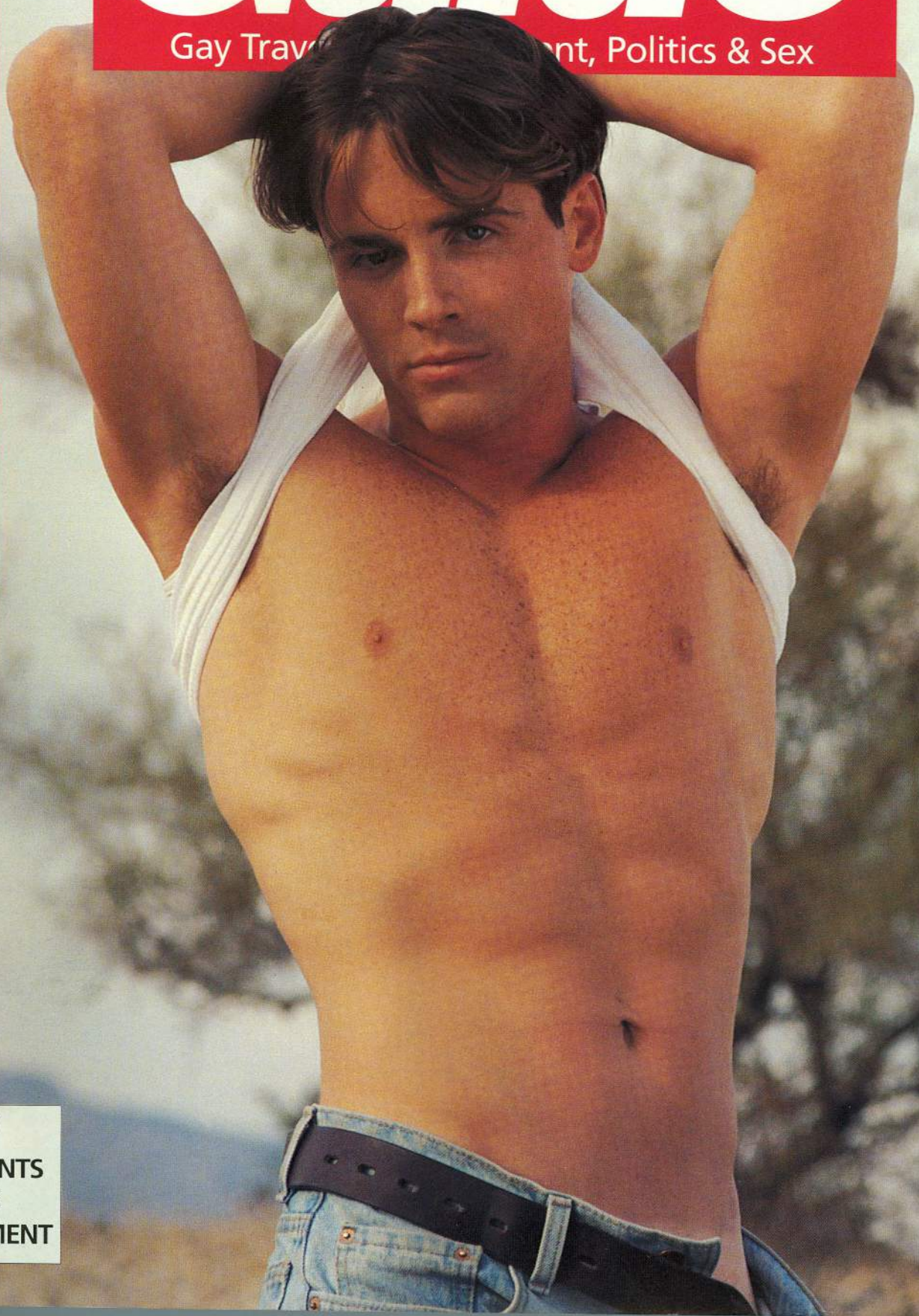


Provincetown • Houston • Dallas • San Antonio • Austin
Denver • plus Today's Reefer Madness and Porn Chat

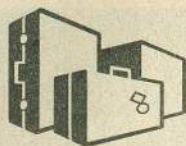
The Guide

Gay Travel, Entertainment, Politics & Sex



MAY 1997

COMPLIMENTS
OF THIS
ESTABLISHMENT



Texas

Where everything is bigger

Big associates well with Texas, be it giant margaritas, swash-buckling alligator boots, 10 gallon cowboy hats, huge entertainment venues, or simply the size of the Lone Star State itself. The quantum mass of

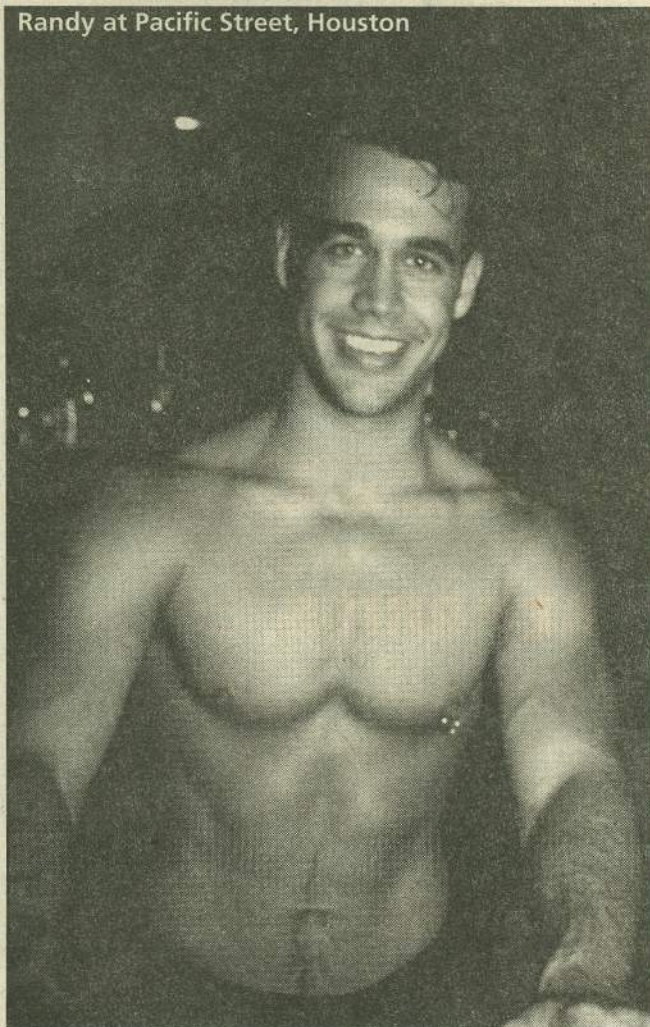
gays here is no mean statistic either. Texas pockets three of the 10 largest cities in the union (Houston, Dallas, and San Antonio). And the relation between sprawling urban areas and spawning

gay communities needs little corroboration.

Houston

Houston supports a large, variegated

Randy at Pacific Street, Houston



At EJ's, Houston

gay community concentrated in the Montrose area of the megalopolis.

Bars and clubs

Heaven (810 Pacific) draws the 18-plus ilk, whereas **JR's** (808 Pacific) boasts the best looking strippers. **Montrose Mining Company** (805 Pacific) across the street is for those into leather.

It's allegedly a Levi/leather club, but **Pacific Street** (710 Pacific Street) has an attraction in store for everyone, every night— in addition to caged strippers! Drinks are the cheapest around: \$1 well drinks and \$1.75 for domestic bottled beer is standard. The laser show at Pacific can be best described as groovy.

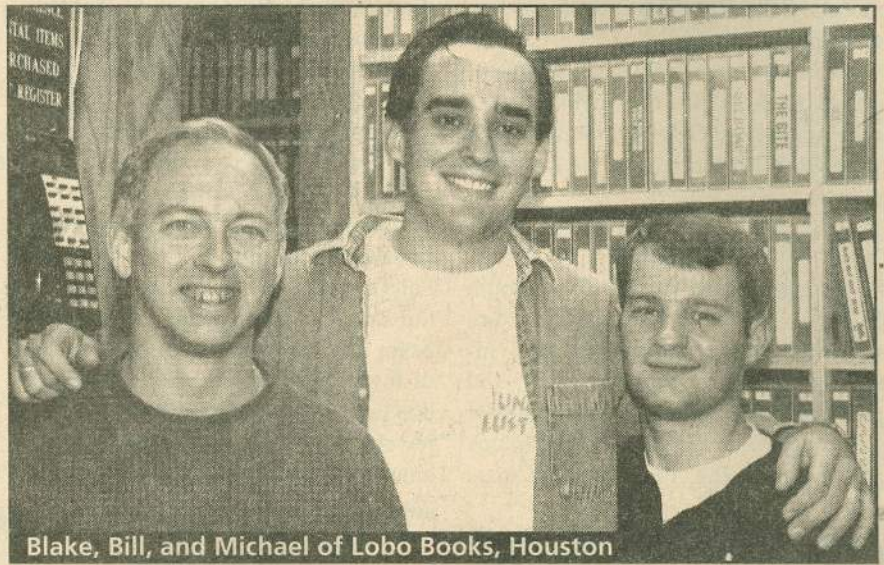
There's nothing fancy about **EJ's** (2715 Ralph Street at Westheimer), but the place fills up with almost every pretty face in town, lending it a local endorsement. The twice-weekly strip shows, the drink specials slot machines, pool, outdoor patio, friendly bartenders, many trannies, and plenty of free parking explain the bar's continued popularity.

Step in at **Mary's** (1022 Westheimer), a seemingly cozy watering hole from the outside, and you'll discover a surprising large bar. Now in its 27th year, it is the oldest gay bar in Houston and Home to Sundance Cattle Company, Lancers MC (Houston), Wolfpack, and Texas Riders. Open 7am through 2am, happy hour is from 7am-9pm Monday through Friday with varying daily specials.

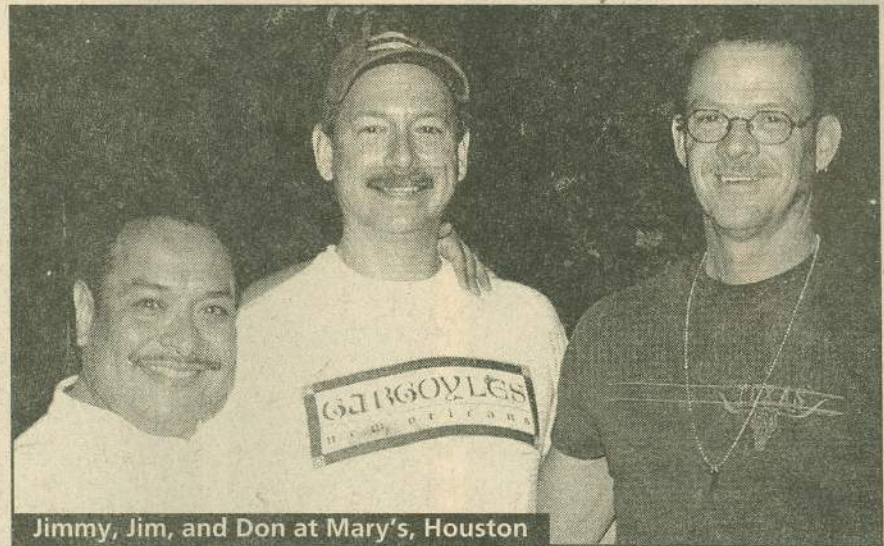
Chuck Drake's **The Ripcord** (715 Fairview) is dark and mysterious and caters to the leather, Levi and uniform aficionados. A Sunday beer bust and after hours on weekends are regular treats. A leather shop on premises open til 2am is an added convenience. Impending attractions at Ripcord include: "Bare As You Dare Night" on Friday, May 23rd and "Crawfish Boil" on Monday, May 26th.

Three bars and a patio contribute to the sexiness at **Venture-N** (2923 Main Street), a leather, Levi cruise spot that employs personable bartenders. Drink specials from noon through 7pm make for undiluted joy.

Brazos River Bottom (2400 Brazos) has a large dance floor wherein



Blake, Bill, and Michael of Lobo Books, Houston



Jimmy, Jim, and Don at Mary's, Houston



The staff at Midtown Spa, Houston

TEXAS

most of its country western patrons two step and square dance.

Around for 14 years and a temple of cruise, **Rich's** (2401 San Jacinto) is decidedly gay on Saturday nights, with varying queer/straight ratios on other nights.

Shopping

At large **Lobo Books** (3939 South Montrose) more than just books are vended. Shoppers can also rent gay videos, get the latest greeting cards, and purchase gay accessories, back issues of gay mags, and autographs of famous gay personae. The cruise potential soars

through the high ceilings on Saturdays.

Crossroads Market and Bookstore (1111 Westheimer) sells hard-to-find journals, a variety of gay (and other) books, and much queer paraphernalia. A coffee-shop with street side tables makes for good cruising.

Leather apparel may be tailored at **Leather by Boots** (711 Fairview, 715 Fairview, 807 Fairview) or bought off the racks. Custom made leather wear has a quick turnaround, a boon to out-of-town visitors. Lubes, condoms, bondage wear and equipment, piercing jewelry, motorcycle apparel, magazines, and cards are also vended. The

807 Fairview store is called **Leather Forever**.

Basic Brother's (1232 Westheimer) a men's clothing store, carries the largest selection of swim wear in Houston, athletic sportswear, club wear, and a wide range of underwear.

Getting physical

Contained within **Club Houston** (2205 Fannin) is a small but functional gym. But it is the alluring outdoor pool, Jacuzzi, sun deck, and summer cook-outs that make this a prime social retreat. The steam room, sauna, and private cabins get chock-a-block around



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Houston

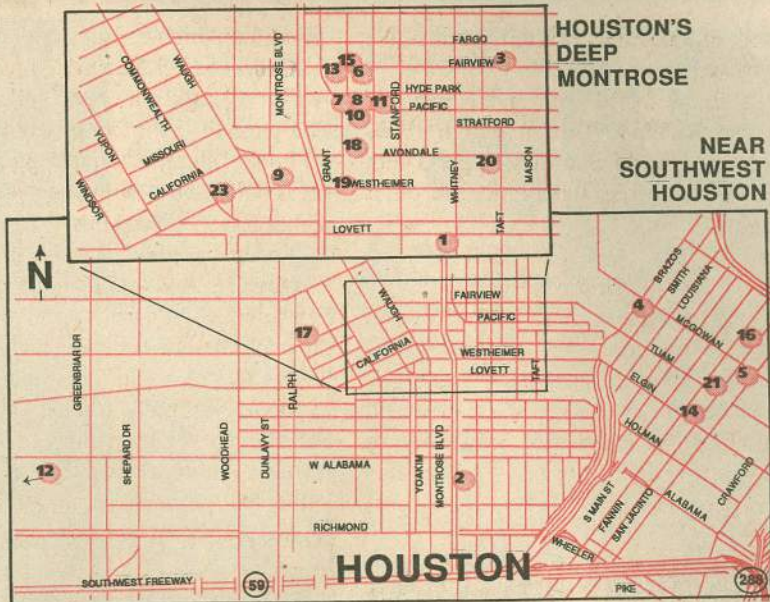
CLUBS & RESTAURANTS

- 18) **Baba Yega**
2607 Grant
(713) 522-0042
- 3) **Barnaby's Cafe**
604 Fairview
(713) 522-0106
- 4) **Brazos River Bottom**
2400 Brazos
(713) 528-9192
- 17) **EJ's**
2517 Ralph
(713) 527-9071
- 7) **Heaven**
Pacific at Grant
(713) 521-9123
- 12) **House of Pies**
3112 Kirby Dr
(713) 528-3816
- 8) **JR's**
808 Pacific
(713) 521-2519
- 9) **Mary's**
1022 Westheimer
(713) 527-9669
- 10) **Montrose Mining Co.**
805 Pacific
(713) 529-7488

- 11) **Pacific Street**
710 Pacific
(713) 523-0213
- 5) **Rich's**
2401 San Jacinto
(713) 759-9606
- 13) **Ripcord**
715 Fairview
(713) 521-2792
- 19) **Ruggles**
903 Westheimer
(713) 524-3839
- 21) **Venture N**
2923 Main
(713) 522-0000

ACCOMMODATIONS

- 1) **Lovett Inn**
501 Lovett
(800) 779-5224
- 20) **Montrose Inn**
408 Avondale
(800) 357-1228



OTHER

- 23) **Basic Brothers**
1232 Westheimer
(713) 522-1626
- 15) **Leather by Boots**
715 Fairview and
(713) 526-2668
- 2) **Lobo**
3939 S. Montrose Blvd
(713) 522-5156
- 13) **Club Houston**
2205 Fannin
(713) 659-4998
- 6) **Leather Forever**
711 Fairview
(713) 526-6940
- 14) **Midtowne Spa**
3100 Fannin
(713) 522-2379


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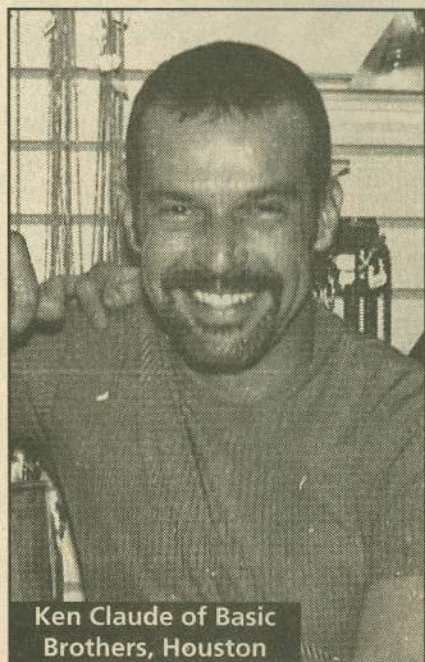
SUNDANCE
CATTLE COMPANY
HOUSTON, TEXAS

midnight during the week and all throughout the weekend. Extensive remodeling at Club Houston is slated.

Midtowne Spa (3100 Fannin) offers a cavernous steam room, Olympic size pool, hot tub, revitalized private outdoor garden patio, myriad rooms (including special fantasy/theme units), a private party space, a maze, a gym that includes a Nautilus Time Machine, and a common lounge and TV areas. The aroma therapy/massage machine is a unique treat. Male dancers are slated to entertain during the week as of 9pm.

Lodgings

The Lovett Inn (501 Lovett, 800-779-5224) drawing a mixed clientele, is a beautifully restored mansion located



Ken Claude of Basic Brothers, Houston

minutes from most of the night life. A delightful library overlooks the outdoor Jacuzzi, pool, and small garden area. Free continental breakfast comes with the bed. All rooms have their own bath, phone, and cable TV.

Montrose Inn (408 Avondale, 800-357-1228) is even deeper into the Montrose area's bars and clubs. This is a no frills place with a self-serve continental breakfast. Each room has a phone, TV, and attached bath.

San Antonio

San Antonio's Riverwalk area—with its boat taxis and scenic promenades—encourages

romance, and partying in that area is best at **The Bonham Exchange** (411 Bonham), a large multi-leveled club in a sterling building, open daily except Sundays. Male and female dancers set an equal opportunity mood. A good place to bring your straight brother,

queer cousin, dyke friend, and the hermaphrodite next-door.

The Saint (1430 North Main) remains a favorite among locals and those from afar. This venue contains a serious dance floor usually chocker on Saturdays through 4am. Female imperson-



Harry, Shirley, Tony, Bobbi, and Marcus at Leather by Boots, Houston

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 •DALLAS•
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 713 526-6940

ators account for a lot of the devilish revelry at The Saint, and drag shows are common.

There's nary a cover at **Silver Dollar** (1418 North Main), a country/western bar with a large patio. Daily drink specials and gyrating strippers draw gay men of all leanings.

Pegasus (1402 North Main), a cruise bar, gets going after 9pm. Strip entertainment and the small beach area and pool in the bar's rear render it especially well-thronged in summer.

Sanctuary (1818 North Main) is a new avatar of a hangout that has had many rebirths. There's plenty of free parking available. Someday the place will get *my* popular.

There's much new revelry south of San Antonio College. At **Woody's** (826 San Pedro) HiNRG music videos, pool tables and dart machines make for frolic. **Rebar** perched right above it, is a dimly lit leather/Levi/cruise bar with hot underground music. **Snuffy's Saloon**, right next door, is a country western bar featuring five bar stations and the largest country western dance floor in San Antonio. Pool and dart tournaments and blackjack tables add to the entertainment. The full service patio bar featuring cookouts on weekends is a plus. Woody's is open daily as of 2pm; Rebar's hours are Tuesday through Sunday as of 9pm; Snuffy's comes alive Tuesday through Sunday as of 4pm. Extended hours on weekends is accounting for their increasing success.

Eagle Mountain Saloon (1902 McCullough), a country and western bar with impressive hand-crafted wood-



Ben, Don, Don, Joe, and Ken at Ripcord, Houston



Michael, Lane, Steven, and Row of Venture-N, Houston

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work interior, draws men and many women.

Retail

Blue Moon (2911 North St. Mary's) vends upscale party wear and the tasteful exterior of the store only belies the unique clothing and accessories that are available inside.

Eateries

Candle Light Coffeehouse (3011 North St. Mary's), located minutes by foot from Blue Moon, offers "a cup of kindness" besides the cultured cruising that is hallmark of most queer coffee places. The manicured outdoor patio is heaven, especially during the summer months. **North Saint Mary's Brewing Co. Pub and Deli** (2734 North St. Mary's) is gay friendly and good for lunch—check out their wide variety of beers.

Getting physical

Alternative Clubs Inc. (827 Elmira) is a man's social featuring private rooms, a heated pool plus hot tub, several TV rooms, a basic gym, and community areas for multiple pleasures. Beds and overnight facilities are available, and a secure parking lot ensures



At Bonham Exchange, San Antonio

peace of mind whilst the body is at work or play.

Lodgings

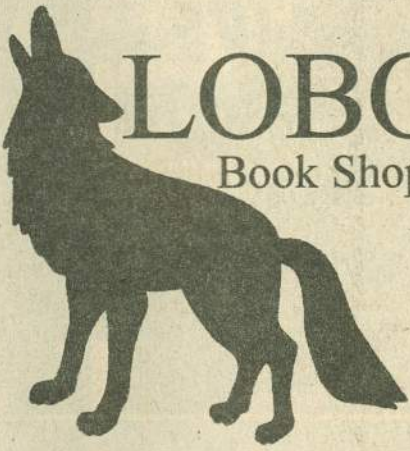
Inn on Broadway/The Painted Lady Guest House (620 Broadway, 210-220-1092), located downtown, offers luxurious, elegant suites and guest rooms. Free-off street parking is available at this lesbian-owned enterprise.

The gay friendly, **Arborhouse Hotel** (339 South Presa Street, 210-472-2005) is actually four historic houses

converted to a luxurious eleven suite hotel. Each house has three suites with private baths, balconies and all the conveniences one might need. The central location, one block from San Antonio's famed River Walk, is a plus.

Dallas

The country's eighth largest city shines with an urban patina largely attributable to a thriving oil industry. The sheen also reflects well in its organized



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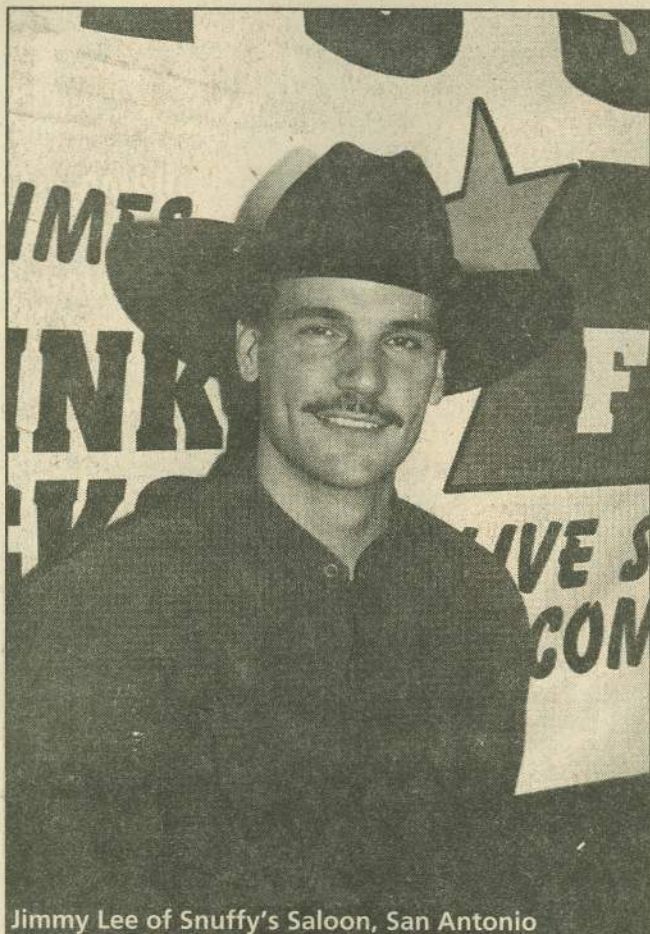
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Jimmy Lee of Snuffy's Saloon, San Antonio



Miss Texas USA Erica Andrews (left) and Lance at The Saint, San Antonio



At Kolors, Dallas

gay life concentrated mainly in the Oak Lawn area. Bars and clubs catering to varied gay kinks, apparel and accessory stores, restaurants and more, permeate the Boyztown.

Bars and clubs

Under the aegis of Caven Enterprises, the giant **Village Station** (3911 Cedar Springs), **Throckmorton Mining Company** (3014 Throckmorton), **JR's** (3923 Cedar Springs), and **Sue Ellen's** (3903 Cedar Springs) collectively draw the bulk of visitors— both men and women— to the area.

At **Moby Dick** (4011 Cedar Springs), the two-tiered video bar with a tropical thrust, liquor flows, and many young hearts throb to ongoing cruisy excitement. The beyond-gorgeous bar staff only add to the excitement. "Bar-tenders in Briefs" on Mondays, show tunes on Tuesdays, and comedy specials on Wednesdays, heighten the magic which carries through to a busy weekend.

Open at 7am on weekdays, The

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THE HOTTEST IN MUSIC VIDEOS
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Brick (4117 Maple Avenue) offers dance, boys in showers, more intense cruising, and is suffused with a darkness that only incites passion. DJs Rick Harrington and Troy Sands spin super music on weekends at this bar with a Levi/leather thrust (boasting a leather shop, as well).

Many rough and ready street types seek pleasures at **Numbers** (4024 Cedar Springs), **Anchor Inn** (4024 Cedar Springs), and **Big Daddy's** (4024 Cedar Springs) on a strip that regales with Vegas-style entertainment, pool 'n' darts, and a watering hole ambiance.

The Zone (4020 Maple Avenue) is friendly, with a neighborhood, south-of-the border feel. The nightly boy-next-door strippers are a-plenty on Thursdays through Sundays. A steady day-time clientele throughout the week has the cash register making sweet sounds.

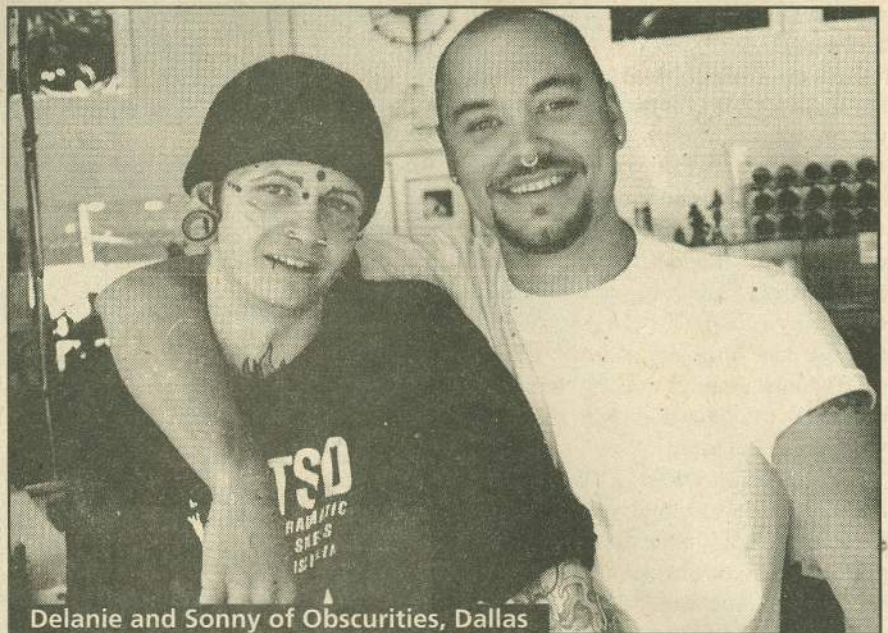
Located in a strip mall, **Kolors** (2525 Wycliff # 120), opens daily at noon but the evening begins when the dancers strut as of 5pm. They claim to have the longest happy hour in Dallas (from noon through 10pm), and their large dance floor gets busy on weekends. Strip contests held every Monday are an added attraction.

Dallas Eagle (2515 Inwood #107) is a hard-core Levi and leather hangout busy after 11pm. The dark, dark main bar leads on to a back bar with a pool table. A balcony overlooking the main bar heightens cruise potential. Bears, big men and their admirers feel much at home here. A leather shop on premises is open daily.

Shopping

You won't be unremarkable after piercing, branding, scarring, or tattooing at **Obscurities** (4000-B Cedar Springs). Indulge in silver jewelry, candles, and incense in the **Boomerang** area of the same store to assuage spirits— and *corpus*— after an expert session at Obscurities, or pop in at **That Special Blend** (4001 Cedar Springs) across the street, for a cuppa chamomile or espresso.

Crossroads Market (3930 Cedar Springs) touts literary treats and gay knickknacks, the latter also available at



Delanie and Sonny of Obscurities, Dallas



Jan and Gaylan at The Brick, Dallas



Matt and Mark of the Dallas Eagle

several other of the queer stores in the vicinity.

Boots Adams's' **Leather By Boots** (2525 Wycliff # 124) is located in the same strip mall as Kolors. Creative leather accouterments, bespoke and ready-made, plus some hardware is vended. An offshoot of several other such stores in Houston, this outlet, too, is not shy on quality.

Putting up

Inn on Fairmount (3701 Fairmount at Maple Avenue, (214) 522-2800) offers unparalleled proximity to much of Dallas' gay night life. Friendliness pervades the inn, offering rooms with en suite baths. Each of the rooms has a distinct flair. A continental breakfast and evening wine and cheese are part of the pampering.

Getting physical

The Club Dallas (2616 Swiss) is a physical fitness center with a regular gym and trainer on premises, along with all the other amenities that vouchsafe



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physical joys. Weekly specials pull in pretty pleasure-seekers, and the Saturday and Sunday barbecues by the outdoor pool and sun deck make for much frolic during summer. Two new VIP rooms are available more exclusive liaisons.

Midtowne Spa (2509 Pacific) offers innumerable rooms and secret caches throughout the facility which include a gym featuring the "Nautilus Time Machine," a two-tiered hot tub, and fantasy/theme rooms. The venue is topped by a superb rooftop view of downtown Dallas. Their Mardi Gras showroom features strip shows at 9pm, daily.

Austin

Thanks to the University of Texas, the atmosphere in this capital city is cultural, liberal, and youthfully vibrant to boot. The temperate weather and 12,000 acres of greenbelts invite much outdoors recreation.

Though there is really no "one" gay section, many establishments catering

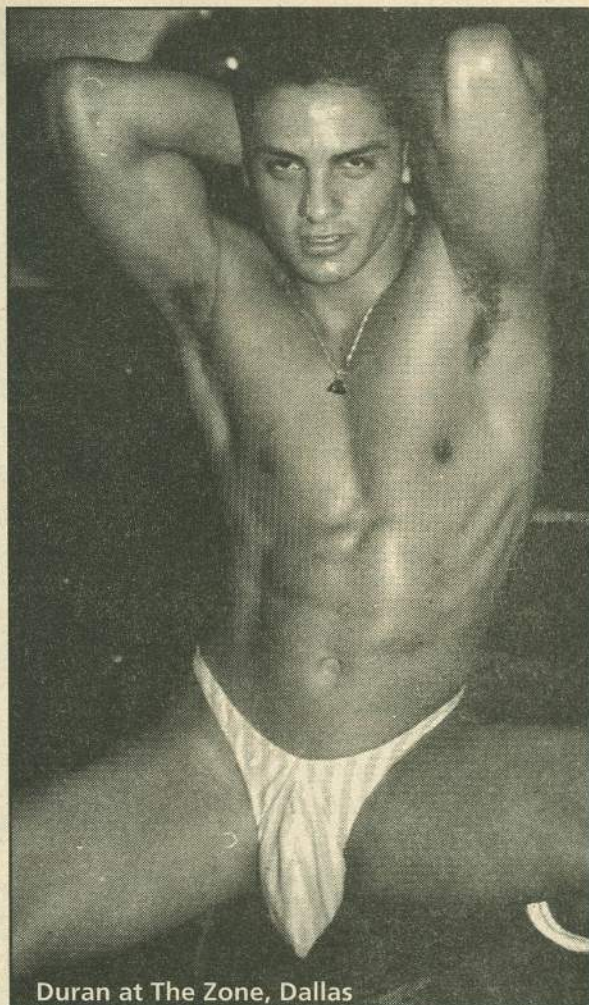
to gay needs exist within sight of the capitol building's dome. The city of Austin is built on a classic western town grid and it's easy to get around.

Night life

It's promoted as the place to be, and **Oilcan Harry's** (211 West 4th) is truly the most successful of bars. This upscale men's dance bar showcases a large square bar area, a well-trammeled dance floor, outdoor patio, and side bar with pool tables and video machines to tweak. Current specials include a Sunday Tea Dance, kick ass parties, super after-hours, and the most personable bartenders in town.

Next door, **The Edge** (213 West 4th) shines in OH's reflecting glory. The wood-paneled interiors lend it a "propah" appearance attracting men and many women.

The Forum/The Cuff (408 Congress Avenue) offer 5000 square feet of



Duran at The Zone, Dallas

chic bar bliss. The front main video bar called The Forum leads on to The Cuff, a space with a decidedly more butch feel. A rooftop patio offering superb views of downtown Austin is mobbed on Sundays for their cookouts. Their after-hours party on weekends is referred to as Exotica. A friendly staff complements this premier venue.

Rainbow Cattle Company (305 West 5th Street) is home to TGRA, Southern Country (Danceteam), Austin Baptist Women, and United Court of Austin. Open 2pm through 2am, this is Austin's only "country cruisin'" bar.

Area 52 (404 Colorado), an after-hours place situated around the corner from Oilcan Harry's, is open Wednesday through Sunday and draws those 18 and over.

Chain Drive (504 Willow) is the only leather/Levi bar with a smoke free main bar. Happy hour is from 2-8pm from Monday through Saturday, and

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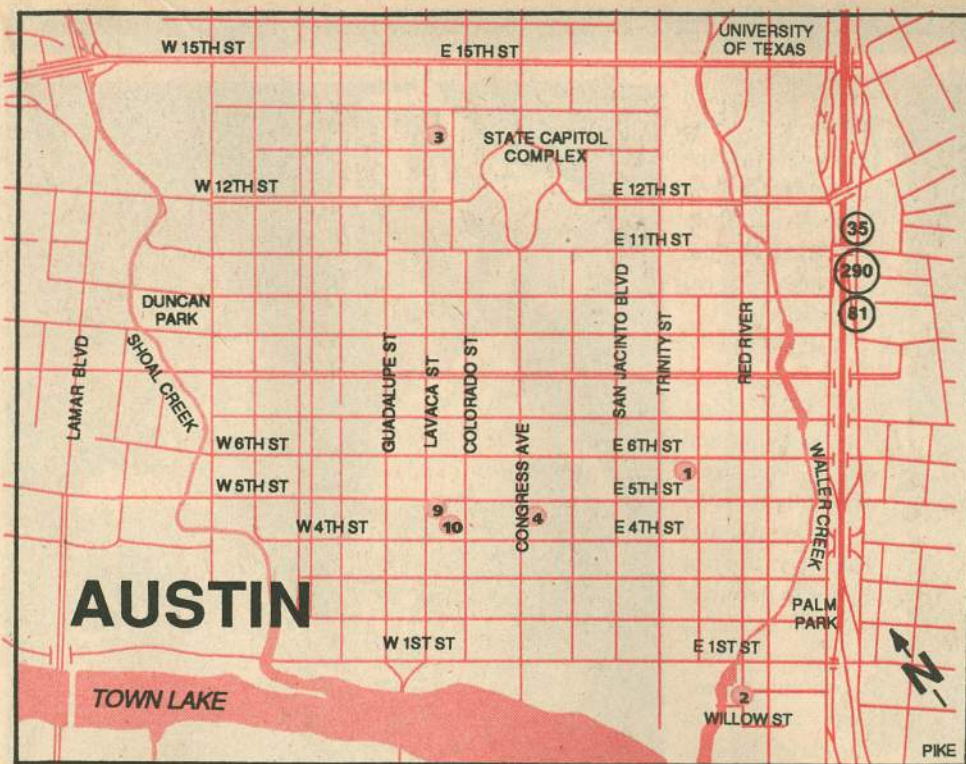


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The famous Hippie Hollow, Austin photo: Trey Paul Cash

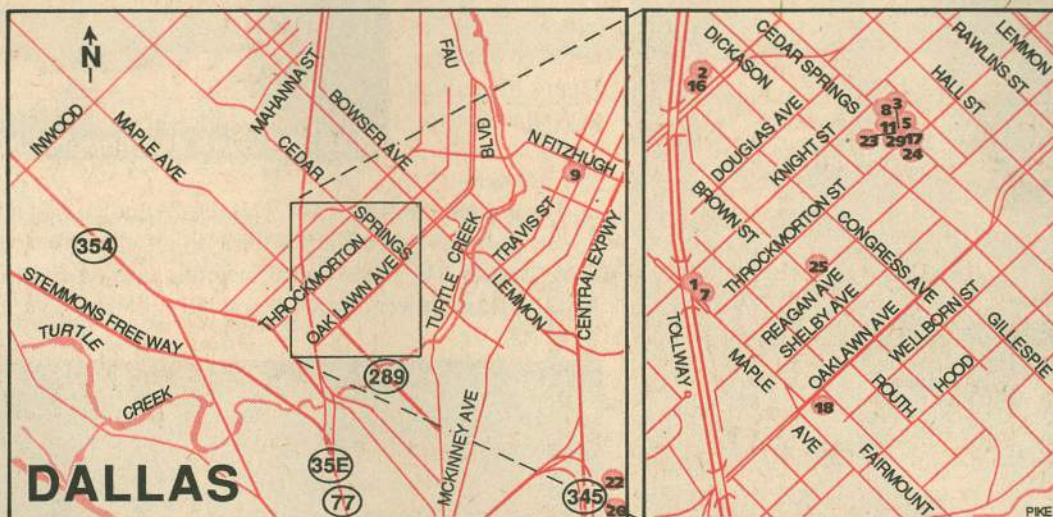




Austin

- 2) Chain Drive
504 Willow, (512) 480-9017
- 3) Charlie's Austin
1301 Lavaca, (512) 474-6481
- 4) The Forum/Cuff
611 Red River, (512) 476-3611
- 1) Forbidden Fruit
512 Neches, (512) 478-8358
- 2) Leather Chest
504 Willow (at Chain Drive),
(512) 478-2261
- 10) Oilcan Harry's
211 W. 4th Street
(512) 320-8823
- 9) Rainbow Cattle Company
305 W. 5th Street
(512) 472-5288

Dallas



CLUBS & RESTAURANTS

- 8) Anchor Inn
4024 Cedar Springs Rd
(214) 526-4098
- 8) Big Daddy's
4024 Cedar Springs Rd
(214) 528-4098
- 7) The Brick
4117 Maple Ave
(214) 521-3154
- 5) Hunky's
4000 Cedar Springs Rd
(214) 522-1212
- 2) Kolors
2525 Wycliff #214
(214) 520-2525
- 11) Moby Dick
4011 Cedar Springs
(214) 520-MOBY
- 8) Numbers
4024 Cedar Springs
(214) 559-4098
- 9) Pub Pegasus
3326 N. Fitzhugh
(214) 559-4663
- 1) The Zone
4020 Maple Avenue
(214) 559-4776

RETAIL

- 17) Crossroads Market
3930 Cedar Springs Rd
(214) 521-8919
- 16) Leather by Boots
2525 Wycliff #124
(214) 528-3865
- 29) Obscurities/Trilogy/
Boomerang
4000 B Cedar Springs
(214) 559-3706

- 23) Spass'o Pizza
4000 B Cedar Springs
(214) 521-1141
- 24) Tapelenders Video
3926 Cedar Springs
(214) 521-0427
- 3) That Special
Blend
4001 Cedar Spngs
(214) 522-3726

ACCOMMODATIONS

- 18) Inn on Fairmount
3701 Fairmount
(214) 522-2800
- HEALTH
- 22) Club Dallas
2616 Swiss Ave
(214) 821-1990
- 20) Midtowne Spa
2509 Pacific Street
(214) 821-8989

ORGANIZATIONS

- 25) Gay & Lesbian
Community Center
DGA Credit Union
2701 Reagan
(214) 521-5124

The upright bar staff at The Forum, Austin



from 2-6pm on Sundays. The cookout in the bar's patio on Sundays from 4pm through 9pm heightens local camaraderie.

Charlie's (1301 Lavaka), the city's oldest men's dance and cruise bar, gets decidedly mobbed on Tuesdays and Thursdays not just thanks to the steak and chicken specials, but also owing to an amateur strip contest on Tuesdays and special shows on Thursdays. Male dancers strut their stuff on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. Plenty of parking is available.



Mike and Mark at Rainbow Cattle Company, Austin

Retail

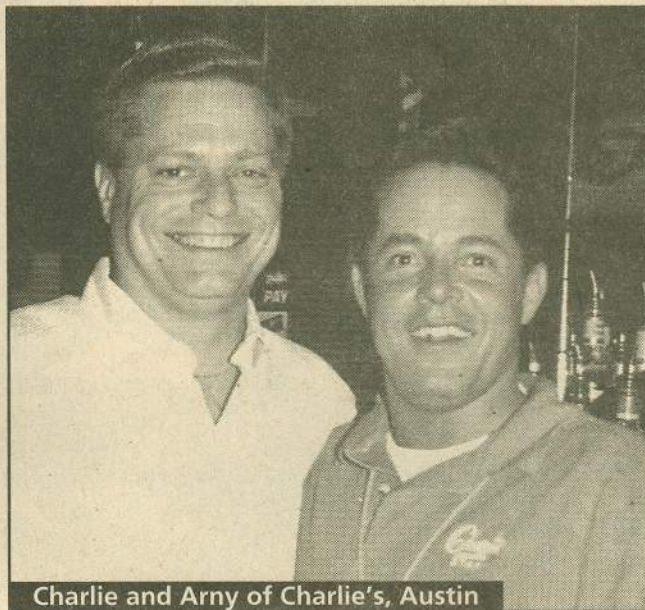
Forbidden Fruit (512 Neches Street) provides "useful items for a diverse world." The items traded include jewelry, fresh flowers, erotic literature,

and myriad intimate accessories.

Leather Chest (504 Willow Street) located within Chain Drive aims to meet all of one's leather needs from

Wednesday through Saturday, 8pm til 1am. The cozy, albeit, packed store stocks homoerotic art, various leather items, body jewelry and fetish wear.

At **N8** (1014-B North Lamar) circuit gear and jewelry, accessories, an extensive range of swim wear and erotic wear is at hand.



Charlie and Arny of Charlie's, Austin

Lodgings
The Summit House (1204 Sum-

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WEDNESDAYS: \$1 FROZEN RITAS

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The Latest Video Craze - the video version of an old favorite at Austin's only True Video Bar. Happy Hour until 11pm and Hot Male Dancers 11pm-1am.

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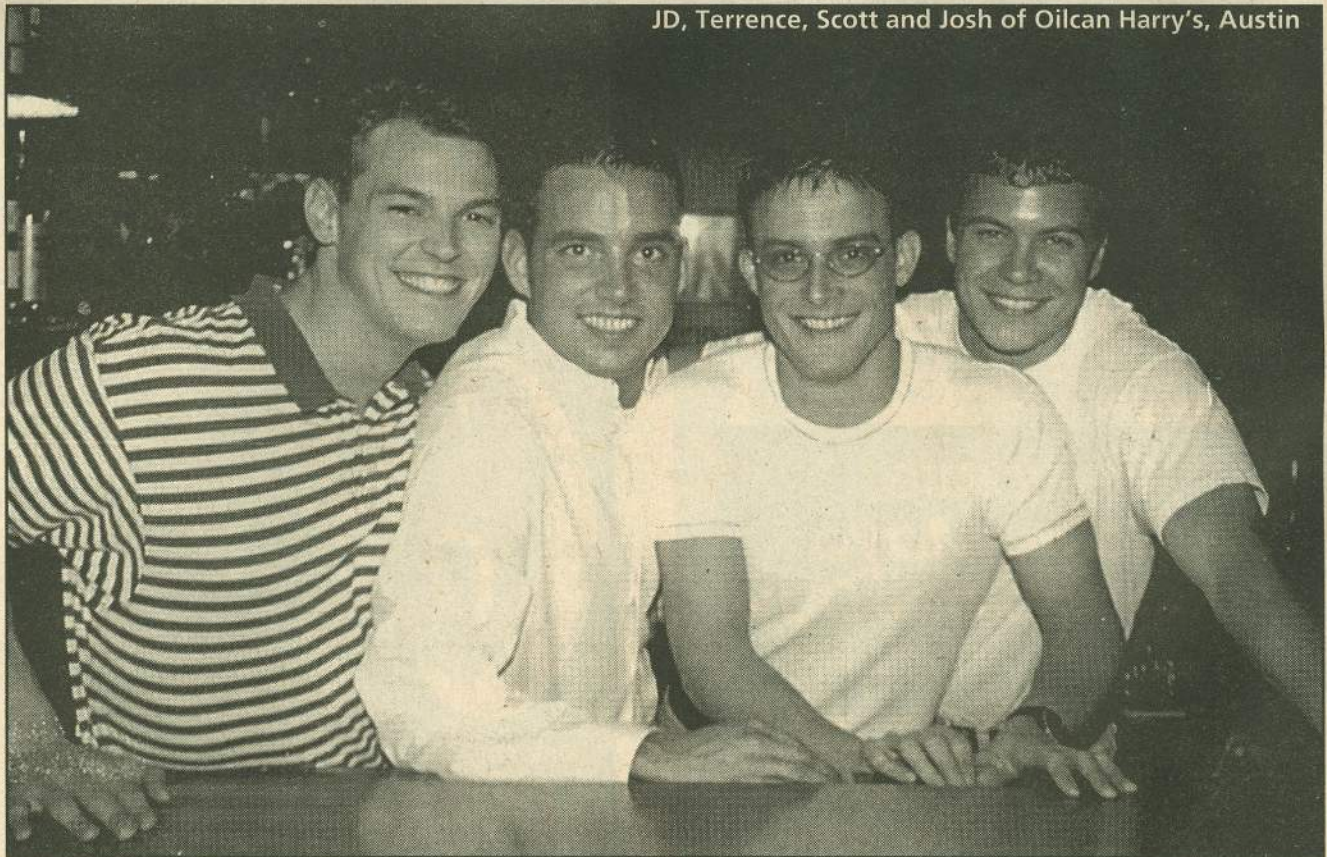


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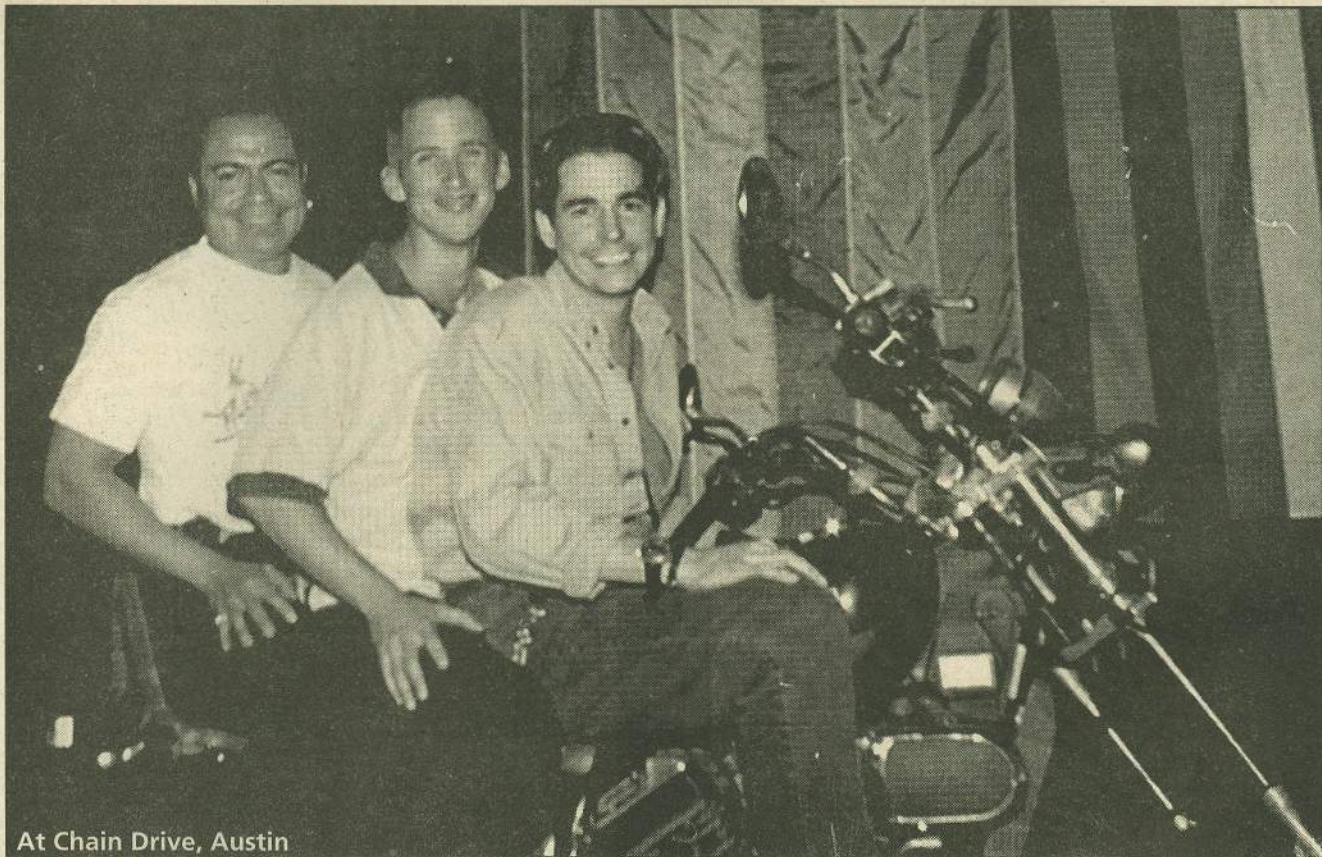
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mit Street, 512-445-5304) is located on Indian Campground two blocks from the Colorado River, minutes from the action, and has a homey, natural feel to it. The nude sunbathing area and outdoor shower reinforce the country ambiance. David, the proprietor, boasts the best breakfast in Texas, included in the tariff. Bears and big men are especially welcome here.

Getting physical
Midtowne Spa (5815 Airport Boulevard), located next to the Highland Mall, is a premier facility offering everything to bliss one out. The place is brand new and therefore quite

“virgin” clean.

Not to be outdone, ACI (500 Chicon) (of San Antonio, too) has recently opened shop in Austin.

Nota Bene...

Ben Parsley's **Melt Down '97**, a mega annual party kicks in from May 23rd through May 26th. An official welcome party will break the ice on May 23rd at Oil Can Harry's at 8pm. On Saturday night, watch it *all* melt away at the Austin Music Hall from 9pm until 4am. New York City DJ Warren Gluck is slated to spin “you and several thousand of your closest friends into overdrive with the 12 inch, all night long.”

The shores of Hippie Hollow on Lake Travis beckon on Sunday May 25th to Captain Morgan's Rum Run. Four party barges loaded with food, drink (and tearooms) anchor for your pleasure. Come sundown, pulsating rhythms unite the party boys at The Forum with music by New York City's Julian Marsh. For more information to Meltdown '97, call (512) 419-4763 and surf website <http://www.partyaustin.com> ▼

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