

AUGUST 12, 2011

EXCLUSIVE TARA & KARA DION

PLUS
Cazwell Photos
Local Briefs
Bar Guide



MAGAZINE AbouT

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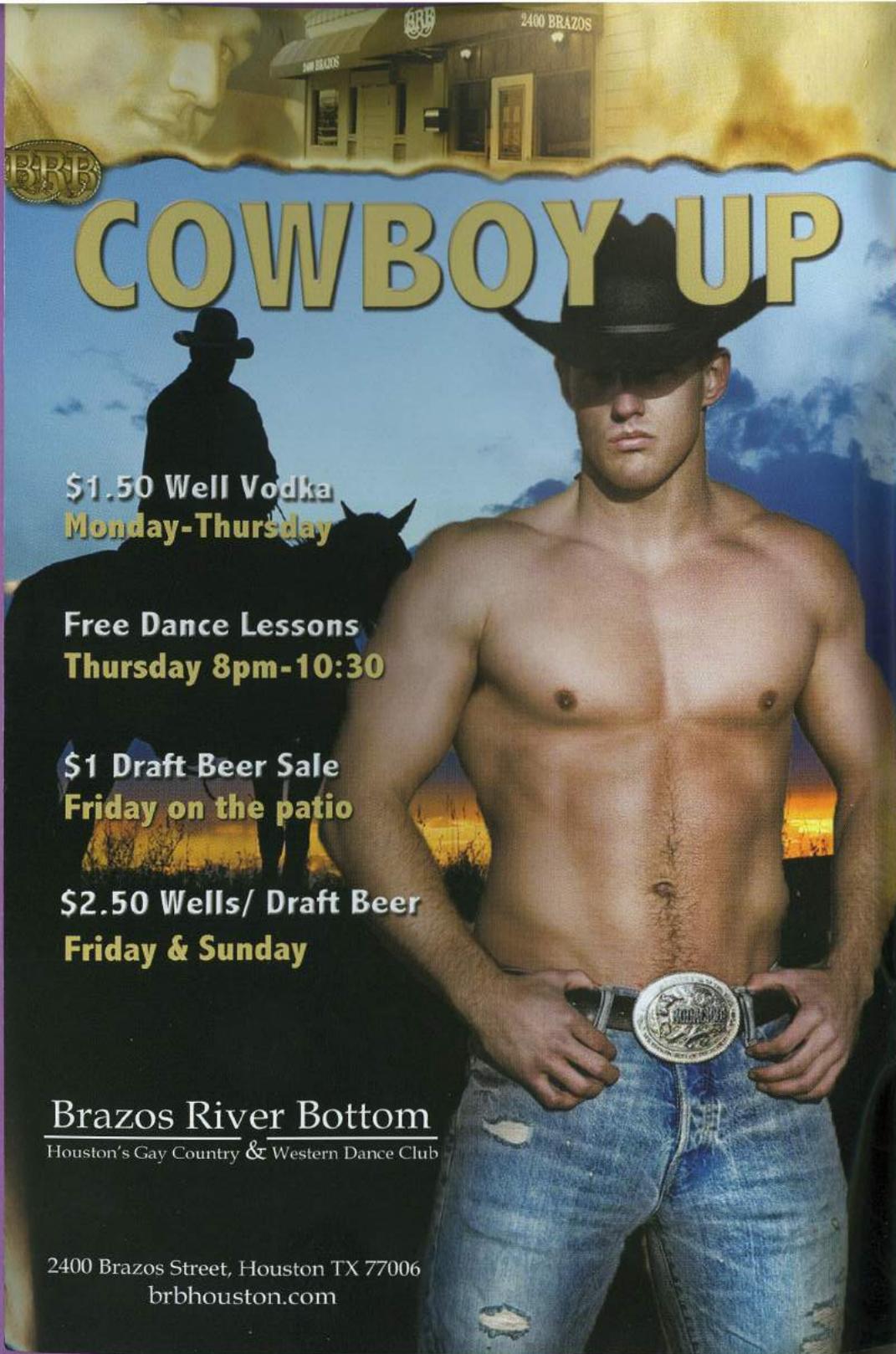
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www.abOUT-Online.com

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Kara Dion
F Bar

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Montrose's Diva Twins

Tara and Kara Dion, Montrose's Drag Royalty sit down with abOUT Magazine for their first EXCLUSIVE interview in Houston in years. They speak with us regarding their personal lives, their family, and growing up gay as twins.



Tara Dion
F Bar

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9 Gay Politics and Bullying
A 3 part series relating to our community

* Cover Photo: Tara and Kara Dion
Special Thanks to Photographer David Nguyen and the great staff at F Bar for the location.

ALL ABOUT SPORTS

BY CHRIS MUNOZ

2011 SCHEDULE	PRE-SEASON	REGULAR
New York Jets	Mon., Aug. 22, 2011, 7:30pm	ESPN
New Orleans Saints	Sat., Aug. 28, 2011, 1:00pm	ESPN
San Francisco 49ers	Sat., Aug. 27, 2011, 7:00pm	ESPN
Houston Texans	Thurs., Sept. 1, 2011, 7:00pm	ESPN
Indianapolis Colts	Sun., Sept. 11, 2011, Noon	ESPN
Miami Dolphins	Sun., Sept. 18, 2011, 1:30pm	ESPN
New England Patriots	Sun., Sept. 25, 2011, Noon	ESPN
Pittsburgh Steelers	Sun., Oct. 2, 2011, Noon	ESPN
Oakland Raiders	Sun., Oct. 9, 2011, Noon	ESPN
Baltimore Ravens	Sun., Oct. 16, 2011, 3:05pm	ESPN
Tennessee Titans	Sun., Oct. 23, 2011, Noon	ESPN
Jacksonville Jaguars	Sun., Oct. 30, 2011, Noon	ESPN
Cleveland Browns	Sun., Nov. 6, 2011, Noon	ESPN
Tampa Bay Buccaneers	Sun., Nov. 13, 2011, Noon	ESPN
Bye Week	Sun., Nov. 20, 2011	
Jacksonville Jaguars	Sun., Nov. 27, 2011, Noon*	ESPN
Atlanta Falcons	Sat., Dec. 4, 2011, Noon*	ESPN
Cincinnati Bengals	Sun., Dec. 11, 2011, Noon*	ESPN
Carolina Panthers	Sun., Dec. 18, 2011, Noon*	ESPN
Indianapolis Colts	Thurs., Dec. 22, 2011, 7:30pm	ESPN
Tennessee Titans	Sat., Jan. 1, 2012, Noon*	ESPN

HOUSTON TEXANS GEAR UP FOR PRE-SEASON

Well the NFL has approved the new ten year collective bargaining agreement and is ready to get back to what they do best---constant thrashing at each other.

"We are pleased to announce that our clubs have approved the terms of a long-term negotiated agreement with the NFL players," NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said. "It includes many positive changes that emerged from a spirit of compromise rooted in doing what is best for the game and players..."

The changes ranged from the following categories: Player Health & Safety, Retired Player Benefits, Draft/Free Agency, Entry Level Compensation System, Economics (salary caps), and Transition Rules. To the left you will find the pre-season and regular season schedule.

ARE YOU READY FOR SOME FOOTBALL!

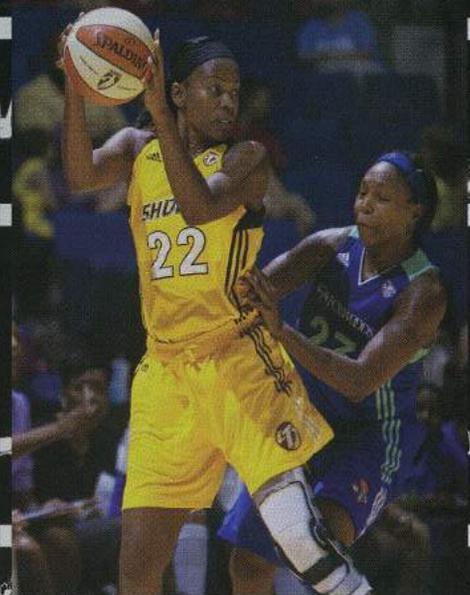
Sheryl Swoopes Marrying a Man

The Houston Comets was added to Houston's roster of ever popular sports in 1997. They went on to celebrate four championship wins, but in December 2008, the WNBA ceased operation of the Houston Comets. This was due to impart of Hilton Koch's unsuccessful sale of the Comets for ten million dollars.

Sheryl Swoopes was a star player with the Comets and in 2005 she came out stating she was a lesbian. Her then partner, Alisa Scott---former assistant head coach of the Comets, were raising Swoopes's son together. So now Swoopes has changed her mind and is going back to men.

In an interview with ESPN Swoopes states, "I can't help who I fall in love with. No one can...I didn't always know I was gay. I honestly didn't. Do I think I was born this way? No..."

Swoopes now plays for the Detroit Shock.



HAPPY HOUR Daily

Saturdays

Open Pool Tournament

8PM

\$5 entry fee and a

chance to win

\$100

starting at 3PM

\$2.25 Domestic

Longnecks

\$2.50 Well

Drinks Until

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GAY POLITICS & Bullying

abOUT Magazine takes a deep look into OUR community and the Politics involved. Do those politics lead to bullying the bussiness that support our community? This is the first part in a 3 part mini.

by: Cade Michals

One might think that with our community always up in arms about the way the general society views the L.G.B.T. community, that we ourselves might actually practice what we preach. But sadly we are our worst critic. Sometimes we bully and play politics with our own.

Let's take a look at Dallas for a second: we always like to put them down as sad snobby label queens. But dig around deeper and you might be surprised at how their community operates; far more advanced than its big sister, Houston. Sadly our community might never see what they have accomplished.

In Dallas, the L.G.B.T. bar and club owners created many years ago a bar guild which allows them to work together as a team and give back to the community.

"I'm shocked that Houston is so far behind, none of the bars work together, everyone fights, it is absolutely ridiculous," states a club owner that did not want to be named. That is true. A recent Houston Press and Houston Magazine article titled "Montrose's Bar Wars." It appears to be all about who can gain control of the industry and in that fight forget whom they need to be making happy. The community! Our community is so led up with this, that they are dying for something fresh and something new. Even to a point that a recent survey suggest that L.G.B.T club goers would rather visit a straight bar/club then to step foot in a venue that is not willing to listen to them.

Pride Houston is a prime example of Gay Politics at its best. A look into their mission reads simple: they are a nonprofit that educates and celebrates diversity within our city's population. Sadly, over the years politics have reigned over this mission.

Smaller community businesses are pushed out by the demand of power and control over events. Large national sponsors are called and verbally threatened by members of Pride Houston over canceled sponsorships. Then there is Pride Houston allowing certain establishments first right of refusal for events. Where is the community interest in all of this? Pride Houston is a great cause and if it stayed within its mission instead of bullying the community they could build and create great things. Politics in our community have rolled out of control. It's not just the two highlighted issues that we mention in this article. It rolls into everything. A photographer that takes pictures at one club is banned for life at another. A bartender that leaves one bar to venture out might take the risk of being banned for life at that place. If a liquor representative hangs out at one place too long, they run the risk of being told his account has been canceled at another bar.

Then there is the conflict of Interest Politics. A business in our community owns a nonprofit that their mission is to build a better community, and hosts events for that community. But that nonprofit refuses to allow businesses that might be a competitor, to their business, even though the nonprofit wants to build the community up- their board seems to have double standards.

How can we expect a population to open their thoughts about us when we can't even control our own politics? In part two, we dig into the non disclosures of these bullying organizations and, and we disclose what the community needs to know. The Truth.



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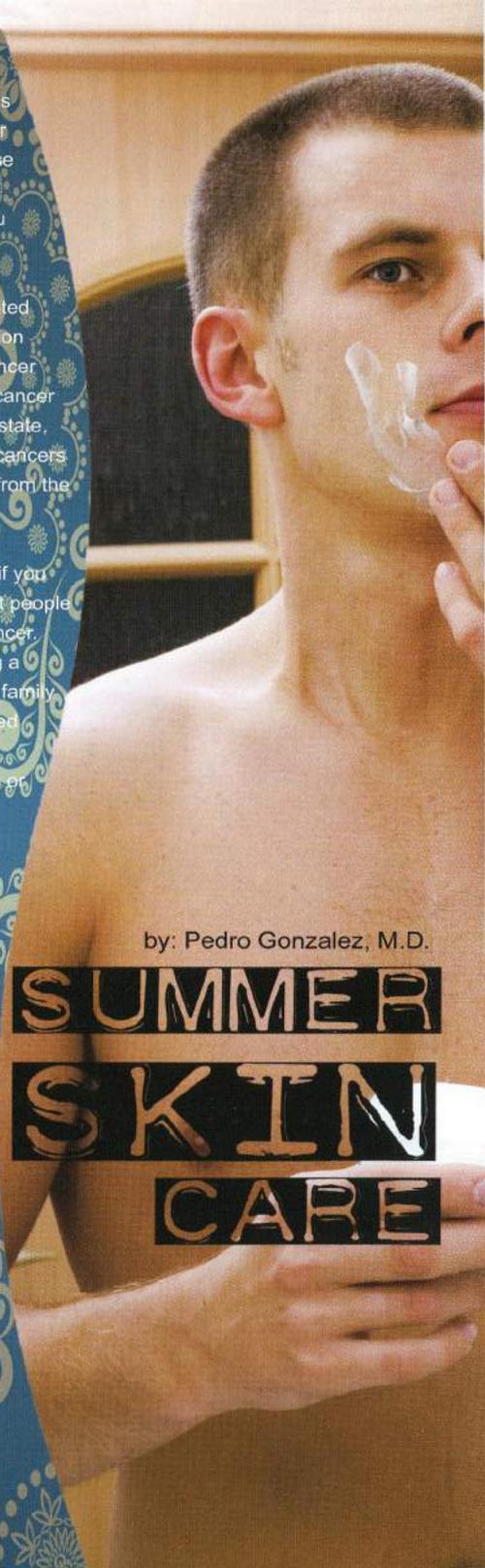
The summer has started and it is certainly going to be a hot one here in Houston! The sun is shining and the pool is ready; summer is the perfect time to be outdoors. Whether it's a whole day by the pool or a quick zip around the house to mow the lawn, you should protect yourself from the risk of skin cancer. We should take care of our skin so that you continue to look fresh and gorgeous all year round.

Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United States. More than 3.5 million skin cancers in over two million people are diagnosed annually. According to The Skin Cancer Foundation, each year there are more new cases of skin cancer than the combined incidence of cancers of the breast, prostate, lung, and colon. About 90 percent of non-melanoma skin cancers are associated with exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun.

According to Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point, if you have light skin, you are at greater risk for sun damage, but people with darker skin are still susceptible to developing skin cancer. Some other factors that can put you at risk include: having a previous occurrence or treatment of skin cancer, having a family history, typically burning before you tan, having light-colored eyes, having light-colored hair, being at a higher altitude, spending a lot of time outside, and taking birth control pills or certain other medicines or antibiotics.

Many groups, including the American Academy of Dermatology, recommend products with a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 30. Reapply sunscreen every two hours. Forget all-day protection. Sunscreen wears off after just a couple of hours. So, make sure you lather on another golf ball-sized glob every two hours. In some cases, you should reapply sunscreen every 60 to 90 minutes. Of course every now and again, sunburn happens. In the case of a mild burn, not one with extensive blistering, which requires immediate medical attention, the use of aloe or another cooling agent is the first, best step. Cool showers or baths are helpful along with some pain medication such as ibuprofen or other over-the-counter medications.

I hope that these tips will help you to go out and enjoy the summer decreasing the chance of burns and skin cancer. Just don't forget the largest organ of your body, your skin! Keep looking gorgeous and be healthy!!!



by: Pedro Gonzalez, M.D.

**SUMMER
SKIN
CARE**

montrose ROYALTY **TARA**

As I get ready to interview the Dion twins, I am sitting in their dressing room, which I might add is not too shabby. "When they got it, it had a living room and dining area, but they tore all that out," Kara says as she is sitting at her dressing table. The door flies open and in walks the other Dion, "Hey boys" Tara proclaims as she drags what seems to be endless luggage into the trailer. The twins are prepping for a photo-shoot and interview with abOUT Magazine.

DIVA As we speak about their growing up and what it was like having to tell their family they were gay, both twins are heated in debate on what to wear for the first shoot. "They found out, well they knew we were gay, [when] I left a video tape in my car and my dad found it" Tara explains. "It was a tape of me in College Station performing---I was 18. It was an old bar called The Club."

Both Kara and Tara are handsome men that are identical twins with brown hair and eyes and stand about 6'2. You can't help but wonder how being twin brothers and both being gay came to be.

"Oh I don't know when we figured out we were gay, but we both came out at like when we were both 16, almost 17. We both came out at the same time. We both had boyfriends, but we pretended we didn't until our father found that damn tape."

After that Tara explained what it was like to perform for the first time at Richs Nightclub when they were 17 years old. "We had a friend that worked at Richs and they were doing a turnabout show. Kara loved the idea, and of course I was kicking and screaming. But we did it. It was 17 years ago, and we did "Does he love you" by Reba McEntire/ Linda Davis. I thought it was a horrible idea, till I saw how much money we made, and the rest is history. It was also a great way to get into the bars under age.



Tara Dion at F Bar Houston

One might think that being royalty in the drag community comes easy, but that is hardly the case for twins---whose height and small weights make it difficult for stage clothes to just be bought from any clothing store. "Most of our stuff is custom made and we have a couple of people that make them. Some stuff is bought but because of our size and height it has to be custom. One of our lady's, her name is Tony, has been doing our clothes for 20 years, and

Dion

by: Cade Michals

KARA TWIN power

The next question was geared towards their 17 years of performing and wondering how big a closet they have. Tara answers, "Funny, I just bought a condo in July and it's so funny that I actually built out a room as a closet, and it's 20X20 and it's full." Kara adds, "I have a room back where I live in The Woodlands [which is] about the same size as Tara's except mine is not built out."

About seven years ago, Kara and Tara were interviewed with the Houston Press in which they were called "Movers and Shakers" within the community. They were followed around as they made their rounds to their favorite bars. I remind you that was about seven years ago. Not too much has changed in the way of the role they have within the community. I asked them where they see themselves in 10 more years. "Doing the same thing---except hopefully making more money and being happy," states Kara. Tara has a different outlook, "Umm well recently I have been feeling like I am at the age where it's kind of now or never. I think we will be looking at options for us that we over looked in the past."

We wanted to know the twins as people, so we got a little personal with them. They would not release their names. But we can give you hints "E" and "J". Kara describes herself as a Goonies movie lover that does not ever read because she can watch a movie instead. Kara also reminds us

that her brother Tara is very important in her life. Tara on the other hand is very different in the movie category. He rubs off as a hopeless romantic that likes any type of movie that will make him cry. He currently is reading John Maxwell's "21 irrefutable laws of leadership."

As drag performances go, the most awkward times on stage are when that dress rips or the hair falls off. Tara remembers a time that it was a little less funny and more embarrassing. "A long time ago I was working in Downtown Houston, and I was impersonating Michael Jackson. I left the bar with just Michael Jackson make up on, no wigs, and I was driving home and got pulled over. Not for being drunk, but for speeding....and remember I had no costumes on just the makeup and the cop called me "LaToya". It was very very embarrassing." But Kara chimes in with her own memory of a time after they had been working a gig and was hungry. So they made a stop at a What-A-Burger.

"I remember the lady leaning out the window and asking us if we were clowns"



Kara Dion at F Bar Houston

Charles Armstrong dedicates "The Montrose Remembrance Garden"

On July 28, 2011, with a warm welcome by Alex Sanz and a soothing prayer from Dr. Donald Sinclair the dedication ceremony started very peacefully. With words from State Senator John Whitmire, Mario Gallegos, Jr. and State Representative Garnet Coleman mixed with the Survivor's words of the dedication ceremony gave a sense of awareness to the almost 300 attendees; Followed by a person-to-person lighting of candles to the balloon release with Brittani Collins singing "Angel" by Sarah McLachlan, left everyone at ease while properly dedicating the Montrose Remembrance Garden to the fallen.



Houston GLBT Political Caucus MOVES locations

Over the next week, the Caucus will be relocating its office to a new location in Chelsea Market on Montrose Boulevard, just south of the Southwest Freeway. Special thanks to Paul Martin at Urban Architecture (one of their new neighbors) for donating modular furniture for the reception area. The Caucus is very excited to be moving into a nicer space with lower rent and great neighbors like Urban Architecture, and the newly re-designed Chelsea Grill.

www.abOUT-Online.com

LIVE Music returns to Montrose

It's been a long time since a L.B.G.T. club allowed for a LIVE band to play, and we do not mean a DJ set that spins live. If you love the feel of hearing a live band, and one that's 80's themed. Then you will love the live cover band named "The Lost Boys". They play live every Wednesday at F Bar, located at 202 Tuam.

love:live
music

No Second Chances

Chances Bar will not get a second chance after it closed its doors forever in November of 2010. Making way for new development, in the almost demolished area, will be a craft beer bar named Hay Merchant. It will be a bar that will have 80 beers on tap. As well as Chris Shepherd's Underbelly Restaurant which will serve signature pork dishes made famous by the chef. The two establishments will occupy the space and share the parking lot that is now the former Mary's across the street.



H-E-B set to open new Montrose location

Well H.E.B., and all its many successes, has finally made it into the Montrose area. What was once the Willshire Village Apartment complex at the corner of Alabama and Dulavy is now a 7-acre soon-to-be fully operational H.E.B. They are going to give across the street competition, Fiesta, a run for their money. H.E.B. is working with Trees for Houston to replant all the trees removed in the Montrose area while they plant their own to replace them. They are scheduled to open this fall.



If you have a Community News story you would like covered e-mail us at info@abOUT-Online.com

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Sunday August 14
9pm

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\$2.25 Domestic Longnecks

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Happy Hour till 10PM

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WITH HOST ANN MARIE GILL

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- HIV Specialty Care
- Social Services
- HIV Testing & Prevention
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- Pediatrics (coming soon)
- Maternity (coming soon)

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If you Can't

Say Something

Nice....

Come sit by us

YES Ma'am
NO! Ma'am



PLEASE tell me you are not picking that lime up for your drink, with your eyes rolling back in your head! "CUT OFF"... And hommie in the blue shirt! REALLY! Us Gals can hear you now. "Gurl I need a drink".. No Ma'am!



Would someone please tell Mr. Rogers that you may NOT take a power "sober" nap on the park bench



No one is off limits to our whit! Not even the abOUT Publisher, whom was pretty sketchy looking leaning on a pole and was trying to keep our cameras away! Showing teeth, like she was in the jungle. Keep Drinking BOO! Don't be a repeat offender!



God! When you thought she couldn't get any worse! At least she is still standing and smiling. That is always a good sign. Pretty boy in blue! RUN! Run FAST! No Ma'am!



Awww Papi, bless your heart. Next time someone should tell him it's picture time in spanish. But looks like he's all about that blow pop! What do they say? Oh yeah! "You just gotta be pretty"

BY: chris munoz

PHILAROSCOPE

March 21 - April 20
Aries
 Just like Kara's reign as Miss Houston in 2002, you too will snag a title of Mrs. H-Town when you end up shacking up with that one-nighter you surprisingly didn't regret. On the upside, the reduction in your availability in the market will allow you to work on them Kegel muscles.
 Your lucky slogan is: "Do Not Blow" (DoNotBlow.com)

April 21 - May 21
Taurus
 Just like Kara & Tara's confusion they caused in grade school by taking each other's weaker subjects, you too will find yourself confused about which anal de-frictor to use: Silicone or Vaseline. On the upside, you will be ready for the slip and slide triathlon coming soon.
 Your lucky slogan is: "Light Duty. Back to Work" (Jim Adler)

May 22 - June 21
Gemini
 Just like Tara & Cara, you too share the same birth sign. This means that when you are in their presence there will be a total of six of y'all in the room to hash it out. On the upside, you will re-learn the cheer "Be-Aggressive. B-E-Aggressive!"
 Your lucky slogan is: "Your World Delivered" (AT&T)

June 22 - July 22
Cancer
 Just like Tara & Cara "falling" into drag, you too will channel your inner drag monster and run amuck amongst the chambers of many secrets. On the upside, instead of hearing "One Bat, Two Bat, ah-ha-ha!" from the vampire on Sesame Street you will familiarize yourself with, "One Tuck, Two Tuck, owey-owey-owey!"
 Your lucky slogan is: "Get More Out of Now" (Dell)

July 23 - August 21
Leo
 Just like Tara's reign as Miss Gay Texas, you too will have a shot at being Mr. Texas Leather. On the upside, your chances of landing that "Sling" salesman position will increase.
 Your lucky slogan is: "We Are The Pulse..." (abOUT Magazine)

August 22 - September 23
Virgo
 Just like Tara & Cara coming out in 1994, you too will come out and celebrate at your own "Gay-Bash" party. On the upside, you will find out all sorts of naughtiness that you never knew you liked.
 Your lucky slogan is: "Built For The Road Ahead" (Ford)

September 24 - October 23
Libra
 Just like Tara & Cara being Dreamgirls, you too will star in a featured short-film titled "Dream-Gills," where you are a blowfish that dreams of being a butterfly. On the upside, your debut role will get you VIP access to all SeaWorld's world-wide.
 Your lucky slogan is: "The Possibilities Are Infinite" (Fujitsu)

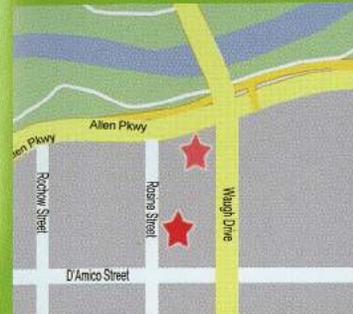
October 24 - November 22
Scorpio
 Just like Cara's love for Jaegermeister, you too will form a brief alcoholic attraction to mouth-wash. On the upside, you will get your own episode on the hit show Intervention and have fresh breath.
 Your lucky slogan is: "Imagination At Work" (GE)

November 23 - December 22
Sagittarius
 Just like Tara & Cara's first drag performance at Rich's Nightclub, you too will have a debut performance in a string of mall tours. On the upside, your unhealthy fascination with Tiffany will dissipate as you sing a re-make of her "I Think We're Alone Now" song and find out she's a real woman.
 Your lucky slogan is: "Inspire The Next" (Hitachi)

December 23 - January 20
Capricorn
 Just like Tara & Cara having their wardrobes custom made, you too will have hired a custom leather bondage company make all of your accessories because your figure is not all that girlish. On the upside, this gives you an idea to invest in your own cow farm to make your own leather apparel.
 Your lucky slogan is: "Invent" (HP)

January 21 - February 19
Aquarius
 Just like Cara & Tara's real names that start with "E" & "J", you too will be in dire surprise that those are your initials too! On the upside, your common bond with the twins will intensify even more when you call for a celebration at EJ's Bar.
 Your lucky slogan is: "We Make it Happen" (IBM)

February 20 - March 20
Pisces
 Just like Cara & Tara being twins, you too will have a chat with your inner twin. Yeah, that's the one that tells you to eat and eat and eat until you gain those extra five pounds. On the upside, you end up killing that bitch with a mock mental drowning in the public pool.
 Your lucky slogan is: "Hello Moto." (Motorola)



Guava Lamp and Vue Nightclub
 526 & 570 Waugh Drive, Houston TX 77019

EJ's Bar
 2517 Ralph, Houston TX 77006

Tony's Corner Pocket
 817 W. Dallas, Houston TX 77006



George County Sports Bar
 617 Fairview, Houston TX 77006

Blur Nightclub
 710 Pacific, Houston TX 77006

F Bar
 202 Tuam, Houston TX 77006

Crocker Bar
 2312 Crocker, Houston TX 77006

The Ripcord
 715 Fairview, Houston TX 77006

611
 611 Hyde Park, Houston TX 77006

TC's Bar & Club
 817 Fairview, Houston TX 77006

Meteor Lounge
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South Beach The Nightclub, Jr's Bar and Grill
 The Montrose Mining Company

Montrose Entertainment District
THE BAR/CLUB GUIDE

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SATURDAY AT MIDNIGHT
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by Chris Munoz

all about MUSIC

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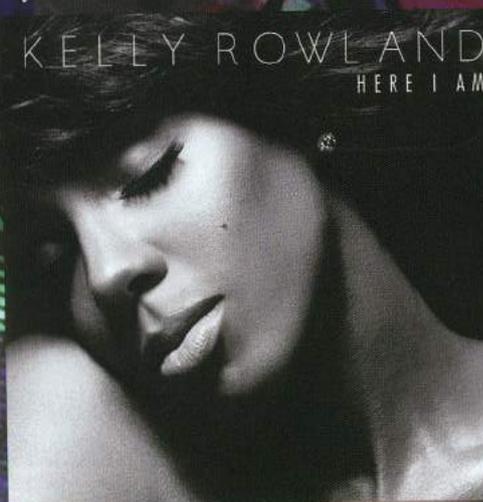
Eric Church's third album titled "Chief" debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 chart. It sold 145,000 copies in its first week of release pushing him into the top of the Country charts as well. He also claims the top digital downloads with 51,000 which is the biggest weekly download for any Country album this year.

Eric Church was born in Granite Falls, North Carolina and was signed to Capitol Records in 2006. The same year he released his first album "Sinners Like Me." Four of his singles hit the Top 20 hits on the Billboard Country charts. His second album was released in 2009 titled "Carolina" which two singles hit the Top 10 hits again on the Billboard Country charts.

ERIC CHURCH CHIEF



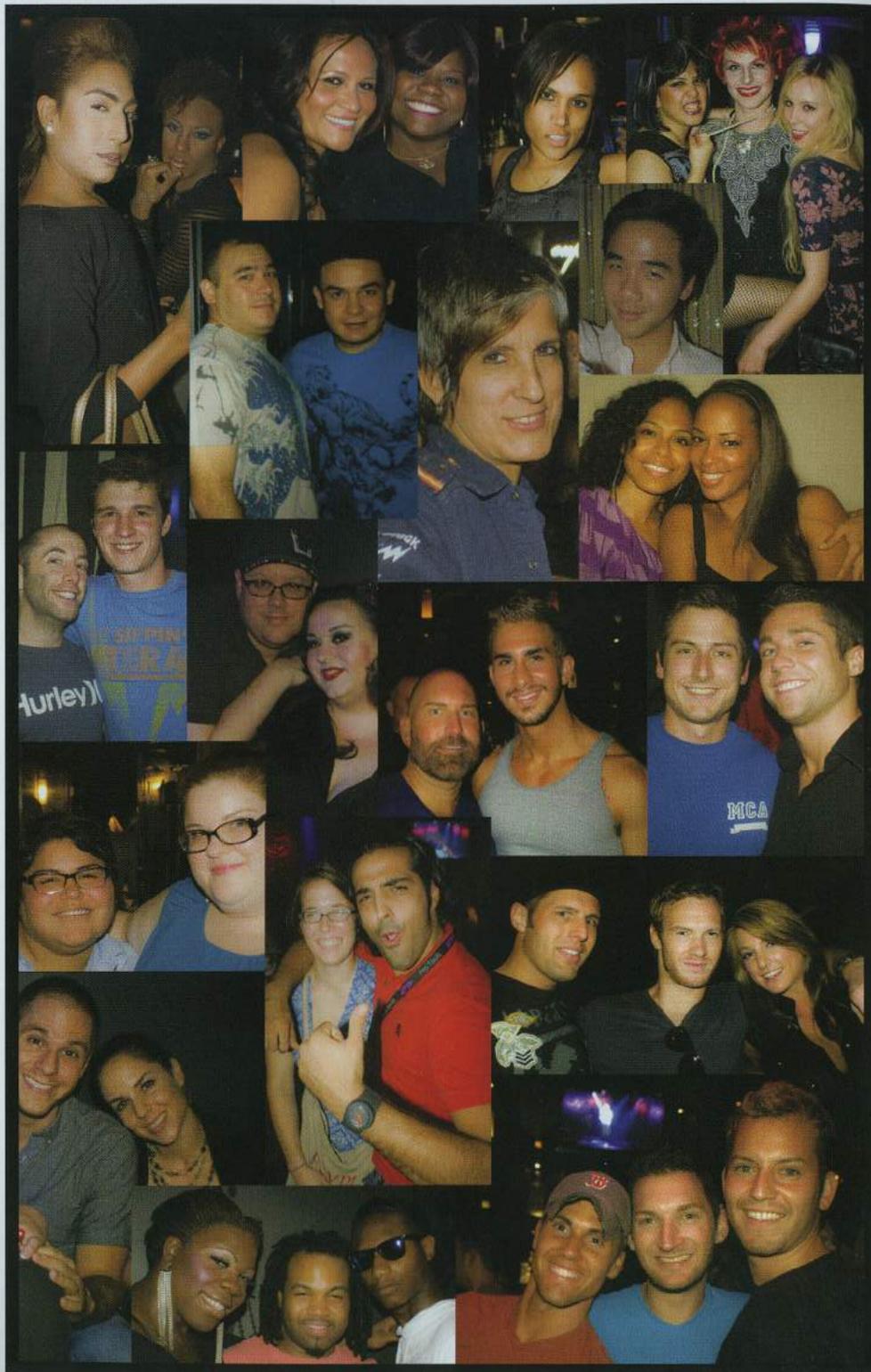
KELLY ROWLAND HERE I AM



Kelly Rowland Comes Back Fierce

Kelly Rowland's newest album titled "Here I am" debuted at No. 3 on Billboard's Top 200. It was originally set to be released in 2010, but since it had one Top 10 hit in the UK her record label let it sit a while since three other singles were not that popular. They removed the tracks that were not going well in the UK and released the album in July of 2011.

Kelly was dropped from Columbia Records in 2009 due to her unsuccessful record titled "Ms. Kelly." She was then picked up by Universal Motown Records in 2010 which helped her find a new way to express herself through tracks with up-tempo beats.



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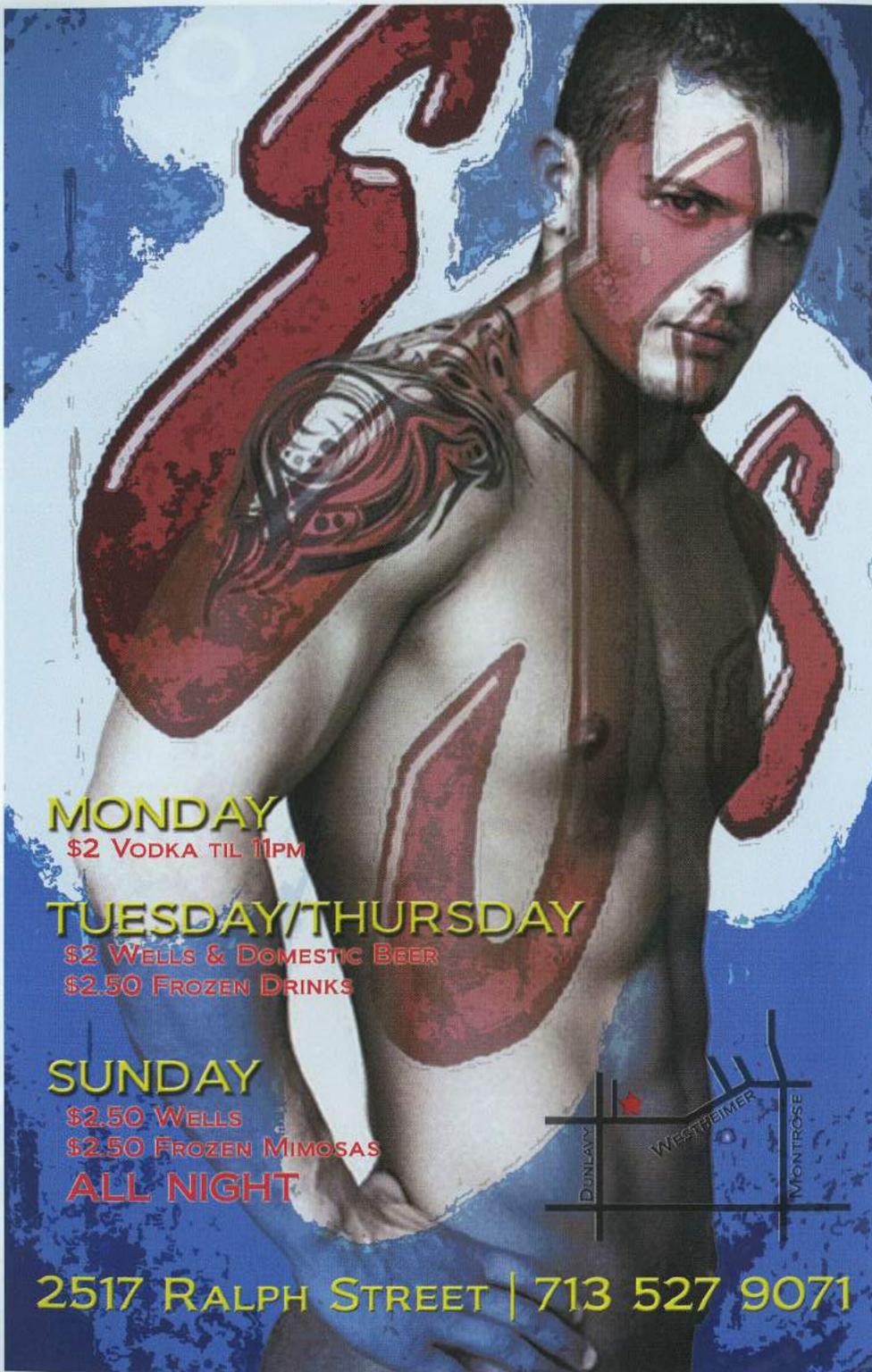
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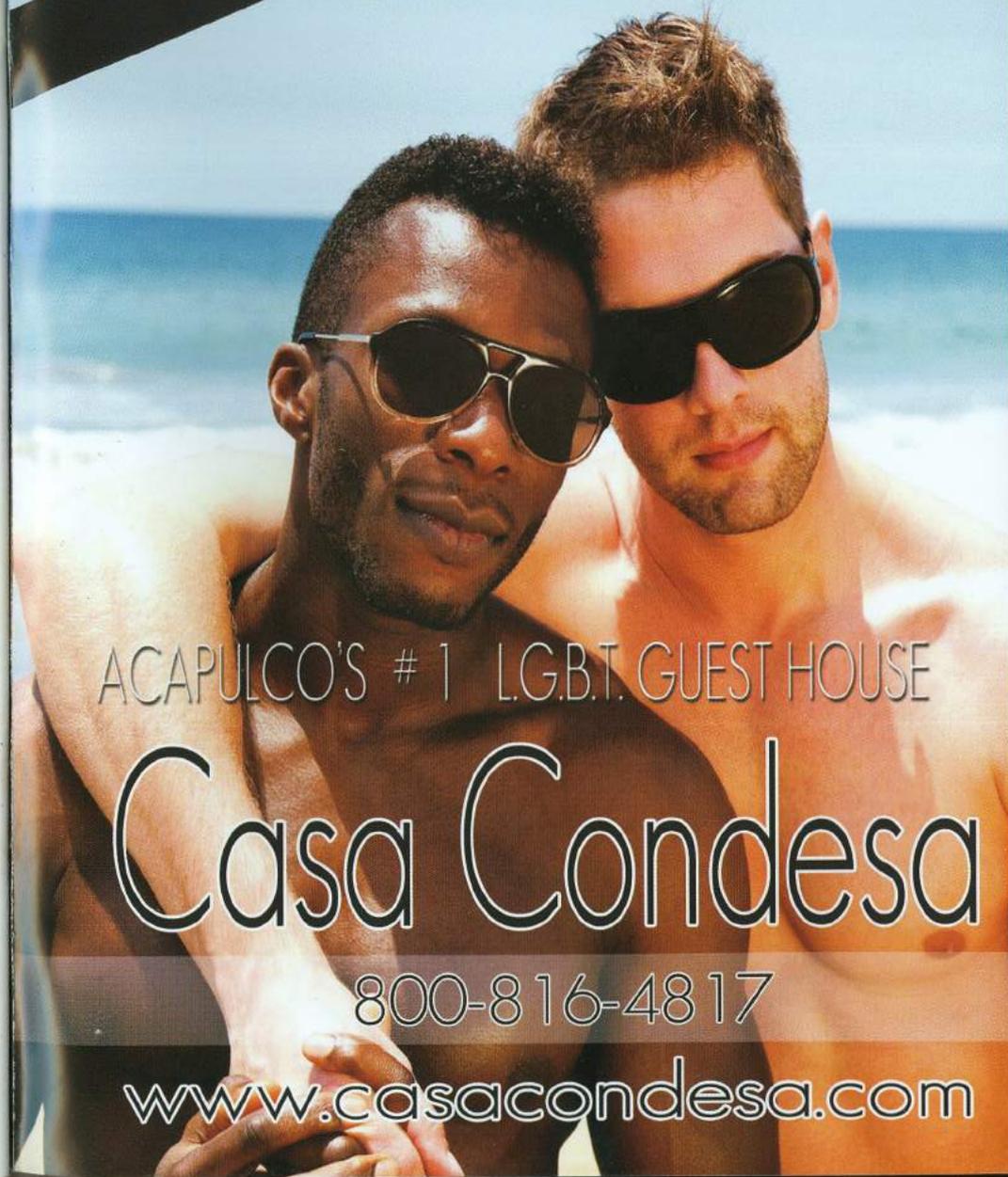
TUESDAY/THURSDAY
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