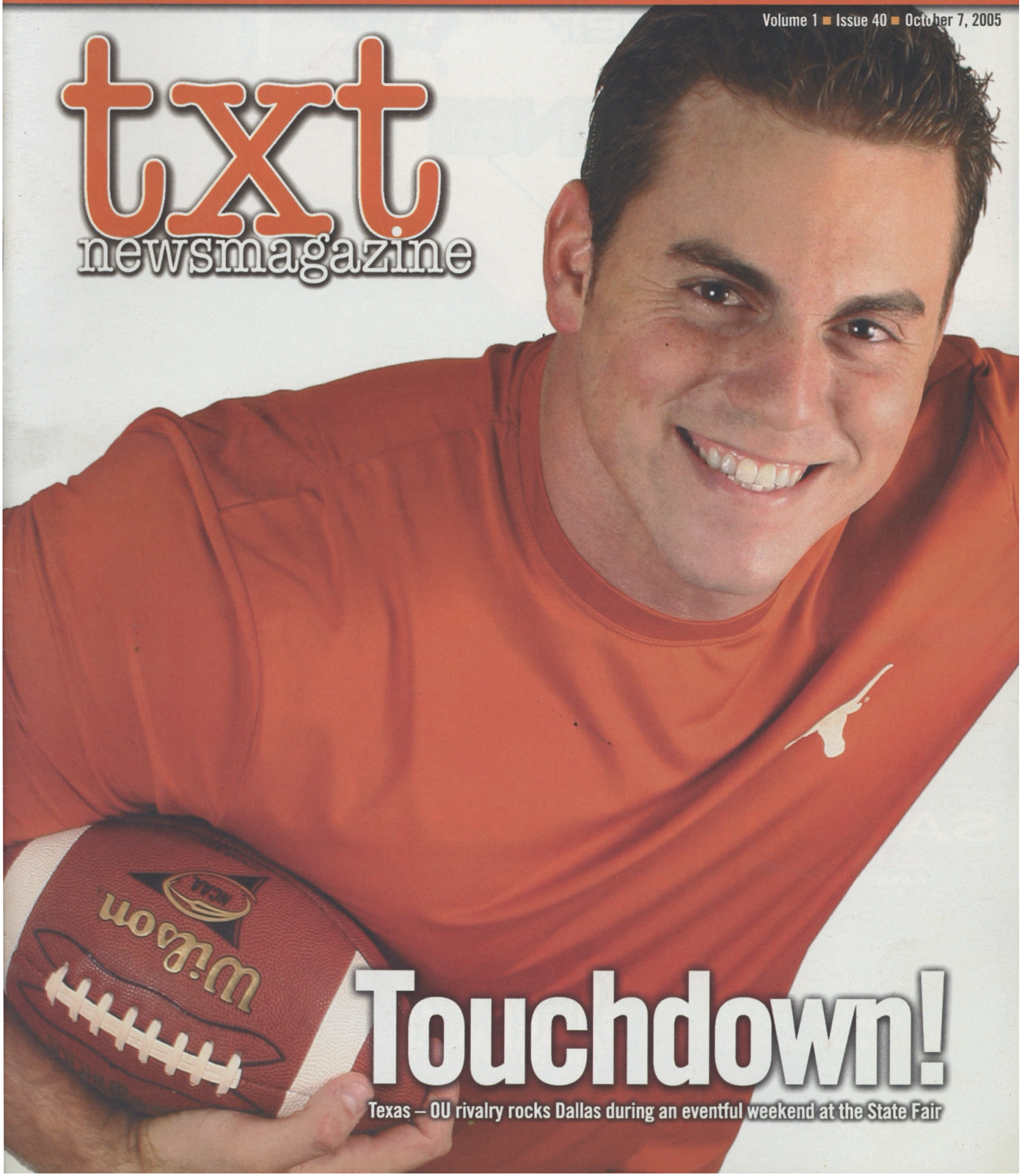
inside: Texas cities observe National Coming Out Day ■ Harriet Miers of Dallas nominated to replace O'Connor ■ Theater ■ Filth

Volume 1 ■ Issue 40 ■ October 7, 2005

txt newsmagazine



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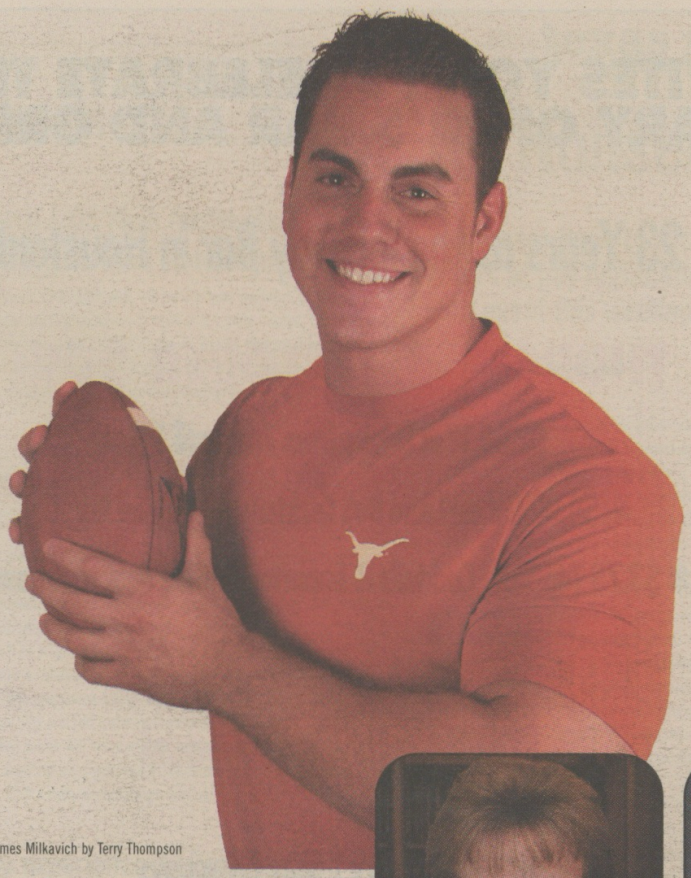

Cover photo of James Milkavich by Terry Thompson

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Keep letters brief and address only a single issue. For more details, see the details on this week's Perspectives page.

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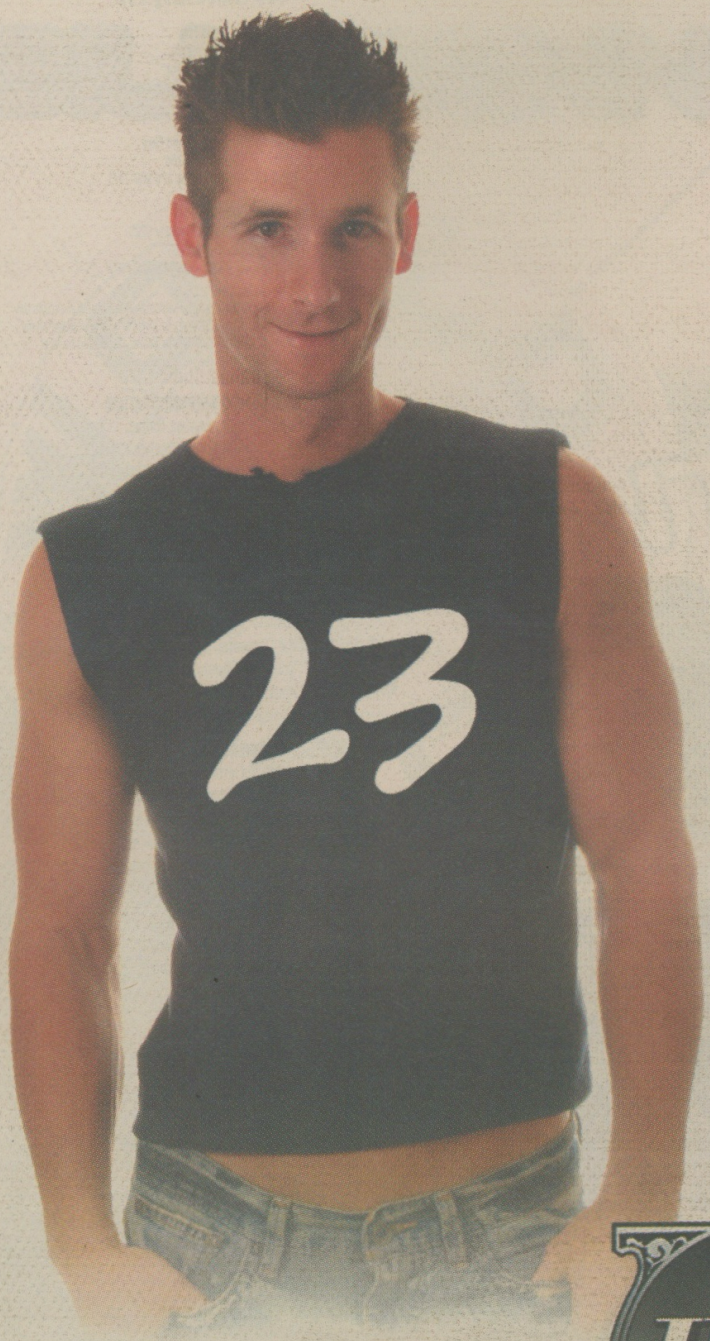

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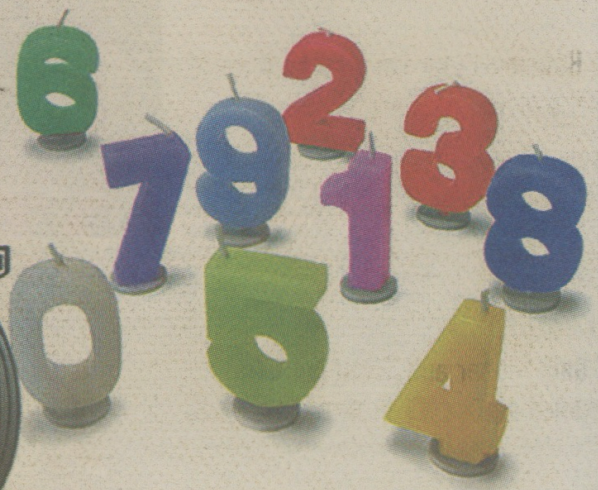

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Newsbriefs

AUSTIN

18th annual AIDS Walk Austin steps off Oct. 16 at 2 p.m. from state Capitol

AIDS Walk Austin, in its 18th year, will be held next weekend, with the street fair and registration getting underway at noon at the state Capitol. The Walk step-off is at 2 p.m. Proceeds benefit AIDS Services of Austin. Walkers may still register online at Aidswalkaustin.org or by calling 512-452-WALK. Coordinators also said it is not too late to sponsor a walker or make a direct online contribution.

HOUSTON

Counseling center receives $400,000 grant for program serving GLBT seniors

A $400,000 grant has been awarded to the Montrose Counseling Center by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The grant will focus on peer outreach, peer counseling and education, counseling and case management for GLBT clients ages 60 and above, officials said.

Chris Kerr will be program coordinator of the clinical work.

The program is a collaboration between the counseling center and the Montrose Clinic, with assistance from PrimeTimers, The Four Seasons Club, Lesbians Over Age Fifty and Old Lesbians Organized for Change.

The counseling center will hire part-time peer counselors who are age 60 or older and GLBT. Qualified applicants are asked to respond to Ann J. Robison, executive director, at Ajr@montrosecounselingcenter.org.

Latinos to experience 'El Poder de La Prueba' ('The Power of Testing') at AVES

National Hispanic AIDS Awareness Day is held annually in October to increase awareness about HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Amigos Volunteers in Education and Services has announced it will offer The Power of Testing (El Poder de La Prueba), by providing HIV tests on Oct. 14–15.

A limited number of tests will be available on a first-come, first-served basis on Oct. 14 from at 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the office of the Consulate General of Mexico, 4507 San Jacinto St. Testing will resume Oct. 15 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Kroger supermarket located at 5610 Gulfton St.

For more information, please call 713-626-AVES or e-mail Info@aves-health.org.

U. of Houston-Clear Lake holds domestic violence discussion, art exhibit

Commemorating Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the Women's Resource Services of University of Houston-Clear Lake will present its Distinguished Discussion Panel on Oct. 10 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Bayou Building.

The panel will discuss "The Many Faces of Domestic Violence."

The event will also display the domestic violence exhibit, The Art of the Matter, a compilation of paintings and drawings and other artwork contributed by community members.

SAN ANTONIO

HRC Gala Dinner and Silent Auction scheduled on Oct. 27 at Hyatt Riverwalk

The San Antonio Gala Dinner and Silent Auction, benefiting the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, is scheduled for Oct. 22 at the Hyatt Riverwalk hotel.

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m., with dinner served at 7:30 p.m. A VIP reception begins at 6:30 p.m. Tickets to the reception are $50 each, and tickets to the dinner are $175.

Silent auction items will be available for viewing beginning at 6:30 p.m. on the night of the dinner. To preview items already donated, visit www.hrc-sa.org. For tickets, call 800-494-TIXS.

No Nonsense plans night on the town

Volunteers hope to recruit voters at gay nightclubs with event this weekend

By Joshua Cleveland
Contributing Writer

Gay and lesbian nightclubs across Texas will be the setting Saturday evening for "Come Out and Be Counted," a night of voter registration, education and fun sponsored by the No Nosense in November campaign.

Involving about 60 bars in 12 Texas cities, the evening will feature volunteers on duty Saturday from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. They'll solicit pledges from voters

HOUSTON

to vote against a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage in Texas. The initiative's volunteers will also make sure voters are properly registered.

Proposition 2 on the Nov. 8 ballot authorizes an amendment to the Texas Constitution that would prohibit gay marriages or civil unions or similar forms of legal recognizition for same-sex couples.

A statute passed in 2003 already prohibits the state and its political subdivisions from granting gay marriages or recognizing gay marriages performed legally in other states.

"Our efforts to get people to pledge to vote against the amendment and getting them registered to vote are far from over," said Lauren Rose, a No Nonsense spokeswoman. Rose said officials expect Saturday night's outreach to produce hundreds of newly registered voters.

Eighteen bars in Dallas, 11 in Houston, 6 in Austin and 6 in San Antonio are signed up, along with clubs from McAllen and South Padre Island to El Paso and Lubbock.

"I am surprised to find out how many people in our community don't even realize this is on the ballot," said Patti Fink, a co-chair of No Nonsense's Dallas campaign.

One purpose of the evening is to "educate them about this amendment and the dire need for them to vote," Fink said.

In Houston, local activist John Grothues is leading the outreach project at the nine participating bars and clubs.

"I think with everything we have planned for Houston bars, we will reach almost everyone who is out and about on the 8th. We're hoping those people will relay our message to everybody else," Grothues said.

The Houston outreach will involve 30 to 40 volunteers handing out T-shirts, registering voters and taking donations and pledges. Each bar has been given posters and videos about the campaign. Volunteers will be on hand to answer questions.

Grothues said the Houston area typically accounts for about a quarter of the statewide vote. But he added that only about 8 percent to 14 percent of people who are registered will actually turn up at the polls on Nov. 8.

"There is really nothing on the ballot this year that will bring voters out except for this amendment," he said. Grothues claimed that fact gives gays a chance to control the election.

Rose said that the October 8 event would not be the last voter outreach action from No Nonsense in November.

"I can't tell you specifically what we will be doing, but we have 30 days left until the vote, and we plan to use those days to reach voters," said Rose.

Rose said the campaign is working through progressive churches to sign up supportive straight people.

"We are working with these church leaders to extend our pledges to our straight allies and hopefully build bridges for future relationships," Rose said.

She said several ministers have recently denounced the amendment.

Contact the writer: Joshua2578@yahoo.com

Participating Bars and Clubs

The following bars and clubs are those in Texas's five largest cities that are participating in Saturday's 'Come Out and Be Counted.' Hours are 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. For participating clubs in other cities, call 512-443-2019.

Austin Clubs
Blue Theatre
'Bout Time
Charlie's–Austin
Oilcan Harry's
Rainbow Cattle Company
Rain on 4th

Dallas Clubs
Barbara's Pavilion
Brick Bar
Buddies II
The Cross Bar
Dallas Eagle
The Grapevine Bar
Illusions
JR's Bar and Grill
Kaliente
The Hideaway
Maleboxx
Mickey's
Round-Up Saloon
Station 4
Sue Ellen's
Throckmorton Mining Company
The Tin Room
Woody's Video & Sports Bar

Fort Worth Clubs
Best Friends
Changes
Crossroads
Hot Shots

Houston Clubs
Brazos River Bottom
Club Inergy Disco
Decades
Guava Lamp
JR's Bar & Grill
Keys West
Meteor
Montrose Mining Company
The New Barn
Rich's Houston
South Beach

San Antonio Clubs
The Annex
Bermuda Triangle
Pegasus
Petticoat Junction
The Saint
San Antonio Eagle

Space City Stampede



DALTON DEHART / TXT Newsmagazine

A rider whizzes past a barrel during the Barrel Racing competition at last weekend's Space City Stampede

National Coming Out Day celebrated around Texas

Gay Day at the State Fair and a special section and signature ad in *The Dallas Morning News* are the centerpieces of National Coming Out Day in North Texas. But this year's publication will be bigger and better than ever, according to National Coming Out Project-Dallas co-chair Jonathan Boarman.

"It is definitely the best section we have ever been able to pull off," Boarman said. "We have more than 1,000 names on the signature ad, and the section itself is twice as large as last year."

The local committee is also promoting Gay Day at the State Fair on Sunday. No formal events are planned.

The advertisement, special section and Gay Day have been Coming Out Day staples for several years.

This year's ad and special section will be published in Friday's edition of *The Dallas Morning News*. Gay Day at the State Fair is Sunday.

Boarman said the 2004 National Coming Out Day ad included about 900 names. This year there are more than 1,000. The special section doubled in size, to 24 pages from 12 last year, Boarman said.

"I think this is a great signal that we are doing the right things," he added.

On Tuesday, three groups at the University of Houston-Clear Lake will present a forum led by a panel of community experts.

The groups are UNITY, Women's Resource Services and the Intercultural and International Student Services. Coordinators hope the event, now in its second year, will raise awareness about issues affecting GLBT people as a whole.

UNITY participates in educational and fundraising activities throughout the year focusing on the GLBT community.

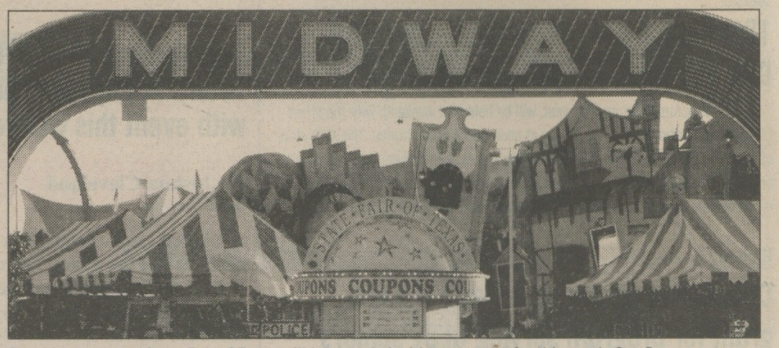
The information about coming out is scanty, said Tommy Calzadias, outreach student ambassador with Intercultural and

TEXAS

International Student Services. "Most people tend to keep their hands off it. But we think it is important that men and women learn what to expect from their families and friends when they come out."

Presenters discussing the coming out process, domestic violence and transgender issues will include Montrose Counseling Center's Michael Migura and Nick Day, and Josephine Tittsworth.

In addition, the Human Rights Campaign has provided resource literature that relating to how various communities deal with coming out. The booklets focus on African-Americans and Latinos; another focuses on coming out in the workplace.



The midway at the State Fair of Texas will be crowded with queers out for this year's Gay Day

The forum will take place in Atrium 1 of the Bayou Building on the UH-CL Campus beginning at 10 a.m. with additional sessions following until 6 p.m. Admission is free.

Commemorating the importance of coming out, members of Rice University's GLBT student and faculty group, GLBT WorkNet, will staff a booth Saturday and Sunday at Bayou City Arts Festival in downtown Houston, distributing literature and selling Pride pins and T-shirts for $5 each. The group will then screen the film *Tying the Knot* on Oct. 14 at 7 p.m. at Rice Cinema, with discussion following the movie. For more information, e-mail Glbt@rice.edu.

The Montrose Counseling Center has chosen the week designated for coming out observances to launch its next series on the coming out process. Beginning Oct. 13, the counseling center's coming out support group meets each Thursday for the next nine weeks (except Thanksgiving Day). The group's leader is Mike Harrison. Topics include Homophobia and Self-Loathing, Spirituality, Gay History, Coming Out to Others and Prejudice and Discrimination.

The sessions, open to anyone identifying as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or questioning, will be held from 6 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. in the Classroom 15.

There is no charge to attend the meetings, though participants will be asked for a donation.

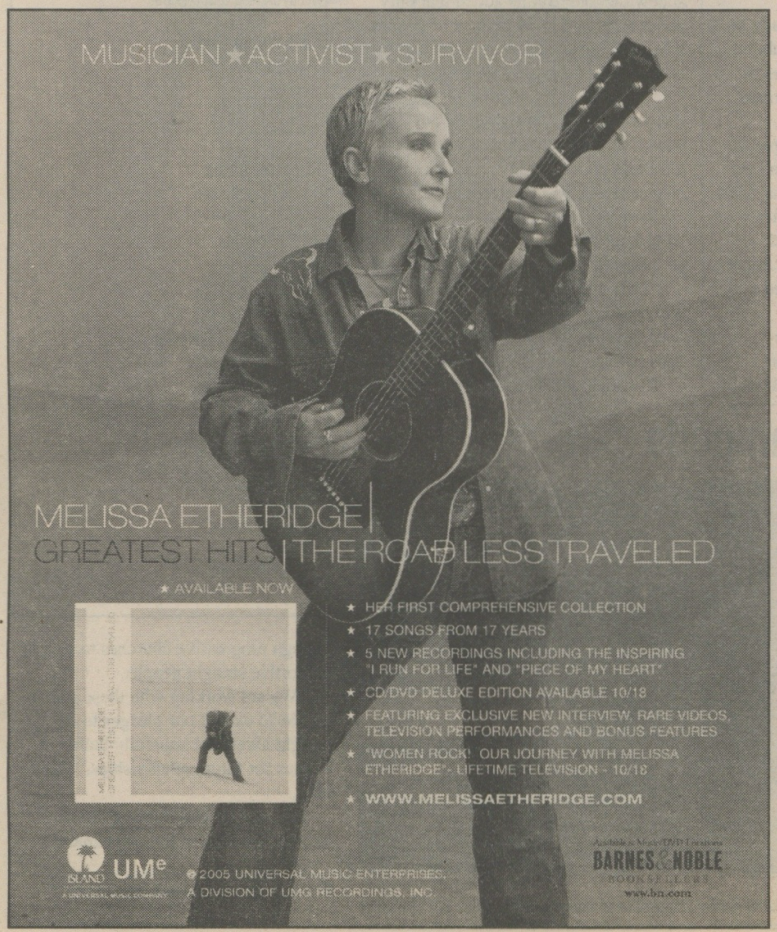
Reported by Tammye Nash in Dallas and Nancy Ford and Joshua Cleveland in Houston.

For information about the National Coming Out Project, visit Comeout.org.

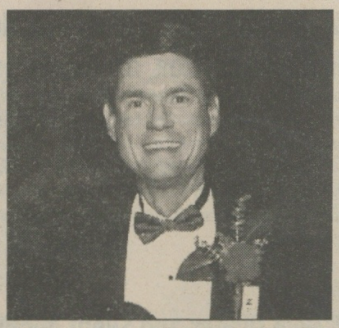
The forum at the University of Houston-Clear Lake will take place in Atrium 1 of the Bayou Building at 10 a.m. with additional sessions until 6 p.m. Admission is free. For details, call 281-283-2575.

For details about the program at Rice University, e-mail Glbt@rice.edu.

Contact the writer: Ann@txtnewsmag.com



deaths
Kevin Leroy Davidson



Kevin Leroy Davidson, 49, died on Sept. 28 in Houston.

The owner of The Resume Company, Davidson was a founder of HATCH, Houston's social group for GLBTQ youth and their friends. He was also a founder of the Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce, a board member of Executive Professionals Association-Houston and the Houston GLBT Community Center, and board chair of both the PFLAG-HATCH Youth Scholarship Foundation and the Houston GLBT Political Caucus.

Named to honor his contribution to Houston's gay youth community, the Kevin Davidson Award is a highlight of the annual HATCH Youth Banquet.

Born in North Lewisburg, Ohio, Davidson is survived by his parents, Robert and Dorothy Knapp Davidson; a sister, Diana Davidson; brothers, Keith and Jerry; numerous nieces and nephews; and a host of friends. His brother, Charles, preceded him in death.

A memorial service was held Monday at Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church in Houston.

The Davidson family has asked that memorial contributions be made to HATCH, 701 Richmond Ave., Houston, TX 77006.

We print notices of deaths of members of the Texas GLBT community at no fee. We can print extensive factual information documenting the life of the deceased, but we are unable to print poetry or memorial messages. For information about placing a notice, call Nancy Ford at 713-529-0322 or send an e-mail message to Nancy@txtnewsmag.com.



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By Ann Rostow
Senior Staff Writer

Bush nominates Dallasite to Supreme Court

Largely unknown, Miers faces many questions about background, philosophy

Supreme Court nominee Harriet Ellan Miers has belonged to an evangelical church in Dallas since 1980, where her former pastor, the Rev. Ron Key, said she eventually "came to a place where she totally committed her life to Jesus." According to online reports from University of Texas journalism professor and informal Bush advisor Marvin Olasky, Key said Valley View Christian Church is "strong for life," and believes "in the biblical approach to marriage."

Speaking to Focus on the Family's daily newsletter, former Texas Supreme Court justice Raul Gonzales described Miers as a "born again Christian," who "is a very very compassionate and able person." Gonzales has known Miers for two decades, the newsletter said.

Olasky, the author of the term "compassionate conservatism," devoted much of his online commentary on Monday to the nominee. Single and 60, the veteran corporate lawyer has "dated" Texas high court justice Nathan Hecht, a 56-year-old bachelor who also attends Valley View. Hecht — who described their relationship as "close" and "platonic" — told Olasky that Miers was an "originalist."

"That's the way she takes the Bible, and that's her approach to the Constitution as well — 'originalist.' It means what it says," Hecht was quoted as saying.

Accepting her nomination on Monday morning, Miers said "It is the responsibility of every generation to be true to the founders' vision of the proper role of the courts in our society. If confirmed, I recognize that I will have a tremendous responsibility to keep our

WASHINGTON

judicial system strong and help ensure that the courts meet their obligation to strictly apply the law and the Constitution."

Many on the right greeted the Miers nomination with alarm. They charged that Bush had missed the boat by naming a blank slate rather than openly conservative jurist to replace associate justice Sandra Day O'Connor. Their fears grew with the revelation that Miers was a former Democrat who donated to the presidential campaign of Tennessee Senator Al Gore in 1988 and the re-election drive for Texas Senator Lloyd Bentsen in 1987. Nor could it have helped to discover that Senate Democratic Leader, Harry Reid of Nevada, personally recommended Miers to the president as a non-confrontational selection.

But a barrage of phone calls from Vice President Dick Cheney and advisor Karl Rove appeared to mollify some leaders, including the founder of Focus on the Family, Dr. James Dobson. Dobson told an interviewer that he had "reason to believe" Miers was "pro-life," *The New York Times* reported, adding that "some of what I know I am not at liberty to talk about."

According to the *Times*, Justice Hecht also made some calls, reassuring Christian leaders that Miers opposed abortion rights and had attended anti-abortion events in his company. Hecht's characterization is bolstered by the fact that Miers unsuccessfully lobbied the American Bar Association to stay neutral on the issue of abortion rights, and at the very least to poll the membership before taking a policy stand in favor of *Roe v. Wade*.

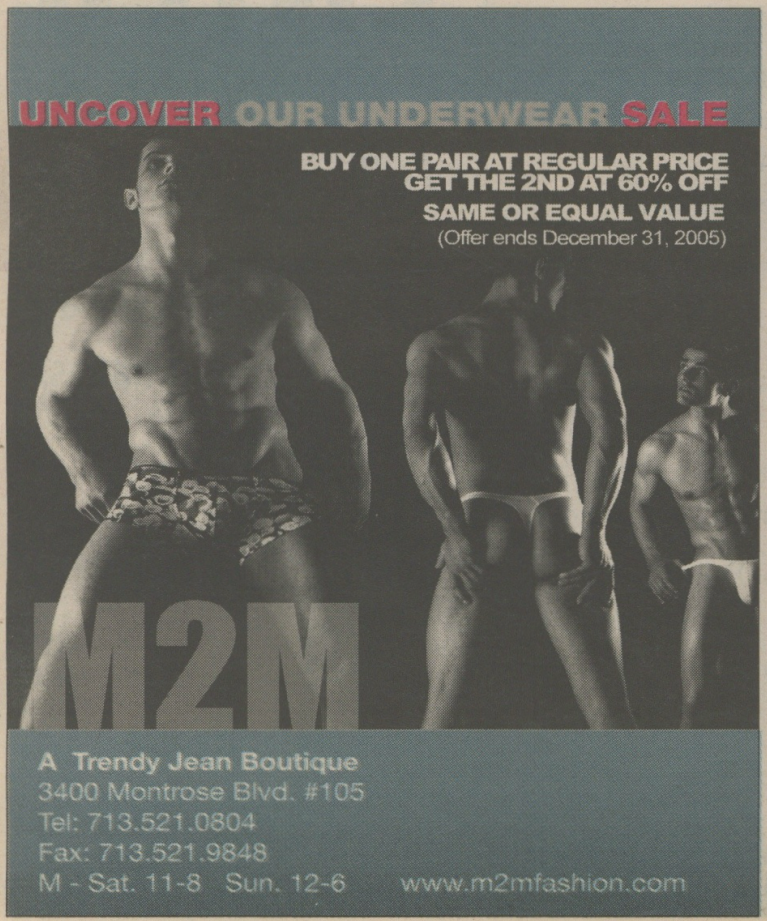
GLBT groups reacted with extreme wariness, urging the Senate Judiciary Committee to force the nominee to answer tough questions on the Constitution and civil rights.

Miers had filled out a questionnaire for gay activists when she ran for Dallas city council in 1989. In her response, she checked "yes" to the question: "Do you believe gay men and lesbians should have the same civil rights as non-gay men and women?" However, she checked "no" to the question of whether Texas should repeal its ban on same-sex sodomy, a position that Lambda Legal called "particularly troubling."

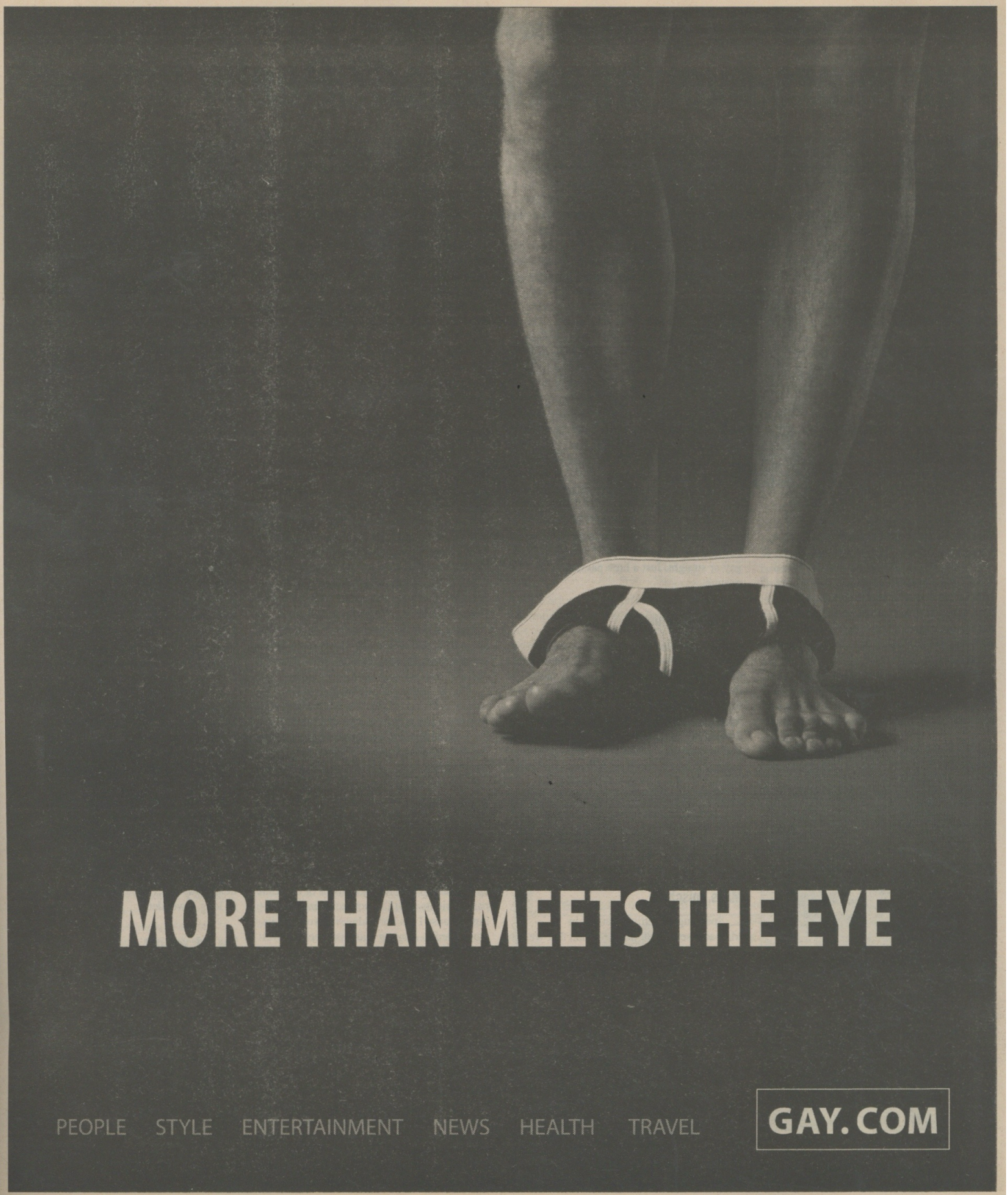
It is arguably too soon to sort out the early images of Harriet Miers; presumably the current blur will resolve into a clearer picture of the candidate over the weeks of hearings and national debate ahead.



Harriet Miers, White House counsel to President Bush, is shown in the White House office during an interview earlier this year. President Bush nominated Miers to the Supreme Court on Monday. If she is confirmed by the Senate, she will become only the third woman to serve as a justice.






MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE
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GAY.COM

Has Miers ever been kissed? Really kissed?

Mired in Miers

Don't you find it irritating when people talk about how Supreme Court justices should "apply the Constitution" rather than "make law?" Who the hell do they think makes "law" in the first place? The Easter Bunny?

And if the Constitution were "applied" like a topical ointment, we wouldn't need courts to begin with, let alone a High Court to arbitrate disputes from below. The only cases that reach the Supremed Court are those involving constitutional directives so elusive that the lower courts couldn't figure them out to begin with.



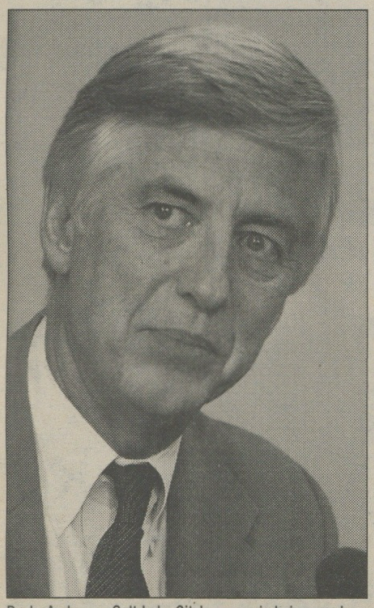
Ann Rostow

Does the Constitution protect your right to abort your seven-month fetus for no medical reason, just because you've changed your mind? Does the Establishment Clause require us to delete "in God we trust" from our currency? Can Congress restrict federal funds to institutions that adhere to specific policies, or does that violate the First Amendment? Can an employer tell a receptionist to wear something more feminine? If men harass a smaller man, is that gender discrimination?

Can we kick Fred Phelps out of our publicly subsidized Pride parade? Can the Irish kick us out of theirs? Can a Baptist school that takes state money be forced to hire atheists or lesbians? Can a state ban the sale of dildoes on moral grounds? Other grounds? Can it ban citizens from watching porn in their homes? Can Congress force a public library to use Internet filters that inadvertently block small businesses like "Prick's Dry Cleaning?"

TXT legal analysts say: probably not, not sure, sometimes, to some extent, could be, yes, yes, maybe, seems so, unclear, no, and who knows? The text of the Constitution is silent on these and other specific issues, which is why it's up to our courts, both high and low, to decide and literally to make law, case by case, not based on the words of the Constitution, but on its principles.

As for Harriet Miers, I'm wondering if she has the imagination, the legal creativity, to take on this fascinating job. I'd feel better if she had some hint of a romantic past, gay or straight. Just a little passion in her resume.



Rocky Anderson, Salt Lake City's mayor, is being sued twice — by the Public Employees Health Program and by those 'phobes at the Alliance Defense Fund.

I thee, um, unionize

Our exciting news roundup begins this week in Connecticut, where civil unions took effect Oct. 1. While activists rightly hailed the occasion, same-sex couples did not rush to the clerical offices on Day One. Makes sense to me. This is not Vermont in the year 2000. We can legally marry in Massachusetts and throughout Canada, and if my optimism proves prescient, we'll be able to marry in the state of Washington in a few weeks. So you can take your domestic partnerships and your civil unions and stick 'em where the sun don't shine with the powers of attorney, the wills, and the taxable insurance benefits that simply reinforce our second-class status.

Mass. mischief

Speaking of getting married in Massachusetts, I should have said that we can legally marry in Massachusetts *if we live there*, because we're blocked by that damned 1913 law that is being used to keep non-residents from taking vows in the Bay State. Drafted to prevent interracial marriage, the law bars outsiders from marrying if their marriages would not be legal where they live. On Thursday, Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders will make oral arguments before the Supreme Judicial Court in an effort to have the nasty little anachronism declared unconstitutional.

Meanwhile, Evildoers in the Clam Chowder State are attempting to gather some 66,000 signatures to qualify an amendment to ban same-sex marriage, a process that could culminate in a 2008 public vote on the question. The last time they tried this, they slipped an anti-gay petition in with one about banning the sale of horse meat, leading kind hearted gourmands around the state to "neigh"-say same-sex marriage by accident. This time, they're out in front of supermarkets, drumming up support for the (rightly) popular policy of selling wine in grocery stores. Again, hapless shoppers who are tired of running over to the elusive "package store" every time they want a bottle of pinot are inadvertently signing a raft of paperwork, including the anti-gay petitions that are slipped into the mix. The slimy tactics have led lawmakers to schedule a hearing on the matter October 18.

Waiting to ex-cork

As for Washington, we're all waiting for the state's Supreme Court to rule on marriage equality, and we are told they issue their opinions on Thursdays. Every Wednesday night for weeks and weeks now, I have made sure to have a bottle of Champagne on ice to toast a huge step forward in our colorful community march to equality. As a summer's worth of Thursdays have passed by without a decision, I've been obliged to drink to lesser achievements, like the poll results from Arizona, where 60 percent came out in opposition to a proposed amendment to ban same-sex marriage and civil unions, with 33 percent in favor.

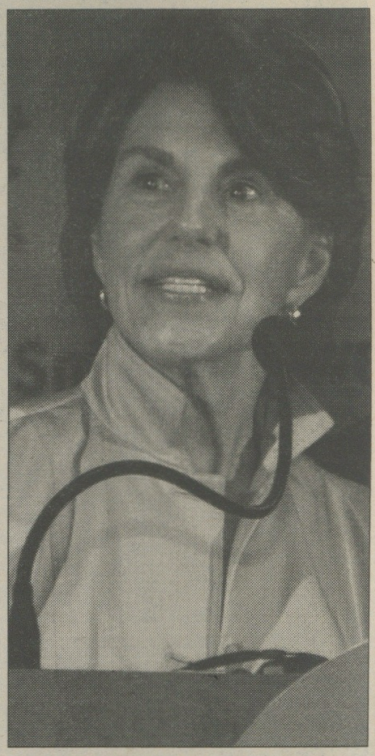
Oh, of course I didn't break my rule against drinking before 10 a.m. for that! It was just a clever transition. I don't trust polls, but I found that one by Arizona State's journalism school and a local TV station quite encouraging.

Rocky road

For those of you keeping track of recent news, and I hope that includes all my beloved readers, you should know that Michigan's attorney general, Mike Cox, is going to appeal last week's ruling in favor of domestic partner rights. No, I'm not recapping the ruling, because I am not addressing you nitwits who failed to *keep up* with last week's developments and have no idea what I'm talking about. I reserve my comments for informed community members only, and besides, I don't have the space to simultaneously ramble and recap.

In another mysterious update that only news junkies will recognize, Salt Lake City Mayor Rocky Anderson is being sued twice over his executive decision to institute domestic partner rights, first by the city's insurance carrier and second by a band of black hats from the insidious Alliance Defense Fund.

The feckless attorneys at Public Employees Health Program want a court to rule on whether Utah's constitutional ban on same-sex marriage preempts Anderson's partner plan, while the ADF wants a court to rule on whether gay men and lesbians can be legally placed on a reservation where they'll be forced to survive on horse meat and diet coke trucked in from a Safeway in Boston.



State Senator Patricia Miller, aka The Devil Incarnate, wants voters in Indiana to outlaw single people from using artificial reproduction techniques.

Meanwhile, I guess the Salt Lake City Council is still working on a rival proposal that would knock out Rocky's executive order in favor of some tepid alternative, but I don't feel like verifying that right now and my fact checking staff is off fetching me some oysters on the half shell and a half-bottle of Sancerre. (What the hell is taking them so long, I wonder?)

We kid, you not

Finally, here's a legislative proposal from the Devil Incarnate into a state senator from Indianapolis named Patricia Miller, who wants Hoosiers to outlaw single individuals from using artificial reproduction techniques. Miller would also like married couples to pass state parenting fitness tests, which would evaluate income, physical descriptions and church participation, among other things. This repellent initiative has no chance to advance, but the very idea that it will come up for a vote before the Health Finance Commission of the General Assembly on October 20 turns the stomach.

Contact the writer: Ann@txtnewsmag.com

Letters

What's not to like?

I cannot understand how at her apparent young age your writer Ann Rostow could have become so totally obnoxious, uninformed, liberal, uneducated and ignorant. Perhaps her appeal is to an extremely small group of fellow slimy liberals which carry no clout and no weight, and have no prestige and no following. I would never have finally broken down and written were it not for Rostow's ignorant and uninformed attack on Barbara Bush.

Keep scraping the bottom of the barrel and our new Chief Justice of the United States will be looking for Rostow's idiotic types, I hope and pray. Get with the real world and stop your whining, which means *nothing*, gets you *nowhere* and is *ignored* by most level headed, free thinking, true Americans.

Thank God.

Joe L. Penland / Dallas

Lesbian longings

I love Ann Rostow's work, both the scholarly discourses that leave me feeling that I actually understand the item being discussed, and the lighter side.

Several of the lesbian contingent of Dallas Stonewall Democrats were chatting the other day. While we love Ann Rostow's columns, and the occasional Nancy Ford entry, it seemed to us that the publication is on average very light on stuff of interest to us. We were wondering whether it might be possible to shift the emphasis a bit?

P.L. Moore / Dallas

The Left's attack on Schwarzenegger unfair

It is my opinion that the liberal left of the California legislators have lived up to the reputation of most liberals as being above the law. In full support of the statement made by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, I believe the United States cannot have a system where we as people establish law by casting votes, and have the legislatures and courts come behind us and undo what the majority have done.

The governor has sold no one out. In fact, he has done a service to our democracy by upholding the voice of the people who voted these laws into practice.

My view, as a conservative gay male, is that indeed, change is needed for our community. We do deserve the same rights as other citizens. But there are lawful ways, more effective ways, of debating these issues to come up with effective solutions for everyone.

Our focus should be representing ourselves to our neighbors, family and friends with the highest respect for ourselves and our community. Change will come when we influence the people who ultimately have the authority to authorize rights for our community — fellow voters.

Jared A. Cox / Dallas

To submit a letter We welcome and read all letters. We print a few that are representative of the many. Additional letters are on the TXT web page. Shorter letters and those addressing a single subject are more likely to be printed. Letters are edited for length and clarity. When submitting a letter, include your full name, street address and day and evening telephone numbers for verification purposes. Letters should be e-mailed to Nancy@txtnewsmag.com, or they may be faxed to 713-529-0327, or mailed to Letters from Readers, TXT Newsmagazine, 4617 Montrose Ave., Suite C229, Houston, TX 77006. All letters become the property of TXT Newsmagazine.

Are assimilation and affluence to blame?

With traditional gay ghettos in transition, GLBTs must work harder to find community

If only the coffee shop Big Cup had changed its name to the Luxurious Latte it might have survived. Instead, the cornerstone of New York's gay Chelsea neighborhood closed earlier this month after the landlord raised the rent from $16,500 to $21,500. The downfall of the Big Cup is indicative of dramatic changes taking place in gayborhoods across America, where artists are pushed out as art dealers move in.

From San Francisco's Castro District to Provincetown, the hard-bodied and cool are displaced in favor of cold hard cash. Gentrification is having a dramatic impact on everything from the GLBT bar scene to politics. The question is, can the GLBT community survive and thrive without the cocoon of the traditional gay ghetto?

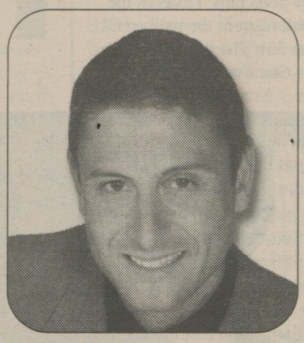
Sure, remnants of the gay ghetto exist, but it is fast becoming the exclusive playground of the very wealthy. As prices rise, heterosexual families are also moving in, further changing the character of these neighborhoods. I have nothing against these heterosexual families, who are often our friends and allies. But as the number of heterosexuals increases, the safety net grows smaller and gay people who once freely kissed, suddenly have to look over their shoulders.

For example, demographic changes may be affecting South Beach, a magnificent Miami neighborhood blessed with bountiful sunshine, gorgeous beaches and scantily clad models. I first started club hopping in South Beach in the late '80s when it was a scary ghost town infested with prostitutes and drug dealers. The gay community opened a few nightclubs in old theaters, and by the early '90s the city was booming. For the next decade, working-class gay men flocked to this Mecca. Eventually, prices skyrocketed as the gay glitterati and sybaritic straights moved in.

The loss of majority status for gay people has seemingly emboldened gaybashers. On July 4, according to the *Express Gay News*, Carl Zablotny, the gay publisher of *Wire*, a Miami Beach gay newspaper, was slugged in the mouth and knocked unconscious by two thugs who hurled anti-gay remarks. In January 2003, Earnest Robinson left a popular gay pub and was shot in the shoulder by two men who shouted anti-gay slurs. In another incident, three men attacked and beat a victim who left a gay bar dressed as a belly dancer. And this month, Miami Heat basketball star Shaquille O'Neal called police after he witnessed gaybashers yell anti-gay slurs and throw a beer bottle at a gay couple.

South Beach is still an incredible place to be openly gay. The outbreak of recent bashings is not representative of the community. However, these attacks do suggest that as our numbers decrease, so does the safety zone.

The decline of the gay ghetto also may have political implications. In the past, gay activists had a critical mass of young people who could be organized to protest abuses. It is much more difficult to convince older wealthy gay people to hit the streets chanting slogans.



ANYTHING BUT STRAIGHT
Wayne Besen

Meanwhile, the younger and often angrier gay men and lesbians can't be mobilized because they are dispersed in isolated, lower-income neighborhoods. Perhaps this dynamic helps explain the tepid response in California this month following Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's announcement that he would veto legislation allowing gay couples to marry. When Gov. Pete Wilson vetoed pro-gay legislation in the early '90s, there were riots throughout the state, particularly in areas with high concentrations of gay people.

As the ghetto becomes more exclusive, regular gay and lesbian Americans are forced to search for new neighborhoods that are inclusive. For gays who enjoyed living in the traditional gayborhood, moving dramatically changes their quality of life. Instead of living in vibrant areas where one can walk to the grocery store and the gay bar, many gay people today must live in rundown neighborhoods that are quite far from centers of gay culture and the convenience of upscale urban life. For some, this represents a degraded standard of living and a diminished sense of community.

Those looking for solutions may be out of luck. History suggests that neighborhoods are in constant flux and there is little that can be done to reverse changing market and social forces. For example, New York's Lower East Side used to be predominantly Jewish, but that is no longer the case. Before gay people claimed The Castro in the early '70s, it was primarily a neighborhood of Irish Catholic families.

Gay neighborhoods throughout America are in transition. But as old communities disappear, new ones are born. In Brooklyn, the areas of Williamsburg and Park Slope have gone from hideous to hip. Back in Manhattan, the once rundown Hell's Kitchen is looking more like heaven each day for young gay people. Meanwhile, in Washington, working class GLBT people have moved out of prohibitively pricey DuPont Circle and have rebuilt their lives in nearby Logan Circle, which was not too long ago a place one would not walk at night.

Nothing in life is static. Even as we mourn the blooms falling off the old roses, we can celebrate the flowering of new GLBT-friendly communities.

Wayne Besen is a watchdog of "ex-gay" groups and author of Anything But Straight: Unmasking the Scandals and Lies Behind the Ex-Gay Myth.

Contact the writer: Wbesen@aol.com



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Fair ball

The Texas-OU game arrives just in time for Gay Day at the State Fair of Texas

By Arnold Wayne Jones

The rivalry between the teams is so intense that they always meet on neutral ground, more or less, at the halfway point between Norman and Austin.

But while rumors persist that the annual gridiron battle between the University of Texas Longhorns and the University of Oklahoma Sooners may move out of Dallas's Cotton Bowl one of these years, that's a concern for another day. The most important question in this landmark 100th match-up is: Can Texas finally break the five-year losing streak that has seen OU outscore it by a combined 189 points to 54?

UT leads the series with 55 victories compared to OU's 39 (plus five ties), and both the AP and *USA Today* polls rank Texas as the no. 2 college football team in the nation (OU isn't even in the top 20). The Longhorns are poised for the Lone Star State to reclaim bragging rights. The game is set to start at noon on Saturday.



But queer collegians have more reasons than the chance to see beefy men in uniforms for heading out to the State Fair of Texas this weekend. With National Coming Out Day just around the corner (Oct. 11), Sunday serves as Gay Day at the State Fair, sponsored by the National Coming Out Project of Dallas-Fort Worth.

The fair offers countless activities and attractions, from delicious fattening foods (funnel cakes, turkey legs, a Fletcher's Cornydog speed-eating contest) to the popular auto and livestock shows. And for the State Fair musical this year, Dallas Summer Musicals snared the Tony-winning sensation *Wicked* (read more about it on page 13).

Of particular interest on Gay Day are demonstrations in the Celebrity Kitchen by Dallas chefs James Neel and Jeffery Hobbs, monarch butterfly tagging demonstrations, Chinese and African acrobat performances, canine skills shows and a slate of musicians that includes rapping redneck Cowboy Troy and Mundo Latino, a presentation featuring acts from across the state.

Which is all part of what makes the State Fair such an enduring legacy — sports or music, theater or cooking, shopping or people-watching, there's something for everyone.



EVENT
State Fair of Texas

Fair Park, 3809 Grand Ave., Dallas. Daily 10 a.m.–10 p.m., through Oct. 23. General admission: $13. Texas-OU game, Sat. at noon. National Coming Out Day at the State Fair, Sun., noon-7 p.m. Bigtex.com.

Theater

By Arnold Wayne Jones

All the world's a stage

Or so it seems lately, with queer-friendly shows all around Texas



Theater is pretty gay any day of the week, but this season welcomes numerous productions of interest to the gay community across Texas. Here, then, is a rundown of pay-for-play shows opening this week.

Austin

Keepin' It Weird at Zach Scott Theatre shares its concept with *The Laramie Project*: Both tell a story based on real-life interviews. But rather than looking at hate crimes, *Weird* looks at the oddball characters that encourage the state capital's reputation for alternative attitudes and fun-loving lifestyles. (Not everyone in Austin is gay, they just act like they could be.)



Zach's resident nut (aka artistic director), playwright Dave Steakley, says the play was inspired by the "Keep Austin Weird" bumper-sticker. When the motto began to catch on with city elders and "this subversive idea was being endorsed by the establishment," he decided a play was overdue.

Steakley considers this production a first step in creating a tent where the Austin community can come together. It's about "giving voice to the characters who make Austin an interesting place to live," he says.

Dash Mammoth Theater, a newly-formed troupe in Austin, launches its inaugural season with Martin Sherman's controversial drama *Bent*. Set during World War II, ***Bent*** traces the tragic consequences of being gay during the Nazi regime.

Ash Robinson, one of the producers and stars, says choosing the political-charged play as their Texas debut is no accident.

"As our rights in this country are threatened and curtailed, it is important to bring people to action, to wake people up, to stop the party long enough for people to acknowledge what is going on," Robinson says.

Dallas

When the State Fair arrives in Dallas, a splashy Broadway musical is rarely far behind. Every year, this show is usually the centerpiece of the Dallas Summer Musicals' season, and typically, that means the gayest (or gay-friendliest) production out there. (Recent State Fair musicals include *Mamma Mia!* and *The Lion King*.)

But this time they have outdone themselves, with the gigantic, thrill-inducing staging on the hit Tony Award-winner ***Wicked***. Based on gay novelist Gregory Maguire's celebrated prequel to *The Wizard of Oz*, *Wicked* imagines a time when Glinda and her green-skinned doppelganger Elphaba were school chums, only to find themselves on opposite sides of the goodness meter (and destined for very different fates).

The touring production features Emmy-winner Carol Kane (*Taxi*) as Madame Morrible, David Garrison (*Married... with Children*) as the Wizard, Stephanie J. Brock as Elphaba and Kendra Kassebaum as Glinda. After its run at the Fair ends, the tour heads to Houston.

On a smaller scale, Theatre Three mounts ***I'll Leave It to You***, gay playwright Noel Coward's first produced play. The production is directed by Broadway veteran Michael Serrecchia, who co-starred in the original 1975 version of *A Chorus Line*.

Houston

Hurricane Rita delayed the openings of several Houston-area productions, including Tom Stoppard's ***Hapgood*** at the Alley Theatre (*see review*). Also at the Alley this month are Dixie Carter — the gay-iconic Julia Sugarbaker from *Designing Women*— and her husband, Hal Holbrook, who team up again for ***Be My Baby***.

In this world premiere by playwright Ken Ludwig, Carter and Holbrook play a mismatched couple forced to deliver a newborn baby to her adoptive parents. The trio gets stranded in San Francisco, where comic clashes and unexpected love lessons ensue. Direction is by Tony-winner and native Houstonian John Rando (*Urinetown*).

In the Company of Strangers is Dallas-based playwright Lee Swift's award-winning reverie on Internet relationships.

"It's about four dissimilar people who meet online, including Billy, a gay teenager who is dealing with coming out to his religious mother," says Swift, who based the character in part on himself. Together, the people create a kind of cyber-family, a support system known to each other only through the World Wide Web. It plays for two weekends at the Kingwood College drama department.

And at Theatre Under the Stars, the national tour of the hit musical *Chicago* arrives for a limited run.



cameo

Spies like us

Stoppard spoofs the spooks in *Hapgood*

There's a lot — sometimes too much — going on in Tom Stoppard's *Hapgood*. Briefcases are switched, identities are mistaken, lies are told — and that's just during the opening scene, set inside an eerily-lit swimming pool locker room.

Elizabeth Hapgood (Josie de Guzman) is the head of a covert British spy ring that has been infiltrated by an outsider. Someone has been leaking secrets to the Russians, and Stoppard's story unveils the tricky, complicated task of smoking the traitor out.

Is it Kerner (Todd Waite), the Soviet physicist and double agent? Ridley (Jeffrey Bean), the menacing agent who holds a torch for Hapgood? Or is it Hapgood herself?

Amid the intrigue, Hapgood struggles to remain a good mother to Joe (played by Andrew Chennisi or Terran Swonke at alternating performances). She attends all his rugby games, and it's here where the usually frosty spy lets her guard down.



De Guzman's scenes with the young actor are warm and genuine, and they give the play a much-needed shot of emotion. But for the most part, *Hapgood* is all business. There are sporadic moments of humor, but they are few and far between. Much of the play is filled with dry dialogue and Kerner's scientific explanations of "waves" and "particles." It becomes quite a task to keep up — and sometimes to care.

De Guzman is appropriately stoic, although she does get to have a little fun in Act 2. John Tyson is wryly charismatic as Blair (Hapgood's immediate superior and good friend), and Waite manages considerable charm amid all the hypotheses as Kerner.

Bean strikes an ominous, unpredictable note as Ridley, while Chris Hutchinson provides some much-needed comic relief as a bumbling agent. Paul Hope is solid as a dependable ally to Hapgood, playing Alfred to her Batman.

Director Gregory Boyd keeps the action moving, and he's helped tremendously by scenic designer Jeff Cowie and lighting designer Chris Parry. They give the proceedings slick, modern touches.

In the end, though, the cast would have been better served by less matrix-style fanfare and considerably more passion in the script.

— *Joey Guerra*

ON STAGE

Fall Theater Picks

Be My Baby and **Hapgood**, Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave., Houston. Through Oct. 23. Sun., Tue.-Thu. at 7:30 p.m., Fri.-Sat. at 8 p.m., Sat.-Sun. matinees at 2:30 p.m. $41-$46. 713-228-8421.

Bent, The Blue Theatre, 916 Springdale Road, Austin. Through Oct. 30. Thu.-Sat. at 8 p.m., Sun. matinees at 2:30 p.m. $15. 512-627-5031.

Chicago, Theatre Under the Stars, Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, 800 Bagby St., Houston. Daily at 8 p.m., Sat.-Sun. matinees at 2 p.m. Oct. 11-23, $27-$72. 713-558-8887.

I'll Leave It to You, Theatre Three, 2800 Routh St., Dallas. Oct. 13-Nov. 19. Thu. at 7:30 p.m., Fri.-Sat. at 8 p.m., Sat.-Sun. matinees at 2:30 p.m. $10-$35. 214-871-3300.

In the Company of Strangers, Kingwood College Performing Arts Theatre, 20000 Kingwood Drive, Kingwood. Oct. 13-23. Thu.-Sat. at 8 p.m., Sun. at 2 p.m. $12.

Keepin' It Weird, Zach Scott Theatre Center (Kleberg Stage), 1421 W. Riverside Drive, Austin. Through Nov. 13. Thu.-Sat. at 7:30 p.m., Sun. matinees at 2:30 p.m. 512-476-0541, ext. 1.

Wicked, Music Hall at Fair Park, 909 First Ave., Dallas. Through Oct. 23. Tue.-Sun. at 8 p.m., Sat.-Sun. matinees at 2 p.m. $32-$74. 214-631-2787. (Runs Oct. 26-Nov. 13 at the Hobby Center in Houston. 713-593-2692.)

Filth

By Billy Masters

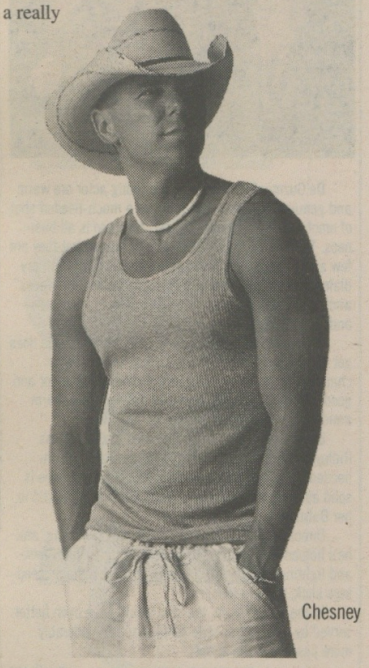
Disgustingly offensive dirt; garbage; anything grossly indecent or obscene

What's up with straight marriage?

This hasn't been a good few weeks for celebrity couples. It all started when **Renee Zellweger** filed to annul her marriage to country singer **Kenny Chesney** and checked off the box marked "fraud" — probably because there wasn't a box marked "duh."

Then **Jenny McCarthy** filed for divorce from the heir to the *Bewitched* fortune, **John Asher**, the same week the first movie she ever produced (and, obviously, starred in) opened.

And **Tori Spelling** filed for divorce from **Charlie Shanian**, who's a really nice guy.



Chesney

Someone who people say is *not* a nice guy — but is mighty nice looking — is **Chad Michael Murray**, who is divorcing his co-star/wife of five months, **Sophia Bush,** after reportedly cheating on her before and during their marriage (if it's in *Us Weekly*, it's gotta be true).

As if we didn't have enough bad news this week, **Bernadette Peters**'s hubby, **Michael Wittenberg**, was killed in a helicopter crash in Montenegro.

Even with all of that, I was holding it together until one story pushed me over the edge: **Silo** and **Roy**, those gay penguins in New York's Central Park Zoo, have split up! Over the past few years, the famous same-sex couple hatched and raised an adopted chick after spending months trying to hatch a rock — let's face it, they're not the smartest of animals.

Then along came **Scrappy**, a single, trampy female penguin from the Sea World Zoo in San Diego. Next thing you know, Silo up and leaves Roy and moves in with Scrappy. Is nothing sacred? Didn't they watch *March of the Penguins*? They're supposed to be monogamous!

Everyone has been e-mailing me to ask about the domestic dispute happening in the home of one of our favorites, **Kathy Griffin**. On Sept. 23, Kathy filed for divorce from her hubby, **Matt Moline**. She cites irreconcilable differences and asks that their assets be split and that she not be required to provide him with alimony.

What I find fascinating about this story is that I met up with Kathy and Matt five days earlier at the Emmy Awards, where the happy couple was kissing and acting all lovey-dovey. What the hell happened? First the penguins, and now this!

Which got me thinking — what if there's more to this story than meets the eye? Back on the very first episode of *Kathy Griffin: My Life on the D-List*, she posed some tantalizing



Peters

questions: "What can I do to get back on *Oprah*? Do you think it would be weird if I raped Matt?"

Now, here's a kooky, wacky idea — what if she filed for divorce from Matt and asked the judge to cut him off, and then at the eleventh hour, the couple reconciled and went on *Oprah* to talk about how they re-discovered their love? Cynical? You bet — and Kathy wouldn't have me any other way...

In potentially good news, **Anna Nicole Smith** is headed to Washington. The Supreme Court announced that it will review the buxom blonde's case regarding the disposition of her late husband's estate. Smith's new lawyer, **Kent Richland**, says that Anna will attend the arguments.

If **William Rehnquist** hadn't died, she'd have had a better chance — and possibly could have ended up with a new husband! Here's a bit of advice: When Anna asks who should get the lap dance, make sure she stays clear of **Ruth Bader Ginsburg** and goes directly to **Clarence Thomas**.

Several people have been writing to "Ask Billy" about one of my favorite people. The first e-mail I received was from Jordan in Harrisburg, Penn.: "I read that **Bruce Vilanch** has left the Broadway cast of *Hairspray*. I saw him in the show and he was a hoot! What will he do next?"

La Vilanch tells me that he's in the middle of shooting *Celebrity Fit Club 3*. Yes, Brucie is determined to lose weight while **Ant** cracks the whip (while not wearing underwear — but you didn't hear that from me). That isn't even the best part. Bruce's fellow celebrities include **Jeff Conaway**, **Tempestt Bledsoe**, **Kelly LeBrock** and (drum roll, please) **Chastity Bono**! Yes, that big, strapping daughter of **Cher** and **Sonny Bono** may slip into a **Bob Mackie** gown yet! Or at least winch into the bag the dress came in!

JoJo in Denver asked: "I loved your report about the guy from Westlife coming out. Those nude pics of his boyfriend were *so* hot. Where did they come from? And do you have any more?"

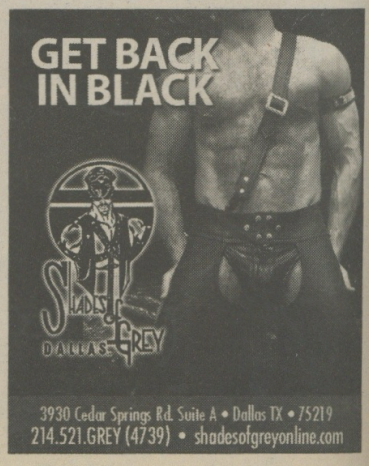
Young **Kevin McDaid** did a series of nude photos for a gay Web site in the U.K. prior to moderate success with the now defunct group V. We thought we hit paydirt when we saw how well-endowed he is. Since then, we've received more photos from the same session — and in these, he's joined by another twinky blond boy. These pics show Kevin and said boy engaging in oral sex (both giving and receiving) and Kevin preparing to top his unknown partner. I'm sure Kevin's boyfriend, **Mark Freehily**, ain't thrilled that I'm posting the photos on Filth2go.com, but a girl's gotta eat.

When we have proof that Chastity and Bruce are *not* the same person, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Do you have a question that only Billy can answer? If so, just send an e-mail to me at Billy@filth2go.com and I promise to get back to you before Anna Nicole flashes the Supreme Court!

Until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.







Weekly Review

To submit an event listing All listings of upcoming GLBT meetings and events and of arts openings should be sent to the managing editor, in the Houston office. They must be received no later than noon on Monday to be included in Friday's newsmagazine. We prefer to receive them earlier. They may be e-mailed to Nancy@txtnewsmag.com, or faxed to 713-529-0327, or mailed to TXT Newsmagazine, 4617 Montrose Blvd., Suite C229, Houston TX 77006.

Friday, October 7

AUSTIN

18th Annual Austin Gay & Lesbian International Film Festival, through Oct. 8. Regal Arbor Cinema, 9828 Great Hills Trail. 512-828-7323. Agliff.org.

Bent, by Martin Sherman. Presented by Dash Mammoth Theatre through Oct. 29. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Sundays, 2:30 pm. $15. Benefits Project Transitions. Blue Theatre, 916 Springdale Ave. 512-627-5031.

DALLAS/FT. WORTH

Dallas Fort Worth Primetimers mixer. 6 p.m. Bill's Hideaway, 4144 Buena Vista St. 972-504-8866 Rsvp@primetimers-dfw.org.

Free syphilis and oral HIV testing, 5-9 p.m. Nelson-Tebedo Health Resource Center, 4012 Cedar Springs Rd. 214-540-4414.

Memory of a Killer, presented by Magnolia at the Modern, through Oct. 9. 6 and 8 p.m. Saturday, 5 p.m. Sunday, 2 and 4 p.m. $5.50-$7.50. Modern Art Museum of Ft. Worth, 3200 Darnell St. 817-738-9215. Themodern.org.

Off the Wall Uptown Artcrawl with opening Reception for artist, Jim Frederick. 6-9 p.m. Hibernia Dental Arts, 2701 Hibernia Rd. 214-206-4553, ext. 3. Jimfrederickstudios.com.

HOUSTON

Bent, by Martin Sherman, presented by Theatre New West through Oct. 9. Strand Theatre, 2317 Ship's Mechanic Row in Galveston. Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. Sunday, 2:30 p.m. $20. 409-763-4591. Theatrenwest@aol.com.

Bering & Friends' Follow the Yellow Brick Road: A Musical Journey. 8 p.m. $20. Benefits Bering Support Network. Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1440 Harold St. Beringandfriends.org.

Bering Support Network hosts a wide variety of social, support and health-related community programs throughout the week. 713-526-1017. Beringsupportnetwork.org.

Free HIV and syphilis testing throughout the week at various clubs. Montrose Clinic's Community Outreach Prevention Services. 713-830-3070 for schedule. Montroseclinic.org.

Girlz Just Wanna Have Fun, presented by Groove Girlz Productions, features six DJs, two dance floors, drink specials and a live lesbian auction hosted by Nancy Ford. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. $5-$10. Benefits Pride Houston. Club 1415, 1415 California St. Groovegirlz.com.

Houston GLBT Caucus voter ID project volunteer data entry work sessions. Fridays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Thursdays, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Houston Pride Office, 1415 California, Suite 110. 713-529-6979. Jvalinski@hglbtpc.org.

Montrose Counseling Center hosts a wide variety of social, support and health-related community programs throughout the week. 701 Richmond Ave., room 15. 713-529-0037. Montrosecounselingcenter.org.

Thornton Dial in the 21st Century, the works of Thornton Dial, Sr. Presented by Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, through January 8, 2006. 1100 Bissonnet St. 713-639-7300. Mfah.org.

SAN ANTONIO

Alamo City Men's Chorale seeks new members; call for audition. 210-654-7549. Acmc-texas.org.

Bar Recruitment Drive, conducted by Stonewall Democrats of San Antonio to register voters, collect supporters' "pledges to vote against" forms and sign up volunteers. Weekends, through Oct. 11. 9 p.m. Maccabe_s@hotmail.com.

Saturday, October 8

AUSTIN

Waterluau, 4-10 p.m. $30-$40. Benefits Waterloo Counseling Center. Shady Springs Party Barn, 9401 Sherman Rd. 512-444-9922. Waterluau.org.

DALLAS/FT. WORTH

Asian Pacific American Empowerment, presented by First Southern Regional Conference for Asian Pacific American students. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. University of North Texas-Denton's University Union. 940-565-2456. Unt.edu/edo.

Dallas Ft. Worth Primetimers coffee. 10 a.m. Crossroads Market, 3930 Cedar Springs Rd. Primetimers-DFW.org.

HOUSTON

Breast Health Awareness, featuring by Marbelly Walker. 8:30 a.m.-noon. Bering Memorial United Methodist Church., 14440 Harold St. Presented by AssistHers' care team circles and inservice. Assisthers.org.

Crystal Meth Anonymous meets Saturdays and Mondays through Wednesdays at various locations. Cmahouston.earthlink.net.

Face of the Month with Lisa Forenda, presented by COPA Productions. 7 p.m. Keys West, 817 W. Dallas Ave. Benefits local charities.

Montrose Soccer Club practice. 10:30 a.m. Woodrow Wilson School, Fairview and Windsor. Montrosesoccer.org.

SAN ANTONIO

Jade Esteban Estrada's Icons: The Lesbian and Gay History of the World, Vol. 2. 8 p.m. Bonham Exchange, 411 Bonham St. $10-$15. 210-223-7419. Info@diversitycentersa.org.

Spectrum Youth Outreach 7 p.m. Diversity Center, 531 San Pedro, 2nd floor. 210-223-6106. Info@diversitycentersa.org.

Sunday, October 9

AUSTIN

4th Annual Style Cup, with DJ Jeff Strange and emcee Tee Double. 8 p.m.-midnight. $25-$50. Hyatt Regency at Town Lake, 208 Barton Springs Dr. Benefits Project Transitions. 512-454-8646. StyleCupAustin.com.

Octo Tea Dance, with DJ Roland Belmares and Hedda Layne. 3-9 p.m. $30-$40. Benefits AIDS Services of Austin. Cabo Loco, 512-458-AIDS. Octopusclub.com.

HOUSTON

Bike for a Better City. 8 a.m. Meet at Starbuck's W. Gray St. at Shepherd Ave. 713-446-3898. Bikeforabettercity@hotmail.com.

HATCH youth group. 6-9 p.m. Call for location, 713-529-3590. Hatchyouth.org.

SAN ANTONIO

Gay Fiesta, with Autumn Summers and Jenny McCall. Noon-8 p.m. Villita Assembly Hall, 401 Villita St. 210-737-1411. Gayfiesta.org.

POZ Outlook Social Group, 4-6 p.m. Diversity Center, 531 San Pedro Ave. 2nd floor. 210-223-6106. Diversitycentersa.org.

Monday, October 10

DALLAS/FT. WORTH

Leadership Lambda Toastmasters. 6:30 p.m. Oak Lawn Public Library, 4100 Cedar Springs. 214-219-1908.

HOUSTON

Community forum with Dr. Cal Cohen, who discusses HIV Treatment in 2005 and Beyond. Presented by Center for AIDS, 1407 Hawthorne St. 12 p.m.-1:30 p.m. Centerforaids.org.

Gay Men's Chorus of Houston rehearsal. 7-10 p.m. Resurrection Metropolitan Church, 2025 W. 11th St. 713-521-SING. Gmch.org.

Queer Voices, GLBT radio with Jack Valinski, Deborah Bell and various GLBT co-hosts. 7-9 p.m. KPFT-FM 90.1.

Tuesday, October 11

DALLAS/FT. WORTH

Journey Out youth group for ages 16-22. 7 p.m. Cathedral of Hope Congregational Life Center, 5910 Cedar Spring Rd.

Wednesday, October 12

AUSTIN

Safe Space. 7 p.m. University of Texas, Jester West Fireplace Lounge. Demeureguy@yahoo.com.

DALLAS/FT. WORTH

American Veterans for Equal Rights, North Texas Chapter. 7-9 p.m. John Thomas Gay & Lesbian Resource Center, 2701 Reagan St. 214-540-4480. Aver-north-texas.us.

HOUSTON

Dia de La Raza dinner, 7 p.m. $7. Benefits Gay and Lesbian Latin Organization. La Cueva Tequila Lounge, 2312 Crocker St. 713-710-0045. HoustonGallo@yahoo.com.

SAN ANTONIO

Free HIV Testing with BEAT AIDS. 4-7 p.m. 531 San Pedro Ave. 210-223-6106. Diversitycentersa.org.

King Mary's Bridge Club 6:45 p.m. $4. Diversity Center, 531 San Pedro Ave. 210-223-6106. Kingmary.org.

Thursday, October 13

AUSTIN

Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas volunteer night. 6-9 p.m. Lgrl.org. 512-474-5475.

DALLAS/FT. WORTH

A screening of selected works of playwright and filmmaker Luis Valdez, presented by University of North Texas Division of Equity and Diversity's "Power of Diversity" program. 8-10 p.m. Cool Beans, 1210 W. Hickory St. 940-565-3805. Unt.edu/edo.

Fuse for young men, ages 18-24. 7:30 p.m. Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 2701 Reagan St. 214-540-4410.

Str8 Up, by Dallas filmmaker Israel Luna. Presented by Q Cinema. 7:30 p.m. $10. Benefits Q Cinema. Landmark's Inwood Theatre, 5458 W. Lovers Ln. Qcinema.org.

SAN ANTONIO

Women's Support Group with Sally Chilson, MA, LPCI. 6:30-8 p.m. Diversity Center, 531 San Pedro Ave. 2nd Floor. 210-223-6106. Diversitycentersa.org.

zodiac

Libra

After a series of stressful quincunxes, squares and oppositions, we finally get some easy aspects! The sun in Libra, trine Neptune in Aquarius, focuses on new takes on social and humanitarian ideals. Mercury conjunct Jupiter in Libra, semi-sextile Venus in Scorpio, opens the gates of erotic charm. Whether scouting for boys or girls, be prepared!

LIBRA — September 23-October 22
Mercury and Jupiter lined up in your sign make you dangerously open. You could let some valuable or passionate secret slip. Let passion out. You'll win any games you play for fun, but don't gamble away your money!

SCORPIO — October 23-November 21
Those dark, secret depths you're so famous for are suddenly very open and accessible — for you, at least. A little getaway with a confidante can help you to gain great insights. Family religious traditions provide some insight, too.

SAGITTARIUS — November 22-December 20
Cultivating social contacts ("networking") will pay off quickly right now. Offering help behind the scenes, as well as rolling up your sleeves and cleaning up wherever needed, will get you on the fast track to key positions.

CAPRICORN — December 21-January 19
Chat up the boss or anyone else who can help you get ahead professionally. A mysterious female colleague might prove unusually helpful. Be open and honest about money troubles, and your forthright attitude will pay off.

AQUARIUS — January 20-February 18
Meditation can clear the mental fog you're experiencing — then your philosophical farsightedness will help you see what career moves to make now. A female (and/or femme) superior will help you focus on planning.

PISCES — February 19-March 19
Sexually, you can get whatever you want (and nearly whomever you want) now. However, it will not come with privacy. People will talk! Whether that amounts to good publicity or a tawdry scandal is up to you.

ARIES — March 20-April 19
Relax and enjoy the company of the one you love, or audition candidates for that role. Explore any sexual desires you've been shy about expressing and talk dreamily about your ideals and hopes for the future.

TAURUS — April 20-May 20
If you have any problems with co-workers, this is an excellent time to work them out. Your boss will be very sympathetic to any suggestions you have, but may not really understand them. Be very clear when conveying concerns.

GEMINI — May 21-June 20
You're more playful and jocular than usual these days, and you could go over the top at work. Behave! You're especially open to new ideas. If there's any type of art you "don't quite get," now's the time to give it another try.

CANCER — June 21-July 22
Your home could become Party Central. Invite some people over, whether for a tasteful dinner or more erotic entertainments. Be careful with intoxicants — a good wine with dinner is lovely, but hard drugs are not pretty!

LEO — July 23-August 22
Your charms are as seductive as they are poetic. If you work on the poetry of them, everything and everyone around you will fall into place. Siblings (despite initial resistance) and neighbors are more cooperative than usual.

VIRGO — August 23-September 22
Money will be flying into your pockets, but can leave just as easily — but only if you let it. Review your budget for health and hygiene. A close friend should have some good money-saving tips. Take their advice!

Jack Fertig, a founding member of the Association for Astrological Networking, became a professional astrologer in 1977. He can be reached for consultations at 415-864-8302 or at Starjack.com.

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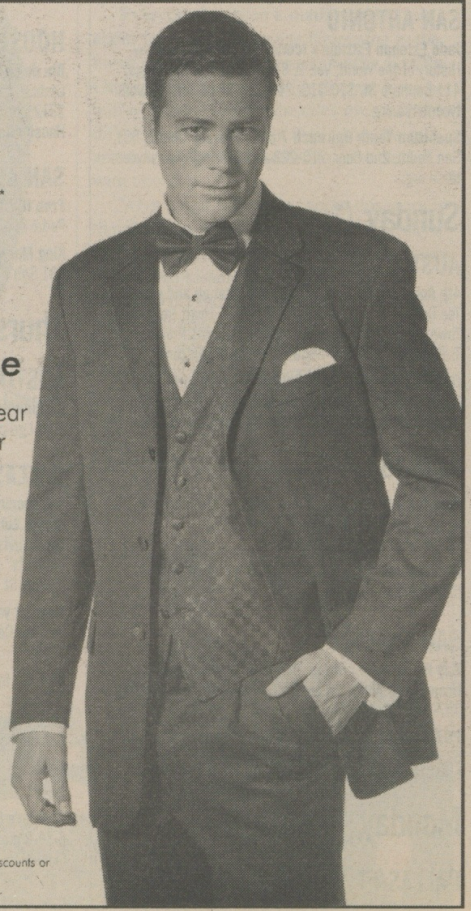

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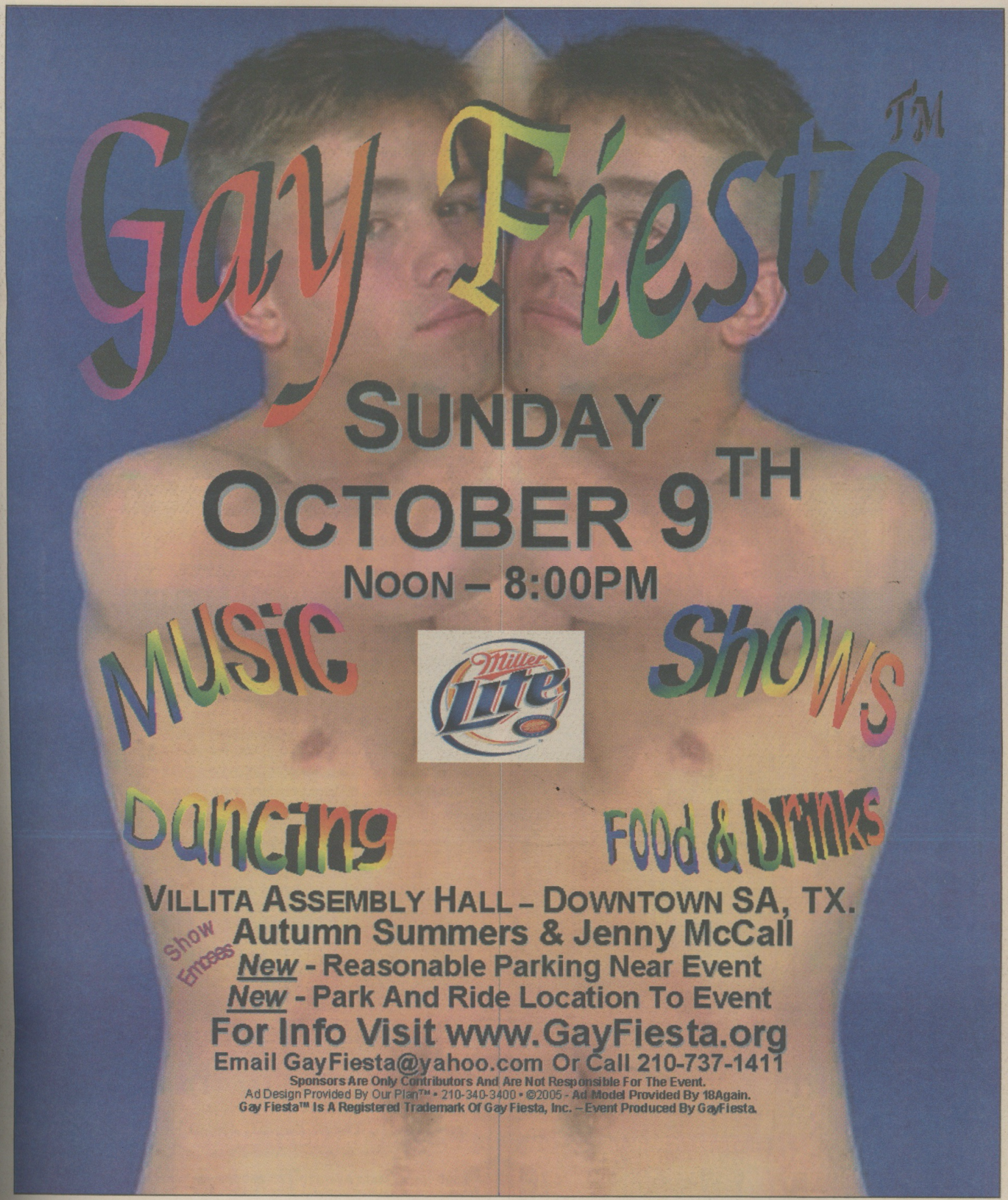
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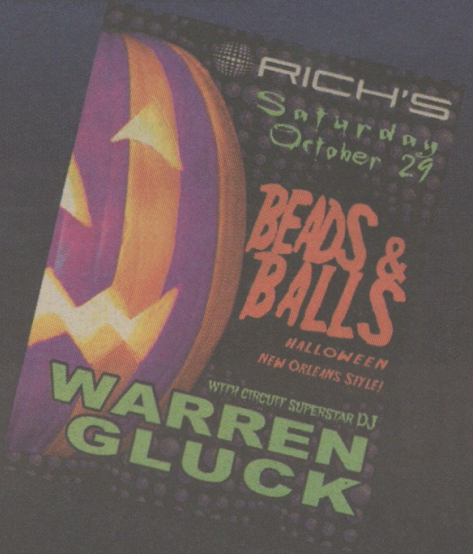

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AskHoward

How to do the wrong thing right

By Howard Lewis Russell



All questions are created equal

Dear Howard,

I read your column every week, and correct me if I'm wrong, but it's clear to me that a lot of the questions you get are just shallow, obvious attempts at attention-getting and gay showboating and tomfoolery — "Look at me, Miss Thang, Howard put my question in his column this week!" — as opposed to real problems that we, as homosexuals, face every day. How do you dredge up the magnanimity for these freaks?

Wallace

What would you suggest I do, Wallace? Send anthrax-laced poison pen letters back to the attention seekers and "freaks," as you call them? I appreciate every question I receive, no matter its motives.

Dear Howard,

I'm planning to travel internationally. Any advice for how gay people behave differently from culture to culture?

Ed

It has been my experience that behavior among gays the world over differs little from one culture to another, with a sole exception: former Soviet Bloc nations. Men in Russia, for instance, make absolutely no eye contact whatsoever. My gaydar (which is superb) was rendered positively useless in Moscow and St. Petersburg, like a compass in the Bermuda Triangle. Nor do Russian gays exhibit any of the telltale displays of one-upmanship refinement that we, as Americans, practically take for stereotype: Russian gays' haircuts aren't hipper, their clothes aren't edgy and at the mention of a gym they practically laugh in your face. God bless the queer Russians!

Dear Howard,

I met my current girlfriend four months ago and we have decided to move in together. My Persian cat and her horse dog are just gonna have to work it out somehow.

Here's the rub, though: Cindy thinks I should sell my condo because she has a house with a yard, but I think we should both sell and buy a new, larger house together. It just seems more evenly committed, right? My feeling is, if we're gonna do this thing, then we should both approach it whole hog with raisin sauce. But Cindy says she likes her house a lot and doesn't want to leave it. Well, I like my condo, too. I'm beginning to suspect Cindy doesn't quite grasp the concept of compromise. At 50, she's 10 years older than me and I'm her first real girlfriend.

Am I being petty here, Howard? Should I just let this one go and move in with her? She's got a pretty house. I can see why she wouldn't want to leave.

Lynn

Here's the deal, Lynn — your antennas are up already and mine are practically radiating phosphorescent. Do *not* sell your condo. Instinct is the one thing you can always trust. If your relationship with Cindy was meant to be after four months, then it'll still survive after eight. Ten years' age difference is a hard gap to bridge, especially when a 50-year-old has never been in a previous relationship. Somethin' ain't right.

Dear Howard,

How many times do you think a normal person gets his heart broken before he's 30?

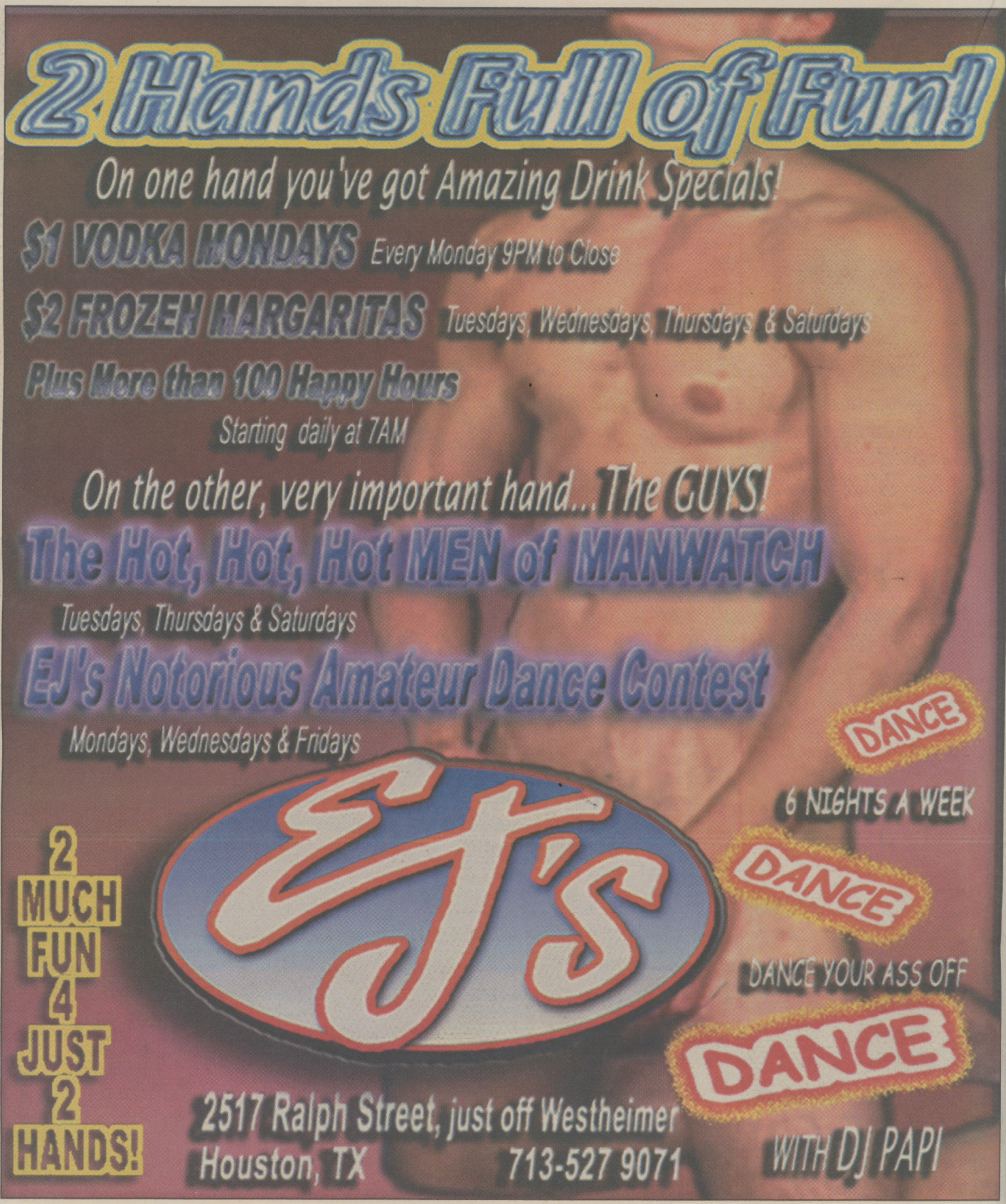
David, the Heart-Stomped

This is an impossible question to answer definitively, Dave. I suppose it depends on how much of your heart you give out, and how much is worn on your sleeve. It's a rare (and lucky) man who doesn't get his heart broken at least once. Twice, even, by 30. All hearts start out as glass, but all don't end up as stone. The secret is not to hate whom our hearts get broken by, but simply to call it life, and move on.

HAVE A QUESTION FOR HOWARD?

Do you have a question for Howard? Send e-mail to askhoward@txtnewsmag.com, or write to Ask Howard, P.O. Box 191362, Dallas TX 75219

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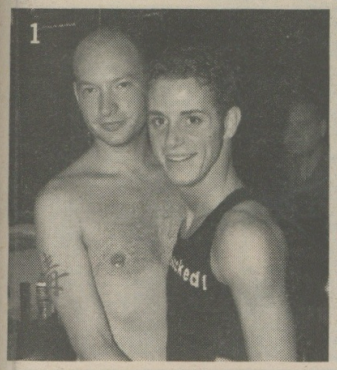



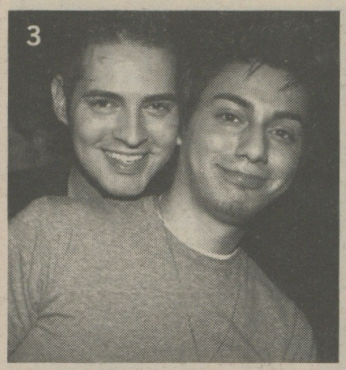









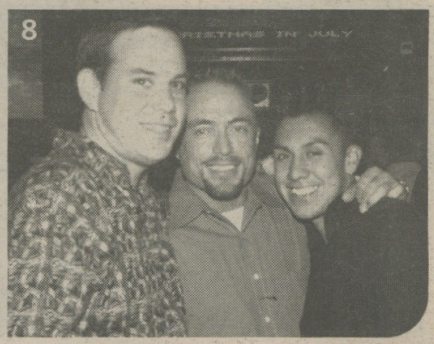

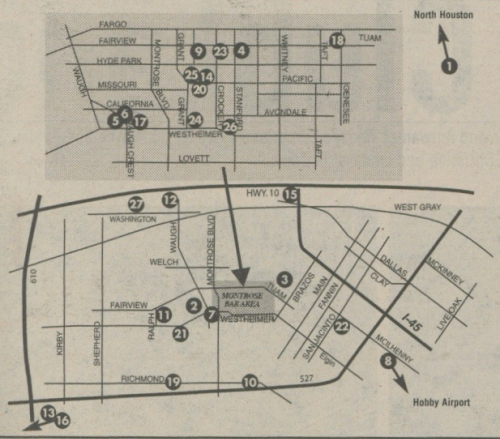

NightSpots

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2. Bartini—1318 Westheimer. 713-526-2271. Clubbartini.com
3. Brazos River Bottom—2400 Brazos. 713-528-9192
4. Brick's II—617 Fairview. 713-528-8102
5. Chances/G-Spot—1100 Westheimer. 713-523-7217. Chancesbar.com
6. Club 1415—1415 California. 713-522-7066
7. Club Rainbow—1417 Westheimer. 713-522-5166
8. Club Xcape—8101 Airport Blvd. 713-454-0775
9. Cousins—817 Fairview. 713-528-9204
10. Decades—1205 Richmond. 713-521-2224
11. E/J's—2517 Ralph. 713-527-9071
12. Guava Lamp—570 Waugh. 713-524-3359
13. Inergy—5750 Chimney Rock. 713-666-7310.Clubinergy.com
14. JR's—808 Pacific. 713-521-2519. JRsBarandGrill.com
15. Keys West—817 W. Dallas. 713-571-7870
16. Mango Lounge—5742 Chimney Rock. 713-666-7472
17. Mary's—1022 Westheimer. 713-527-9669
18. Meteor—2306 Genesee @ Fairview. 713-521-0123. Meteorhouston.com
19. Michael's—1419 Richmond. 713-520-8446
20. Montrose Mining Co.—805 Pacific. 713-529-7488
21. Rainbow Room—527 Barren Springs.
22. Rich's—2401 San Jacinto. 713.759.9606. Richs-houston.com
22. Ripcord—715 Fairview. 713-521-2792. Ripcordjournal.com
23. Santa Fe Bar & Patio—804 Pacific. 713-521-2519
24. South Beach—810 Pacific. 713-529-SOBE. Southbeachthenightclub.com
25. 611 Club—611 Hyde Park. 713-526-7070
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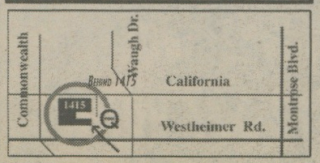

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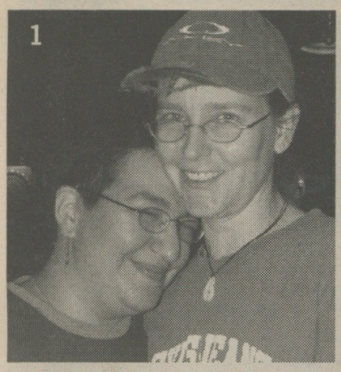
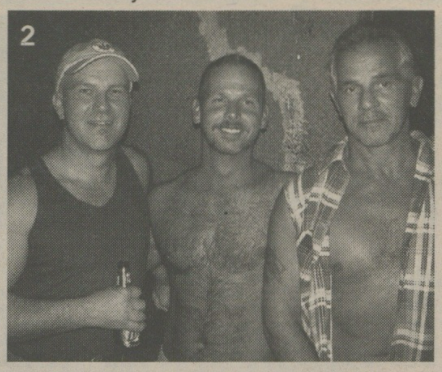
1. Cecilia and Elizabeth at 'Bout Time. 2. Michael, Danny and Terry at Chain Drive. 3. Steve and Jeffrey at Charlie's. 4. Michael and Lamar at Rain. 5. Adam, Jason and J.B. at Rain. 6. Daddy Tim and Master Tab at Chain Drive. 7. Lisa and Brandy at Rain. 8. Mutt, Donald and Jeff at Charlie's.
Photos by Guillermo Garza

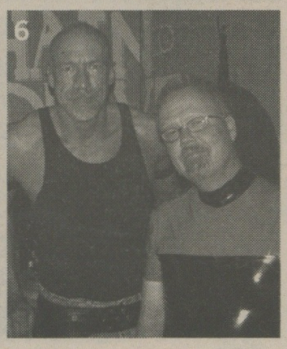




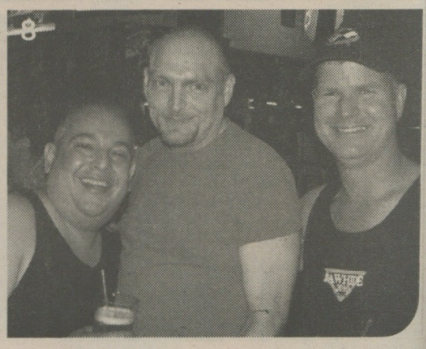








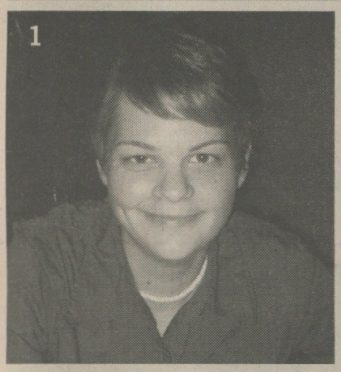


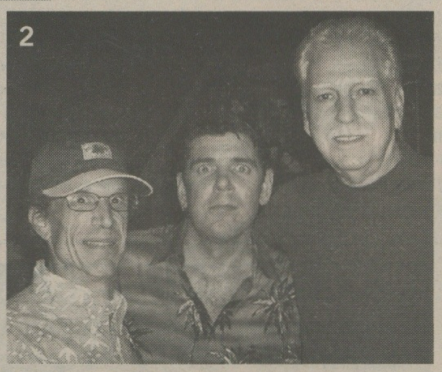


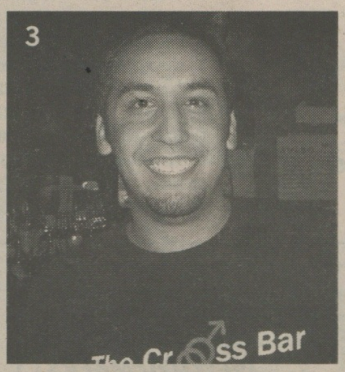
ClubLand

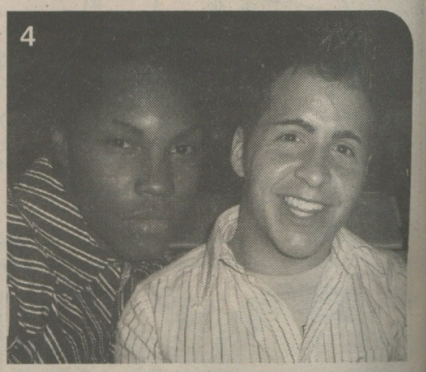
dallas

1. Sara at Sue Ellen's. 2. Jack, Andrew and Bob at Zippers. 3. Jeff at Crossbar. 4. Eric and Antwan at Woody's Sports and Video Bar. 5. Wayne and Todd at Alexandre's. 6. Adam and Dan at Kaliente. 7. Oscar and Oscar at JR.'s Bar & Grill. 8. Christina and Linda at Buddies II.
Photos by Barbera Barker and Gregory Hayes

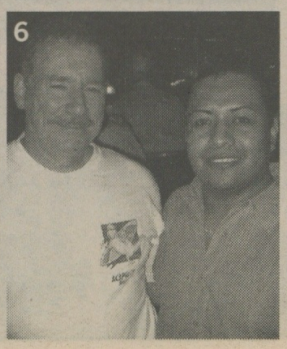














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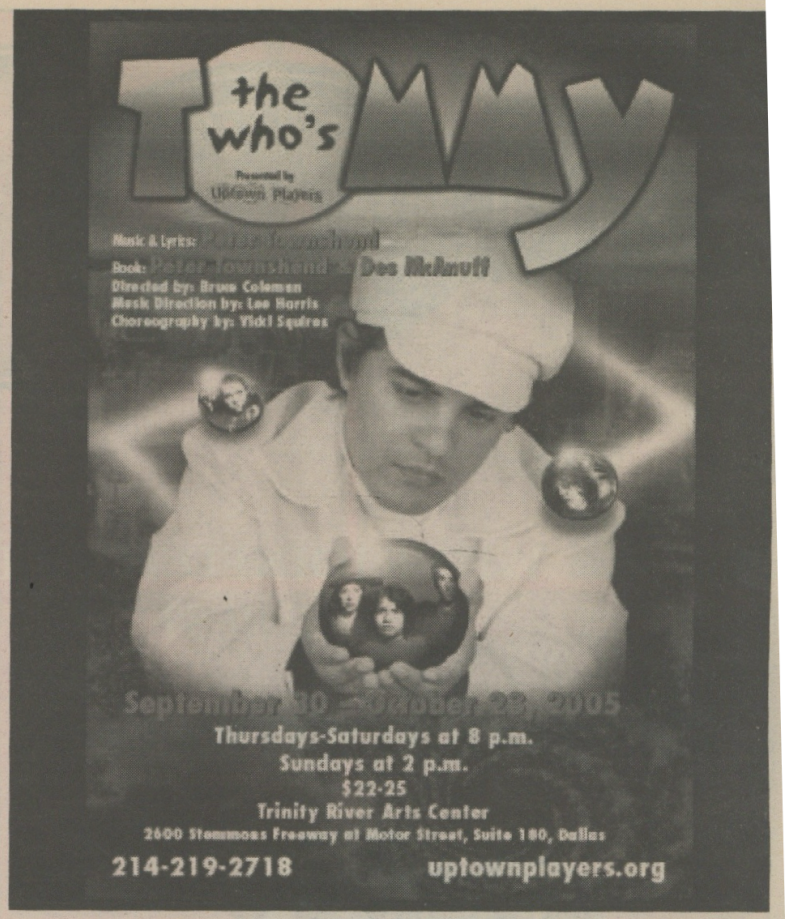
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san antonio

1. Artie and Seth at Heat. 2. Gus and Mike at The Annex. 3. Erica at The Saint. 4. Sid and Evan at Bonham Exchange. 5. Kris, Lukas and Eric at SA Eagle. 6. L.A. Rick at The Annex. 7. Kasandra at Heat. 8. Odysea, Sasha, Savage, Erica and Jenny at The Saint. **Photos by Junior Hernandez**









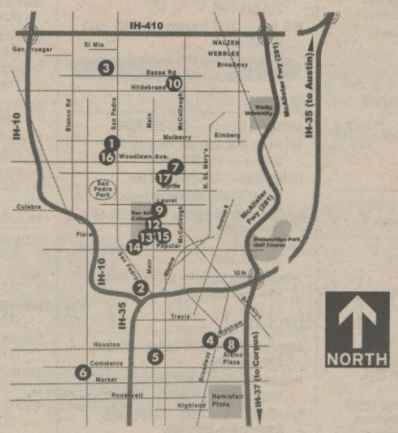








NightSpots



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The Melrose — 3015 Oak Lawn Ave., 214-521-5151, Melrosehoteldallas.com.

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Gar-Den Suites — 2702 Crocker St. 800-484-1036 (code 2669).

Holiday Inn Select — 2712 S.W. Frwy, 713-523-8448.

The Lovett Inn — 501 Lovett Blvd., 713-522-5224, 1-800-779-5224.

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Emily Morgan Hotel — 705 E. Houston St., 210-225-5100, Emilymorganhotel.com.

The Painted Lady Inn — 620 Broadway, 210-220-1092, thepaintedlady.com.

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Suzuki-Isuzu of Austin — (Jules Gollins) 4738 S. IH 35, 512-583-4000.

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Freeman Mazda — (George Johnson), 1800 E. Airport, Irving, 972-438-2121.

John Eagle Honda — 5311 Lemmon Ave. 214-904-3247. EagleHonda.com.

Saturn of Mesquite — (Miki Holtz) 15900 I-635 at Oates. 1-800-723-0714.

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Jeff Haas Mazda — (John Griffin) 11222 Old Katy Rd., 713-932-6004.

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Alternatives of New Fine Arts — 1720 W. Mockingbird, 214-630-7071.

Club Dallas — 2616 Swiss, 214-821-1990, the-club.com.

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Midcity Video — 2043 Southwest Frwy., 713-522-3530.

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Alternative Clubs, Inc. ACI — 827 East Elmira, 210-223-2177.

Club San Antonio, 13900 Jones — Maltsberger, 210-545-2101.

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Zachary Scott Theatre Center — 512-476-0541, zachscott.com.

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Angelika Film Center — Mockingbird Lane 214-841-4700.

Magnolia Theater — 3699 McKinney Ave. at West Village, 214-520-0025.

HOUSTON

After Hours — 713-526KPFT, www.kpft.org Saturday midnight - Sunday 4am

Alley Theatre — 615 Texas Ave., 713-228-8421, alleytheatre.org.

Angelika Film Center & Café — 510 Texas Ave., 713-333-FILM.

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Houston Symphony — 615 Louisiana St., 713-224-7575, houstonsymphony.org.

River Oaks Theatre — 2009 West Grey, 713-528-4608, landmarktheatres.com.

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Uptown Psychotherapy — 4144 N. Central Expwy, Ste. 520, 214-824-2009.

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Holmes Chiropractic — (Randall Holmes, DC) 1235 N. Loop W., 713-862-2440.

Houston Department of Health & Human Services - 8000 N Stadium 713-794-9092.

Montrose Clinic — 215 Westheimer, 713-830-3000.

Montrose Counseling Center - 701 Richmond, 713-529-0037.

Skin Renaissance Laser Center — 106 Westheimer, 713-942-SKIN.

Bruce W. Smith, D.D.S. — 1006 Missouri Street, 713-529-4364.

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Anthony Rogers, Ph.D. — Alamo Heights, 210-227-6815.

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Virginia Cook Realtors — 2626 Cole, 214-292-0000, virginiacook.com.

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King William Realty — 210-225-0009, king-wmrealty.com.

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Kerbey Lane Café — 12602 Research Blvd., 512-258-7757, kerbeylanecafe.com.

restaurants

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Hut's Hamburgers — 807 West 6th Street, 512-472-0693

DALLAS

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Cafe Brazil — 2221 Abrams, 214-826-9522, 3847 Cedar Springs, 214-461-8762.

Chan Thai — 312 W. 7th St., 214-948-9956.

Cuidad — 3888 Oak Lawn, 214-219-3141.

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On Saturday, October 8, No Nonsense In November, the campaign to defeat the Marriage Amendment, will be at the following bars registering voters and collecting pledges to Vote AGAINST Constitutional Amendment #2.

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The Round-Up Saloon
3912 Cedar Springs Rd
The Cross Bar
5334 Lemmon Ave
Barbara's Pavillion
325 Centre St
The Tin Room
2514 Hudnall St
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4100 Maple Ave
The Brick Bar
4117 Maple Ave
JR's Bar & Grill - Dallas
3923 Cedar Springs Rd
Throckmorton Mining Company
3014 Throckmorton
Sue Ellen's
3903 Cedar Springs Rd
Station 4
3911 Cedar Springs Rd
The Rose Room at Station 4
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San Antonio Mining Company
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701 Paisano Dr
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4001 Desert Meadows
The Briar Patch
508 N Stanton
Chiquita's
310 E Missouri Ave

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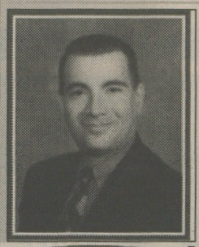

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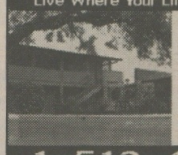

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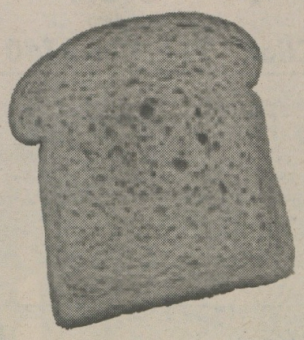

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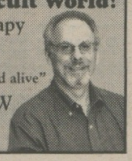

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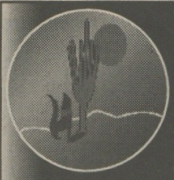

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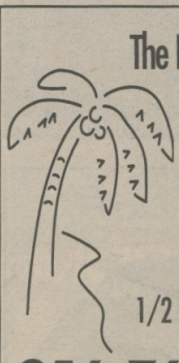

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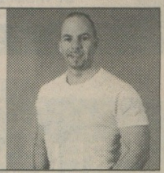



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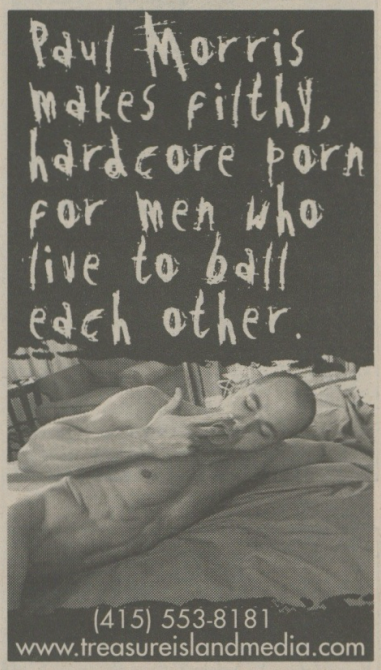



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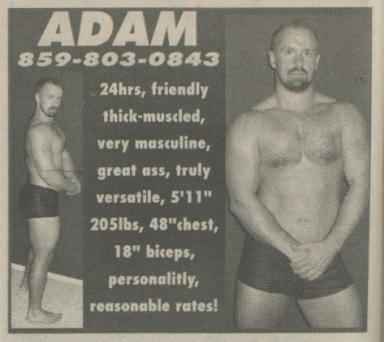





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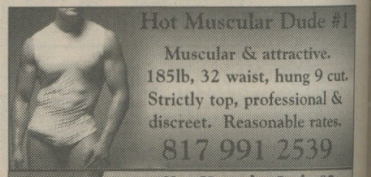



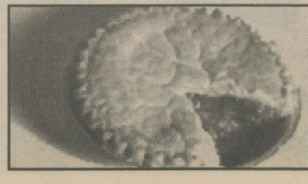

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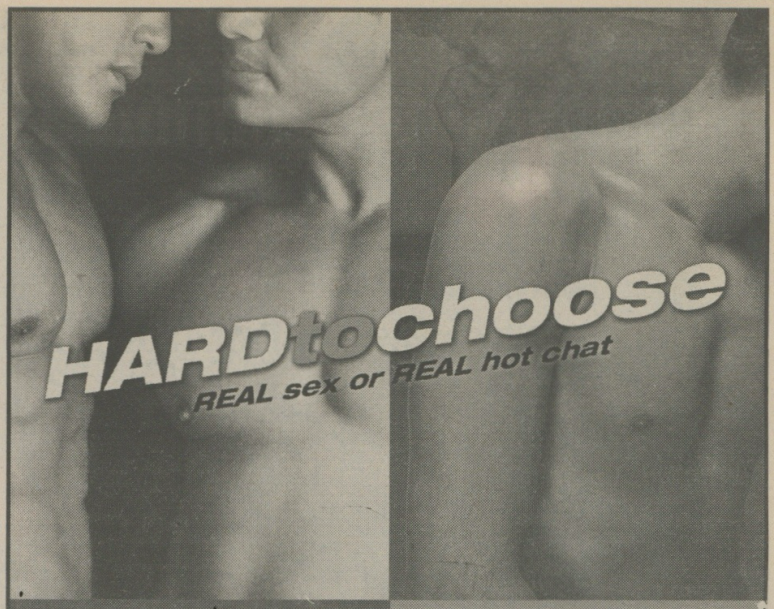

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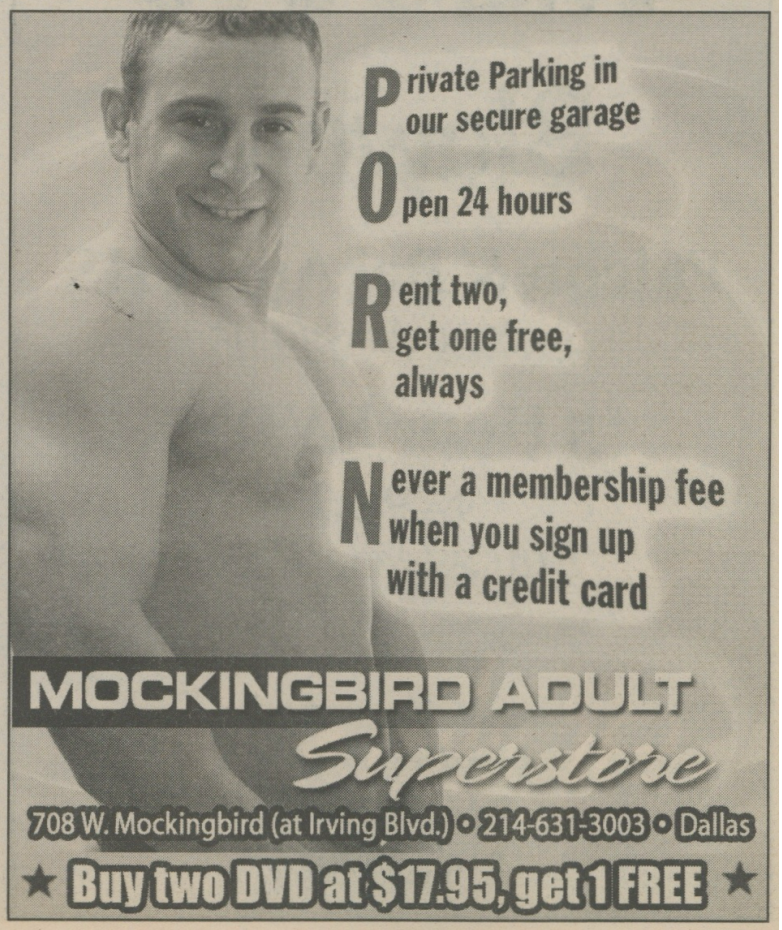

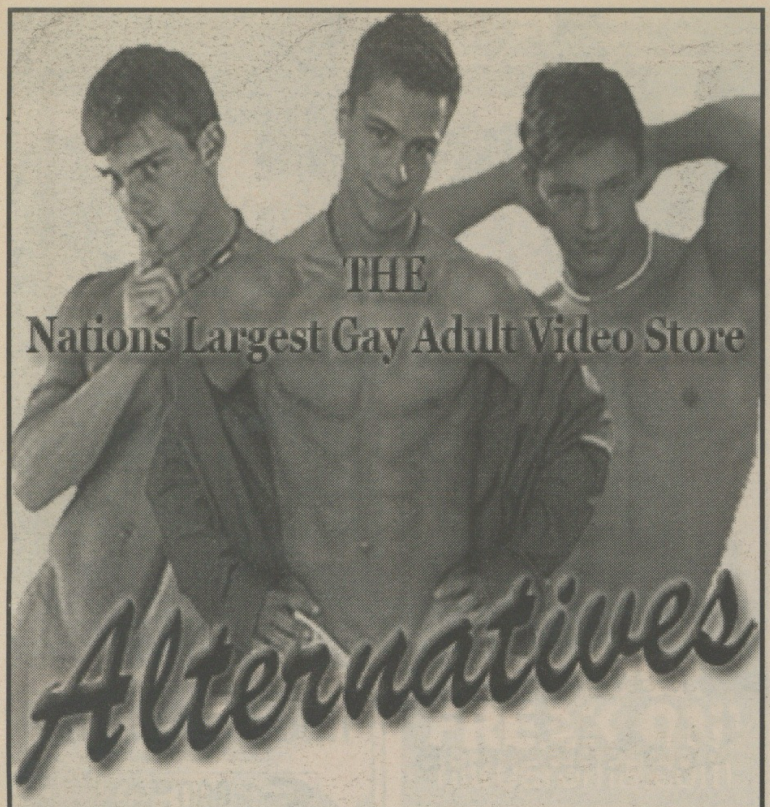

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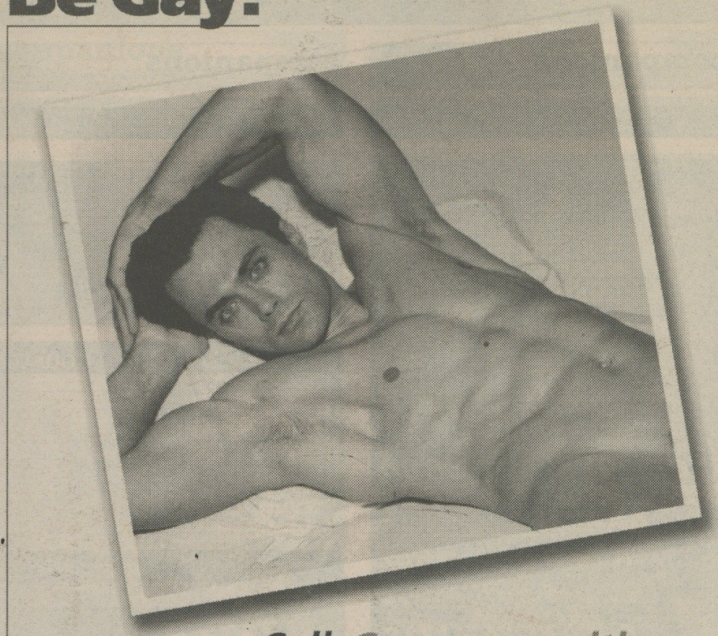

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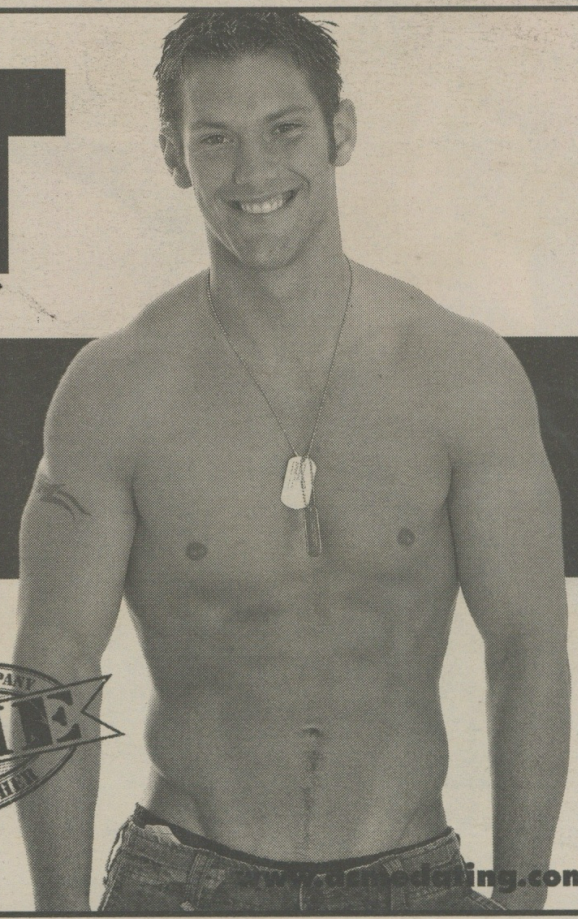

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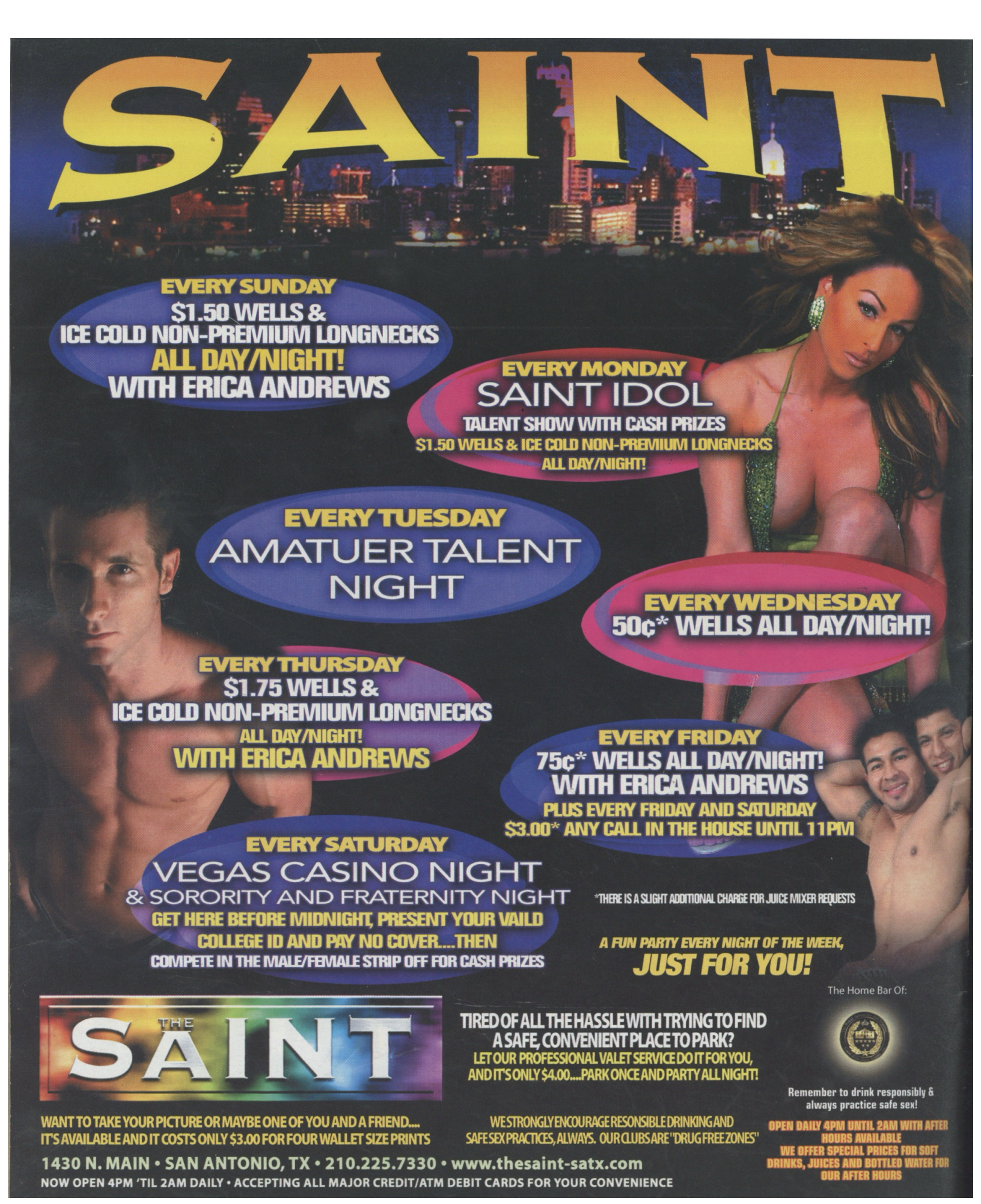

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