

Your guide to Pride

Special section details complete schedule of weekend events.

Inside

ISSUE 1183

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JUNE 27, 2003

Court strikes down sodomy law

On eve of Pride celebration, decision affirms privacy rights

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The state cannot demean their existence or control their destiny by making their private sexual conduct a crime,' U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy wrote in the 6-3 decision about two gay men in Texas, **John Geddes Lawrence** (left) and **Tyron Garner**, who were charged with violating the state's 'homosexual conduct' law in 1998.

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local news

Gays claim Montrose as their own

The 1960s saw the evolution of this traditionally diverse, gay neighborhood

Editor's note: In honor of Pride Week and 25 years of pride and gay history in Houston, this story is the second in a three-part series taking a look at the changes in the Montrose neighborhood, traditionally known as the heart of gay Houston.

By JOHNNY HOOKS

In 1948, Houston was awarded the label "Fastest Growing City in the Nation," according to an article in the Houston Business Journal. The Saturday Evening Post described the city as in "a dazzling phase, like Chicago in the 1850s."

The reason for such tremendous growth? Petroleum. The fossil fuel would propel Houston from a frontier town to the 14th largest city in the US by 1950. Betty Chapman in the Houston Business Journal wrote: "Fourteen refineries in the Houston area produced more than half the nation's oil. More wealth left the ground within a 200-mile radius of Houston than in any other location in the world."

Life magazine wrote then what many residents feel now: "I think I'll like Houston if they ever get it finished."

The 1950s and '60s saw the city through its first "boom years." To learn more about the queer emergence in Montrose, as well as in Houston itself, I went to gay activist Ray Hill.

"There was always a strong gay influence in [Houston] development, mortgage banking... even, I suspect as far back as turning an old dairy farm into the first Houston subdivision," Hill said. "Gay folk were laying out streets and financing homes."

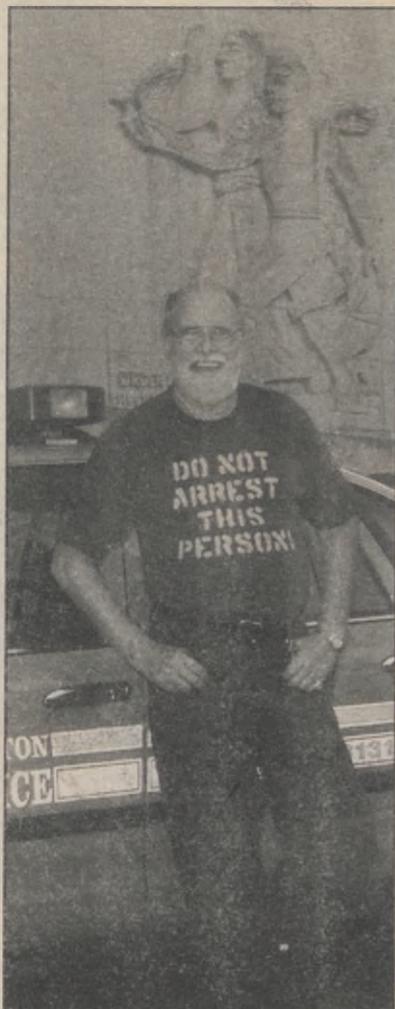
"Jesse Jones had no children of his own, his fair-haired boy Bob Smith had no children, left no heirs... of course Ms. Ima (Hogg) never married and I don't know what they paid her secretary after she died, but she's living comfortably for not writing a book," Hill said. "There have always been rumors about those relationships."

Why is it no surprise that this city had such colorful (ahem) characters from its very start?

But when and, curiously, WHY did the queers arrive in the neighborhood?

Again Hill remembers. "I can tell you exactly, almost to the date. I certainly know who was at the table when the gay community discovered Montrose as aeriable soil... and that goes back to the Alameda Street era."

"We had downtown [gay] bars, and the first bars to venture out of the downtown area were down Alameda road from Holman to Southmore, and it was cruising strip," Hill said. "You know, Houston's always been a cruising town."



Houston gay activist Ray Hill recalls when gays made Montrose the heart of their community in the Bayou City. (Photo by Kimberly Thompson).

At the time, all bars in Houston closed at midnight, but the men and women still had some tap in their shoes. The only place open was a coffeehouse on Main Street called Cokens. Apparently the owner, Bernard Coken, was rumored to be a "family member," though very closeted if so. Depending on his mood, Coken would either reluctantly welcome the late-night "perverts" or force them to hit the road.

In the early 1960s, the "grand dames" of that time decided they'd had enough. "Paul Stewart, Bobby Gant, Joey Bosch, Rita Wanstrum and that was basically the GLBT group... the lesbian bars were somewhere else but they all came all the way across town to join us for Coken's," Hill said. "We got together there, after recently being let back in, and said, 'This is bullshit.' You can't plan your evening, you never know if Bernard is going to be on a terror, or if Helen the waitress is gonna cough on your food; it's an awful place and we're not welcome."

"So there was a place, Ari Wren's, where Katz's Deli is now... that was only open for lunch," Hill continued. Hill and

his friends convinced Wren to open his restaurant 24 hours a day and from the first night, a traffic jam formed due to all the cars leaving Alameda, heading down Montrose to Art Wren's.

At the time, Montrose dead-ended at Westheimer and by the late '60s some quick-thinking queens decided to open a few bars "out Westheimer" past Montrose Boulevard. The Encore was the first Montrose "gay bar" — it was actually a private club where men could dance with men and enjoy cocktails. The second was Mary's; May Britz was the third; and finally a bar called Numbers, located on 1004 California.

The Bayou Landing was reported to be the largest gay dance hall between the East and West coasts! The sexual revolution of the times was embraced by the writers, musicians, gays and exiles that flocked to Montrose at the time, thanks to Ray Hill and his fellow queer pioneers. The early 1970s saw the lower Westheimer/Montrose area referred to as "Houston's Left Bank," with cafes, boutiques, antique stores and chic European-influenced restaurants such as Ari Grenouille's, Bacchanal, Michaelangelo's and Boccaccio 2000. Boccaccio 2000 was described by Texas Monthly as "a disco-restaurant furnished in Modern Kubrick that's become a jet-set pit stop for movie stars lost in Houston."

The late 1970s were a testament to urban decline, and Houston's "Left Bank" was now being compared to Boston's "Combat Zone." "First one sex shop opened, then another... once you go cheap, you start attracting a bad element... landlords get greedy and only the sex shop owners are willing to pay; the restaurants couldn't survive," recalls Michaelanelo owner Willie Rometsch in a Houston Post article.

The early 1980s saw Montrose dissolve into its most lawless era. Cars packed with drunken (mainly straight) youth cruised bumper to bumper from South Shepherd to Elgin and back again on weekend nights. Prostitutes of every variety lined either side of lower Westheimer; side streets saw sex in alleyways, rampant drug deals and more than the occasional assault.

Numbers 2, Godfathers Pizza (soon to be La Strada), the infamous Chicken Coop, the Midnight Sun, Twins' (sole lesbian bar on the strip), Tila's Restaurant (in the old Ari Wren's locale) with its neon clock, Ruggles, the Tower Theater and the Bobby Rock strip club were all fixtures on the famously seedy strip.

How did the former jewel in Houston's crown overcome its eyesore status and lawless reputation to become, yet again, the zip code to inhabit?

Next week: Montrose faces the devastating effects of AIDS and gentrifying redevelopment, plus a determined community looks to the future.

inside

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LANDMARK DECISION: The U.S. Supreme Court, with the majority decision written by Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, on Thursday struck down the anti-sodomy Texas statute, Section 21.06 of the Texas Penal Code. Page 6.



'THRILLED': Gay Houston attorney Mitchell Katine said he and others involved in the Lawrence v. Texas case against the state's so-called 'homosexual conduct' law are 'thrilled' at the Supreme Court ruling against the statute. Page 8.



RALLIES: Houstonian John Lawrence, who, along with Tyrone Garner is at the center of the case that led to the Supreme Court ruling on the Texas sodomy statute, participated in a Thursday night rally at Houston City Hall. Page 8.

CORRECTION

An arts preview article in the Sept. 20, 2002, issue of the Houston Voice included several passages that should have been attributed to freelance writer D. L. Groover of Outsmart Magazine. The Houston Voice regrets the error.

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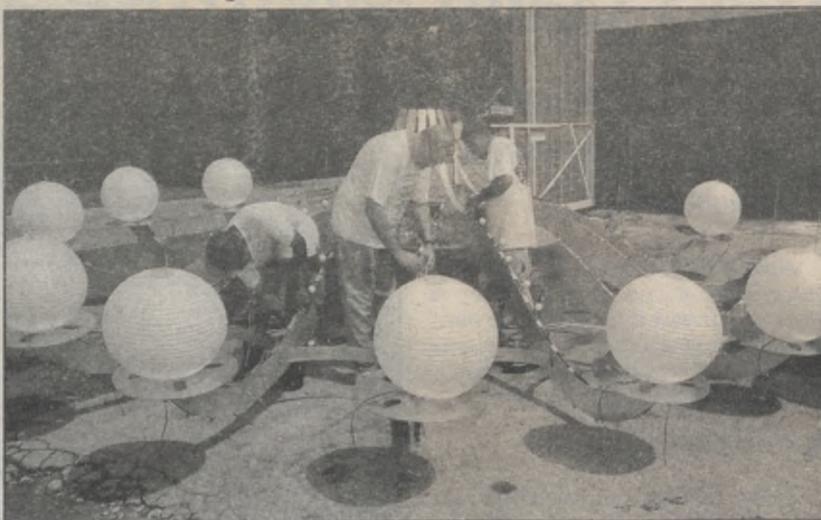
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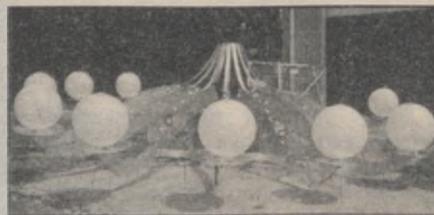
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around houston

Volunteers ready new Pride chandelier



Gene Ruple (center), owner of Fashionable Events Co., and helpers Clarence James and Billy Roberts prepare the huge chandelier that will set apart the Houston Pride Parade this year. The chandelier is 20 feet in diameter and weighs almost 1,000 pounds. It has 16 arms, each with globes that, combined, will contain lights the color of the Pride flag. More than 500 lights will make the chandelier stand out when it is displayed Saturday night near the corner of Montrose and Westheimer. The piece was built in 1986 by T. Duff and M. Grant Associates for the State of Texas' sesquicentennial and hung in the Capitol building heavily decorated with floral pieces. It is being electrified and decorated for Pride, including being painted silver to mark the 25th or "Silver" anniversary of Houston Pride. (Photo by Dalton DeHart)



State lawmaker to speak at caucus general meeting

State Rep. Sylvester Turner, a member of the Texas state Legislature since 1988 and a candidate for mayor of Houston, will be the guest speaker at the next general meeting of the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus on Wednesday. An attorney and civic leader in the Bayou City for more than two decades, Turner holds degrees from the University of Houston and Harvard Law School. He is the Speaker Pro Tempore of the Texas House of Representatives and serves on the Regulated Industries, Calendars, and Appropriations Committees. Wednesday night, Turner will discuss the challenges facing Houston and his plans for the city if he is elected mayor. He will answer questions from HGLPC members and visitors. The public is invited to attend.



State Rep. Sylvester Turner (D-Houston) is slated to speak to members of the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus on Wednesday.

Crossdresser shot to death while driving in Houston

Houston Police Department officials report that Houston police are investigating the fatal shooting of a man in the 5900 block of Antoine about 5:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 18. According to a police report, the victim was Michael Charles Hurd, 23, of 6101 Antoine No. 7107. HPD Homicide Division Sergeant D.A. Ferguson and Officer B.C. McDaniel reported that the victim had been driving a green four-door Saturn northbound in the 5900 block of Antoine. At some point, police said, the vehicle was shot at and the victim died at the scene. The victim was wearing women's clothing when he was found. Police said the suspect(s) and motive in the shooting are unknown so far. This week, officials with PFLAG (Parents Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays) decried the shooting. "PFLAG condemns the hatred and misunderstanding that leads to crimes against those of us who don't appear to conform to society's repressive norms," said PFLAG national president Sam Thoron. "This cold-blooded killing would appear to be a hate crime. If so, it is yet another chilling example of the violence perpetrated against transgender people. PFLAG extends its sympathy to the family and loved ones of this victim and promises that this heinous act will only serve to further its commitment to fighting for justice and safety for everyone, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation." Anyone with information is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.

From staff reports

MORE INFO

Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus
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national news

Supreme Court overturns Texas sodomy law

Ruling invalidates laws in 13 states

By LOU CHIBBARO JR.

In a sweeping victory for gay rights advocates, the U.S. Supreme Court on Thursday overturned sodomy laws in 13 states, including Virginia, declaring that gay couples, as well as heterosexuals, have a constitutional right to privacy in the area of "private sexual conduct."

Attorneys called the 6-3 decision in the case, known as *Lawrence vs. Texas*, a stunning victory for the gay rights movement because of the specific legal changes it will bring about and because of its strongly worded declaration on behalf of privacy rights for gays.

"The state cannot demean their existence or control their destiny by making their private sexual conduct a crime," states the majority opinion, written by Justice Anthony M. Kennedy.

The case stems from a decision by two gay men from a Houston suburb to challenge the constitutionality of the Texas "homosexual conduct" law. The law makes it a crime for consenting adults of the same gender to have oral or anal sex in private, while allowing heterosexuals to commit the same acts legally.

The two men, John Lawrence and Tyron Garner, were arrested by Harris County, Texas, sheriff's deputies on Sept. 17, 1998, after the deputies barged into the bedroom of Lawrence's apartment and observed the men engaging in anal intercourse.

Authorities said they entered the apartment after receiving a call, which was later found to be false, that an armed intruder was on the premises.

Both men pleaded "no contest" to the charge and were fined \$200 each. The plea, which has the legal effect of a conviction, could have resulted in several states adding their names to police sex offender lists.

"We are very pleased with the ruling," Lawrence said at a news conference Thursday. "We never chose to be public figures. This ruling allows us to



From right, gay attorney Mitchell Katine, gay Houstonians John Lawrence and Tyron Garner, and Lambda Legal's Lee Taft leave a press conference held Thursday afternoon at the Houston GLBT Community Center. The session was held to brief members of the media on reaction to the U.S. Supreme Court decision striking down Texas' anti-gay sodomy statute. (Photo by Penny Weaver)

get on with our lives and opens the door for gay people across the country to be treated equally."

Attorneys affiliated with Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, which represented Lawrence and Garner before the Supreme Court, argued that the Texas homosexual conduct law should be overturned on two grounds. One — the ground that the high court invoked in yesterday's decision — holds that the law violates the Constitution's 14th Amendment due process clause, which protects an individual's privacy rights.

The second ground contended that the Texas law violates the 14th Amendment's equal protection clause because it singled out sodomy committed by same-sex couples and not heterosexual couples.

Had the court chosen the equal protection clause, it would have overturned only the Texas sodomy law and sodomy laws in three other states — Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma, all of which outlaw homosexu-

al sodomy only.

By choosing to overturn the Texas law on the "privacy" rights ground, the Supreme Court struck down sodomy laws in the four states in which they apply only to gays as well as in nine more states, where the laws apply to both homosexuals and heterosexuals.

The other states include Alabama, Florida, Idaho, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and Utah. Also included in this category is Puerto Rico.

Perhaps most important, the court's ruling overturns the court's own 1986 decision known as *Bowers v. Hardwick*. That decision upheld Georgia's sodomy law on grounds that the law did not violate the Constitution's 14th Amendment assurance of privacy rights.

Gay rights activists viewed the *Bowers* decision as especially harsh and onerous because it couched its reasoning for rejecting the privacy rights argument in anti-gay rhetoric.

"To hold that the act of homosexual sodomy is somehow protected as a fundamental right would be to cast aside millennia of moral teaching," then Chief Justice Warren Burger wrote in a concurring opinion.

"It's a great victory for all Americans because now all Americans are protected from government intrusion into their bedrooms," said Paul Smith, a gay Washington attorney who argued the case on Lambda Legal's behalf before the court in March.

"They didn't make the 'equal protection' argument because that argument didn't need to be reached," Smith said. "They said anybody, gay or straight, has a right to make choices about their sexual partners and their sexual practices in the privacy of

their homes."

Joining Kennedy in signing on to the majority opinion to overturn the Texas statute on "privacy" grounds were Justices John Paul Stevens, David Souter, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and Stephen Breyer. Justice Sandra Day O'Connor filed a concurring opinion that supported overturning the Texas law, but based her opinion on the "equal protection" argument.

Justice Antonin Scalia wrote the dissenting opinion, with Chief Justice William Rehnquist and Justice Clarence Thomas signing on to Scalia's dissent. Thomas also filed a separate dissenting opinion.

In his dissent, Scalia called the majority opinion a loss of the "people's right" to make laws through their elected leaders that take stands on "moral" issues.

"It is clear from this that the court has taken sides in the cultural wars," Scalia said, in a statement he delivered from the bench, a departure from usual practice.

Kennedy appeared to set the stage for the majority opinion when he described in his opinion the rationale for the decision.

"The present case does not involve minors. It does not involve persons who might be injured or coerced or who are situated in relationships where consent might not be easily refused. It does not involve public conduct or prostitution... The case does involve two adults who, with full and mutual consent from each other, engaged in sexual practices common to a homosexual lifestyle. The petitioners are entitled to respect for their private lives. The State cannot demand their existence or control their destiny by making their private sexual conduct a crime."

See www.houstonvoice.com for more on this story.



Gay Houstonians John Lawrence (right) and Tyron Garner read a statement during a Thursday press conference in reaction to the Supreme Court decision on the case that originated in 1998 with the arrest of the two men. (Photo by Penny Weaver)



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local news

Attorneys, clients in sodomy case 'thrilled'

Gay Houston attorney points out far-reaching implications of U.S. Supreme Court decision

By PENNY WEAVER

The historic U.S. Supreme Court decision to strike down Texas' so-called "homosexual conduct" law sent ripples of joy throughout the country, but nowhere was the excitement more palpable than in Houston, where the case originated.

Gay Houston attorney Mitchell Katine and others who have worked on Lawrence and Garner v. Texas for five years — and on the move to eliminate the Texas sodomy law in political arenas — rejoiced at the news Thursday morning.

"At first we knew we had won but we didn't know what we had won on," Katine said. "Quite frankly, I could not imagine that the court would actually overrule Bowers v. Hardwick."

"When I got the decision that this was an overruling of Bowers v. Hardwick, I knew this was even a further reaching decision than on the right to equal protection," Katine added. "This is a much further reaching decision than I could have imagined. We're very excited."

The Supreme Court struck down the state's ban on gay sex Thursday, ruling that the law was an unconstitutional violation of privacy. Gay activists and attorneys had argued that



Gay Houston attorney Mitchell Katine has helped lead the case on behalf of John Lawrence and Tyron Garner since the two were arrested in Lawrence's bedroom in 1998.

the Texas statute was not only a violation of right to privacy but also a violation of equal protection guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution.

This week's ruling reverses Bowers v. Hardwick, the infamous Supreme Court 1986 decision that upheld a Georgia anti-sodomy law similar to the Texas statute.

Katine said gay Houstonians John Lawrence and Tyron Garner, the two men arrested in 1998 in Lawrence's bedroom, originating the challenge to the Texas law, are amazed at the nationwide reaction to the decision.

"I called John and Tyron and congratulated them and let them know that we could not have done this without them and their willing-

ness to be out in the forefront," Katine said. "John and Tyron...I think they truly appreciate today...the historic significance of their contribution."

"They are thrilled. They are excited. They are happy," he added. "They understand the significance of this decision on the country."

"I spoke to them this morning and I was able to give them the news. They were both thrilled. They were both just beside themselves," Katine said. "They appreciate today that the whole nation has been watching this. They know that it's because of their willingness to go forward. I think that they truly appreciate the significance of this."

Katine actually first heard the news from his mother. At 9:12 a.m. Thursday, as members of the media and fellow attorneys surrounded Katine's desk, awaiting the official decision, the phone rang. It was Katine's mother.

"[She said] 'Congratulations, son — you won!'" Katine said. "I said, 'Mom, that's fantastic.'"

He emphasized the potentially far-reaching effects of the Supreme Court ruling.

"All I'm saying is that what this decision has done is it puts me and my partner on the same grounds as our heterosexual neighbors," Katine said. "We all have the right to privacy in this country. We all have the right to not have the government telling us what we can do and what we can't do in our bedrooms as adults."

On a lighter note, Katine is ready for Saturday's Houston Pride Parade — particular



The office of Harris County District Attorney Chuck Rosenthal handled the Lawrence case on behalf of the state of Texas.

significant this year in light of the Lawrence v. Texas decision.

"I've been telling people let's wait for this decision and then you can go have sex," Katine said with a laugh. "We are now free and we are going to have one hell of a Pride parade. The rally is going to be great."

"Everyone needs to know that every case is important and we all have civil rights that can be protected. We can actually win," Katine said.

The office of Harris County District Attorney Chuck Rosenthal represented the state of Texas in the Lawrence and Garner v. Texas case.

Rosenthal, who initially argued the case for the state, could not be reached by press time Thursday.

But Rosenthal said last fall that his office was prepared to vigorously defend the Texas law.

"One of the things that we've done is we've sworn to uphold the Constitution of the State of Texas and of the United States, and we're fulfilling our oath," Rosenthal said.

Bill Delmore, the Harris County assistant prosecutor who also worked on the case, in the past has said that the Legislature should throw out the sodomy law if that's what Texans want.

"My concern was primarily that the decision be made in the Legislature so we could protect the people's right through their elected representatives to determine what conduct they believe to be immoral and ought to be against the law," Delmore has said.

Gay Houstonians celebrate court ruling

Pro-gay decision in time for Pride; celebration rallies held across the state

By PENNY WEAVER

Pride 2003 has taken on a whole new meaning this week for gays across the nation and particularly in Houston.

The Thursday decision by the U.S. Supreme Court that effectively strikes down anti-gay sodomy laws across the nation came in time for Pride Week. The case that raised the challenge to Texas' so-called "homosexual conduct" law originated in Houston.

So gay Houstonians prepared for an even more raucous Pride Parade on Saturday night.

Following the Supreme Court announcement of its decision, gay activists and supporters across the nation planned celebrations Thursday night. In Houston, the rally was held on the steps of city hall, and speakers included Mayor Lee Brown and gay attorney Mitchell Katine, who was involved in the case of Lawrence and Garner v. Texas since it began in 1998.

John Lawrence and Tyron Garner, the

two men whose arrests in Lawrence's Houston bedroom led to the sodomy law challenge, also were to be present at the Thursday rally at city hall.

Across the nation, gay activists planned celebrations after the ruling. Cities in Texas that planned rallies, in addition to Houston, included Galveston, Austin, Dallas

Guided in part by the National Supreme Court Civil Rights Rally, activists also were to gather in Atlanta, Boston, Cleveland, Detroit, Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans, Milwaukee, San Francisco, Philadelphia, Seattle and Washington, D.C., among others.

"Local organizers around the country are stepping up to the plate and taking the lead in defending their communities," said Robin Tyler, co-coordinator of the civil rights rally group, of the independently organized rallies. "Each community controls the event in their town and most of the 29 have reached out to us to help publicize and gain national visibility for their efforts."

"While Canada, where I was born, just



PFLAG-Houston Secretary Sue Null, also the mother of a gay son and daughter, said in reaction to Thursday's Supreme Court decision: 'No longer will my children be selectively branded as criminals simply for loving someone of the same gender.'

legalized marriage, we in the USA are still fighting for what should be the basic human right of equal protection under the law," Tyler added.

Sue Null, secretary for PFLAG-Houston (Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays), was scheduled to speak at the Thursday night rally at Houston City Hall. Her comments included the following.

"I feel like I've been bouncing all day on one of those children's moon walks. No longer will my children be selectively branded as criminals simply for loving someone of the same gender."

"I come before you today as a member of PFLAG and as a loving mom of a lesbian daughter and gay son," Null said. "No mother, cradling her new baby in her arms, expects this child to grow up to be gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender. But every mother wants her children to have equal opportunity in the world, to find someone to love, and to be safe. And all children deserve their mother's unconditional love, regardless of the gender of the person they love."

"How could any mother tell her GLBT children that they don't deserve the same opportunities as their straight siblings?," Null said. "How could any mother tell her GLBT children that they don't deserve the same rights? Equal respect? How could any mother have the arrogance to deny her children the right to love whom they love?"

"Not all of us have the privilege of learning to embrace a son or daughter who is a sexual minority," Null said. "I am grateful to my own children who have opened doors to a whole new community of people whom I wouldn't otherwise know if it were not for them. They, and all of you, have offered my husband and me an opportunity to grow in sensitivity, compassion, and admiration for your great courage and strength, often in the face of fear and adversity."

"Hopefully, [Thursday's] decision will lead to a change in the public's perception of sexual minorities, which in turn will lead to greater safety, safety on the streets, safety in the job market, and safety in all aspects of life," Null said. "Misguided religious, social and political forces will continue to rail against sexual minorities, and we have a long way to go before our loved ones achieve true equality, but PFLAG is with you all the way! Justice will triumph!"

news analysis

Ruling may impact sex laws, sets stage for marriage fight

By CHRIS CRAIN

In sweeping language, the Supreme Court struck down the Texas sodomy law, and with it similar laws in 12 other states, as violating gay Americans' right to due process, but the debate among the justices was far broader, and in many ways set the stage for the court to address the issue of marriage, the next looming battle in the "culture wars," in Justice Antonin Scalia's parlance.

Even on the issue of sodomy laws, the justices were expansive in their reasoning. The Supreme Court typically decides only the question before it, but the majority opinion in *Lawrence vs. Texas* went further than it needed to, tackling not just laws like the one in Texas and three other states that criminalize only homosexual sodomy. Instead, the court reached out to effectively rule unconstitutional the sodomy laws of nine other states — including Virginia — that apply to homosexual and heterosexual couplings.

The case was decided 6-3, but only a bare majority of five were willing to take the extra step of effectively striking down all 13 sodomy statutes as contrary to the Constitution's Due Process Clause. In doing so, these five justices overruled the court's 1986 decision in *Bowers vs. Hardwick*, which upheld Georgia's gen-



Supreme Court Justices Anthony Kennedy and Sandra Day O'Connor voted with the majority in striking down the sodomy laws.

eral sodomy law.

The sixth justice in the majority, Sandra Day O'Connor, voted with the majority in *Bowers* and was unwilling to revisit her thinking in that case. Instead, she agreed that the Texas law was unconstitutional, but limited her analysis to the fact that the law applies only to homosexual and not heterosexual conduct. That distinction violates the Equal Protection Clause, which like the Due Process Clause is contained in the 14th Amendment to the Constitution.

The other five justices in the majority acknowledged that the equal protection challenge "is a tenable argument," but they nonetheless went on to overrule *Bowers* and face the broader question of the government's ability to legislate sexual morality.

Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote for the majority. "Were we to hold the statute invalid under the Equal Protection Clause" as O'Connor suggested, "some might question whether a prohibition would be valid if drawn differently, say, to prohibit the conduct both between same-sex and different-sex participants."

The five-justice majority answered that question loud and clear: "Liberty presumes an autonomy of self that includes freedom of thought, belief, expression, and certain intimate conduct." Private and consensual sexual conduct between adults — even homosexual adults — qualifies as protected "intimate conduct," the court concluded, and the government cannot regulate it.

The impact of that ruling could be far-reaching. In his dissent, Justice Scalia cited a number of laws that may collapse in its wake: those prohibiting the sale of sex toys, adultery, fornication (sex outside marriage), adult incest, public indecency, bigamy, masturbation, bestiality, obscenity and same-sex marriage.

But the majority opinion was not simply a treatise on how individual freedom to engage in sexual acts must not be infringed upon by the government. Although the five-justice majority was not deciding the case based on the fact that the Texas sodomy law was

limited to homosexual conduct, Justice Kennedy's opinion dealt directly with how application of the law was used to discriminate against gay men and lesbians. (Though it is noteworthy that "homosexual" remains the preferred descriptor for gays at the highest court in the land.)

"When homosexual conduct is made criminal by the law of the state," wrote Justice Kennedy, "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 *Lawrence* case, according to Justice Kennedy, "involves two adults who, with full and mutual consent from each other, engaged in sexual practices common to a homosexual lifestyle. The [two men] are entitled to respect for their private lives. The state cannot demean their existence or control their destiny by making their private sexual conduct a crime."

MORE INFO

See www.houstonvoice.com for more coverage of the historic U.S. Supreme Court decision on the Texas sodomy statute.



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local news

'Sleeping lawyer' case ends for gay defendant

Burdine trades new trial for life in prison in plea deal

By PENNY WEAVER

A gay Texan and former death row inmate who won a new trial because his lawyer allegedly slept through parts of his first trial pleaded guilty last week to capital murder and will spend life in prison.

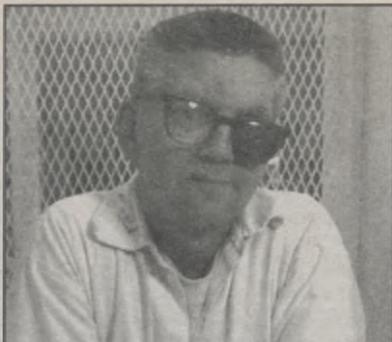
Calvin Burdine, 50, was convicted in 1984 of capital murder and given the death penalty for the 1983 stabbing death of his lover and roommate, W.T. "Dub" Wise. A federal judge reversed the conviction and granted a new trial because evidence showed his trial attorney, Joe Cannon, slept for up to 10 minutes at a time during crucial phases of testimony.

Cannon, who has since died, denied ever falling asleep during the trial. Burdine's Decatur, Ga., attorney, Robert McGlasson, argued in appealing the death penalty case that Cannon was sleeping instead of objecting to the prosecutions repeated references to Burdine's homosexuality.

In arguing for the death penalty and against life in prison for Burdine following his conviction, the prosecutor told the jury, "Sending a homosexual to the penitentiary [for life] certainly isn't a very bad punishment for a homosexual, and that's what he's asking you to do."

Gay and civil liberties groups, in a 1995 brief asking that Burdine's conviction be overturned, said, "The prosecution clearly implied that... life behind bars would be pleasant for a gay person — in effect portraying the gay inmate as a 'kid in a candy store.'"

The prosecutor also said that Burdine's 1971 Texas conviction for sodomy, a consensu-



Gay Texan Calvin Burdine, formerly on death row in a capital murder case, last week entered a guilty plea and likely will spend the rest of his life in prison. (Photo from AP)

al offense, was evidence of his "likeliness to commit criminal violent acts in the future."

Cannon also was found to have used anti-gay slurs during the trial. According to McGlasson, Cannon was homophobic and did not challenge the prosecutor's biased statements to the jury, as well as prospective jurors who exhibited anti-gay bias.

In Burdine's appeal, the higher courts did not address what McGlasson, gay rights activists and death penalty opponents have said was homophobia on the part of both the prosecutor and defense attorneys during the original trial.

A year ago, the U.S. Supreme Court declined a state request to reinstate Burdine's conviction and death sentence, sending the case back to Texas, where authorities either had to retry him or set him free.

On June 19, Burdine pleaded guilty to capital murder, aggravated assault and felony possession of a weapon in exchange for life in prison, and state District Judge Joan

Huffman levied consecutive life sentences for the crimes. The punishment virtually assures he will spend the rest of his life in prison.

When Huffman asked Burdine if he understood the deal, witnesses said Burdine replied, "It means we're going to do a lot of time."

Prosecutors agreed to the deal because of "the guarantee that he would die in prison," if not by injection then by old age, Harris County District Attorney Chuck Rosenthal said. Also, potential trial evidence available to prosecutors had deteriorated with age had they gone for another death case, Rosenthal said.

Burdine survived six execution dates before a federal court agreed that Cannon's performance violated Burdine's constitutional right to an effective lawyer. Houston lawyer Danalynn Recer, one of Burdine's attorneys, said last week that Burdine understood that prison will remain his home.

"His experience of living on death row for close to two decades was a traumatizing experience," Recer said. "He came close to being executed and the terror of having that over his head for nearly 20 years has finally been removed. He is very relieved not to be facing the executioner."

Burdine was convicted of killing Wise at the Houston trailer they shared. Burdine confessed to police and later recanted, claiming an accomplice killed Wise while Burdine tried to talk him out of it. That alleged accomplice, Douglas McCreight, made a deal with prosecutors in exchange for testimony against Burdine.

McCreight served eight years in prison for his role in the slaying before being released.

After the first trial, the jury foreman and a court clerk described how Cannon, Burdine's court-appointed lawyer, slept periodically during the testimony and sentencing phases.

Recer said prosecutors took advantage of Cannon's lapses by often referring to

Burdine's homosexuality during the trial. "No real defense was put forth," she said.

Rosenthal said he doesn't believe Cannon slept because the court transcript indicates timely objections, and "you don't expect him to be as vigorous as he was if he were actually sleeping."

A three-judge panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals first reversed the finding that Cannon's snoozing violated Burdine's rights in a highly criticized ruling in 2000. The full appeals court then chose to hear the case and agreed with the first court that Burdine didn't get a fair chance to defend himself.

In July 2002, the Supreme Court allowed that ruling to stand.

Last fall, Burdine's case again made headlines when, in a rare move, a federal judge called a state judge to his courtroom to resolve a civil suit that stemmed from Burdine's retrial.

In October, U.S. District Judge David Hittner ordered Huffman and attorney Annette Lamoreaux to appear in his court. Lamoreaux, East Texas regional director for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), represented Burdine in his fight to keep McGlasson as his defense counsel.

McGlasson handled Burdine's death penalty appeal and appeared with him in Harris County court a year ago for a hearing to determine Burdine's future counsel.

But at that proceeding, Huffman refused to appoint McGlasson as Burdine's counsel. Her stated reason was that he is not on the Harris County list of lawyers approved to represent defendants in capital murder cases.

By the time Burdine's new trial was to begin this spring, he rejected help from two defense attorneys appointed by Huffman, and McGlasson and Recer both agreed to represent Burdine at no charge.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

Houstonians enjoy 25 days of Pride 2003



Entertaining at the kickoff party was The Lady Chablis of Savannah, Ga.

A number of past Pride Parade grand marshals attended the Pride Committee of Houston's Pride Kickoff Party on Friday, June 6.



The Sixth Annual Houston Pride 5k Run & Walk was held on Saturday, June 21, at Sam Houston Park.



This month's bevy of activities has led up to Saturday night's infamous nighttime Houston Pride Parade. See today's special pull-out section for all the details on Pride's biggest weekend for 2003 and the 25th anniversary of Houston Pride. (Photos by Dalton DeHart) Left: Pop singer Thea Austin entertained the crowd in a concert as part of Six Flags Astroworld's Pride Day.



Above: A number of gay Houstonians turned out for the Saturday, June 21, Pride Day at Six Flags Astroworld. Left: Bering United Methodist Memorial Church hosted an Interfaith Gay Pride Service on Sunday, June 22.





national news

Ariz. governor bans anti-gay bias in state agencies

PHOENIX — Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano, a Democrat, signed an executive order June 21 barring state agencies from discriminating based on sexual orientation, the Arizona Republic reported. "To the people of Arizona, I say, 'Welcome to a new Arizona,'" Napolitano said, announcing the order at the Arizona Human Rights Fund dinner. "It's the right thing to do because it sends the message that we're going to value people on their workplace merit, and that's the beginning and the end, period." Officials with the Human Rights Fund, which lobbied for the measure, praised the move. "It's one more step forward for us in gaining the rights that everyone else takes for granted," said Kathie Gummere, Arizona Human Rights Fund public affairs director. But the Center for Arizona Policy called the order "an outrage." "If one governor can put it in, the next can rescind it," said Len Munsil, president of the conservative Christian group.



Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano said her order banning bias based on sexual orientation is 'the right thing to do' for state workers. (Photo by AP)

Gay employees at Justice Department hold Pride event despite snub

WASHINGTON — Department of Justice Pride members held their annual awards ceremony in the Russell Caucus Room on June 20 and honored Joseph Clark of the D.C. U.S. Attorney's Office and Susan Sommer from the Lambda Legal Defense Fund for their contributions to gay equality. The event, sponsored by Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.), who did not attend, lasted for nearly two hours with speeches by DOJ Pride members and Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), who is gay. Originally scheduled to be held in the Department of Justice's Great Hall, the event denied by the department earlier this month because the employee association, DOJ Pride, did not have an official presidential proclamation. In recent weeks, the department agreed to allow the event to go on as scheduled, but said the group would not receive any official sponsorship. DOJ Pride President Marina Colby took time out of the ceremony to honor those employees not present who might "fear retaliation for attending" such an event. About 150 people attended.

Calif. high court limits judges' membership in Boy Scouts

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — California judges who are members of the Boy Scouts of America may have to disqualify themselves from hearing cases involving anti-gay discrimination, the state Supreme Court announced June 12. But the state's top court, which sets rules for California's 2,000-member judiciary, did not bar judges from being members of the Irving, Texas-based Boy Scouts, as several local bar associations requested. Under the new rule, judges would either have to step down or notify litigants in cases dealing with discrimination in the workplace against gays, and "any case involving gay adoptions or cases in which the sexuality of the litigant is an issue," said Angela Bradstreet, the former San Francisco Bar Association president who urged the Supreme Court to alter its rules. Gregg Shields, the scouts' spokesperson, said the original proposal to ban scout membership by judges "would be inappropriate and unconstitutional."

Gay bias complaint filed under new Orlando law

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Six months after Orlando passed an ordinance barring sexual orientation discrimination, a man filed the first complaint under the law alleging he was kicked out of a sports bar because he is gay. Roger Welch said a bartender at Players Sports Pub told him to leave Feb. 13 after Welch mentioned to another patron that he was gay. Welch said he refused to leave but the bartender called police and he was cited for trespassing. The city's human relations department was investigating the complaint, but wouldn't release any details. A manager at Players Sports Pub declined comment. The Orlando city council voted in December to add "sexual orientation" to the list of categories in the city's anti-discrimination protection law, which includes employment, housing and public accommodations.

Soldier's mom continues fight against general's promotion

WASHINGTON — Pat Kutteles, mother of slain Army Pfc. Barry Winchell, returned to Capitol Hill on June 17 to again lobby against Major General Robert Clark's promotion to lieutenant general, NBC Nightly News reported. Clark served as commander at Fort Campbell, Ky., in 1999 when Winchell was beaten to death in his barracks by fellow soldiers who believed he was gay because he had a transgendered girlfriend. An Army investigation found that Clark was not responsible for Winchell's death, but said soldiers at the base had not been properly trained on the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. "If he's promoted, then everything that surrounded Barry's death and Barry himself didn't matter," Kutteles told NBC. Clark has declined interviews on the subject. He met with Winchell's parents last month, but Kutteles said he did not apologize and they remain upset that he did not attend their son's memorial service or contact them earlier. "How can you spend four years, four years and never once call on us, never acknowledge in a face-to-face meeting our child's death," she said.

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Forum

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editorial

Blind justice Bush style

The president says he dreams of a 'color-blind' America, and apparently a 'gay-blind' society, too. But our victories in the courthouse won't be so easily ignored in the White House.

By CHRIS CRAIN

g

GEORGE W. BUSH HAS SAID precious little during his political career about his views on homosexuality and gay rights.

Those who know him — especially family friend Charles Francis, the gay Texan who organized the meeting Bush had with 12 gay supporters after he clinched the GOP presidential nomination — say that our president is personally comfortable around people he knows to be gay.

Other gay Republicans argue that Bush is at least a "compassionate conservative" on our issues; in other words, don't look for him to stick his neck out in favor of gay rights, but at the same time don't worry about the type of anti-gay wedge politics practiced by the right wing of his party.

All this is probably true enough, but the record of his administration so far suggests a worldview that is a little more nuanced, and more than a little bit troublesome, for gay Americans — and for Bush's political future.

COMMENTATORS HAVE LONG NOTED this president's sunny view of human nature; he is a likable guy who is prepared to enjoy the company of most of those he encounters. A classic example surfaced just this month, when Bush played host at the White House to a college reunion of his fellow Yale alums.

As the *San Francisco Chronicle* reports it, one woman told a surprised Bush, "You might remember me as Peter when we left Yale." Bush didn't miss a beat, according to those present. He grabbed her hand and responded, "Now you've come back as yourself."

Of course, that doesn't mean the president will be lobbying Congress to add "gender identity" to gay rights legislation — he hasn't even said he supports gay rights legislation — but it does suggest a welcome personal acceptance.

That sunny disposition, and its disconnect from public policy, was also on display this week after the Supreme Court announced its split ruling on the affirmative action policies used in admissions at the University of Michigan. The court approved of affirmative action in principle, citing "diversity" as a com-

pellent government interest that justifies treating different races differently.

The White House responded with a statement from the president praising the court "for recognizing the value of diversity on our nation's campuses." The statement neglected to mention that Bush had personally approved a Justice Department brief that urged the court to strike down affirmative action entirely.

Even more telling was the portion of Bush's statement in which the president added, "Like the court, I look forward to the day when America will truly be a color-blind society."

If "diversity" really is a compelling interest, of course, then America will never truly be "color-blind," and shouldn't be. Race neutrality is not the same thing as color-blindness, but that difference appears lost on the president.

THE SAME MAY WELL BE TRUE ON GAY issues. The president's personal acceptance of gay people has made possible the appointment of a number of White House staffers who were known to be gay, even if they are "private" about it.

But in none of these cases does the president appear to see his gay appointments as proof of his commitment to "diversity," or as his predecessor put it, putting into place a government that "looks like America." In fact, as far as homosexuality goes, the White House "line" is that it is a non-issue, irrelevant in every way.

The Bush administration's position on our issues is roughly the same, "gay-blind" approach: Homosexuality is private, a non-issue, and has no role in setting public policy. The number of closeted Republicans in the Bush administration, and on Capitol Hill, only reinforces that sentiment.

A "gay-blind" government is better, of course, than one outwardly hostile to us and our interests. But we are constituents as well, and ignoring us comes at a cost.

Take the president's AIDS policies, for example. Bush has consecutively named two gay men to be his AIDS czar, but the stark contrast between the two — Scott Evertz played a

loud and visible role but was removed in favor of Joseph Phillips, has been missing in action — suggests that the position is to be neither seen nor heard.

The primary AIDS focus of the White House has been on the global epidemic, which is largely heterosexual, probably because it is viewed through the prism of our national security. The president's only real contribution to addressing domestic HIV and AIDS has been increased funding and favoritism toward "abstinence-only-until-marriage" as a prevention policy. That approach only makes sense if the administration is blind to gays, since marriage is not an option for us.

When AIDS groups have tried aggressive marketing to get gay men interested again in HIV prevention — using sex as a lure, just like Madison Avenue and Hollywood would — the Bush administration warns against "encouraging sex." Absent an effective alternative, the message again appears to ignore the gays.

The *New York Times* has even reported that AIDS groups fearing cuts in funding are avoiding use of words like "homosexual" and "anal sex" in their grant applications. Hear no gays, see no gays.

PUTTING ON THE GAY BLINDERS HAS ITS downside, and it is not all ours.

A number of cities are reporting an increase in HIV and STD rates among gay men, and if that trend continues it will be our president who must answer for it. (Presuming, of course, that our AIDS organizations overcome their bloodlust for federal funding long enough to rediscover their activist voice.)

Even more daunting are some pending gay rights victories in the courthouse that won't be easily ignored in the White House.

If, as expected, the Supreme Court this week strikes down the Texas sodomy law, how will the president respond? George W. Bush was governor of that state, after all, when Tyron Gardner and John Lawrence were arrested, convicted and first challenged the "homosexual conduct law." Gov. Bush swore back then to uphold and defend the Constitution, but our Supreme Court will be saying that he failed to do that. Will he find away to again praise the justices, as he did on affirmative action?

The real challenge, however, is coming from the north. First Canada will legalize gay marriage, and then (according to many court observers) so will the Massachusetts state supreme court. Conservatives are already planning a constitutional amendment to block forced recognition of gay marriages in other states, and perhaps even forbid them outright.

President Bush is on record opposing gay marriage, but how far will a president who wants our lives kept private go to squelch this issue?

@ Chris Crain is executive editor of Southern Voice and can be reached at ccrain@sowo.com.



viewpoint MICHAEL ALVEAR



Canadian gays will so improve upon marriage, think air! light! color! that hapless heteros are likely to be victims of our gentrification.

Blame Canada for wed woes

THEY SAY THAT CANADIANS ARE simply unarmed Americans with health care. But the truth is they're much more progressive than we are. Too much so.

In fact, Ontario's decision to allow gay marriage is the kind of ill-informed thinking only a nine-month winter could produce.

Using an urban gentrification model to renovating marriage makes one thing clear: Allowing all gay people to marry is a grave injustice to heterosexuals.

Urban gentrification tends to displace retirees, households with fixed incomes and families who simply can't afford the rising rents and property taxes.

The same thing will happen with marriage gentrification. There will be heterosexual victims: Couples who have fixed intellectual incomes (they won't be able to afford the rising level of thinking), families who don't respect diversity and couples who buckle at the difficulty of propping up loveless marriages in the face of loving ones.

Ontario officials don't seem to be concerned with displaced straight couples. I haven't heard one government official ask, "Where will these people go once gays womp up the institution of marriage?" A cheaper part of town, no doubt.

THAT'S WHY I'M PROPOSING THAT

Ontario officials back down from their noble but misguided effort to attain full equality under the law.

Besides, Canada has never done anything big or important. Why start now? They're probably just trying to get even with us for that old "Saturday Night Live" joke ("Is he gay or just Canadian?").

Here's what Canadians need to do: Create a government incentive program that slowly introduces gay marriage while softening the blow to straight couples that'll be uprooted by the beautification process.

Urban renewal starts block by block. You wouldn't bulldoze an entire city, right? Where would everyone go? Ontario should identify 20 marriage-distressed communities and make only those gay residents eligible for marriage.

These newly married gay couples would also receive federal grants and tax-exempt bonds to finance sweeping revitalization and marriage-creation programs. This would have a dramatic effect in marriage-poor areas, which tend to have an astronomical number of divorcees, unwed mothers and dateless gay men.

Part of the program would also involve a set-aside for the covenant-challenged: the couples who can't or won't stay in an institution where love and commitment are the only criteria for residence.

If Canada did it this way, then for once



America would be copycatting its neighbor instead of the other way around.

Across America, low-marriage neighborhoods could be reclaimed by identifying them as Marriage Gentrification Zones. Armed with engineering studies, architectural plans and full-length make-up mirrors, we could actually end up rehabilitating what the thrice-married, abortion-paying, DOMA-voting congressmen think we'll destroy.

URBAN AND MARRIAGE GENTRIFICATION share the same goals: safe, well-lit streets (though I must say the current lighting may be too harsh for the gay sensibility), more constructive behavior (marrying out of love, not out of expectation), preservation of beauty (fighting for urban character rather than suburban sprawl) and a culture of service to others (children to some, three-ways to others).

With my plan, Ontario can ease gays into the institution of marriage while providing sanctuary for straight couples who'll be displaced by the gentrification.

I guess the real question is whether gays are talented and creative enough to reverse the blight and moral decay that straight people have brought to marriage. Well, we're not exactly strangers to the blight and moral decay thing.

Besides, who better to do it than us? You don't want a tract-housing specialist. You want somebody who's going to do with air, light and color what Madonna did with tits, clothes and dyes.

There's no question that gay couples will revitalize marriage. With the current divorce rate at 51 percent, anything would be an improvement.

If the government of Ontario will take things slow, they won't just provide equal rights for gays, they'll also end up fixing a dilapidated institution, increase the property value and make it a place everyone wants to live in.

@ Michael Alvear is the author of "Men Are Pigs But We Love Bacon" and can be reached at michael@menpigs.cc.

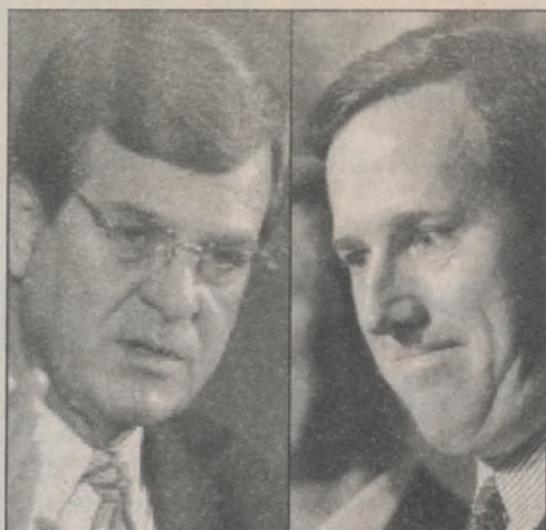
Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



on the record

"In America in 2003, you can't say bad things about African Americans, but you can still say bad things about gays. That's where we are."

Republican strategist Rich Galen, on the relatively calm reaction to the comparison of gay sex to bestiality by Republican Sen. Rick Santorum (Pa.) (immediate left), with the firestorm over former GOP leader Trent Lott's wistful view of Strom Thurmond's failed segregationist bid for the presidency (London Guardian, June 16)



"This is gay Mardi Gras; it's a day for us to be who we are. It's a party, but it's also a meaningful celebration, and for some people, it's the only time all year that they can be who they are."

Jean Genasci, a member of the Albuquerque, N.M. chapter of Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG), on the city's Gay Pride festival (Associated Press, June 15)

"[The Smith College policy is] political correctness carried amok. I believe that we're going to see a coming generation that will curse the ground that was plowed with political correctness."

Rev. Lou Sheldon, of the Traditional Values Coalition, on a vote by Smith College students to replace the pronouns "she" and "her" in the student government constitution with "the student" as a way to welcome transgendered students into the women-only school. (Associated Press, June 16)

"If there was a show about attractive gay women who happened to not have their clothes on occasionally, do you think some straight men might watch?"

Showtime chair and CEO Matthew Blank, on the audience for "Queer As Folk," which includes 50 percent women, most of whom are assumed to be heterosexual (Newsweek, June 23)

"Les always calls me in the middle of the night and says, 'Your show is so special, it's like a Fabergé egg. I can't bear to show it to anyone yet. I just want to look at it over and over and over.' And he told me he was changing the title to 'My Big Fat Greek Gay Congressman.' And we'll be premiering after 'CSI: Athens,' so be sure and look for that."

Gay actor Nathan Lane, reacting sarcastically to the decision by CBS president Leslie Moonves to delay by six months the premiere of Lane's new series, "Charlie Lawrence" (Cleveland Plain-Dealer, June 14)



"Disgusting. I'm ashamed to be a London Free Press reader; I'm ashamed to be an Ontarian. I'm ashamed to be Canadian."

A reader angry over a front-page photo of two men kissing, illustrating a story on the historic court ruling in Ontario opening up marriage to same-sex couples (London Free Press, London Ontario, June 14)

"I would like to congratulate you and commend you. I'm 77 years old and I don't understand it, but I accept it."

Another reader reacting to the same front-page photograph and coverage (London Free Press, London Ontario, June 14)



The British have a system that ... they call it... 'Don't ask, don't misbehave.' I think the leaders in the [United States] Armed Forces will look at that some day."

General Wesley Clark, former NATO supreme allied commander, and potential Democratic presidential candidate, on the current American policy of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" on gays in the military; asked by NBC's Tim Russert if he would look at changing the policy, Clark answered, "Absolutely." (NBC's "Meet the Press," June 15)

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

Safety Information

KALETRA should not be taken with Halcion®, Hismanal®, Orap®, Propulsid®, Rythmol®, Seldane®, Tambocor™, Versed®, Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, Rifamate®, Mevacor®, Zocor®, 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 of HIV to others.

Please see adjacent page for Patient Information.

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Abbott Park, IL 60064

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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-ah-veer/rit-ON-ah-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.

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 methylergonovine such as Cafego®[®], Migranal®, D.H.E. 45®, Ergostat Maleate, Methergine, and others
 - Halcion® (triazolam)
 - Hismanal® (astemizole)
 - Orap® (pimozide)
 - Propulsid® (cisapride)
 - Rythmol® (propafenone)
 - Seldane® (terfenadine)
 - Tambocor™ (flecainide)
 - 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™) or nevirapine (Viramune®) may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood. Your doctor may increase your dose of KALETRA if you are also taking efavirenz or nevirapine.

- 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 antiretroviral 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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Out on the Bayou



Black lesbian isn't 'America's Next Top Model,' but she's still out and proud

By FAREN D'ABELL

EBONY HAITH PROBABLY IS NOT the first black lesbian model, but she may be the first to come out on national television.

Haith, one of the 10 finalists on UPN's reality show "America's Next Top Model," says executive producer and supermodel Tyra Banks brought together a diverse group of contestants to compete for a modeling contract and other high-value prizes.

Since a "top model" has to be more than just a pretty face, they learn something new each week. One week, gay consultant J. Alexander — a thick black man in a dress and heels — teaches the girls how to walk down a runway. Another week, they take acting classes with Alice Spivak who helped Cindy Crawford and Claudia Schiffer.

After their lessons, the models are judged on how well they applied their lessons. A panel of celebrity model judges eliminates one model each week. Imagine "The Waltons" meet "The Jeffersons" meet "Survivor."

Robin Manning — a plus-sized model whose personal motto is "I can do all things through Jesus Christ who strengthens me" — became the mother figure to the group as they were narrowed from 20 women to 10. But that mother quickly became disapproving of several women in the house, Haith says.

Elyse Sewell, the Wynona Ryder look-alike, is an atheist, and Haith is a lesbian, so neither participates in the bible study classes held by Manning.

the gates to heaven, now you look at me and tell me I'm not a child of God," Haith says. "After that, I didn't hear a word from her."

FROM THE BEGINNING, HAITH SAYS she was there to win. She was not in the house to make friends.

The first argument occurred when the girls arrived at the house and were treated with new clothes of different sizes. Haith says the logical way to divide the clothes would be to see what looks best on each model.

But mother Manning prevailed, causing a clothing raffle of sorts to determine which model received which outfit — regardless of size.

In an early episode, Haith lost a competition to win a night partying with recording artist Wyclef Jean. When "Tyra Mail" — little notes from Banks telling the contestants what to expect the next day — came while the four winners were out partying, Haith wanted to hide the mail from them.

But, there's more to every story, she says. "It's an eight-hour show. We were together for over a month," she says. "A lot of the times, my interactions with the girls were things that were built up. If I got frustrated at them, these are things that we went through in and out all day."

The almost 25-year-old model from the Bronx says she's not as mean as TV viewers might think.

"Why was I portrayed this way?" Haith asks. "Sometimes African American women — especially in my style — have a tendency to be portrayed [as] angry or very forceful."

The outspoken Haith says she was not going to let Manning bring negativity into the house.

"The first thing I told her was 'I was born 7-7-78, honey. I'm all lucky. Sevens are

HAITH IS NOT THE TYPICAL SUPER-model. Her current style is bald and a bit rough around the edges. Even people who know her well may not always recognize her because her style, which has included blonde hair, is constantly changing, she says.

"I'm naturally a clown," Haith says. "I'm really a girly girl as well. If I'm going through something, you're going to know it."

Her big clown smile was seen naturally when she invited her girlfriend, Ka, to visit the house. "The girls came in to meet my girlfriend, and their whole attitude [changed]," Haith says. "They all came and introduced themselves — Robin too. ... I knew that they were going to be acceptable toward it and understand that this wasn't something that was a joke."

Haith was an out lesbian from the beginning of her involvement with the show, but none of the other contestants knew.

"Tyra already knew," Haith says. "After we were narrowed down to the 10, that was the first thing she said to me, 'we all know you're a lesbian.'"

Haith told Banks that because there are so many gays in all aspects of fashion, she didn't believe that being gay would hinder her career.

And besides Manning's protestations, if the other on-camera guests and celebrity judges are any indication, she's right.

In one episode, the flamboyant runway expert J. Alexander refers to his husband, the doctor, when one of the model-hopefuls reveals that she'll attend medical school if she does not win the competition.

Manning's anti-gay sentiments were disrespectful to the large numbers of gays who support models and actresses, Haith says.

"I was a little shocked," she says. "Thinking to myself, 'You're not only making these comments toward me, you're making these comments to the person who made you look fabulous yester-

day, the one that made that outfit that you wore look amazing, the one who held your hand when you were crying.'"

DURING AND AFTER JUNE — TYPICALLY known as Gay Pride month — Haith says gays should be out and proud in all aspects of their lives.

She does not fear that being out will hurt her modeling career. In fact, she wants to be a director and an actress as well, and fears that may be more difficult. "I think that people are always going to be in fear of what other people say," she says.

In the future, Haith says she hopes attitudes will change.

"We have newscasters who are 60 years old, 70, 80, who are coming out saying they're gay now," she says. "We have priests who are now finally getting accepted into churches. This is something that, in the next ten years, it really is yesterday's news."

After a month of nationally televised grueling work — including sub-zero outdoor shoots, criticisms about dry skin, and being called a sinner, Haith is still smiling.

"I think I'm one of the most happy financially unstable people there is," she says.

And she says if she learned one thing from participating on "America's Next Top Model," it's that she exists.

"I am present," Haith says. "I have always felt that as an African American woman especially — a woman, period — that I have had to do extra to say I'm here. ... I was helped to realize, by watching this show, that I was present from the beginning."

Haith was eliminated on the June 10 episode. The show's season finale airs July 8.

i MORE INFO

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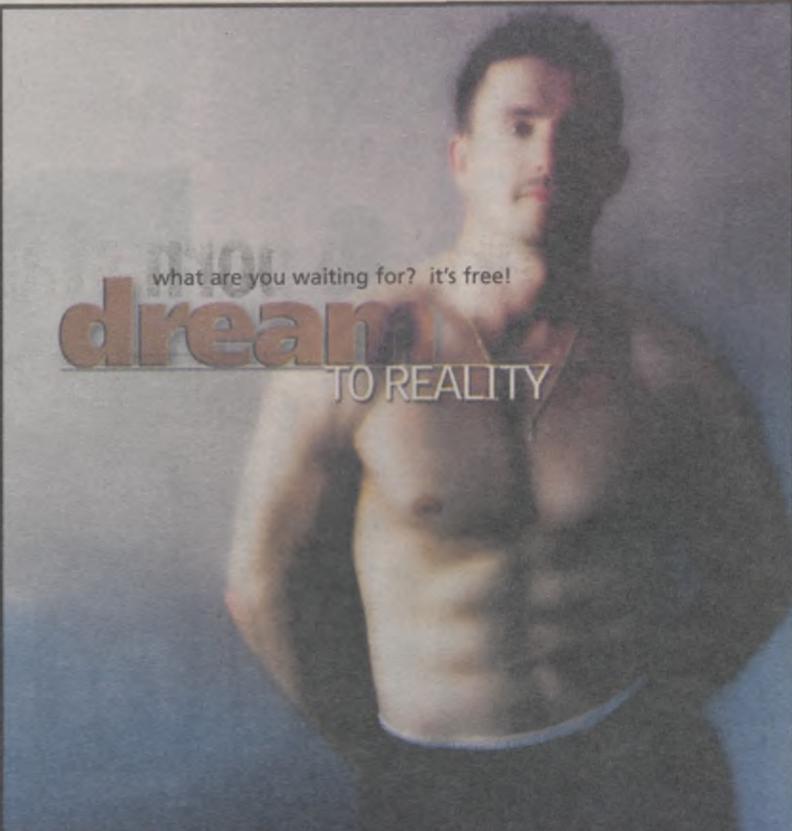
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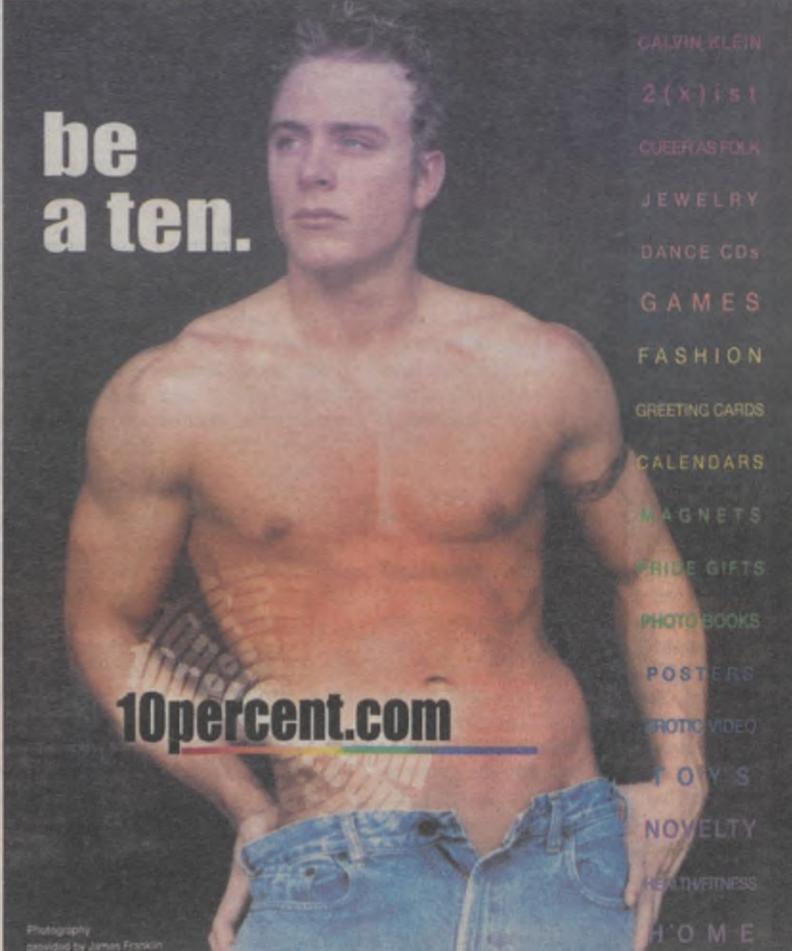


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Photography provided by James Franklin

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

Former conservative publisher trades holier-than-thou image for role as porn star Sam Tyson.

From 'Hero' to porn star

REMEMBER HERO MAGAZINE? IT was that conservative gay men's publication that had a strict policy against adult content. Hero was geared toward men in committed relationships and had a general "we're gay, but we're so normal" flavor.

In late 2001, the magazine closed its doors for good after three years in operation. The publisher told Press Pass Q, an electronic newsletter about the gay media, that a weakening economy and a drop in ad sales after the Sept. 11 attacks caused the magazine's downfall.

Ironically, Genre magazine now reports that SAM FRANCIS, one of the co-founders of Hero, became SAM TYSON — a gay porn star. Co-star of such movies as "Goldenrod" and "The Hole," Tyson apparently is one of the hot stars on the rise in the adult film industry.

"[Hero] really served a market of men who felt alienated from the heavily sexual vibe of other gay men's magazines," Tyson said in an interview with Unzipped.net, a porn magazine.

Tyson said there was always a part of him that wanted to do what he's doing now. "It existed even before I came out," he noted. "But back then I was too ashamed and too afraid. So this part of me — the sexual energy in me — was just held back."

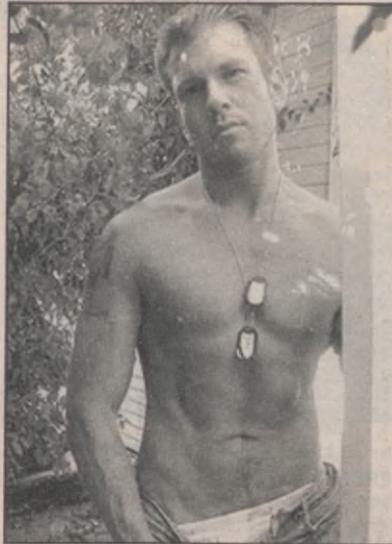
LESBIAN MEDIA BIGWIG HILARY ROSEN joins CNBC Aug. 1 as a regular commentator on the "Capital Report," "Power Lunch" and "Squawk Box" programs after leaving her job and \$1 million annual salary this week as chair of the Recording Industry Association of America.

Rosen, the life partner of Human Rights Campaign Executive Director ELIZABETH BIRCH, came under fire as a spokesperson for the RIAA as illegal file-sharing made it easy for anyone with Internet access to download music online without bothering to buy CDs.

"I really like the perspective of CNBC and the way they communicate with an audience whom they expect to be knowledgeable and sophisticated about issues," Rosen told the

Washington Post. "So I don't feel like I'm entering show business."

Rosen and Birch announced earlier this year that they are leaving their full-time posts to spend more time with their children. Birch's tenure at HRC ends in December.



Porn star Sam Tyson was formerly know as Sam Francis, who founded the now-defunct Hero magazine, which catered to conservative gay men. (Photo courtesy of Badpuppy.com)

MAER ROSHAN, THE GAY EDITOR of Radar magazine, is having a bad time.

In May, someone sent a box of human excrement to his New York office and claimed the messy missive was from rap executive SUGE KNIGHT, the New York Post's Page Six reports. Roshan named Knight as one of the "celebrity monsters" profiled in Radar's debut issue.

Knight's handler told the paper he did not send the package to Roshan.

But in the July issue of Stuff Magazine, a Maxim knockoff headed by editor GREG GUTFELD, a correction ran saying,

"In May, we sent a package of excrement to [Roshan]. Turns out, he had asked us to send it to his home address."

Gutfeld is claiming the correction was a joke, but Roshan is skeptical. "I received a box of shit from 'Suge Knight' which later turned out to be the, uh, handiwork of [Gutfeld]," Roshan said in the online magazine Black Table. "I thought it was one of his more impressive accomplishments as an editor."

Ouch.



Maer Roshan

@ Send comments, suggestions to editor@houstonvoice.com.

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Your first Pride parade is always a memorable experience. I have been fabulously fortunate in my life with opportunities to march in the New York City Pride Parade in 1969, at the height of the ACT-UP protests; in San Francisco the year Bill Clinton swept into office on a dream called HOPE (we sang "Ding, dong the witch is dead" from "The Wizard of Oz!"); in Houston's pre-nighttime, Sunday afternoon, drag queen melting parades of yore (oh those nelly ribbons!); and its much cooler sister, the Saturday, only nighttime parade in the country, disco ball over the intersection of Montrose and Westheimer extravaganza.

Whew! As I look around today, in our local community and our national and global ones, it seems that the years of hard work, loss and pride are paying off. You can't turn on the TV now without running into gay and lesbian characters such as Will and Jack from "Will & Grace," Lena and Bianca on "All My Children," or real-life couples like Riechen and Chip from the "Amazing Race," or recently voted off Ebony and her girlfriend Renee on "America's Next Top Model."

By the time you read this, the U.S. Supreme Court probably will have ruled on the constitutionality of the Texas anti-sodomy law, hopefully decriminalizing the actions of tens of thousands of Texans. There are clearly lots of reasons to celebrate PRIDE this year.

HOWEVER, EVEN THOUGH YOU MAY TAKE Monday after Pride weekend off to recover, there are people in this city who can't take time off before heading back to work, because they can't work. They are too sick, too ill to even attend the parade, to enjoy the celebration that all the hard work over the years was for. My column usually highlights people, places and events that are, for one reason or another, of interest to the GLBT community of Houston.

The Houston Voice has put together its annual Pride guide for Houston already. I decided to remind you, dear readers, that after the party stops, you can make a REAL difference in the lives of people infected and affected by HIV and AIDS.

It takes as little as one hour a week, but the help you provide — and the good it does for our still-young community — insures its survival, and maybe even your own.

D.I.F.F.A. Houston. The Design Industry Foundation Fighting AIDS is the largest source of private dollars for HIV/AIDS care in the greater Houston area, according to DIFFA leaders. The group has granted more than \$2.6 million to local service providers since its inception in 1987. DIFFA Houston gives funds to HIV/AIDS services organizations that provide preventive education programs targeted to populations at risk of infection and to providers of treatment and direct-

care services for people living with AIDS.

Throughout the year, DIFFA raises money with amazing annual events like Dine Out & Chip In, the Holiday Collection Auction (featuring wreaths designed by local artists, designers and loving citizens like myself!) The heart of the local chapter is Rodney Honerkamp, but the organization depends on volunteers for its lifeline. The 2003 Holiday Collection Auction steering committee meets for the first time this week and could use YOU. www.diffa.org/houston has further info on all volunteer needs.

AIDS Foundation Houston. Volunteers are the backbone of AFH. Officials at AFH note that it is the oldest HIV/AIDS organization in Houston, and it has a four-step process for becoming a volunteer: Application, Interview, Orientation and Placement.

A short walk around their well-organized Web site shows a need for help in the following areas: Big Brothers and Sisters, Newsletter, Habitat for Humanity (helping build homes for HIV+ families), Camp Hope/Camp H.U.G. special events, hospital visitation and lots more; unfortunately, the list is long and continues to grow. Take a minute and see how you can HELP. www.aids-help.org

Bering Omega Community Services. Founded in 1986, Bering Omega provides a continuum of compassionate, quality care to People Living with HIV/AIDS in Southeast Texas, according to Bering leaders. Bering Omega relies heavily on volunteers to deliver care to more than 2,800 people each year.

Utilized in all aspects of Bering's operations, volunteers contribute more than 23,000 hours of assistance each year. Bering Omega provides assistance including a free dental clinic for people living with HIV/AIDS. Even simple gestures like recycling your old magazines for their lobby can help. Patients sometimes have to wait for hours and a new-ish magazine can help pass the time and the jitters a dental visit can bring. Adult Day Care, including nursing, art programs, transportation assistance and field trips, Financial Assist, Support Network for families and care-givers and Residential Hospice Care (The Omega House) for those living out their final days also are offered. www.beringomega.org

The Assistance Fund provides much needed support to individuals living with AIDS by paying their health insurance premiums until they qualify for Medicare, according to the group. Assistance Fund also offers financial assistance for the purchase of medication. Those helped through this group have reached a point in their disease process where work is no longer possible and available financial resources are inadequate to maintain quality of life, dignity and peace of mind. www.theassistancefund.org

After the chandelier comes down, and the rainbow balloons are stowed for another year, continue celebrating your PRIDE by showing the city, the nation and the world why we're queer; we're STILL here, and they'd better get used to it.

parenting ELLA TYLER



Family enjoys sports, other activities together with the diverse Montrose as a backdrop

Lovell proud to be a mom

SUE LOVELL, 53, MOTHER OF TWO, says, "The gay and lesbian parenting boom is amazing to me. Growing up, I never thought I would have kids. It wasn't part of the dreams gay and lesbian people had for themselves. It wasn't the way we planned our lives."

Lovell, however, always wanted children, and adopted 8-year-old Robbie and his brother Stephen, now 14, when Robbie was an infant. "I was there when Robbie was born," she says happily. When asked if parenting is easier now that the boys are older, she can't decide.

"They're more independent, and in some ways that makes it easier and in some ways it is harder," she says. "I have truly enjoyed every age. Each age has different challenges and different rewards."

The family lives in the Montrose area, where Lovell had lived before motherhood. "I bought a house here because of the diversity of the area and because the neighborhood schools — Poe, Lanier and Lamar — are all good schools. Good schools and a diverse neighborhood were priorities for me," she says. "Montrose isn't the only place where this happens," she adds, "but I was comfortable here. I wanted a place where they would feel comfortable growing up."

Lovell is a big fan and supporter of the Neartown Little League where Robbie plays, Stephen umpires and she is an assistant coach. "Everyone plays. There are no tryouts, just skill assessments so that the team's balanced. It is so wonderful to see this diverse group of parents all getting along, all accepting of each other and all cheering for each other's kids," says Lovell, who is a coach as well.

Everyone in the Lovell family likes sports. "It's something they chose to do, but I'm glad because it's something we all have in common," she says. "You should have seen us screaming and jumping around when Rice won the College World Series. The boys were really excited because we would go watch them play."

LOVELL SPENDS A LOT OF TIME with the boys. "I'm fortunate to have them, and they're my priority. I wanted them so I could be part of their lives, not just to have them," she explains. "I cut back a lot on my involvement in things, but I will have time to do that later. It all goes by so quickly."

Stephen and Robbie like Lovell's involvement in politics (she's running for Houston City Council this year). They know that it's important, and that it helps people, she says. It isn't always



Gay Houston activist Sue Lovell adopted her two sons, Robbie, 8, and Stephen, 14, when Robbie was an infant.

easy for them, though, she admits. "They'll get teased or harassed about who I am when my name is in the paper or I'm on the news." However, she says, "When they see someone [else] being harassed, they'll reach out. They know what it's like."

Lovell is very proud of her sons. "They're really good kids, and it doesn't seem to be a struggle for them. They're fun, smart, and have good senses of humor. They're well rounded, and that's important to me. They do volunteer work," she says.

The boys maintain contact with their birth mother, Lovell says. "They have two sisters, one younger than Robbie, and they see them." They also have close ties to Lovell's family. "They're leaving soon to spending three weeks in California to see their cousins," she reports.

THE FAMILY ALSO HAS PETS, though not as many as they had last week. "We had 10 puppies, but fortunately, they're gone," Lovell says. "It was a good experience for them, and they wanted to keep them until they saw how much work they would be."

Although the gay and lesbian parenting is more visible and accepted than it once was, Lovell says there still is progress to be made. "Gay fathers and lesbian mothers still lose access to their children in divorces and single parent adoption is allowed, but gay couples cannot [adopt]," she says.

"If I had to give advice to a young gay or lesbian, what I'd say is there is no right moment [to have children]. Don't wait for enough money or time or the perfect situation," Lovell says. "Just do it. Things will fall into place. I've been amazed."

June 29 • "Can You Be Bought?...
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July 6 • "Jesus Was Amazed!"

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television BRIAN MOYLAN



Ellen DeGeneres returns to stand-up where she belongs, but trail-blazing comedian plays it safe on HBO special.

Ellen playing it safe

IF YOU SAW ELLEN DEGENERES live on her latest stand-up tour, skip watching her new HBO comedy special, "Ellen DeGeneres: Here and Now," on Saturday. The special is the same act she performed on tour this spring.

DeGeneres shouldn't be faulted for this. A show that is going to get so much exposure on national television needs to be tried out in front of live audiences beforehand.

But for a special called "Here and Now," not only is the material a bit old, but there is also nothing edgy about DeGeneres' act anymore.

It's neither in-your-face like Sandra Bernhard's standup material, nor politically current like Bill Maher's whiny revelations.

DeGeneres garnered national attention for being one of the first actors to come out in publicly — on national television and on the cover of *Time*. But since then, she gradually shied away from talking too much about politics or sharing cutting-edge material.

THE NEW SPECIAL IS VERY SIMILAR to DeGeneres' last failed sitcom, "The Ellen Show," which aired on CBS in 2001. It tried to resurrect the familiar feelings evoked by family sitcoms like "The Dick Van Dyke Show" and "The Andy Griffith Show."

Ellen's now-defunct show had its funny moments, but something was lost in the translation from Griffith and Van Dyke. Too much time passed, and the formula for those programs faded to the point that audiences just couldn't relate.

The new special would be more aptly titled "Then and Now," since most of the jokes are based on the disparity between how simple life once was and how complicated it is today.

DeGeneres jokes about the days before remote controls, how toilet paper used to have more than one ply, and how pickles used to be in a big barrel in the general store.

If a comedian like Bob Hope, who turned 100 on May 29, were to discuss such revelations in his act, it would generate chuckles. But Ellen is only 45 — not exactly a spring chicken, but also not old enough to do the "when I was your age" bits yet.

Many of her observations are quite funny and astute, but some of the jokes fall flat before reaching the finish line. Talking about how hard it is to open new CDs is more of a gag to do with friends in a bar than a bit in a standup act.



After breaking barriers when she came out on national television, out comedian Ellen DeGeneres fails to break new ground on her HBO special on Saturday, June 28. (Photo by Cliff Watts/HBO)

IF NONE OF THIS SOUNDS GAY-oriented, that's because it isn't.

At the beginning of the show's hour, DeGeneres says that everyone in the audience has something in common.

"You're all here, because you're gay," she teases.

It's a smart move to address the "gay issue" right off the bat. For someone who became famous for being openly gay, but who still strives to reach mainstream audiences, it's worth joking about briefly.

"That was my obligatory gay remark," she says. "If I didn't do anything gay, people would be upset. They'd say, 'She didn't do anything gay. She's not our leader! What happened to our leader?'"

She's makes a gay joke or two, but the meat and potatoes of her act is the wry, insightful, observational quips that will crack up anyone, regardless of race, religion or sexual orientation.

DeGeneres notes in the show that the real reason everyone has gathered before her is just to "to laugh."

Watching her in action does generate laughter. Just don't expect her to radically change the face of comedy.

i MORE INFO

'Ellen DeGeneres: Here and Now'
June 28, 10 p.m.

HBO

For video highlighting upcoming special, access
www.houstonvoice.com

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books KEVIN RIORDAN



'The Queen of Harlem' novelist is not his own title character, and being out in interviews serves a larger purpose.

Black gay author 'represents'

YES, BRIAN KEITH JACKSON IS GAY and lives in arguably the most famous black neighborhood in the country.

And yes, his latest novel is titled "The Queen of Harlem."

But this vivid and insightful book, which has been likened to an African-American "Breakfast at Tiffany's," is not an autobiography in fictional drag.

"I am not the Queen of Harlem," the 35-year-old author says recently from his home in the storied neighborhood where his third novel is set.

"I wanted to create a book about identity, and perception," Jackson says. "There's no better city in the world to do that than New York, and I've had a fascination with Harlem for a long time. I wanted to explore what Harlem means to people."

Jackson moved to Harlem's West Side two years ago, and like his narrator, Mason Randolph, the author — who was born in New Orleans — grew up in a well-off Southern family.

BUT MASON, WHO TAKES THE NAME Malik and disguises his upscale origins when he moves uptown, is thoroughly heterosexual. He's smitten with the glamorous Carmen — the "queen" of the title — and with Kyra, a wealthy Columbia University student.

Jackson says writing characters "is not always fun for me."

But Carmen — a wise and witty diva whose social network seems to include every bold-faced name in New York's gossip columns — was "very fun" to write, he says.

"Everybody has a little Carmen in them," Jackson says. "I honestly believe that. She's grand ... but she's aware."

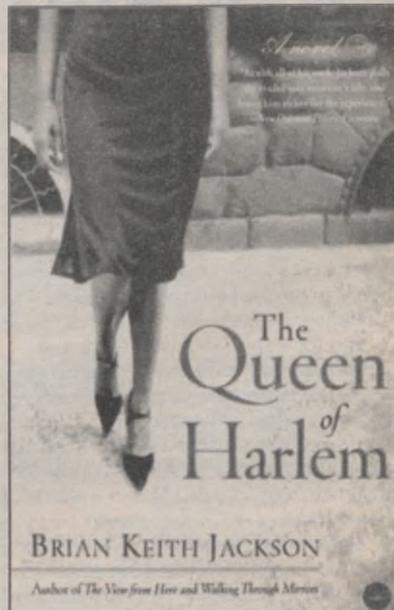
Like Mason/Malik, Carmen recreates herself in a neighborhood not only historically famous for its artists, musicians and writers, but more recently renowned for a surge in the value of its residential and commercial real estate.

Hamstrung for decades by the neglect, decay and drugs that afflict many city neighborhoods, Harlem is hip again.

Jackson wanted to explore what it means to be a young black man in a place where so much is changing — and not always in a positive direction, he says.

With its contrasting scenes of blue-collar and upper crust black life, "The Queen of Harlem" is more concerned with class than race or sexual orientation.

JACKSON WAS A CONTRIBUTOR TO "Shade," a 1996 anthology of fiction by black gay men, but until recently tended to be publicly circumspect about his sexual orientation in interviews as well as in his work.



Even though he does live in New York's famous black neighborhood, gay writer Brian Keith Jackson does not refer to himself in the title of his third novel, 'The Queen of Harlem.'

"It takes a great deal to be who you are," Jackson says, comparing Carmen's fiercely proud act of self-creation to the ongoing process of being gay in a straight world.

"I basically identify as gay," he adds. "I've never tried to hide it. It's a non-issue to me."

Besides, he's too busy: Jackson is writing a screenplay based on "The Queen of Harlem," working on a one-man play in which he will star, and getting started on a new novel.

"[The new novel] is going to be about how people have relationships based on the free minutes of their cell phones," he hints.

Jackson also admits that being out in recent interviews promotes his work and his date-ability. But it has another, larger purpose, he says.

"It's about representation," he says. "About having faces to see. If your face is in a magazine, and you're a novelist, and some kid is in a dentist's office and sees you, that kid knows it's possible."

"When I was a kid, I didn't see many black faces when I was flipping through the magazines," he adds. "I have to go out and be a face."

FOR MORE INFO

'The Queen of Harlem'
by Brian Keith Jackson
Broadway Books
256 pages, \$12.95

community calendar

SATURDAY, JUNE 28
EVERY SATURDAY

All-Spanish Worship Service/Noche Espiritual. 6 p.m. Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, 2026 W. 11th. 713-303-3409 or 713-861-9149.

After Hours. KPFT 90.1 FM. 1-4 a.m.

Dignity mass. 7:30 p.m. for gay Catholics. 713-880-2872.

Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 11 p.m.-2 a.m. at Viviana's. 713-830-3000.

Gay & Lesbian Breakfast Club. 9:30 a.m. 281-437-0636.

Houston Wrestling Club. Practice. 1:30 p.m. 713-453-7406.

Lambda Center. Alcoholics Anonymous. 11:30 a.m. Eye Opener Group. 8 p.m. Saturday Night Live. 9:30 p.m. Willing Ones Group. 1201 W. Clay. 713-521-1243 or 713-528-9772. www.lambdahouston.org.

Montrose Soccer Club. 10 a.m. practice. Woodrow Wilson School. Fairview and Yupon. New players welcome, but beginners not currently being admitted. 713-862-9491. http://geocities.com/montrosoccer. E-mail: montrosoccer@yahoo.com.

Q-Patrol. Volunteers walk the streets to help prevent hate crimes. 9:30 p.m. Convene at community center. 713-528-SAFE. E-mail: qp@rolinc@aol.com

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Rosary 8 a.m. 1805 W. Alabama. 713-528-6665.

Houston GLBT Community Center. Drop-in, noon-5 p.m. • CATS (Community Awareness for Transgender Support) board of directors meeting. 2 p.m. • TATS (Texas Association for Transsexual Support) meeting. 6 p.m. • 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. www.houstonglbtcenter.org.

SUNDAY, JUNE 29
EVERY SUNDAY

Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Services at 8:30 & 10:50 a.m. Sunday school 9:45 a.m. 713-526-1017.

Center for Spiritual Living. Services at 11 a.m., for children at 10:50 a.m. 6610 Harwin. 713-339-1808. The center also has commitment ceremonies, metaphysical bookstore and classes.

Community Gospel. Service at 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. Sunday School for children 10 a.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.

Spindletop of Kindred Spirits in Beaumont. Worship at 6 p.m. 1575 Spindletop Ave., Beaumont, Texas. 409-813-2055. E-mail: cksrev3@netzero.net

Covenant Church, Ecumenical, Liberal Baptist. Service 9:30 a.m. & education hour 11 a.m. 713-668-8830.

Emerson Unitarian Church. Adult education, 10 a.m. Service, 11 a.m. Lunch at noon. www.emersonhou.org.

First Congregational Church (Memorial). Service at 10 a.m. Christian Education, 11:30 a.m. 713-468-9543 or fcc-houston.org.

First Unitarian Universalist Church. Services at 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. Brunch at 10:30 a.m. 713-526-5200. church@firstu.org.

Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 9 p.m.-midnight at Club Energy. 713-830-3000.

Gay Bowling Leagues. 7 p.m. Palace Lanes, 4191 Bellaire Blvd. 713-861-1887

Gay Catholics of St. Anne's-Houston. 5 p.m. worship service. Dinner and social. alexcam@wt.net. 713-623-0930.

GLOBAL. Gay Lesbian or Bisexual Alliance. University of Houston GLBT student group meeting. 2 p.m. at the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. www.uh.edu/~global. E-mail: global@bayou.uh.edu.

Grace Assembly Church. Gay/gay-affirming congregation. 11 a.m. service. 567 Cedar Grove, Livingston, Texas, 77351. 936-646-7214. E-mail: leol@easttexas.net.

Grace Lutheran Church. Sunday school for all ages 9 a.m. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-528-3269.

H.A.T.C.H. Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals meets 6-9 p.m. For meeting information, call 713-529-3590. www.hatchyouth.org.

Houston Roughnecks Rugby Club. Practice from 4-6 p.m. For more information, log on to www.roughnecksrugby.org.

Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m.-noon. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com

Lambda Center. Alcoholics Anonymous. 9:30 a.m. Come to Believe Group. 1201 W. Clay. 713-521-1243 or 713-528-9772. www.lambdahouston.org.

Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church. 10 a.m. service. 3333 Fannin, Suite 106. 713-528-6756.

Northwoods Unitarian Universalist Church. Services at 9:45 & 11:15 a.m. Sunday school 9:45 a.m. 281-298-2780.

Resurrection MCC. Services, 9 and 11 a.m. Children and Youth Sunday School, 10 a.m. Children's service, 11 a.m. 713-861-9149.

St. Patrick's Reformed Catholic Mission. Sunday Mass at noon. Holy Unions available. Group meets at the Hair Express, 3310 Delaware, Beaumont, Texas 77703. 409-781-8152. E-mail: bwatson1@gt.rrr.com.

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 7:45 a.m.; Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 8:55 a.m.; Education hour, 10 a.m.; Choral Eucharist, 11 a.m. 713-528-6665.

Sunday Brunch. For HIV-positive men. 11 a.m. Riva's, 1117 Missouri St. Paul. 713-880-0690. E-mail: PazenBuff@aol.com

The Women's Group. Meeting and discussion. 10:45 a.m. 713-529-8571.

Theroux Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Adult discussion, 9 a.m. Service. 11:15 a.m. 281-277-8882. www.tuuc.org.

Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County. 502 Church St. Service. 10:30 a.m. 409-765-8330.

Unitarian Fellowship of Houston. Adult forum, 10 a.m. Service, 11 a.m. 713-686-5876.

Houston GLBT Community Center. Drop-in, 2-6 p.m. • GLBT Community Church with Rev. Melissa Wood. Bible study, 10-10:45 a.m. worship 11 a.m. www.geocities.com/glbtc • GLOBAL meeting, 6 p.m. • 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. www.houstonglbtcenter.org.

MONDAY, JUNE 30
EVERY MONDAY

Center for Spiritual Living. Meditation (drop-in), 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. 6610 Harwin. 713-339-1808.

Free HIV Testing. Houston Area Community Services. 9 a.m.-noon at Joseph-Hines Clinic, 1710 West 25th St. 713-526-0555, ext. 231, 227 or 226.

Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 4-8 p.m. at Bricks, 617 Fairview. 713-830-3000.

Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.

Gay Bowling Leagues. Women's league. 6:45 p.m. Dynamic Lanes, 6121 Tarnel Drive. 713-861-1187.

Gay Fathers/Fathers First. Support group. 8-9:30 p.m. Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Tom, 713-726-8736. www.geocities.com/gaydads/houston/

Grace Assembly Church. Gay/gay-affirming congregation. 7 p.m. aerobics class. 567 Cedar Grove, Livingston, Texas, 77351. 936-646-7214. E-mail: leol@easttexas.net.

Grief & Divorce Support Groups. 7 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, ext. 208.

Houston Roughnecks Rugby Club. Practice from 6:30-8:30 p.m. For more information, log on to www.roughnecksrugby.org.

Kolbe Project. Eucharist 7:30 p.m. 713-861-1800.

Lambda Center. Alcoholics Anonymous. 8 p.m. Beginners' Group. 1201 W. Clay. 713-521-1243 or 713-528-9772. www.lambdahouston.org.

Montrose Clinic. Offers weekly peer support groups for gay and bisexual men with HIV. Spanish speaking group meets, 6:30 p.m. 215 Westheimer. 713-830-3050. Grupo de Apoyo para Latinos gay y bisexuales VIH positivos. Lunes 6:30. Para mas informacion llama al 713-830-3025.

Queer Voices Radio Show. 8-10 p.m. KPFT 90.1

Houston GLBT Community Center. Drop-in 2-9 p.m. • 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. www.houstonglbtcenter.org.

TUESDAY, JULY 1
EVERY TUESDAY

Lesbian Health Initiative. Meeting. 7 p.m. 713-603-0023. www.lhouston.org.

Bering Support Network. Lunch Bunch Gang. 11 a.m. 713-526-1017

Center for Spiritual Living. Meditation (drop-in), 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. 6610 Harwin. 713-339-1808.

Free HIV Testing. Houston Area Community Services. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Joseph-Hines Clinic, 1710 West 25th St. 713-526-0555, ext. 231, 227 or 226.

Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m.-midnight at Club Houston. Also 4-8 p.m. at 611 Club, 611 Hyde Park. 713-830-3000.

GLBT Pentecostals. Bible study, prayer, 7 p.m. in the Heights. For info: 936-931-3761, e-mail: www.Wqbl947@cs.com.

Houston Women's Rugby Team. No experience necessary. Practice, 6:30-8:30. Westland YMCA. Kay, 713-208-1529.

Introduction to Buddhism. All welcome at 634 W. Temple in the Heights. 7 p.m. Carlton. 713-862-8129.

Rainbow Ranglers. Free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. No partner needed. Beginner 2 Step, Waltz, Shuffle & Swing. 8:30 p.m. 713-528-9192.

Houston GLBT Community Center. Drop-in 2-9 p.m. • Lesbian Coming Out Group, 7 p.m. • 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. www.houstonglbtcenter.org.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2
EVERY WEDNESDAY

Center for Spiritual Living. Meditation (drop-in), 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; SOM Discussion & Exploration, 7 p.m. 6610 Harwin. 713-339-1808.

Crystal Meth Anonymous (CMA). 8:15 p.m. meeting. Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond Ave., Room 15.

Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Support Network Pot Luck Dinner, 6:30 p.m. Various support groups, 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.

Bible Study. Noon & 6:30 p.m. St. Stephen's Episcopal. 713-526-6665.

Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 4-8 p.m. at Mary's, 1100 Westheimer; 9 p.m.-midnight at Ripcord, 715 Fairview; 10 p.m.-1 a.m. at EJs, 2517 Ralph; 10 p.m.-1 a.m. at Midtowne Spa, 3100 Fannin. 713-830-3000.

Free HIV Testing. Thomas Street Clinic. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 2015 Thomas St. OraSure method. Call for appointment. Sharon, 713-873-4157.

Gay Bowling Leagues. 6:30 p.m. Palace Lanes, 4191 Bellaire Blvd. 713-861-1187.

Grace Assembly Church. Gay/gay-affirming congregation. 7 p.m. aerobics class. 567 Cedar Grove, Livingston, Texas, 77351. 936-646-7214. E-mail: leol@easttexas.net.

Houston Pride Band. Open rehearsal, 7:30-9:30 p.m. 1307 Yale. 713-862-1488.

Houston Roughnecks Rugby Club. Practice from 6:30-8:30 p.m. For more information, log on to www.roughnecksrugby.org.

Houston Tennis Club. 7:00-9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com

Spiritual Uplift service. 7 p.m. Resurrection MCC. 713-861-9149.

Houston GLBT Community Center. Drop-in, 2-9 p.m. • Free HIV testing, counseling, 6-9 p.m. • Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus general meeting, 7 p.m. • Houston Pride Band rehearsal, 7:30 p.m. • 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. www.houstonglbtcenter.org.

THURSDAY, JULY 3
EVERY THURSDAY

Gulf Coast Transgender Committee. Meeting. 713-780-4282.

BiNet Houston. Group for bisexuals; everyone welcome. 7:30 p.m. Hobbit Cafe, 2240 Portsmouth. www.flash.net/~bihouse. 713-467-4380.

Center for Spiritual Living. Meditation (drop-in), 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. 6610 Harwin. 713-339-1808.

Community Gospel. Service. 7:30 p.m. 713-880-9235. www.communitygospel.org.

Free HIV Testing. Houston Area Community Services. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Joseph-Hines Clinic, 1710 West 25th St. Also 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Gallery Medical Clinic, 5900 North Freeway, and Club Toyz from 9 p.m.-midnight. 713-526-0555, ext. 231, 227 or 226.

Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m.-midnight at Brazos River Bottom (BRB), 2400 Brazos, and Cousins, 817 Fairview. 713-830-3000.

Free HIV Testing. 7-9 p.m. at All Star News, 3415 Katy Freeway. Health clinic with free testing for HIV and syphilis. 713-869-7878.

FrontRunners. Running club. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021. Web site: http://home.swbell.net/latarthon/houfr.htm. E-mail: larathon@swbell.net.

Gay Bowling Leagues. Luci Duos. 9 p.m. Dynamic Lanes, 6121 Tarnel Drive. 713-861-1187.

GLOBAL. Gay, Lesbian or Bisexual Alliance at the University of Houston-Central Campus. Weekly meeting, 6 p.m. e-mail: nguyen0023@hotmail.com.

Help C Recovery. Support group. 6:30 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017 Ext. 211.

Houston Women's Rugby Team. No experience necessary. Practice, 6:30-8:30. Westland YMCA. Kay, 713-208-1529.

Lake Livingston GLBT Support Group. 7 p.m. dinner and discussion. Grace Assembly Church, 567 Cedar Grove, Livingston, Texas, 77351. 936-646-7214. E-mail: leol@easttexas.net.

Lambda Skating Club. 8 p.m. Tradewinds Skating Rink. www.neosoft.com/~lrsc. 713-523-9620.

Montrose Clinic. Offers weekly peer support groups for gay and bisexual men with HIV. English speaking group meets, 6:30 p.m. 215 Westheimer. 713-830-3050.

Rainbow Ranglers. Free C&W dance lessons. No partner required. Brazos River Bottom. 8:30 p.m. 713-528-9192.

Recovery From Food Addiction (RFA). Meeting for 12-step program open to all. Noon-1 p.m. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1805 W. Alabama St. RFA: 713-673-2848.

Spanish Charla Conversation Group. Café Agora, 7 p.m. E-mail: charlahouston@msn.com. 713-416-7203.

Women's Clinic. Montrose Clinic. 713-830-3000.

Houston GLBT Community Center. Drop-in 2-9 p.m. • Montrose Writers' Project, 10 a.m. • "Mending and Stitching," 2 p.m. • 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. www.houstonglbtcenter.org.

FRIDAY, JULY 4

Houston Gay & Lesbian Parents. Board of directors meeting. Also, 2 p.m. Potluck pool party at Chris and Shelby's house. 281-290-0473. www.hglp.org.

Houston Outdoor Group. Independence Day Party. Bill and Thomas, 713-526-6963. 713-KAMP0UT.

Center for Spiritual Living. Meditation (drop-in), 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. 6610 Harwin. 713-339-1808.

Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. at The Meatrack, 2915 San Jacinto; 10 p.m.-1 a.m. at EJs and at Midtowne Spa. 713-830-3000.

Free HIV Testing. Thomas Street Clinic. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 2015 Thomas St. OraSure method. Call for appointment. Sharon, 713-873-4157.

Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.

Grace Assembly Church. Gay/gay-affirming congregation. 7 p.m. aerobics class. 567 Cedar Grove, Livingston, Texas, 77351. 936-646-7214. E-mail: leol@easttexas.net.

H.A.T.C.H. Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals meets 7-10 p.m. For meeting information, call 713-529-3590. www.hatchyouth.org.

Houston Tennis Club. 7:00-9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub.org

Kolbe Project. Morning prayer, 10 a.m. 713-861-1800.

Mishpachot Alizim. GLBT Jewish congregation. Sabbath services at 8 p.m. on the second Friday of each month at Baby Barnabys, 602 Fairview. Monthly study groups with Congregation Beth Israel, 5600 North Braeswood. Mishpachot Alizim, P.O. Box 980136, Houston, TX 77098. 866-841-9139, ext. 1834.

Q-Patrol. Volunteers walk the streets to help prevent hate crimes. 9:30 p.m. Convene at community center. 713-528-SAFE. E-mail: qp@rolinc@aol.com

Houston GLBT Community Center. Drop-in 2-9 p.m. • 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818. www.houstonglbtcenter.org.

VOLUNTEER/SELF-HELP

ECHOS. This non-profit ministry of the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany is dedicated to helping people access health and social service systems. Free medical services include HIV, STD and hepatitis testing. Call for dates and times of services. 9610 S. Gessner. 713-270-0369. E-mail: echos-houston@swbell.net.

Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston. Volunteers offer a friendly ear to callers in need of information, nonjudgmental support and anonymous counseling to the GLBT community. 713-529-3211. www.gayswitchboardhouston.org.

HoP-ON. Anyone can join this non-profit moderated e-mail announcement list that helps facilitate advocacy work and organizing efforts for gay Houstonians. Quantity of postings is strictly limited. Postings include press releases and action alerts from national, state and local gay and allied organizations. For info or to join, access www.groups.yahoo.com/group/HoP-ON/.

Houston GLBT Community Center. Volunteers perform a variety of critical tasks which include staffing the information desk during drop-in hours; helping with center programming and events; working on community outreach efforts, fund-raising and publicity. Card players, writers and artists in particular are needed. 713-524-3818.

Peer Listening Line. Youth only. Staffed by GLBT youth for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth 5-10 p.m. Monday-Friday. 800-399-PEER.

To list an event, call 713-529-8490, fax at 713-529-9531, or e-mail editor@houstonvoice.com. Deadline is Monday at 5 p.m.

appts

a weekly guide to arts & entertainment activities for gay Houstonians

SPECIAL
UPCOMING

Actor and Houston native Rob Nash offers a three-day evening intensive workshop, "The Rob Nash 12-Steps-To-Better-Acting Workshop." Youth and adults from age 16 up may participate. The event is geared for intermediate and advanced actors. Tuition: \$75. Limit 20 students, with enrollment on a first-come, first-served basis. 6:30-9:30 p.m. July 7-9. The Humphreys School of Musical Theater, official training wing of Theatre Under The Stars, at the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, 800 Bagby. 713-558-8801. www.tuts.com. www.rob-nash.com.

NIGHTLIFE
EVERY THURSDAY

FO, a local all-female rock band, hosts open mic/cider night. Musicians and vocalists of all styles and genres are welcome. No cover. 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Chances, 1100 Westheimer. 713-523-7217. www.chancesbar.com.

FRIDAY, JUNE 27
"Countdown to Pride"

will be hosted by Space City Empire and Crown Prince Royale 1 Keith Vyvial. The show celebrates Pride and is a fund-raiser for the group, with proceeds going to AIDS Foundation Houston Camp Hope and AssistHers. 8:30 p.m. EJs, 2517 Ralph. 713-527-9071.

GALLERIES
THROUGH AUG. 31

"Bob Knox: Non-Fiction Paintings" will be presented at Blaffer Gallery. New York City-born Knox presents acrylic on canvas paintings based on photographs of interiors seemingly furnished and decorated in the 1950s. Knox's paintings rely on the human psyche to establish meaning in them. Free. Open Tuesday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and weekends 1 to 5 p.m. Blaffer Gallery, Art Museum of the University of Houston, Fine Arts Building on the U of H campus, entrance No. 16 off Cullen Blvd. 713-743-9530. www.blaffergallery.org.

ONGOING

Gulf Coast Archives & Museum of GLBT History Satellite Exhibition. The first exhibition from the GCAM collection presented at the Houston GLBT Community Center honors the NAMES Project Houston. Community Center, 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818.

Positive Art Workshop Photography Exhibition. Artists living with HIV/AIDS created these pictures with accompanying text. Houston GLBT Community Center, 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. 713-524-3818.

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SALE / HOUSTON

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 - Similar TH with different floorplan, also upgraded. \$68,000.
 - For lease
 - Urg 1 BR study, also upgraded. 800 sqft, \$700/mo.
 - Small adorable 1 BR w/ fabulous upgrades, WD & more. \$525/mo.
 - Efficiency overlooking the pool. Fantastic BA incl jacuzzi. \$525/mo.
- Call (713) 729-9316 for an appt.

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 - Montrose Area - Delightfully Montrose! 2 BR, 2.5 BA, 1189 sqft. \$135,000, Ref #1012.
 - Heights Hideaway - Hidden Yet Convenient! 2 BR, 1.5 BA, 1015 sqft. \$149,000, Ref #1013.
 - Fabulous Condo in the Heights - High in the Heights! 2 BR, 2.5 BA, area pool & "FIERCE" view from rooftop! 1496 sqft. \$194,900, Ref #1014.
 - Midtown Area - Cute TH in Midtown! 4 BR, 2.5 BA, 1658 sqft. \$199,000, Ref #1015.
 - Champions/1960 Area - Beautiful Home, Great Price! 4 BR, 2.5 BA, 2320 sqft. \$159,000, Ref #1001.
 - Kingwood Area - Efficient & Quiet! 3 BR, 2.5 BA, 2109 sqft. \$118,000, Ref #1002.
 - The Woodlands - This Size! This Price! In the Woodlands? YES! 4 BR, 2.5 BA, 2112 sqft. \$121,900, Ref #1005.
 - inwood North Area - Suburban Life! 3 BR, 2 BA w/ in-ground pool, 1740 sqft. \$82,800, Ref #1010.
- Call Steven Michael Bridgwater, Montrose Realty (713) 520-0789 or e-mail montrosehomes@aol.com.

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RENT / HOUSTON

MONTROSE AREA CONDO 2 BR, 2 BA, 1140 sqft, wet bar, WD, LR, den, pool/jacuzzi, covered prkg. \$1,400/mo, Ref #1007. Montrose Realty, Steven Michael Bridgwater (713) 520-0789 or montrosehomes@aol.com.

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Answers to Q puzzle on page 27

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NW HOUSTON GWF, NS/no drugs. Shr House, priv BR, BA, many amenities. \$400/mo + 1/2 util. (281) 970-7912.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOMELESS CHARITY DONATIONS AIDS shelter needs items for rummage sale & client recycle. Must be in working order. Tax receipt & non-profit. (713) 864-1795. (502 W 24th St)

EMPLOYMENT

ADVERTISING SALES The Houston Voice, the region's GLBT media leader, is seeking an advertising account executive. You'll be responsible for all phases of the sales process: qualifying, cold-calling; prospect development; conceptualizing, planning & delivering sales presentations; writing proposals, negotiating contracts & closing new business. One year of print or on-line advertising sales experience preferred, but not necessary. We offer a challenging & exciting opportunity in a fast-paced, goal-oriented (yet fun) environment. We offer competitive compensation; specific training & a comprehensive benefits package including health/dental/life insurance, generous paid holidays, vacation & more. If you have a proven track record in sales, are results-driven & want to help build a newspaper that has a positive impact on your community, we want to hear from you. Send cover letter & resume to: General Manager, The Houston Voice, 500 Lovett, Suite 200, Houston, TX 77006. Fax: (713) 529-9531. E-mail: demerich@houstonvoice.com.

BARBER STYLIST / COSMETOLOGIST Montrose area. To lease a chair. Very reasonable. More money in your pocket. Call Frank (713) 522-2263.

CARPENTER & CARPENTER'S Assist wanted. Call Larry @ Lawrence Construction, (936) 760-5531.

GROUPS

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TRAVEL / U.S.A.

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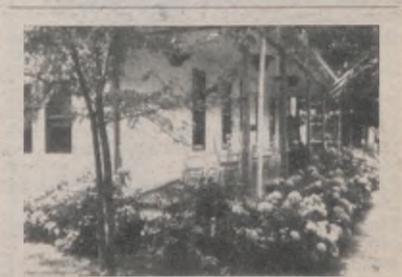
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
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"The Talented Ms. Highsmith"

Across

- Title for Julius II
- ___-sex marriage
- "The Red Badge of Courage" author Stephen
- Mapplethorpe's "Man in Polyester ___"
- Stein fillers
- Surface that isn't straight
- With 26-Across, Highsmith novel adapted by Hitchcock
- Sales pitch at Borneys, e.g.
- Benjamin Hoff's "The ___ of Pooh"
- Small leather bar?
- Archaic, to Shakespeare
- Void's partner
- See 17-Across
- In a top-flight way
- A-Team member into jewelry
- "And ___ bed"
- Sometime Capote associate Chaplin
- Oklahoma native
- Prefix meaning "self"
- With 66-Across, Highsmith novel set in Greenwich Village
- Turn tail
- "___ Magnolias"
- Maria's "De-___"
- Words said while holding a pair of queens
- Brown's Sneaky ___
- Chapel name associated with Michelangelo
- Highsmith character played on-screen by Damon
- To be, to Caesar
- Debtor's slips
- Type of tool
- Boob tubes for looking at boobs on "QAF"
- Protection worn at Stonewall Kitchen? See 41-Across
- Gettysburg general whose name sounds like Margaret's
- Rice-A-___ (the San Francisco treat)
- Grant in the cinematic field
- Sat on one's bottom
- Forever, seemingly
- Gay Presbyterian activist Michael

Down

- Oral attention getter
- Openly gay to the max?
- Whirl in the world of ballet
- Frat H
- Student org. for "family" and friends
- "Break ___!"
- Tennessee Williams' lover Frank
- To eat, to Ulrichs
- Network that has featured gay "Survivor"
- Kramer's "___ from the Holocaust"
- City of Lorca's homeland
- "___ say more?"
- First name in sitcoms
- Foster title role
- Lid for Baria
- Tony Randall's "7 Faces of Dr. ___"
- Disney sci-fi flick
- "The corn ___ high..." ("Oklahoma")
- George Michael's bathroom
- Etheridge's "___ Little Secret"
- San Diego to Palm Springs dir.
- Rear officers in the USN
- Creator of Mouse and Mary Ann
- "Kiss Me Guido" actress Turner
- Feminine tail
- Turn the meat at Hamburger Mary's
- Threesome for Caligula
- "Mad About You" installment
- "___ De-Lovely"
- Dottermans of "Antonia's Line"
- Put out
- Beach of a White Party
- In the loop, at a gay rodeo
- Like Gomer's Mayberry
- Lesbian cult film "___ Nous"
- Site for gay e-groups
- Home st. of Warhol and Eakins
- Narc follower
- Eye problem
- "___ and Stacey" (Missing sitcom)
- Sometime label of David Bowie

Answers on Page 26

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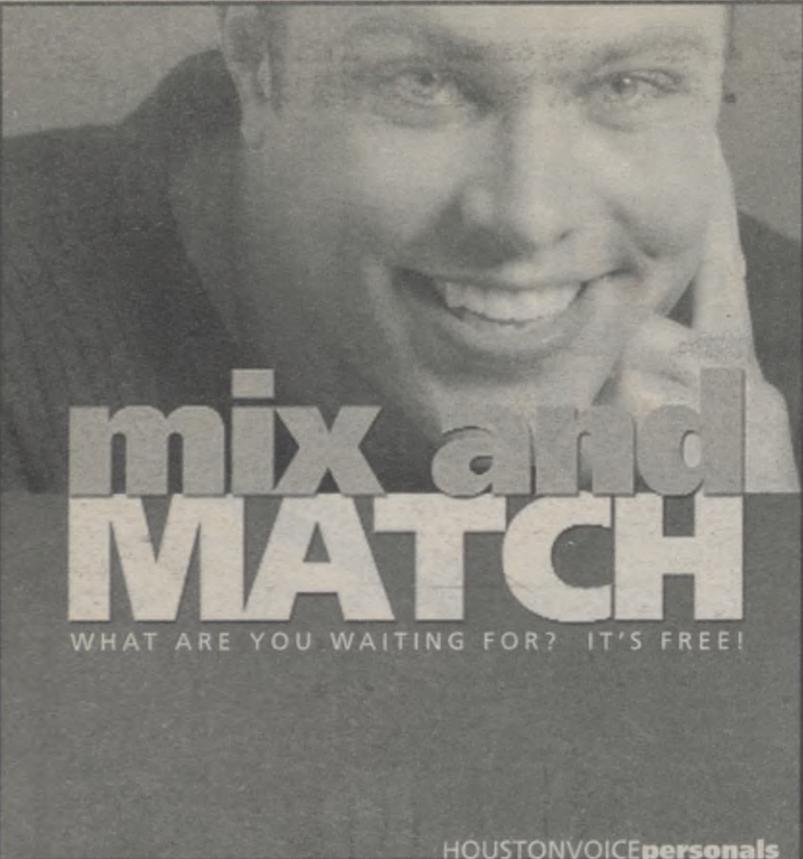


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My Stars!

June 27 - July 3



ARIES (March 21 to April 20)

Your ruler Mars meets Uranus in your house of karmic gifts. Push your limits, in life and in bed. Then lie back and enjoy your (sort of) well-earned rewards. This is the time to grab life with both fists. And we know you're the grabby type (in the most fabulous sense!). Another Aries is your biggest ally and fan but may also compete with you.



TAURUS (April 21 to May 20)

Your ruler Venus finishes up a stint in your house of money on the 4th of July. A Leo means business and may want to go into business with you. Don't mix sex and money. You can enjoy each separately. During July, expect to experience a breakthrough of the sensual persuasion.



GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)

You may feel more vulnerable than usual this week, sweet Gemini. And it may be good for you. You need to need people, honey. Friends and lovers will rally around you if you let them know that you need extra cuddling and cuddling. A Virgo is really on your side. You are both feeling the heat and the heaviness of Mars conjunct Uranus.



CANCER (June 22 to July 22)

More than one Gemini can help you further your goals. Stop procrastinating and start picking up speed where your career is concerned. And don't forget to take extra good care of your body. Work out, yes — but also treat yourself to something (or someone) physical and luxurious. Saturn is your own personal taskmaster right now. It's an intense but fruitful birthday month for you.



LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22)

A love affair gets more colorful and intense as July begins, Leo dear. Be the aggressor and go after that foxy one with all you've got. Don't dilute your passion with the words "I've got so much work to do." A Cancer is ready for you to say "I'm ready." The moon meets Jupiter in your sign on July 2. Go after what you want!



VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)

In your own quiet way, you can fulfill many old, old dreams this week. A family member could finally admit you were right. Your sense of vindication and relief goes a long way. Mars and Uranus in your house of love bring a major change in your love life. A Leo wants to make sure it's a change for the better.



LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)

Your music collection reflects your state of mind this week: classic bossa nova, back-to-the-'80s cheese, and a delicious mix of 12-inch dance imports. You're a blend of past, present, and beyond, darling. Your eclectic sensibility is the key to your future. A Capricorn wants to feel the beat with you.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)

Saturn is just beginning a stint in your house of adventure and travel, which means it would be a good idea for you to pay special attention to those areas of your life. Have more fun and be less inhibited, you uptight whore! An Aquarius can help you to discover new sides of your sexual nature.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)

Roll the dice, Sag, and take all the chances you've been waiting months to take. The time for indecision is over. An Aries wants to push your limits beyond the Valley of the Dolls, doll. Why are you being so resistant?



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)

A Virgo isn't suspicious of you at all, just outrageously attracted to you. Stop thinking so much and start following your own heart. Well-laid plans may not lead to much now, but surprises are wonderful and may help you end up well-laid. Mars conjunct Uranus in your house of flirting should help, too ... if you can get out of your own way.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)

You're hotter than a firecracker to everyone in your world on the 4th of July, so for goodness sake, take off your clothes and rub up against them all. Your feistiness is a sign of good mental health, so live a little larger and talk a little less. A friendship with a Sag could lead to love.



PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20)

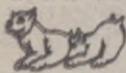
Numerous planets are moving through both your sign and your fellow water sign, Cancer, this month. Your love life will thrive, but you may not want to get out of bed! Suck it up and work a little harder, all in the name of your own career success. A Capricorn can help you attain a specific and important goal. Dress like you have money and you'll get money.

Jill Dearman is the author of the best-selling "Queer Astrology for Men" and "Queer Astrology for Women" (both from St. Martin's Griffin). For information on charts and consultations, call 212-841-0177 or e-mail QScopes@aol.com.

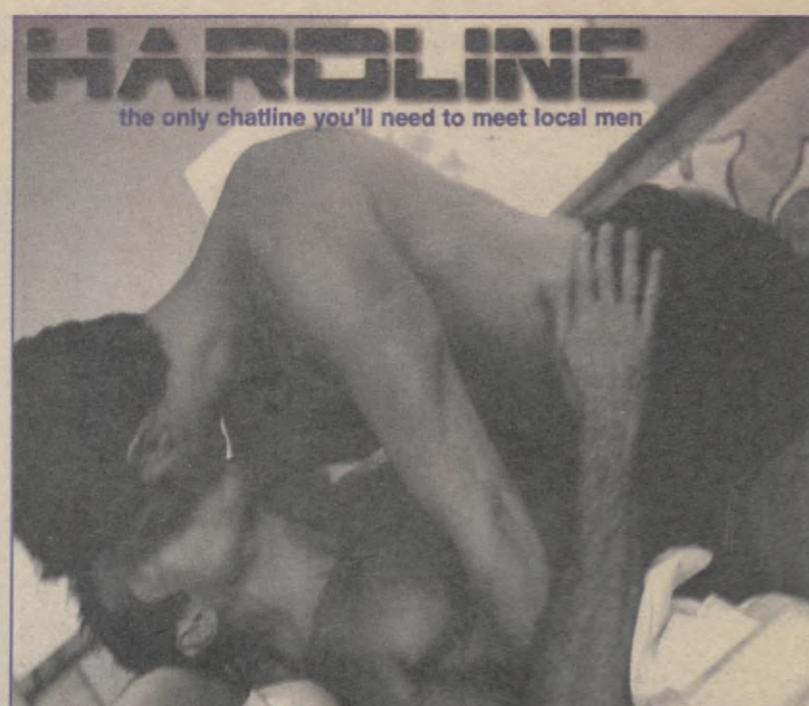


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Houston



PRIDE



2003



Celebrating 25 Years of PRIDE

INSIDE:

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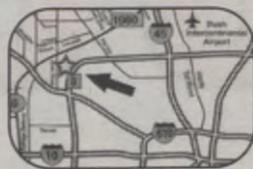
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Pride 2003

Parade is Houston Pride highpoint

Largest crowd ever expected to line up along Westheimer to see marchers

By PENNY WEAVER

Celebrating 25 years of Gay Pride in Houston culminates this weekend with the infamous parade hosted by the Pride Committee of Houston (PCOH).

Volunteers who have helped organize the annual event are — to say the least — excited.

"There's more than 100 floats, and there's dignitaries and all that kind of stuff," said Ryan Rice, PCOH public and media relations director. "It's going to be everything we've always had but more. We're expecting over 200,000 people. We're low-balling it with that."

"It's going to be such a big huge crowd of diversity," he added.

The 2003 Houston Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Pride Parade steps off at 8:45 p.m. Saturday, June 28. Units in the parade must line up ahead of time — at 6 p.m. for floats, 7 p.m. for vehicles, and 7:30 p.m. for walking units, according to the Pride Committee. All units must be in place and ready by 8 p.m.

The parade route (see map on page 5) runs east on Westheimer Road from Woodhead to Whitney. The main reviewing stand will be along Westheimer at Lincoln.

In case of extreme weather, the parade may be cancelled no later than 7 p.m., parade organizers note.

Highlights of this year's parade include celebrities such as actor Robert Gant of "Queer As Folk," who will ride on the South Beach float, Rice noted. With 125 entries, the parade can't get any larger.

"We're tapped out. There's not much longer we can make that parade," Rice said. Future parades may have to be first-come, first-served. [But] we haven't had to tell anyone 'no' yet."

The number of entries must be limited in order to control the time that the parade takes, Rice explains. The fest must wrap up by 11 p.m.

New surprises are in store for spectators this year.

"The chandelier's going to be neat," Rice said. "We have a 1,000-pound chandelier that's going to hang over Montrose and Westheimer."

Fireworks will be set off during the parade march, and a pyrotechnics show also will be offered near the main reviewing stand at Westheimer and Lincoln.

"The pyrotechnics show is totally new. We spent a lot of time on that," Rice said. "And there's individual performances that break up some of the dead space in the parade."

This year, organizers have arranged for parade entries that include performances to stop at several different locations along the parade route so that more spectators



Highlights of this weekend's Pride festivities include the second annual Pride Cabaret (see story, page 4) and, of course, Houston's infamous nighttime Pride Parade (see parade route map, page 5; parade lineup, page 12). (Photos by Dalton DeHart)

can see the shows.

"Another really neat thing is going to be the pre-parade concert," Rice said.

That performance runs from 6 to 8:15 p.m. Saturday and features Amber, who will sing her top dance hits, "Above the Louds", "Yes", and "Need to be Naked." Also joining in the concert will be popular local talent including the Gay Men's Chorus, Nancy Ford and Kofi, among many others.

The concert will be held at the Budweiser Stage at Westheimer and Yoakum.

Since this is the 25th anniversary of the parade, it is particularly special.

"It should be very silver because it's our silver anniversary," Rice said. "We're honoring all the past grand marshals. All the living grand marshals are going to kick off the parade."

The fun also will include vendor booths on Yoakum Street in a street festival type of atmosphere, according to Rice.

The entire spectacle takes hours upon hours of volunteer work to achieve.

"The committee itself puts in so much work throughout the entire year. As soon as it's over we start again," Rice said. "It should be a great show."

As in the past, Maria Todd of KRBE 104 and Ernie Manouse of Channel 8's weekday news will be announcing from the

judges' stand at Lincoln and Westheimer.

Parade judges this year are Carol Wyatt, community activist; Brenda Thomas, community activist; Jone Devlin, QueerVoices host; Pamela Zager of Red Bull; and Larry Bagneris, City of New Orleans Human Rights Commissioner.

The parade prizes recognize the diversity of the entries as well, Christensen noted. The Ruby Slipper Award goes to the best walking unit, and the Gypsy Rose Award is for the best out-of-town entry. Awards named Edison and Rainbow Lights are for lighting on non-professionally and professionally built units, respectively, and the Houston and Texas trophies go to non-professionally built and professionally built motorized units.

All entries are eligible for the Stonewall and Spirit of Montrose honors.

Prizes will be awarded on Sunday at 5 p.m. at O Houston, 710 Pacific.

MORE ON TAP

The parade is not the only entertainment this weekend. Last year's first and successful Pride Cabaret returns Friday night at Alley Theatre, featuring popular local talents. Cost is \$50, and the production kicks off at 8 p.m.

Also Friday night, the black-tie Hispanic celebration Baile 2003 will be held from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. at the Radisson Astrodome. The event, which costs \$35 at the door, raises funds to benefit gay groups.

Meteor hosts Steel Pride on Friday night starting at 9 p.m. The Grey Party Inc. presents the night's party to announce Steel Weekend, the group's new fall fund-raiser.

Also Friday night, gay Houstonians are invited to join Q Patrol at 9:30 p.m. for a special patrol through Montrose. The group meets at the Houston GLBT Community Center, 3400 Montrose, Suite 207. Q Patrol will host a special patrol on Saturday night as well.

Rich's hosts the PCOH "Official Pre-Parade Party" starting at 9 p.m. on Friday night, with "Silver" as the theme. Special guest performer will be Lady Bunny, and the show being at 12:30 and 1:30 a.m. on the main stage at Rich's.

MORE INFO

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Pride 2003

Pride 2003 rocks this weekend

The silver anniversary of Houston Gay Pride goes off the charts with annual parade and more

By PENNY WEAVER

If ever there was a time to be gay, out and proud in the Bayou City, it is this weekend.

Houstonians celebrate 25 years of Pride with a bigger-than-ever nighttime parade and a bevy of activities through Sunday night.

Hope you've had your rest so you can participate in as many of the following as possible. Most are sponsored by the Pride Committee of Houston, but some simply have been planned by other groups or businesses in conjunction with PCOH's annual festivities.

FRIDAY, JUNE 27

11 a.m.-5 p.m. National HIV Testing Day
Cost: Free
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The free rapid HIV antibody test provides results in less than 30 minutes.

11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. National HIV Testing Day
Cost: Free

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- Donald R. Watkins Prevention Center, 8449 Belfort St., Suite 140
- WAM, 1240 1/2 Post Oak Road, Suite 121
- Kashmere Annex, 3815 Cavalcade
- Progressive Amateur Boxing Association (PABA), 3212 Dowling

For more information, contact the Houston Department of Health & Human Services HIV/STD infoline at 713-794-9020. Other agencies sponsoring the testing are Bread of Life, Families Under Urban & Social Attack (FUSSA), NAACP, Thomas Street Clinic and St. Hope Foundation.

7 p.m. Lesbian Film Night presents "Go Fish"
Cost: Free; donations accepted for Houston GLBT Community Center
Houston GLBT Community Center, 3400 Montrose Blvd., Suite 207



This year's Pride Cabaret will be held again at Alley Theatre, with a variety of performers collaborating for the production.



Scores of talented Houstonians teamed up for 2002's "Before the Parade Passes By," the first Pride Cabaret. (All photos by Dalton DeHart)

The monthly Lesbian Film Night at the center this Friday screens the 1994 comedy "Go Fish." www.houstonglbtcenter.org.

8 p.m. Pride Cabaret: Before the Parade Passes By...Again!
Cost: \$50
Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave

A VIP Reception will follow the night's performance by some of the most popular local talents. This two-act review incorporates Broadway show tunes, popular standards, and comical skits, all within a Pride theme, according to the PCOH Web site.

8 p.m. GoGirlsRock! Houston Pride
Cost: \$8
Rhythm Room, 1815 Washington

GoGirlsMusic presents its second annual Pride concert with featured performers including Elizabeth White and Sarah Golden of Houston. www.gogirlsmusic.com.

9 p.m.-2 a.m. Baile 2003
Cost: \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door
Radisson Astrodome, Sam Houston Ballroom, 8686 Kirby Drive

This Pride Week celebration is a black-tie event and Hispanic celebration, including dance with musica latina. The fund-raiser benefits gay organizations and includes a silent auction from 9 p.m. to midnight, and reception hors d'oeuvres at 9:30 p.m.

9 p.m.-2 a.m. Steel Pride
Cost: Donations accepted at the door
Meteor, 2306 Genesee

Grey Party Inc. presents a night of pride, music and entertainment to announce Steel Weekend, the group's new October GLBT fund-raiser.

9:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Out of the Bars and into the Streets with Q Patrol
Cost: Free
Meet at the Houston GLBT Community Center, 3400 Montrose, Suite 207

Houstonians are welcome to join Q Patrol on a special patrol through Montrose. For information, call 713-528-SAFE.

9 p.m.-3 a.m. Official Pre-Parade Party
Rich's, 2401 San Jacinto
"Silver" is the theme for this event,

with special guest performer "Lady Bunny." The show begins at 12:30 and 1:30 a.m. on the main stage.

SATURDAY, JUNE 28

3 p.m. Houston Comets Pride Day
Cost: \$8 and up

The Houston Comets plan a first-ever Pride Day at the Comets game versus the San Antonio Silver Stars. The event includes Autograph Day, so the first 1,000 fans to enter the arena receive a voucher for the post-game autograph session. For more information, call Ericka Bowman at 713-963-7334, or fax orders to 713-513-8345.

6-8:15 p.m. Pre-Parade Concert featuring Amber
Cost: Free
Budweiser Stage at Westheimer and Yoakum

Headlining will be Amber, singing her top dance hits, including "Sexual (Li Da Di)", "Above the Louds", "Yes", and "Need to be Naked." Joining Amber on stage will be popular local talent including the Gay Men's Chorus, Nancy Ford and Kofi, among many others, according to the Pride Committee.

8:45 p.m. America's Original Nighttime Pride Parade
Cost: Free
Parade runs on lower Westheimer from Woodhead to Whitney

The 25th anniversary parade will include a synchronized light show and pyrotechnics display at the grandstand, located at Yoakum Street across from Mary's...Naturally. Bleacher seating with a prime view is available for a \$25 donation to the Pride Committee.

The Silver Celebration Pride Parade will include appearances by "Queer As Folk" cast member Robert Gant, the popular Dallas drag drill team "The Strangerettes," and a section of a special 25th anniversary rainbow flag created by Gilbert Baker, the rainbow flag's "Betsy Ross," according to PCOH.

Emcees Maria Todd and Ernie Manouse will provide commentary on parade entries.

9 p.m.-3 a.m. Official Post-Parade Pride Party

Rich's, 2401 San Jacinto

"25" is the theme for the night, with recording artist Amber. Showtime is 1 a.m. on the main stage.

9:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Out of the Bars and into the Streets with Q Patrol

Cost: Free
Meet at the Houston GLBT Community Center, 3400 Montrose, Suite 207

SUNDAY, JUNE 29

3:30-9 a.m. SterlingPRIDE03
Cost: \$20
The Gatsby, 2540 University Blvd.

Spoiled Boyz presents SterlingPRIDE03, the official Houston Pride Afterhours Party, featuring DJ Dawna Montel.

5 p.m. Pride Parade Awards Ceremony
0 Houston, 710 Pacific

Parade emcee Ernie Manouse and "Queer As Folk" cast member Robert Gant will help present trophies honoring the best of the best of Houston's Pride Parade entries.

6-10 p.m. "All the World's a Stage"
By invitation Only

Ovations, 2536 Suite B, Time Blvd. At Kirby
This evening of gay theater and song benefits Unhinged Productions. For more information, call 713-547-0440.

"Queer As Folk": The Babylon Tour
South Beach, 810 Pacific

The Babylon Tour, which tours the country in May, June and July, recreates the vibrant nightclub featured in the television series. The tour stops in Houston at South Beach, with music provided by DJ Tracy Young and a special appearance by "Queer As Folk" cast member Robert Gant.



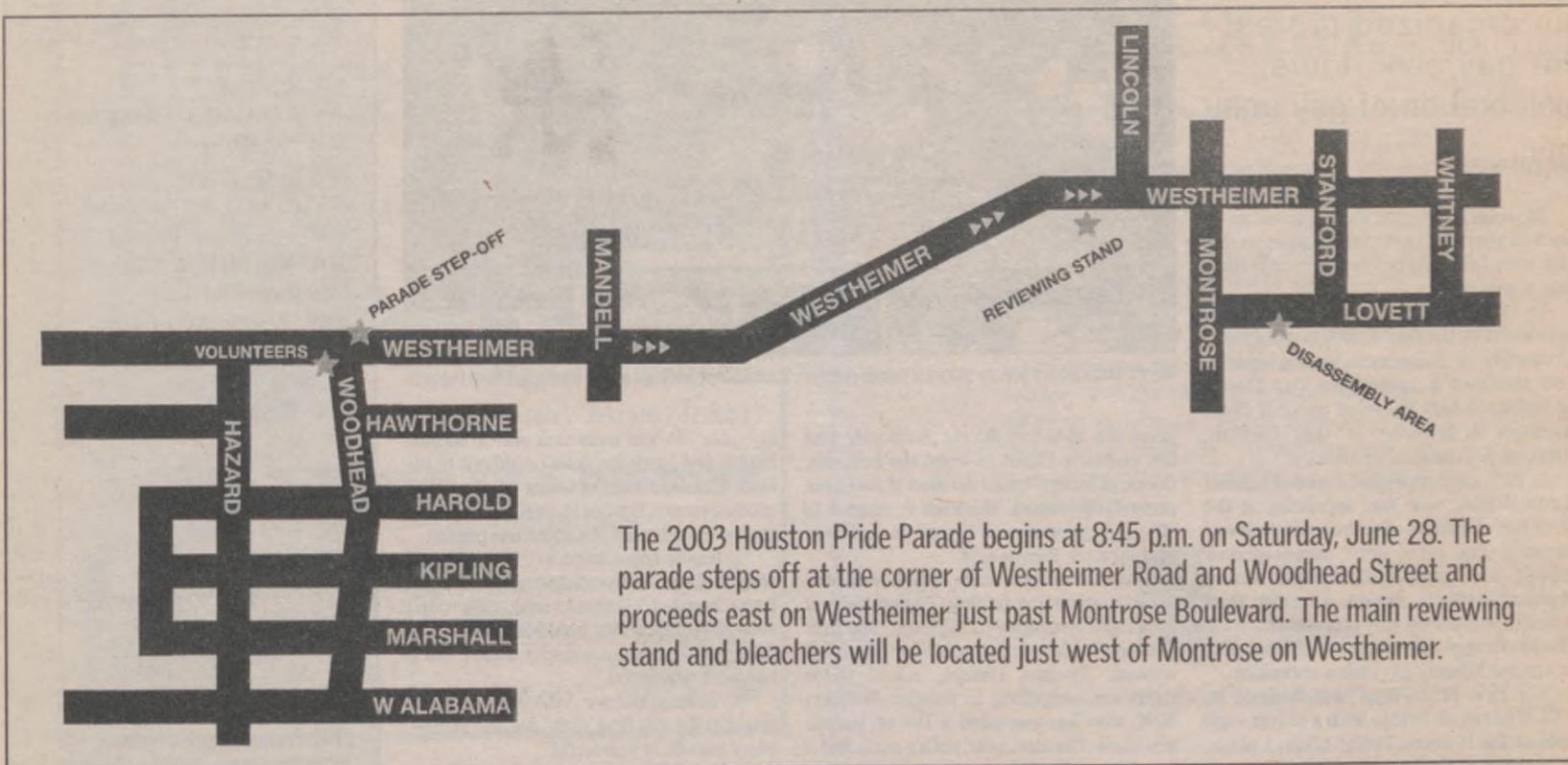
The cowboy hats and rainbow colors burst out all over Montrose on Saturday night for the annual Houston Pride Parade.

MORE INFO

Pride Committee of Houston
P.O. Box 66071
Houston, TX 77266-6071
Phone: 713-529-6979
Fax: 713-529-6929
www.pridehouston.org
e-mail: info@pridehouston.org

Pride 2003

2003 Pride Parade Route



The 2003 Houston Pride Parade begins at 8:45 p.m. on Saturday, June 28. The parade steps off at the corner of Westheimer Road and Woodhead Street and proceeds east on Westheimer just past Montrose Boulevard. The main reviewing stand and bleachers will be located just west of Montrose on Westheimer.

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Pride 2003

Houston Pride has come a long way

Parade has become an organized protest for gay civil rights, celebration of gay unity

By ELLA TYLER

Saturday's Houston Pride Parade dates back 25 years, but gay rights rallies in this city were held long before the parade itself was organized.

In 1976, the first parade was a march sponsored by the Gay Activists Alliance at University of Houston. It was downtown, and included a speech by Vito Russo, according to Judy Reeves of the Gulf Coast Archives & Museum of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender History.

In 1977, gays organized a protest against Anita Bryant, who was appearing at the State Bar of Texas's convention at the Hyatt Regency. The event drew unprecedented crowds, and undoubtedly spurred future organizing efforts. Bryant, a former Miss America runner-up and representative for Florida Orange Juice, was a major organizer against Miami's gay rights ordinance.

The first Pride Week was June 16-25, 1978. It began on Friday with a prayer vigil held at the Houston Public Library plaza, in memory of the Bryant rally held there a year before, Reeves said. A week of lectures, projects and parties followed. Town Meeting I, a community-wide planning meeting on June 25 at the Astroarena, closed out the week.

Use of the Astroarena for a gay function was controversial. The GCAM archives include a copy of a transcript of a Harris County Commissioners' Court meeting of May 25, 1978, at which a Dr. Wallings, then chairman of the Community Standards Coalition of Houston, protested the event's taking place on county property. However,



Pride Committee of Houston member Troy Christensen says that — so far — the unpredictable rain in Houston has paused long enough each year for the Pride Parade. (Photo by Dalton DeHart)



Mary's...Naturally is a popular place for parade watchers both at street level and above. (Photo by Dalton DeHart)

since the Houston Sports Authority had the exclusive rights to lease the property, Commissioners' Court decided it could not prevent the rental, although it wanted to officially go on record saying its members disapproved, Reeves said.

The first official Pride Parade was held in 1979, according to Troy Christensen of the Pride Committee of Houston. The first Houston Pride marshal was a heterosexual woman, Thelma Hansel, a.k.a. Disco Grandma, according to activist Brandon Wolf, who has compiled a list of parade marshals. The next year, both a male and a female grand marshal were chosen.

In 1988, a position for an honorary grand marshal was created, and in 1993, a marshal spot was added for an organization, Wolf said. Marshals are now chosen by a vote, which is open to all gay Houstonians, from a list of nominees chosen by the Pride Committee.

Various politicians have had entries in the Parade, and state Rep. Debra Danburg, Congressman Craig Washington and Constable Jack Abercra have been honorary grand marshals, but no Houston mayor had ridden in the parade until 2000. That year, Mayor Lee Brown made history as the first person holding that office to participate in the event.

Sue Null, a member of PFLAG (Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays), which was the organizational grand marshal in 1993 and 2001, says, "When I learned my daughter was a lesbian about 14 years ago, she mentioned PFLAG to me. I said, 'No, I don't need that; I'm okay with you...but there's no way I'm going to march in a parade.'"

"Several years later, I attended PFLAG to find support for a young gay man just coming out," Null adds. "Four months after that, he and I were marching in the Pride Parade, and the next year, my husband joined me. Since then, we have marched in most of the parades."

Until 1997, the Pride Parade was held in the afternoon of the final Sunday in June, but by the early '90s the timing was creating problems.

"The parade was dying," Jack Valinski, former executive director of the Pride Committee and this year's parade director, said in an interview with the Houston Voice

last year. "People were sick and it became harder and harder to get a crowd out in the heat. We were talking about moving it to another month, but Lee Harrington kept saying we should make it a nighttime parade."

"It finally came down to one vote, and I voted in favor of the nighttime parade, but I was worried," Valinski said. "We didn't even know if the city would let us do it like this, and there were security issues, but it has been wonderful."

To Jimmy Carper, who was a grand marshal for the first night parade in 1997, every parade is wonderful.

"I saw my first Pride Parade in 1986 and was completely overwhelmed. I saw a vibrant and very alive community that I wanted to be a part of," he said. "In 1988, I was in the parade for the first time. I couldn't believe the feeling of walking down the middle of Westheimer in Montrose with hundreds of people on either side cheering."

"I had never felt such a feeling of 'belonging' ever before," Carper added. "That feeling has been repeated each year that I've marched in the parade, and never to a lesser degree than that first time. Since 1988, I've only missed one parade; that year I watched from the sidelines. I'll march in every future one!"

Before 1997, the parade route varied some from year to year, according to Brian Keever, a 20-year veteran of Pride parades.

"I remember when we started at Shepherd and Westheimer, years ago," he said. "We had a pre-rally for the parade at the old Plantation Club behind what is now the Fox Diner and the floats were lined up in the lot behind Alabama Theatre. That was in the early '80s. We even reversed it in '90 for Star Nite 90 at the Multi-Service Center on West Gray."

Holding the parade at night has presented unique problems over the years, according to organizers, but its overall success is evident.

"One problem with the new timing of the parade was that the route had to be shorter, because city law at that time said a parade starting after 8 p.m. couldn't be over a certain length," Christensen said. "With Annise Parker's help, we got that changed. The extra length makes a big dif-

Parade Themes Through the Years

- 1978: Gay Pride
- 1979: In Celebration of Human Rights
- 1980: Proud To Be
- 1981: We the People
- 1982: A Part Of...Not Apart From
- 1983: Unity Through Diversity
- 1984: Unity and More in '84
- 1985: Alive With Pride
- 1986: Liberty Is In Our Grasp
- 1987: Come Out and Celebrate Pride
- 1988: Rightfully Proud
- 1989: Stonewall 20 — A Generation of Pride
- 1990: Look to the Future
- 1991: Take Pride
- 1992: Pride = Power
- 1993: Out & Proud
- 1994: HouStoneWall25
- 1995: Silence to Celebration
- 1996: Pride Knows No Borders
- 1997: Glowing With Pride
- 1998: Unified, Diversified, Electrified
- 1999: Pride, Power & Pizzazz
- 2000: Take Pride, Take Joy, Take Action
- 2001: Embrace Diversity
- 2002: Pride Worldwide
- 2003: Silver Celebration

ference because the line-up area is much better with a Woodhead start, especially with Lanier Middle School right there.

"The crowd has gotten bigger since the first nighttime parade in 1997, reaching a high of 150,000 in 2000," he added. "The crowd [in 2001] was slightly smaller, but still very impressive given that Tropical Storm Allison hit Houston just two weeks prior."

Dalia Stokes, female grand marshal for 2001, praised organizers of the annual Pride Week events.

"What a fabulous job the volunteers with the Pride Committee of Houston do in putting on this extravaganza that is so welcoming and so inclusive," Stokes said. "My entire family — partner of 25 years, 86-year-old mother, 29-year-old daughter, and 2-year-old granddaughter — participated in the parade and found it to be an enriching experience all the way around."

So far, even the weather has been cooperative for Pride in Houston.

"It rains nearly every year sometime during parade day, but it never really rains on the parade itself," Christensen said. "I remember one year it rained right before the parade, but stopped before 8:45 p.m., and one year it rained just as the parade was ending."

The parade is managed by the Pride Committee of Houston, a non-profit corporation.

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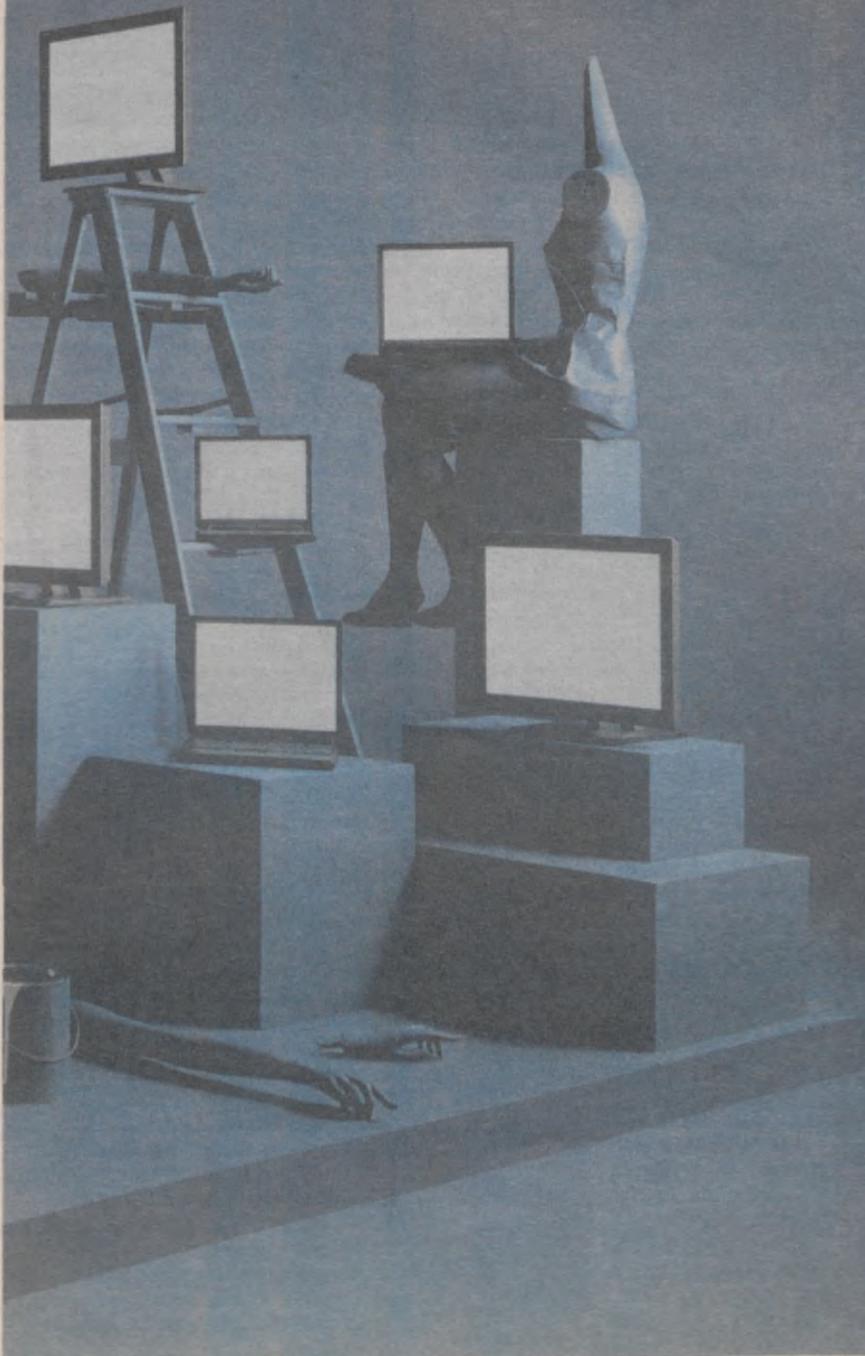
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Pride 2003

Pride leaders prepare year 'round

Pride Committee of Houston made up entirely of volunteers, some new to the Bayou City and some longtime residents

By TINA KING

Houstonians of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persuasion have been enjoying the "25 days of Pride" this month in celebration of the silver anniversary of Houston GLBT Pride.

An event of this magnitude is the culmination of a year of preparation by the dedicated members of the Pride Committee of Houston. The Houston Voice spoke with several of the officers and board members, and their excitement and enthusiasm for this year's event is tangible.

Joel Deason, PCOH director of marketing and promotions, moved to Houston from Beaumont in 1997 and first volunteered for the Pride Committee in 2000.

Deason is no stranger to volunteer work and is an advocate of community service, having volunteered for St. Elizabeth Hospital and Triangle AIDS Network in Beaumont, and for Methodist Hospital's VNA Hospice. This is his first year as a member of the PCOH Board of Directors and he says he is excited about what he anticipates as a large turnout at this year's Pride Parade.

One of Deason's responsibilities on the committee is to monitor Internet traffic on the Pride Web site (www.pridehouston.org), and he says that it is receiving hits from all over the world — some from countries of which he's never heard.

Deason notes that last year's parade crowd was estimated at approximately 130,000, and he anticipates about 200,000 spectators at this year's parade.

As treasurer of the PCOH board, Paul Radous is responsible for managing the committee's funds and overseeing the bank accounts, with the majority of his efforts focused largely on budgeting.

Radous first got involved with the Pride Committee four years ago and says he has been impressed with what a well-run and pro-

fessional organization this is. For those who want to volunteer, Radous says it's a great opportunity to see from the inside how professionally this organization operates and to work with a great bunch of people.

After 22 years in Houston, Radous says he appreciates the depth, breadth and strength of the GLBT community.

Carl Bass is on the PCOH board as director of fund-raising and corporate relations. He moved to Houston at the end of last year with his partner.

Bass recalls that he thought that going to a couple of Pride Committee meetings would be a great way to get to know people and get involved with the GLBT community in Houston. He says he went to a meeting, volunteered to help and was hooked.

Bass comes from a small town in the Midwest and therefore really appreciates the tremendous GLBT community here with its wealth of resources. He works with the Pride Days' sponsors to raise funds to cover the expenses involved in putting on this annual event. He says he would like to reach out to a greater variety of agencies to bring them into the Pride fold because Houston's gay community has the diversity and breadth to reach out in this way.

Bass says the Pride Committee is a great team that puts a tremendous amount of time and energy into this event and he's just a piece of the puzzle; it takes every member to make it happen, he emphasizes.

Jim Halloran who first volunteered for the Pride Committee four years ago, is now the director of Pride Days and he says he loves it!

According to Halloran, there have been 42 Pride events this month — the most ever — and he specifically mentioned the upcoming second annual cabaret event as one that he's most excited about.

Halloran is a transplant from Dallas and has been a part of the Houston GLBT community for 11 years. He says he finds the Houston community accepting and diverse, as is illustrated in the diversity of the Pride events, which have encompassed every organization from bars and



Nearly 200,000 people are expected to turn out for this year's Houston Pride Parade, and many of those spectators bring along their canine buddies. (Photo by Dalton DeHart)



Carl Bass

clubs to churches.

According to Halloran, the Pride Committee encourages the input of the community and believes this year to be a banner year for Houston Gay Pride.

Jack Valinski, parade director, moved to Houston from Pennsylvania in 1981 following a job and says there was an air of promise and excitement about the GLBT community at that time.

In the early 1990s he became one of the founders of the Pride Committee of Houston, which works year round for this event and is an all-volunteer staff. In 1997, the parade was changed into an evening event and the attendance tripled or quadrupled, Valinski recalls. He says the parade has become the largest in the Southwest and has gone from an amateur event to a professionally polished production, while still trying to push the edge.

This year's parade will honor the grand marshals of the past and will feature pyrotechnics and a 20-foot chandelier (which originally hung in the Capitol for the state's sesquicentennial) hanging over the corner of Montrose and Westheimer, Valinski notes.

Valinski says he has thoroughly enjoyed his work with the Pride Committee through the years. He shares that each member makes a valuable contribution to the events and that the officers really solicit input and don't micromanage. According to Valinski, the board and committee offi-

cers, as well as the other staff, really have a heart to serve the community.

He notes that gay Houstonians won't find these volunteers in convertibles riding along waving to the crowd; they will be out working in and serving the crowd, making sure that they do what they can to see that the event runs smoothly.

Valinski says he hopes everyone comes out Saturday night to have a good time and enjoy themselves.

Pride Committee President Nick Brines talked to the Houston Voice from Austin; he was there on business.

Nine years ago, Brines answered an ad in the Houston Voice seeking Pride Committee volunteers, and next year will mark his 10-year anniversary with the committee. According to Brines, this year's 25th anniversary of Pride has been a much larger undertaking, because gay leaders really wanted this to be a landmark year.

Last summer was spent recruiting additional volunteers, as all those involved knew that having 25 days of events commemorating the 25th anniversary would be quite a task. Though all positions are volunteer, it has been a long-term goal to have paid staff positions, and Brines anticipates that this might become a reality in the not too distant future.

According to Brines, fund-raising efforts were doubled this year and Pride workers aggressively pursued corporate sponsorship. Brines says some things to make note of in the parade this year are



Nick Brines



Jim Halloran



Joel Deason



Paul Radous



Jack Valinski

Please see LEADERS, on Page 11

Pride 2003

Pride Committee continues to seek volunteers

LEADERS, continued from Page 10

the fireworks, light show, and the 20-foot chandelier. He also says that the bleacher seating has been extended from Westheimer to Yoakum and that there will be more celebrities showcased, as well as more out of town entries in the parade.

Brines says if there is one thing that he strives for with the committee it is to make this event one that is professionally done and that has production value. He wants the parade to really be something spectacular and to put Houston on the map in this area. Some may wonder why there continues to be a need for a Pride celebration — after all, gay Americans now have shows like "Will and Grace" on prime-time television and a greater awareness both nationally and world-wide of the GLBT community. But Brines reminds everyone that even today a kid can still be beaten up and brutalized for being gay.

Even in an idyllic world, Pride festivities will always give the GLBT community an opportunity to showcase the diversity in the community — age, race, gender, talents, abilities — as well as the strengths of the community, Brines says.

Brines also notes that the PCOH is always open to and is desirous of new volunteers and committee members. More information on how to volunteer, and more



Pride Committee of Houston President Nick Brines encourages gay Houstonians to gather for the 2003 parade and view special effects such as a pyrotechnics show and more. (Photo by Dalton DeHart)

information on the many additional leaders of Pride Houston, can be found at www.pridehouston.org.

Board of Directors and Committees

Fund-raising Director: Carl Bass

Corporate Sponsorships Committee: Marcus Milburn

Marketing & Promotions Director: Joel Deason

Merchandise Committee: Alan Conover, chair; Gregory Decker, Helen Cryer, Norma Jean Lipert, Williams Garcia,

Carlos Martinez.

Marketing & Advertising Committee: Jim Graff, Kelly Bryan, Steve Salamone, Yvonne Feece, Rebecca Mahaffey, Aaron Blinka, Shannon Recore, Jim Stewart.

Magazine Committee: Ken Donnelly, editor; Dean Harris, Bobby Clay, Bill Jackson.

Web Committee: Freddy Torres.

Pride Days Director: Jim Halloran

Events Director: Troy Menn

Cabaret Committee: Ken Williamson, chair

Community Advisory Council Director: Shane Nelson

Public & Media Relations Director: Ryan Rice

Parade Director: Jack Valinski

Parade Committee: Dick Dickerson, Lynn Sixkiller, Manny Guitierrez, Bill Burford, Troy Christensen, Donn Mumma, Gordon Goss.

International & Regional Pride Relations Director: Mark Willis

Volunteer Retention & Recruitment Director: Jason Wilson

Volunteer Retention & Recruitment Committee: Jose Lara and Beth Puryear, co-chairs; and Chris Alanis.

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Pride 2003

Parade marches with 125 entries this year

Entries for the silver celebration Houston Pride Parade, in the order in which they will appear, are as follows:

- 000 Pride Committee of Houston BANNER
- 001 AVER-American Veterans for Equal Rights
- 002 Houston Area Motorcycle Society (H.A.M.S.)
- 003 Pride Committee of Houston - Grand Marshals
- 004 Rich's Nightclub
- 005 Honorable Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee
- 006 Honorable State Representative Garnet Coleman
- 007 Honorable State Representative Jessica Farrar
- 008 Honorable State Representative Sylvester Turner
- 009 Honorable City Council Member Annise Parker
- 010 Honorable City Council Member Gordon Quan
- 011 Honorable City Council Member Ada Edwards
- 013 Silver Eagle Distributors (Bud Truck)
- 014 Silver Eagle Distributors (Bud Lite Float)
- 015 Silver Eagle Distributors (Bacardi Silver Float)
- 016 Gulf Coast Archive & Museum of GLBT History, Inc.
- 017 Asians & Friends Houston, Inc.
- 018 Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival
- 019 Krewe of Olympus-Texas, Inc.
- 020 Montrose Clinic, Inc.
- 021 PFLAG Houston
- 022 Montrose Counseling Center
- 023 AssistHers
- 024 Parents Reconciling Network
- 025 Integrity / Houston
- 026 HATCH / Montrose Counseling Center
- 027 Lesbian Health Initiative of Houston, Inc.
- 028 First Unitarian Universalist Church
- 029 The Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce
- 030 Gay Men's Chorus of Houston
- 031 St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
- 032 Fitness Exchange
- 034 Stonewall Law Association of Greater Houston
- 035 Planned Parenthood of Houston & Southeast Texas
- 036 A.C.L.U. of Texas, Houston Chapter
- 037 Bunnies On The Bayou, Inc.
- 038 JP Morgan Chase P.R.I.D.E. Team
- 039 Ryan White Planning Council
- 040 More Light Presbyterians of Greater Houston
- 041 Houston Gay & Lesbian Parents, Inc. (HGLP Inc)
- 042 Pride Emergency Medical Services
- 043 Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church
- 044 OutSmart Magazine
- 045 The Houston Transgender Unity Committee
- 046 Dignity Houston
- 047 GoGirlsMusic.com
- 048 Chances Bar
- 049 Covenant Church
- 050 Shell Chemicals
- 051 Houston Fire Department
- 052 Maranatha Fellowship MCC
- 053 Central Market
- 054 Mary's Lounge
- 055 People with AIDS Coalition - Houston, Inc.
- 056 E.J's
- 057 Human Rights Campaign
- 058 104 KRBE
- 059 Houston Comets
- 060 Bering Omega Community Services
- 061 Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas



- 062 Turtle Creek Chorale / The Strangerettes
- 063 Charles Armstrong Investments, Inc
- 064 Loafers, Inc.
- 065 Bureau of HIV/STD Prevention, Houston Dept of Health & Human Services
- 066 The Roundup Campground
- 067 Unhinged Productions
- 068 BP America Inc.
- 069 Statscript Pharmacy
- 070 Houston Pride Band
- 071 Chipotle Mexican Grill
- 072 KPFT 90.1 FM
- 073 Sadistic Pleasures
- 074 Houston Area Bears
- 075 United Cab Company
- 076 Diageo (Smirnoff Twist)
- 077 Texas Triangle
- 078 G.L.O.B.A.L.
- 079 Ron's American Limousine
- 080 Honorable Congressman Chris Bell
- 081 Community Gospel Church
- 082 Wells Fargo
- 083 Houston Public Library System
- 084 Houston GLBT Community Center
- 085 KHMx The New Mix 96.5
- 086 Sue Lovell Campaign
- 087 The Houston Voice / Eclipse
- 088 Mela's Tejano Country
- 089 GLBT Pagan Pride Society
- 090 Starbucks
- 091 M.B.R. Collections
- 092 Montrose Vet Clinic
- 093 Emerson Unitarian Church
- 094 Houston Humane Society
- 095 GMR Marketing Inc.
- 096 Westfest Purists Organization
- 097 "O" Houston
- 098 Donald R. Watkins Memorial Foundation
- 099 Bering Memorial United Methodist Church
- 100 Hewitt Associates
- 101 Alley Theatre
- 102 Harris County Young Democrats
- 103 Leather IN Exile
- 104 The Krewe of the Moons of Uranus
- 105 Garden Party Inc.
- 106 The Royal Sovereign & Imperial Court of the Single Star of Houston
- 107 Miss Camp America Foundation
- 108 Theatre Under the Stars
- 109 Lesbian & Gay Immigration Rights Task Force
- 110 ICOH - The Space City Empire
- 111 Club Xcape
- 112 Colt 45's
- 113 Bayou City Boys Club, Inc. - BCBC
- 114 AIDS Foundation Houston
- 115 Northwood Unitarian Universalist Church
- 116 Judge David M. Petronella
- 117 Montrose Softball League
- 118 Inside Houston Magazine
- 119 Mortgage Associates of Texas (Partridge Properties)
- 120 Spoiled Boyz
- 121 Club Inergy
- 122 Briar Patch
- 123 Sylvester Turner for Mayor
- 124 Rainbo de Klown
- 125 Pride Committee of Houston

Pride 2003

Pride 25 honors all parade grand marshals

For the 2003 Houston Pride Parade, to celebrate 25 years of Pride in Houston, the Pride Committee of Houston has asked that all past grand marshals be co-grand marshals. Grand marshals from over the years are:

Rusty Mueller & Mela Conteras
 Dalia Stokes & Mitchell Katine
 Richard Weiderholt* & Tori Williams
 Nancy Ford & Sean Carter
 Bob Bouton & Jackie Doval
 Deborah Bell & Jimmy Carper
 Bill Havard & Jeanette Vaughn
 Suzanne Anderson & Don Gill
 Jay Allen & Cicely Wynne
 Carolyn Mobley & Brian Bradley*
 Brian Keever & Sheri Cohen Darbonne
 Linda Morales & Jack Jackson
 & Gene Harrington
 Walter Carter* & Annise ParkeR
 Bettie Naylor & Charles Armstrong
 Bruce Cook* & Eleanor Munger*
 Persons Living With AIDS
 Tony Bicochi* & Dee Lamb*
 Freda Jerrell & Terry Clark*
 Rick Grossman & Pokey Anderson
 Marion Pantzer* & Walter Stricklar*
 Andy Mills & Marion Coleman
 Rita Wanstrom & Ray Hill
 Jim Farmer* & Ruth Ravas
 Thelma Hansel*

*indicates that the person is deceased



Clockwise, from left: Rusty Mueller, a.k.a. Crystal Rae Lee Love, served as male grand marshal in the 2002 Houston Pride Parade. Honorary grand marshals for 2002 were PFLAG parents Irv and Jane Smith. Last year's female grand marshal was Herlinda 'Mela' Conteras. (Photos by Dalton DeHart)



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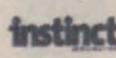
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