

# houston voice

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JUNE 25, 2004

SF PRIDE: John Nechman  
will ride in SF Parade. Page 5



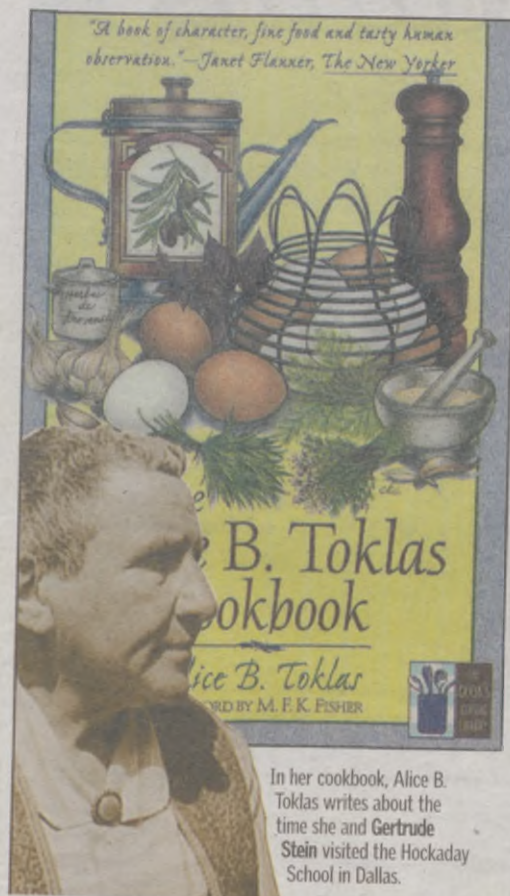
MORE MARRIAGE: Same-sex nuptials  
continue in New Platz. Page 7



NO FAGGOTS: Michael St. Patrick  
balked at playing a stereotype. Page 14



## When Gertrude and Alice did Dallas



In her cookbook, Alice B. Toklas writes about the time she and Gertrude Stein visited the Hockaday School in Dallas.

The world's most famous lesbian couple visited the Hockaday School in Dallas

By BINNIE FISHER

On a cold evening in March of 1935, a crowd had gathered to greet the plane that brought Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas from Chicago to Dallas.

By all accounts, Stein was delighted to see what she considered to be so many well-wishers. It is not known whether anyone informed her that the crowd, mostly women, had actually convened on rumors that Clarke Gable was to have arrived on the same flight.

Just shy of 70 years later, the fact that the world's most famous lesbian couple once came to Dallas goes virtually unobserved.

In "The Alice B. Toklas Cookbook," written after Gertrude died in 1946, Alice notes that the couple pondered from their apartment at 27 rue de Fleurus in Paris whether or not to accept offers that had come from America for Stein to speak there. Gertrude had wondered whether she would find the food to her liking.

The invitations had come following the 1933 publication of "The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas," which Gertrude penned. Some literature enthusiasts were intrigued by the idea of someone writing someone else's autobiography and

Please see VISIT on Page 17



John Geddes Lawrence and Tyron Garner scored a landmark victory for gay rights last year when the nation's highest court agreed with their challenge to a Texas law banning 'deviant sexual intercourse.' (Photo by David J. Phillip/AP)

## One year after Lawrence vs. Texas

Supreme Court's sodomy ruling  
fueled same-sex marriage fight

By RYAN LEE

The day after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1986 that it was constitutional for states to prohibit sodomy between consenting adults, Evan Wolfson began wearing a pin in the shape of a pink triangle.

Wolfson, a gay lawyer who is now the executive director of Freedom to Marry — a coalition working to attain marriage equality for same-sex couples — vowed to wear the pin each day until gay Americans were no longer considered criminals by the federal courts.

Please see SODOMY RULING on Page 8



**local life**  
Police Sgt. Tommy Bennett's  
last Pride Parade rolls through  
Montrose this Saturday.  
**PAGE 10**

**eclipse**  
Jimmy James brings his  
one-man, many women show  
to Houston next weekend.  
**PAGE 18**







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<sup>1</sup>In a clinical study of 100 people new to therapy, a Kaletra regimen had the power to help keep HIV viral loads undetectable (HIV RNA < 50 copies/mL) in the majority (64%) of people through 5 years. In this study, Kaletra was well tolerated and helped to keep HIV in control. In fact, in combination with other HIV meds, Kaletra is a preferred choice by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) for people new to therapy.<sup>3</sup> It's time to ask your doctor about Kaletra.

<sup>2</sup>Kaletra + Efavir<sup>®</sup> (Zerit<sup>®</sup> or Retrovir<sup>®</sup>) is the only DHHS preferred PI-based regimen indicated for initial therapy.



Individual results may vary.



#### KALETRA INDICATION AND SAFETY INFORMATION.

Kaletra is indicated for the treatment of HIV infection in combination with other antiretroviral agents.

Taking Kaletra with certain drugs could create potential for serious and/or life-threatening side-effects. Kaletra should not be taken with Halcion<sup>®</sup>, Hismanal<sup>®</sup>, Orap<sup>®</sup>, Propulsid<sup>®</sup>, Seldane<sup>®</sup>, Versed<sup>®</sup>, Rimactane<sup>®</sup>, Rifadin<sup>®</sup>, Rifater<sup>®</sup>, Rifamate<sup>®</sup>, Mevacor<sup>®</sup>, Zocor<sup>®</sup>, ergot derivatives or products containing St. John's wort (Hypericum perforatum). Discuss all medicines, including those without a prescription, and herbal preparations you are taking or plan to take with your doctor or pharmacist. Kaletra should not be taken if you have had an allergic reaction to Kaletra or any of its ingredients. Pancreatitis and liver problems, which can be fatal, have been reported. Tell your doctor if you have or have had liver disease such as hepatitis. In patients taking protease inhibitors, increased bleeding (in patients with hemophilia) and diabetes/high blood sugar have occurred. Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients receiving antiretroviral therapy. Some patients receiving Kaletra have had large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol. In clinical trials, the most commonly reported side effects of moderate or severe intensity were: abdominal pain, abnormal bowel movements, diarrhea, feeling weak or tired, headache and nausea. This is not a complete list of reported side effects. Kaletra oral solution contains alcohol.

**Kaletra does not cure HIV infection or AIDS and does not reduce the risk of passing HIV to others.**

Please see adjacent page for Patient Information.

References: 1. Eron J, da Silva B, King M, et al. Lopinavir/ritonavir in antiretroviral-naïve HIV-infected patients: 5-year follow-up. 43rd Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy (ICAAC), September 2003; Chicago, IL. Poster #14-844. 2. IMS HEALTH National Prescription Audit Plus for Protease Inhibitor Class, July 2002-February 2004. 3. Department of Health and Human Services Guidelines for the use of antiretroviral agents in HIV 1-infected adults and adolescents, March 23, 2004.

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## KALETRA® (lopinavir/ritonavir) capsules (lopinavir/ritonavir) oral solution

**ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with KALETRA. Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."**

### Patient Information

## KALETRA® (kuh-LEE-tra)

Generic Name: lopinavir/ritonavir  
(lop-IN-uh-veer/rit-ON-uh-veer)

Read this leaflet carefully before you start taking KALETRA. Also, read it each time you get your KALETRA prescription refilled, in case something has changed. This information does not take the place of talking with your doctor when you start this medicine and at check ups. Ask your doctor if you have any questions about KALETRA.

Before taking your medicine, make sure you have received the correct medicine. Compare the name above with the name on your bottle and the appearance of your medicine with the description provided below. Contact your pharmacist immediately if you believe a dispensing error has occurred.

#### What is KALETRA and how does it work?

KALETRA is a combination of two medicines. They are lopinavir and ritonavir. KALETRA is a type of medicine called an HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor. KALETRA is always used in combination with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. KALETRA is for adults and for children age 6 months and older.

HIV infection destroys CD4 (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops.

KALETRA blocks HIV protease, a chemical which is needed for HIV to multiply. KALETRA reduces the amount of HIV in your blood and increases the number of T cells. Reducing the amount of HIV in the blood reduces the chance of death or infections that happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

#### Does KALETRA cure HIV or AIDS?

KALETRA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of KALETRA are not known at this time. People taking KALETRA may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections.

#### Does KALETRA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

KALETRA does not reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Continue to practice safe sex and do not use or share dirty needles.

#### How should I take KALETRA?

- You should stay under a doctor's care when taking KALETRA. Do not change your treatment or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.
- You must take KALETRA every day exactly as your doctor prescribed it. The dose of KALETRA may be different for you than for other patients. Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.
- Dosing in adults (including children 12 years of age and older): The usual dose for adults is 3 capsules (400/100 mg) or 5.0 mL of the oral solution twice a day (morning and night), in combination with other anti-HIV medicines.
- Dosing in children from 6 months to 12 years of age: Children from 6 months to 12 years of age can also take KALETRA. The child's doctor will decide the right dose based on the child's weight.
- Take KALETRA with food to help it work better.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking KALETRA without first talking with your doctor.
- When your KALETRA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to KALETRA and become harder to treat.
- Be sure to set up a schedule and follow it carefully.
- Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give KALETRA to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

#### What should I do if I miss a dose of KALETRA?

It is important that you do not miss any doses. If you miss a dose of KALETRA, take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled

dose at its regular time. If it is almost time for your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose.

#### What happens if I take too much KALETRA?

If you suspect that you took more than the prescribed dose of this medicine, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately. As with all prescription medicines, KALETRA should be kept out of the reach of young children. KALETRA liquid contains a large amount of alcohol. If a toddler or young child accidentally drinks more than the recommended dose of KALETRA, it could make him/her sick from too much alcohol. Contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately if this happens.

#### Who should not take KALETRA?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether KALETRA is right for you.

- Do not take KALETRA if you are taking certain medicines. These could cause serious side effects that could cause death. Before you take KALETRA, you must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or are planning to take. These include other prescription and non-prescription medicines and herbal supplements.
- For more information about medicines you should not take with KALETRA, please read the section titled "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."
- Do not take KALETRA if you have an allergy to KALETRA or any of its ingredients, including ritonavir or lopinavir.

#### Can I take KALETRA with other medications?

KALETRA may interact with other medicines, including those you take without a prescription. You must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or planning to take before you take KALETRA.

#### MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA:

- Do not take the following medicines with KALETRA because they can cause serious problems or death if taken with KALETRA.
  - Dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine and methyle-  
rgonovine such as Cafergot®, Migranal®, D.H.E. 45®, Ergotrate  
Maleate, Methergine, and others
  - Halicion® (triazolam)
  - Hismanal® (astemizole)
  - Orap® (pimozide)
  - Propulsid® (cisapride)
  - Seldane® (terfenadine)
  - Versed® (midazolam)
- Do not take KALETRA with rifampin, also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®. Rifampin may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.
- Do not take KALETRA with St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease KALETRA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to KALETRA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV medicines.
- Do not take KALETRA with the cholesterol-lowering medicines Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible serious reactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between KALETRA and Lipitor® (atorvastatin); talk to your doctor before you take any of these cholesterol-reducing medicines with KALETRA.

#### Medicines that require dosage adjustments:

It is possible that your doctor may need to increase or decrease the dose of other medicines when you are also taking KALETRA. Remember to tell your doctor all medicines you are taking or plan to take.

Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with KALETRA, talk to your doctor about problems these two medicines can cause when taken together. You may get increased side effects of VIAGRA, such as low blood pressure, vision changes, and penis erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, get medical help right away to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

- If you are taking oral contraceptives ("the pill") to prevent pregnancy, you should use an additional or different type of contraception since KALETRA may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.
- Efavirenz (Sustiva®), nevirapine (Viramune®), Agenerase (amprenavir) and Viracept (nelfinavir) may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood. Your doctor may increase your dose of KALETRA if you are also taking efavirenz, nevirapine, amprenavir or nelfinavir.
- If you are taking Mycobutin® (rifabutin), your doctor will lower the dose of Mycobutin.
- A change in therapy should be considered if you are taking KALETRA with:
  - Phenobarbital
  - Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
  - Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

These medicines may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.

#### Other Special Considerations:

KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take metronidazole or disulfiram. Severe nausea and vomiting can occur.

#### If you are taking both didanosine (Videx®) and KALETRA:

Didanosine (Videx®) should be taken one hour before or two hours after KALETRA.

#### What are the possible side effects of KALETRA?

- This list of side effects is not complete. If you have questions about side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You should report any new or continuing symptoms to your doctor right away. Your doctor may be able to help you manage these side effects.
- The most commonly reported side effects of moderate severity that are thought to be drug related are: abdominal pain, abnormal stools (bowel movements), diarrhea, feeling weak/tired, headache, and nausea. Children taking KALETRA may sometimes get a skin rash.
- Blood tests in patients taking KALETRA may show possible liver problems. People with liver disease such as Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C who take KALETRA may have worsening liver disease. Liver problems including death have occurred in patients taking KALETRA. In studies, it is unclear if KALETRA caused these liver problems because some patients had other illnesses or were taking other medicines.
- Some patients taking KALETRA can develop serious problems with their pancreas (pancreatitis), which may cause death. You have a higher chance of having pancreatitis if you have had it before. Tell your doctor if you have nausea, vomiting, or abdominal pain. These may be signs of pancreatitis.
- Some patients have large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol. The long-term chance of getting complications such as heart attacks or stroke due to increases in triglycerides and cholesterol caused by protease inhibitors is not known at this time.
- Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) occur in patients taking protease inhibitors such as KALETRA. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients need changes in their diabetes medicine. Others needed new diabetes medicine.
- Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking anti-retroviral therapy. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.
- Some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding with protease inhibitors.
- There have been other side effects in patients taking KALETRA. However, these side effects may have been due to other medicines that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Some of these side effects can be serious.

#### What should I tell my doctor before taking KALETRA?

- If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant: The effects of KALETRA on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known.
- If you are breast-feeding: Do not breast-feed if you are taking KALETRA. You should not breast-feed if you have HIV. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your doctor about the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that HIV can be transmitted through breast-feeding.
- If you have liver problems: If you have liver problems or are infected with Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C, you should tell your doctor before taking KALETRA.
- If you have diabetes: Some people taking protease inhibitors develop new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Tell your doctor if you have diabetes or an increase in thirst or frequent urination.
- If you have hemophilia: Patients taking KALETRA may have increased bleeding.

#### How do I store KALETRA?

- Keep KALETRA and all other medicines out of the reach of children.
- Refrigerated KALETRA capsules and oral solution remain stable until the expiration date printed on the label. If stored at room temperature up to 77°F (25°C), KALETRA capsules and oral solution should be used within 2 months.
- Avoid exposure to excessive heat.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

#### General advice about prescription medicines:

Talk to your doctor or other health care provider if you have any questions about this medicine or your condition. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information Leaflet. If you have any concerns about this medicine, ask your doctor. Your doctor or pharmacist can give you information about this medicine that was written for health care professionals. Do not use this medicine for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not share this medicine with other people.

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## houston news

## Houston's John Nechman will ride in SF Pride Parade

Nechman is honored  
in SF parade as  
a Grand Marshal

By JOSEF MOLNAR

Gay Houston attorney John Nechman will ride on a Pride Parade float this weekend, but that float won't be traveling down Westheimer.

Nechman, chair of Immigration Equality, an organization that has been named a Grand Marshal in the San Francisco Pride Parade, will ride on that group's float.

Nechman, of Nechman, Simoneaux and Frye, specializes in immigration issues as they affect gay, lesbian and transgender individuals and couples. He said he is excited that his organization is being honored in a parade that has hosted gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender leaders from around the world.

"When you think of the San Francisco Pride Parade, you think of Harvey Milk and the great leaders from our community," he said. "And one of the first floats out will be ours". What an incredible honor."

San Francisco's parade will also be celebrating the city's recent same-sex marriage successes. Marriages sanctioned by

San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom have horrified conservatives and galvanized the gay and lesbian community.

Nechman said the community is riding a wave of successes that began with last year's landmark Lawrence v. Texas case in which the U.S. Supreme Court struck down anti-sodomy laws across the United States.

"There is such a euphoria there," Nechman said. "People are so uplifted that they accomplished this and they've shown America that gay people could get married and the sky would not fall. Last year Houston was in the spotlight, and this year it's San Francisco, so I think this will be their biggest parade ever."

About 20 Houston members of the organization will join Nechman and more than 200 supporters and members from around the nation as the Immigration Equality float winds its way through San Francisco's Market district. Belinda Ryan, the organization's San Francisco chapter coordinator, said the group relied on symbolism for its float.

"The float will be a gray boat with a fluorescent pink State of Liberty in it bound with chains," she said. "The chains are meant to show that liberty is bound for GLBT bi-national couples."

In addition to supporters, many long-term couples affected by U.S. immigration policies will march carrying signs which read "United By Love, Divided By Law."

Ryan said the slogan points to federal



Houston attorney John Nechman is president of an organization that has been selected as a grand marshal in the San Francisco Pride Parade. (Photo by Dalton DeHart)

laws which allow straight people to enter marriages with citizens of other countries for reasons other than love but leave out gay and lesbian couples.

"A straight American can go online and get a mail order bride and get her a green card," she said, "and yet we can't even sponsor our partners of 25 years."

This year represents the organization's first year as Immigration Equality, after changing its name from the Lesbian and Gay Immigration Rights Task Force.

Nechman said the fight for immigration equality goes hand in hand with the fight for U.S. citizens to be legally married. He added that the immigration equality issue, especially in highly diverse cities such as Houston

and San Francisco, is one of the biggest challenges facing gay and lesbian people.

"This is one of the most incredible times to be able to speak on issues relating to the gay and lesbian community," he said. "And we are happy to have this opportunity to point to the immigration issues of bi-national couples."

Immigration Equality has pushed Congress to consider the Permanent Partners Immigration Act, a bill that would allow gay and lesbian people with partners from other countries to sponsor them as residents. The bill currently has 110 sponsors in the House of Representatives and 13 in the Senate.

By putting the spotlight on Immigration Equality, Ryan said, the group has gained an additional forum for its issues. Some of the marchers will engage in outreach and carry green cards containing information about the group and resources for bi-national couples.

Unfortunately, she said, many bi-national couples with one undocumented or illegal partner are unable to represent themselves in the equality struggle because it may expose them to scrutiny.

"This is a brilliant thing for us to have, because so many of us couples live under the radar screen, and don't want our presence to be known," Ryan said. "For us to be acknowledged has given us a sense of hope that our community will rally around us. Raising awareness like this during the Pride Parade can only do us good."

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## national news

### Judge's ruling sparks more gay marriages in N.Y.

NEW PALTZ, N.Y. (AP) — Nineteen more gay couples walked the aisle Saturday in another round of same-sex weddings — a regular event here that has become part celebration, part political statement. This Hudson Valley village became a focal point of the national gay marriage debate when Mayor Jason West wed more than two dozen same-sex couples Feb. 27. But even after the spotlight moved on, a series of ministers have married more than 160 gay couples. A pink Victorian bed and breakfast has become a sort of same-sex marriage mill on alternating Saturdays, and organizers have no plans to quit. "We're basically just not going to stop until everyone's equal protection under the law is recognized," said Charles Clement, an organizer and co-owner of the LeFevre House bed and breakfast. State officials have said same-sex ceremonies violated state law. Gay marriage advocates were encouraged last week when the criminal charges against West were dismissed by a town judge on constitutional grounds. District Attorney Donald Williams is appealing that ruling.



Village of New Paltz Trustee Julia Walsh marries Michelle Wood (left) 33, and Sherrelle Wolfe, 23, while Wood's son Jacob, 7, watches. (Photo by Keith Ferris/AP)

### Specialists discharged from U.S. military for being gay

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. — Newly available data shows that a number of mission-critical specialists have been discharged from the U.S. military in the last several years, according to the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military, a research unit of the University of California, Santa Barbara. The military discharged gay men and lesbians serving in 161 different occupational specialties between 1998 and 2003, the data showed, according to the center. Under the government's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, gays can only serve in the military if they keep their sexual orientation a secret. Those discharged included 49 nuclear, biological and chemical warfare specialists; 90 nuclear power engineers; 52 missile guidance and control operators; 150 rocket, missile and other artillery specialists; and 340 infantrymen, the center stated in a press release. Among those discharged also were nearly 50 linguists dismissed since 2001, the center stated. "The new data suggest that 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' has undermined every area of the military," center director Aaron Belkin said in the news release. "We have lost valuable talent from almost every base and every occupational specialty."

### Gay Ky. men who were parenting quadruplets split

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) — The gay men who were parenting quadruplets and another baby have separated amid allegations of domestic violence, according to court records. Michael Meehan had filed a petition seeking a domestic violence order against his former partner, Thomas Dysarz. Fayette County Family Court Judge Kim Bunnell rejected the request earlier this month, saying there was "insufficient evidence" to support an order placing restrictions on Dysarz's interaction with Meehan. The Lexington men made headlines in 2002 when they became parents to the three boys and one girl who were the biological children of Meehan and a surrogate mother, Brooke Verity of Nicholasville. A boy who was Dysarz's biological son was born in January with the same surrogate mother. Court records show separate addresses for the men.

### N.H. parents suing over teacher's remarks that two boys are gay

BARNSTEAD, N.H. (AP) — The parents of two seventh-grade boys are suing the school district after a teacher allegedly called the boys gay lovers. The suit alleges teacher William Sheehan referred to the boys as gay lovers twice in class and told the girlfriend of one of the boys why he thought the boy was gay. Further, the parents allege the school principal, Stephen O'Neil, tried to get the girl to change her story about the conversation with the teacher. The parents, Stephen and Dawn Call and Nathan and Julie Cheney, say O'Neil and the school superintendent didn't do anything to the teacher after receiving complaints. The teacher's lawyer says the school offered to have the teacher apologize in class, but the parents wanted a larger, multi-class assembly for the apology. Lawyer Steven Sacks called the incident a lapse in judgment. He said Sheehan made one remark "in jest." But Lester Firstenberger, who is representing the parents, said the teacher made comments several times and harmed the boys emotionally.

### Gay marriage opponents succeed in effort to put issue on Mont. ballot

HELENA (AP) — Supporters of an initiative to ban gay marriages say they have gathered enough signatures to get the measures on the November ballot. The Montana Family Foundation said it collected a record number of signatures for a constitutional initiative to ban gay marriage in Montana. The foundation said it gathered just over 70,000 petition signatures in favor of Constitutional Initiative 96. The group needed to collect 41,020 signatures, including signatures from 10 percent of the registered voters in 28 of the state's 56 counties. Foundation president Rep. Jeff Laszloffy (R-Laurel) said support for the proposed constitutional ban has been overwhelming. If the proposed amendment clears its final legal hurdles, the measure can be passed by a simple majority of voters at the ballot boxes come November. "I think the people sense that traditional marriages and institutions need to be protected," Laszloffy said. "Petitions are coming from everywhere."

From staff and wire reports

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## news cover story

## Sodomy ruling let gays 'dream bigger'

SODOMY RULING, continued from Page 1

Sodomy laws were rarely enforced in the years after the 1986 ruling — a Georgia case known as *Bowers v. Hardwick* — but as long as the Supreme Court classified gay sex as criminal behavior, gay men and lesbians continued to be denied the full rights of citizenship, said Greg Nevins, a senior staff attorney for the Lambda Defense & Education Fund, a gay legal group.

"When you can be criminalized, it's hard to make an argument for other rights," he said.

But on June 26, 2003, the Supreme Court reversed itself by striking down all remaining sodomy laws in its ruling in *Lawrence v. Texas*, a decision that signaled "a sea change in the prevailing attitude concerning our rights," Nevins said.

The 6-3 ruling allowed Wolfson to finally remove his pink triangle pin, and the majority opinion used strong words to describe the mistake the court made 17 years earlier.

"Bowers was not correct when it was decided, and it is not correct today," Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote for the 6-3 majority in *Lawrence*. "It ought not remain binding precedent."

"Its continuance as precedent demeans the lives of homosexual persons," Kennedy wrote.

## Pride and prejudice

Adding to the emotional power of the *Lawrence* ruling was the fact that it was announced just days before many cities across the country celebrated Gay Pride weekend.

"The timing of it was really special," said Donna Narducci, executive director of the Atlanta Pride Committee.

Wolfson said *Lawrence* was a momentous win, but gay men and lesbians must not assume the fight for equal rights is over.

"Other landmark rulings remind us that court decisions are not self-enacting," Wolfson said.

After the *Lawrence* decision was announced, Wolfson said he replaced his pink triangle with a symbol of gay citizens' next big legal fight: a Freedom to Marry pin.

## Sodomy law challenged

When John Lawrence was arrested in his Houston apartment in 1998 after being caught engaged in consensual sex with Tyrone Garner, he couldn't believe what was happening, Lawrence told Southern Voice in an interview this week.

Lawrence said he didn't know sodomy was still a crime in Texas, and thought enforcement of such laws ended in the 1960s.

Harris County sheriff's deputies entered Lawrence's home on Sept. 17, 1998, responding to a false report that a man in the apartment had a gun and was disruptive. Upon entering the house and finding Garner and Lawrence having sex, the deputies arrested both men for violating the state sodomy law, which prohibited



Tyrone Garner (left) and John Lawrence arrive at the courthouse with one of their attorneys, Mitchell Katine (right), to face charges of homosexual conduct under Texas' sodomy law on Nov. 20, 1998. More than four years later, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned their conviction and ruled as unconstitutional state sodomy laws. (AP Photo/David J. Phillip)

"deviate sexual intercourse with another individual of the same sex."

Oral and anal sex were both classified as "deviant sexual intercourse" by the Texas statute.

After being arrested, convicted of sodomy and forced to pay \$200 fines, Garner and Lawrence secured legal help from gay attorneys who were eager to challenge the state's sodomy law and were waiting on the right case to do so.

Mitchell Katine, a gay Houston attorney who represented Lawrence and Garner along with Lambda Legal, said this week that the case represented a "perfect storm" with which to challenge the sodomy law, since that was the only crime the defendants were accused of committing.

"It was one charge, which made the case very clear and less likely to be sidetracked by some other factor," Katine said. "That, and the underlying facts of the case were so compelling to anyone who looked at them is what made this the right case."

But even "the right case" to challenge the state's sodomy law faced a difficult battle in the Texas courts, and Katine said he was not confident they would win, a feeling he shared with Lawrence and Garner.

Garner and Lawrence were found guilty of committing sodomy by a Harris County judge on Dec. 22, 1998, a ruling that was overturned by a three-judge panel of the Texas Court of Appeals on June 5, 2000.

But almost a year later, on March 15, 2001, the full court of appeals reversed the three-judge panel's decision — upholding Garner and Lawrence's convictions and the state's sodomy law.

After the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals — the state's highest court on criminal matters — refused to hear an appeal on behalf of the two men in April 2002, Katine and lawyers with Lambda Legal filed an appeal with the U.S. Supreme Court.

## Road to 'greater freedom'

"The first true high point was when we got word from the Supreme Court that they

were ordering the state of Texas to file a reply to our petition," Katine remembers. "That's when I thought they might hear our case, that's when I got excited."

In December 2002 the Supreme Court agreed to hear the case, and attorneys from the state of Texas and Lambda Legal gave oral arguments on March 26, 2003.

The Texas law was unconstitutional and should be overturned for two primary reasons, Paul Smith, a gay attorney affiliated with Lambda Legal, told the high court. The statute violated gay men and lesbians' due process and right to privacy, and it violated the equal protection clause of the 14th amendment because it singled out sodomy committed by same-sex couples and not heterosexual couples.

Charles Rosenthal, the Harris County district attorney, argued that his state has an interest in upholding "moral standards for its people," and that "marriage and family" and promoting the birth of children were all issues that justified the state's interest in keeping homosexual sodomy illegal.

"During the oral arguments the justices clearly indicated that they thought the law was ridiculous," Katine said.

Three months after oral arguments, the justices announced they sided with Lawrence and Garner in a decision whose wording Katine described as "remarkable."

"When homosexual conduct is made criminal by the law of the state, that declaration in and of itself is an invitation to subject homosexual persons to discrimination both in the public and in the private spheres," the majority opinion said. "The offense, to be sure, is but a ... misdemeanor, a minor offense in the Texas legal system."

"Still, it remains a criminal offense with all that imports for the dignity of the persons charged," the court said. The majority in *Lawrence* focused much of its opinion on the right of every American to have "autonomy of self that includes freedom of thought, belief, expression, and certain intimate conduct."

"The petitioners are entitled to respect for their private lives," wrote Kennedy, who was joined by Justices Stephen Breyer, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, John Paul Stevens and David Souter, with Sandra Day O'Connor concurring. "The state cannot demean their existence or control their destiny by making private sexual conduct a crime."

## Limited impact?

The *Lawrence* decision thrilled gay attorneys and activists, energizing Pride festivals around the country last year.

But the ruling also energized opponents of gay rights.

Instead of expanding freedom, the majority in *Lawrence* created a right to engage in sodomy essentially out of thin air, said Rena Lindevaldsen, senior litigation counsel for the conservative Liberty Counsel, a Florida-based conservative counterpoint to Lambda Legal.

But Lindevaldsen downplayed the ruling's impact on other gay rights cases.

"I think it was more of a moral loss for the country than a legal loss," Lindevaldsen said.

## Fueling the marriage fight

Both supporters and opponents of the *Lawrence* ruling cite the case as a factor that helped fuel the year-long, ongoing national discussion on gay rights, particularly the right to marry.

Backlash over the sodomy ruling helped build support for the Federal Marriage Amendment, a proposal to change the Constitution to ban any legal recognition for gay couples that could see a vote in the U.S. Senate next month.

Introduced on May 23, 2003, in the U.S. House of Representatives, the FMA had only 25 co-sponsors during its first month, but gained 50 more in the month following the Supreme Court's sodomy ruling.

When the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court announced in November that the state's ban on same-sex marriages was unconstitutional, *Lawrence* was the first legal case referenced by the justices.

"Even if *Lawrence* doesn't directly stand for marriage, it talks about people's autonomy in making choices."

Nevins and Wolfson said the Massachusetts court relied far more on the state constitution than on the recent sodomy case, meaning a pro-gay marriage ruling likely would have occurred even if *Lawrence* was not a reality.


But Wolfson said the argument for gay marriage is made stronger by the *Lawrence* ruling.

"The language and logic of *Lawrence* clearly gives us wind in our sails in ending marriage inequality," Wolfson said.

Katine agreed. "I believe *Lawrence* will be the foundation for the ultimate Supreme Court marriage case," he said.

As people wait to see how broad an impact *Lawrence* has in the legal arena, the ACLU's Cooper said the decision "created a whole new world" for gays and lesbians, who are now "dreaming much bigger."





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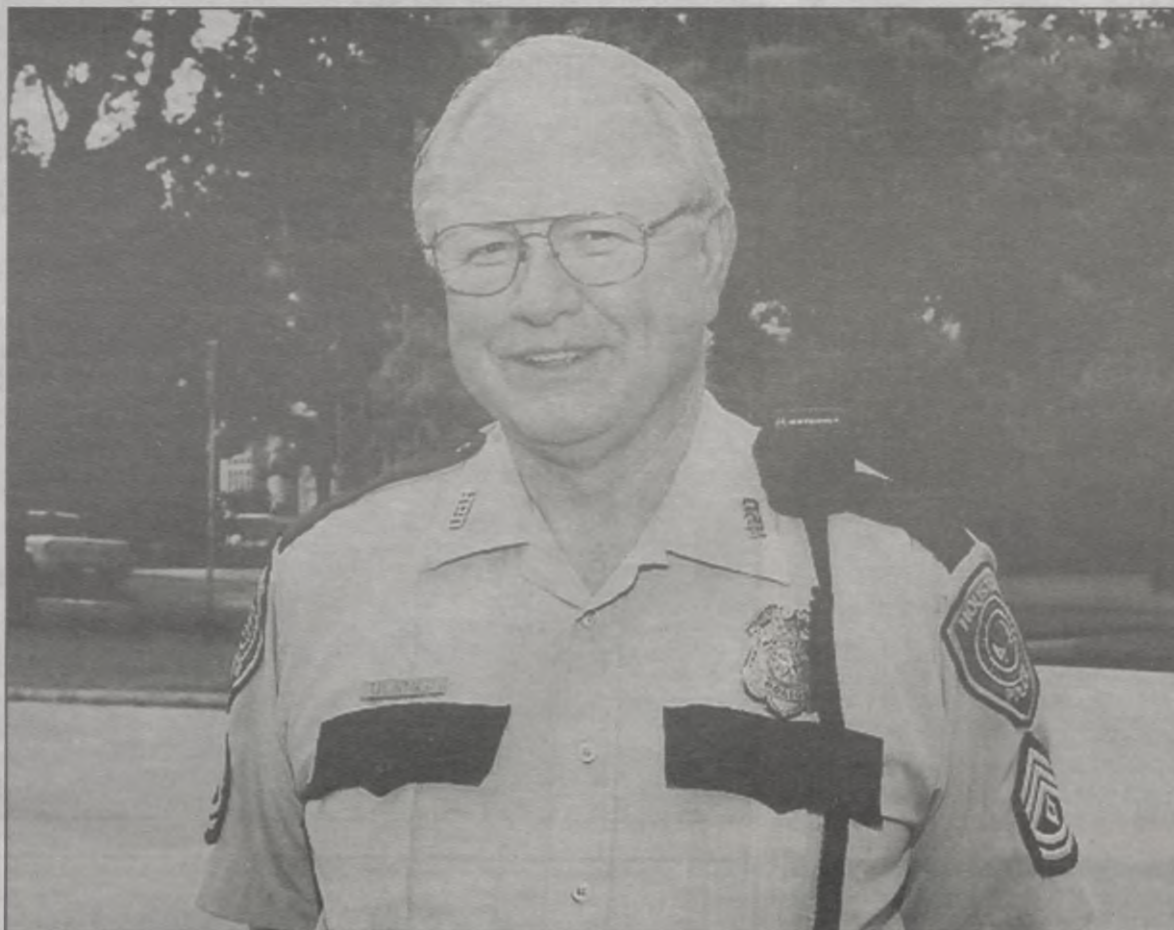


# Local Life

HOUSTON VOICE

JUNE 25, 2004

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Sgt. Tommy Bennett will oversee his last Houston Pride Parade on Saturday. He's retiring from the Houston Police Department. (Photo by Dalton DeHart)

## Thank you, Sgt. Bennett

The last Pride Parade passes by on Saturday for Sgt. Tommy Bennett, who will retire soon.

By BINNIE FISHER

As the last Houston Pride Parade float rounds the corner from Westheimer onto Whitney Saturday night, the organizers will say "Goodbye" an old friend and a parade fixture for the last 15 years.

Sgt. Tommy Bennett, the Houston Police Department representative who has helped coordinate security for the

event since 1988, will turn in his badge and gun before next year's parade. He's retiring from the force.

"We're definitely going to miss him," said Nick Brines, president of Pride Committee Houston. "He has been phenomenal."

Bennett has been involved with Pride and other parades in the city since joining the Special Operations detail in 1988.

"Probably since the early 1990s, I've been the one coordinating it," Bennett said. "It's one of the biggest parades in Houston."

He said he appreciates the fact that the Pride Committee seems to know what it's doing when it comes to planning a parade.

"It always seems to be well organized," he said.

Bennett joined the Houston Police Force in 1966 and left for a few years to work with a friend who had started a business. But, police work was his passion. He decided his place was somewhere on Houston's blue line.

"It's been a good place to work" he said. "I've enjoyed it."

During his time on the force, he has watched Houston change.

"It's grown by leaps and bounds," he said.

Bennett said since joining Special Operations, he's enjoyed the variety of coordinating various events in the city. He may not have realized at first that it would mean becoming involved with the city's Gay Pride festivities, but he said he has grown to enjoy it.

"It's been a lot of fun," he said. "I personally enjoy going out there."

Brines said Bennett's involvement

### **i** Sgt. Tommy Bennett

Age: 60

Born: Houston Texas

Graduated: Milby High School in Houston

Status: Married

Kids: One son

Tidbit: Enjoys his rural property on weekends

with Pride begins long before parade night.

"He always does things like take members of the Pride Committee driving around the neighborhood," Brines said. On those tours, he said, Bennett talks logistics with committee members.

On parade day, Brines said, Bennett always shows up at brunch for committee members and volunteers.

"He gives us a little pep talk," Brines said.

Bennett goes over last-minute concerns with the group and lets them know that he can usually be found near the assembly area during the parade if he's needed.

"He's done a great job reeling in the protestors and putting them in a little protest area," Brines said. "He helps us out with illegal vendors also."

Bennett said he tries to keep protestors in one area, and he warns parade participants not to engage them.

"We usually have some demonstrators, but nothing has really gotten out of hand," Bennett said. He warns parade participants, "Have your parade and don't get in a shouting match with them."

His observation is that the demonstrators usually stick around for a few floats, then lose interest and drift away.

Bennett said he appreciates the fact that the Houston Pride Committee runs a clean parade. While he said he wants participants to have fun, there are some dangers that he constantly works to point out.

Throwing give-away items, like beads, from floats is more dangerous than it appears to be. He said his worst nightmare is that a child will run out to grab an item and get injured by a vehicle. With more than 150,000 people converging on Montrose on parade night, he said, "Our biggest challenge is traffic control."

Bennett said he's found parade participants to be cooperative and Pride Committee members to be serious about helping him make the event safe for everyone involved.

"The folks are super nice to me, and I treat them with respect," he said.

Brines concurred. "He's comfortable and cool with us," he said.

When he leaves the force, Bennett said, he looks forward to spending time on rural property he owns.

"I've got a few cows out there," he said. "If I get the chance, I might do a little hunting."

### **i** MORE INFO

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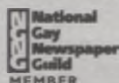
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# Forum

## editorial

# Rocky Mountain rhetoric won't fly for Coors

Coors Brewing Co. has long struggled to distance itself from the family owners, but now Pete Coors is running for Senate on the backs of gay customers.

By MUBARAK DAHIR

**T**O PARAPHRASE AN ADAGE, you can't have your mug of beer and drink it, too. But that's exactly what members of the Coors family, namesakes of the Coors Brewing Company in

Golden, Colo., are trying to get away with among gay customers of their company.

Pete Coors, a former chair of the Coors Brewing Co., is now a Republican candidate for the U.S. Senate from Colorado.

Pete Coors has also become an outspoken supporter of a federal constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage.

Political analysts watching the U.S. senate race in Colorado say Pete Coors took the strong stand that he did — not just against same-sex marriage, but fully in favor of an amendment to enshrine the ban in the Constitution — to appeal to conservatives who make up a substantial base of his candidacy.

Pete Coors' anti-gay stance on the Federal Marriage Amendment re-ignited calls from many gay leaders for us to stop buying Coors beer at gay bars.

Furthermore, a large number of Coors family members — who profit directly from the Coors Brewing Co. — are board members of a private institution, the Castle Rock Foundation, which gives away millions of dollars to conservative, anti-gay organizations.

This fact, and its consequences, is even more important for us to consider than Pete Coors' anti-gay position on the Federal Marriage Amendment.

The Castle Rock Foundation was founded in 1993 with a \$36.5 million endowment from the Adolph Coors Foundation. Since then, it has given away millions of dollars of grants to often conservative, anti-gay groups.

According to the group's Web site, four out of five of the board members of the Castle Rock Foundation are members



of the Coors family. Pete Coors is the vice president.

Where did Pete Coors and the other Coors family members on the board of the Castle Rock Foundation get their money and power? Through the Coors Brewing Co.

AND YET, THE COORS BREWING CO. and the Coors family have gone on a public relations blitz to distance themselves from each other. In a nutshell, they each claim to be independent of one another, and thus not responsible for the others' actions or stands on gay rights.

In fact, in early June, the Coors Brewing Co. issued a letter stating that Pete Coors' position on the Federal Marriage Amendment does not reflect the corporate values of the Coors Brewing Co. The letter stated that the company does not endorse discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender people.

In addition, the Coors Brewing Co. started running full-page ads in gay newspapers and magazines around the country. In the ads, humorously headlined "Straight talk from Coors," the company goes to some length to describe the positive changes within the company in the past couple of decades with respect to how it treats gay employees.

Most notably, the change is reflected in the company's nondiscrimination policy, as well as the fact that the company offers health benefits to partners of gay employees.

The Coors Brewing Co. has a long and tortured history on gay issues, dat-

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ing back to the early 1970s, when it used to require prospective employees to submit to a lie detector test. One of the questions on the test was whether or not the hopeful employee was a homosexual.

Outrage over that practice prompted former San Francisco supervisor Harvey Milk to kick-off a boycott of the Coors Brewing Co. in 1974. In 1995, much of the steam of the boycott evaporated when the beer maker instituted its much-friendlier policies toward gay employees.

The company even hired Mary Cheney, Dick Cheney's famously lesbian daughter, to handle gay outreach.

IRONICALLY, AS FORMER CHAIR OF the Coors Brewing Co., Pete Coors has taken much of the credit for advancing the company's positions on gay employees. He even claims to have gone out personally to gay bars to promote his beer and his company's more enlightened outlook.

Pete Coors' opponent in the senate race is making much of that history, in an attempt to tarnish Pete Coors with the state's much-coveted right-wing voters. So Pete Coors is trying to live down his past, thus embracing the Federal Marriage Amendment with such gusto.

So on the one hand we have the Coors Brewing Co. chatting up gays and extolling the virtues of its corporate policies toward us. Hey, that Pete Coors guy, he can do whatever he wants as a private citizen, the company seems to be saying; you have to evaluate us independently, on our own policies.

On the other hand, you have Pete Coors, courting conservative voters, saying he doesn't want homos to get married. And all that stuff about the Coors Brewing Co. being gay-friendly? Well, he's his own candidate, he seems to be saying to the right-wingers. You can't judge me based on a company policy. I'm an independent entity.

The doubletalk by both Pete Coors and the Coors Brewing Co. on this issue would make even old-time Soviet polit-buro members proud.

Before you buy another Coors beer, you may want to ask yourself: Which side of his mouth would Pete Coors drink this out of?

@ Mubarak Dahir is editor of the Express Gay News, a paper affiliated with this publication, and can be reached at mdahir@expressgaynews.com.





## viewpoint STEPHEN FALLON



Despite new oral tests and rapid results, HIV testing is still a horrible experience full of fear and shame. As well it should be.

## Why it's OK to hate HIV tests

OLD-TIME HIV TESTERS LIKE ME TELL war stories about the bad old days. Back then getting a test meant scheduling an appointment weeks in advance, driving to some musty facility far away, getting grilled by overworked counselors, and ringing the clinic's phones for weeks trying to pick up lab results that were almost always late, lost, or unavailable.

These days, with the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention pushing to

get all at-risk people tested, it's a whole different scene. But the experience of going through HIV testing is still pretty horrible, just as it should be.

The government has managed to shake free a bit of money, so now most testing sites have enough staff members to handle walk-ins. The tests have improved, too. Alarming false-positive results, once common, only occur in 0.0000005 percent of tests, and the Western Blot rules out even those few mistakes.

The newer tests have also shortened the "window period," that lag time when a recently infected person might get a false HIV-negative test result. Generally, a test conducted three to four weeks after taking a risk gives you good idea of your status, while a test conducted at least three

months after your last risk behavior approaches 100-percent accuracy.

EVEN BETTER, THESE DAYS YOU CAN customize your HIV testing experience.

Scared of needles? A special oral swab is just as reliable as a blood draw test, and available at most clinics.

Can't wait weeks for results? Last year's new rapid test yields very accurate results from a finger prick in just 20-40 minutes. Some clinics even offer this test in an oral form.

While convenience and technology have lowered some barriers to testing, there's still no escaping the gut-churning anxiety that an HIV test triggers. Don't let any cheerful slogans convince you that testing isn't scary.

During the time it takes you to drive to your rapid test appointment, or to wait for your standard HIV test results, you will almost certainly feel each of these emotions:

**Scared:** Even though medications have helped positive people live longer, HIV is still a serious condition. People living with HIV suffer a variety of ills caused by the virus and the meds that fight it.

Ailments include fatigue, diarrhea, nausea, high cholesterol, depression, vomiting, loss of sex drive, liver problems, nerve problems, muscle loss, fat loss or fat build up in strange places, and more.

Worse yet, nearly 17,000 people still die each year of AIDS related conditions in the United States.

**Ashamed:** We spent the 1980s and 1990s educating ignorant politicians and ministers that HIV is not "God's judg-

ment." It's just a stupid virus that will invade anyone if the opportunity is there.

While there's no moral shame in becoming HIV infected, most everyone feels hugely embarrassed when they think they might have caught HIV.

**Angry:** Your mind will faithfully replay scenes of every risky fling or impulsive night of unprotected sex you've had since your last test. If you fear that one of these encounters might have infected you, you'll quickly conclude that the sex wasn't worth the possible outcome. You might become angry with the other guy for coercing you into risky sex, or mad at yourself for allowing it.

SO WHY WOULD ANYONE PUT HIMSELF through that experience of HIV testing? The enemy is invisible and persistent. HIV sneaks in when we let our guard down.

It's easy to discount your own personal risk of infection, or the seriousness of HIV disease that could await you. That is, it's easy until the cold certainty of a lab result hangs over your head, and you find yourself whirling through the abyss of horrible emotions I just described.

HIV testing is supposed to be horrifying. In the old movie "A League of Their Own," Tom Hanks played an irascible baseball coach. When a player whined that the game was too hard, Hanks snapped back, "It's supposed to be hard. It's the hard that makes it good."

### MORE INFO

HIV National Testing Day  
June 27  
To find a testing site:  
www.hivtest.org

@ Stephen Fallon, Ph.D., runs a Florida-based consulting firm and can be reached at sfallon@skills4.org.

## viewpoint ANGELA MOFFITT



I am happily single with no plans to marry, and I see issues more important to black gays. Why should I care about same-sex marriage?

## Picking sides on gay marriage

AS A SAME-GENDER-LOVING WOMAN OF African descent, who is proud of my African heritage and unapologetic about my sexual orientation, I find that sometimes these two categories of identity clash.

If ever there were an issue that so powerfully probed the intersection of the multiple identities of race, class, gender and sexual orientation, it has been the recent controversy over same-sex marriage.

When the issue of same-sex marriage dominated the media, my reaction has been that this is not my issue. This is a fight primarily led by gay, upper-class white men. The masses of black people are forced to negotiate basic survival

needs before we can address the issue of gay marriage. How dare they attempt to equate gay rights with civil rights.

I was happily single with no intentions of marrying in the foreseeable future. More importantly, as a conscious African clear that combating black racism is a categorically different animal than combating homophobia, I was deeply offended at the attempted equation of the two struggles.

I WAS BORN BLACK. I CHOOSE TO BE lesbian. My beautiful black skin is an immutable characteristic, over which I had no control. My sexual orientation is a sexual preference, which I may elect to

conceal when it suits me.

Racism attempts to posit that I am an inferior human being. Homophobia seeks to posit that I am an immoral human being.

I was elected in March co-president of a New York-based political club of gay people of color that had recently signed on to co-sponsor a news conference where black LGBT leaders would affirm their support for same-sex marriage, despite polls that found the overwhelming majority of black Americans were opposed.

On the night of my election, I fully intended to assert some reason not to attend that news conference. Our guest speaker for the evening was Phil Reed, the only openly gay male on the New York City Council and an African American. He had been expected to talk about his run for Manhattan borough president, but as one of the lead sponsors of the imminent news conference, he opted to speak primarily on same-sex marriage.

He asked us on what side of history do we, as LGBT people of color, want to be on the issue of same-sex marriage. That question gave me pause.

SIX DAYS LATER, ON A SUNDAY afternoon, I was standing on the steps of City Hall at the news conference. Among the speakers, the one who had the greatest impact upon me did not have a marquee name. Regrettably, I don't remember her name.

She was a butch-looking lesbian accom-

panied by her femme-looking lover, who lovingly stroked her back as she addressed the crowd. She introduced herself and her "wife," which drew a cheer. I was nearly moved to tears.

Later I heard a radio commentary by noted civil rights attorney Connie Rice on the subject of same-sex marriage. She argued that black Americans, rather than demand a monopoly on the term "civil rights," should take pride that oppressed peoples all over the world look upon our civil rights struggles as a model to be emulated. What an empowering way to approach the subject.

I now embrace the growing trend to use terms such as "black civil rights" or "black civil rights struggle," so as to acknowledge the uniqueness of the struggle for equal rights by black Americans, but to concede the point that African Americans do not have a monopoly on "civil rights."

I have undergone a transformation on the issue of same-sex marriage. While I am still not inclined to equate the struggle for gay rights with the struggle for black civil rights, I no longer take the position that same-sex marriage is not my issue.

@ Angela J. Moffitt is an attorney living in New York and co-president of the Out People of Color Political Action Club and a board member of Black Pride NYC, Inc. She can be reached at amoffitt@earthlink.net.



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## on the record



"What's the difference if you're going to hell for one thing, and I'm going for another? I'll see you there."

**Michael St. Patrick**, who plays a gay police officer on HBO's "Six Feet Under," explaining why he has no qualms playing a gay man despite his own deep religious beliefs (Genre Magazine, July/August issue)

"I was not going to play a faggot. I talked to [series creator] Alan Ball to make sure it wasn't going to be stereotypical bullshit. The way I feel about gay men being portrayed 'that way' is the same way I feel about seeing black men portrayed as gangsters, thugs and rapists."

**Michael St. Patrick**, on his reservations about playing gay cop Keith Charles on "Six Feet Under" (Genre Magazine, July/August issue)

"This debate is not about preserving the sanctity of marriage — it is about preserving a Republican White House and Senate."

**Democratic Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont**, at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on Tuesday, June 22, on whether to amend the U.S. Constitution to ban gay marriage and possibly civil unions (New York Times, June 23)

"The government is not — underline not — changing the Marriage Act. That will remain as an option only for heterosexual couples."

**New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark**, defending legislation that would grant gay couples the same legal rights as married heterosexual couples (Associated Press, June 20)

"I really think it's the gay thing. All of these supposedly heterosexual fashion editors at GQ and Esquire say Orlando Bloom or David Beckham is the best-dressed man. But what they're really saying is that they fancy them because all they're wearing is jeans and a T-shirt. I don't think they hate me because I'm gay. I think they hate me because I'm not beautiful."

**Loud-dressing British comedian Graham Norton**, whose talk show is now on Comedy Central, on being named GQ's "Worst Dressed Man" for two years in a row (Associated Press, June 22)



"It's so important that children have parents or family that love them. There are a lot of adopted children who have loving parents, and it comes in different ways with different people in different states."

**Sen. Trent Lott (R-Miss.)**, the former Senate majority leader, on whether gay men should be allowed to adopt and raise children (New York Times Magazine, June 20)

"Parents who are thinking about taking their children to see 'Shrek 2,' may wish to consider the following: The movie features a male-to-female transgender (in transition) as an evil bartender. The character has five o'clock shadow, wears a dress and has female breasts. It is clear that he is a she-male."

An alert posted by the Traditional Values Coalition warning of transgenderism in "Shrek 2"; TVC also references Pinocchio's admission in the movie that he wears women's underpants, and a wolf "dressed in Grandma's clothing" ([www.traditionalvalues.org](http://www.traditionalvalues.org))



"In entertainment, as in real life, there are all kinds of people who make up our neighborhoods and communities. It is great that children and their parents can enjoy a wide variety of characters, including those who don't fit into rigid sex-role stereotypes."

**Riki Wilchins**, executive director of GenderPAC, which advocates in favor of transgender rights and against gender stereotypes, reacting to the TVC alert on "Shrek 2" (Press release, June 22)



# VACCINE-PREVENTABLE HEPATITIS (VPH)\* IS...

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Extreme Tiredness

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**VPH CAN BE 100 TIMES MORE CONTAGIOUS THAN HIV. GET VACCINATED.**

Men who have sex with men are at greater risk for VPH. What's more, condoms may not protect you from VPH infection. You can be infected by someone who doesn't even know they have VPH, because VPH may be more contagious before symptoms develop. VPH is easy to get, but can be prevented. Get vaccinated.

Ask your healthcare provider about protection against VPH today. Vaccination is often covered by insurance. A list of community and public health clinics offering free or low-cost vaccination is available at [www.hepclinics.com](http://www.hepclinics.com).

\*VPH INCLUDES HEPATITIS A AND HEPATITIS B. HEPATITIS C IS NOT VACCINE PREVENTABLE.



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[WWW.GLMA.ORG](http://WWW.GLMA.ORG)

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Proud supporter of Houston Pride.





## cover story

## Visit to Dallas is chronicled in Toklas' cookbook

VISIT, continued from Page 1

writing it in the way that Gertrude did.

Among those many invitations to speak was one from Dallas, from Miss Ella Hockaday, the founder and headmistress of the Hockaday School, to this day among the most prestigious and elite girl's schools in the Southwest. Miss Hockaday invited the couple to stay at her cottage on the edge of the school campus.

Very little written history remains today regarding the visit. Most of what does appear in print is in the cookbook.

"It was a fresh new world," Alice wrote. "Gertrude Stein became attached to the young students, to Miss Hockaday and the life in Miss Hockaday's home and on the campus."

Gertrude was taken with Miss Hockaday's culinary abilities. Alice noted, "Miss Hockaday explained that all good Texas food was Virginian."

Alice was in heaven when she walked into Miss Hockaday's kitchen. "Miss Hockaday's kitchen was the most beautiful one I have ever seen, all old coppers on the stove and on the walls, with a huge copper hood over the stove. Everything else was modern white enamel."

At one meal, Miss Hockaday served cornbread sticks, something that neither of the visitors had ever tasted before.

"The only recipe I carried away with me was for cornsticks, not knowing in my ignorance that a special iron was required in which to bake them," Alice wrote.

In the cookbook, Alice makes an interesting note about specific restaurants, allowing for some reading between the lines. "In Columbus, Ohio, there was a small restaurant...the cooks were women and the owner was a woman and it was managed by women. The cooking was beyond compare, neither fluffy nor emasculated as women's cooking can be, but succulent and savoury. Later, at Fort Worth, there was a similar restaurant to which Miss Ella Hockaday introduced us."

After spending a few days in Dallas, Gertrude accepted an impromptu invitation to speak in Austin.

An editor's note in the Daily Texan, the campus newspaper at the University of Texas noted on March 22, "Gertrude Stein arrived in Austin unexpectedly last night. Because of the widespread controversy over the works of Miss Stein and the author herself, The Daily Texan sent two reporters to interview her. The exclusive interview was granted, and the personal observation of the reporters follow."

The female reporter jotted down what she called "short gatherings," that went something like this, "Miss Stein regretted that she did not know about the rodeo and fat stock show in Fort Worth ... She agrees that the girls in Dallas are good looking."

The male reporter noted, "We imposed upon her at a late hour last night. She was cheerful and eager to answer our questions, to throw a little light on the person

they call Stein. She did just that; perhaps a little more."

He described her this way, "Dressed in a mannish blouse, a tweed skirt, a peculiar but attractive vest affair, and comfortable looking shoes, Miss Stein appeared much more of the woman than do the pictures that currently circulate. She strokes her close cropped hair with a continuous back to front movement."

Stein complained to him that too many people were living in the twentieth century but thinking in the nineteenth century. The reporter quoted her: "Why, the fact

was evident up at Hockaday (where she stayed in Dallas). The girls of from fourteen to seventeen understood perfectly, but their teachers did not."

As for Alice, the reporter noted, "Miss Alice B. Toklas, Miss Stein's traveling companion whose title is not 'secretary,' according to the author, was present. This lady who walked in on Miss Stein twenty-five years ago and has been with her ever since, has absorbed much of the charm possessed by the most famous of the pair."

The male reporter was a student at the

time, but his name would later become a household word in America: Walter Cronkite.

From Austin, the pair headed west and eventually, they sailed for France. Among the many gifts in their stateroom was a cast iron pan for baking cornbread sticks from Miss Ella Hockaday.


"It was my pride and delight in Paris, where it was certainly unique," Alice wrote in the cookbook. "What did the Germans, when they took it in 1944, expect to do with it? And what are they doing with it now?"



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Genre horrible list

Scratch Kerry and Carson  
Kressley says Dish.  
Page 23

JUNE 25, 2004

## A man of many faces

Jimmy James brings his one-man, several women show to Houston.

By JOHNNY HOOKS

**J**IMMY JAMES LAUGHED hysterically when asked what his favorite curse word is. "No one's ever asked me that!" James was on the phone in New York, his adopted hometown as he prepared to return to Houston for two weekends at 1415 California. For those not in the know, or too young to have seen him live, a little history is in order.

A child of the 1970's, James loved to escape into the world of variety television. Sonny & Cher, Flip Wilson and Carol Burnette were just some of the shows that influenced and inspired him.

Even as a toddler he was always singing, dancing and dressing up in his mother's clothes. His remarkable ability for vocal mimicry became apparent at a young age.

His first imitation was the distinctive voice of Cher, a longtime idol of his. With dedicated practice on his own, James discovered that he could also accurately imitate the unmistakable voices of Eartha Kitt, Billie Holiday, Patsy Cline, Bette Davis, Judy Garland, Barbra Streisand and many others.

Using his own face as a canvas, he realized that like his voice, his looks could also be transformed. Noticing similarities in his facial structure with that of the late screen legend Marilyn Monroe, he set out to re-create her trademark look and breathy vocal presence.

The results of his efforts were spectacular. The "resurrected" Marilyn was an instant hit at the drag-shows and dance clubs where he performed. Through a steady stream of appearances on shows such as Donahue, Sally, Geraldo, Joan Rivers, Entertainment Tonight, CNN and Showtime, he gained national and international exposure. His

Please see JAMES on Page 22



**PRIDE, PRIDE AND MORE PRIDE:** New nightlife column details all the weekend's events. Page 21

**DIRTY LAUNDRY:** 'Omnisexual' singer Sophie B. Hawkins pitched a fit backstage at Capital Pride in D.C. Page 23





**So keep undetectable as  
your treatment goal, even if  
previous regimens have failed you.**

If you are treatment experienced, with FUZEON in  
your regimen you may still get to undetectable.

In fact, compared to HIV treatment regimens without  
FUZEON, having FUZEON in your combination regimen  
means you may:

- be twice as likely to get to undetectable and
- get twice the increase in T cells

FUZEON fights HIV in a completely different way. It's the  
only anti-HIV medicine that works outside the T cell to  
block HIV from getting inside and infecting healthy cells.

So tell your doctor you don't want to accept a detectable  
viral load. Tell your doctor you're ready to fight in a  
completely different way—with FUZEON.

To find out more about FUZEON and  
how it works, visit [www.FUZEON.com](http://www.FUZEON.com)  
or call the FUZEON Answer Center at  
**1-877-4 FUZEON (1-877-438-9366)**.

**FUZEON.**  
enfuvirtide

**Indication:** FUZEON (enfuvirtide) is used with other anti-HIV medicines to treat HIV-1 infection in patients who have taken anti-HIV medicines (treatment-experienced) and have detectable viral loads even though they are taking anti-HIV medicines. This indication is based on viral loads and CD4 (T-cell) counts in studies of FUZEON that lasted 24 weeks. Patients in the studies were treatment-experienced adults, and many of them had advanced HIV disease. There are no studies of FUZEON in patients who haven't taken anti-HIV medicines. There are no results from studies looking at the effect of FUZEON on the progression of HIV disease.

#### Important Safety Information

**Injection Site Reactions (ISRs):** ISRs are the most common side effect seen with FUZEON use. Almost all people taking FUZEON (98%) get injection site reactions. 3% of patients quit taking FUZEON because of ISRs. Reactions are usually mild to moderate but occasionally may be severe. Signs/symptoms may include pain and discomfort, hardened skin, redness, bumps, itching and swelling. 9% of patients had ISRs that required them to take over-the-counter pain medicine or limit their usual activities.

**Pneumonia:** Patients taking FUZEON with other anti-HIV medicines got bacterial pneumonia more often than patients not taking FUZEON. It is unclear if this was related to the use of FUZEON. You should contact your healthcare provider right away if you have a cough, fever or trouble breathing. Patients are more likely to get bacterial pneumonia if they have a low number of CD4 cells, have a high viral load, use intravenous (injected into the vein) drugs, smoke or have had lung disease in the past.

**Allergic reactions:** Allergic reactions have been seen with FUZEON and can occur if FUZEON is restarted. Symptoms of a serious allergic reaction with FUZEON can include rash, fever, nausea and vomiting, chills, shaking, low blood pressure and increased liver enzymes. Other adverse events that may be an immune response and have been reported in patients taking FUZEON include serious immune system reactions, severe breathing difficulties, inflammation of the kidney and Guillain-Barre syndrome.

**Other Side Effects:** The side effects seen most often in patients taking FUZEON with their other anti-HIV medicines were diarrhea (26.8%), nausea (20.1%) and fatigue (16.1%). These side effects were seen less often than in patients taking anti-HIV medicines without FUZEON: diarrhea (33.5%), nausea (23.7%) and fatigue (17.4%). This list of side effects is not complete because FUZEON is still being studied.

If you have questions about side effects, ask your healthcare provider. Report any new or worsening symptoms to your healthcare provider.



TRIMERIS

FUZEON® is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. FUZEON does not prevent the transmission of HIV.  
For additional details on FUZEON, please see the accompanying summary of complete product information.  
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## PATIENT INFORMATION

## Rx ONLY

**FUZEON® (FEW-zee-on)**

Generic Name: enfaviride (en-FEW-ver-ide) for Injection

This leaflet contains important information for patients and their caregivers about FUZEON. Please read this leaflet and FUZEON Injection Instructions carefully before you start using FUZEON. Always read the section "Changes since the last version of this leaflet" at the end of this leaflet each time you get your FUZEON prescription refilled. There may be important new information about the use of FUZEON.

This information does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider about your medical conditions or treatment.

**What is FUZEON?**

FUZEON is a medicine called an HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) fusion inhibitor. FUZEON is always used with other anti-HIV medicines to treat adults and children aged 6 years and older with HIV infection. FUZEON is not used by itself to treat HIV infection.

FUZEON blocks HIV's ability to infect healthy CD4 cells. When used with other anti-HIV medicines, FUZEON can reduce the amount of HIV in the blood and increase the number of CD4 cells. This may keep your immune system healthy, so it can help fight infection.

**FUZEON does not cure HIV infection or AIDS.** The long-term effects of FUZEON are not known at this time. People taking FUZEON may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that can happen with HIV infection. **For these reasons, it is very important that you remain under the care of your healthcare provider while taking FUZEON.**

**Does FUZEON lower the chance of passing HIV to other people?**

**FUZEON does not lower your chance of passing HIV to other people through unprotected sex, sharing needles or being exposed to your blood.** For your own health and the health of others, it is important to continue to practice safer sex. Use a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier method to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions or blood. Never use or share dirty needles. Ask your healthcare provider if you have any questions about safer sex or how to prevent passing HIV to other people.

**Who should not use FUZEON?**

Do not use FUZEON if you are allergic to any of the ingredients in FUZEON. See the end of this leaflet for a list of ingredients in FUZEON.

**Tell your healthcare provider:**

- if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. We do not know if FUZEON can harm your unborn child. You and your healthcare provider will need to decide if FUZEON is right for you. If you use FUZEON while you are pregnant, talk with your healthcare provider about how you can be in the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry.
- if you are breast-feeding. You should not breast-feed if you are HIV-positive because of the chance of passing HIV to your baby. Also, it is not known if FUZEON can pass into your breast milk and if it can harm your baby.
- about all your medical conditions.
- about all the medicines you use, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins and herbal supplements. FUZEON has not been tested with all medicines.

**How should I use FUZEON?**

Before you use FUZEON, make sure you understand all of the information in this leaflet and the FUZEON Injection Instructions that come with your medicine. You or your caregiver should be trained by a healthcare provider before injecting it. If you do not understand all the information, talk with your healthcare provider about your questions or concerns.

- Use FUZEON with other anti-HIV medicines. **Do not use FUZEON as your only anti-HIV medicine.**
- FUZEON must be injected. FUZEON does not work if it is swallowed.
- Do not mix other medicines in the same syringe with FUZEON.
- FUZEON is given under the skin by injection (a "shot") in the upper arm, upper leg or abdomen two times a day. See the FUZEON Injection Instructions that come with your medicine for step-by-step instructions about how to inject FUZEON.
- Do not inject FUZEON in the same area as you did the time before. Do not inject FUZEON into the following areas: around the navel (belly button), scar tissue, a bruise or a mole, or where there is an injection site reaction.
- Do not inject FUZEON if you see particles floating in the FUZEON vial after you mix it.
- You can use FUZEON whether you have eaten or not. Food does not affect FUZEON. However, you must keep taking your other medicines the way you did before.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking FUZEON without first talking with your healthcare provider.
- See your healthcare provider regularly while using FUZEON.
- When your FUZEON supply runs low, be sure to have it refilled. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. If you miss or skip doses of FUZEON, HIV may develop resistance to FUZEON and become harder to treat.
- If you miss a dose of FUZEON, take the missed dose as soon as you can and then take your next dose as scheduled. If you have missed a dose of FUZEON and it is close to the time when you are supposed to take your next dose, wait and take the next dose as regularly scheduled. Do not take two doses of FUZEON at the same time.

If you take too much FUZEON, call your healthcare provider right away. We do not know what can happen if you take too much FUZEON. You will be watched very carefully if you take too much FUZEON.

**It is important that you put your used syringes into a special sharps container after injecting FUZEON.** Your healthcare provider will give you more instructions about the safe disposal of your used syringes. **Do not put them in a trash can.** If you do not have a sharps container, call your healthcare provider or pharmacist to get one before using FUZEON.

**Can FUZEON be used with other medicines?**

FUZEON does not affect other anti-HIV medicines or the medicine rifampin (also known as rifampicin and manufactured under the brand names Rifadin® and Rimactane®). You can take FUZEON at the same times or at different times than your other anti-HIV medicines.

**What should I avoid while using FUZEON?**

- Avoid doing anything that can spread HIV infection, since FUZEON does not stop you from passing the HIV infection to others.
- Do not share needles or other injection equipment.
- Do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes or razor blades.
- Do not have any kind of sex without protection. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier method to reduce the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions or blood.
- Do not drive or operate heavy machinery if FUZEON makes you feel dizzy.

**What are the possible side effects of FUZEON?****Injection site reactions**

FUZEON causes injection site reactions. Almost all people get injection site reactions with FUZEON. Reactions are usually mild to moderate but occasionally may be severe. Reactions on the skin where FUZEON is injected include:

- itching
- swelling
- redness
- pain or tenderness
- hardened skin
- bumps

These reactions generally happen within the first week of FUZEON treatment and usually happen again as you keep using FUZEON. A reaction at one skin injection site usually lasts for less than 7 days.

Injection site reactions may be worse when injections are given again in the same place on the body or when the injection is given deeper than it should be (for example, into the muscle).

If you are worried about the reaction you are having, call your healthcare provider to help you decide if you need medical care. **If the injection site reaction you are having is severe, call your healthcare provider right away.** If you have an injection site reaction, you can discuss with your healthcare provider ways to help the symptoms.

An injection site can get infected. To lower your chances of getting an injection site infection, it is important to follow the FUZEON Injection Instructions that come with your medicine. **Call your healthcare provider right away if there are signs of infection at the injection site such as oozing, increasing heat, swelling, redness or pain.**

**Pneumonia**

Patients with HIV get bacterial pneumonia more often than patients without HIV. In clinical trials, patients taking FUZEON with other HIV medicines got bacterial pneumonia more often than patients not receiving FUZEON. It is unclear if this was related to the use of FUZEON. **You should contact your healthcare provider right away if you have a cough, fever or trouble breathing.** Patients are more likely to get bacterial pneumonia if they had a low number of CD4 cells, increased amount of HIV in the blood, intravenous (injected into the vein) drug use, smoking or had experienced lung disease in the past. It is unclear if pneumonia is related to FUZEON.

**Allergic reactions**

**FUZEON can cause serious allergic reactions.** Symptoms of a serious allergic reaction with FUZEON can include:

- trouble breathing
- fever with vomiting and a skin rash
- blood in your urine
- swelling of your feet

**Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of these symptoms.**

**Other side effects**

The following side effects were seen more often in patients using FUZEON with their other anti-HIV medicines than in patients not using FUZEON with their other anti-HIV medicines:

- pain and numbness in feet or legs
- loss of sleep
- depression
- decreased appetite
- weakness or loss of strength
- muscle pain
- constipation
- pancreas problems

These are not all the side effects of FUZEON. The list of side effects with FUZEON is not complete at this time because FUZEON is still being studied.

If you have questions about side effects, ask your healthcare provider. **Report any new or continuing symptoms to your healthcare provider.** Your healthcare provider will tell you what to do and may be able to help you with these side effects.

**How is FUZEON stored?**

FUZEON vials not mixed with sterile water can be stored at room temperature (59° to 86°F). FUZEON should be refrigerated if it cannot be stored at room temperature.

The Sterile Water for Injection (diluent) may be stored at room temperature (59° to 86°F).

After FUZEON has been mixed with the sterile water, the vial can be stored in a refrigerator for up to 24 hours.

Do not use FUZEON or sterile water after the expiration date on the vials. Do not keep FUZEON that is out of date or that you no longer need.

**General information about the safe and effective use of FUZEON**

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use FUZEON for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give FUZEON to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them. **Keep FUZEON and all medicines out of the reach of children.**

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about FUZEON. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider or see the section, "Where can I get more information about FUZEON?" in this leaflet. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about FUZEON that is written for healthcare professionals.

**What are the ingredients in FUZEON?**

Active ingredients: enfaviride

Inactive ingredients: Mannitol, sodium carbonate, sodium hydroxide and hydrochloric acid.

FUZEON comes packaged as a convenience kit containing the following:

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- syringes for mixing (3 mL/cc)
- syringes for injecting (1 mL/cc)
- alcohol pads
- injection instructions

**Call your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you need more supplies.**

**Where can I get more information about FUZEON?**

The best source for more information about FUZEON is your healthcare provider. More information about FUZEON is located at [www.fuzeon.com](http://www.fuzeon.com) and 1-877-4 FUZEON (1-877-438-9366).

**Changes since the last version of this leaflet**

This is the first version of this leaflet; it was written in March 2003. Please check this section when your medicine is refilled for any important new information about FUZEON.

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## nitelife JOHNNY HOOKS



Sydney, Australia proved Pride could rock under the stars, and Houston makes it happen.

## Thanks to the queers down under

WELCOME TO HOVO ON THE GOGO, your new guide to everything hip, happening, cool and queer in Houston Gay and Lesbian Nightlife.

### Houston Pride returns!

CLEARLY THE LAST WEEK OF JUNE belongs to our community, culminating with the Houston Pride Parade, America's ONLY nighttime Gay Pride Parade! Sydney Australia, we thank you. Sydney had the good sense to stage its parade at night, when cool breezes encourage buff men and womyn to doff their shirts and skirts and when drag kings and queens don't melt under the noon-day sun.

**HoVo on the go-go**

### So, what to do this weekend?

THE OFFICIAL PRIDE EVENTS RUN amuck downtown (hmmm though not one new Gay bar has opened downtown in years) therefore HotGG recommends lots of H2O-O as you go this weekend.

### FRIDAY, JUNE 26

#### Fuel

DIRECT FROM MIAMI, GRAMMY-winning DJ Hex Hector spins his classic remixes at the official pre-Parade party brought to you by M2M Entertainment. Justin Stephens spins downstairs in the Groove Lounge. Visual stimulation throughout the evening will be provided by Dynasty. 9 p.m. - 3 a.m. at Boaka Bar/Mercury Room, 1008 Prairie at Main. Cost is \$15 in advance. www.pridehouston.org.

#### IIO at Rich's

NOW IF YOU'RE LOOKING TO MAXIMIZE your on the go time, and blow your mind (he, he) at the same time, look no further dahlinks. Rich's, 2401 San Jacinto, promises the ultimate Pride Weekend with Dance sensation IIO plus the one and only "Miss Grace Jones...Jones... and the Rhythm." IIO burst upon the dance scene in 2001 with their hits "Rapture" and "At the End". This is the first stop in Houston for IIO and is quite a coup for Rich's. Doors open at 9 p.m. www.richs-houston.com.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 26

#### Chances

CHANCES BAR OFFERS A PRIME SPOT to scope out Houston's Pride Parade. Get out the bug spray and the beads when Chances presents an outdoor Pride party from 2-9 p.m. on the patio facing Westheimer. Five acts include Sarah Golden at 3 p.m. and up-n-coming Dallas natives

Astrogin at 7:30 p.m. Chances is located at 1100 Westheimer at Waugh. 713-523-7217.

#### StarBall

AFTER THE PARADE, CONTINUE THE festivities with a night of dancing at Club GO, starring DJ Warren Gluck of NYC on the turntables and recording artist Pat Hodges singing her Billboard top 10 club hits "Love Revolution" and "You Make Me Feel G-O-O-D." 10 p.m.-4 a.m., Club GO, 2001 Commerce at Chartres. Cost is \$25 in advance. www.pridehouston.org.

### SUNDAY, JULY 27

#### Spoiled Boyz

THE PARTY CONTINUES INTO THE DAY-light hours with the return of DJ Dawna Montel of LA and a Pride-raising performance by dance music icon Dynasty. DJ Chris Sill spins in the Groove Lounge. 3:30-10 a.m., Opus, 4112 Main at Prairie. Cost is \$25 advance. www.pridehouston.org.

#### Grace Jones at Rich's

GRACE JONES RETURNS TO HOUSTON for her first performance in years. Jones has often made appearances here, though many were infamously hours late from original start times. This weekend at Rich's, Jones has a more accommodating call time of 4 a.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$25 and available at Rich's 2401 San Jacinto or at www.rich-houston.org.

#### All weekend long

ON PACIFIC STREET THE PARTY never stops and Pride Weekend is no exception. JR's, The Montrose Mining Company and South Beach will host the always overflow crowds on Friday and Saturday nights, before, during and after the parade. On Sunday night, SoBe pulls out the big pumps though when the Future Babylon Tour makes a stop. The Tour reinterprets what Babylon (the famous nightclub from the Queer As Folk television series) will look like in the year 2050; with elaborate visuals, decor and backrooms - simulating the full Babylon experience. Also featured are DJ Tracy Young and RKM, 9 p.m.-5 a.m. Cost is \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Tickets available at: JR's Bar & Grill, 808 Pacific; South Beach, 810 Pacific; M2M Fashion. 3400 Montrose.

DON'T FORGET THE NEIGHBORHOOD clubs like Guava Lamp, Briar Patch, EJ's, Bricks II and the 611 (to name a few) for even more Pride celebrations. See you at the parade!

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## eclipse cover story

# Jimmy James: Marilyn only did Marilyn for a decade

JAMES, continued from Page 18

one-man show, "Marilyn and Voices" which he wrote and produced, was a worldwide smash and toured for several years.

L.A. Eyeworks used a stunning image of his Marilyn in full-page ads that ran worldwide. The campaign was featured in the 20-year anniversary issue of Interview Magazine. By the mid-1990's, James began to pursue a career as a recording artist in New York City by using his own soulful voice.

James took time out to chat with the Houston Voice prior to his sure-to-sell-out shows in Houston.

**Houston Voice:** Hello Jimmy, welcome back to Houston!

**Jimmy James:** Thank you

**HoVo:** Just for the kids at home, let's do a little background. You were born in Texas correct?

**JJ:** Born in Laredo and raised in San Antonio...

**HoVo:** From Texas to Times Square right?

**JJ:** Yeah, (laughs).

**HoVo:** You've been performing vocal impersonations for how long now?

**JJ:** Since I was a kid really, I can't really put a date on it, but I have been a professional performer since 1983.

**HoVo:** Your photo scrapbook is amazing! Boy George, George Burns, Eartha Kitt, Elton John...the list is endless. What's it like performing for someone you impersonate, say Eartha Kitt?

**JJ:** She has a great sense of humor, she loved it! It's such an honor, you know some of the people I do are dead. I performed for her, and have been an opening act for her, which was a total thrill! She has a great sense of camp, really a great lady.

**HoVo:** Who's your favorite performer to impersonate?

**JJ:** Everybody asks me that and it's so hard to choose a favorite, because every person I impersonate I am a big fan of! I could say Cher, Eartha, Judy, Barbra...

**HoVo:** You just named the four horse-



Jimmy James as Marilyn posed with George Burns.



Jimmy James as Judy, Marilyn & Bette Davis with supermodel Linda Evangelista on a billboard in Times Square.

women of my Apocalypse!

**JJ:** Ahhh, well I always get nervous when I do Barbra. The expectation is so high. If I have an off night due to my vocal cords, weather, fatigue or whatever, it's tough. Please God give me a voice to do this tonight!

**HoVo:** Tell me about this show.

**JJ:** Well its called "Divas R 4-Ever." This is the sell-out show I produced for Provincetown last year. I loved the show so much, I didn't want to return to P-Town and write a new show. I wanted to share this one, which is a culmination of all my years. Although I retired from dressing up as Marilyn Monroe.

**HoVo:** Wait...you no longer do Marilyn Monroe, your signature performance?

**JJ:** I no longer dress up as her. I don't dress up at all during the show.

**HoVo:** You wear your Jimmy James androgynous look?

**JJ:** I paint my face but I don't dress in drag because I want the voices to be the star of the show! I needed to separate that entity, the drag, from the vocals because the vocals are my strength.

**HoVo:** I've never been comfortable calling you a drag queen because you actually have the pipes to back it up!

**JJ:** I have nothing against being in drag! This show is simply about the voices. Getting in drag just...gets in the way.

Over the years, and remember I'm talking 20 plus, drag blocked my way, and I wanted to evolve. Lots of performers want to evolve. I mean how many years can you do Marilyn? Marilyn only did Marilyn for a decade or so. I did her for over 13 years!

**HoVo:** Well you have also added current singers to your show, Macy Gray and Norah Jones. Do you consciously consider who you pay tribute to or is it more organic?

**JJ:** Well, I just love them. I start to play a CD at home, then again and again. Then I realize, you know, I could add this to the act. I am the ultimate fan of all the performers I impersonate. I'm selfish. I had Boy George in my Divas show for years, even when he was out of fashion, because I love him.

**HoVo:** Being a survivor in the music scene for such a long time, what do you think of Gay TV: "QE4SG," "Will and Grace," "Boy Meets Boy," etc?

**JJ:** I think it's great! I think we'll probably go through a faze where TV explores us (gays and lesbians) and then (the TV public) realizes we're the same crazy, mixed up, wonderful people, that straights are.

**HoVo:** Any TV plans for you?

**JJ:** My biggest plans involve breaking into Las Vegas. I am looking to have a real Jimmy James show in Vegas. I will say this about the cultural acceptance of shows like "Queer Eye," three years ago, I was considered "too edgy" for Vegas.

**HoVo:** You were?

**JJ:** Yes... that no one would want to see someone who could really sing, without the drag attitude. That was thought to be a hard sell. Now though, a Las Vegas producer is traveling to Houston to see my show and hopefully, it's gonna happen!

**HoVo:** What about your thoughts on Gay Marriage?

**JJ:** It's not just about having a spouse,

## **i** MORE INFO

**Jimmy James**

8:30 p.m.

July 2, 3, 9 & 10

1415 Bar & Grill

1415 California St.

713-522-7066

the topic is bigger than what people are making it. It's about political rights as well, citizenship.

Straight people refer to their marriages as sacred. Well, what about Jennifer Lopez, Elizabeth Taylor or Roseanne Barr? Don't tell me it will never last. Straights hold the key to it will never last!

**HoVo:** A couple of fun questions, before we go, from the Proust Questionnaire: What's your motto?

**JJ:** My motto? Well I guess after living in NYC I learned, after meeting so many different people, you can't define people and put them in a box. You can't say: Gays as a whole are this way; Jews as a whole are this way; Hispanics on the whole are this way. Biggest lesson I've learned.

**HoVo:** What's your most treasured possession?

**JJ:** It would have to be my photographs. That's the most special to me.

**HoVo:** And finally, Ms. James, what is your favorite curse word?

**JJ:** That's so funny! This is what I say ALL the time: F\*\*\*ing hell! However way you spell that!



**dish** There's a Fine Line Between Telling the Truth and Talking Trash

Quibbling with Genre's 'most horrible' roster while singer Sophie B. Hawkins quibbles at pride event.

## Reworking 'the list'

THE "15 MOST HORRIBLE LIST" IN the June issue of the gay glossy **GENRE** is supposed to be 15 issues and people that are causing the most harm to gay men. But some of the entries just don't make sense.

**TOM CRUISE** is on the list for suing people who say he's gay. How 2003.

Presumptive Democratic presidential nominee **JOHN KERRY** is on the list for not supporting gay marriage. Even if Kerry was Satan, his view of marriage would still be more inclusive than **GEORGE W. BUSH**, who also made the list.

Supreme Court Justice **ANTONIN SCALIA** is also on the list for writing the dissenting opinion in *Lawrence v. Texas*, the case that last year struck down the nation's remaining sodomy laws.

The "'Queer Eye' wardrobe department" is on the list for the way **CARSON KRESSLEY** dresses. In fact, Carson is a big boy and dresses himself, no matter how badly.

Also on the list is "mothers of closeted celebrities." Huh?

IF THE LIST WERE UP TO US, WE'D make some changes. Let's keep Bush, **POPE JOHN PAUL II**, lesbian **MARY CHENEY**, American Family Association's **DONALD WILDMON**, Positive Alternatives to Homosexuality head **ARTHUR GOLDBERG** and the drug crystal meth.

But cut the rest for some better options:

Santorum: Both the homophobic senator from Penn and gay columnist **DAN SAVAGE**'s definition. If you don't know about the latter, check out [www.spread-ingsantorum.com](http://www.spread-ingsantorum.com).

"The Down Low": **OPRAH WINFREY** finally pays attention to gay issues, and it's for closet cases.

**DAVID GEST**: Look what that man did to **LIZA**!

**50 CENT**: Why are they still playing this homophobic rapper at gay clubs?

Gay Clones: Why do so many boys get the same tattoos, listen to the same music and wear the same clothes?

And let's not forget two more "most horrible" slights to the gay world: unsupportive parents of gay offspring and barebacking.

### Sophie's choice

Another of Dish's spies reports some backstage drama thanks to "omnisexual" singer **SOPHIE B. HAWKINS**. While



Dish would spare Carson Kressley from the 'most horrible' list in lieu of the likes of Santorum — both kinds.

performing at a recent Gay Pride celebration in Washington, D.C., Hawkins mis-handled some miscommunication.

Hawkins' manager told her she would play for an hour. Pride organizers only wanted her to play 20 minutes, the average length of any performance at the event. When Hawkins was told about the discrepancy, she wasn't pleased.

Apparently, the singer had some choice words for organizers and even took her anger to the stage.

"They're cutting my act short, and I'm the headliner. This is fucked up!" she reportedly said.

After performing her hit song "Damn I Wish I Was Your Lover," Hawkins dropped her microphone on the stage and flashed her middle finger at the crowd and organizers backstage.

A Hawkins spokesperson didn't respond to requests for comment about the incident.

Of course the miscommunication is unfortunate, but how unprofessional to air your dirty laundry in public.

And at Pride, no less.

Maybe we need to add Hawkins to the "most horrible" list.



Sophie B. Hawkins

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For more information, please call 1-866-780-6663. All calls will be kept confidential.



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Send comments, suggestions to  
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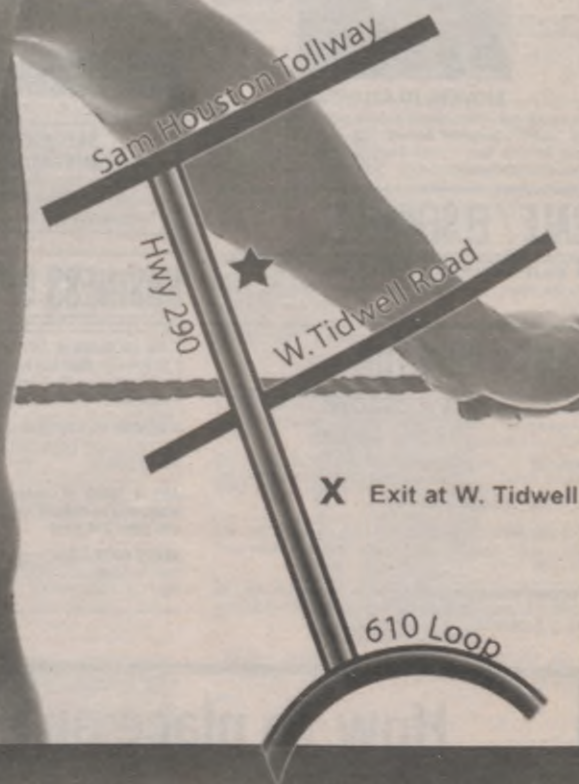


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TO, OLSEN... ALL  
RIGHT? SO SHUT  
UP ABOUT IT.  
ALL RIGHT.

MAN, WHY'S EVERYBODY  
SCITTA' GIVE ME A HARD  
TIME ABOUT DRIVIN' 'EM  
TO THE AIRPORT?  
FIRST VINCENZO... NOW YOU.  
VINCENZO? THAT WAS  
YOUR BOYFRIEND?

YEAH, BRIEFLY.  
(AND I'M...  
...THE GUY WHO  
DOESN'T WANNA' BE  
MY BOYFRIEND.)

BRAD, THAT ISN'T...  
FORGET ABOUT  
THAT, OLSEN. I  
WANNA ASK YOU...  
...ARE YOU SURE  
ABOUT DOIN' THIS?  
GOIN' BACK TO  
PLAYIN' BASEBALL  
PROFESSIONALLY?

BRAD, I'M NOT  
GOING TO GIVE UP MY  
BASEBALL CAREER  
JUST BECAUSE I'M  
HIV POSITIVE.

LOOK... I BETTER GO  
GET MY BOARDING  
PASS... OLSEN...  
BRAD? ARE YOU  
CRYING?

BRAD... OLSEN...  
I'M SORRY  
FOR WHAT?

FOR FREAKIN' OUT  
WHEN I FOUND  
OUT YOU WERE  
HIV POSITIVE. I'M  
...SO SORRY.

I NEVER MEANT TO HURT  
YOUR FEELINGS. I WAS  
JUST SO SCARED... FOR YOU  
I KNOW, BELIEVE ME.  
IT'S OKAY, YOU DID  
NOTHING WRONG.  
I JUST...

I KNOW... PLEASE  
DON'T GO.  
I HAVE TO, BRAD. BUT  
I'LL BE BACK... IN THE  
FALL... AFTER THE BASE  
BALL SEASON'S OVER.  
YOU PROMISE?

OF COURSE, I'M GOING TO  
BE SITTING NEXT TO YOU  
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# bitch session

Got a bitch? Call 1-800-858-8088 or e-mail [bitch@houstonvoice.com](mailto:bitch@houstonvoice.com)

These are real bitches, sent in by real readers about gay life's little annoyances, and the big ones, too.

WHO DREW THE LINE IN THE sand between butch and femme, lesbian and gay, young and old? Don't we have enough to fight from outside without fighting amongst ourselves? Let's all get together for a drink, honey, and just get along.

I AM SO SICK OF THESE "tribal" tattoos. What tribe do you think you belong to? Cherokee? Navajo? Ojibwa? Last time I checked, "rebel-conformist queen" wasn't a recognized tribe.

BITCH BOY: THANKS FOR printing my bitch. I love the column so much, and I love your responses to it. But perhaps for

Christmas, "Bitch Session" could do a "turn around," and people could call in and rather than bitch, they could have something nice to say. Merry Christmas! Bitch Boy responds: Or maybe for the Fourth of July, we could all call in and say what we think about George W. Bush!

I'M 44 AND I WAS NOT allowed in a certain bar because the only I.D. card I had was a United States military I.D. I was told they only take driver's licenses. Huh?

I'M FLATTERED WHEN YOU say, "We can have sex sometime." But we've known each

There's a term for guys who only work out their torsos and arms but not their legs: a bar body.

other for three years, so I don't think it will happen.

I LOVE MY "BITCH SESSION"! You queens are gayer than France!

IF YOU ARE GOING TO STARE down my throat, the least you can do is say hello.

I ONCE HEARD IT SAID THAT rejection is your higher power's way of giving you another chance, and yet so many gay men fear rejection. Nine out of 10 times when I meet new guys, the introduction was facilitated by me. Later they say, "I never thought someone like you would be attracted to someone like me." Don't miss your opportunities; they may never come again.

MAYBE THOSE OF US IN THE "over 30" group will stop wearing caps and calling ourselves boys when the "under 30" group stops thinking that merely their age makes them an "Abercrombie Boi."

DO YOU REALLY THINK MY husband likes to hear about what

I did when I was single, or do you get off on causing turbulence in my relationship?

I CANNOT BELIEVE YOU would use something as petty as whether a white person will go out with you to decide whether black rights and gay rights are the same thing. How dare you suggest that "the closet" is any kind of acceptable method of gaining rights.

TO ALL THOSE WHO USE THE phrase "that's so gay": Read the f\*\*\*ing dictionary!

I HATE BLACK MEN WHO USE the term D.L. for "Down Low." What in fact it's a euphemism for "being closeted."

RIGHT-WING CONSERVATIVES who oppose gay rights are just like flies: in your face, full of shit, annoying, and something you just want to swat out of existence.

LOVE ALL. TO DISCRIMINATE is to hate. Not in my book, Christ is here for all.

TO THE GUY WHO HASN'T killed himself: Why is your unhappiness our problem? Life is what you make it!

AFTER TWO MISERABLE lonely years in this town and a lifetime of pain and disappointment, I realize that I am the common denominator. It's time I remove myself from the equation.

TO THE POLICE OFFICER WHO sent in the bitch about bikes on sidewalks: Are you single? I would love to date a cop.

GAY MEN SEEM TO GO TO one extreme or the other in dating. Dating just to get sex isn't dating; it's tricking. Proposing marriage on the first date isn't dating; it's stupid.

RUMOR HAS IT THAT PART OF being a gay man is an attraction to men. If you turn yourself into a clone of the most popular girl in your junior high school, why should we find that a turn-on?

TO THE NARROW-MINDED queen who ranted about gay Republicans: I'm an American before I'm gay.

IT FINALLY HIT ME: MADONNA looks like Patty Hearst on the cover of her "American Life" CD.

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# **PRIDE**



## **AS BIG AS TEXAS**



Stonewall came to Houston on the heels of **Anita Bryant** and empowered a community. **Page 3**

Five new Grand Marshals will reign Saturday night as the Parade rolls along Westheimer. **Page 6**

Celebrate Pride with a Parade and all-night parties that feature DJs and **Grace Jones**. **Page 14**





# PRIDE '04



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## PRIDE '04

## Houston's Stonewall took place June 16, 1977

Anita Bryant came to town and galvanized and empowered the gay community in Houston

By BINNIE FISHER

If God in his infinite wisdom had not created Anita Bryant, then gay activist Ray Hill said, "We would have had to invent her."

Hill contends that it was the former runner-up Miss America who galvanized and empowered a gay and lesbian community that did not exist before she traveled to Houston on June 16, 1977 to sing to a bunch of lawyers.

Bryant had evoked the ire of gay men and lesbians nationwide when she fought against a proposal in Miami, Florida to add sexual orientation to the city's list of protected minorities in hiring and housing.

Bryant organized a group called, "Save Our Children" to fight the proposal.

At the time, she was quoted as saying, "What these people (gays) really want, hidden behind obscure legal phrases, is the legal right to propose to our children that there is an acceptable alternate way of life."

Fighting the gay rights movement became her mission. "I will lead such a crusade to stop it as this country has not seen before."

She was right about that.

In Houston in June of 1977, word got out that Bryant would be the featured entertainment at a convention of the Texas State Bar Association.

A handful of activists (Houston only had a handful then) decided there should be a response.

Nationwide, protests were being staged wherever Bryant went. More than that, since she was the spokesperson for Florida orange juice, boycotts of orange juice from Florida were being started everywhere.

"A day without orange juice is like a day without sunshine," Bryant would say with a smile in commercials to promote the product.

Activists in Houston were doing what they could to fan the flames of the orange juice boycott, and when Bryant was to appear in Houston in person, Ray Hill said it was decided there would be an organized protest.

As calls were being made and the word was being spread, the police department became concerned. A police representative wanted to know how many protesters were expected.

Since nothing on this scale had been organized before, Hill said, he thought he should estimate conservatively. The number he came up with was 500.

Conservative may have been an



Former Miss America Anita Bryant in 1977 prompted the biggest gay and lesbian protest ever in Houston.

"What these people (gays) really want, hidden behind obscure legal phrases, is the legal right to propose to our children that there is an acceptable alternate way of life."

— Anita Bryant



Although no one in Houston threw a pie at Anita Bryant like the one she cleaned off her face in Des Moines, Iowa, gay men and lesbians staged a protest against her.



Gay activists across the country wore buttons that proclaimed, "No more orange juice from the un-shine state."

understatement. When it was all said and done, Hill said, "The figure that was published at the time was 12,000, so I'll go with that."

The plan was to march from a bar at McGowan and Brazos past the Hyatt Regency, where Bryant was performing, to City Hall for a rally.

As the crowd swelled, it became obvious that the number 500 was indeed conservative. Police ordered marchers to stick to the sidewalks on either side of the street.

"The gay florists had brought flowers, and they were passing out field flowers along the way," Hill said.

At the Hyatt, one column went down Smith and another down Louisiana, so that protestors would file on both sides of the hotel.

"At the Hyatt, some began marching around the building," Hill said. "Anita

"I had never seen that many queers in one place before," he said.

Hill remembers that he told the protestors, "Look around because none of you have seen this many of us in one place before. Look around and see how beautiful we are."

He felt it appropriate to give thanks where thanks were due saying, "I want to thank Anita Bryant for bringing us together."

On the way back from City Hall, Hill said, the mood was exuberant.

"The trip down had been angry," he recalled. "All that anger had dissipated. Coming back, everyone was in an entirely different mindset."

Glancing at the side of the street, Hill said he saw a pair of blue legs and blue arms wrapped around an enormous bouquet of flowers. The legs and arms belonged to a female police officer who had been handed flowers by the hundreds of protestors walking away from the rally.

Hill said he asked her if she was having a good time. She replied, "Yes sir. I'm having the best time of my life."

June 16, 1977 was a turning point, Hill said. "That was the night we became a community. The night Anita came to Houston, unless you were there, it's hard to get a grip on what that meant to us."

The day before Anita Bryant came to Houston, Hill said, there was a handful of organizing gay activists. A day later, he said, "There were hundreds."

Bryant emerged from the 1970s in financial trouble and in ruin as an entertainer. In recent years, Hill said, his thoughts toward her have softened.

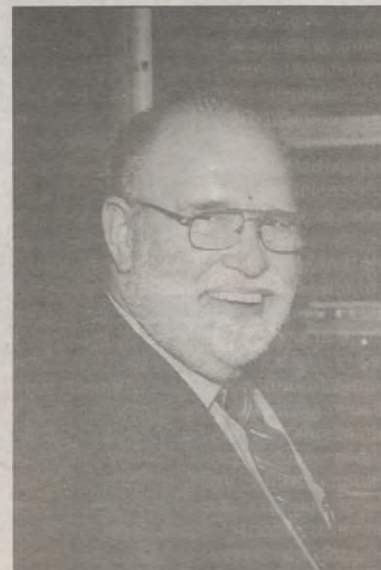
"We really ought to raise funds and take care of her," he said. "She brought us together."



was performing in the Atrium. They couldn't hear her sing because we were chanting so loudly."

At one point, Hill said, a group of ACLU lawyers walked out of the convention in support of the protestors.

When the group had made their views known at the Hyatt, the marchers continued toward downtown for the rally. One of the speakers was Ray Hill.



Gay activist Ray Hill was an organizers of the Anita Bryant protest in Houston.



**PRIDE '04**

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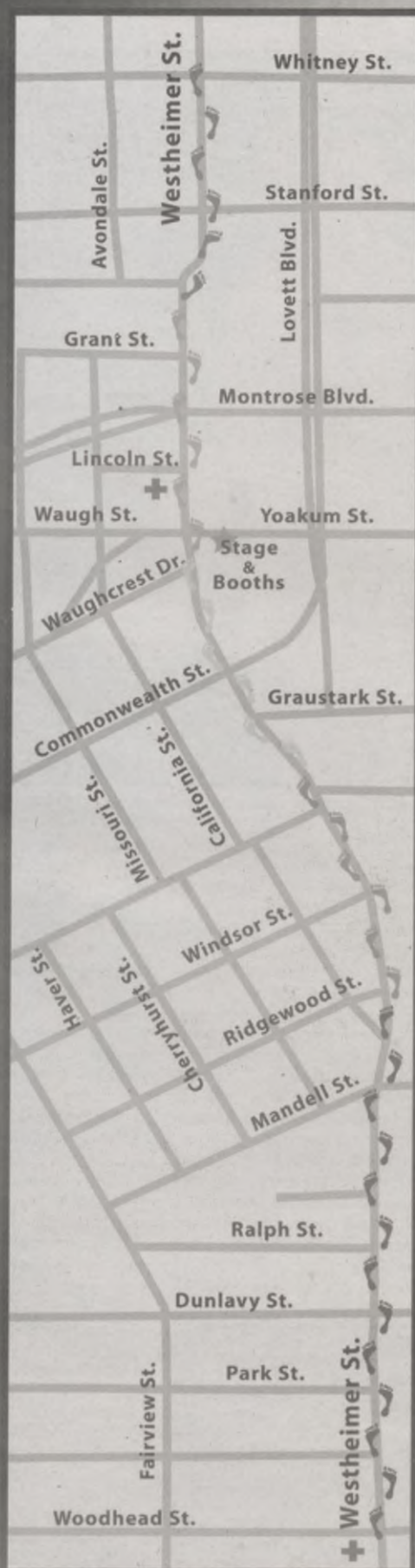
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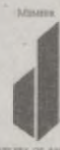
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# PRIDE '04

## 2004 Pride Parade Grand Marshals are ready to roll

Grand Marshals for the 2004 Houston Pride Parade have contributed beyond measure

By JOSEF MOLNAR

The Grand Marshals for Houston's Pride Parade gathered recently to be officially introduced and to receive the medals they will wear on Parade night.

This year's marshals, nominated during the fall and selected in open elections during two weekends at the beginning of the year, include attorney Jerry Simoneaux, Montrose Clinic spokesperson Sonna Alton, PFLAG activists Sue and Jim Null and the Lesbian and Gay Rights Lobby of Texas (LGRL).

"Last year when we honored the past marshals, I got a chance to talk to some of them," said Jack Valinski, coordinator for the Pride Committee Houston. "It's interesting how many of them considered it such an incredible honor, even years later."

Jerry Simoneaux, this year's male Grand Marshal, is not waiting until his moment passes to appreciate the honor.

"I never even considered the possibility of winning," he said. "What a humbling experience it is that people took time from their days to think that much of me."

Simoneaux's increasing presence as an openly gay lawyer and advocate for marriage equality for same-sex and transgender couples has not gone unnoticed.

"I do what I love, and people know I'm an advocate for these causes," he said.

As the president of the Stonewall Law Association of Greater Houston, Simoneaux has pressed for the further integration of gay and transgender people in the law profession. He and his law partner, John Nechman, recently broke ground by making their firm the first in the nation to name a transgender partner, Phyllis Randolph Frye.

Now, the law firm is poised to handle not only alternate family issues and immigration matters involving gay and lesbian clients but also transgender cases.

Simoneaux and his life partner,



The 2004 Grand Marshals include (from left) Jerry Simoneaux, Sonna Alton, Randall Ellis representing the Lesbian and Gay Rights Lobby of Texas and Sue and Jim Null. (Photo by Dalton DeHart)

Christopher Bown, have worked tirelessly to stage events such as the annual Alternative Family Law Seminar and this year's marriage equality demonstration.

Recently, Simoneaux was selected by the Texas Bar Association to head its section on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identification Issues, which includes legal issues related to the community.

This year's female Grand Marshal, Sonna Alton, said that for an individual to be singled-out by their peers is a tremendous honor and, "To be honored as Grand Marshal for the Parade makes me speechless. I'm very touched."

Alton, Director of Communications and Events for the Montrose Clinic, arrived in Houston in 1988 to attend graduate school, not thinking she would end up making the city her home.

She began volunteering for various causes in the gay community, including the Krewe of Olympus. The Montrose Clinic chose her to be its spokesperson a little over three years ago.

"This is the best job I've ever had," she said. "This job can be emotionally draining because of the clientele we serve, but it can also be rewarding because we save lives. I'm very proud that the work we do is meaningful."

As this year's honorary Grand Marshals, Sue and Jim Null are being honored for their advocacy and organization on behalf of gay and lesbian issues. At the

marriage equality demonstration earlier this year, the Nulls were there. When there is an occasion to march, they are there.

In retrospect, Sue Null said it's interesting, considering she once told her lesbian daughter, "We can deal with you as you are, but we don't want to march in the street."

When the Nulls came to suspect that their daughter was a lesbian, Sue said, they turned to their church family at First Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston for support. With a minister who is gay and a number of gay and lesbian parishioners, she said, it was the place to be.

When a young man from another country came to live with the couple and they learned he was having trouble coping with being gay, Null said, she and her husband contacted Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

"Four months after we joined PFLAG,

both of us marched in the streets," Null said.

In their PFLAG affiliation, Sue has taken on advocacy, and Jim has organized educational conferences for the Houston Independent School District to educate faculty and administrators on gay and lesbian issues.

"We just teach them to do things right in the first place, and then help them understand the legal costs of doing the wrong thing," Jim Null said.

As for being named Grand Marshals, Sue Null said, "We're pleased and delighted."

Living in the heart of the state gives Randall Ellis and the Lesbian and Gay Rights Lobby the perfect venue for advocating on behalf of all gay and lesbian Texans.

Ellis, the executive director of LGRL, said he was happy that the organization was selected to be the organizational Grand Marshal.

"This is a statewide organization, and I think it speaks to the involvement we have in every community in Texas," he said. "It really is about bettering communities, and that's why we do it."

Ellis said LGRL hopes to include John Lawrence and Tyron Garner, the plaintiffs in last year's groundbreaking U.S. Supreme Court case, on its float. The group will pass out flyers about [www.saveourconstitution.org](http://www.saveourconstitution.org), a Web site that educates the public regarding proposed marriage amendments at the federal and state levels.

# PRIDE



AS BIG AS TEXAS





**PRIDE '04**

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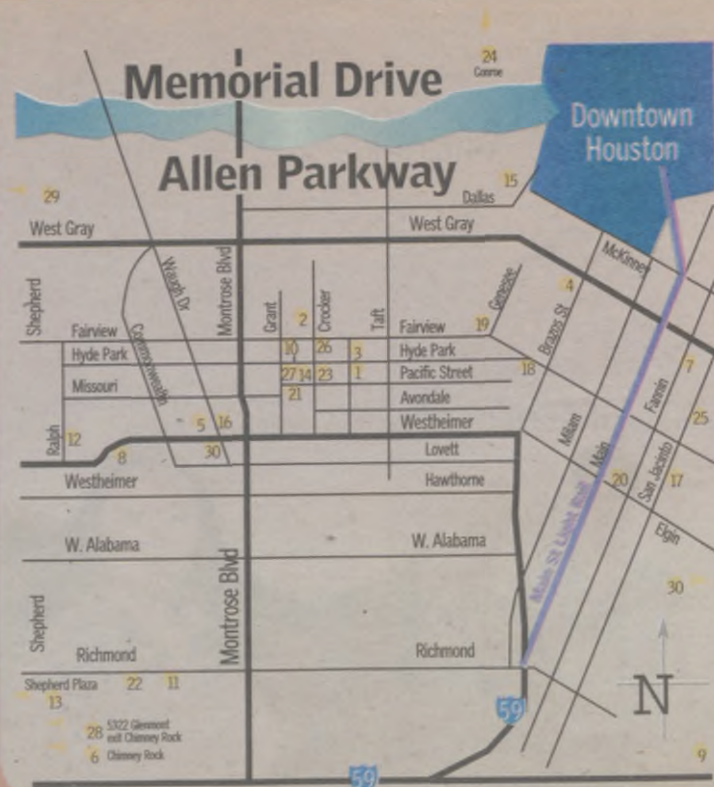
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## PRIDE '04

# Past Grand Marshals reign at every Houston Pride Parade

From political activists to drag queens to bar owners, Houston honors Parade past

By KAY DAYUS

When the Houston Pride Parade marches into its 26th year on Saturday, as always, organizers will honor this year's grand marshals and those from past years.

The names of some past marshals are easily recognizable, but some are not.

For instance, the name Thelma Hansel, a.k.a. "Disco Grandma" may not ring many bells, but it was with Hansel that Houston began the tradition of honoring leaders in the gay and lesbian community.

Hansel was Grand Marshal at Houston's first Pride Parade in 1979. Technically, there was a Pride celebration in 1978, but it was a gathering at the AstroArena, not actually a parade.

Local long time gay rights activist Ray Hill, who was Grand Marshal in 1981, said Hansel got her nickname because, "She loved Sunday evening drag shows at the old Plantation gay bar. They even gave her her own table."

"Disco Grandma" was heterosexual but she had a gay son and, Hill said, she loved him and his partner and was very accepting of them. "There weren't many accepting parents back then," he added. Unfortunately, he said, there were some who were not happy with Hansel as Grand Marshal because she was not gay.

Nevertheless, another heterosexual, Eleanor Munger, was named Grand Marshal in 1988. Munger, who recently passed away, was founder of Omega



Houston City Controller Annise Parker, a past parade Grand Marshal, rode in last year's parade with her partner, Kathy Hubbard. (Photo by Dalton Dehart)

Thelma Hansel, a.k.a. 'Disco Grandma,' began the tradition of honoring leaders in the gay and lesbian community. She was heterosexual but she had a gay son and, says local gay rights activist Ray Hill, she loved him and his partner and was very accepting of them.

House Hospice for people with AIDS.

Hill has great praise for her. "She was an Ivy League graduate and she was horrified by AIDS. She did great sacrificial work."

Ruth Wanstrom was female Grand Marshall along with Hill in 1981. Wanstrom, owner of a lesbian bar called the Roaring 60's, also had a nickname, "Papa Bear." Nobody seems quite sure how she got that moniker.

A name that's instantly recognizable is lesbian City Controller, Annise Parker. Parker served three terms on

Houston's City Council and last year was elected to the second highest elected position in the city. Parker reigned as Grand Marshal in 1990 before she began her political life.

She was selected because she had been a gay rights activist at Rice University and was the founder of a gay and lesbian group at that institution. She was also active in Houston's Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus and served a term as president. Hill describes her as an effective politician who applies her engineering and accounting background to the structure of city government.

At least three other past Grand Marshals have passed away: Eugene (Gene) Harrington, who led the 1991 Parade; Ruth Ravas, the 1988 Parade Grand Marshal; and Rick Grossman who reigned over the 1988 Parade.

Harrington, an attorney, was according to Hill, "A Renaissance man." Harrington, along with Hill and three other gay men ran for Houston City Council on the same ballot in the early 90's. It was mostly a symbolic effort, but Hill said proudly that he received the most votes.

Trivia buffs will be interested to note that Hill and attorney Mitchell Katine—Grand Marshal 2001—have both been involved in cases that went before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Katine was the first attorney to take on the historic case of Lawrence v. Texas, which prevailed before the U.S. Supreme court and struck down sodomy laws across the nation. Coincidentally, the



Court's decision was handed down just two days before last year's 25th Anniversary Pride Parade, prompting some parade participants and attendees to wear T-shirts that declared them to be, "legally gay."

Hill, an ex-con, claimed he was falsely arrested by Houston Police after he tried to stop officers from beating and harassing an African American gay man in the mid-1980's. His case went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court where he won.

In the written decision handed down by the Supreme Court, Hill was referred to as a "citizen provocateur," a title that is still on his business card today.

Other past Grand Marshals include: Charles Armstrong, bar owner and businessman, 1989; longtime lesbian activist Pokey Anderson, 1984; Nancy Ford, writer and comic, 1999; and Mela Contreras, owner of Mela's bar, and Rusty Mueller (a.k.a. Crystal) in 2002. Perhaps the most interesting Parade as far as Grand Marshals are concerned, was last year's 25th Anniversary Parade. All past Grand Marshals were invited to lead the Parade.

Hill described it this way, "We were all on a big float last year. They recycled all the old GM's. There was hardly room for all the walkers and canes on that float."

With more than 175,000 onlookers and 125 parade entries, it was the biggest Houston Pride Parade ever.

The tradition continues Saturday as the 2004 Grand Marshals: Sonna Alton, communications director at the Montrose Clinic; Jerry Simoneaux, an attorney and president of the Stonewall Law Association of Greater Houston; Sue and Jim Null, PFLAG activists; and Randall Ellis, executive director of the Lesbian and Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, take their elected places at the head of the Houston Parade.



Past Grand Marshall Mitchell Katine (center) rode in last year's parade with John Lawrence (left) and Tyron Garner, the plaintiffs in the historic Lawrence v. Texas case.

## MORE INFO

Houston Pride Parade  
8:45 p.m. Saturday  
starts at Westheimer and Woodhead  
[www.pridehouston.org](http://www.pridehouston.org)



**PRIDE '04**

# Twenty-five years of Houston Pride



The past Grand Marshals reigned over the 2003 Pride Parade. (Photo by Dalton DeHart)

Past Grand Marshals of the Houston Pride Parade have included bar owners, drag queens, political activists and heterosexuals who supported the gay and lesbian community.

2002 Rusty Mueller & Mela Conteras  
 2001 Dalia Stokes & Mitchell Katine  
 2000 Richard Weiderholt\* & Tori Williams  
 1999 Nancy Ford & Sean Carter  
 1998 Bob Bouton & Jackie Doval  
 1997 Deborah Bell & Jimmy Carper  
 1996 Bill Havard & Jeanette Vaughn  
 1995 Suzanne Anderson & Don Gill  
 1994 Jay Allen & Cicely Wynne  
 1993 Carolyn Mobley & Brian Bradley\*  
 1992 Brian Keever & Sheri Cohen Darbonne  
 1991 Linda Morales & Jack Jackson & Gene Harrington  
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 1988 Bruce Cook\* & Eleanor Munger\*

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 1986 Tony Biccocchi\* & Dee Lamb\*  
 1985 Freda Jerrell & Terry Clark\*  
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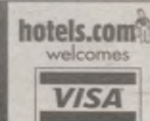
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# PRIDE '04

## 2004 is record year for Pride Parade

With 137 entries, the most in Pride's 26-year history, the 2004 Pride Parade should easily roll well past midnight.

Parade entries in order of where they will appear in the parade are:

- 000 Pride Committee of Houston - Opening Banner
- 001 American Veterans For Equal Rights (AVER)
- 002 Pride Committee of Houston - Grand Marshals
- 003 Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas
- 004 Honorable Houston Mayor Bill White
- 005 Honorable City Controller Annise Parker
- 006 Houston Police Department
- 007 Honorable US Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee
- 008 Honorable US Congressman Chris Bell
- 009 Honorable Texas Senator Rodney Ellis
- 010 Honorable Texas Representative Garnet Coleman
- 011 Honorable Texas Representative Jessica Farrar
- 012 Honorable Houston City Council Member Ada Edward
- 013 Honorable Houston City Council Member Carol Alvarado
- 014 Honorable Houston City Council Member Gordon Quan
- 015 Honorable Houston City Council Member Ronald Green
- 016 Honorable Houston City Council Member Adrian Garcia
- 017 Bud Light/Silver Eagle Distributors
- 018 Houston Fire Department/Community Outreach
- 019 American Civil Liberties Union
- 020 Unity Through Sports - Texas Style
- 021 Spoiled Boyz/M2M Entertainment, Inc.
- 022 Chipotle Mexican Grill
- 023 Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents, Inc.
- 024 Montrose Counseling Center
- 025 Montrose Counseling Center/H.A.T.C.H.
- 026 JP Morgan Chase PRIDE Team
- 027 Bering Omega Community Services
- 028 Integrity/Houston
- 029 Asians & Friends Houston
- 030 Stonewall Law Association of Greater Houston
- 031 Maranatha Fellowship MCC
- 032 Montrose Clinic, Inc.
- 033 Charles Armstrong Investments, Inc.
- 034 Planned Parenthood of Houston & Southeast Texas

- 035 Community Gospel Church
- 036 Parents Reconciling Network
- 037 Krewe of Olympus-Texas, Inc.
- 038 H Texas Magazine
- 039 Liquid
- 040 Rich's Houston
- 041 Houston Area Bears
- 042 The Houston Voice
- 043 Bering Memorial United Methodist Church
- 044 DIAGEO
- 045 Continental Airlines
- 046 Chances
- 047 Houston Transgendered Unity Committee
- 048 Guava Lamp
- 049 Bunnies on the Bayou
- 050 Houston Pride Band
- 051 PFLAG Houston
- 052 Judge David M. Patronek
- 053 O Houston Nightclub and Lounge
- 054 Human Rights Campaign
- 055 Berry Hill Baja Grill
- 056 Texas Triangle
- 057 Ryan White Planning Council
- 058 Theatre Under the Stars
- 059 KPFT 90.1-Pacific Radio
- 060 AssistHers
- 061 OutSmart Magazine
- 062 The Houston GLBT Community Center
- 063 Immigration Equality
- 064 Holiday Inn & Suites Galleria
- 065 Lesbian Health Initiative (LHI)
- 066 First Unitarian Universalist Church
- 067 Club Xscape
- 068 Rainbow Ranch
- 069 More Light Presbyterians of Greater Houston
- 070 Loafers, Inc. (LOAF)
- 071 Houston Women's Festival
- 072 Miss Camp America Foundation
- 073 Steve Carbone "Mr. Prime Choice 2004"
- 074 GLBT Pagan Pride Society
- 075 Shell Oil Company US (Sea Shell Network)
- 076 GLOBE (Gays & Lesbians Organized by Orgullo)
- 077 Countrywide Home Loans
- 078 Wells Fargo Bank
- 079 Racing Limos of Houston
- 080 Texas Gay Rodeo Association
- 081 KHMIX Mix 96.5
- 082 StatScript Pharmacy
- 083 Northwoods Unitarian Universalist Church
- 084 Montrose Vet Clinic
- 085 People with AIDS Coalition-Houston, Inc.
- 086 Houston Comets
- 087 Empire of the Royal, Sovereign & Imperial Court of the Single Star
- 088 Heart of Texas Bears, Inc.
- 089 Houston Humane Society
- 090 Westfest Purists Organization
- 091 Harris County Democratic Party
- 092 Resurrection MCC
- 093 Bayou City Boys Club
- 094 Houston Gay and Lesbian Film Festival
- 095 Harris County Libertarian Party
- 096 Covenant Church
- 097 AIDS.org



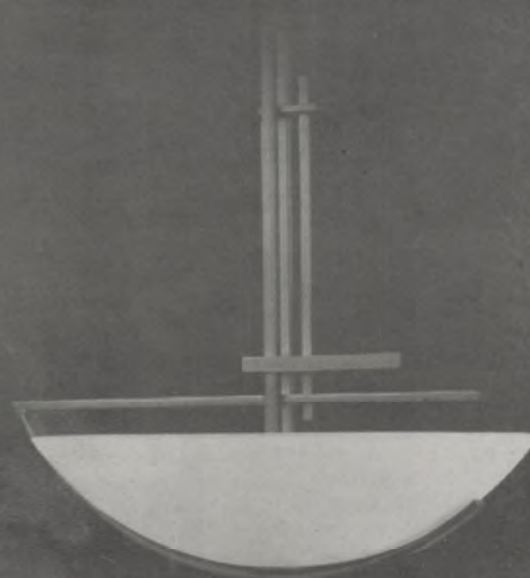
Photo by Dalton DeHart

- 098 Inergy Club
- 099 Halloween Magic
- 100 EJs
- 101 Q Texas Magazine
- 102 Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce
- 103 Greater Houston Transportation Company, Inc.
- 104 104 KRBE
- 105 A Common Bond - Texas
- 106 AIDS Foundation Houston
- 107 Emerson Unitarian Church
- 108 Austin Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce
- 109 Donald R. Watkins Memorial Foundation/YMSM Program
- 110 Jim Dougherty Campaign
- 111 Dignity Houston
- 112 Grace Lutheran Church-ELCA
- 113 Alley Theatre
- 114 Gamma Mu Phi, Inc.
- 115 GLOBE at University of Houston
- 117 The Hates
- 118 Houston Big Men's Club
- 119 Gay Men's Chorus of Houston
- 120 Classic Chassis Car Club of Houston
- 121 Houston ANSWER (Act Now to Stop War & End Racism)
- 122 H.E.R.S. Magazine
- 123 Pride EMS
- 124 Elect Peter Brown
- 125 K B Home
- 126 Ron Carter Autoland
- 127 Krewe of the Moons of Uranus
- 128 Power 97.5 Radio
- 129 Texas National Organization for Women
- 130 Starbucks Coffee Company
- 131 Planet Ford
- 132 Broadway in Houston
- 133 Fanny LaFaye's Burlesque Show
- 134 HEB Grocery Company
- 135 American Express
- 136 The Colt 45's
- 137 Rainbo de Klown
- 138 Pride Committee of Houston



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# PRIDE '04



## Pictures of PRIDE

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June 26 2003

Photos  
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DeHart



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## PRIDE '04

## Pride weekend 2004 is here

The biggest parade ever and all-night parties say stand up and be proud

Pride 2003 rode in on the heels of the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Lawrence v. Texas*, and Pride 2004 sweeps in at a time when gay men and lesbians have been legally married on both coasts.

It's time for a celebration, and one has been planned that starts Friday night and parties on until the wee hours of the morning on Sunday.

## FRIDAY JUNE 25

Baile 2004, a black-tie gala, is this year's major fundraiser for GLOBO-Gays and Lesbians Organized by Orgullo from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Guest House Suites/Inn, 125 Airtex at I-45 North. Proceeds will benefit selected charities. Cost is \$20 in advance and \$30 at the door. [www.glbhouston.org](http://www.glbhouston.org)

## Fuel: Official Pre-Parade Party

Direct from Miami, Grammy-winning DJ Hex Hector spins his classic remixes at the official pre-Parade party hosted by M2M Entertainment. Justin Stephens spins downstairs in the Groove Lounge. Visual stimulation throughout the evening will be provided by Dynasty in one of downtown Houston's most popular and acclaimed venues. Advance tickets are available at [www.pridehouston.org](http://www.pridehouston.org), [www.ghglcc.org](http://www.ghglcc.org), M2M Fashion at 3400 Montrose, and M's Liquor at 1232 Westheimer. A portion of the proceeds benefits the Pride Committee of Houston.

The party runs from 9 p.m.-3 a.m. at Boaka Bar/Mercury Room, 1008 Prairie at Main. Cost is \$15 advance and \$20 at the door.

[www.pridehouston.org](http://www.pridehouston.org)

## SATURDAY JUNE 26

## Pre-Parade Festival

Join the Pride Committee of Houston before the Parade and enjoy food and beverage selections at the M2M Entertainment dance tent that features Texas DJ talent at Westheimer and Yoakum. Cabo Mix-Mex Grill will host VIP bleacher seating for the Parade as well as a new Pride beer garden. Westheimer & Yoakum. [www.pridehouston.org](http://www.pridehouston.org)

## Annual Grey Party Pride Parade Launch

Drink specials and Jell-O shots are highlights of the party staged for parade viewers to meet before heading to the festivities. Party is from 5-9 p.m. at O Houston, 710 Pacific. Donations are welcome. [www.steelparty.com](http://www.steelparty.com)



Houston's Pride Parade rolls through Montrose starting at 8:45 Saturday night. (Photo by Dalton DeHart)

## 2004 Houston Pride Parade

Houston's popular nighttime Pride Parade rolls through the heart of Montrose in its 26th year. More than 130 parade entries, including floats, marching units and special appearances make the parade the highlight of Houston's Pride Celebration. The parade can be viewed starting at 8:45 p.m. on lower Westheimer, between Woodhead & Whitney. [www.pridehouston.org](http://www.pridehouston.org)

## StarBall Main Event: Official Pride Post-Parade Party

After the Parade, the festivities continue with a night of dancing at Club GO. This production by M2M Entertainment stars DJ Warren Gluck of New York City on the turntables and recording artist Pat Hodges singing her Billboard top 10 club hits "Love Revolution," "You Make Me Feel G-O-O-D" and "Saving My Love." Advance tickets are available at [www.pridehouston.org](http://www.pridehouston.org); [www.ghglcc.org](http://www.ghglcc.org); M2M Fashion, 3400 Montrose; and M's Liquor, 1232 Westheimer. A portion of the proceeds benefits the Pride Committee of Houston. The party gets underway at 10 p.m. and goes until 4 a.m. at 2001 Commerce at Chartres. Cost is \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. [www.pridehouston.org](http://www.pridehouston.org)

## SUNDAY JUNE 27

## Grace Jones at Rich's

Model, movie star and recording artist Grace Jones appears at Rich's, 2401 San Jacinto, starting at 3 a.m. DJ Shawn Russell spins. Cost is \$25 in advance. [www.richs-houston.com](http://www.richs-houston.com)

## Spoiled Boyz Urban Cowboyz: Official Pride After-Party

The party continues from 3:30-10 a.m. with the return of DJ Dawna Montel from Los Angeles and a performance by



Model, movie star and recording artist Grace Jones drops in at Rich's this weekend.



DJ Hex Hector spins Friday night at the official pre-Parade party.

## Profiles in Pride: That's Entertainment!

A special showing of "The Cockettes" rounds out a month of Pride documentaries. As the psychedelic San Francisco of the 1960s began evolving into the gay San Francisco of the 1970s, The Cockettes, a flamboyant ensemble of hippies (women, gay men, and babies) decked themselves out in gender-bending drag and glitter for a series of legendary midnight shows at the Palace Theater in North Beach. With titles like "Tinsel Tarts in a Hot Coma" and "Pearls over Shanghai," these all-singing, all-dancing extravaganzas featured elaborate costumes, rebellious sexuality and exuberant chaos. In their two-and-one-half-year existence, The Cockettes created 20 shows and were featured in four films. They created a unique burst of cultural experimentation and artistic outrageousness that continues to influence the worlds of theater, music, fashion, gay politics, spirituality and urban club life. The show starts at 7:30 p.m. at 1415 California. [www.txtriangle.com](http://www.txtriangle.com)



DJ Warren Gluck spins at the official Post-Parade Party Saturday night.

Dynasty: M2M Entertainment produces this party at Houston's Opus, 4112 Main at Prairie. DJ Chris Sill spins in the Groove Lounge. Advance tickets are available at [www.pridehouston.org](http://www.pridehouston.org); [www.ghglcc.org](http://www.ghglcc.org); M2M Fashion, 3400 Montrose; and M's Liquor, 1232 Westheimer. A portion of the proceeds benefits the Pride Committee of Houston. Cost is \$25, and attire is Texas casual. [www.pridehouston.org](http://www.pridehouston.org)

## Houston Pride Parade Awards

Parade weekend rounds out with the "best of the best" of the Houston Pride Parade. The Pride Committee will present trophies to top entries in various categories, as determined by this year's independent Parade Judges. It happens at 4 p.m. at Meteor, 2306 Genesee. [www.pridehouston.org](http://www.pridehouston.org)

## MONDAY JUNE 28

## National HIV Testing Day

All day, from 9 a.m.-7 p.m. the Montrose Clinic will offer the OraQuick Rapid HIV-1 Antibody Test with results available in 20 minutes.

Testing is free, and the clinic is located at 215 Westheimer. [www.montroseclinic.org](http://www.montroseclinic.org)



PRIDE '04

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**PRIDE '04**

THE PRIDE COMMITTEE OF HOUSTON PRESENTS

**STAR BALL**

PRIDE AS BIG AS TEXAS

**houston pride weekend 2004**

OFFICIAL PRIDE WEEKEND EVENTS

**FUEL**FRIDAY, JUNE 25 OFFICIAL PRE-PARADE PARTY  
GRAMMY AWARD WINNING PRODUCER AND REMIXER**dj hex hector**

dj justin stephens

BOAKA BAR/MERCURY ROOM  
1008 Prairie @ Main | 713.225.5372 | Doors Open 9pm-3am  
\$15 Advanced Tickets | Produced By M2M Entertainment Inc.**Pre-Parade Festival**

SATURDAY, JUNE 26 4pm-8:30pm

Featuring food and beverage vendors, Cabo's Grill beer garden & the M2M Entertainment Dance Music Tent  
with fresh new Texas DJ talent | Intersection of Westheimer & Yorkum**Houston's Original Night Time GLBT Parade**

SATURDAY, JUNE 26 8:45-11:30pm

THE LARGEST PRIDE PARADE EVENT IN THE SOUTH

Parade emcees' Maria Todd (104 KRBE) & Kofi  
Lower Westheimer, from Woodhead to Whitney • VIP Bleacher Seating Available**STARBALL**SATURDAY, JUNE 26 OFFICIAL POST-PARADE PARTY  
THE MAIN EVENT & LARGEST PRIDE PARTY IN HOUSTON**dj warren gluck  
& pat hedges**

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2001 Commerce Street @ Charles | 2 Blocks North Minute Maid Park | 281.667.0781 | Doors Open 10pm-4am  
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SATURDAY, JUNE 26 OFFICIAL AFTER-PARTY

**dj dawna montel**

performance artist dynasty &amp; dj chris eill

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412 Main Street @ Prairie | 713.222.OPUS | Doors Open at 3:30am  
\$25 Advance Tickets | Produced by Spoiled BoyzAdvance Tickets Available at M2M Fashion, M's Liquor and on-line at [www.pridehouston.org](http://www.pridehouston.org)  
Pride Packs also available including Parade VIP Bleacher Seating & 3 Official Pride PartiesFor Complete Event Info: [www.pridehouston.org](http://www.pridehouston.org), [www.spoiledparties.com](http://www.spoiledparties.com) or 713.529.8878