



texas

29 March 2002 Vol. 2 Issue 28

**COMING-OUT
CONUNDRUM**

Rosie's brush with 'phobes

A GREAT BAREBACK

Training tips to blast that back

**A SAN ANTONIO
INSTITUTION**

Remembering Raphael Velasco

**ADVENTURES
IN TORONTO**

On the set of QAF

IN A PANIC

With our favorite is-she-or-isn't-she

Saddle Up
TGRA Rides Into Ft. Worth



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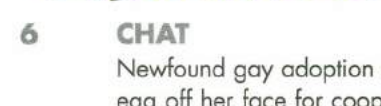
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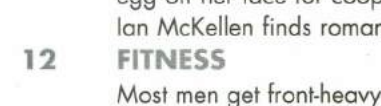
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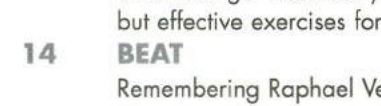
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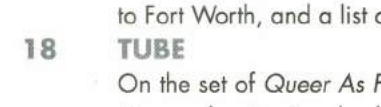
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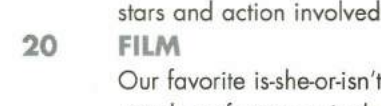
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Quick look inside

CHAT

Newfound gay adoption advocate Rosie O'Donnell needs to clean some egg off her face for cooperating with a group opposed to her cause. Ian McKellen finds romance amid the exotic locales of New Zealand.

FITNESS

Most men get front-heavy with their workouts. Blast that back with simple but effective exercises for the three major muscle groups of the back.

BEAT

Remembering Raphael Velasco, the owner of San Antonio's premier showbar, the Saint, who leaves a legacy of kindness and friendship.

EVENTS

The Texas Gay Rodeo Association's first-ever Cowtown Rodeo comes to Fort Worth, and a list of notable DJs head to the Bayou City for Easter.

TUBE

On the set of *Queer As Folk* — first of a four-part look at the sets, stars and action involved in putting together Showtime's hottest series.

FILM

Our favorite is-she-or-isn't she celebrity, Jodie Foster, turns in another smash performance in the just-released Hitchcockian thriller, *Panic Room*.

CLUB LAND

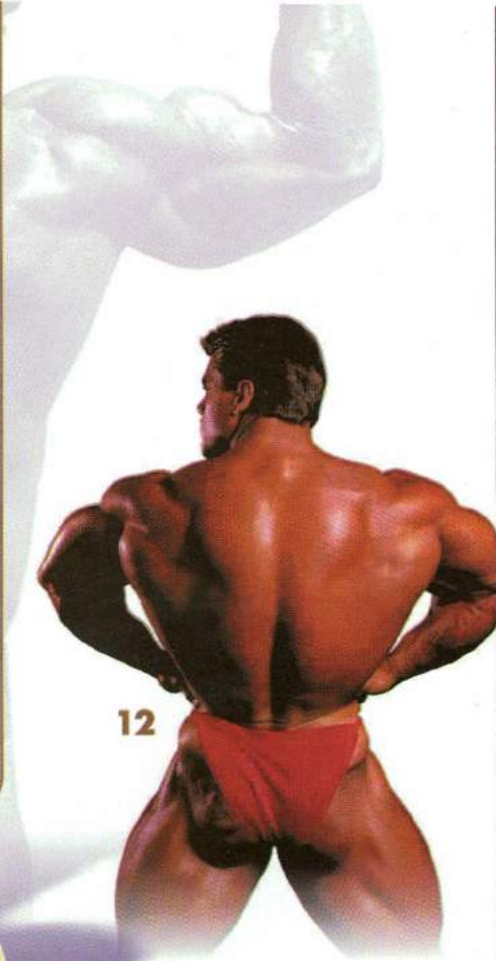
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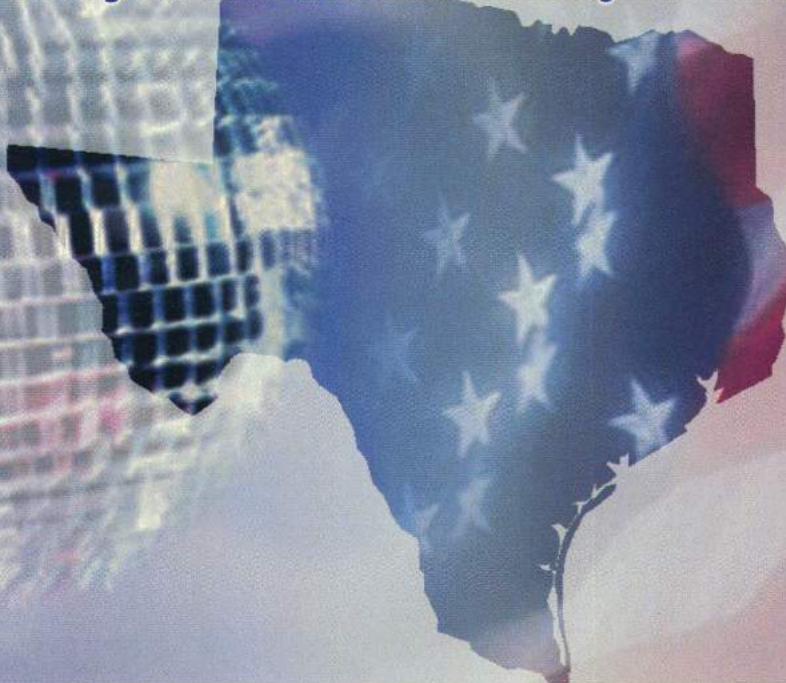


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Coming-out conundrum

**Rosie
embarrassed to
discover she's
rubbed
shoulders with
anti-gay cult**

chat

Q just loves it when celebrities re-invent themselves only to come face to face with a past that jumps up and bites them on the ass!

So it goes with Rosie O'Donnell, our newest out-of-the-closet star, who's come out swinging for gay adoption rights.

But seems our dear Broadway-snappin' mama — who has three adopted children — is getting the old red-face over a film she narrated. Titled *Artists and Orphans: A True Drama*, the documentary short was up for an Academy Award last Sunday night. The docu-tale follows a New York theater group that travels to the for-

"I was told by an awful lot of people three years ago that I was going to win the Oscar for [portraying] James While [in *Gods and Monsters*]. So when people tell me I'm definitely going to win for Gandalf, I don't believe them."

— Gay actor Ian McKellen, to the *San Francisco Chronicle*

"The in-people always knew about Rosie. In these circles, being gay is no risk at all. In fact, Rosie's weight has always been a far heavier burden in this crowd than her sexual orientation."

— *Newsday* columnist Ellis Hennican

"There was never any secret or any hiding. There was never any trying to trick anyone. But I never said it, because it never felt to me like a vitally important issue."

— Rosie O'Donnell, to Diane Sawyer

Melissa's giving a party. Straight from the airport I have three meetings plus an on-air promo for E! and then I have to arrive early at Melissa's so I can tell her everything's wrong."

— Joan Rivers, to gossip columnist Cindy Adams

"I have two outfits [planned for the Oscars preview broadcast]. If I'm feeling thin, it's an Escada ball gown. If I'm feeling Jewish, it's a Vera Wang number that makes me look thin. At the moment I'm leaning toward the already thin one."

— Joan Rivers

Quotables

joan & melissa

mer Soviet republic of Georgia to help orphaned and abandoned children.

Sounds like a great and benevolent idea, huh?

Well think again. Come to find out, the filmmakers, including director Lianne Klapper McNally, are involved with a group called the Fourth Way School. According to various newspaper reports, the group bans gays and lesbians, and believes we shouldn't be allowed to raise children.

Oops!

Now our magazine mogul and soon-to-be-former talk show queen is furiously backpedaling.

"If Rosie had known the truth about this organization, she never would have consented to lend her name and voice," said Rosie's publicist, Cindi Berger.

It's all resulted in quite a bit of celeb finger-pointing. David Goldstein, a lawyer representing the film (yes, these days even films get lawyers) told the *New York Daily News* that suggesting that *Artists and Orphans* is the work of "some kind of nefarious cult is completely baseless."

Well, you know lawyers. Put 'em in front of a microphone and they'll say all kinds of baseless things themselves. According to Rick Ross, a cult expert who helped de-program Branch Davidians in the mid-'90s, the Fourth Way is a cult that definitely trashes gays.

To become members, gays "must renounce their sexual preference and work toward becoming heterosexual," said Ross, who says he has spent much time with former members. West coast newspapers that reported on a California branch of the Fourth Way School also claimed that the group bans unrepentant gays.

Rosie's publicist adds that the star "is angry that the background [of the film] wasn't disclosed to her."

Anyone see the irony in that? After all, up until recently Q supposes Rosie was something of an expert at hiding backgrounds!

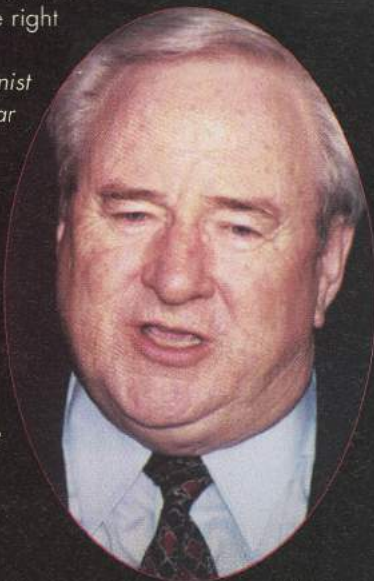
Rosie's not the only one who knows a thing or two about timing. While gay and lesbian leaders are peeing all over themselves talk-

"I think she hid her sexuality to sell the show, and then she exploited it to sell the book. I think she's doing the right thing in the wrong way."

— Syndicated gay columnist
Michael Alvear

"Anyone who takes the Bible seriously believes that a gay couple could never properly role model the family for anybody's children."

— Rev. Jerry Falwell, on
CNN's Crossfire



falwell

Easter Sunday
03/31/02 6pm

After-Bunnies Party

the tradition continues...

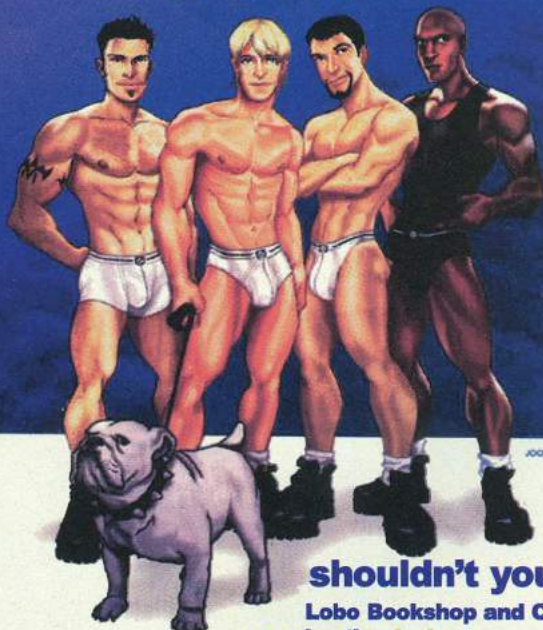
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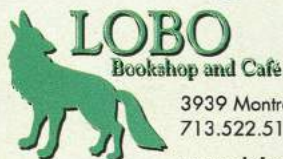
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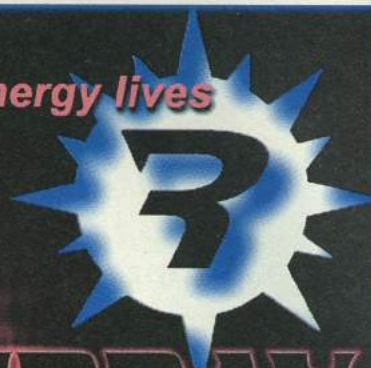
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exercise known as the lat pull-down is the most effect exercise at building the lat and thickening up the muscle. This will give you the "V" shape you always wanted.

Make sure you sit on the end of the seat. Reach up and grab the bar right after the break, and look up at the bar. This puts you in perfect position to attack the lats. Sit up straight, arch the back a bit and begin to pull down the bar to just below the chin, aiming for the top of the chest but not touching it to the bar. Pause and repeat for 10 to 12 reps depending upon the weight you are pulling and the intensity you are striving for.

Remember to exhale when you begin to pull down the bar. Be seated low enough so that you get a good, full stretch, and don't let the weight stack hit when your arms are fully extended. This technique will ensure proper ventilation and also force — the body to keep the necessary form so that you will exercise the correct way. Don't sway the body, either, since this will allow your body weight to help pull the weight down — a serious no-no if you want to do this correctly!

Oh, and by the way, never pull the bar behind your neck. I would debate anyone who thinks it's a safe exercise. I believe it is unnecessary and has a very high potential for injury. You can easily impinge the rotator cuff muscles

and bursa with the scapula or exacerbate an injury you already have. The rotator cuff also is in serious misalignment when the arm is abducted, as it is when you pull the bar behind your neck.

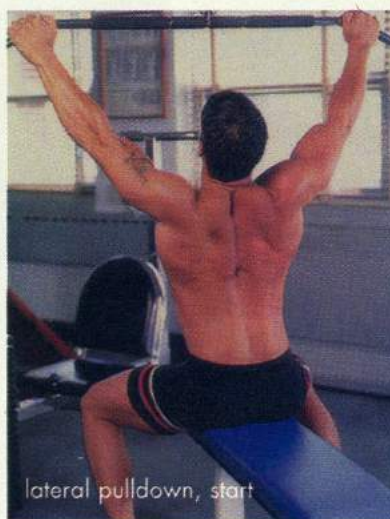
The erector spinae muscles are made up of three separate muscles that run from the base of your spine (posterior or iliac crest)

where they originate and insert up the back in the ribs. They run up the sides of your spinal column and are responsible for the extension of the trunk of your body. Squats, dead-lifts and prone back extensions are all good exercises for working the erector spinae muscles. I particularly like extensions, since they seem to isolate the lower back muscles. Once again, this exercise needs to be done carefully and in a slow and deliberate way.

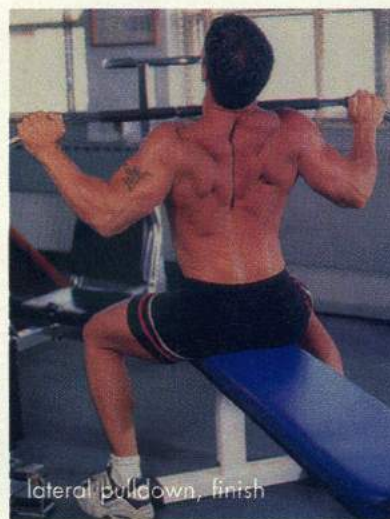
Remember; always move the weight you are using in a controlled, smooth motion. Always have control over the weight. If it feels like the weight is controlling you, stop. It's probably too heavy.

Try to have a spotter help you, preferably someone with experience. If you can't get another member of the gym to spot you, or you're too shy, hire a personal trainer. It will be money well spent.

As always, I wish you the best in your quest for the best for yourself!



lateral pull-down, start



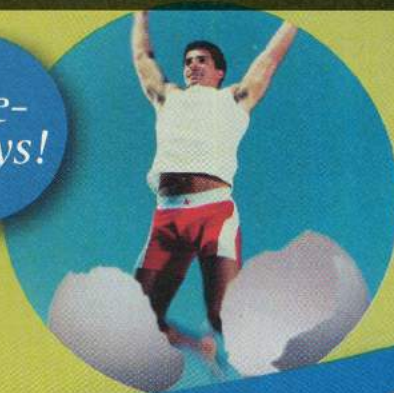
lateral pull-down, finish

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Remembering Raphael

Velasco, owner of the Saint, remembered as caring friend, institution in gay San Antonio

beat

by jimmy smith

Native Texan Jimmy Smith writes about club music news and trends. His column appears weekly. He can be reached by e-mail at Qbeats@aol.com



It seems like just yesterday. I was in San Antonio for one of those drag pageants that I used to compete in. And by some stroke of luck on a Friday night at a club called the New Zoo, I was crowned Miss Heart Of Texas. The next night I went to claim what was rightfully mine — a booking at the quintessential showbar of the South, the Paper Moon. After all, I was Miss Heart Of Texas, right?

That was the night I met Raphael for the first time. A friend of mine who knew him went into the office and told him that I would like to meet him. He was wearing black sweats, smoking a menthol, and had a Diet Coke in his hand. (Over the years, the only thing that really changed were the sweats, and the hair turned gray-er.)

He took me up to the DJ booth to meet his other half. Then Raphael asked him to let me spin a few records — he had heard that I was also a DJ (now *that's* what I call hospitality!). All I can say is that it was a moment.

After a few trips to San Antonio, I decided that I needed to live there. I moved in August of 1991 and ended up with a job at the Wild Club as a DJ. As fate would have it, a few weeks later, Randy Cuniff hired Raphael to manage the club, and it was the beginning of an era. Ask anyone who ever went there, and they will agree.

For the next few years we ruled San Antonio gay nightlife. Later on I became the head DJ there, and I must confess that it all went to my head. I became a horrible lush, and Raphael had no problem letting me know about it. At the time I thought he was just being a

bitch, but looking back I realize that he was worried about my affair with the bottle.

Eventually Raphael left the Wild Club and went back to the Paper Moon as manager. Several months later he purchased the

our famous talks about life. And I was able to tell him how much I've appreciated his support over the years. The truth of the matter is that I would never be where I am today if it had not been for him. He believed in me long before I



raphael, jimmy smith

club and changed the name to the Saint. At one point I almost went to work there, but eventually decided against it. Later on I would decide to leave the corner of West Laurel Street and San Pedro and work at Pegasus. During that time I was contemplating moving to New York to work in the record business. Raphael and I would have long talks about life and all the opportunities that are out there. He always offered such encouragement and support. It was his nature to do so.

Over the past six years Raphael and I would get on the phone from time to time, and he would always say how proud he was of me for following my dreams. And he always told me that, if anytime I wanted to come back home to San Antonio, I had a place to work. It meant so much to me to have his approval — in my heart he was the real father figure that I never had growing up (even though he was only 11 years older than I).

The last time I saw Raphael was President's Day weekend while I was visiting San Antonio to DJ at Heat. We had another one of

ever believed in myself. He was hard on me because he knew I could take it, and he knew that I could always do better. We spoke just last week because we were making plans for the upcoming Fiesta. He was going to join Randy and me for the day parade and the Bonham Street's after party — the old Wild Club girls together again having fun!

Well, I will be there for Fiesta. And I will play on Saturday the 27th at the Saint. It will be hard, because I won't be able to look out to the dance floor and see my friend Raphael dancing. But I know he will be there, looking over all of us — just as he always did.

Raphael, there aren't enough words I can muster to say thank you for everything you have done for me. You have touched my life like no other. And I will thank my God for every remembrance of you. Please give my love to Tandi, Naomi, and all our others girls whom you've now joined.

Rafael Velasco died on Saturday, March 23 of a heart attack.

Q

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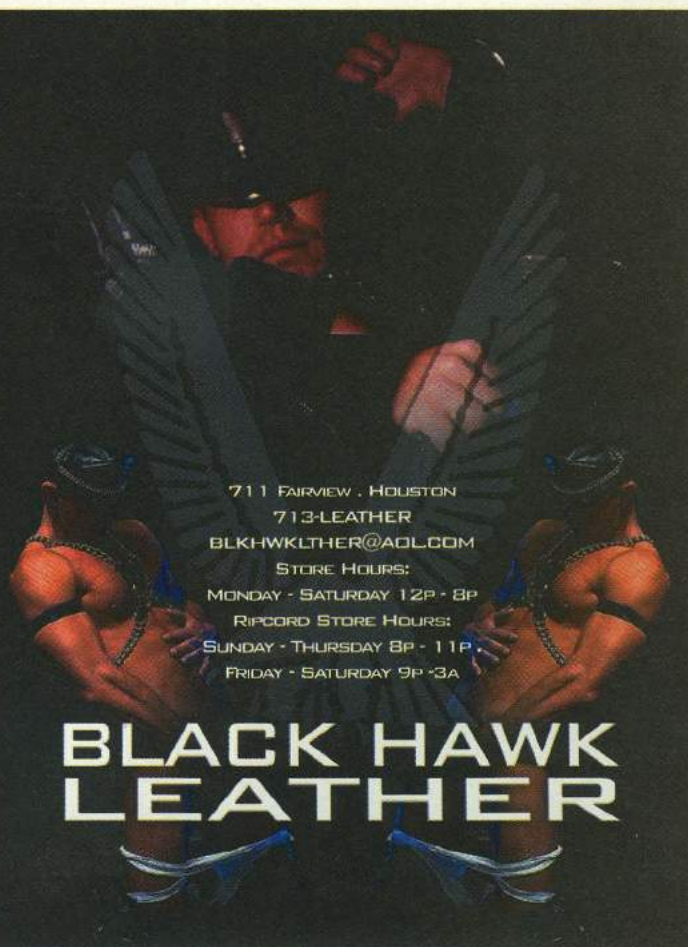


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BLACK HAWK LEATHER



Peter's failure to balance his check-book and Brian's previous encounter with a handsome passerby. Melanie enters, approaching the boys' table while delivering a wry line about "cunty gay guys," to which Peter Paige responds "Well, well, well, somebody's on the rag."

Makeup artists dabbed fresh powder on the stars' faces as the three or four minute scene was repeated endlessly as take after take resulted in no "print." Hal kept everyone cracking up as he engaged in his trademark mischief, including his pretending to be on the verge of hurling when the cameras stopped rolling.

Between takes people were shouting directions, props were rearranged, the actors fed each other the lines, sometimes slowly, sometimes in rapid-fire succession as they tried to perfect the scene. Filming had begun at about 3:30 p.m. It was now about twenty to five, and I had heard and viewed this scene enacted about fifteen times.

Being this close to the action, it became crystal clear that the creation of a show like *Queer As Folk* is extremely hard work. Forget the images of glamour and fame. It was easy to believe the tales of 16-to-18 hour workdays on this set. The pace was frenetic, the atmosphere tense and electric. The support and camaraderie between the cast members and among cast and crew was only too apparent, and their consideration and regard for each other seemed beyond question.

Again the buzzer went off and Lisa beckoned me to the dimly lit "Woody's" set I had visited earlier, where the delightful Sparks awaited our interview. A truly nice guy, Sparks seems to have no problem bringing life to the demanding role of Michael — although he freely admits that the similarities between he and his fictional alter ego are few and far between. As time passed all too swiftly, Sparks kept me intrigued and amused, his energy nonstop and his persona enthusiastic and friendly.

Like his fictional Mom Sharon Gless, Sparks is clearly proud to be making a difference in framing perceptions of the gay and lesbian community. And he's undaunted by criticism about the show's limitations. "Because there's so much more to gay life than what we show, and you can't be everything to everybody, there's no way. And we get a lot of flack for that, but there's nothing we can do about it. This is not about all gay people everywhere, this is about these seven people."

We returned to the set as cast and crew joined in a brief celebration of Scott Lowell's birthday. By this time it was after 6 p.m. and almost time for my busy afternoon on the set to end. The actors weren't finished yet and had more hours to put in — tomorrow, they were scheduled to be away on location. I bid farewell to Hal and thanked him for a great time and wonderful interview.

Lisa was going home as well, and we hugged good-bye in the production office driveway as I entered a QAF van for the ride back into the city. The beautiful expanse of downtown Toronto at dusk unfolded during the half-hour drive down the freeway to my hotel on Carlton Street, just blocks from Toronto's gay neighborhood and Woody's bar (which I would visit later that night). Once back at my hotel, I found myself savoring the memories of an experience that went by much too quickly. Yet the subtly pleasant surprises of an afternoon such as I spent on the set of *Queer As Folk* aren't easily forgotten.

Next Week: Part Two of "Adventures in Toronto" — Meet the real Debbie Novotny, Emmy-award winning actress Sharon Gless.



Special thanks to Lisa Ghione, Unit Publicist for *Queer As Folk*, Toronto, and also to Jackie Loachin and Ken Floyd of Showtime for helping bring this day together.

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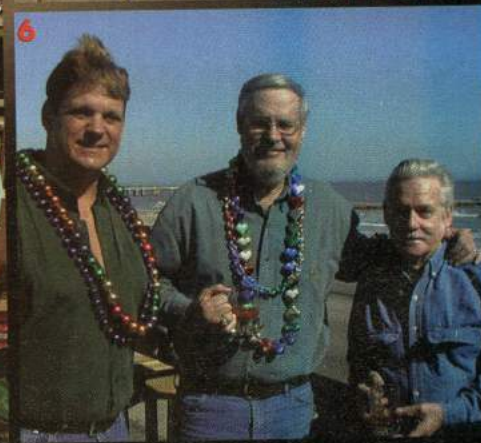
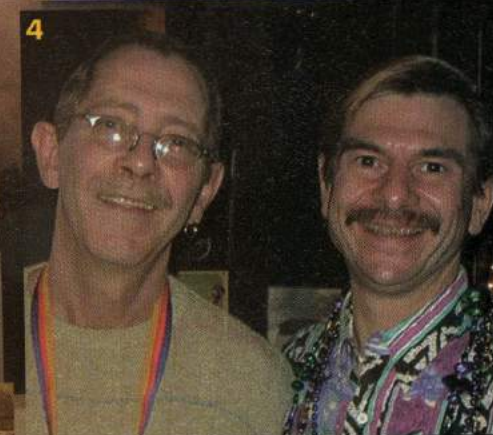
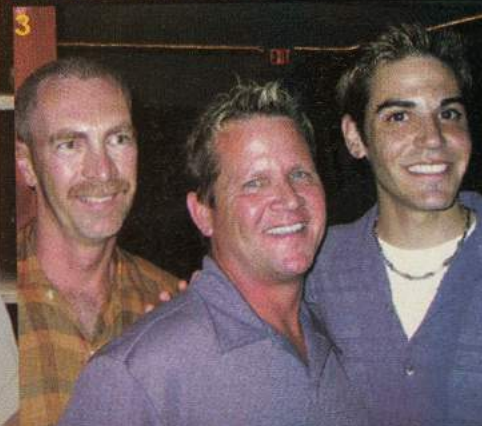
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1. Leland and Tommy at Urban Fitness. 2. Monica and Alexander at Garza's Kon Tiki.

3. Alan, Kipp and Eric at Jimmy's on the Beach. 4. Ed and Charles at Robert's LaFitte.

5. Bob and Sherman at Hollywood Hotel. 6. Mark, Richard and Wayne at the Boulevard Saloon.

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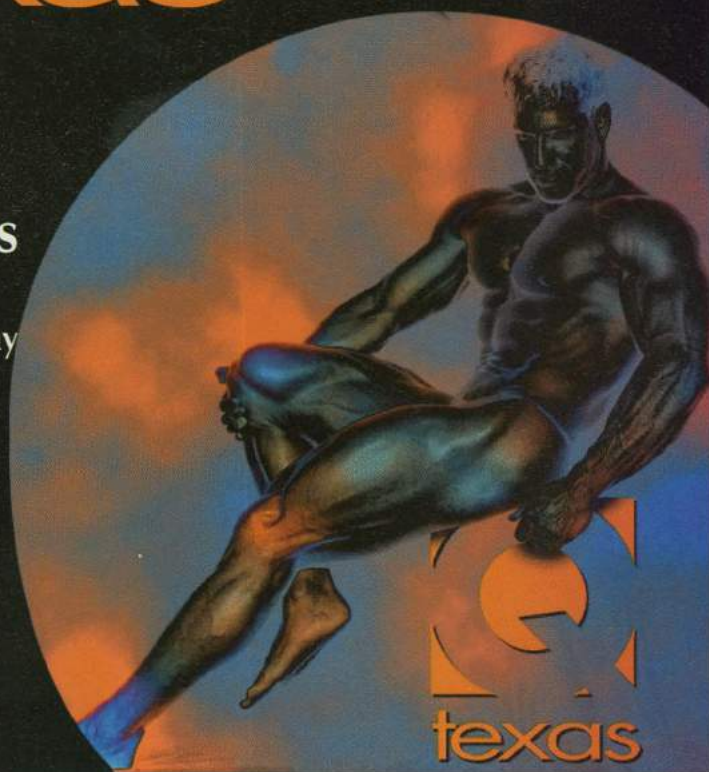
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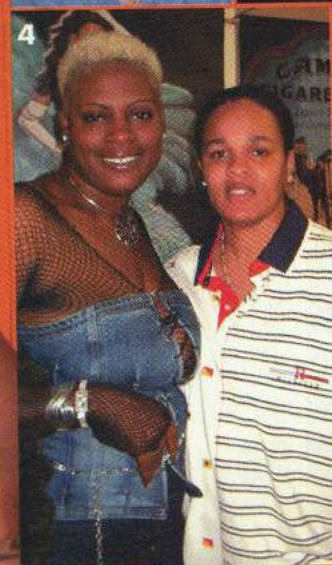
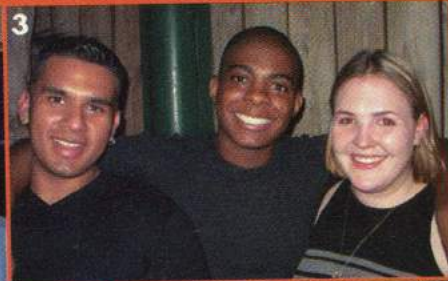
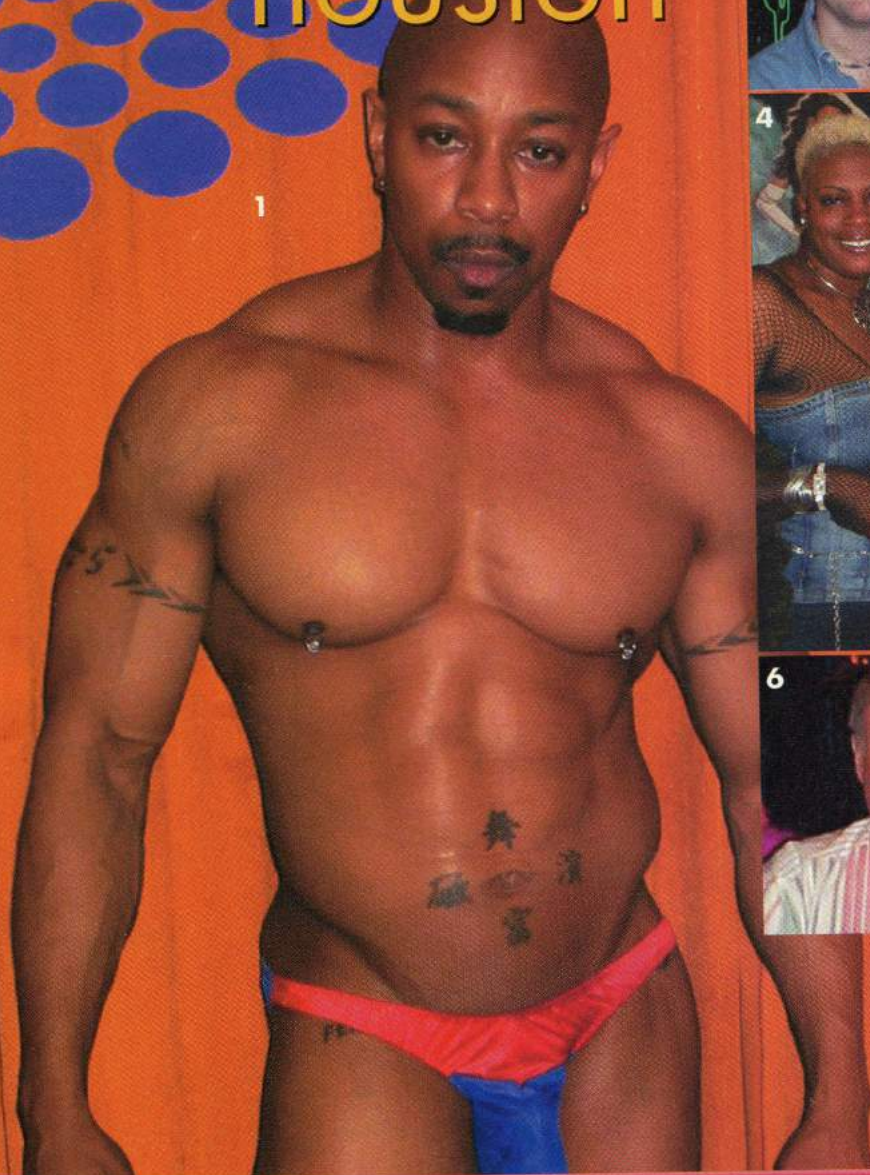
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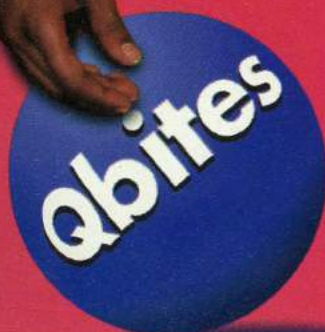
club land

houston

photos by chris perez and leo cusimano



1. Kevin at Incognito. 2. Stephen at Brazos River Bottom. 3. Silver, Joey and Becca at Rich's. 4. Big Yo, and KKay at Big Yo's. 5. Charles at South Beach. 6. Wayne Gray at Keys West. 7. Jorge at Club Inergy.



Star Turn — Club Big Yo is set to make you a star at their Thursday night Talent Nights, with cash prizes to the winners.

Big Sticks — Brazos River Bottom presents a Pool Tournament every Monday night, with cash prizes. And Wednesday, April 3, it's Guest Bartender with Tuna Melt and Pearl, benefiting Bering-Omega Community Services.

Big Easter — Easter Weekend in Houston is one of the biggest celebrations of the year. Guest DJs abound at a full weekend slate of activities sponsored by Boys on the Bayou. And it's also time for the annual Easter Sunday Bunnies on the Bayou charity event. South Beach joins in the festivities by offering guest DJ Billy Carroll on Saturday night. For all the details, see Page 16.

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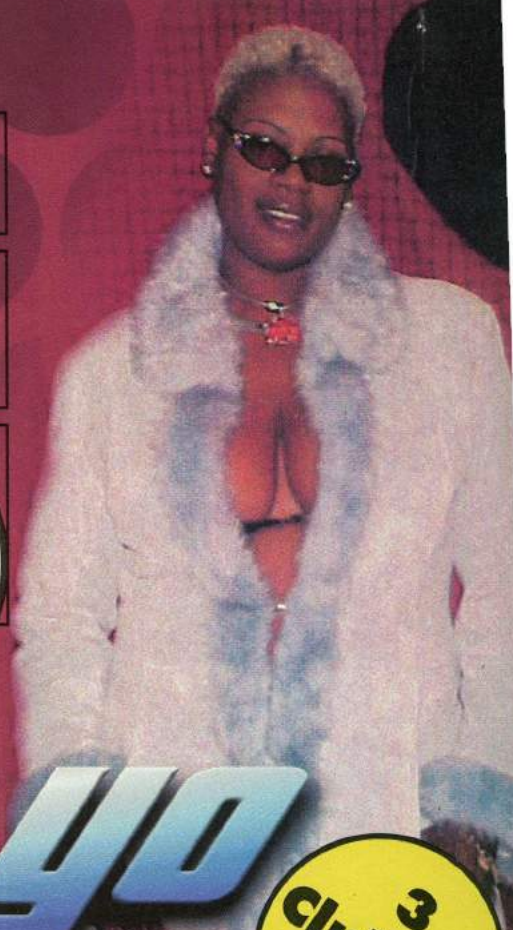
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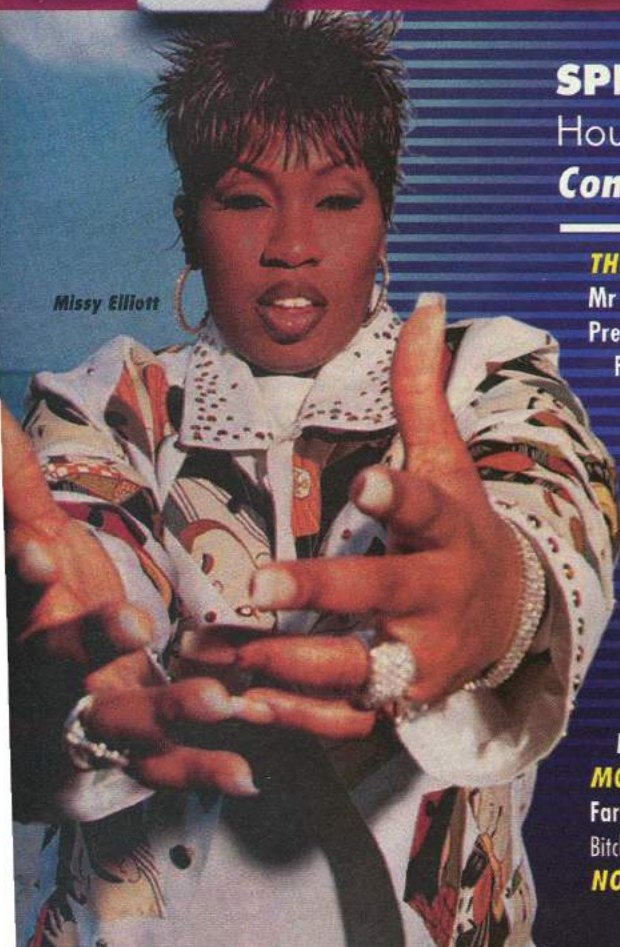
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Stardate

by rev. bill w

Aries (March 20-April 19) With the energy from last week's Full Moon still ringing in your ears, it's going to be quite an active and productive week (at least where career matters are concerned). Avoid the social scene Saturday night just to be safe. An overeager co-worker needs to be put in his place. Tuesday looks best for romance.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) Unlike Aries, your love and social lives look to be outstanding, but that job is starting to wear on those poor nerves. It's almost time to start looking around for something new and challenging. Try to arrange a weekend getaway with your honey. It's something you should do more often. Watch your temper on Monday.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) Even though finances aren't quite back on track yet, they're heading in the right direction. An out-of-town guest brings a welcome respite for you, Gemmy. Let your hair down this weekend and paint the town red. You've been far too serious and focused. Tell an overbearing relative exactly where to go.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) Your creativity and enthusiasm should know no bounds this week. Be as daring and innovative as possible. That's what's going to bring you that recognition. Don't be afraid to step into the spotlight, Cancer. A dear friend who's been down in the dumps could really use your shoulder to cry on. Offer it!

Leo (July 23-August 22) Those aftershocks you've been experiencing from that financial upheaval aren't over and done with yet. Keep your wits sharp on Monday or you could fall prey to a "con." Make sure that famous ego and temper are kept in low gear this weekend. It's the time to attract influential people, not repel them.

Virgo (August 23-September 22) The week looks to be business as usual with not a single nasty surprise in sight. In fact, you may end up being bored to tears at some point. Don't just stay at home all weekend and hibernate. Get out and show off that awesome new hairstyle. Sunday brunch provides a surprise and welcome reunion.

Libra (September 23-October 22) Even though love may be in the air, you'll be pretty much grounded all week long due to long hours at work and various other necessary challenges. Be careful where your car is parked on Friday night. Take advantage of the chance to get away for the weekend. Don't dress in such a subdued manner.

Scorpio (October 23-November 21) Thoughts of far-off locales continue to dominate your thoughts. It's too bad that finances aren't stronger right now or you'd be gone in a heartbeat. Cheer up, Scorp! There's plenty to enjoy right here at home and some terrific people to hang out with. Throw an impromptu gathering Saturday night.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21) Unlike Scorp, not having much money has never stopped you from traveling on a moment's notice. Your special trip will have to wait until June, though—that is, if you want to do it just right. Be more compassionate with that roommate. He's been going through things you can never comprehend.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19) Legal matters should wind up decidedly in your favor over the next couple of weeks. All of the waiting and frustrations will have been worth it. A real estate proposition looks quite good, but we feel that the price should be brought down a notch or two. News of a breakup throws you for a loop.

Aquarius (January 20-February 18) Friday and next Thursday look shaky and uncertain, but the rest of this week looks just fine. Tell the boss exactly what's on your mind, but do it with at least some tact. That ongoing feud with a family member is getting kind of boring. Isn't it time to bury the hatchet and just let bygones be bygones?

Pisces (February 19-March 19) A financial shot in the arm should help to offset the pain of that recent separation. Force yourself to go out and have some fun, Pisces. Spice up that wardrobe while you're at it (there are other colors besides black). Be prepared to work substantial overtime late in the week. The boss will be impressed.

Bill has been a psychic reader since age 5. He is a certified astrologer and a Reiki healer (master level). He is available for phone and Internet readings, and also for parties and all sorts of promotional events. He can be reached at 954-527-5820 and by e-mail at mcentaur35@aol.com.



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