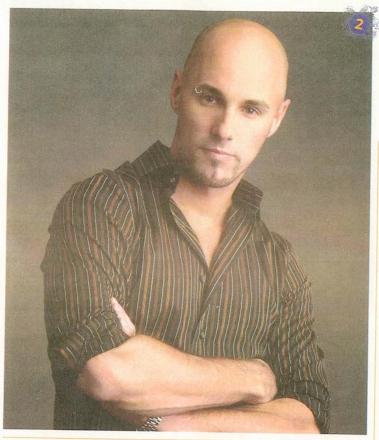


People, places, and things we can't live without

Obviously, we've given ourselves a wide berth for interpretation—these items are not all gay-specific, but we're confident they all enjoy a gay following. From our fave fro yo to assorted savory eats to something for bargain shoppers, culture vultures, and hedonists, we're pretty sure you'll find some things that make you go "mmm" in this here list.



THE MELROSE TRADING POST

THE MELROSE TRADING POST
When California budget cuts cost the Los Angeles public school system millions of dollars that would otherwise have been used for high school artistic programs, the students of the Fairfax High School district didn't take their lack of funds lying down. Instead, they enacted an idea: Support our art through shopping! Every Sunday, the school's parking lot is transformed into an antique-mall-cum-swap-meet with hard-to-find deals and bargain steals. The event's \$1 entrance fee is wellworth it. - MICHAEL ANTHONY

Fairfax High School Par 7850 Meirose Ave.

www.greenwayarts.org/tradingpost.htm

GANG OF 100

A gaggle of gays who vow to mingle just as much as they volunteer, what's not to love? Tom Whitman's Gang of 100 set a fundraising record for 2007's AIDS Walk L.A. ... and they're just getting started. "The response from the public has been amazing," Whitman says. "Our goal is to grow the right way so that the guys who are joining us are all motivated, inspired, and committed to the idea of community service, long term." Long term includes a soon-to-be-announced partnership with Pride's Wonderland party, and the Gang's new huge goal for AIDS Walk '08: \$175,000. —JEFF KATZ



THE GENDARMERIE

While Trapper Schroeder merits a place on any "best of" list for creating one of our favorite fragrances—the clean and instantly recognizable Gendarme—he's also responsible for our favorite place to refresh and decom-press—the full-service upscale salon and spa The Gendarmerie. What sets this apart from other spas is Schroeder's Southern hospitality. Patrons can enjoy a glass of wine and even a buffet lunch between rejuvenating facials and custom apparel fittings. —JEREMY KINSER

www.thegendarmerie.com

WORLD OF WONDER GALLERY

Having only opened in August, the World of Wonder Gallery has been making waves showcasing everything from erotic art of the Golden Girls, giant oil paintings of Britney Spears' va-jay-jay, and portraits of Andy Warhol using garbage. We have a feeling this hotspot will be around a lot longer than 15 minutes. - LENORA CLAIRE



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