

# The Fort Worth Ally

News for our community

Volume 1 issue 3

NOVEMBER 9, 2001

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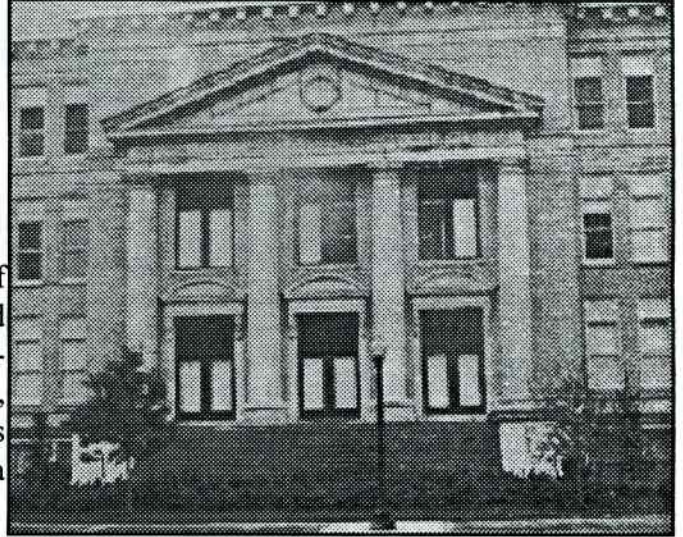
11 Classified Ads

## Jennings Area Hot Spot of Ft. Worth

By Steve Geer  
Fort Worth, Texas

With the recent opening of Parker Commons and other apartment complexes around Jennings Avenue, more and more gays and lesbians are calling the Jennings area home.

According to Christine Dunning, manager of Parker Commons, "People find it trendy to live in this area. It's close to downtown and is quickly becoming the hot-spot of Fort Worth" (See Jennings on page 3)



## School Prayer?

By Russell Langly  
Fort Worth, Texas

In 1990, a very good friend of mine who happens to be Jewish graduated as valedictorian of her class from a Dallas high school. The school administration informed her that as valedictorian she had the honor of delivering the prayer at graduation. When she voiced misgivings about this, the administration told her that it was tradition, and to turn in the text of her prayer a week before the ceremony. Always the good student, she complied and turned in her graduation prayer...a Hindu prayer paying homage to all sorts of hard-to-pronounce deities. This was not what the administration had in mind, so they broke with tradition and let her deliver the welcome instead.

(See Russell Langly on page 4)

## Artists Against AIDS This Sat.

By Steve Geer  
Fort Worth, Texas

Artists Against AIDS will be holding it's seventh annual silent auction this Saturday night at Henson McAlister located at 3308 West Seventh.

All items to be auctioned have been donated by artists and local businesses. The proceeds from the event benefit AIDS Interfaith, a local organization that helps people living with HIV or AIDS.

The auction begins at 6pm. Food and beverages will be available for the guests.



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**The Ft. Worth Ally**

410 W. Daggett Suite A  
Ft. Worth, TX 76104  
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# News

## Jennings (cont. from page 1)

-Steve Geer

Parker Commons recently opened with 192 units available. According to Dunning, over 55 units have been leased. "Quite a few gays and lesbians have leased from us", stated Dunning.

Closer to downtown, the Markeen Apartments, which are owned and operated by Millennium Management Group, have leased 8 of the 19 units available. "The Markeen Apartments were completely renovated and restored back to the way they were originally built." said a spokesman for the company. "People like the historic look and feel and they like being close to downtown."

According to Millennium they also have purchased other

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historic buildings close to Jennings Avenue and are planning to remodel these buildings into apartments. "We feel that the real estate in this area is prime for development." stated the spokesman.

According to one local couple, "We moved here because it's close to the gay businesses" Most gays and lesbians residing in the area feel that the Jennings area will soon become the centralized gay district of Fort Worth.

## Local Event Raises Needed Money For Chorus!

(Bryan Cather -staff writer)

"The Everett Event", a Sunday social to benefit the Fort Worth Men's Chorus was held for the first time last Sunday at the 651 Club in Fort Worth.

There were about 75 people in attendance and food and drinks were provided to the guests. The event is held to raise money for the Fort Worth Men's Chorus. Although the amount of money raised hasn't been released yet, indications show that the event was a significant success for the Fort Worth Men's Chorus, both socially and financially.

## Come Home to Celebration!



**Services at 9am and 11am  
Wednesday Bible Study  
at 7pm**

**Pastor Carol A. West**

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*Tarrant County Aids Interfaith Network,  
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*Silent Auction and Celebration  
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*For More Information Call (817) 870-4800*

*Artwork courtesy of Gregory Story*

# The Supreme Court got this one right. If only others would listen....

Russell Langly (editorial contributor)

This episode illustrates the difficulty and sometimes hypocrisy of the prayer in school issue. Still, those problems have not stopped our governor from tackling the problem head on. In the wake of September 11, prayer in school has suddenly become a hot campaign topic after Gov. Perry participated in a school assembly that began with a prayer by a Protestant minister. Mr. Perry was roundly criticized by civil liberties groups, and responded by saying that he sees no problem with ignoring the US Supreme Court's ban on organized school prayer. Funny how the Republicans are selective about when to listen to the Supreme Court.

The GOP is ever dependable in using national tragedy to push their hotbutton issues, and so it is with prayer in school. As people of all persuasions are reaching to their faiths to make sense of the September 11 attacks, the bombing in Afghanistan, and the continuing anthrax scare, Gov. Perry has vowed to make prayer in school a campaign issue. The "Rev." Jerry Falwell has praised Perry's decision to press this issue, saying that it is good politics after the terrorist attacks.

Well, I too support prayer in school, and have good news for Gov. Perry. This news is perhaps one of the best kept secrets in America. Here it is: The Supreme Court has not taken prayer out of schools. As hard as it is to believe, there is prayer going on in public schools right now all across this great country. Children of every faith gather to sing, pray, and worship on public school campuses everyday. Ever heard of 'See you at the Pole?' The Fellowship of Christian Athletes? Young Life? These are just a few of the student religious groups that meet regularly in America's public schools.

The Supreme Court has said that students have the absolute right to organize voluntary, religious groups and to meet on public school campuses to pray. Schools must provide access to their facilities on an equal opportunity basis to different groups, and the groups must not disrupt classes. So what is the problem?

Some religious leaders and politicians continue to be furious because the Supreme Court has outlawed compulsory, organized prayer orchestrated by school officials.

These folks seem to think that it would be great if principals and teachers could force students to pray the same prayer to the same god at the same time.

The fact remains that while most Americans are religious, they are divided over how to pray and to whom to pray. Most Protestant denominations would not recognize a Catholic prayer to the Virgin Mary. In fact, some Protestants regard Catholics, Mormons, and anyone else who isn't Baptist or Methodist as belonging to some sort of cult. And the differences within the Christian faith do not even begin to address the differences between Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, and others.

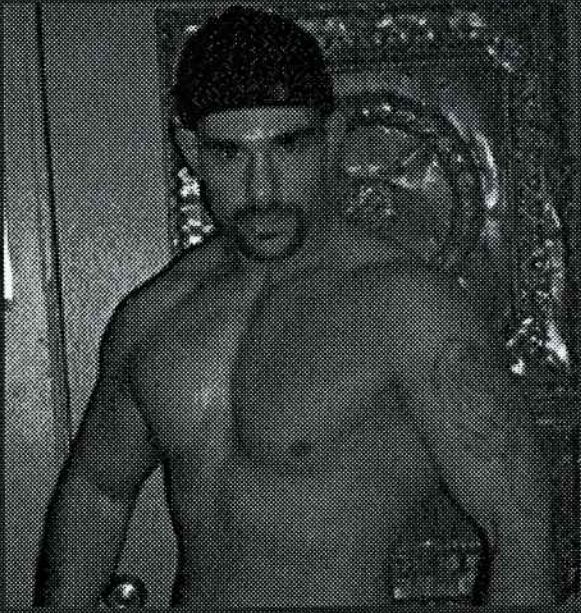
Imagine the reaction of Jerry Falwell, Rick Perry and Co. if a principal or teacher forced their students to violate their Christian ideals and engage in a prayer to Allah or Buddha. Talk about a high-tech lynching. Yet, in 1990 school administrators in Dallas attempted to make my Jewish friend violate her principals in just the same way, and relented only after she made it clear that she would pray in a way that

suit her conscience, not theirs.

And here is the hypocrisy of the whole issue: advocates for prayer in schools want children to pray, but only in a way that suits their agenda. As Gov. Perry and other conservatives try to make political hay from the prayer in school non-issue, remember to point out to them that children in schools are already praying every day. Students are doing it voluntarily, openly and with people of like mind.

The Supreme Court has given them that right. Students are not being subjected to someone else's religion—one that quite possibly violates the beliefs their families and churches are trying to teach them—taught in mandatory sessions. The Supreme Court got this one right. If only the Republicans would listen.

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# Ignorance is Bliss, or is it?

*John McDaniel (editorial contributor)*  
Fort Worth, TX

**H**IV is a part of life. It affects each and every one of us, on a daily basis. Some of the best people I know are positive; one of which is my other half. To date I have been both fortunate and safe and have not contracted HIV. However, HIV is non-discriminatory. It does not matter if you are wealthy or poor, educated or uneducated, or even gay or straight. You can't diagnose HIV by looking at someone, and unfortunately, a lot of people aren't honest when asked directly if they are HIV positive or not.

So, where does that leave those of you that are still looking for that love of a lifetime? It leaves you

with the choice to either be celibate for the rest of your life or practice safer sex. Safer sex is all about education.

Safer sex means evaluating your sexual partners, asking questions, and most importantly using protection. For me, I have always treated each sexual partner as being positive, that way I never had to worry the next morning. I always woke up knowing I had taken all the precautions necessary.

People with HIV are people as well. They have feelings, they have family, they have pride, and today they also have a life expectancy greater than someone diagnosed with heart disease. Treating each person you meet as if they are HIV positive will also ensure that you don't offend someone.

Even to me this almost sounds like more political correctness, but in truth it is simply human goodness.

As we progress and research this disease, we are constantly reminded how devastating the effects are. A large amount of money was just appropriated by the current leaders for the ADAP program. This shows the continued support of government to either find a cure or help defray the costs of treatment. Even though the majority of us can't afford this kind of outreach, we can afford to be a more understanding and supportive public.

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## Arts Ally

We were all affected in one way or another by the events of September 11, and indeed our whole nation has had to deal with the trauma of the attack and its aftermath. One of the ways our nation expressed its emotion during that time was through song. I think I will never forget seeing - and hearing - on nationwide television our congress, laying aside petty partisan differences, standing shoulder to shoulder and singing "God Bless America". One of the most endearing aspects of "the arts" is that it allows the artist - and those who partake of their work - to get in touch with and express our deepest, most heartfelt emotions, to express them in a manner that is wholesome, satisfying, and often cathartic.

In times of crisis we turn to the arts community to give voice to our emotions, also to entertain us - to help us forget the crises in our lives, at least for a brief time. Yet almost daily I hear that art groups throughout Fort Worth are struggling.

## Bond, Jane Bond!

-Christopher Hightower  
(staff writer)

Move over James there is a new Bond in town. Jane Bond. Jane is Mabel Maney's new infamous womanizing secret agent. Maney is the creator of the pulp fiction knock-offs Nancy Clue and the Hardly Boys. This time she pulls out all the stops with one of Her Majesty's Secret Service most popular spies, James Bond. Jane is James' martini drinking lesbian twin sister.

In Kiss the Girls and Make Them Spy, 007 finds himself in a sanitarium. While in the asylum, Bond hooks up with a nurse and escapes to go skiing in Switzerland. In the meantime, the Office of Double Dealing recruits his sister, Jane, to fill in for the irresponsible agent. Jane goes from hapless bookstore employee to secret agent to foil the Sons of Britain (S.O.B.s), a nefarious fraternity plotting to bring the Duke and Duchess of Windsor back to power.

Attendance is down, as is financial support. Some organizations are large enough to withstand these lean times, but for others the situation is approaching critical mass. For every arts organization that has to shut it's doors and cease operations, a part of our community's ability to express itself dies, as well. But by supporting these organizations, either monetarily or by attending their events, we are giving ourselves another voice, the ability to pour forth from our hearts our deepest emotions, our feelings, our very souls.

By all means, give to the disaster relief in support of those stricken in our national tragedy. But, also, give a bit to help sustain your favorite arts organization. They need your help as well, and in the long run, we all benefit

### ARTS ACTIVITIES

"A Texas Romance" opens on Thursday, November 8 at the Main Street Theater in Downtown Mansfield. Opening night tickets are \$5.00, and on Thanksgiving night you can buy one adult ticket and get the second adult ticket free. The show closes November 24, showtimes are at 8:10 PM on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, November 8 - 24.

Maney bears a great responsibility of matching the wit and intrigue in Ian Fleming's legendary spy novels, and she does so exceedingly well. This is a fun book that will undoubtedly keep you on your toes while Jane keeps her brother's reputation intact...both in and out of the bedroom.

The suspense and humor of this book is certain to keep you up late at night. Maney pays great attention to the details of the cinematic and fictional life of James Bond, Fleming's style and her own feminism.

If you like the intrigue, romance, action and adventure of the classic James Bond tales, you will surely enjoy this well-constructed parody about the other undocumented half of his life that has been hidden in the closet for so many years. I loved this book and eagerly await the next installment of the Jane Bond series.

## ASK SHANIQUE

Who needs Cleo? Shanique answers reader mail.

My wife and I are both considered attractive. We've been to the 651 club in Arlington several times now and have been approached sexually several times. However, what we're looking for is a relationship with a passable T/S or T/V, or perhaps even just to add another male into our relationship, possibly long term even. There are several things my wife would like to see, and me accommodate her, hmmmmmm. We're also concerned with the safe sex issue and neither one of us desires to catch any type of communicable disease. So tell me, where do we find such a person(s), and even more how do we approach someone with our hidden desires. We do have several photos we could send if you have any ideas.

*Adventurous in Arlington.*

### Dear Adventurous:

Take heart in knowing you two are not the only freaks out there! Just the only ones to offer to send in pictures of their freakiness. Finding a gay man who is interested in accommodating your wife's wishes shouldn't be hard. Finding one who wants to perform a show long term for your wife's pleasure may be more difficult. And what if you discover that maybe you're not so straight after all? How will your marriage deal with that? Diseases are not the only thing you need to worry about. After discussing ALL of these issues, if you still want to go through with your experiment, I suggest placing a personal ad. Leave all the men at the bars for the rest of the queens who know they are gay.

*If you have questions for Shanique, send them to Ask Shanique, 410 W. Daggett Suite A., Ft. Worth, TX 76104*

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# Reviews

All reviews are rated on a 1-4 Q-scale. Todd Camp is the artistic director for Q Cinema, Fort Worth's Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. For more information, visit [www.qcinema.org](http://www.qcinema.org).



## Criminal Lovers

(Les Amants Criminels)

(2000, R)

QQQ1/2

Francois Ozon ("Under the Sand" and "Water Falls on Burning Rocks") crafts an intoxicating modern fairy tale about a pair of young lovers (Natacha Regnier and Jeremie Renier) who commit a gruesome murder and end up paying a powerful price while disposing of the body. After ditching the corpse in a remote wooded area, they cross paths with a hunter who has his own plans for this wicked duo. Ozon manages to evoke horror, humor and unexpected tenderness in this brutal yet beautiful French import. In French with English subtitles.



## Blow Dry!

(2001, R)

QQ1/2

As mildly amusing as Craig Ferguson's "The Big Tease" was, I really wasn't looking forward to another hairstyling spoof, so I didn't bother with this coif comedy when it came out in theaters. Too bad. In spite of being savaged by most critics, this funny, and surprisingly touching little film from "Full Monty" writer Simon Beaufoy follows an estranged family's reluctant alliance in order to win an international style-off. The terrific ensemble cast includes Alan Rickman, Josh Harnett, Rachael Leigh Cook, Natasha Richardson and Rachel Griffiths. The DVD includes a behind-the-scenes featurette.

## Holiday Heart

(2000, R)

QQ

Big-screen tough-guy Ving Rhames gets in touch with his feminine side as a church-loving drag queen named Holiday Heart in this Showtime original movie. After rescuing recovering addict Alfre Woodard from her abusive boyfriend, Holiday takes her in along with her young daughter and quickly (perhaps a little too quickly) adopts them as his, er, her own family. When mom gets drawn back into the world of drugs, Holiday stoically sacrifices her own dreams to play surrogate mom. Rhames does a fine job of breaking down his macho persona, but this story is so afterschool-special gooey that rarely rings true.



## Woody's

### Top 5 Video Rentals:

1. The House of Morecock
2. I'm the One That I Want
3. No One Sleeps
4. Queer As Folk
5. ...And Then Came Summer

# Health

## Health Perspectives

Elizabeth McCarthy (staff writer)

In the world we live in today, many of us most likely know someone who has AIDS, or is infected with HIV (the virus that causes AIDS). Human Immunodeficiency Virus attacks and destroys the immune system by attaching itself to certain cells, called T-Cells or CD4+ cells. These cells help the immune system battle infections and keep us healthy. It's kind of like seeing the immune system as an army of white blood cells. A vast majority of the cells are like the infantry.

They're on standby mode, hanging out at camp, polishing their sword, sucking down a beer whatever. A much smaller section of cells are the scouts of the army (these are the T-Cells). Their job is to roam around the body and look for something that doesn't belong there, a 'foreign invader' or infection if you will. They then write out a message to send back to camp, pretty much saying 'throw down the beer, grab the sword, let's GO!' Infantry then surrounds the infection, identifies what it is and produces a substance called antibody, which is genetically geared to that infection only. This is the artillery, and it's sole function is to find all traces of the infection 'foreign invader' and blow it out of the water (so to speak).

HIV, as a virus, needs a host to live on and reproduce through, and it uses the T-Cell for that purpose. It converts the scouts message sending ability into a factory to produce more virus, eventually killing the cell, spreading through the body to find new scout cells, and beginning the process again (and again and again until all the T-Cells are dead). After a while, some little piddly infection enters, one that our body would normally jacksnap and throw to the curb. But now, who is there now to send a message back to camp? This is how virus works in the body, how the immune system becomes impaired and why it may take years for the full process to happen.

As the body's immune system becomes less and less able to defend against illness, opportunistic infections begin to appear. (OI's are simply different maladies that take advantage of a weakened immune system, to get a toe hold in the body and spread.) OI's, however, rarely, rarely occur in people with normal, healthy immune systems.

In 1981, when doctors first began to see these rare infections showing up in what appeared to be otherwise healthy men, they were, to say the least, a bit stumped. The one thing that doctors did begin to notice was that these men had badly damaged immune systems – and coined the term AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome) to describe this damage. Syndrome is simply a medical term used to designate a group of signs or symptoms that stem from one cause. Later, the cause of the damage to the immune system was identified as a virus and HIV was the name used to describe it and what it does.

We all know this information in some fashion or form, and have known it for some time. The epidemic is in its 20th year, and to date has killed millions of people all over the world. That is why it is incomprehensible to me that there are still people out there who insist HIV is harmless and doesn't cause AIDS. (NO LIE FOLKS!)

I was on the campus of one of our institutions of higher learning, doing an education presentation, and had a kid (sorry young adult), tell me 'But isn't it true....., they say.....' (Just who are they?) Well, to say the least, I was pretty floored. I had read some about these 'AIDS dissidents' before, how they purported there is not a causal link between HIV and AIDS theory. I also read their claims that people get AIDS without being HIV+, that HIV in and of itself is pretty harmless, that you can't trust the AIDS test 'cause a gazillion things can

cause a false result, that yada, yada, yada. (Oh please, get a life.)

I pretty much blew them off as clueless at the time, but apparently some are not as discerning. Bottom line, this is a very small group of people (though it does include some 'scientists' – go figure) who have had their 'scientific claims' disproved again and again. Many of their so-called 'main experts' have never treated a single patient with HIV or AIDS!

Doctors and scientists who do treat and study AIDS have established that there is no doubt that HIV causes AIDS. As for the testing, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have stated that the testing procedures now being utilized are better than 99% accurate. These tests measure the body's response to the presence of HIV.

Basically, the tests look to see if the artillery is there – no artillery, no infection and vice versa. The only way to know if infection is present is to test, and while someone who is HIV+ may never develop AIDS, do understand that if someone has AIDS, they didn't just pull it out of the pumpkin patch – it started with HIV infection.

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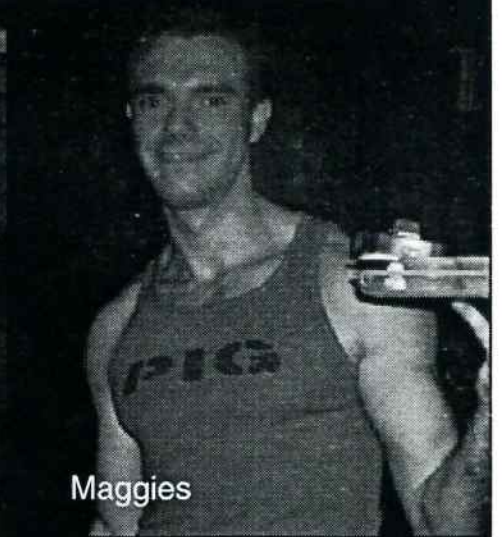
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The Corral



Maggies



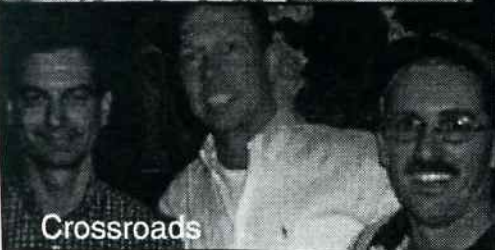
Maggies



Maggies



651 Arl.



Crossroads



Maggies

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**Crossroads Lounge**  
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**Magnolia Station**  
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# Been Tested?

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## Announcements!

**-The Condom Cowboys** is a team outreach to area gay clubs and parties with safer-sex kits and information. They believe sex is good and each individual has the right to express themselves sexually. Condom Cowboys try to ensure those activities are safe. To become a Condom Cowboy or for information about getting them to come to your next part call 817-335-1994 ext 253

**-Aids Interfaith** is a volunteer-centered organization that is committed to mobilizing people of faith to demonstrate God's love through active compassion to people affected by AIDS. Contact Christian Piatt at 817-870-4800 ext 31

**-College-Aged Gay Men's Group**  
The college-age gay men's social support and skills building group meets Friday nights from 7-9pm. For more information call DeeJay or Memie at 817-332-7722.

**-Humanities for HIV+ Individuals**  
Each Tuesday night the Health Education Learning Project sponsors a humanities-based forum incorporation of the arts, music, philosophy, history and logic. This is a fun and interactive group for people wanting to begin celebrating life once again! For more information call Gretchen at 817-332-7722.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

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**Want to get paid for going out to the bars?** The Health Education Learning Project is currently seeking four outgoing individuals to conduct HIV prevention outreach in local gay bars. \$10 per hour. Evening and weekend. For more information Call DeeJay at 817-332-7722

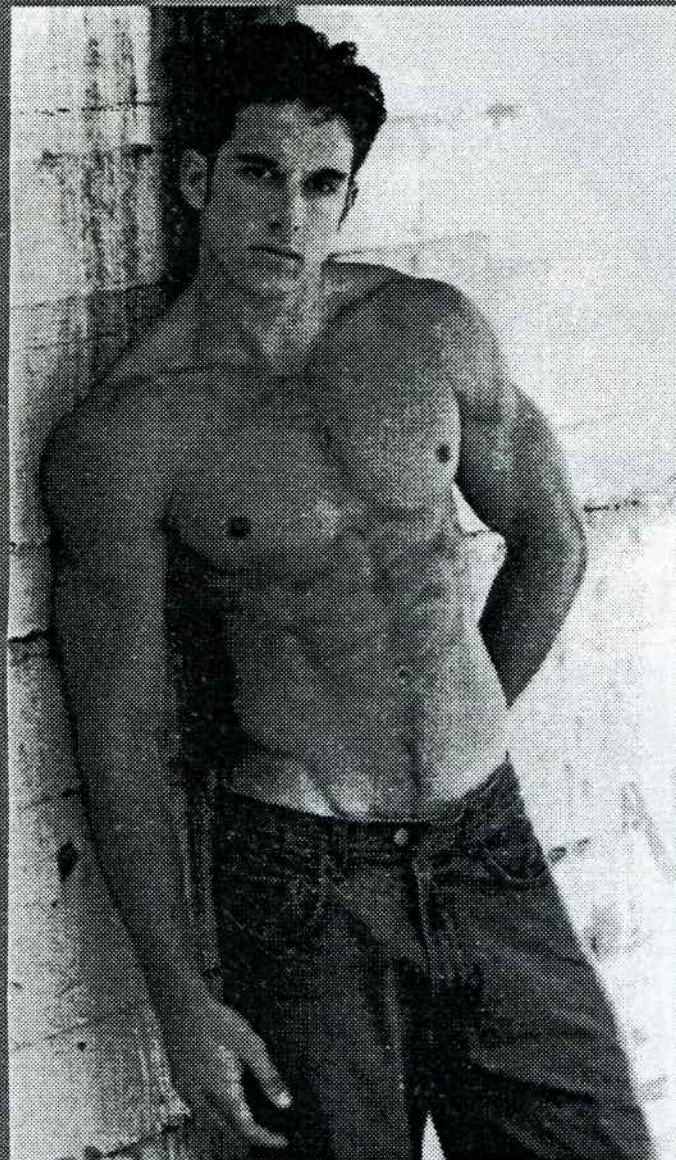
**The Health Education Learning Project** is currently hiring for a full time HIV prevention outreach specialist. Evening availability and transportation required. BSW or other degree preferred. For more information call DeeJay at 817-332-7722

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