 13 12pm-5pm
George R. Brown Convention Center-Exhibit Hall A

Grand Marshal Reception

sponsored by **Bud Light** and **Smirnoff Twist**
Friday, June 18 7pm-10pm
JP Morgan Chase Bank Lobby, 707 Travis

Official Pre-Parade Party

featuring **DJ Hex Hector (Miami)** in the Boaka Bar
with **DJ TBA** in the Groove Lounge
Friday, June 25 9pm-3am
Boaka Bar/Mercury Room, 1008 Prairie @ Main

Pre-Parade Festival

featuring food and beverage vendors
and fresh Texas DJ talent
under the **M2M Entertainment** music tent
Saturday, June 26 4pm-8:30pm
Westheimer and Yoakum

Houston's Night Time Pride Parade

the largest Pride event in the Southwest
Saturday, June 26 8:45pm
Lower Westheimer, from Woodhead to Whitney

Official Post-Parade Party

featuring **DJ Warren Gluck (NYC)**
and Billboard Recording Artist **Pat Hodges**
Saturday, June 26 11pm-4am
Club GO, 2001 Commerce @ Chartres

Official After Pride Party

featuring **DJ Dawna Montel (LA)** in the main room
and **DJ Chris Sill** in the Groove Lounge
with performance artist **SHOKRA**
Sunday, June 27 3:30am-10am
OPUS, 412 Main Street @ Prairie

-FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF EVENTS LOG ONTO-

www.pridehouston.org

713-529-6979

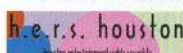
PRIDE PARADE
SATURDAY JUNE 26TH, 2004
@ 8:45PM



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COUNTRYWIDE
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PROUD



MONTH

DALTON DEHART

A selected listing from a very full June calendar

Take a deep breath. Unless you have cracked the whole cloning thing, you simply can't make all the events during the month devoted to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender pride. But you can pick some favorites. Here are selected highlights from the official lineup compiled by the Pride Committee of Houston. Check out www.pridehouston.org for more details and the complete calendar.

LHI Rainbow Health Fair

Saturday, June 5, 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m.

The Lesbian Health Initiative will provide free services by appointment, including mammograms and HIV/STD testing and counseling at Montrose Clinic. www.lhihouston.org

Profiles in Pride:

That's Entertainment

Monday, June 7, 7:30 p.m.

Each Monday in June, the *Texas Triangle* will present documentaries on GLBT people in show business, beginning with the landmark 1995 film *The Celluloid Closet*, at 1415 California. Other movies in the series: *Radical Harmonies*, Dee Mosbacher's new chronicle of the

women's music movement, and *Out of the Closet, Off the Screen: The Life of Williams Haines*.

www.txtriangle.com

Eat Out & Chip In

Thursday, June 10

Several local restaurants will donate a portion of tabs from meals on this day to the Houston chapter of DIFFA/Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS. Participating spots include Barnaby's, Benjy's in The Village, Cabo Montrose, Carmelo's Italian Restaurant, Dessert Gallery Bakery & Cafe, Niko Niko's Greek & American Café, St. Pete's Dancing Marlin, and Zula New American Cuisine.

www.diffa.org

The Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals 1933–1945

Friday, June 11

Holocaust Museum Houston opens this exhibition that recounts the Nazi's attempt to eradicate homosexuality. Volunteers from the Gulf Coast Archive & Museum of GLBT History will help unpack and set up the show. See page 64 for more info. www.hmh.org

Houston Pride 5K Fun Run & Walk **Sunday, June 12, 7:30 a.m.**

The Houston Montrose Athletic Association has added a one-mile walk to the course, which will begin at Sabine and Allen Parkway. Proceeds will benefit AssistHers. www.geocities.com/houstonpride5k →

Empower

Saturday June 12, 18 p.m.

Sunday, June 13, noon-5 p.m.

The Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce has moved the annual community expo to June this year. New attractions at the George R. Brown Convention Center event will include a Pet Pavilion and a Kid's Pavilion.
www.ghgcc.org

Lift Off: Our Launch into Pride

Saturday, June 12, 9:30 p.m.-3:30 a.m.

Jai Rodriguez, the culture maven from Bravo's *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*, will serve as guest emcee and perform at this party and dance, the official Pride kickoff celebration at the George R. Brown Convention Center. DJ Mark Tarbox from Los Angeles will spin tunes beginning at 11 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the co-hosting chamber and Pride Committee.
www.pridehouston.org



Marshaling for pride: 2004 grand marshals (l-r) Jim Null, Jerry Simoneaux, Sonna Alton, and Sue Null will lead the parade along Westheimer and beneath the chandelier suspended over Montrose (see page 48). Not pictured: Randall Ellis, executive director of the Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, which is the organization grand marshal this year.

Grand Marshal Reception

Friday, June 18, 7-9 p.m.

The marshals of the 2004 parade will be honored at this event in the JPMorgan Chase lobby downtown. DJ Limey will provide music.
www.pridehouston.org →

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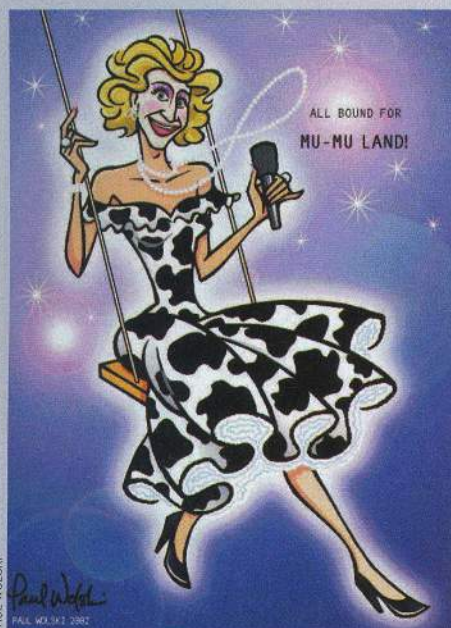


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Diva time: Direct from Atlanta, the renowned Bubba D. Licious will emcee the June 19 Jocks in Dresses event at Rich's Houston. The Montrose Softball League event will benefit the Houston GLBT Community Center and the league. For more, see page 20.

Free Will and Wanton Lust

Friday, June 18, 8 p.m.

Unhinged Productions will present the Nicky Silver comedy again on June 19 and June 25 at Stages Repertory Theatre.

www.u-p.org

Equality Knocks Pride Block Walk

Saturday, June 19, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Volunteers will gather at the Houston GLBT Community Center, then go door-to-door spreading the word about marriage equality in this effort organized by the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus, Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, and Progressive Voters in Action. To volunteer: 713/521-1000, ext. 2.

www.equalityknocks.org

Jocks in Dresses

Saturday, June 19, 7-10 p.m.

The renowned drag performer Bubba D. Licious will emcee the annual Montrose Softball League cross-dressing show at Rich's

Houston. Proceeds will benefit the Houston GLBT Community Center and the league.

www.montrosesoftballleague.com

XALT 2004

Sunday, June 20, 7 p.m.

Community Gospel Church will host an evening of praise and worship featuring local talent.

www.communitygospel.org

Pride Week Interfaith Worship Service & Community Reception

Sunday, June 20, 7 p.m.

Sponsored by the Interfaith Alliance for Inclusiveness, the service at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church will feature Dr. Louie Crew, the Episcopal activist and Rutgers professor, with music provided by the Gay Men's Chorus Ensemble, the Bering Chancel Choir, the Resurrection MCC choir, and the Taylor David Trio. An 8 p.m. reception will follow the service.

Details: 713/812-9014 →



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SAT

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910 westheimer

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Baile Internacional 2004

Friday, June 25, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.

The Latino group GLOBO (Gays and Lesbians Organized by Orgullo) will present the annual black-tie gala at Guest House Suites/Inn. Proceeds will benefit local nonprofit groups.

www.globohouston.org

Official Pre-Parade Party

Friday, June 25, 9 p.m.-3 a.m.

Grammy-winning DJ Hex Hector of Miami will spin classic remixes at this bash at Boaka Bar/Mercury Lounge. A portion of proceeds from official parade parties will benefit the Pride Committee.

www.pridehouston.org

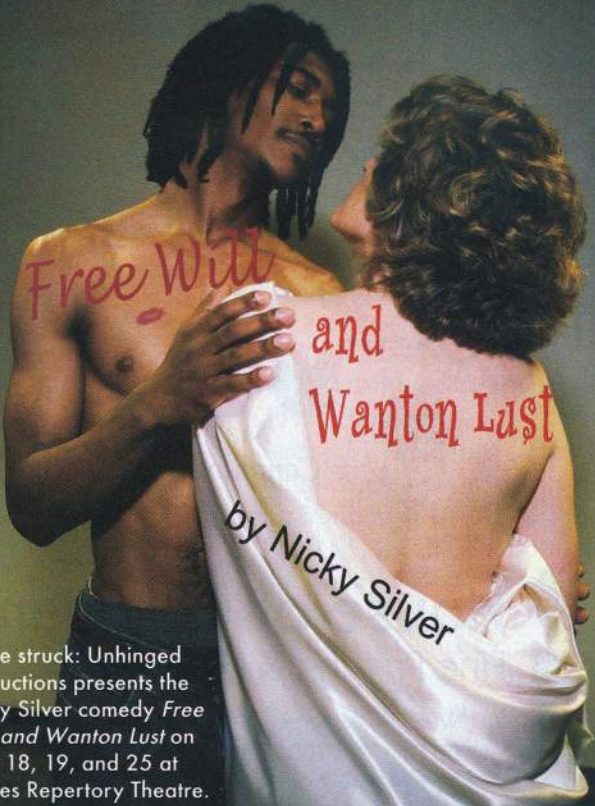
Pre-Parade Festival

Saturday, June 26, 4-11 p.m.

Before the big event, stop by Westheimer and Yoakum for the brand-new Pride beer garden. The M2M Entertainment dance tent will feature Texas DJ talent. Cabo Montrose will host VIP bleacher seating for the parade.

www.pridehouston.org →

UNHINGED PRODUCTIONS
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Stage struck: Unhinged Productions presents the Nicky Silver comedy *Free Will and Wanton Lust* on June 18, 19, and 25 at Stages Repertory Theatre.

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The Parade

Saturday, June 26, 8:45 p.m.

The nighttime parade rolls with more than 130 entries along Westheimer from Woodhead to Whitney.

www.pridehouston.org

Official Pride Post-Parade Party

Saturday, June 26, 10 p.m.-4 a.m.

Club favorite Pat Hodge sings her Billboard top 10 hits, including "Love Revolution," at Club GO downtown. New York DJ Warren Gluck will provide additional music.

www.pridehouston.org

Official Pride After-Party

Sunday, June 27, 3:30-10 a.m.

The festivities continue through the morning at Opus with a performance by dance-music icon Dynasty and more music spun by DJ Dawna Montel of Los Angeles.

www.pridehouston.org ■



After the parade passes by: Pat Hodge will perform "Love Revolution" and her other hits at the post-parade party on June 26 at Club GO.

M2M ENTERTAINMENT

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4-7



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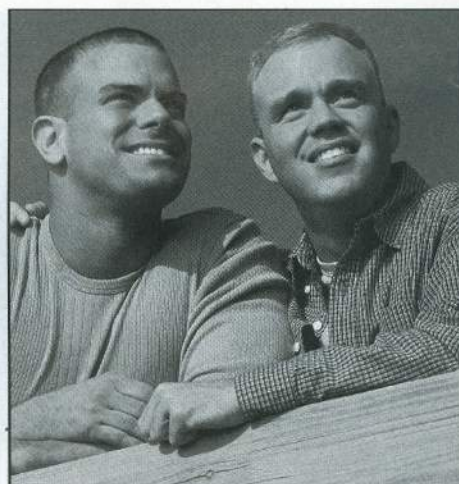
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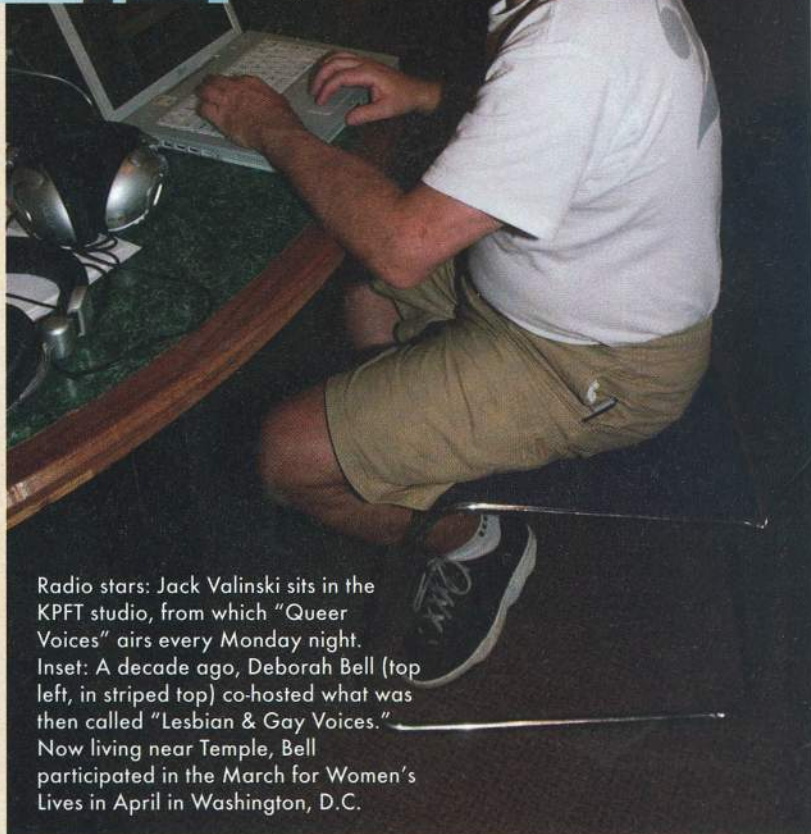


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**OUT
SMART**
1994-2004



Check Up Jack Valinski & Deborah Bell



Radio stars: Jack Valinski sits in the KPFT studio, from which "Queer Voices" airs every Monday night. Inset: A decade ago, Deborah Bell (top left, in striped top) co-hosted what was then called "Lesbian & Gay Voices." Now living near Temple, Bell participated in the March for Women's Lives in April in Washington, D.C.

Of the two one-time radio hosts, one is still on the air and the other left town, but both remain activists

by Joyce Gabiola
Valinski photo
by Yvonne Feece

Every month during our 10-year celebration, we revisit an individual we interviewed or who played a significant role in the issue published a decade ago. →

People listen to the radio as they butter their English muffin in the morning or on weekend nights en route to their favorite club or bar, but everyone knows that prime time for tuning in to the radio waves is during the time we spend trekking across the city in our vehicles to and from our daily destinations. Some people enjoy the KRBE morning trio, and others listen intently to NPR or sing praises along to Christian radio. Is it news that valuable programming for the GLBT and general community is tucked into off-peak radio hours? *Queer Voices*, produced and co-hosted by Jack Valinski, airs on Monday evenings at 8. Try recording *Everwood* and tune in. Valinski admits that the hours are not optimal for the maximum number of listeners, but he points out, "We are lucky to have such a space."

The June 1994 *OutSmart* featured Valinski and activist Deborah Bell as the voices of what was then known as *Lesbian & Gay Voices*. Valinski and Bell say today that they cannot recall exactly how they met, but KPFT definitely brought them together. With creativity and dedication, their program evolved, and Valinski and Bell became the voices behind a program aimed at the interests of the GLBT community, but also one intended to promote awareness among society.

Of course, such success is not achieved without obstacles. The program faced a major challenge, Valinski recounts, after it was canceled in November 1992 while Bell was away working on the 1993 March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Equal Rights and Liberation. The powers at KPFT had tried to move away from specialty programs, Valinski says. The supportive community held a demonstration at a station meeting, but *Lesbian & Gay Voices* was not heard again until March 1993. "Houston has had some of the longest-running programs in the country devoted to GLBT programming or that are GLBT-inclusive, thanks to KPFT, even though at times it has been a struggle," says Bell, who left the program in 1995 in support of her partner, who had experienced conflicts with station management.

"It's also a challenge to keep the show fresh and have new people on, but we are lucky to have people who are dedicated," Valinski says. He is referring to Glen Holt,

Jone Devlin, JD Doyle, and Mary Morissette. "Jone is an incredible book reader, so it's great to see her interview authors. JD probably has the biggest collection of queer music. These people are experts in what they do, but they don't have big heads." Valinski's favorite aspect of *Queer Voices* is being able to talk to people in the community. He loves the intimacy of radio programming, which he says is like holding a conversation with someone sitting around a table.

Everyone who works on *Queer Voices* volunteers their time and talents, including Valinski, who also works his whazoo off all year as program coordinator for the Pride Committee of Houston. Valinski, one of the founders of the Pride Committee, also volunteers with the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus. The Syracuse University graduate earned a degree in radio and television and moved to Houston for a job with an ABC-owned radio station. (Kathy

Valinski and Bell agree that the biggest issue a decade ago was HIV/AIDS. "It was a challenge for the community to focus, and maybe we've lost focus now," Valinski says. "Also, hate crimes and the fear of getting bashed for being queer was a big concern," adds Bell. "The murder of Paul Broussard brought that home in Houston."

Whitmire was elected mayor on the day he arrived.)

Valinski and Bell agree that the biggest issue a decade ago was HIV/AIDS. "It was a challenge for the community to focus, and maybe we've lost focus now," Valinski says. "Also, hate crimes and the fear of getting bashed for being queer was a big concern," adds Bell. "The murder of Paul Broussard brought that home in Houston. I think we still have to be very cautious, but there is so much more understanding now on both those issues."

Valinski and Bell also mention the 2003 overturning of the sodomy law as a momentous change in history. They have witnessed the GLBT community's progress over the many years, including how the media portrays the community in connection with the Pride parade. "There's

more of a balance of who we are, as opposed to previous years when the media would spotlight only drag queens and the leather community," he says. "There's definitely better coverage, which has a lot to do with our visibility." Since media portrayal is more positive than not, Valinski remarks, "I thought we'd be a lot further along with how the world is, how the country is. It seems that the country is so divided. The marriage thing is scaring them."

Bell now lives in a rural community outside Temple, Texas, where buffalo have been recently spotted roaming up her driveway. A former Houston Pride parade grand marshal and member of numerous organizations such as the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, and Stonewall Democrats, Bell works for a medical institution and remains an activist. As a long-standing member of the National Organization for Women (NOW), she also serves as the moderator for an online discussion group known as the Feminist Online Network (FEMNET), which focuses on the greater Houston area, but reaches subscribers in other states and countries. Bell recently returned to Washington for the March for Women's Lives, which took place on the 11th anniversary of the GLBT-rights march in 1993. Bell carried the NOW banner that was carried in the 1978 March for Extension of the Equal Rights Amendment, the first march she attended as a NOW activist.

Valinski has gone from toiling in a large corporation years ago to working for a small organization.

He says he is happy as he remains focused on the things that truly matter to him: community and friends.

For those of you who are new to *Queer Voices*, when you tune in, you won't ever hear disc jockeys yapping with Jessica Simpson. *Queer Voices* is a weekly opportunity for GLBT-interest programming where members, events, and issues of the local community are highlighted and discussed. Leaders of national organizations have been featured on the program, but for the most part the *Queer Voices* team aims to keep the program as local as possible. "Nobody is a star," Valinski says. "We do the program for the community. Stars are the people who are in the program."

Joyce Gabiola interviewed therapist Patrick Vachon for the "Check Up" feature in our May issue.

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OUT IN HOUSTON



1 **Shane McShane**, Houston GLBT Community Center president, threw out the first pitch for Montrose Softball League opening day on March 28.



2 City controller **Annie Parker** helped out at the Neartown Little League opening day on March 28.



3 **Aiden Smith-Perez** (c) brought dads **Shawn Smith** (l) and **Daniel Perez** to the March 13 Oodles of Noodles Pasta Buffet benefit for Bering Support Network at KeyStar Event Complex.



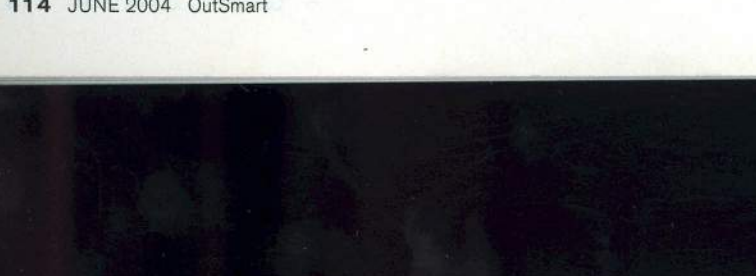
4 Faithful fundraiser **Jack Jackson** (l) was designated "resident leprechaun" at the March 12 Bringin' in the Green benefit for Montrose Counseling Center.



5 On the morning of March 20, Human Rights Campaign executive director **Cheryl Jacques** (c) met with a group of community leaders, including transgender activists (l-r) **Wendy Russell**, **Sara Rook**, **Brenda Thomas**, and **Vanessa Edwards Foster**.



6 The Houston Symphony, in conjunction with Bering Omega Community Services, hosted a special concert engagement and reception for musical icon **k.d. lang** on May 1. Joining lang (3rd from right) at the post-concert reception at The Magnolia Hotel were (l-r) Houston Symphony executive director **Ann Kennedy**, Bering Omega board president **Judie Cross**, Houston Symphony event co-chair **E.W. Long**, **Vance Nesbitt**, and Bering Omega co-chair **Marion Coleman**.



7 The Feb. 15 Purple Haze fundraiser at Rich's Houston benefited Bering Omega Community Services. The hosts were (l-r) **Lionel Vargas**, **Mike Alberts**, **Marco Roberts**, **Andrew Fletcher**, **Elester Stewart**, **Jeff Havard**, and **Vance Nesbitt**.



8 On April 5, **Luis Trevino** (l-r), **Todd Dubois**, and **Lauren Fayle** from the cast of *Urinetown*—in Houston on its national Broadway Across America tour—stopped by the premiere Musical Theater Night at Meteor.

9 On March 20, **Chris Arasin** (l-r), **Sid Servin**, and **Dominic Barcigalupia** of the Houston Big Men's Club greeted visitors to the East Coast Conference of the Affiliated Big Men's Clubs, hosted by the local group, at the Houston Renaissance.

10 **Tom Downing** (l-r), **Sheri Heyen**, and **Steven Wagner** chaired the March 20 Human Rights Campaign dinner at the InterContinental Houston.

11 Houston Gay Men's Chorus pianist **Beth McConnell** (c) and **Giancarlo Carrarena** welcomed **Huey Long**, crooner with the legendary Ink Spots, at the March 20 Hobby Center concert. Long lives in the Heights.



1-5, 7, 9-11 DALTON DEHART; 6 JEFF FITLOW; 8 YVONNE FEECE