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In an attempt to provide a weekly report of the highest possible accuracy, credibility and integrity, TXT Newsmagazine acknowledges its mistakes large and small. We accept comments from readers about published material that may require correction or clarification. Comments should be reported to the executive editor by e-mail at vercher@txtnewsmag.com. Corrections and clarifications will appear as needed.

LETTERS

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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inside

Volume 1 ■ Issue 45 ■ November 11, 2005

5 Texas News Elections

Proposition 2 to amend the Texas state constitution, wins approval by 3-to-1 margin; lesbian Sue Lovell makes Dec. 10 runoff for Houston City Council.

8 National News Rulings

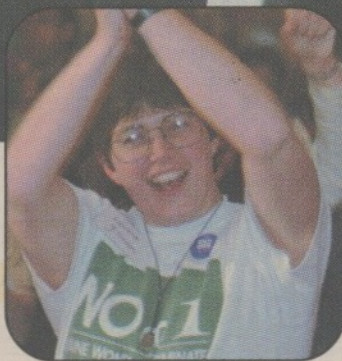
The Washington State Supreme Court ruled that, in theory, the nonbiological parent shares equally in parental rights and responsibilities, regardless of gender.

11 Event Gay rodeo

Strap on those chaps and starch those Wranglers, pardners — The Rodeo's in town! The Resistol Arena in Mesquite is the site of IGRA's 2005 Finals Rodeo.

13 Filth Disgustingly offensive

Billy Masters discusses women in the White House, Rosa Parks in state — along with news of Brad Pitt and George Clooney's excellent gay adventure.



departments

News With a View 9

Perspectives 10

Event 12

Toons 12

Zodiac 12

Filth 13

Weekly Review 14

Clubland 19

Classified Ads 26

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26th

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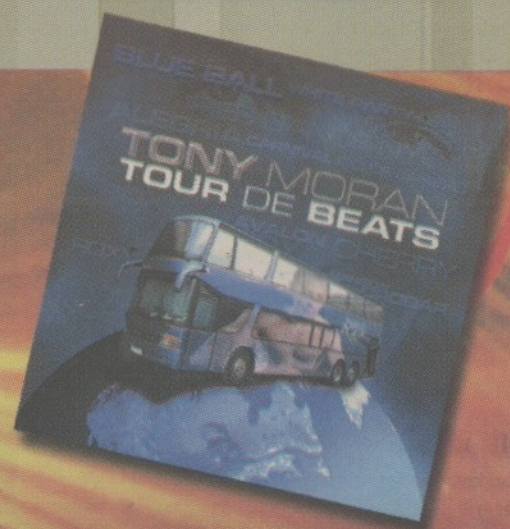
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Newsbriefs

HOUSTON

Clinic begins influenza inoculations; urged for those with chronic diseases

The Montrose Clinic is offering flu shots, officials said. Representatives recommend that anyone who wants to reduce their chances of getting the flu can get vaccinated. However, certain people should get vaccinated each year, they said.

People who should be vaccinated include adults who are 50 years and older; adults and older teens with chronic heart or lung conditions or weakened immune systems; and women who will be pregnant during the influenza season. Health-care workers and caregivers of children and the elderly should also be vaccinated against the flu.

The flu shots are available for \$25 on a walk-in basis Monday to Thursday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Montrose Clinic is located at 215 Westheimer Rd. For more information, call 713-830-3000.

Transgender Unity Committee plans observation of Day of Remembrance

The seventh annual Transgender Day of Remembrance will take place on Nov. 20, with more than 100 observances expected worldwide.

In Houston, the Transgender Unity Committee will hold three events culminating in a Remembrance Ceremony at the Houston Holocaust Museum. Sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign and the Houston Area Community Services Transgender Clinic, remembrance events begin Nov. 18 at the Houston GLBT Community Center with a free screening of the Academy Award-winning film, *Boys Don't Cry*. On Nov. 19, the HACCS Transgender Clinic will host a free personal safety seminar, followed by the official Remembrance ceremony hosted by the Houston Holocaust Museum on Nov. 20.

For more information, visit the Houston Transgender Day of Remembrance site at Tranhouston.com/ourdead.

Counseling center receives federal grant for GLBT senior services

The Montrose Counseling Center has announced a new program to provide services to GLBT people ages 60 and up. It is one of 11 organizations nationwide to receive a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to provide mental health services to older adults in need. The Montrose Counseling Center will receive \$400,000 a year for three years to provide professional counseling and case management, and peer outreach and education, to GLBT people age 60 and older.

For more information, call 713-529-0037.

SAN ANTONIO

AIDS Foundation to mark World AIDS Day with testing, candlelight vigil

World AIDS Day is Dec. 1, and this year's theme is "Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise."

"Keep the Promise" is an appeal to governments and policymakers to ensure they meet preagreed targets in the fight against HIV, including prevention, care and support, treatment, reducing vulnerability and human rights.

To recognize the day, the San Antonio AIDS Foundation will offer free anonymous HIV testing from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. Adolescents may be tested without parental consent.

For those who want to show their support for World AIDS Day, a balloon release ceremony will take place at noon, followed that evening by a candle light vigil beginning at 6:30 p.m., with locations to be announced.

For more information, visit the San Antonio AIDS Foundation at Txaaf.org.

Proposition 2 approved by 3-to-1 margin

Constitutional amendment banning gay marriage fails in 1 of 254 counties

This story was reported by Dennis Vercher, Tammye Nash and David Webb, and written by Mr. Vercher.

Gays unable to derail the juggernaut of religious and traditionalist voters watched helplessly Tuesday evening as the ballots stacked up in favor of Proposition 2.

When the ballots were in, the measure authorizing a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage or anything "identical or similar to marriage" received 76.15 percent of the vote.

Opponents of the measure could raise only 23.85 percent of ballots cast. The proposition failed in only one of the state's 254 counties, Travis

HOUSTON County, home to the state capital and long a bastion of individualist and liberal thought.

"I had certainly expected a different result," Glen Maxey, director of the campaign against the amendment, said. "I thought we would be closer to 40 percent."

Maxey said he thought the campaign pursued the correct strategy.

"This was just the toughest political issue our community faces," he said.

The sobering results of Tuesday's vote speak volumes about the disconnect between gay and straight voters on the issue. In Texas' three most populous counties — Bexar, Dallas and Harris — Proposition 2 won by margins of about 70 percent to 30 percent. In the fourth most populous, Tarrant County, 79 percent of voters approved the amendment.

Travis County, the fifth largest county in terms of population, was the aberration, with those against the amendment representing 60 percent of the county's voters.

But in county after county located away from the state's population centers, the amendment won support from 75 percent to more than 90 percent of voters.

The turnout also appeared higher for this election than for previous ones like it, where constitutional amendments were the focus. The Texas secretary of state's office said turnout was 17.8 percent for Proposition 2 voters. A turnout of nine or 10 percent is



Counterprotesters gather across the street from a rally organized by the KKK in support of Proposition 2.

common.

"We need to regroup," Patti Fink, a Dallas coordinator of the campaign against the amendment, said Wednesday. "We need to evaluate what things we did well and what we need to do better. We need to learn as much as we can from this."

The constitutional measure bolsters a law passed in 2003 banning same-sex marriage and barring the state or any of its political subdivisions from recognizing same-sex marriages conducted elsewhere.

The cities of Dallas and Austin provide insurance benefits to the partners of gay municipal workers. The benefits may be at risk, said Dallas Councilmember Ed Oakley.

"I know it affects it," he said. "I just don't know if it makes it totally null and void."

Travis County maintains a domestic partner registry where citizens may make a record of their partnership. Yolie Sifuentez, a recording specialist team leader for Travis County, said no question had been raised so far about the registry's continued operation.

"I don't think it is going to have any effect on it, but I'm not a lawyer," Sifuentez said.

Cathie Adams, president of the

Texas Eagle Forum, one of the groups which fought for the amendment, said Wednesday that she was "very happy about yesterday's election, but I didn't see it from the beginning as depriving anyone of something they currently have." Adams said none of the groups pushing the amendment had plans to attack domestic partner arrangements.

"It has not been a discussion I have had with anyone," she said.

Dallas lawyer Cynthia B. Ascensio, who specializes in legal planning for gay and lesbian couples, said most of the documents used by gay men and lesbians to protect their relationships — power of attorney, physicians' directives, right to control the disposition of remains and right to appoint guardianship — are not threatened.

But Ascensio said she expects controversy over any document or law that addresses domestic partnerships.

"I think we are going to see a lot of challenges in those areas," she said.

John Hintz, co-chair of Equality Texas, the new name adopted by the board of Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas on Monday night, said defeating Proposition 2 was a non-starter.

"The fact is, we started out with a really difficult fight on our hands," he said.

Early voters say faith motivated vote for Prop. 2

Supporters cite their 'Christian beliefs' in casting ballot for measure

By Deborah Moncrief Bell
Contributing Writer

At some of Houston's early voting locations last week, *TXN* News magazine sought out people leaving the polls and asked them how they voted on Proposition 2.

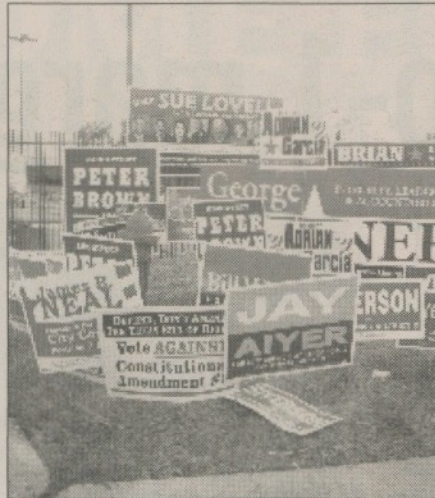
One early voting location visited was the County Courthouse Annex 35 on Pech Road in Spring Branch. For Margaret, who said she

HOUSTON lives in the North Gessner Road neighborhood, religious belief compelled her to vote for the ballot measure, an amendment to the Texas Constitution banning same-sex marriage and anything similar.

"I'm a Christian, and that's what the Bible teaches," she said.

Tom Woolsey, who also lives in the Spring Branch area, said his Christian beliefs spurred him and Mrs. Woolsey to vote for the amendment.

"That's the only real reason we came to



DEBORAH MONCRIEF BELL/TXN News magazine

Dozens of campaign signs greet voters from the front lawn at Houston's Metropolitan Multiservice Center on West Gray Avenue.

vote today," he said.

Dan Heath, who was visiting the courthouse on other business, said he planned to vote against the measure on Election Day in his Barker-Cypress neighborhood. Heath, who has been married for five years, called

the amendment unfair to unmarried and same-sex couples.

"There are so many benefits people gain when they are married," he said. "It is inappropriate and a violation of the separation of church and state."

At the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center on West Gray Street, it was hard to find anyone who acknowledged supporting the amendment. One young man wearing a "1 Man, 1 Woman = 1 Marriage" sign would not answer a reporter's questions.

At the Fiesta Market on Kirby Drive,

Susie Crafton said she voted against Proposition 2. "I believe people who want to commit to each other for life should have the right to do so," she said.

Jen Shui, who said she has "a lot of gay friends," also voted against the amendment. "It is discrimination," she said.

Emery Gullickson voted against Proposition 2, she said, because "I believe in equality across sexual orientation lines."

The last day for early voting was Nov. 4.

Contact the writer: TheDivadeb@yahoo.com

Lovell qualifies for run-off on Dec. 10

White, popularity surging, takes 91% of mayoral vote

By Nancy Ford
Staff Writer

Although reeling in disappointment over the lopsided vote to approve Proposition 2, the Houston GLBT Political Caucus had cause to celebrate other results of Tuesday's election.

Houstonians were also voting for mayor and City Council members. The GLBT caucus's political action committee endorsed 13 candidates for the Nov. 8 ballot. Ten of them either won outright or qualified for a runoff election.

Mayor Bill White was returned to office for another three-year term, winning 91 percent of the vote. A favorite of Houston's GLBT community, White received thunderous applause from spectators as he walked the



NANCY FORD/TXN News magazine

Sue Lovell will oppose Jay Ayer for Houston City Council At Large Position 2 in the Dec. 10 run-off election.

length of Houston's 2005 Pride Parade route. It was his second year to participate, Jack Valinski, vice president of the Houston GLBT Political Caucus, said.

Annis D. Parker, the Houston city controller, maintained her place as the highest-

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ranking lesbian elected official in a large U.S. city. Parker was unopposed for her second term.

Other caucus endorsees who ran unopposed were Ada Edwards, City Council District D, and Ron Green, City Council at Large, Position 4.

Three of the caucus PAC's endorsees qualified for Houston's run-off election, scheduled Dec. 10. Laura Salinas will face Ana Hernandez in the runoff for City Council District 143. And in City Council District B, Felicia Galloway-Hall will face Jarvis Johnson in the run-off election. Galloway-Hall was also endorsed by the caucus.

Sue Lovell, a neighborhood advocate running for City Council Position 2, will enter a run-off election with opponent Jay Aiyer. Lovell, a lesbian endorsed by the caucus's political action committee, received 32.3 percent of the vote compared to Aiyer's 26.2 percent.

"Sue did a good job this year," Valinski said. "It will be interesting to see what happens in December."

Lovell previously had run unsuccessfully for the council.

Contact the writer: Nancy@txtnewsmag.com

Corvino, Stanton debate on same-sex marriage

Gay advocate, Bush adviser clash at Kingwood College on eve of Tuesday's vote

By Deborah Moncrief Bell
Contributing Writer

On the eve of the Nov. 8 election, Kingwood College staged a debate on same-sex marriage.

The contenders have confronted the topic at forums throughout the country.

Glenn T. Stanton is a senior analyst on marriage and sexuality for Focus on the Family, a social conservative group. He is also an informal adviser to President Bush.

John Corvino, a philosopher, moralist, and gay advocate, received a doctorate from the University of Texas and is an ethics professor at Wayne State University in Michigan.

Corvino lived in Texas for seven years and has family who still live here. He said he felt a personal connection to Tuesday's vote.

"As a philosophy professor I find the wording of the amendment especially striking," he said. "The amendment prohibits

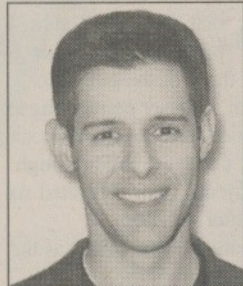
KINGWOOD recognition of any arrangement 'identical or similar to marriage.' It is a fundamental principle of logic that anything is identical to itself. So if you prohibit recognition of any arrangement identical to marriage, you prohibit marriage.

"Why am I not surprised that this came from Warren Chisum?" Corvino said, referring to the Republican state representative from Pampa, in the Panhandle, who was author of the amendment.

Stanton argued that amendments to state and federal constitutions sometimes become necessary.

"Courts might dictate to all American citizens that marriage will no longer be a union that bridges the gender divide of humanity, but is simply the relationship between any two people" he said.

Stanton, who wrote the book *Same-Sex*



Corvino



Stanton

Marriage: The Moral and Legal Debate, said Proposition 2 was needed.

"Anthropology tells us that all societies must have normative models of family in order for the society to remain strong, vibrant and civil," he said. "That norm must be clear that both parts of humanity, male and female, are more than merely preferential."

He added, "No society has been able to sustain itself with an idea

that either marriage or family are whatever, individuals want them to be."

Corvino countered that same-sex marriage would produce benefits for the general society.

"Happy, stable individuals make for a happy, stable society," he said. "Society has an interest in promoting arrangements where people commit to and care for each other. Marriage does that like nothing else."

John Turner, student activities manager for Kingwood College, said the debate was part of an effort to stimulate discussion among students and the community on important national issues.

"Students, faculty and staff are part of the voting population. It is important for them to be informed and have an opportunity to hear all sides of the issues," Turner said.

Dr. John O'Malley, Kingwood's vice president of administrative services, moderated the debate.

Contact the writer: Thedivadeb@yahoo.com

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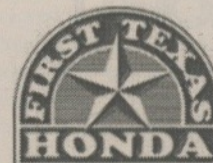
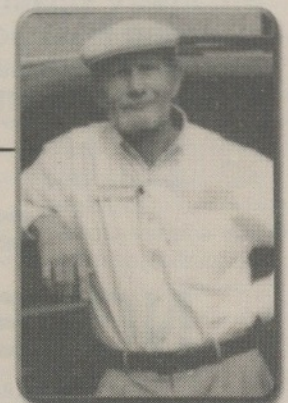
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By Ann Rostow
Senior Staff Writer

Washington state justices rule for nonbiological mom in case

In theory, she emerges on equal footing with biological parent

The Washington Supreme Court has ruled in theory that a non-biological lesbian mother has *de facto* parental status under the state constitution. The decision, coming two months after a similar ruling by the California Supreme Court, continues a trend towards acknowledging the reality of gay and lesbian families in law.

Courts have been recognizing *de facto* lesbian parents for several years, but the opinions have been getting stronger, and the status of *de facto* parent has been getting more powerful. Here in Washington, the court ruled that Sue Ellen Carvin's parental rights to her daughter are equal to those of the girl's biological mother, Carvin's former partner Page Britain. The two women were together for six years before deciding to have a child through insemination with a friend. They separated six years after their daughter was born.

One interesting feature of the case was the 7-2 majority's interpretation of the U.S. Supreme Court's 2000 ruling in *Troxel v. Granville*. *Troxel*, one of the rare instances in

which the High Court took on an issue of family law, was a dispute between a Washington mother and the parents of her dead husband. Gay advocates watched the case unfold in dread, worried on one hand that the Court would limit the rights of third party parental figures, and concerned on the other hand that the justices might carve inroads into the rights of gay parents, particularly those contesting custody with grandparents. In the end, the justices issued a fractured opinion that offered little clarity, but one that reinforced the fundamental rights of parents over third parties.

In the Washington opinion, Carvin emerges as a parent on equal footing with Britain, and entitled to the deference mandated by *Troxel*. The *Troxel* ruling, wrote the Washington justices, does not "place any constitutional limitations on the ability of states to legislatively, or through their common law, define a parent or a family."

Carvin now returns to a lower court in order to prove that she meets the four-pronged definition of a *de facto* parent; someone who was encouraged by the biological parent, who lived with the family, who assumed the obligations of parenthood, and who established a parental bond with the child.

Supreme Court won't review case of transgender denied promotion

The U.S. Supreme Court has declined to review an important trans-rights victory appealed from the Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. The decision leaves in place a ruling in favor of Philecia Barnes, a Cincinnati police officer who was denied a promotion to sergeant.

Barnes, a man on duty but a woman after hours, ranked 18th out of 105 officers who took the sergeant exam. During the probation period that followed, however, Barnes was allegedly subjected to unusual scrutiny,

NATION downgraded for lacking an ill-defined "command presence," and eventually denied the promotion. Barnes was the only person to fail the department's probationary evaluation in the seven years between 1993 and 2000.

The decision not to review is good news, but it's only a matter of time before the justices take a new look at the scope of one of its most interesting precedents. In 1989, the court ruled that when an employer takes action on the basis of gender stereotypes, it violates federal law against sex discrimination in the workplace. The opinion, on behalf of a masculine woman who was denied partnership at Price Waterhouse, has recently been put to work in favor of transgender plaintiffs



THE CINCINNATI INQUIRER/AP Photo
Philecia Barnes is shown in this 2003 photo in Cincinnati. The Supreme Court on Monday refused to consider shielding employers from discrimination lawsuits by transgenders. The court's refusal to intervene leaves in place a victory for Officer Philecia Barnes.

and effeminate gay men.

Gay men, lesbians, and transgendered workers are not covered under the federal law in question, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Or are they? Thanks to the Price Waterhouse ruling, there is a strong case to be made that discrimination or harassment based on how one presents oneself as a man or a woman is a matter of sex discrimination. This theory won out in the Barnes case and elsewhere around the country. But some federal appellate courts have gone in the other direction, leaving the door open for the Supreme Court to settle the question one of these days. Apparently, one of these days has not yet arrived.

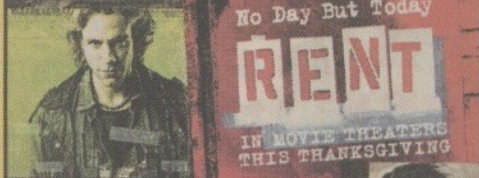
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The eyes of Texas are upon us. Egad!

It's not a good sign when the first thing I do on a Wednesday morning is to delete everything I wrote on Tuesday afternoon. Not only does it add hours of work to my schedule, but it intensifies the pressure of my 1 p.m. deadline. The deadline is technically noon, but reporters traditionally add extra time to compensate for trickster editors, who set the deadlines earlier than need be in the first place to allow for late copy.

Hah! They're not fooling me! Unless. Hmm. What if my editors really don't need the copy until two, and what if they told me noon, anticipating that I'd be at least an hour late? If that's the case, then indeed I am being fooled. They're probably sitting over at headquarters laughing at me right now. Damn them!

So, the voters of Texas showed us a thing or two yesterday. Not content with a two-to-one slap in the face, they managed to deliver a three-to-one box-kick to the solar plexus. Thanks, everyone. It's almost enough to make me reconsider my devotion to the University of Texas football team. I believe our earnest friends at what is now called Equality Texas are trying to spin the results into some kind of victory, but I prefer to spend at least a day or two in sullen petulance. Fellow Texans, please join me.



Ann Rostow

that have passed constitutional amendments banning same-sex marriage? Can we get this right? Texas makes it 19. Not 18. Not 12. Not 15.

Nineteen.

I would understand if the number were 37 or 38. That's when lazy writers can just say "more than thirty states," "roughly two thirds of the states," or my personal favorite "zillions of states." But 19! And it's not just newspapers, I'm reading a press release from the goddamn Human Rights Campaign, and I quote: "Texas joins 17 other states with constitutional amendments denying marriage to same-sex couples." Not to be outdone, the Task Force chimes in: "With the vote, Texas became the 18th state to adopt an anti-marriage constitutional amendment in the last seven years." I suppose they stole their data from HRC.

For the record, Hawaii and Alaska amended in 1998. Then came Nevada and Nebraska. In August of 2004, it was Missouri. Then Louisiana in September. Throw in 11 more in November of last year. Kansas in April, and now Texas. Earth to GLBT civil rights organizations: do the math!

A Methodist in their madness

Well, that little rant has effortlessly brought me closer to meeting my deadline, whichever one I might encounter. (Time will tell.) I am in a nasty mood, I admit it. Oh, I never got around to telling you about the Methodist high court last week. The justices expelled a lesbian minister who has a life partner because she violated the rule against actively gay ministers. I suppose you're allowed to be gay if you lie about your sex life. The Judicial Council also reversed two pro-gay resolutions passed by west coast regional church political bodies, basically telling the regions that they may not act independently of church authority.

Finally, strangely, and worst of all, the nine-member court reinstated a minister in Virginia who had been suspended for a year without pay by his peers. The minister, Rev. Edward Johnson, refused to let a gay man become a member of his congregation, a breach of compassion that shocked his fellow Methodist ministers, even in this conservative area. But the court ruled that pastoral discretion allows such decisions (I'm reading a *New York Times* article, by the way) and no one quite knows what to make of the council's verdict.

Go, Panthers!

I'm so glad I remembered to pass along



Two scary frontwomen for religious zealots applaud early vote totals for Maine's Question 1 in this file photo. The 1995 ballot measure was handily approved, overturning a gay rights law. On Tuesday, 10 years later, it was a different story as Mainers voted to keep the anti-discrimination law passed earlier this year.

that cheery information. Isn't there anything good to report outside of Maine? I was going to tell you about the cheerleaders who had sex in the bathroom, but I couldn't understand from the Associated Press exactly what happened and I can't find the printout. And just now while I was looking for it, I stumbled over a report from the Macedonian Association for Freedom of Sexual Orientation (MASSO), discussing the draft of a same-sex marriage law that MASSO hopes (forlornly I think) to present to the Parliament.

Voila! Here's the cheerleader story. It's from ABC News, headlined: "Alleged Panthers Cheerleader Brawl Sparks Mystery," and sub-headlined: "Panthers Cheerleader Victim of Alleged Mistaken Identity in Florida Altercation."

Apparently two women had a "bar brawl" in the ladies room at Banana Joe's in Tampa in the wee hours of Sunday morning and were arrested. "The events that led to the arrests," writes ABC, "began when bar patrons complained that two women were engaging in sex and tying up a bathroom stall, police said." It's not at all clear, because the dispatch goes on to describe the brawl, which police called "a physical altercation between one lady and another bar patron all over the use of a stall or something that happened in the bathroom."

Told you it was confusing. Nonetheless, cheerleader sex beats Balkan politics even

when the details are murky.

Keep Austin weird

Before I go, I should mention that the Senate Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Property Rights, an arm of the Judiciary Committee, is expected to advance the federal marriage amendment as we go to press on Wednesday. Senator Arlen Specter, the Judiciary Committee chairman — who I thought had some sense, for a Republican — has pledged to vote in favor of the disastrous attempt to amend us out of the United States Constitution, even though he opposes the idea. Specter explains that he thinks the measure should get an up or down vote in the Senate, where last time around it failed to win the required two-thirds supermajority.

The bar is high, but this is a frightening prospect. The amendment is not a top priority in the Senate right now, but every so often someone like Kansas Senator Sam Brownback pulls it out of the cabinet like an old rifle and points it menacingly in our direction. And yes, it's loaded.

P.S.: Good news! A colleague just walked in and told me that Austin's county (Travis) was the only one to vote against the marriage amendment, and by a 60-40 margin! I have no idea if this is true, but I choose to believe it.

So goes the nation

Were I to spin the results of the 2005 election into something fine, I would note that perseverance has finally won the day in Maine, where after three gay rights referendums and two legislative votes, we have at last survived a public vote on the state's anti-discrimination law. The citizens of Maine have had enough of electoral gay-bashing, and after repealing gay rights legislation in 1998 and 2000, they upheld the latest version by 57 percent.

So you see? This is not the end of gay rights in Texas. It's just the beginning. Someday down the road, gay men and lesbians will be celebrating the repeal of the anti-gay amendment that we just added to the Texas bill of rights. I can see them at the campaign victory party. Over at the replicator, a tuxedo-clad robo-waiter is generating Beluga caviar, while a Champagne machine circulates through the crowd. What a difference a century makes!

Peeve of the week

Let's see, what else? Oh, before we abandon this happy subject, may I ask a simple question of my colleagues in the press? How difficult is it to count up the number of states

Contact the writer: Ann@txtnewsmag.com

Letters

Nothing but net

I have been a fan of Sheryl Swoopes since I was a student at Texas Tech University in 1993. I remember how exciting it was to welcome the first-ever Texas Tech National Championship team back home to Lubbock. The first basketball game that my daughter ever attended was a Lady Raiders' game that season; she was just a few months old. I have taken her to several Comets games since we moved to Houston, and we have thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

We are both huge sports fans, but I watch sports as a form of entertainment. I admire the hard work and perseverance that it takes to be a top-level competitor, but I have never felt that sport stars should be seen as heroes just because they excel at a sport. I have tried to instill this in my daughter, too.

However, the courage that Swoopes showed in coming out has demonstrated that she has transcended the status of sports entertainer to become a true hero. By showing the courage to be honest about herself and not live in fear, I think she is definitely a person who should be emulated.

My daughter told me earlier this week that she is more proud of Swoopes now than ever. I feel the same way. I want to thank Sheryl Swoopes for being a true role model for young women.

Gina Gilstrap/Houston

Open letter to Texas' attorney general

I received a phone call from you urging me to vote in favor of Proposition 2 on the Nov. 8 ballot. As attorney general, you were voted into office to decide fairly issues involving the legal rights of all Texans, including gay men and lesbians. By making phone calls on behalf of this amendment, you have shown that you cannot fairly decide legal issues involving gays and lesbians in the state.

I also am concerned about whether you spent tax dollars in order to promote discrimination against a segment of the state's population.

Please consider that your role as attorney general should be to remain neutral and impartial when deciding legal matters affecting any of the citizens of this state.

Paul K. Smith/Austin

Bigotry wins in Texas

Well, it passed. Bigotry won. And I might add that my belief in "public life" and the role of politics and government in this country continue to erode. The government is not my "source." Government and voters can squawk all they want about morality and sanctity, but I know in my heart what is moral and sacred. And being and expressing myself, and being and expressing myself "in love," is what it's all about. And there's no stopping that — here and into eternity.

Michael Brocato/Dallas

Where's separation of church and state?

I got a recorded telephone message from Bishop John W. Yanza of the Roman Catholic Church in Texas urging that we vote for Proposition 2 in the Nov. 8 election. I cannot believe that the Roman Catholic Church is not only using their pulpits but are actively engaged in promoting this hateful amendment via recorded phone messages. Whatever happened to the separation of church and state?

Rick Bond/Via Internet

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.

Alito should be battle in larger war

Democratic Partnership with America could fill leadership vacuum

By nominating a man known as "Scalia Lite" to the United States Supreme Court, President Bush may have picked a fight he will lose — unless Senate Democrats prove to be the losers.

The choice of Samuel A. Alito, a right-wing stalwart, to replace the moderate Sandra Day O'Connor is audaciously brazen, spit-in-the-eye insulting, nakedly partisan and just plain stupid.

All summer and fall, Bush has watched his poll numbers sink. Yet he makes a choice of swagger even as he staggers. With his legacy on the rocks, he chooses a right-wing rock star that is going to exacerbate his problems and derail his agenda. One look at the political landscape and it is fair to ask: What was Bush thinking?

Lewis Libby was indicted. Karl Rove is under investigation. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist's stock has fallen after an unseemly stock trade. And House Majority Leader Tom DeLay was fingerprinted.

Meanwhile, Iraq is a bloody quagmire. Middle East peace is unraveling into an endless cycle of violence, with a series of Palestinian terrorist bombings followed by Israeli retaliation. Iran's citizens are burning American flags, and their new president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, said he wanted to "wipe Israel off the map." And he is actively pursuing nuclear weapons.

If that isn't enough, the Arctic is melting, which may be a good thing, I guess, because America's heating bills are expected to be unaffordable, leaving many working-class Americans in the cold this winter. Fortunately, the homes we will be heating are smaller because housing in most major cities is unaffordable. It is no longer enough to win the lottery to buy a family home in New York, Washington, Seattle, San Francisco or San Diego — you now have to win the powerball.

This avalanche of bad news is the backdrop for Alito's confirmation battle. What is going to happen, I believe, is that the Democrats will be in a strong position to filibuster the nomination. The right will pressure a weakened Frist

to "go nuclear," with the Republicans taking away the Democrats right to filibuster judicial nominees.

If Republicans go down this nihilistic road, it will threaten their majority in the 2006 elections. They will, of course, try to portray the Democrats as obstructionist. But how can they make a credible case after the Democrats supported the Supreme Court nomination of conservative John Roberts, and a right wing

cabal killed the nomination of Harriet Miers? The Democrats have the high ground in this fight, and if they lose the battle of public opinion, the party is in deep trouble.

The Democrats, especially Howard Dean and Senator Harry Reid, have done a good job of making the case that the Republicans are taking America in the wrong direction. It is now crucial that they show

why they are the party to lead us.

There is the temptation to wait until we are closer to the 2006 midterm elections before introducing a powerful, coherent strategy, but that would be a huge mistake. The time to do this is now, while the GOP is treading water. There is a leadership vacuum in America. Will the Democrats fill it?

Creating a popular agenda for the Democrats is never easy and has inherent challenges. The GOP can always throw their right-wing followers red meat. If the Democrats try to throw red meat to their base, about a quarter will claim to be vegetarians. It really is like herding cats.



Anything but Straight
By Wayne Besen

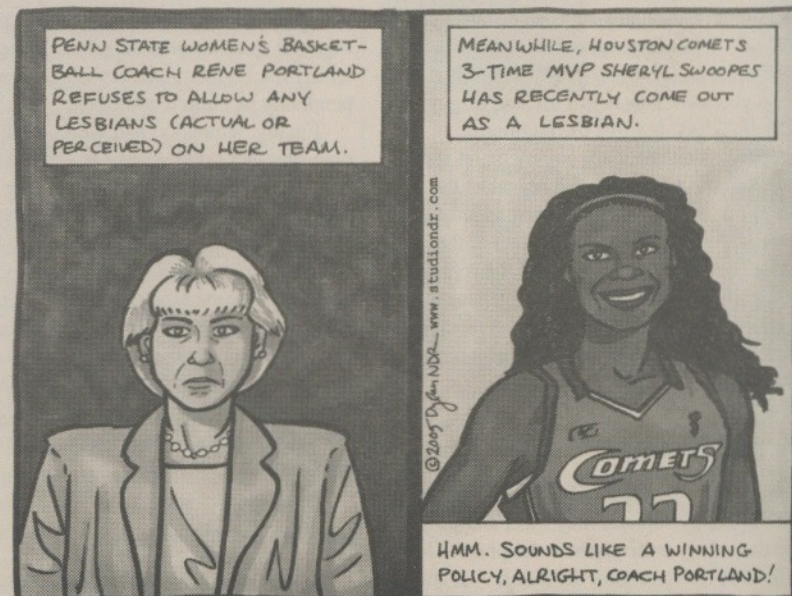
Democratic leaders, on the eve of a potentially monumental war over the Supreme Court, should lock themselves in a room and emerge only when they have created a positive, easily understood message.

They should steal a page from Newt Gingrich's Contract With America, and call their document a Partnership with America. It should avoid divisive social issues, focus on ending GOP corruption, assuring real homeland security and providing sensible solutions for middle-class families.

It should look something like this:

- Real homeland security: all ports, chemical plants and other key targets will be protected.
 - Restore fiscal sanity to the budget.
 - Energy independence within 10 years. The goal is to lower gas prices and get us out of the Middle East.
 - The candidate's competence will be the key consideration in making appointments.
 - Sunshine over secrecy in decision-making.
 - Halliburton Rule: Require competitive bidding on all government contracts.
 - Real healthcare reform.
 - Repeal tax cuts for the wealthy in order to strengthen Social Security.
 - Raise the minimum wage.
 - Terri Schiavo Rule: Less intrusive government.
- Bush and the GOP are in the middle of a perfect storm. It is up to the Democrats to show that beyond the dark clouds, there is a party of light that will lead this nation.
- 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



- Event = 12
- Toons = 12
- Filth = 13
- Weekly Review = 14
- ClubLand = 19

All the pretty horsemen

The IGRA and its hunky cowboys at last bring their finals competition to Mesquite

By Arnold Wayne Jones

Photo by Egan Harell



In an episode of *South Park*, Cartman describes art films as “all about gay cowboys sitting around eating pudding.” It remains to be seen whether the upcoming *Brokeback Mountain* will contain any scenes with custard, but for Brian Helander, gay cowboys aren’t relegated to moviehouses. As president of the International Gay Rodeo Association, he sees ’em every day.

Helander is ending the first year of his two-year term as president of IGRA, which this weekend presents its 19th Finals Rodeo to Resistol Arena. And he thinks it’s about time.

“This is the first time the finals has been in Dallas,” Helander says, although it has previously taken place in Fort Worth. Because IGRA events are for amateurs, the lavish professional venue, home turf of the world-famous Mesquite Championship Rodeo, adds excitement. “The entire IGRA is looking forward to it,” Helander says.

Helander first became involved with the IGRA about 11 years ago. “It was one of those midlife crisis things. I said, ‘Hmmm, I can buy a red Ferrari or become a cowboy.’ I chose cowboy — less expensive,” he says.

His cowboy fantasy seems to be a common theme among the competitors, many of whom never participated in ropin’ and ridin’ events before joining up with the IGRA.

Chuck Wight, who often rides in the professional carrying the rainbow flag, inched his way into the IGRA when one of his partners expressed an interest in owning a horse.

“We got her and bred her, and now we have six horses,” he says from their farm in Virginia, which they bought after realizing the cost of boarding a horse. “Boarding was the same as a mortgage so we bought the farm — literally.”

Wight and Helander agree, though, that

being a country boy is not a requirement for joining the gay rodeo, or even competing. It’s really about the community.

“I went to a gay rodeo and saw gay people doing things I thought I could never do because I am gay,” Helander says. But IGRA “has three entry-level events that anybody can do. You can sign up that day and compete. It’s extremely competitive but a great place to start.”

The Finals Rodeo in Mesquite is the culmination of 24 competitions that take place across the country all year long, beginning in Phoenix. The top 20 competitors in each event are invited to the championship in 13 events, such as bull riding, bronc riding and calf roping. In fact, Helander stresses, the gay rodeo is almost identical to professional straight rodeos.

“The only differences are, we allow women to compete in the same events and with the same stock as the men. The events are the same, only we do a six-second ride as opposed to an eight-second ride,” Helander says. But there are three campy events — deer decoration, goat dressing and wild drag race. (The latter has nothing to do with hot rods, he says, “but plenty to do with drag.”)

RODEO

International Gay Rodeo Association Finals, Resistol Arena, 1818 Rodeo Drive, Mesquite. Sat.-Sun. \$14-\$30. IGRA.org.

And the IGRA doesn’t discriminate, either — straight competitors are common. “There are straight people who compete in our events. You don’t have to be gay to join or to compete. We have straight people who race with us, do the camp events and rope with us.”

Winners are calculated from a two-days point average, and coming into an event



ranked No. 1 means nothing. “Any one of the top 20 could emerge as the winner,” Helander says.

Much of the appeal of IGRA has nothing to do with what happens on the field, but the energy that comes with sharing an experience with others in the GLBT community.

“A big part is the social aspect,” says Wight, including dancing at night, an awards presentation and vendors. “Plus there’s a magic in the air that goes with the festival of the rodeo. There’s an American tradition being carried out through the rituals of the rodeo that’s very close to my heart.”

The rodeo has been very successful in raising money for different charities — “for people and animals,” says Wight, who has adopted four rescue horses. “I used to be a member of the Lion’s Club and we didn’t do as much” charitable work as the IGRA.

But when it comes down to it, Wight says, there’s one especially terrific thing about the gay rodeo.

“If you’re interested in seeing hot men, there are an awful lot of them at every rodeo,” he says. “It’s a place where men with great looking butts wear tight jeans.”

Email: Arnold@btnews.com

She's all that Kathy Griffin to headline at Houston's Black Tie Dinner

Your mouth is going to get you into trouble," my mother frequently admonished during my adolescence. Today, my mouth still gets me into trouble, which is precisely why I adore and identify with Kathy Griffin, the celebrity-skewering comedian with fiery red hair and an equally colorful (and expletive-laden) repertoire. She suffers the same affliction.

Griffin, who will perform at Saturday's Black Tie Dinner in Houston, is a self-proclaimed D-list celebrity who knows no sacred ground. All personalities, from demigods like Oprah and Barbra Streisand to more marginal stars like Anna Nicole Smith and Clay Aitken, are fair targets. And the arrows in Griffin's quiver often strike with deadly aim.

The stand-up-comic-cum-reality-television-star's near-scholarly knowledge of popular culture and tabloid rumor is a

mental library that she references on the fly. But you can forget political correctness, and once in a while Griffin's remarks land a little too far south of good taste — like her now infamous red carpet crack about Dakota Fanning and rehab.

"I cannot tell you how many things I regret saying," Griffin said in a recent interview. "I'm a bridge burner. I'm now down to one rickety bridge with bad planks. I can't help myself."

From the beginning, Griffin's career has been propelled by her gay fans, a fact she seems to savor. "I enjoy being on the D-list," she quipped to *Magazine Ninety-Nine*. "Now I'm not gonna lie and say I don't aspire to the C-list, because I kind of do. But I have a life now. I can do anything I want. I can go anywhere I want and not be bothered — unless I am on a gay cruise. Then I would have to stay locked in my cabin like Britney Spears or something."

Griffin has graciously repaid the community that has supported her. On the occasion of her 2001 marriage to Matt Moline, she reportedly asked guests to forego wedding gifts and instead make donations to the American Foundation for AIDS Research, and she has hosted more than her share of gay bingos.

At first blush, Griffin seems to be a study in contradictions. She mocks those in the spotlight, yet actively seeks fame; she ridicules shamelessness, yet is totally brazen. But beneath the surface, it's apparent that a well-camouflaged, kind-hearted core and an obvious lack of self-dignity are traits that make Griffin entirely human and oh so irresistible.

As Ouiser says in *Steel Magnolias*, "If you don't have anything nice to say about anybody, come sit by me." I'm holding a seat for Kathy Griffin.

Hotel Inter-Continental, 2222 W. Loop South, Houston. Saturday at 7 p.m. \$175-\$275. Houstonblacktiedinner.org.

— Scott Huffman



Griffin

Toons

GLIB Talk

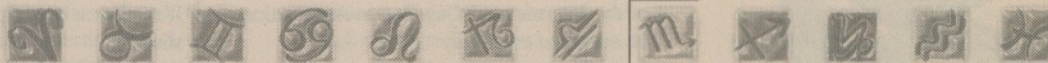
By Kurt Erichsen



One of George Washington's wooden cock rings surfaces at last.

November 11-17, 2005

z o d i a c



Scorpio

Mercury is retrograde in Sagittarius, provoking useless arguments. Mercury is trine to Saturn, so heels will be dug in and egos wounded. If you can nod politely and be attentive, you can turn any criticism to your favor down the road.

SCORPIO — October 23-November 21

Don't let a financial setback rattle you too much. Although this isn't welcome, every problem has a solution, and how you solve this one is what will get you noticed. Admitting to a mistake is the best way to start fixing it.

SAGITTARIUS — November 22-December 20

Confusion reigns. Even you cannot win an argument right now, and attempting just makes things worse. The stars are good for trying on exotic old fashions at secondhand stores, or trying out religious and intellectual self-criticism.

CAPRICORN — December 21-January 19

Doubt and worry come too easily, leading to shame and guilt. Constructive self-criticism can help you shed bad habits, but keep a positive attitude about it. Talking about your problems can help, but be very careful whom you trust!

AQUARIUS — January 20-February 18

All humans are fallible, so friends will fall short of expectations. What seems like betrayal or flakiness is only a big deal if you make it one. Misunderstandings with your partner lead to questions about the future. Take your time to sort it out.

PISCES — February 19-March 19

Problems at work come into the open. The best approach is to talk things over with your boss and be ready to rectify your mistakes. Accept setbacks with good grace and conscientiousness, and things should be right by the end of the year.

ARIES — March 20-April 19

Get ready to eat recent words. We all make mistakes — it doesn't have to be a biggie. Practice grace under pressure and accept new challenges to ideas you've taken for granted. Revising opinions now will put you on more solid footing.

TAURUS — April 20-May 20

Sexual doubts and questions can open up old baggage from childhood. Like house-cleaning, it can get dirty and rough. The harder you're willing to struggle with these issues, the more baggage you'll be able to unload.

GEMINI — May 21-June 20

You seem to be drawing in lots of liars and flakes lately. You can't do much about them, except to take a hard look at whatever mixed signals you may be sending out that they respond to. Sacrifice a battle now to win the war later.

CANCER — June 21-July 22

Arguments at work can prove expensive. Put your feelings aside and consider any criticism gracefully, whether you let it change anything or not. Financial setbacks can show you where to start applying more discipline.

LEO — July 23-August 22

"Fun" is your middle name, but now you're about as festive as a morgue. Relax and get busy with a creative hobby. Pick up a project that's been set aside. You'll find satisfaction, even some amusement, in your accomplishments.

VIRGO — August 23-September 22

Miscommunication with family members opens old hurts, but you can still exercise detached self-awareness and see how to heal those wounds. Swallow your pride and be pragmatic; overdue apologies are more easily made than extracted.

LIBRA — September 23-October 22

Pay close attention to any political setbacks and you'll get clues to regaining or advancing your position in late December. If you can hold your ground, you're ahead of the game, but the harder you fight now, the more you'll lose.

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.

Filth

By Billy Masters

Disgustingly offensive dirt; garbage; anything grossly indecent or obscene

Brad and George go gay together — well, maybe

One of my favorite new shows is *Commander in Chief*. A few weeks ago, I published a letter from a fan asking if **Geena Davis** is playing TV's first female president. Although I humorously compared her to **Suzanne Somers's** star turn in *She's the Sheriff*, many fans reminded me that **Patty Duke** was actually television's first female president in the short-lived sitcom *Hail to the Chief* in 1985 opposite the late **Ted Bessell**.

But there was even a predecessor to **Patty Bergen** played the President of the United States in the 1964 movie *Kisses for My President*. How delightful that the powers that be at *Commander* remembered this bit of trivia now that they've cast the divine **Polly** as Geena's on-screen mother! **Bergen** debuts as the presidential mum during November sweeps.

Speaking of famous gals of yesteryear, **Rod Stewart** learned that you don't screw with **Dina Merrill**. The Post cereal heiress happens to be the current owner of the now-dormant **RKO Pictures**, and she took umbrage when she saw that **Rod's** new CD sports an image similar to the old **RKO** logo (a radio tower with the letters **RKO** — except **Stewart's** version says **ROD**). Are ya crazy, **Rod**? **Dina** makes that **Heinz** lady look like a pauper! **Ketchup** comes and goes, but everyone eats cereal. She can buy and sell all of us!

Anna Nicole Smith is returning to reality television. The widow is preparing to bring her shtick to the U.K., where two popular television programs have been fighting for her unique talents: *Celebrity Big Brother* and *I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here*. Let's think about this: **Anna** could lie around a house with other "celebs" and eat, or she could rough it in the jungle and eat bugs. Gee, which choice did you think she'd make?

The same one **Brigitte Nielsen** and **Jackie Stallone** made last year, of course. *Celebrity Big Brother* won't air here, but if you're really clever, you can watch it on the Internet (like I did last season).

This week's first "Ask Billy" question is not in my usual area of expertise. **Lance** in **Birmingham** wrote: "I heard that **Rosa Parks** was the first female to lie in state in the Capitol Building in D.C., and only the second black person to be given this honor. Who was the first? **Martin Luther King Jr.**?"

I have to admit that this question stumped me — although I was fairly confident that

given the year of his death, it wasn't **King**. I guessed **Thurgood Marshall**, but no dice.

So I passed the question along to someone who spends even more time on-line than *moi*, the multi-talented **Lynn Samuels** (on Sirius Satellite Radio channel 106). **Lynn** loves a challenge and, within minutes, found the answer. **Jacob Chestnut** (one of two Capitol police officers who, in 1998, were fatally shot in the line of duty) was the first black American to lie in honor in the Rotunda. There ya go.

Our next question is a much more typical one. **Gary** in **Ottawa** asks: "What has hunky **Chris Carmack** been up to? And why did he leave *The O.C.*?"

Chris left because producers wouldn't guarantee him more air time. Although he was given a raise, he decided to take his chances elsewhere. Recently, he was in **Lifetime's** mini-series *Beach Girls*, made a guest appearances on *Related* and will appear in the upcoming flick *Just My Luck*.

But his most challenging role is right around the corner — an off-Broadway revival of *Entertaining Mr. Sloane*. Since **Joe Orton's** play usually features a good amount of nudity, you know I'll fly out to **NYC** for this. **Carmack** will be playing **Sloane**, a sexy, mysterious drifter who gets involved with a woman, her brother and their father. **Alec Baldwin** will play the brother and, **God** willing, will go on a diet before the first performance on **February 17**.

Many readers have e-mailed me about *Dante's Cove*, which I haven't seen because I don't get **Here** and no one sent me a screener. I'm told that in the first episode, **William Gregory Lee** and **Jourdain Dion** were naked, with **Jourdain** sporting an impressive erection. Everyone has asked me for a closer look. I may not have gotten the show, but I've got the photos! Check 'em out at Filth2go.com.

Could it be that **Brad Pitt** and **George Clooney** are a gay couple? Well of course



Davis

not, but they are rumored to be partners in owning a gay bar. People have been whispering that the dynamic duo purchased the **Coast Inn** and **Boom Boom Room**, the biggest and best-known gay bar in **Laguna Beach**! Don't expect to see the actors dancing there any time soon. Although witnesses say they have seen the men in the neighborhood, representatives for **Brad** and **George** says there's no truth in the rumor.

Could it be that a certain big-screen heart-throb has been throbbing all by his lonesome? So say sources close to the wild man, who tell me that he's never been lucky in love — with either sex. That's lots of lonely knights. How does he spell relief? **D-I-L-D-O**. That's how. Hopefully, he won't get a splinter.

When **Brad** and **George** are toying with the gays and our blind subject is playing gay with toys, it's definitely time for me to get off the stick and end yet another column. If you have any questions, drop a note to me at Billy@filth2go.com and I promise to get back to you right after I enjoy a big bowl of **Post** cereal!

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

GET BACK IN BLACK

SHADES OF GREY
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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, November 11

AUSTIN

4th annual Waffle Fest improv comedy festival, though Nov. 12, 9 and 10:30 p.m. \$10. Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress Ave. 512-H-I-D-E-O-U-T. Hideouttheatre.com.

DALLAS/FT. WORTH

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

High Tech Happy Hour, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Cosmo Rouge, Bistro-Lounge, 407 N. Bishop Ave. 214-942-0202. Cosmorouge.com.

Hurricanes Are Funny! Presented by New Orleans' ColdTowns Heroes through Nov. 12, 8 p.m. \$15. West End Comedy Theatre, 603 Munger Ave., Suite 100B. 214-880-9990. Westendcomedy.com.

Out Takes Dallas film festival, through Nov. 13. \$4-\$10. Magnolia Theatre, 3699 McKinney Ave. Outtakesdallas.org

HOUSTON

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

Diana, A Celebration, through Feb. 5. \$9.50-\$17.50. Houston Museum of Natural Science, One Hermann Circle Dr. 713-639-4629. Hmns.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.

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

Thornton Dial in the 21st Century. Presented by Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, through Jan. 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.

Saturday, November 12

AUSTIN

The Black Party, presented by Women of Distinction. 10 p.m.-3 a.m. \$10-\$15. Rocco's Grill, 612 W. 6th St. 512-750-4926.

HOUSTON

Bright Lights, Big City, with emcee Kathy Griffin, honoring Tori Williams and Randall Ellis. Presented by Houston Black Tie Dinner, Inc. 7 p.m. \$175-\$275. Benefits AIDS Foundation Houston, Bering Omega Community Service, Uncommon Legacy Houston, Casa de Esperanza, AssistHers and the Montrose Counseling Center. InterContinental Hotel, 2222 W. Loop S. Houstonblacktiedinner.org.

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

Houston Outdoor Group breakfast, 9 a.m. Harry's Restaurant, 318 Tuam St. RSVP: 713-560-9794. illpctx@yahoo.com.

SAN ANTONIO

Spectrum Youth Organization 7 p.m. Diversity Center, 531 San Pedro, 210-223-6106. Info@diversity-centersa.org.



Kathy Griffin, 11/12

Sunday, November 13

AUSTIN

La Cage: Vegas in Austin. 8:30 p.m. \$5. Benefits David Powell Clinic. Cockpit Club, 113 San Jacinto St. 512-457-8010. CockpitAustin.com.

HOUSTON

Friends & Enemies: Music of Schumann, Wolf, and Brahms, presented by AIDS Foundation Houston's Mukuru Arts for AIDS Performance Series. 7 p.m. \$10-\$20. Christ the King Lutheran Church, 2353 Rice Blvd. Mukuru.org.

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

Thanks For The Memories, presented by Aurora Briar. 6-9 p.m. Benefits ERSICSS charities. Keys West, 817 West Dallas St. 713-571-7870.

SAN ANTONIO

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

Monday, November 14

DALLAS/FT. WORTH

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

HOUSTON

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, November 15

AUSTIN

Austin Gay Lesbian Chamber of Commerce board elections. 6:30-8 p.m. \$15-\$18. Ararat Restaurant, 111 East North Loop. Aglcc.org.

DALLAS/FT. WORTH

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

HOUSTON

Houston GLBT Community Center's GLBT Night. 6:30 p.m. Hollywood Vietnamese & Chinese, 2409 Grant St.

Wednesday, November 16

AUSTIN

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

HOUSTON

Photography in Houston Galleries, presented by FotoFest, through Dec. 17 at various galleries. Opening reception, 6-9 p.m. Vine Street Studios, 1113 Vine St. Fotofest.org.

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.

Movie Night at the Center, presented by Diversity Center. 6-9 p.m. 531 San Pedro Ave. 210-223-6106. Diversitycentersa.org.

Thursday, November 17

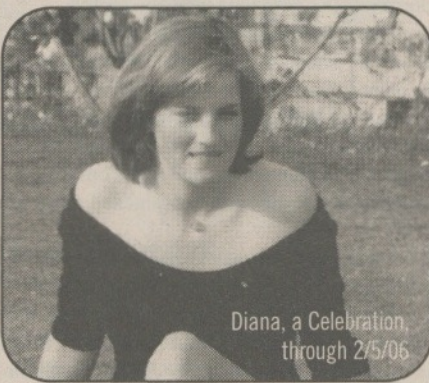
AUSTIN

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

DALLAS/FT. WORTH

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

Queertown improvisational comedy, with special guest, Angie Epley. 8 p.m. \$15. West End Comedy Theatre, 603 Munger St. 214-880-9990. Westendcomedy.com.



Diana, a Celebration, through 2/5/06

HOUSTON

Coming out support group. 6 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond Ave. 713-529-0037. Montrosecounselingcenter.org.

PFLAG Houston sharing group. 7:30-9 p.m. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church's Chatham Room, 1805 Alabama St. 713-46P-FLAG.

Three Fortunes in One Cookie book signing with authors Becky Cochrane, Timothy J. Lambert and Greg Herren. 7 p.m. Benefits NO/AIDS Task Force in New Orleans. Meteor, 2306 Genessee St. 713-521-0123.

SAN ANTONIO

Guys Talking. 6:30-8 p.m. Diversity Center, 531 San Pedro Ave. 2nd Floor. 210-223-6106. Diversitycentersa.org.

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.

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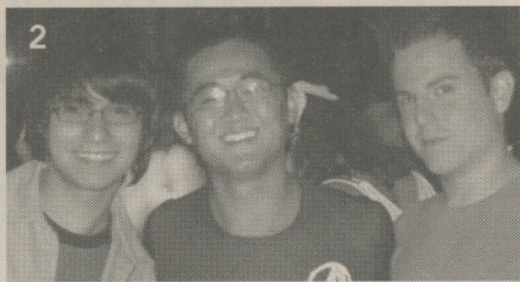
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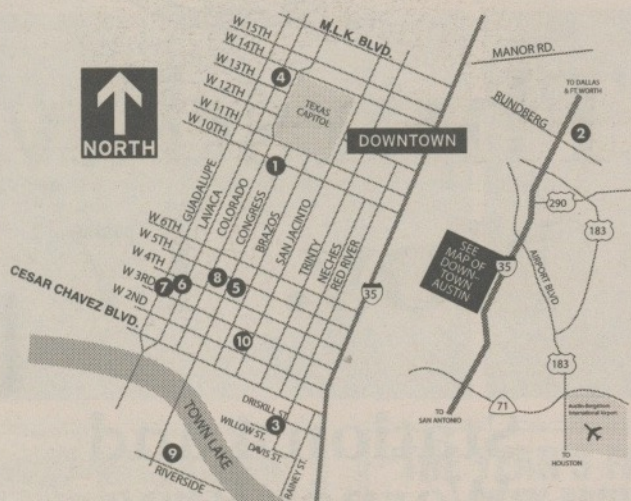
ClubLand

austin

1. Dave and Karen at Chain Drive. 2. Chris, Jonathon and Armando at Rain. 3. Bryan at Chain Drive. 4. Iris, Rhond and Roslyn at Oilcan Harry's. 5. Zac at Rainbow Cattle Company. 6. Rick, Curtis, Alfred and Sam at Rain. Photos by Guillermo Garza



NightSpots



1. 1920's Club—918 Congress Ave. 512-479-7979
2. 'Bout Time—9601 N. I-35. 512-832-5339
3. Chain Drive—504 Willow St. 512-480-9017
4. Charlie's—1301 Lavaca. 512-474-6481. Charliesaustin.com
5. Fabric—101 W. 5th St. 512-322-9333.
6. Oilcan Harry's—211 W. 4th St. 512-320-8823
7. Rain on 4th—217 W. 4th St. 512-494-1150
8. Rainbow Cattle Co.—305 W. 5th St. 512-472-5288
9. Sidekicks/Xtreme—110 E. Riverside Dr. 512-804-2707. Sidekicksaustin.com
10. Silver Spur Saloon—113 San Jacinto. 512-457-8010

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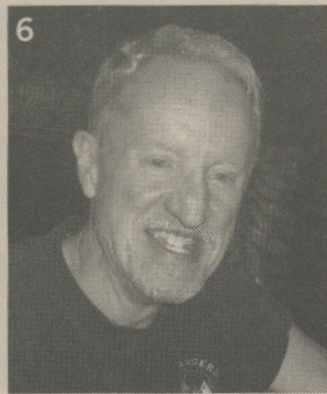
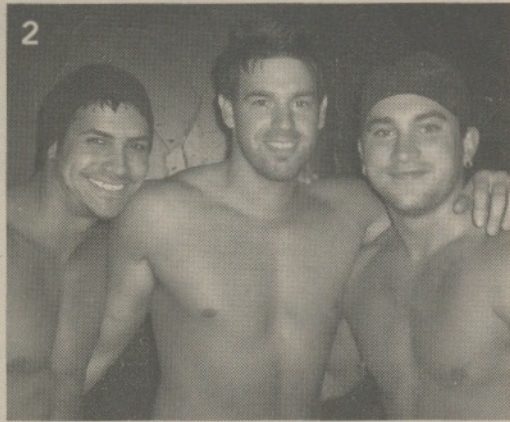
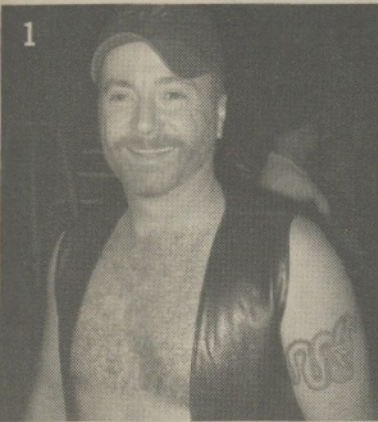


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ClubLand

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1. J.D. at the Dallas Eagle. 2. Jeff, David and Danny at Rocket Bar. 3. Lisa and Chris at Buddies II. 4. Halloween on Cedar Springs. 5. Halloween on Cedar Springs. 6. Robert at the Hidden Door. 7. Tyler and Josh at JR.'s Bar & Grill. 8. Michelle Christti and Julie at Sue Ellen's.
Photos by Barbera Barker and Gregory Hayes



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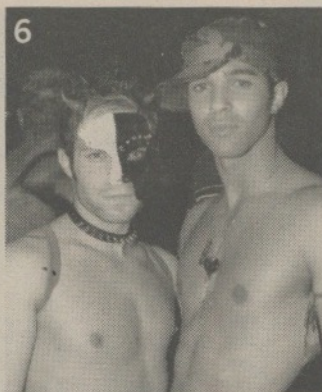
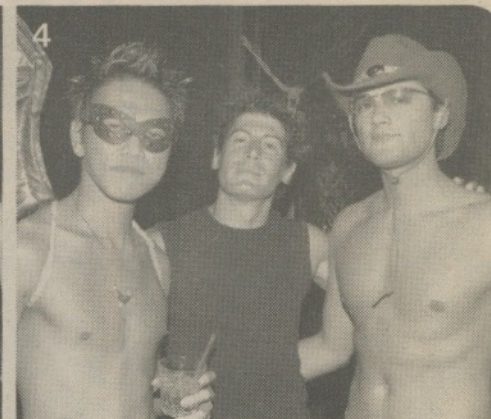
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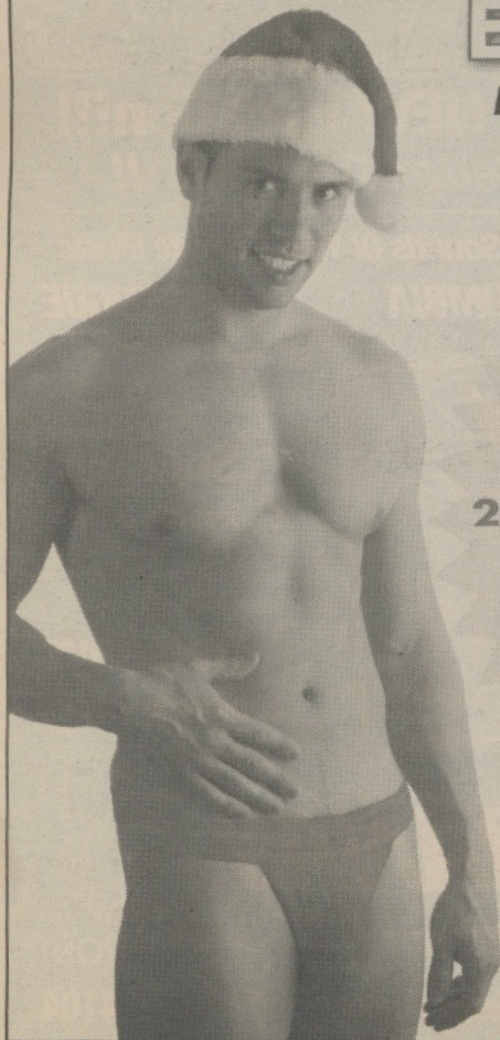
At the Block Party: 1. Anubis and Ra. 2. Muscle demons. 3. J.C., Shara and Shane. 4. Vinny, Christopher and Christophe. Around Town: 5. David, Frederick and Chris at South Beach. 6. Keith and Angel at South Beach. 7. Rocky Horror cast at EJ's. 8. Custom outfits on the street. Photos by Paul Stricklin



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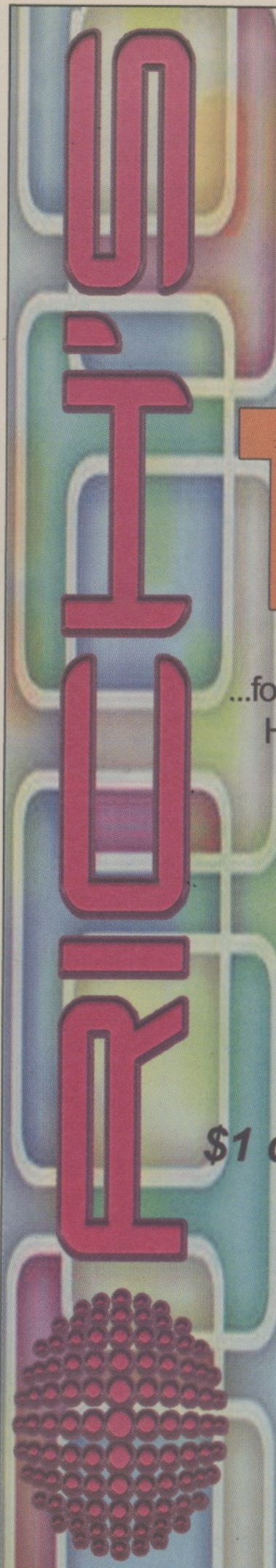
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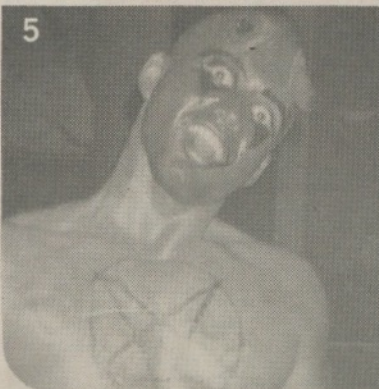
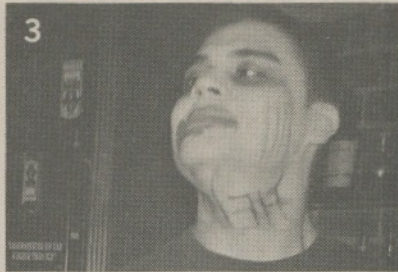
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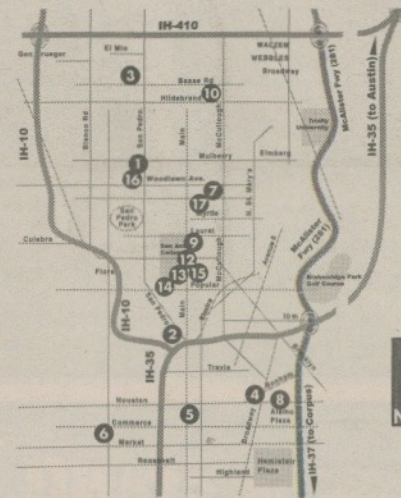
ClubLand

san antonio

1. Suzie and Johnathon at Bonham Exchange. 2. Olivia and Natasha at Bonham Exchange. 3. Bartender at Heat. 4. Witches at The Saint. 5. Demon at Heat. 6. Lollipop Guild at The Annex. Photos by Junior Hernandez



NightSpots



- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Alternative—2211 San Pedro. 210-737-9191 | 10. TAGZ—5307 McCullough. 210-828-4922. Tagzsa.com |
| 2. Annex—330 San Pedro. 210-223-6957 | 11. The 106—106 Pershing Ave. 210-820-0906 |
| 3. Bermuda Triangle—119 El Mio. 210-342-2276 | 12. The Pegasus—1402 N. Main. 210-299-4222 |
| 4. Bonham Exchange—411 Bonham. 210-271-3811 | 13. The Saint—1430 N. Main. 210-225-7330. Thesaint-sabx.com |
| 5. The Boss—1006 DFW Blvd. 210-534-6600 | 14. SA Eagle—1010 N. Main. 210-226-2529. Satxeagle.com |
| 6. Club Cachondo—1022 Buena Vista. 210-212-9349. Clubcachondo.com | 15. Silver Dollar—1418 N. Main. 210-227-2623 |
| 7. Cobalt—2022 McCullough. 210-734-2244 | 16. 2015—2015 San Pedro. 210-733-3365 |
| 8. Gotham—Third @ Alamo (Downtown). 210-527-1707 | 17. The Petticoat Junction—1818 N. Main. 210-732-0333 |
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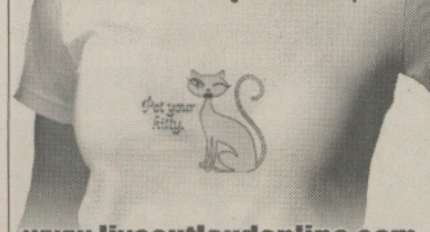
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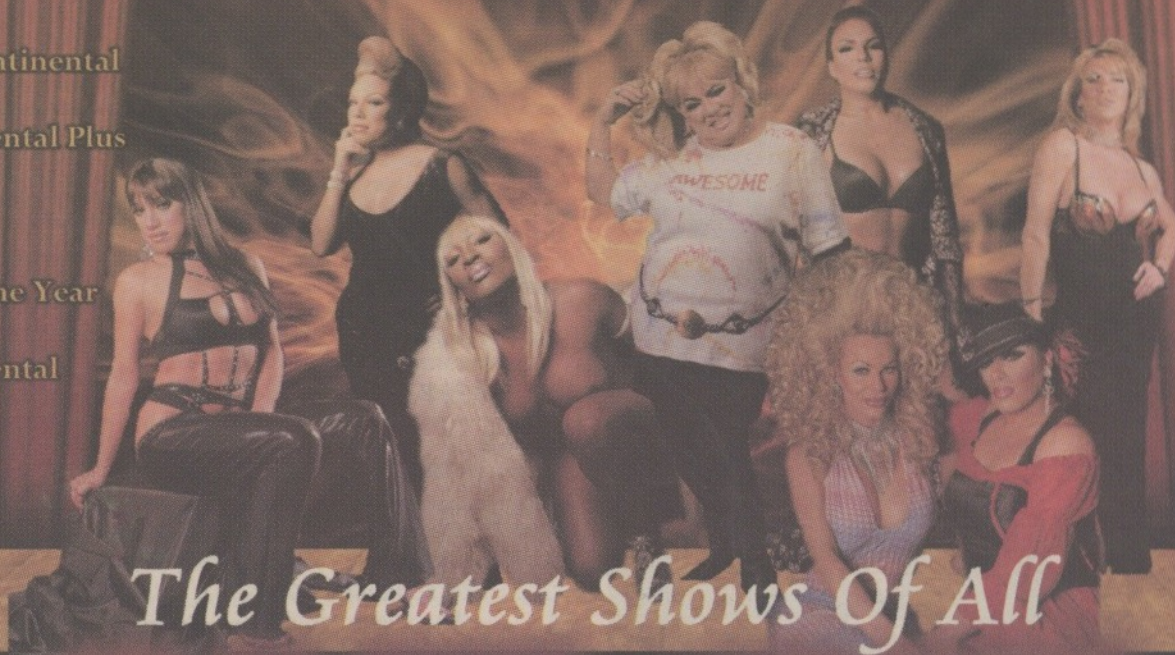


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Shady Lady, Melissa Crawford,
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& Paige Taylor Take You Back For
A Pass To The Past (80's Night)

Sundays

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Zori Zanel,
Janet Andrews
Taryn Taylor
Melissa Crawford
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ANNOUNCEMENTS25
 EMPLOYMENT25
 REAL ESTATE25
 PRODUCTS..... 25
 RENTALS25
 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ...26
 LICENSED MASSAGE26
 TRAVEL26
 ADULT CLASSIFIEDS
 ADULT PRODUCTS27
 COMPANIONS27

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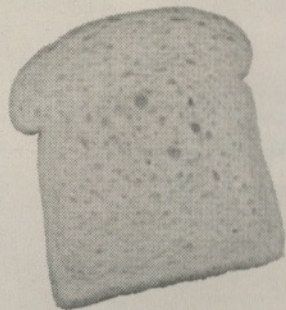
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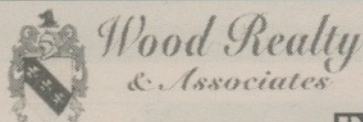
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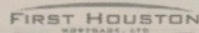


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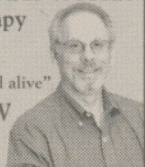
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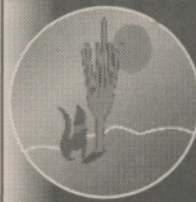


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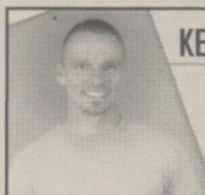
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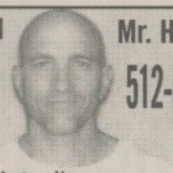


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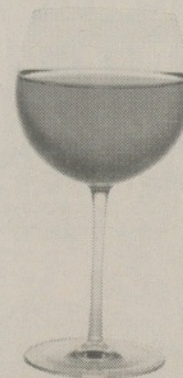
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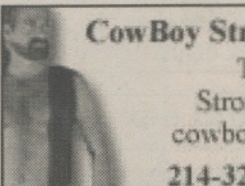
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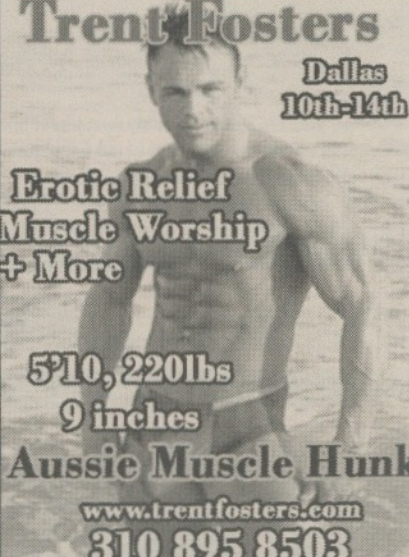
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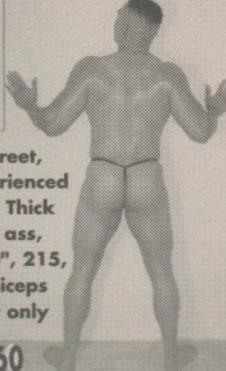


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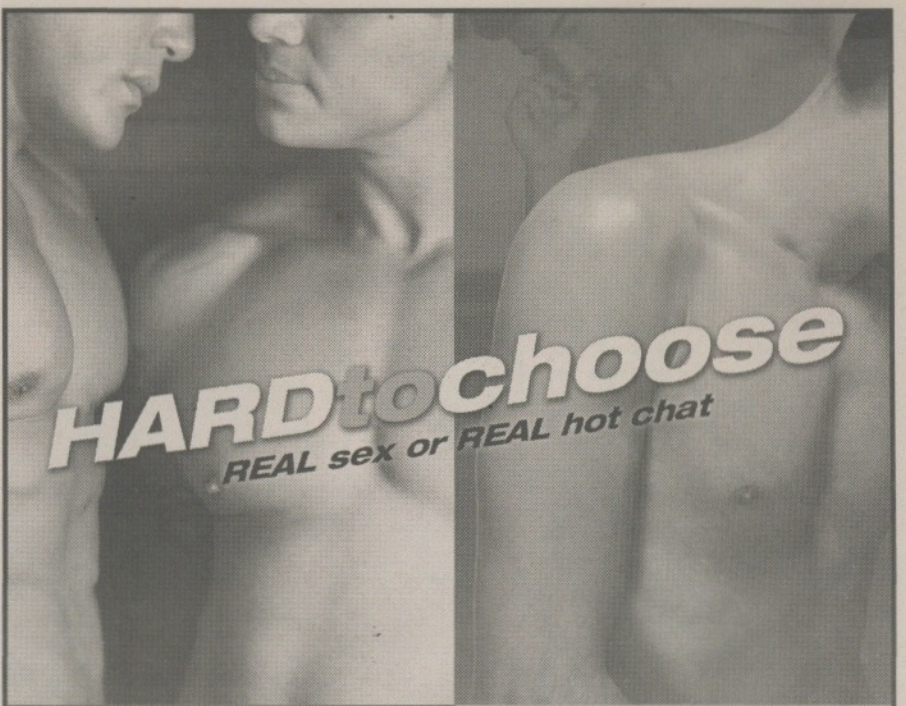
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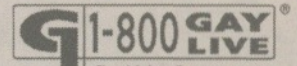
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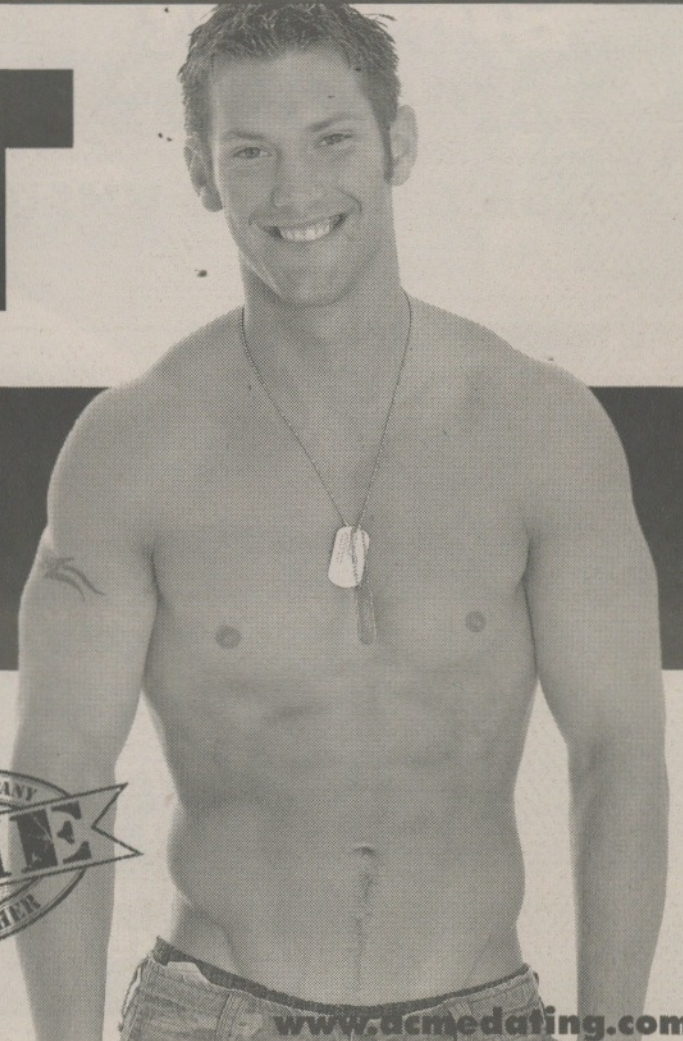
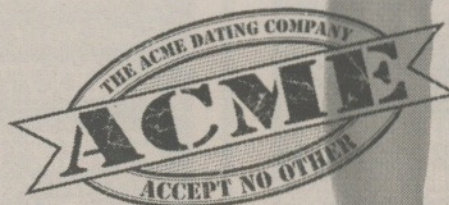
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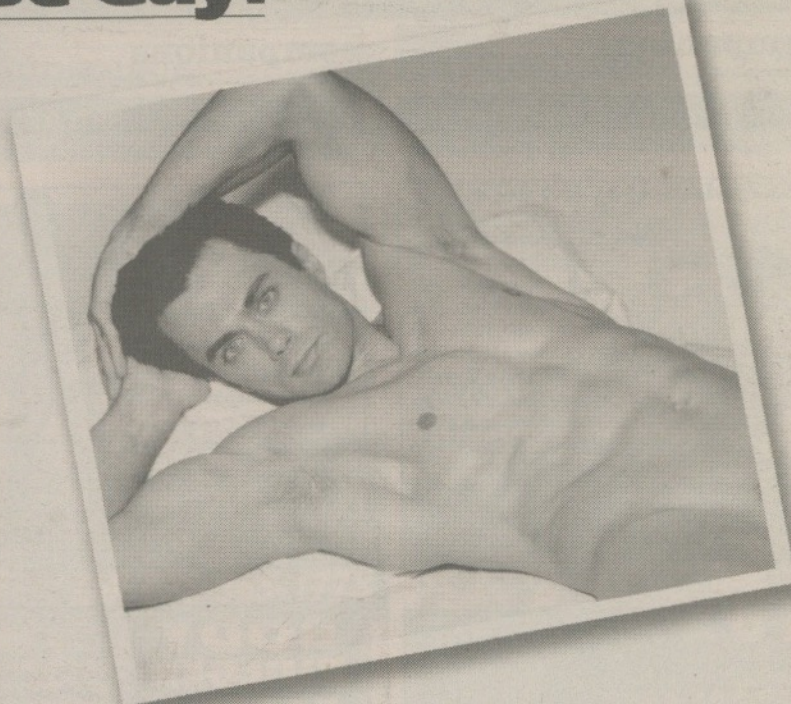
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