

OutSmart

JUNE 2006

OUT LOUD!

Our annual Pride guide

- June Highlights
- Festival Previews
- New Queer Music
- Proud Profiles

Free at Last

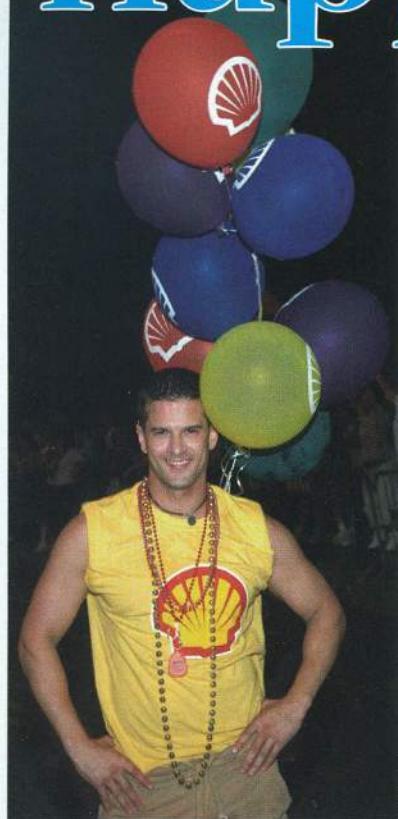
Ray Hill on the third anniversary
of the *Lawrence v. Texas* verdict

Houston's GLBT magazine
www.outsmartmagazine.com

Happy PRIDE Holiday

It's the most *fabulous* time of the year

Compiled by Tim Brookover



These are my holidays," Ray Hill, who has enjoyed a few Pride celebrations over his amazing activist life, cheerfully proclaimed about June at a recent meeting at the community center. And for many of us, Pride month does take on an aspect of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and (of course) Halloween rolled into one fabulous, spangled extravaganza. Here, we present just a few of the events we particularly look forward to during this festive season.

RAINBOW HEALTH FAIR

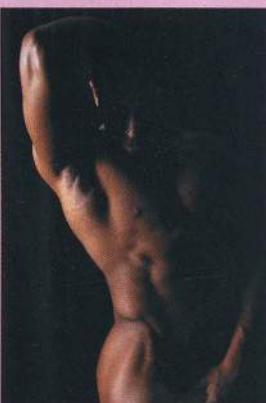
The wonderful women of Lesbian Health Initiative host their summer event at Legacy Community Health Services (formerly known as Montrose Clinic). Services offered free of charge to GLBT women will include mammograms, pelvic exams with Pap tests, blood screenings, and oral cancer and osteoporosis screenings. HIV/STD testing and counseling will also be available. Legacy and the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center Mobile Mammography Program partner in the event.

June 3

8:30 a.m.-3:15 p.m. • Free
Lesbian Health Initiative
713/426-3356
www.lhihouston.org



AN ART AFFAIR

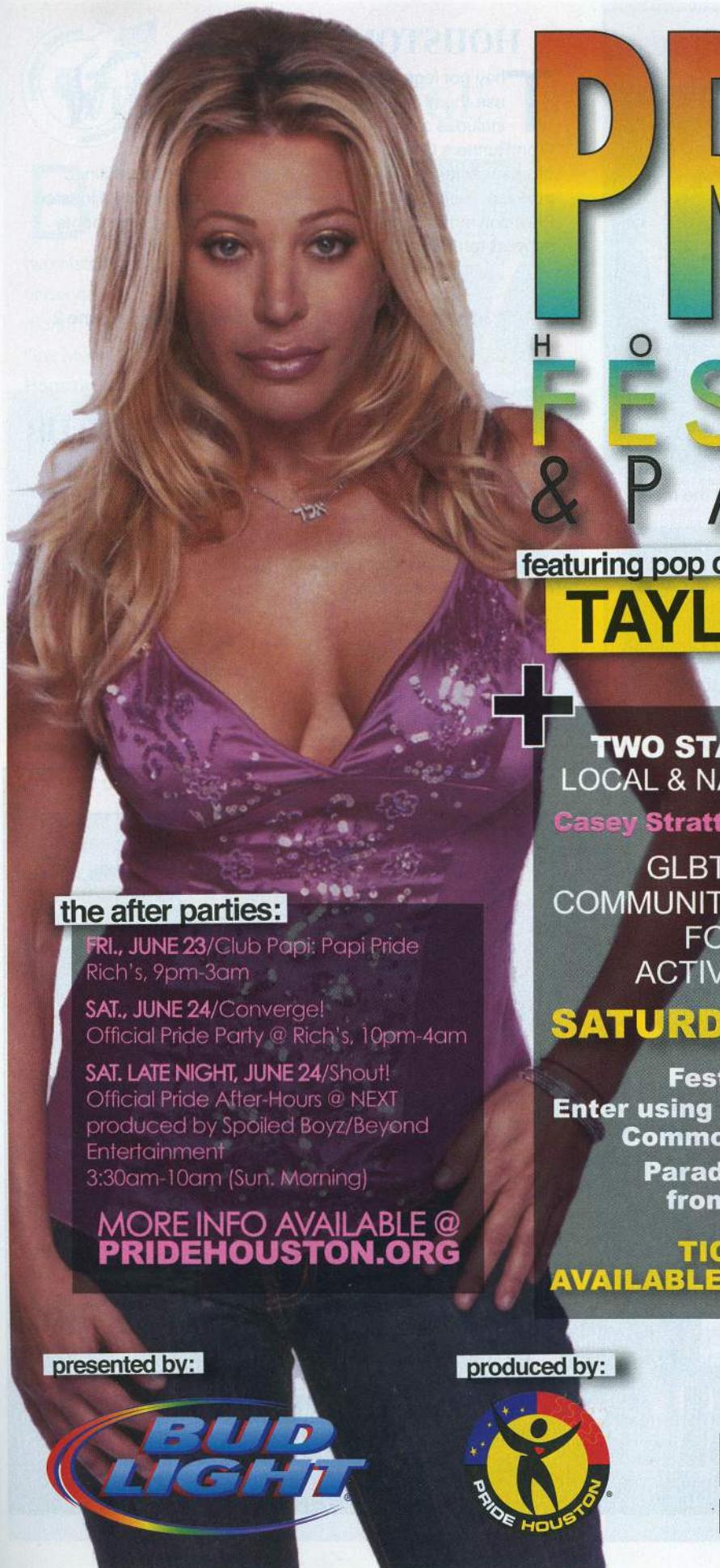


For its second annual art-auction benefit evening, the Houston GLBT Community Center folks move the event to Winter Street Studios, located just off Washington Avenue. DJ Rick Ramirez spins music all night. Prominent artist John Palmer and community advocate Carol Wyatt serve as honorary co-chairs. Kick off Pride month by acquiring a masterpiece by a talented GLBT artist.

June 3

7-10 p.m. • No admission charge
(donations to center encouraged)
Houston GLBT Community Center • 713/524-3818
www.houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org

continued on page 63



PRIDE

H O U S T O N

FESTIVAL

& PARADE

featuring pop diva:

TAYLOR DAYNE

the after parties:

FRI., JUNE 23/Club Papi: Papi Pride
Rich's, 9pm-3am

SAT., JUNE 24/Converge!
Official Pride Party @ Rich's, 10pm-4am

SAT. LATE NIGHT, JUNE 24/Shout!
Official Pride After-Hours @ NEXT
produced by Spoiled Boyz/Beyond
Entertainment
3:30am-10am (Sun. Morning)

MORE INFO AVAILABLE @
PRIDEHOUSTON.ORG

presented by:



produced by:



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LOCAL & NATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT**

Casey Stratton • KJ Denhart • Dylan Rice

GLBT HERITAGE EXHIBIT
COMMUNITY WARES • ENERGY TENT
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ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES

SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 2006

**Festivities Begin @ 2pm
Enter using the here! TV Entrance Gate:
Commonwealth & Westheimer**

**Parade Launches @ 8:45pm
from Lower Westheimer**

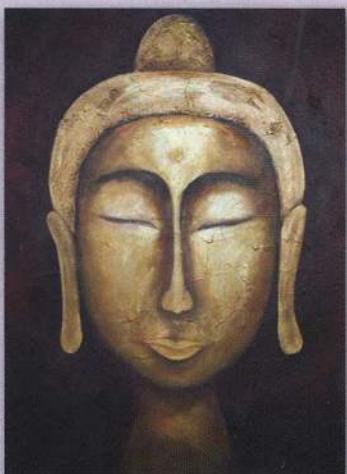
**TICKETS ONLY \$10!
AVAILABLE AT PRIDEHOUSTON.ORG**

Say it out loud!

PRIDE
HOUSTON **2006**

EXPRESSIONS OF HOPE

Twenty-five years ago this month, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued the initial announcement of the condition that was later defined as HIV/AIDS. In recognition, Bering Omega Community Services presents an exhibition of work by participants in the HIV+/Cancer-Related Illnesses Healing Arts Group, led by artist and teacher Kermit Eisenhut. The show in Heritage Hall, in the lobby of Chase Bank downtown, remains on view throughout the month. The artists in the class, sponsored by Art League of Houston, have another exhibition that opens June 13 (see page 20).



June 5-30

Free • Bering Omega Community Services
713/524-9304 • www.beringomega.org



Happy Pride
from
Houston Buyers Club

Our Mission Statement:

To improve the quality of life for people with health-related conditions through nutritional education and affordable supplementation.

Houston Buyers Club is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization



The staff and board members of Houston Buyers Club. Back row (l-r) Fred Walters, Hon. Steven Kirkland, Robert Cruz, Michael Stewart, Lindsay Sample, and Marc Samuels. Front row (l-r) Eric Shamban, Norma Acker, Guylene Ebersole, and Ricky O'Neil.

Houston Buyers Club

3224 Yoakum Blvd 713.520.5288

across from Half Price Books

Hours: M-F 10am-8pm Sat 10am-6pm Sun noon-6pm

www.HoustonBuyersClub.com

HOUSTON PRIDE 5K

They got legs, and they know how to use them! The yearly 5K run event includes a one-mile walk and the Texas FrontRunners Challenge. Winners in a range of age brackets, as well as wheelchair competitors, will nab trophies. Proceeds from the races, which start at Sam Houston Park downtown, benefit AssistHers, which provides in-home support for lesbians with chronic illness or disabilities.



June 10

7:30 a.m. • \$20 registration by June 2, \$25 after June 2
Houston Montrose Athletic Association

REMEMBER THE PALM BEACH CLUB

For many of the party people in the trans community, the Palm Beach Club (improbably tucked into a suburban hotel) was once the place to be. The Houston Transgender Unity Committee and friends recall those glory days of that hot spot with a dance at Meteor. Donations will benefit the Peggy Rudd Transgender Scholarship Fund.

June 10

9 p.m.-2 a.m. • Donations encouraged
Houston Transgender Unity Committee • 281/347-6878
www.houstontransgenderunity.org

two hist under o month. Gay Me Houston internat Turtle C Dallas f in Jones 17 and wonder City Wo ("OutFr OutSma solo con Bering M Method Those c rememb the prev chorus,



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Eric

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on-6pm

WINDS OF CHANGE

Bayou City Performing Arts presents two historic concerts under one banner this month. On June 10, the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston welcomes the internationally renowned Turtle Creek Chorale of Dallas for an evening in Jones Hall. On June 17 and June 20, the wonderful new Bayou City Women's Chorus ("OutFront," December OutSmart) sings its first solo concerts, given at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Those of us who remember Heartsong, the previous women's chorus, can't wait.



June 10, June 17 & June 20

Turtles on the Bayou
June 10, 8 p.m. • \$15-\$34

Taking Center Stage
June 17 & June 20, 8 p.m. • \$15

Bayou City Performing Arts
713/521-SING
www.bayoucityperformingarts.org



HOUSTON GLBT PRIDE INTERFAITH SERVICE

Rev. Troy Plummer, the former, popular pastor at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, returns to preach during the annual service. Plummer is now executive director of the Chicago-based Reconciling Ministries Network, an organization that seeks to assure full participation by people of all sexual orientations and gender identities in the life of the Methodist church. Hosted by the Interfaith Alliance for Inclusiveness, the service at Bering will include the liturgy and music of numerous faith communities, including Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Jews, Muslims, and Unitarian Universalists.

June 18

6 p.m. • Free • Bering Memorial United Methodist Church
1440 Harold • Interfaith Alliance for Inclusiveness
713/721-0202

continued on page 64

Absorb More Q

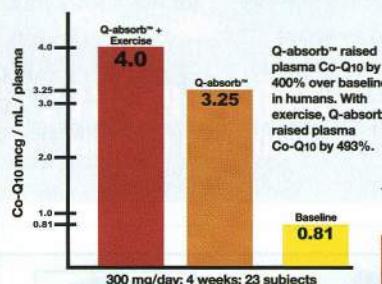
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*References:
Ann N Y Acad Sci. 2002 Apr 269:355-9.
Ann N Y Acad Sci. 2002 Apr 269:283-74.



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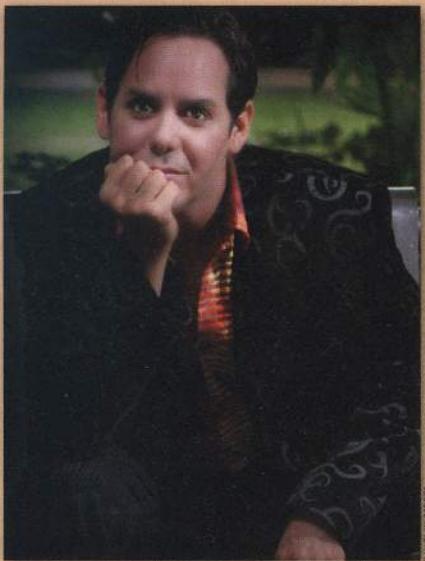


Houston Buyers Club

3224 Yoakum Blvd 713.520.5288
across from Half Price Books

Hours: M-F 10am-8pm Sat 10am-6pm Sun noon-6pm

JADE ESTEBAN ESTRADA-ICONS 1 & ICONS 2



JADE W. D'ANTONI



ICONS: *The Lesbian and Gay History of the World Vol. 1*, presented by the Gulf Coast Archive and Museum of GLBT History (GCAM). This year, the history-minded GCAM team brings back Estrada ("Finding Jade," June 2005 *OutSmart*) for a reprise of Estrada's epoch-hopping show and the sequel. The Houston GLBT Community Center co-sponsors the performances (location not announced by press time), which are benefit events for our history museum.

Gay performer and Texas native Jade Esteban Estrada charmed an audience last June with a performance of his one-man musical

June 20 & 21

7:30 p.m. • \$15

Gulf Coast Archive
and Museum of GLBT History
www.gcam.org

BAILE INTERNACIONAL 2006 & NOCHE DE GALA

Pay attention: This year, there are two black-tie dances presented by two Latino GLBT organizations on the same night. We take no sides. Gays & Lesbians Organized by Orgullo (GLOBO) hosts the annual Baile Internacional at the Communications Workers of America hall downtown. The newer Gay & Lesbian Latino Organization (GALLO) hosts Noche de Gala at the Hornberger Center. The Grammy- and Tejano Music Awards-nominated group AVIZO performs at the event, part of the first Hispanic Orgullo (Pride) Week (see page 16).

June 23

Baile Internacional 2006 • 8 p.m.-1 a.m.

\$25 advance, \$30 at the door

GLOBO • 713/603-0070

Noche de Gala • 8 p.m.-1 a.m.

\$50 advance, \$30 at the door

GALLO • 713/710-0045

www.houstongallo.org

continued on page 66

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3. Algae spores can potentially shorten the useful life of your roof.

The Colt 45's
AIDS Trouble Fund
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Till Thacker III General Charities

30th Anniversary Run

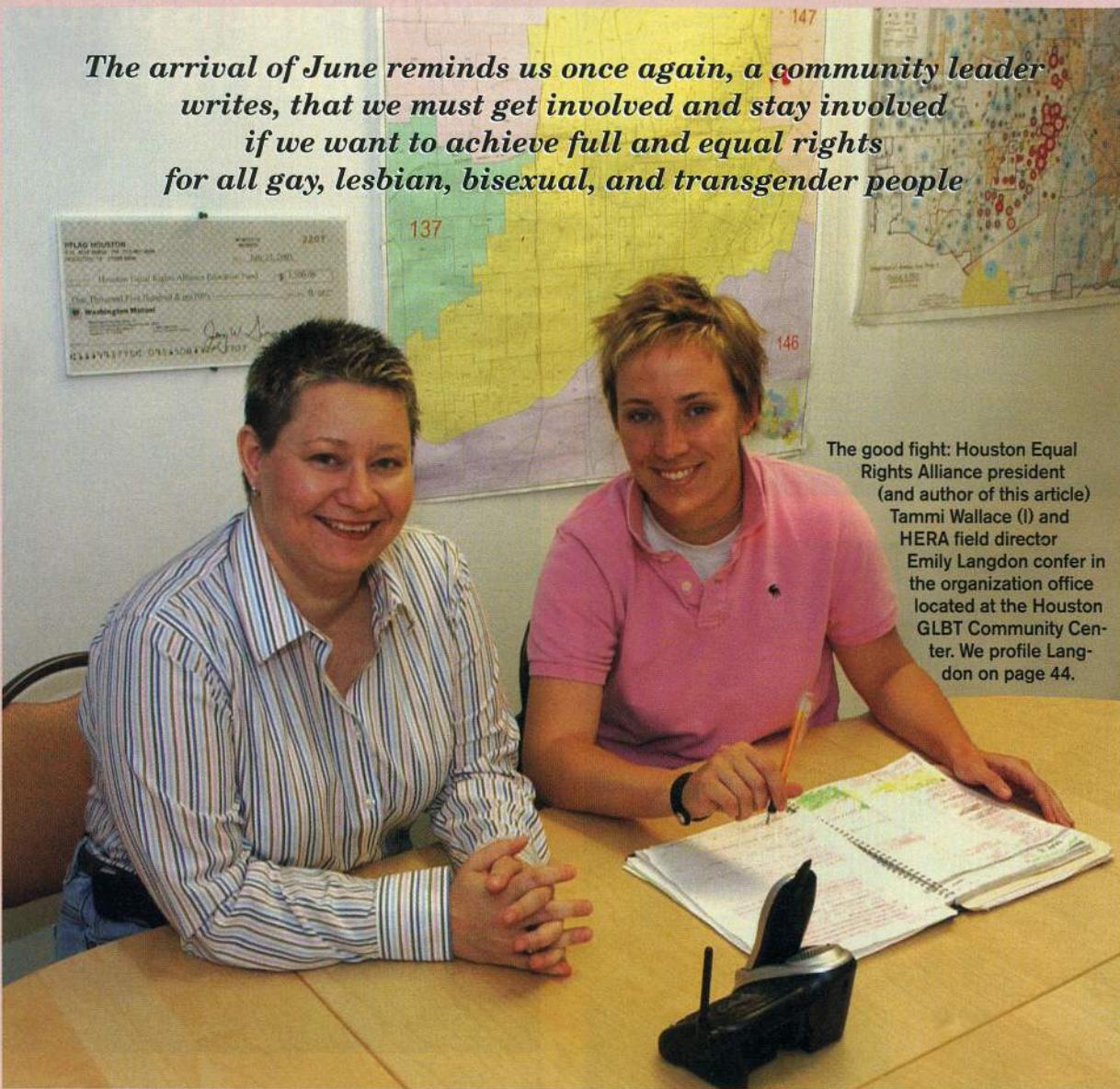
June 9-11, 2006
Out of Town Guests \$10
InTown \$30

The Weekend Will Include:
Friday night snacks, 30th Anniversary run pin, refreshments,
Saturday morning breakfast, bar hop, Saturday dinner,
Sunday brunch & Some Good Old Fashioned Games, Run Awards
AND COLT AWARDS!
For Further Details on the Run Schedule and a Registration Form,
Please go to www.Colt45's.org

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PROUDLY ACTIVE

The arrival of June reminds us once again, a community leader writes, that we must get involved and stay involved if we want to achieve full and equal rights for all gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people



The good fight: Houston Equal Rights Alliance president (and author of this article) Tammi Wallace (l) and HERA field director Emily Langdon confer in the organization office located at the Houston GLBT Community Center. We profile Langdon on page 44.

by Tammi Wallace
Photo by Yvonne Feece

This is the most exciting time of the year in Houston. Pride month is in full swing, and the parade and festival are around the corner. It's that time of the year where we connect as a community, show our pride, reflect on our history, and reenergize ourselves for the future. But Pride month is about more than hitting the social circuit and watching a parade. We are reminded of how much work there is to be done on an ongoing basis in the fight for GLBT civil rights. →

Proudly Active

continued from page 68

What if our community was committed to fighting for GLBT civil rights beyond June? All year long? Every month? Every day? 365/24/7? Sound crazy? I met so many people last year who were angry about Proposition #2. People who wanted to do something about it. There were many people who were willing to give up their time and money without hesitation. The challenge is that most people only get involved when the GLBT community is directly attacked and then easily move back to the status quo after an election. This approach leaves us behind the eight ball because we are not willing to prioritize the work in between the battles in order to prepare for the next one. We are not willing to do the work necessary to move from our current reactive mode to a proactive mode. →



Rights flank: On the national front, the Human Rights Campaign and the

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force are the leading GLBT rights organizations. HRC president Joe Solmonese (above, second from r) greeted HRC Houston members (l-r) Tim Kollatschny, Jani Lopez, and Alton LaDay following a September 8 speech at Rice University.

SIGN UP

Volunteers can get involved with these two local GLBT rights-minded organizations:

- **Houston Equal Rights Alliance**
www.houstonera.org
713/522-HERA
volunteer@houstonera.org
- **Houston GLBT Political Caucus**
www.hglbtpc.org
713/521-1000
info@hglbtpc.org

More ideas: www.outsmartmagazine.com.

We're Dealing!

GLBT MEMBER SINCE 2004

WATCH FOR THE PLANET TEAM AT PRIDE FESTIVAL 2006

AT THE CHAMBER PAVILLION JUNE 24TH 2006 2-8PM

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PARTS DEPARTMENT 281-719-3798

COLLISION CENTER 281-719-3874

VISIT US 24/7 AT planetford.com

Proudly Active

continued from page 70

Two local organizations, the Houston Equal Rights Alliance (HERA) and the Houston GLBT Political Caucus (HGLBTPC) are working tirelessly day after day in the fight for GLBT civil rights. After Proposition #2, these organizations pushed forward with a renewed dedication and mindset that the fight for equality is part of an overall movement that takes a sustained commitment over time. In February, HERA and the HGLBTPC sent 10 activists to Austin to participate in a statewide workshop for community activists and organizers hosted by Equality Texas, the statewide GLBT rights organization. HERA gave a presentation on voter identification and discussed the organizing efforts in Houston. The goal of the workshop was to share the best practices, discuss key legislative districts for future work, identify collaborative efforts, and overall understand how we can collaborate with Equality Texas to advance the movement across the state.

Our community has so many people with different skills, experiences, and talents that are needed at the local level. We need people in our community will-

ing to use their experience and skills. If you're reading this and thinking, *I've never done anything like this before, I don't know where to start, or I don't have any skills*, then you are in the same place many activists were before they decided to get involved.

HERA and the HGLBTPC continue to offer members of our community the opportunity to step up and make a difference 365/24/7. Both groups have many volunteer opportunities with a variety of time commitments. HERA will mount the largest action of the year on June 24, the day of the Pride parade and festival, when we will identify thousands of supporters in our community and register them to vote. We have a fight on our hands with the upcoming 2007 legislative session, and we need people to help us organize our local response and plan for action throughout the session. We have an ongoing project to take our voter database to the next level that will enable us to use it as a serious tool for legislative accountability. This is a *small sampling* of the many volunteer opportunities available. None of these projects will happen without volunteer resources.

Can you imagine a political landscape

in which we are all dedicating time and talents to the fight for GLBT civil rights? Can you imagine organizations having volunteers for every project on the drawing board? Can you imagine how many pro-equality legislators we could send to Austin? How many pro-GLBT bills we could pass at the state level? How many antigay legislators we could defeat? Antigay legislators in the state of Texas will be held accountable when we decide to hold ourselves accountable for changing the political landscape at the local and statewide level. Accountability starts with you. Look beyond your everyday life and get involved today.

What if our pride was 365/24/7? Just what if? June is but one month on the calendar when there is work to be done in terms of educating voters, electing pro-equality candidates, and building political infrastructure and power at the local level. Pride month reminds us once again that we have to get involved and *stay involved* if we truly want to achieve full and equal rights.

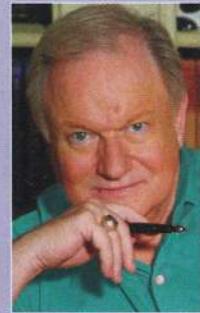
Tammi Wallace is president of the Houston Equal Rights Alliance and vice president of the Houston GLBT Political Caucus.

- Anxiety
- Depression
- Mood Disturbances
- Intimacy
- Relationships
- Family Concerns
- Coming-Out
- Sexuality
- Identity Issues
- Loss
- Grief
- Transition
- Growth
- Abuse
- Addiction
- Anger
- Conflict Resolution
- Self-Esteem
- Self-Confidence
- Achievement

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Three Years of Freedom

by Ray Hill

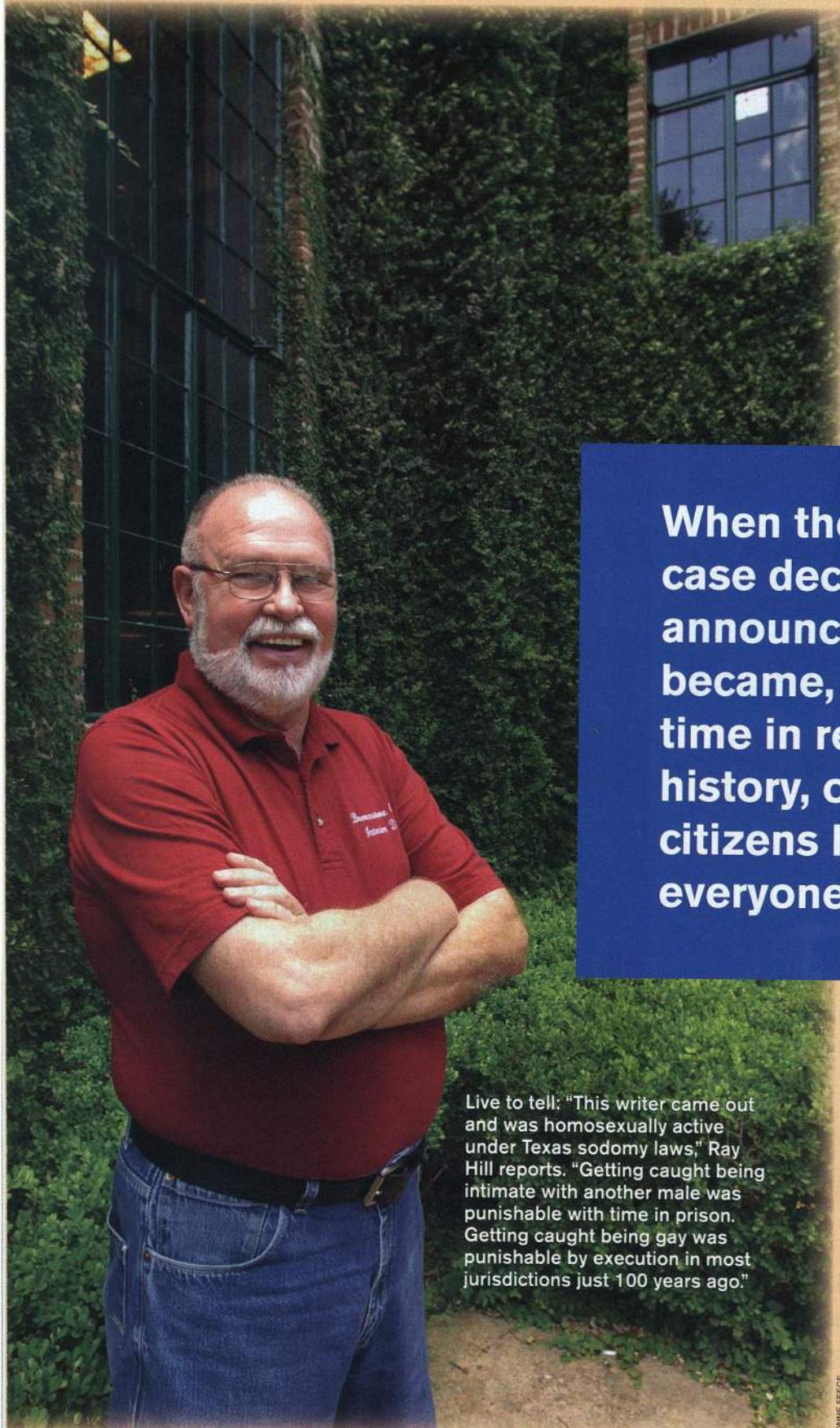
Photos by Yvonne Feece and Todd Rainer



Free at last: On June 26, 2003, the day the Supreme Court decision announced its decision in *Lawrence v. Texas*, Tyron Garner (l) and John Lawrence, the subjects of the case, stood on the steps of City Hall and greeted the jubilant, cheering crowd at a late-afternoon rally.

TODD RAINER

On June 26, 2003, we all received word of the *Lawrence v. Texas* decision that changed the nation. On the third anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court verdict, we asked a long-time freedom fighter for his reflections of that occasion and some historical perspective. →



Live to tell: "This writer came out and was homosexually active under Texas sodomy laws," Ray Hill reports. "Getting caught being intimate with another male was punishable with time in prison. Getting caught being gay was punishable by execution in most jurisdictions just 100 years ago."

3 Years of Freedom

continued from page 80

John Lawrence and Tyron Garner were arrested in September 1998 for violating Section 21.06 of the Texas Criminal Code, a Class C Misdemeanor, punishable by fine only (no jail time in the statute). That case went all the way to the United States Supreme Court, in March 2003, and we all benefited from the resulting victory. Word of the outcome arrived just three days before Houston's Pride Parade 2003, raising the enthusiasm level of

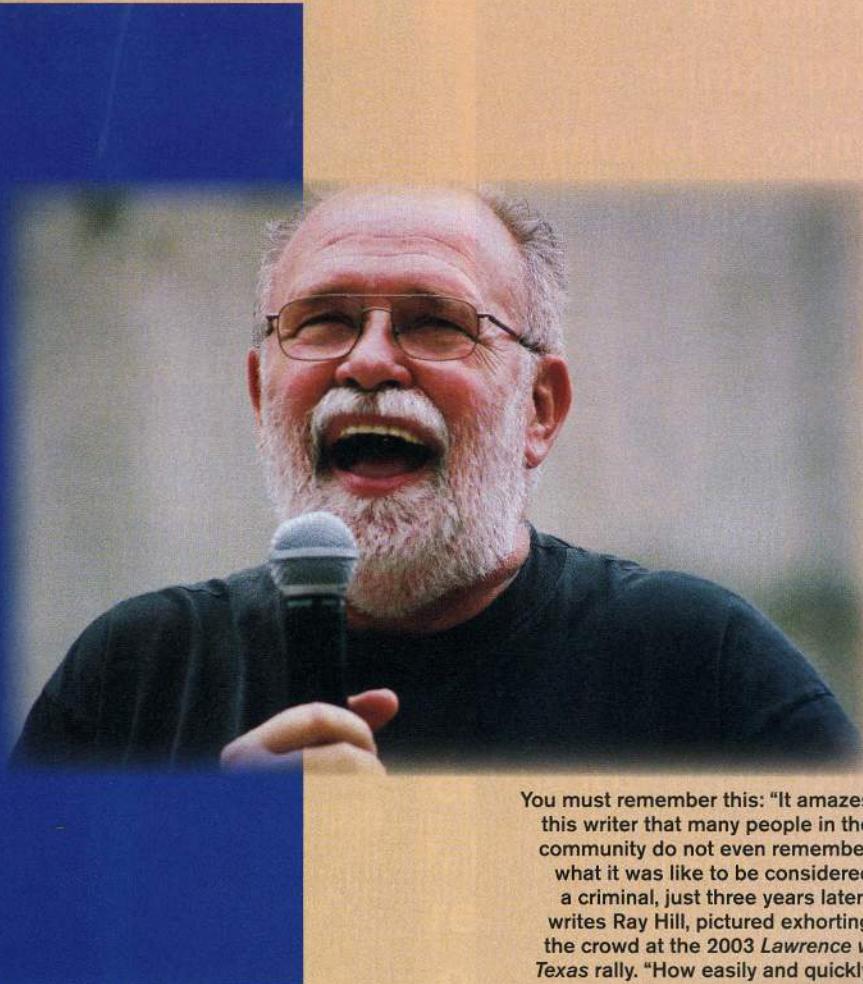
When the *Lawrence* case decision was announced, we became, for the first time in recorded history, ordinary citizens like everyone else.

that celebration beyond what we had dreamed of before.

That was three years ago. Soon the books will begin to be published about the case, and you will be able to study every detail of the history of the most significant legal battle for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning, intersexed, and allies (GLBTQIA) equal rights, ever. When the *Lawrence* case decision was announced, in late June 2003, we became, for the first time in recorded history, ordinary citizens like everyone else. Before that day, we had always been criminals in →

YVONNE FEECE

The rate of change began to quicken in the early 1970s and has reached nosebleed speed since the *Lawrence* decision.



TODD RAINER

You must remember this: "It amazes this writer that many people in the community do not even remember what it was like to be considered a criminal, just three years later," writes Ray Hill, pictured exhorting the crowd at the 2003 *Lawrence v. Texas* rally. "How easily and quickly we forget unpleasantness."

3 Years of Freedom

continued from page 82

many jurisdictions, and that was the excuse given to deny us many licenses to practice our professions; to deny us security clearances needed to serve our country in sensitive positions; and to deny us many jobs or public roles in society.

It amazes this writer that many people in the community do not even remember what it was like to be considered a criminal, just three years later. How easily and quickly we forget unpleasantness.

True, Sec. 21.06 was a misdemeanor and rarely enforced (there were only five cases filed in Harris County between September 1973, when the law was adopted, and June 2003, when it was declared unconstitutional). Five cases in 30 years? Why worry about it? It wasn't that we lived in fear of getting caught, issued a ticket, and having to go to court. It was that the law was used for all manner of discrimination.

Sec. 21.06 was the excuse that prevented us from having full access to the

mainstream of society. We were, after all, criminals under the law whether or not we were charged or convicted. In some states we were subjected to more severe laws. In 2003, sodomy or homosexual practice laws were still at felony levels in several other states. Those laws were also eliminated by the *Lawrence* decision. Suddenly we were not criminals in any jurisdiction where the United States Constitution is the law of the land.

This writer came out and was homosexually active under Texas sodomy laws. Getting caught being intimate with another male was punishable with time in prison. Readers will have to use their imaginations to get the sensation of being caught on a lonely road, naked and sweaty in the back seat of a car with clothes in the front seat, or of a ranger's flashlight shining into the tent at the campgrounds—moments when one's long-term liberty would have been on the line. In spite of many such experiences, somehow, this writer ultimately went to prison for other offenses.

While there, I met five inmates who had been sentenced to life in Texas prison for multiple sodomy convictions under the pre-1973 felony law. One of them, Alvin Buchanan, had fought his cases, and his legal history can be read in *The Southwest Reporter of Texas Cases*. Those cases still make interesting reading not only for the twisted legal terms used to describe Alvin's sex life but also for the twisted legal logic that made them punishable and sent him to prison. The last I heard, Alvin was living near Dallas with his niece, and historians were trying to find him.

Two others were a couple from near Snyder, Texas. One of them had inherited some land and was related to the county sheriff, who wanted to graze his cattle on that land. To rid himself of his kin, the sheriff kicked the door down and sent his cousin to prison with his lover. There, the Texas prison system assigned them to the same unit and allowed them to continue to live →

3 Years of Freedom

continued from page 84

and work as a couple with skills useful to the operation of prisons.

The other two claimed they did not know what I was talking about—they were in prison for something else (they made that claim because the stigma of being gay was that onerous in prison). I met them as I met the others on their last day in prison in September 1973. Their sentences were commuted by then-governor Dolph Briscoe because the crime they had been sentenced to life for violating became a Class C Misdemeanor upon the passage of Sec. 21.06.

Getting caught being gay was punishable by execution in most jurisdictions just 100 years ago. Gay people who were punished by mere imprisonment became the spectator sport of choice for guards as they were abused by the other inmates, driven by eagerness to judge others and hurt those they perceived as weak. As I write this, people even suspected of being gay are harshly punished in several Muslim countries. Apparently, that is the kind

MORE VOICES OF FREEDOM
To mark the third anniversary of the *Lawrence v. Texas* decision, we solicited insights from a host of community figures, ranging from University of Houston-Clear Lake student Tommy Calzadas to gubernatorial candidate Chris Bell. Read these remarks in "News Briefs," page 24, and at www.outsmartmagazine.com.

of nation our soldiers are fighting to establish in Iraq. (During our Revolutionary War, General George Washington approved the execution of one of his soldiers for being gay, which can cause some confusion when one reads the tender letters between Washington and the dashing, young French Marquis de Lafayette.)

In this era of gay liberation, GLBTIQA inclusion and equality, and *Brokeback Mountain*, it is so easy to forget the bloody trail those like us have had to travel to reach this point. The rate of change began to quicken in the early 1970s and has reached nosebleed speed since the *Lawrence* decision. Those of us who began working toward equality in the

1960s, encouraged by the social and political environment of that sexual liberation and free speech era, now have a hard time keeping up with rapidly moving change.

I do, however, have a cautionary comment: If the next generation of our communities forgets where we came from and the struggle that got us this far, those who want to put us back in their approved place for us will succeed. Read the books about the *Lawrence* case when they come out. Compare who we were then with who we are now. Happy Pride Month!

Among his numerous and considerable achievements, Ray Hill received the lifetime achievement award from the American Civil Liberties Union in December 2005. Hill produces and hosts *The Prison Show* and frequently guests on *Queer Voices*, both broadcast on KPFT-FM.

BY THE BOOK

Dale Carpenter, who contributes the monthly "OutRight" column to *OutSmart* (see page 27), is writing a book about the *Lawrence v. Texas* decision, which is scheduled for publication in 2007.

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