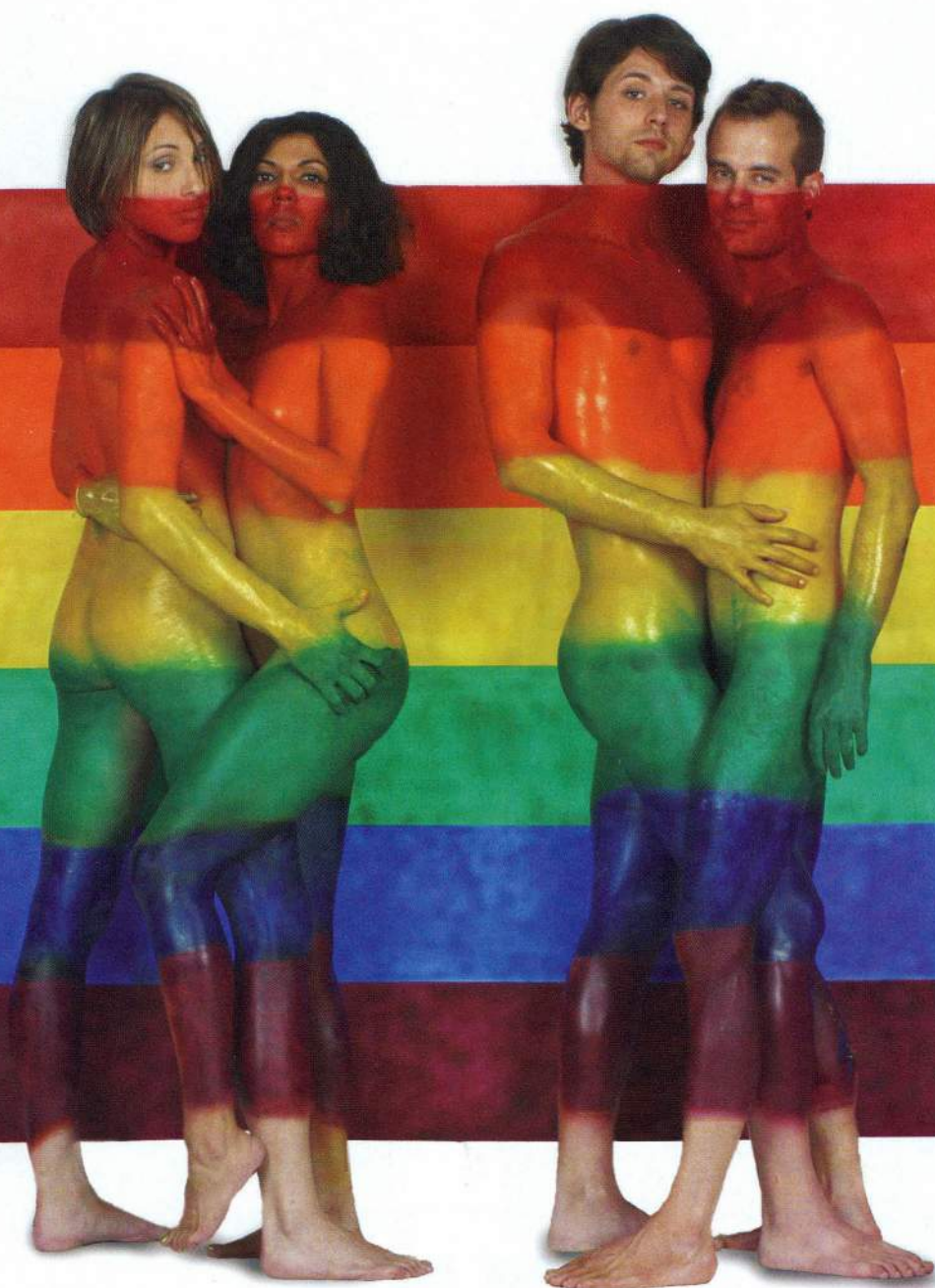


# OutSmart

JUNE 2005  
[www.outsmartmagazine.com](http://www.outsmartmagazine.com)  
Houston's gay, lesbian, bi, and trans magazine



Covered With Pride

A woman with short brown hair is shown from the waist up, turned away from the camera but looking back over her shoulder. Her skin is painted with horizontal stripes of the rainbow flag: red, orange, yellow, and green. She has a red stripe across her face, covering her eyes and nose. The background is a solid dark red color.

# A PROUD MONTH

*From movies to worship, here are a few Pride suggestions. Shake those freedom rings!*

Compiled by Tim Brookover  
Photographs by Kelly Catchings

**E**very year, June has special meaning for we gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender folk (yes, and the questioning, the same-gender-loving, the intersexed, and the just plain queer—and, of course, the allies). The whole month takes on a festive glow as we count down the days to the big parade. Here, with assistance from our colorful Pride cover models, we help you celebrate with a selective list of some events that will make you happy and, well, proud.

## Friends

This posh of Fine Art of Friends donor group with all the shakers.

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### Friends of Pride VIP Wine Tasting

This posh new Pride event at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston is open to members of Friends of Pride, the Pride Houston donor group. Join and toast the month with all the leading Pride movers and shakers.

**June 8**, 7 p.m. • Friends of Pride membership, \$100–\$2,500  
**Pride Houston, 713/529-6979,**  
[www.pridehouston.org](http://www.pridehouston.org)

### Featured at the Center

The monthly performance night produced and hosted by poet and singer Aaron Coleman has already become one of the hottest venues around. Previous evenings at the community center have included singers, dancers, instrumentalists, spoken-word artists, and improv comics. Coleman is planning a special Pride edition for the June show.

**June 10**, 7 p.m. • Free (donations to the center welcomed)  
**Houston GLBT Community Center,**  
**713/524-3818,**  
[www.houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org](http://www.houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org)

### Tarnation

Critics from both the *Houston Chronicle* and the *Los Angeles Times* named *Tarnation*, the independent bio-doc made by Houstonian Jonathan Caouette, to their 10 best films list for 2004. From an interview with Lawrence Ferber in our October issue ["A Life Up on the Screen"]: "I hope this movie helps people understand that it's okay to feel different. It's okay to feel crazy sometimes or like an alien in this world."

**June 10**, 7 and 9 p.m. • **June 11**, 7 and 9 p.m. • **June 17**, 7 p.m. • General admission \$6  
**The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston,**  
**713/639-7500, [www.mfah.org](http://www.mfah.org) →**



### 29 & Holdin'

The Colt 45's, that fantastic bunch of AIDS fundraisers, celebrates 29 years of good works with dinner and a show at the Brazos River Bottom. And when the Colts put on a show, the talent shows up. On the bill: the Colt 45's Not Ready for Drag-Time Prime Time Players. That sounds promising.

**June 12**, 6 p.m. "meat and greet,"

8 p.m. show • Free

**The Colt 45's Houston**, 713/526-6077,  
[www.colt45s.org](http://www.colt45s.org)

### Normal

Stages Repertory Theatre screens the 2003 adaptation of the Jane Anderson play *Looking for Normal*, in which a housewife (Jessica Lange) must cope when her husband (Tom Wilkinson) announces that he is transgender and preparing for sex-reassignment surgery. The showing concludes the Making Headway Film Series, part of the Stages Surround program focusing on the work of women playwrights.

**June 13**, 7 p.m. • Free

**Stages Repertory Theatre**, 713/527-0123,  
[www.stagestheatre.com](http://www.stagestheatre.com)

### Houston Pride 2005 Kick-off Party

To launch the official start of Pride week, the Pride Houston crew hosts an evening of cocktails and entertainment in the Chase Bank lobby downtown.

**June 17**, 7–10 p.m. • \$10 donation

**Pride Houston**, 713/529-6979,  
[www.pridehouston.org](http://www.pridehouston.org)

### The Wizard of Oz

Thank Rob Arcos, city manager of the Landmark theaters in Houston, for slotting the 1939 classic as the Gay Pride Midnight Movie the weekend before the parade. If you have only seen Judy Garland/Dorothy Gale and her ruby slippers on television, you really need to appreciate them on the big screen. Pull out that Wicked Witch of the West drag for the Saturday-night costume contest.

**June 17 and 18**, midnight • \$6

**Landmark River Oaks**,  
713/333-FILM (code #037)  
[www.landmarktheatres.com](http://www.landmarktheatres.com)

### Houston Pride 5K Fun Run

Get up early, lace up your Nikes, and hit the downtown pavement for the Houston Montrose Athletic Association run (and one-mile walk). All proceeds from the annual event, starting at Sam Houston Park, benefit AssistHers, which provides in-home support for lesbians with chronic illness or disabilities.

**June 18**, 7:30 a.m. • \$18 advance registration, \$23 race day

**Houston Montrose Athletic Association**,  
713/661-8919,  
[www.geocities.com/houstonpride5K](http://www.geocities.com/houstonpride5K)

### Broadway Legends

Calling all show-tune queens! The Gay Men's Chorus of Houston sings the music of Rogers and Hammerstein in two Wortham Center performances. Expect boffo hits from *South Pacific*, *The Sound of Music*, and more.

**June 18**, 8 p.m. • **June 19**, 3 p.m. • \$15–\$34

**Gay Men's Chorus of Houston**,  
713/521-7464, [www.gmch.org](http://www.gmch.org)



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### Secrets of a Gay Marine Porn Star

What's Pride month without a hint of adult entertainment? Rich Merritt—ex-Bob Jones University student, Marine officer, erotic performer, now attorney—signs copies of his new book at the Borders booth at Empower, the community expo at the George R. Brown Convention Center (see page 20). OK, we know you want to look:

[www.richmerritt.com](http://www.richmerritt.com).

June 19, 2-4 p.m. •

\$5 Empower admission

### GLBT Pride Interfaith Service

The Interfaith Alliance for Inclusiveness hosts the annual worship service at Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church. The ceremony will include liturgy and music from various faith communities, including Christians, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, and Hindus. Go and praise the higher power of your choice that you are queer this month.

June 19, 7 p.m. • Free

### HRC Pride Social

Hobnob with the smart set at the Human Rights Campaign Federal Club/Friends of Pride party at the Lovett Inn. Contact [pride@hrchouston.org](mailto:pride@hrchouston.org) for invitation information.

June 22, 6:30-8:30 p.m. • Free

Human Rights Campaign Houston,  
[www.hrchouston.org](http://www.hrchouston.org)

### Baile Internacional

Take our word for it: You want to look sharp for the annual Latin dance presented by Gays & Lesbians Organized by Orgullo (Pride). The Awesome DJ spins Latino sounds as well as more *yanqui* rhythms. Proceeds from the evening, at the Communications Workers of America hall downtown, benefit Amigos Volunteers in Education and Service and the GLOBO scholarship fund.

June 24, 8 p.m.-1 a.m. •

\$25 advance, \$30 at the door

GLOBO Houston, 713/710-0268,  
[www.globohouston.org](http://www.globohouston.org) →

# UNLIMITED PRIDE



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**June 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>**

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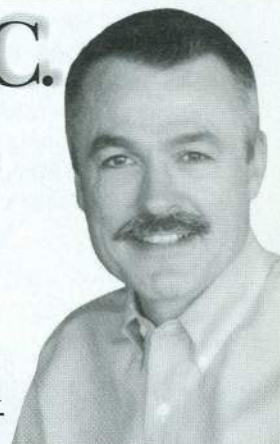
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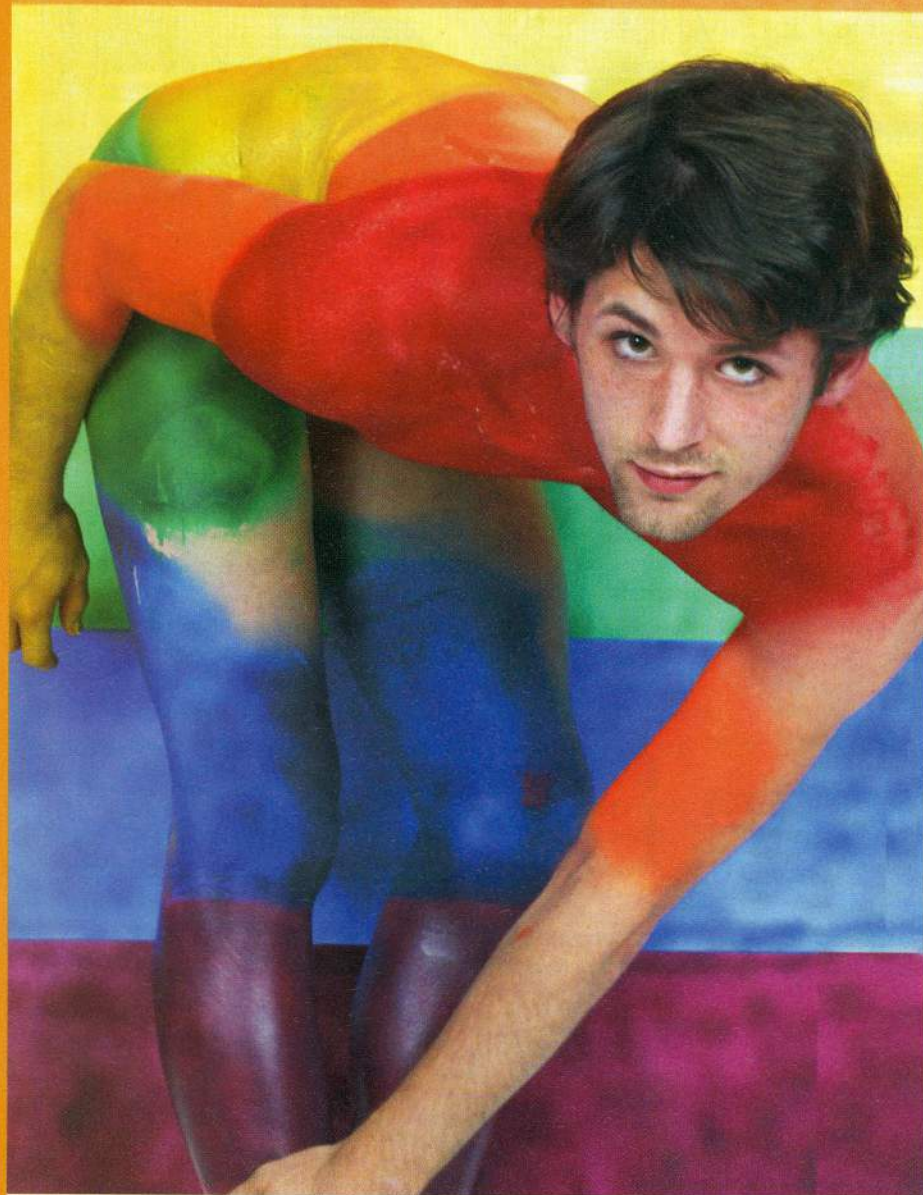
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### Holy Craps!

The name of the Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church casino night makes us giggle (but we're irreverent sorts). The night of poker, craps, blackjack, and roulette at the Sheraton Brookhollow is also a celebration of Rev. Carolyn Mobley's 15 years of ministry at Resurrection.

**June 24**, 7 p.m.–midnight • \$50  
**Resurrection MCC**, 713/861-9149,  
[www.resurrectionmcc.org](http://www.resurrectionmcc.org)

### The Parade

After rocking out all afternoon at the Pride Festival (see page 68), line up along Westheimer for the main event. Wear something sparkly to reflect the lights from our nighttime extravaganza.

**June 25**, 8:45 p.m. • Free  
**Pride Houston**, 713/529-6979,  
[www.pridehouston.org](http://www.pridehouston.org)

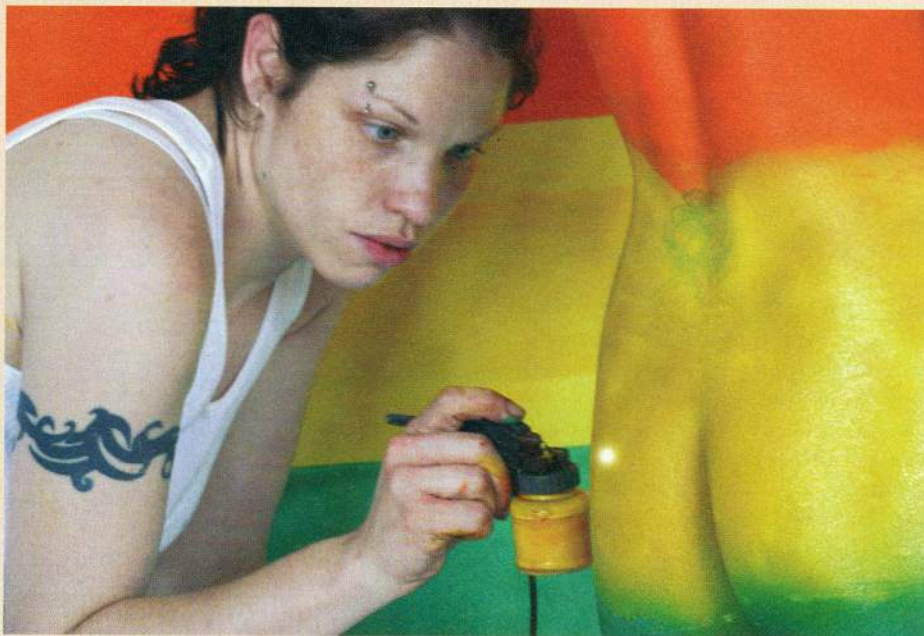
### Hang Over, Hang Out, Hang Proud

For the day after, the hardy souls of the Empire of the Royal Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star host a post-parade cookout at Keys West, followed by—what else?—a glamorous show. Proceeds benefit the Montrose Clinic women's program and The Assistance Fund insurance program.

**June 26**, 4 p.m. cookout, 7 p.m. show • \$5 for cookout  
**Empire of the Royal Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star**, 281/216-0757,  
[www.ersicss.org](http://www.ersicss.org) ■

### TRUE COLORS

For our Pride model shots, photographer Kelly Catchings collaborated with makeup artist Devine Trixter (pictured, right), aided by production assistants Courtney McBride and Mary Allen. The models are Nicole Yeager, Renée J. Ramirez, Matt Hill, and Step.



# THE PHILANTHROPIST

*Through the charitable foundation he established,  
John Kellett supports important work in the community.  
He urges the rest of us to do the same*

by Eric A.T. Dieckman  
Photographs by John Conroy

**E**very now and then, you read about a philanthropist. Generally, you think nothing of it. "Philanthropist" is often interpreted as some kind of occupation, or another form of life entirely. They're not one of us. But they're human, not headlines. These are tangible people who lead ordinary lives. The only difference is that they want to make a difference. One such person is John Kellett.

Founder of the John Steven Kellett Foundation, the 78-year-old may not have made many headlines. But the Massachusetts native, and Phillips Academy and Massachusetts Institute of Technology alumnus, has effected a change in his community. He had been supporting local GLBT charities for some time, but decided he wanted his estate to continue doing so after he was gone.

His foundation, established in 1992, serves his mission: "to provide funds, through other nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations serving Greater Houston, for worthy causes related to education about, gaining equal rights for, and elimination of discrimination against: gay, lesbian,

also have confidence now, knowing that his work will continue through his foundation.

The Kellett Foundation is no huge undertaking. The governing body: five people, Kellett included. The other four members are friends of his. They meet twice a year—once in spring, once in autumn.

Kellett spends five to 10 hours a week conducting foundation business, mostly via e-mail—"and that's about as much as I would want to spend," he says. But with that unimposing commitment, about \$8,000 in grants were made in 2004 and 2003, up several thousand dollars from past years.

Kellett keeps the foundation workload down by limiting applications for

**Local organizations including Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays-Houston, H.A.T.C.H., the Houston GLBT Community Center, Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, Gay Men's Chorus of Houston, Lesbian Health Initiative, and the Houston Transgender Unity Committee banquet and fundraiser have all received funding in past years.**

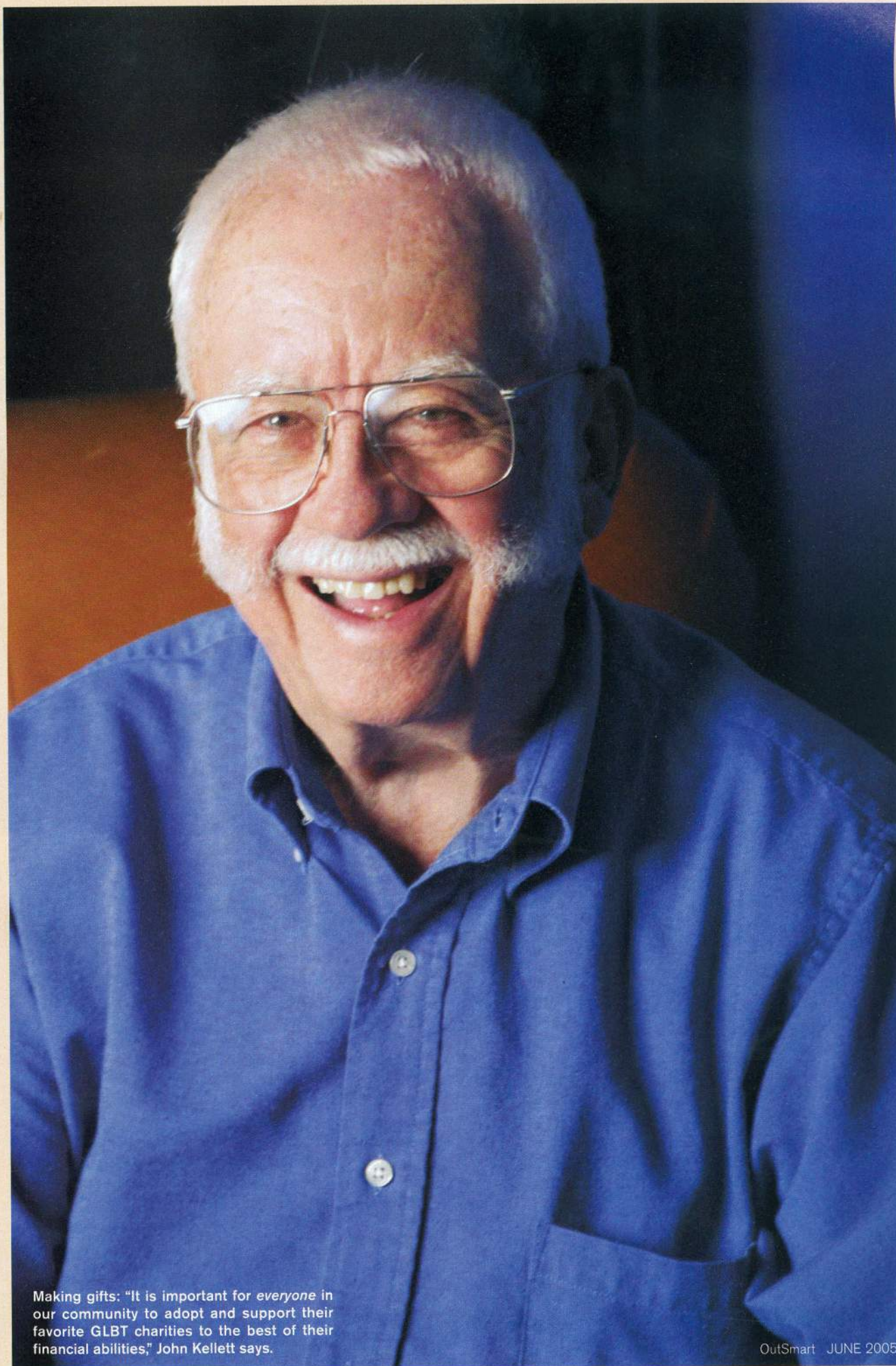
bisexual or transgender people in issues of minority sexual orientation or gender identity." Through gifts from the foundation, which he endowed, Kellett can make difference while he is alive. He can

funding to groups that the board has contacted. Local organizations including Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays-Houston, H.A.T.C.H., the Houston GLBT Community Center, →

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Making gifts: "It is important for *everyone* in our community to adopt and support their favorite GLBT charities to the best of their financial abilities," John Kellett says.

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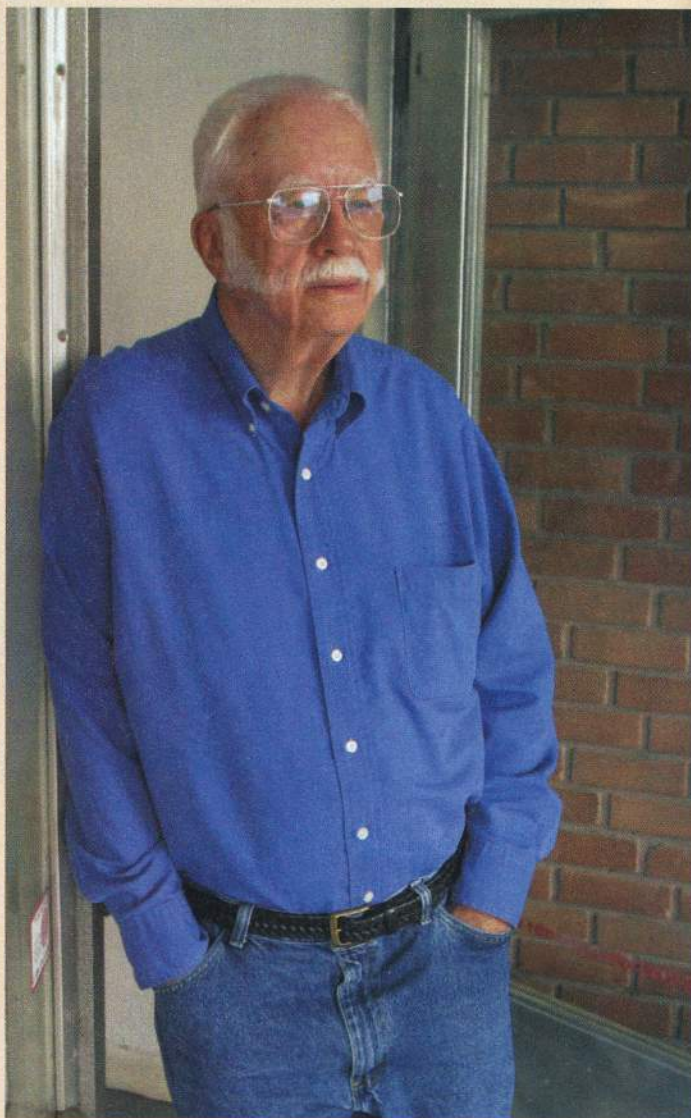
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**The Philanthropist** continued from page 30



Face the future: John Kellett points out that his foundation has recently turned its attention to supporting GLBT seniors, "including those who might be pushed back in the closet by their needs for assisted living."

Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, Gay Men's Chorus of Houston, Lesbian Health Initiative, and the Houston Transgender Unity Committee banquet and fundraiser have all received funding in past years. National organizations have also benefited from Kellett Foundation gifts. These have included *In the Life* (the monthly GLBT television news magazine that airs on PBS), the ACLU Foundation, Lambda Legal, Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, and Victory Fund Leadership Institute.

"This past year, we added the PFLAG/HATCH Youth Scholarship Foundation,"

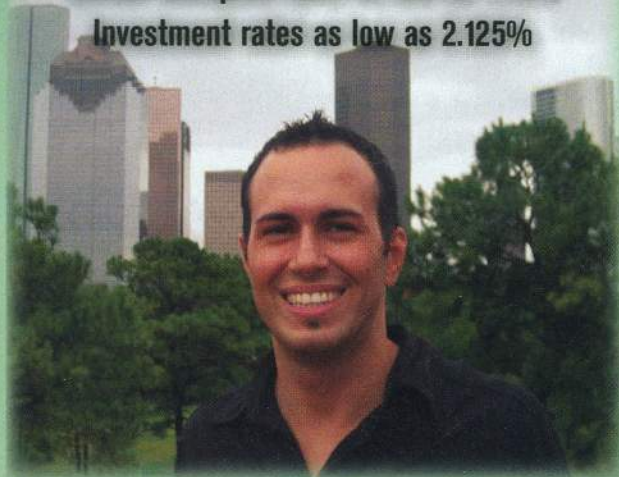
Kellett says. (Since its formation 10 years ago—first by PFLAG, then in conjunction with HATCH—that foundation has presented 107 scholarships worth \$490,000 to GLBT students attending college. HATCH, the program for GLBT and questioning youth ages 13–20 and part of Montrose Counseling Center, was originally an acronym for Houston Area Teen Coalition for Homosexuals. After the youth group became part of the counseling center in 2002, the center's board opted to use only the more commonly known shorthand brand.)

Kellett has a keen eye for the leaders of the future. Programs that train younger →

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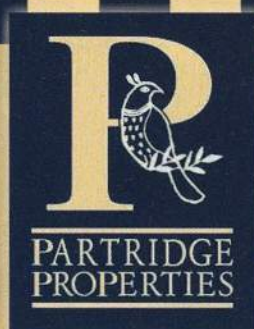
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## The Philanthropist continued from page 32

community members on becoming effective officers, board members, or other position holders of community nonprofit organizations are in his sights. "In this area, we have supported and encouraged Leading & Learning, conducted by the Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce, and the more recent HATCH Youth Leadership Development Project."

Older members of the community are not overlooked by his foundation, Kellett says. "Our board has recently expressed interest in supporting efforts to help GLBT seniors, including those who might be pushed back in the closet by their needs for assisted living."

Kellett points out that reality of funding for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender causes compels all of us to make use of our resources.

"Since the GLBT community has many well-financed and organized enemies who believe tolerance is against their religion, and the overwhelming amount of money supporting GLBT issues comes from within the GLBT community, it is important for *everyone* in our community to adopt and support their favorite GLBT charities to the best of their financial abilities."

You meet someone like Kellett and have to ask yourself, *What am I doing with my life? What can I do to make a difference?* And if you haven't yet done it, start asking yourself that right now.

*Eric Dieckman, who edits on our monthly calendar section, also writes regularly on entertainment for OutSmart.*

### ONE LAST QUESTION

**W**e asked John Kellett, via e-mail, a final question.

**How do you want to be remembered when you're gone? What do you want on your tombstone?**

"He was an active longtime member of First Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston, and strongly supported its principles." This may seem like a *non sequitur*, but it's not.

# POLITICALLY MINDED

*Thirty years old this month, the political caucus confronts challenges on an increasingly tough front with determination and a more-inclusive name*

by Olivia Flores Alvarez  
Photograph by Yvonne Feece

**T**hirty years ago this month, Pokey Anderson, Bill Buie, Hugh Crell, and Keith McGee launched the Gay Political Caucus (GPC), the first organization to give Houston's homosexual community a political voice.

"The [political] landscape was incredibly different back then," remembers current Houston city controller and past GPC president Annise Parker. "There were only two gay organizations, Integrity and Dignity, which were the gay Episcopalians and the gay Catholics. There really were no other organizations. For many people, the caucus was the first voice the gay community had. That people were willing to appear on TV and speak out on issues was, for its time, very brave and new.

"The caucus did a lot to educate politicians that there were gay citizens that had needs that had to be met. No one had said that before."

"They did very well for a long time until

a few things happened," says long-time community advocate and GPC member, Jack Valinski. "The '80s saw [the beginning of] AIDS. We also saw the first [antigay] referendum, and the economy went bad. The '80s were rather tough.

"Then during the '90s, the Republicans got more organized, and we got lazy, so things turned around a little bit for us. You look at what's going on today, you'll see that they want to write discrimination into the state constitution and the national constitution. They want to pull foster kids away from loving parents just because those parents happen to be gay. Obviously, we can't afford to be lazy anymore.

"Right now we are all very focused on gay marriage. I think we have lots of other things to be worried about, like health care and discrimination. I just saw a show on CNN the other day, and [a woman] was saying that gays were 11 times more likely to molest children than anyone else. I see that and I think, *Who is challenging that?* People will believe those types of statements

if we don't challenge them, if an organization like the caucus doesn't challenge them."

## NAME CHANGES

At its inception, the organization was called simply the Gay Political Caucus. Despite the fact that Pokey Anderson, a leading lesbian activist, was one of the four founding members and many other lesbians quickly became both members and volunteers, it was several years before the word *lesbian* was added to the name—and then only after heated, often angry discussions.

Parker was president during the name change. "The name changes were symbolic of the deeper discussions that have to be held," she says. "Part of the reason I supported it was because I wanted to encourage more women to participate and to make them feel like they belonged. It was helpful to distinguish ourselves, to say to the gay male community, 'We're somewhat different, we have our own concerns, as well as those concerns that we share with you.' →

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What's in a name: "People realize that we have to be inclusive, from our members to our titles to everything," says political caucus president Maria Gonzalez of the addition of *bisexual* and *transgender* to the name of the organization. (Gonzalez was photographed in her office at University of Houston, where she is an associate professor of English.)

"So we went from the Gay Political Caucus, to the Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, then to the Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus with an asterisk. The asterisk then explained that it was Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Caucus. That was pretty silly."

A few months ago, the name again changed, this time to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Political Caucus, commonly referred to as the GLBT Caucus. Current caucus president Maria Gonzalez oversaw the change.

"Unlike when we added *lesbian* to the title, which was a real struggle, there was almost no discussion with this change," she says. "People realize that we have to be inclusive, from our members to our titles to everything. I'm thrilled and happy that we

finally did it, but it was decades late."

Caucus member Sandra Elliot adds, "I would have been surprised if there had been a big struggle. And for the [bisexual and transgender] people, that name change was

**"Someday we may have even more initials in our title," Gonzalez says. "I'd be happy if we had the whole alphabet [in our title] because that would mean that many more people were coming together to fight for the same causes and ideas. That would be great."**

very important, because they have felt left out. I think 10 years from now is when we'll finally understand how important the name change really was. When we see people assume that GLBT has always been part of the name, when we're surprised that it was

ever anything else, then we'll understand."

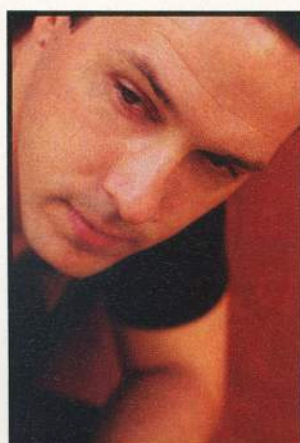
"Someday we may have even more initials in our title," Gonzalez says. "I'd be happy if we had the whole alphabet [in our title] because that would mean that many more people were coming together to fight for the same causes and ideas. That would be great."

"The name GLBT sounds like a bad sandwich," Parker says, with a laugh. "I think it's important to address the question. I like to use the word *gay* or *lesbian* or *transgendered* in places where people can hear them. I don't like titles to be too generic, just the 'Pride this' or the 'Stonewall that.'

But on the other hand the Houston Gay and Lesbian and Bisexual and Transgender Political Caucus doesn't just flow off the tongue. You want a name that identifies the organization, but one that is reasonable. We can go too far in either direction, but it's →



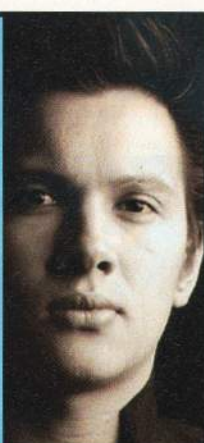
The ex-presidents: Annise Parker (l), the city controller and previous political caucus president, welcomed Sue Lovell (r), another past caucus president and a current City Council candidate, at the March 31 kick-off event for Parker's re-election campaign. Randall Ellis, Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas executive director, also attended the reception at the Four Seasons.



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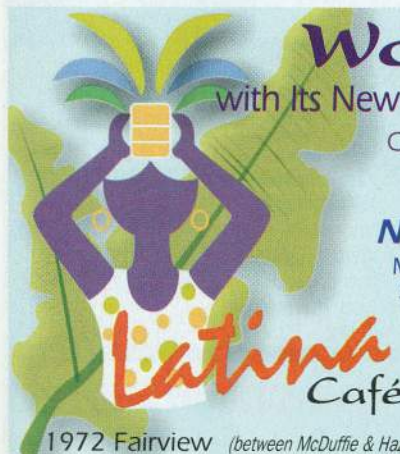
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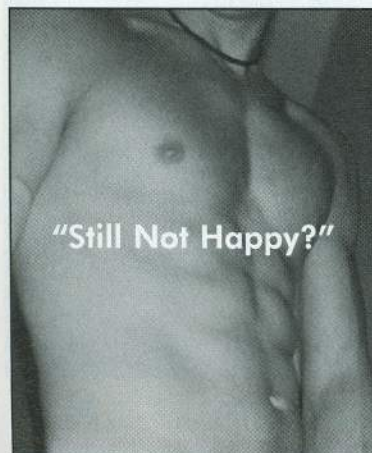
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## Politically Minded continued from page 50

a way of making yourself visible."

That visibility has been directly translated into political power. "[Getting Annise Parker elected] is an example of what the caucus can do," Gonzalez says. "In 1997 when she won [her first City Council race], it was a recognition of the kind of power the LGBT community could put behind someone. It was not the only group behind her, of course, but it was part of a coalition that showed that it could, in fact, put someone into a citywide office."

Valinski adds, "When we saw Annise Parker elected to a citywide office, the fact that she was a lesbian was not a focus of the campaign. That was wonderful, because while it's important, we need to care about more than her sexuality. We have to look at her skills and her talents. She had built support in lots of communities, and didn't run as just a GLBT candidate. She was a qualified candidate, not a GLBT candidate. That was a huge leap for the community."

### WHAT'S NEXT

While proud of the achievements of the caucus, Valinski (who is also executive director of Pride Houston, the group that produces the annual Pride parade and festivities) says the organization still has a lot of work to do. "We need to hire an executive director, a paid employee. We have to have financial stability in order to do that. We have to build our volunteer base, make it easy for people to work on projects. We have to build coalitions with other groups who have similar interests," he says.

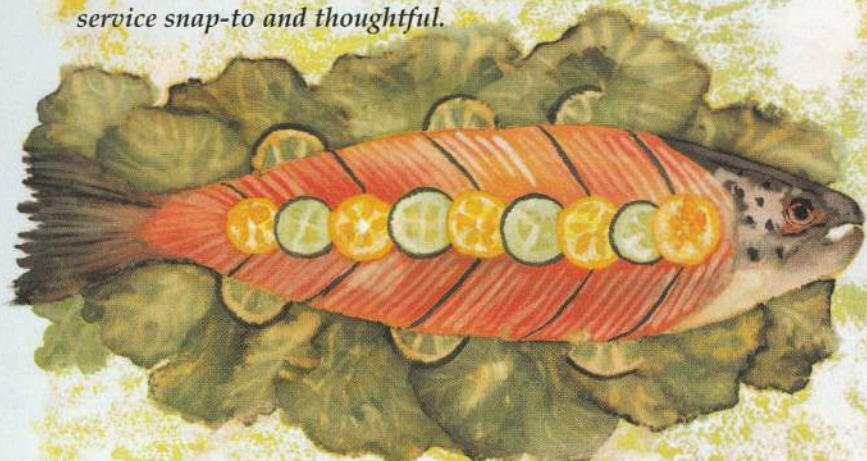
"We also have to develop people to run for office. We're probably the only major group in the city that doesn't have representation in city council. Annise Parker is doing a great job as controller, but she isn't a voting member of the council. The Montrose area is split into two districts, cutting our voter base in half. We need to address that."

Gonzalez, who will be leaving office in December, agrees. "We're good at vetting and endorsing political candidates. We've always been good at that. Now we have to get good at raising money. We also have to get good at building [partnerships]. We have to get good at attracting and keeping members. We have to get good at identifying voters."

"Ken Jones [the previous caucus president] inherited an organization that was unstable and in debt. In the few short years he was president, he moved the organization into a position of not just having no debt but of having savings. Now, thanks to the work Ken Jones did, we →

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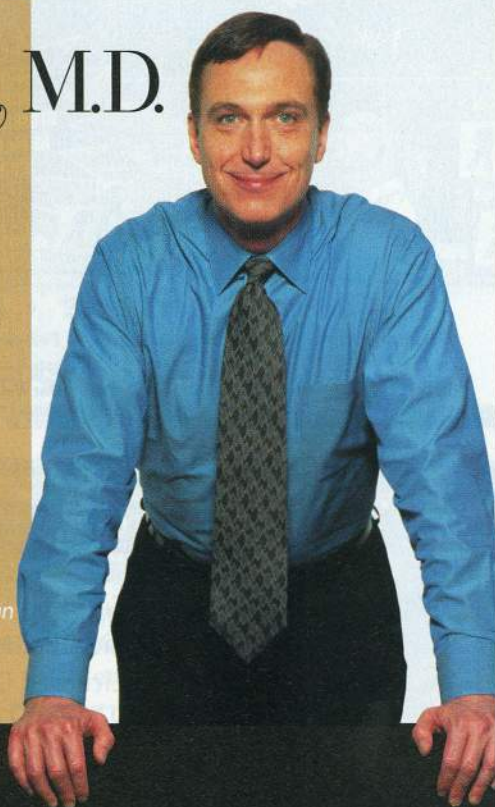
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## Politically Minded continued from page 52

can get by in a thin year. We can pay our rent and keep the phones on. We can get the endorsement cards out, no matter how successful—or not successful—our current fundraising efforts are. Being financially stable is crucial for us.

"We're building our infrastructure, putting together the mechanisms and committees that can put out an effort in response to anything that comes up within days, not weeks—or even overnight, if we had to. Because we have partners in Austin to tell us if something is coming up, because we have partners with Equality Knocks and other organizations, we can respond to anything that comes up. We can launch a field campaign and get people to send faxes or make phone calls within hours because of that infrastructure. We need to continue to develop that."

That ability to respond is crucial, Sandra Elliott says. "Something crucial can come up, and we have to be able to react quickly. That happened recently, and I'm very proud that several organizations got together and with just 24 hours notice, we were able to contact 750 people in two days. That's amazing.

"And it makes the other side notice. Because of all the work the caucus has done, and is doing, anyone who runs for political office in Houston knows that they will have to deal with the GLBT community and address their issues. That wasn't always true, but it's true now. Thanks to the caucus, it's true now."

Olivia Flores Alvarez interviewed Bob Roe, director of the locally produced film *Dancing in Twilight*, for our May issue.

## DEMOCRATS PARTY

The local chapter of the Stonewall Democrats, the nationwide network of GLBT Democratic organizations, hosts a fundraising event, *A Night in Oz*, on June 26 at Rich's Houston. The 5:30 p.m. tea dance will feature *Wizard of Oz*-inspired decorations throughout the club, a costume contest, and food provided by local restaurants. City controller An-nise Parker and City Council candidate Sue Lovell will make special appearances at this post-Pride Parade event. Admission is \$7.



# Houston Pride Celebration



Gay, Lesbian, Bi, and Transgender Pride

**Saturday, June 25, 2005**

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cheap plastic  
beads!

Yeah, we know  
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about shiny objects.

## Pride Festival:

2:00 PM — Until Parade

At Yoakum & Westheimer

\$10 At the Gate

Discount Tickets at [PrideHouston.org](http://PrideHouston.org)

### FEATURING:

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## Pride Parade:

8:45 PM

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