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newsmagazin

Plus >

Ray Hill to receive  
lifetime achievement  
award from ACLU

Dying New Jersey  
police officer fights  
for partner rights

# Country boys

Ethan Kage and Matthew Rush bring  
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# HEAT

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Ladies Of Heat

**Sunday, December 25**

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Showtime Midnight



Photo courtesy of FabScout Entertainment  
 Inside photos courtesy of Falcon Studios

# inside

Volume 1 ■ Issue 48 ■ December 2, 2005

## 5 Texas News

### Holiday in the 'Hood

Texas GLBT merchants say the holiday shopping season is shaping up better than it has been the last few years. They've got suggestions for gift-buying gay and lesbian folk.

## 7 National News

### Marriage

Massachusetts, America's lone outpost of equal marriage rights, could lose that standing by 2008 if the state's social conservatives have their way.

## 11 Interview

### Cross-country men

Gay porn star Matthew Rush found love on the road in Dallas. His boyfriend, Ethan Kage, is now a member of the Falcon stable, too, and the lovebirds are touring together.

## 15 Clips

### Big screen

There's no shortage of gay-themed films to enjoy before, after and even instead of your requisite holiday shopping. *TXT's* critics review three possibilities guaranteed to entertain.



## departments

News With a View .....	8
Perspectives .....	9
Weekly Review .....	12
Filth .....	13
Zodiac .....	14
Ask Howard .....	16
Clubland .....	19
Classified Ads .....	25

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 Terry Thompson, Administrative Assistant, Dallas, 110  
 Mike Ferguson, Administrative Assistant, Houston  
 Kris Martin, Promotions Director, Dallas, 116

### NEWS & OPINION

Dennis Vercher, Executive Editor, Dallas, 113  
 Nancy Ford, Managing Editor, Houston, 2  
 Arnold Wayne Jones, Arts & Leisure Editor, Dallas, 129  
 Ann Rostow, Senior Staff Writer, Austin, 2  
 Contributing Writers: Deborah Moncrief Bell, Dale Carpenter, Joey Guerra,  
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 Ed Alvarez, Associate Advertising Director, Houston, 1  
 Gary Karwacki, Dallas Accounts Manager, Dallas, 115  
 Alex Barnishin, Austin Accounts Manager, Dallas, 126  
 Chico Segura, Dallas Accounts Manager, Dallas, 111  
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### ART & PRODUCTION

Kyle Willis, Art Director, Dallas, 130  
 Michael F. Stephens, Senior Graphic Designer, Dallas, 132

### CLASSIFIEDS

Greg Hoover, Classified Advertising Director, Dallas, 123  
 Tony Martinez, Classifieds Representative, Dallas, 127  
 Chris Edwards, Classifieds Representative, Dallas, 131

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### GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSIONS

*TXT* News magazine accepts submissions of news articles, feature articles, opinion pieces, interviews and reviews within specified word counts. All communication about submissions is by e-mail with the managing editor, Nancy Ford. A copy of our guidelines for submissions may be obtained by e-mailing the managing editor at nancy@txtnewsmag.

### CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

In an attempt to provide a weekly report of the highest possible accuracy, credibility and integrity, *TXT* News magazine 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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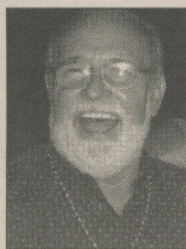
### HOUSTON

#### Ray Hill to receive ACLU's lifetime achievement award at gala

Recognizing his decades-long commitment to equal right, the ACLU-Houston tonight will present its lifetime achievement award to activist Ray Hill at the group's 2005 Gala.

Political humorist and broadcaster Al Franken will be the featured speaker.

Tickets start at \$75. For reservations, call 713-942-8146.



Ray Hill

#### Former state representative endorses Jay Ayer in city council runoff

Debra Danburg, who represented Montrose and the Heights in the Texas House of Representatives for more than 20 years, has endorsed Jay Ayer for Houston City Council At-Large, Position 2.

Ayer is running against lesbian candidate Sue Lovell, whom Danburg dismissed with this curious remark: "I gave Sue Lovell her first job after her printing business failed."

Danberg said she was endorsing Ayer because of his "intelligence, competence and honesty."

Ayer is an attorney and management consultant who is a Houston Community College trustee. Lovell has been endorsed by the Houston GLBT Political Caucus PAC. The runoff is Dec. 10.

#### Bunnies on the Bayou seeks groups to benefit from Easter 2006 party

Bunnies on the Bayou is seeking proposals from organizations that wish to receive money from its Easter 2006 event, scheduled April 16.

The deadline is Jan. 14, 2006; selections will be made by mid-February, organizers said.

For proposal requirements, including current financial statements and a summary of the organization's purpose or mission statement, e-mail [Info@bunnies.org](mailto:Info@bunnies.org).

#### Pride Houston announces 2006 theme, with accompanying logo on the way

Calling it a first step in educating the broader society about gay men, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders, Pride Houston has chosen "Say It Out Loud!" as its theme for the 2006 Houston Pride season.

Pride Houston will choose an accompanying logo at an open meeting Dec. 13 at 7 p.m. at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 W. Gray Ave.

A volunteer interest session will be held at 6:30 p.m. For more information, log on to [Pridehouston.org](http://Pridehouston.org).

#### Bering announces support group for Spanish speakers with HIV

The Bering Support Network has announced it will host *Latinos Apoyando Latinos*, a support group conducted in Spanish for HIV positive individuals.

Daniel Garces, the new program's director, called it a wonderful opportunity to seek support in a system which often limits people due to language barriers.

"We hope this group will ease some of the challenges Spanish speaking HIV positive individuals face and provide them some resources to combat this disease," he said.

The program begins Dec. 5 at 6 p.m. in room 201 at Bering United Methodist Church, 1440 Harold St. For more information call 713-526-1017, ext. 211.

# Shopping season in the 'gay' hoods

## Pride items and intimate apparel are among the favorite items at retailers

By Deborah Moncrief Bell, Ann Rostow and Dennis Vercher

Gay-owned businesses offer a wide selection of gift items for the season — a time that's critically important for most of them. Holiday sales can make or break an independent merchant, gay or straight.

In Houston's Montrose neighborhood, merchants offer gifts that would be especially appreciated by the GLBT people on your holiday shopping list.

**TEXAS** But many items would be welcomed by anyone, even your parents, non-gay friends and children.

"Underwear is a surprisingly popular gift item," said Victor Puentes, store manager at the upscale shop M2M, located on the street level at 3400 Montrose Blvd.

The "hot" item this season? "Definitely the high-end-brand designer denim. That is very popular now," he said.

M2M stocks the most trend-setting styles on the market, but has a wide selection of items that would make nice gifts without going over your credit card limit.



DEBORAH MONCRIEF BELL/TXT Newsmagazine  
James O'Roarke of Hollywood Superstore on Fairview Ave. in Houston knows what he wants in his rainbow stocking.

An assortment of special scented candles offers a great gift for your holiday party host. The best buy would be the swimwear that's marked down as an off-season item but perfect for those taking a winter vacation to warmer climes. Gift certificates are available.

Bob Houghton of Black Hawk Leather says that Christmas is not really the biggest season for his business.

"Our sales increase for Halloween, Mardi Gras, and New Year's," he said,



DEBORAH MONCRIEF BELL/TXT Newsmagazine

Underwear is a not-so-surprisingly popular gift choice at M2M Fashion, 3400 Montrose Blvd.

adding that often his clients buy more intimate items for their partner that they give in a more private setting. These wares are not the sort to go under the tree to be opened in front of family and friends.

Black Hawk Leather offers the finest in leather apparel. Houghton suggests as a best buy a leather vest, available in the traditional black or even a cheerful bright red.

The store also offers great stocking stuffers such as key chains, leather ties, gloves and jewelry. Black Hawk Leather, at 711 Fairview Ave., also has a shop inside the Ripcord next door, where they will be open Christmas Eve for those who are last-minute shoppers.

Without a doubt the "must have" item at Hollywood Superstore on Fairview Avenue is the aluminum tree, decked out in the rainbow spectrum. It is available in a tabletop size as well as medium- and full-size.

"They can be displayed in the current trend of upside-down," said sales associate James O'Roarke. "It can be used for Christmas and during June for Pride Month!"

The store also offers rainbow wreaths, stockings, and ornaments as well as some special greeting cards for the season. Books, candles, jewelry, calendars, music and more are also available and are great stocking stuffers.

In the capital city, gays are also going for intimate apparel, says Vickie Claiborne of Tung Gear.

"Underwear and boxer shorts and things that people wear under their clothes" are hot items right now, she said. And a new line of sweats is doing well, too. But she adds, "My best-selling

item up to this point has been the various styles of sporty underwear that I carry, and of course, Pride items."

Claiborne carries a Pride T-shirt she designed.

"I sell those pretty regularly as well," Claiborne said.

Tung Gear's website says its offerings are "chosen specifically for women who like to have fun. And who play like a boy. And women who like wearing something comfortable, stylist and unique." So head on over to Claiborne's patch of cyberspace.

Tung Gear takes orders over the Internet at [Tunggear.com](http://Tunggear.com), and by telephone at 512-266-0910.

In Dallas, shop owners believe their optimism this season is justified.

"The world is picking back up now, slowly but surely," said Johnnie Grey, owner of Shades of Grey in the gay and lesbian business and entertainment district. He says the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks four years ago sent merchants, along with everyone else, into a tailspin they're just beginning to recover from.

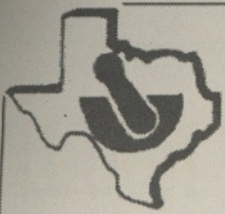
"The economy is picking up, but it is still slower than it was a few years ago," he said.

They key is to offer bargains, said Mark Sonna, co-owner of Mark & Larry's Stuff.

"People are buying more than they were last year, but they are still cost-conscious," he said.

Patrick Montag, an owner of An Occasional Piece, said he's expecting a reasonably successful season.

"I have brought in some extra stock," he said. "I am counting on it being a pretty good year."



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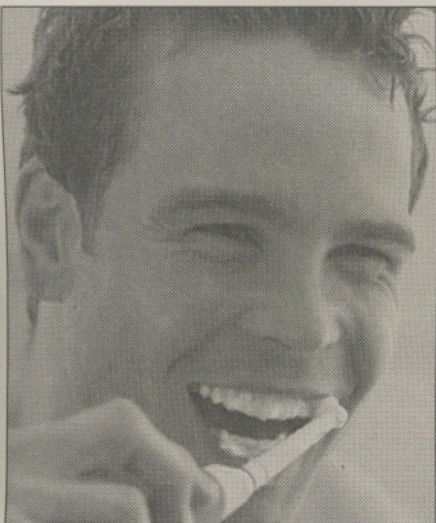
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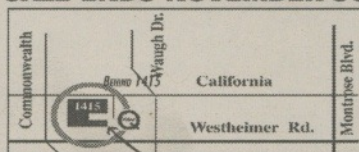
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## texas

# Dallas police to re-examine 6 gay murders since 2000

## Investigators to probe victims' Internet use, look for any missed clues

By David Webb  
Staff Correspondent

The Dallas Police Department will take a second look at a string of gay murders that have occurred in the area since 2000 to see if any patterns emerge, according to a gay member of the City Council.

Councilmember Ed Oakley said a police detective contacted him last weekend, after two published reports in **DALLAS** *Dallas Voice* detailed the unsolved murders of six gay men.

City Manager Mary Suhm ordered police to undertake the investigation after reading a *Voice* report in which Oakley and Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance president Erin Moore expressed concerns about the unsolved killings.

Oakley and Moore were reacting to a previous *Voice* article that detailed the six killings. One of the victims was Lawrence Wheat, 42, an architect who had been a member of the City Plan and Zoning Commission. Wheat was killed in his loft apartment last year. There were no signs of forced entry at the apartment, located south of downtown Dallas.

The latest, a gay student at the University of Texas at Arlington, was killed in his Arlington apartment sometime between Oct. 26 and Oct. 31. The student, Samuel Lea, 28, was seen several times in the company of a "mystery person" who neighbors observed waiting around outside Lea's apartment in the days before Lea was killed, said Detective Tommy Le Noir of the Arlington Police Department.



Sam Lea, pictured in an undated photo, was killed in his Arlington apartment sometime between Oct. 26 and Oct. 31. Police speculate that the University of Texas at Arlington student knew his killer because there were no signs of forced entry.

Lea, 28, a photography graduate who had returned to the university to pursue a degree in English, was strangled to death, Le Noir said. Several items were missing from Lea's apartment, and his silver 2004 Chevrolet Avalanche pickup truck was also missing.

"It was not forced entry. It was definitely somebody he knew," Le Noir said.

Oakley said the Dallas detective told him the homicide unit plans to compare all of the cases and attempt to determine if any evidence indicated that the victims were meeting men over the Internet. The councilmember also said the detective promised to re-examine all aspects of the cases to determine if anything was missed in previous investigations.

Contact the writer: Webb@dallasvoice.com

# GLBT business directories merge

## DFW Lambda Pages, Gay & Lesbian Yellow Pages merge print, online operations

The *Dallas/Fort Worth Lambda Pages* and the *Gay & Lesbian Yellow Pages* merged their print and online operations in North Texas, according to the publishers of the two business directories.

Laura Villagrán, publisher of the *Gay and Lesbian Yellow Pages*, said she was seeking a partnership to expand her GLBT marketing network across the United States.

"It's a winning combination for all business owners in North Texas," she said.

The online edition of *DFW Lambda Pages*

will be part of the *GayYellow.com* network, owned by Villagrán, which represents major metropolitan cities here and abroad.

*DFW Lambda Pages* will manage and publish the print directory for both entities. The four-color annual business directory and visitors guide has been released and is available now, said Robert Moore, publisher of the *Lambda Pages*.

"By combining our two books and Web sites, we are continuing to build a strong, effective business network for our communities," Moore said.

In addition to *DFW Lambda Pages*, Moore is the publisher for *TXN Newsmagazine* and the GLBT weekly newspaper *Dallas Voice*, established in 1984.

— From staff reports

By Ann Rostow  
Senior Staff Writer

# Massachusetts anti-gay activists surmount first of several hurdles

A cultural conservative group in Massachusetts claims its volunteers gathered twice the required number of signatures to begin the process of amending the Bay State constitution to repeal same-sex marriage.

The Marriage Family Institute says it delivered over 120,000 names to election officials on the Nov. 23 deadline. The names will be examined over the coming days, and if

**MASSACHUSETTS** 65,825 of them pass muster, the completed petitions will be filed with the Secretary of State on Dec. 7.

The procedure for amending a constitution varies from state to state. In Massachusetts, a citizen-driven initiative like this one must win the support of just 25 percent of the state's lawmakers for two sessions in a row before heading to voters.

That low bar is easily met, even in a state with majority support for extending marriage to gays. A 2002 attempt by citizens to amend the Massachusetts constitution died after then-State Senate president Thomas Birmingham used a parliamentary tactic to pre-empt a legislative vote altogether.

But it's unclear whether such a strategy would be politically feasible under present circumstances. Assuming that the lawmakers take up the amendment in 2006 and in 2007, the language could come before voters in 2008.

The amendment reads: "When recognizing marriages entered into after the adoption of this amendment by the people, the Commonwealth and its political subdivisions shall define marriage only as the union of one man and one woman." It would not affect the thousands of gay and lesbian couples who have married in Massachusetts, nor those who will have married as of late 2008. That latter group may include same-sex couples from out of state, depending on the outcome of a lawsuit on behalf of nonresidents, now awaiting a decision by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

But the amendment would close the door to future same-sex marriages in Massachusetts, a door that may well be open in other states by the time 2008 rolls around. Even though a slight majority of Massachusetts citizens support same-sex mar-

## Hearing draws a crowd



DAVID SANDELL/The Capital Times

People sit in one of two overflow rooms in the Sate Capitol in Madison, Wis., to listen to testimony at a hearing Tuesday on whether the state should ban same sex marriage. Hundreds of people jammed the Capitol to argue over whether the Wisconsin Constitution should be amended to restrict marriage to opposite-sex couples.

riage, the numbers could shift under the onslaught of a long, bitter campaign. Conversely, the intervening two years or so could bolster public support for equal marriage rights for gays.

Meanwhile, Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders announced plans to challenge the amendment in court in January, assuming that the petitions are qualified. The advocates have already made their case against the amendment before the attorney general, urg-

ing him unsuccessfully to kill the measure in its infancy on constitutional grounds. Their key objections have not changed. First, GLAD says, the amendment illegally serves to reverse a judicial decision, specifically the opinion legalizing same-sex marriage two years ago. Second, citing the failed amendment of 2002, the lawyers note that the amendment impermissibly revives a question that has recently been settled.

Contact the writer: Ann@txtnewsmag.com

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# From silly news to serious news and back again

Once again I've had to delete an entire column and start over on the cusp of my deadline. Why? Because I'm no longer in the silly frame of mind that characterized yesterday's work product, and there's actually quite a bit going on that I should report.

Gone is the item about the money-laundering Nigerian governor who jumped bail and escaped house arrest in London wearing "a red dress, sparkling necklace, red woman's headdress and lipstick" according to the *Vanguard* newspaper. Also spiked was a weird scenario out of New York involving a gay male couple who embezzled millions from a Nassau County school district. Oh, don't ask!



Ann Rostow

## My favorite Martin

Let's talk instead about the fall of Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin, who lost a vote of no confidence on Monday night. Martin, head of the scandal-ridden Liberal Party, dissolved Parliament on Tuesday, and called for elections Jan. 23. His main rival, Stephen Harper of the Conservative Party, promptly announced that he would ask Parliament to revisit the question of same-sex marriage if voters put his party in power.

Don't worry. Same-sex marriage is safe in Canada, where the majority of provincial high courts have legalized equal marriage rights, where two thirds of the public support it, and where the Canadian Supreme Court has said it conforms with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The Parliament jumped on that bandwagon last June by passing marriage rights in a fairly close vote under the whip of Paul Martin and company.

Even in the unlikely event that voters give Conservatives a plurality next month, it's not clear that the 308-member body will reverse itself, and it's even less clear that such a vote would carry the force of law under the circumstances. At most it would muck everything up and send the question to a definitive ruling by the High Court.

But none of these facts will stop anti-gay politicians from blathering on about same-sex marriage for the next month and a half. Political observers expect the electorate to split between the Liberals (now pulling 35 percent), the Conservatives (at 30 percent), and the left of center New Democratic Party (at 20 percent). Adding to the mix is the separatist Bloc Quebecois, which will sweep its namesake province and guarantee that none of the main groups come close to a majority. We'll likely end up with a Liberal plurality, and another coalition between Martin's party and the New Democrats.

## What's in a name?

On the home front, more states are gearing up for a referendums on gay marriage next year, including Wisconsin, where hundreds descended on a legislative hearing Tuesday. It looks as if Wisconsin lawmakers will send an amendment to the voters, given the number of amendment sponsors this session. Less obvious is the situation in Florida, where petitioners are falling behind their targets.

In Illinois, only the Legislature can initiate a constitutional amendment, but that hasn't stopped a creepy bunch from trying to put a nonbinding referendum on the ballot urging lawmakers to take action. With everything else that's going on, this quasi-symbolic Illini effort seems the least

of our problems, particularly since it's reportedly not going well. However, one of our enemies in this battle is named Randall Stufflebeam, a ludicrous detail that screams out for inclusion in this column.

## God save the Queens

In fact, just typing the name Randall Stufflebeam has shifted my predisposition away from serious GLBT news. I feel myself rejecting the interesting item that Arnold Schwarzenegger is about to appoint a lesbian and Democrat, Susan P. Kennedy, as his new chief of staff, and veering instead towards the story of a contingent of Royal Marines based near Plymouth.

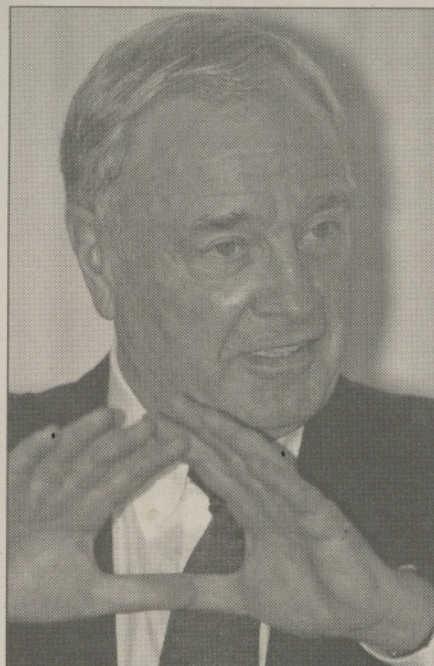
These wild and crazy Brits were secretly filmed last May conducting an initiation of some sort involving a fight between two naked soldiers. The other men were also naked, and the confrontation was supervised by two superiors, one dressed as a surgeon and the other wearing a schoolgirl outfit.

According to the *News of the World*, surely a reputable if unfamiliar source, the commandos had just finished 32 weeks of training and were presumably blowing off a little steam. The article includes a number of quotes from outraged British military and political commentators. Some of the terms they employed to describe the incident were "repugnant," "wrong and horrific," and "damaging."

"Just imagine a young man turning up in his unit and being made to wrestle naked in a field while his non-commissioned officers are dressed up in women's frillies," said one. "I mean, it's not very dignified stuff, is it?"

## Mixed messages

The news about Susan Kennedy is strik-



**LOW SPIRITS:** After being on the losing end of a no-confidence vote Monday night, Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin on Tuesday dissolved Parliament and called elections for Jan. 23.

ing, don't you think? What do you suppose Arnold is up to? She was top aide to former Gov. Gray Davis, for God's sake!"

Here's another mysterious piece of news. The State Department has issued a press release condemning the United Arab Emirates for raiding a gay wedding, arresting a dozen same-sex couples, and indicating that the men will be subjected to forced hormone treatments. Department spokesman Sean McCormack called on the government "to immediately stop any ordered hormone and psychological treatment and to comply with the standards of international law."

Yes, the statement is welcome. But hello? What about the reported executions of gay men in Iran, where at least half a dozen youths have been hung for alleged sex offenses since the new government took power? It seems likely, given the information from the ground, that the executions are not tied to sexual abuse, but are in fact based on consensual sodomy. Indeed, the official Iranian press reported that two young men who were executed a week or so ago were punished for same-sex intercourse involving penetration, a capital crime under Shariah, the strict Islamic law enforced in Iran.

## Peccavi

Finally, I'm sure you've all heard that the powers that be in the Roman Catholic Church have officially nixed from holy orders "those who practice homosexuality, present deep-seated homosexual tendencies, or support the so-called gay culture." By my calculation, that leaves all those healthy heterosexual men who have decided to forego sex for the rest of



**RIDING HIGH:** Stephen Harper, the leader of Canada's Conservatives, said if his party wins a majority in Parliament during next month's elections, it will definitely revisit the issue of same-sex marriage.

their lives, plus the cohort who transcend sexual orientation by sublimating their warped desires in the body of Christ for as long as they can stand it.

Without further ado, I believe I will conclude by reprinting my famous four-part priest limerick, a masterpiece that stands the test of time as far as commentary on this subject is concerned:

Said the priest, "It's a terrible waste  
To force all of us here to be chaste.  
God gave us desires,  
He invented boys' choirs,  
And he taught us our Catholic taste."

Said another, "I'm of the same mind.  
And there's a boy in a bit of a bind.  
He's still tied to the altar  
In the Bishop's best halter,  
And we should leave no child behind."

Said the rest: "We'll release him en masse,  
But we have to watch out for the brass.  
The boss doesn't miss-a-trick,  
After all, it's his bishoprick,  
And he can be a pain in the ass."

Said the Bishop, "I heard all the noise,  
And I know you've been into my toys.  
You've used all my lube  
So we'll need a new tube  
To separate the men from the boys."

(Extended drum roll)

Contact the writer: Ann@txtnewsmag.com

## Letters

### Canada, here we come

Every same-sex couple who even remotely thought about getting married should make plans to travel to Canada to tie the knot. Perhaps when we start referring to our new spouses as "wife" or "husband," the 76 percent of voters who approved Proposition 2 will realize the amendment did nothing to stop gay marriage. It just made getting married a little less convenient.

Daryl Hinshaw/Dallas

### To voters who passed Proposition 2

My partner and I have been together for almost seven years. We love each other deeply and are gay, yet we don't believe in "gay marriage." (See Matthew 19:10-12, perhaps the only time Jesus himself talks about gays.) But our religious beliefs don't belong in the Constitution, and neither does yours or anybody else's. How would you feel if Muslims or Buddhists passed laws you did not believe in?

We certainly believe we are due all the same rights and privileges that married couples have (and there are more than a thousand), especially since we live together like married couples do and pay property taxes for your kids to go to school each year.

Obviously I believe in our Bill of Rights that was ratified by our founding fathers in 1789. The very first sentence states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion." But if you can't help yourself and must include religion in our government, I've got some advice: don't marry a person of the same sex. Also, don't have sex with your wife during menstruation or wear scarlet anymore; otherwise, I may get the urge to hurl stones at you if this amendment passes.

If you want to be a "Christian," then do what Christ commands: "Above all else love each other deeply, for love covers a multitude of sins." (1 Peter 4:8). I fail to see how this amendment accomplishes God's greatest commandment. Or better yet, read James 4:12: "There is only one judge, the one who can save or destroy. But you — who are you to judge your neighbor?"

We are not asking for you to accept us, or even befriend us. Just leave us be.

Charles Dean Bowen/Sachse, Texas

**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.

# Who is on the Lord's side?

## It's time for the gay community to find religion — before it's too late

For the most part, I have little faith in most of organized religion. It tends to have undesirable side effects, such as crusades, Inquisitions, witch-burnings and the election of President Bush.

To me, the idea of blind faith is baffling. It seems like some people are compelled to create an imaginary friend to help them cope with pain and tragedy.

With such strong secular views on religion, you might be surprised to know that I believe the gay and lesbian community desperately needs to find God. Unless we win the battle of heaven, conservatives will continue to make our lives hell. To win the hearts and minds of most Americans, powerful alliances with religious organizations must be forged and GLBT people of faith must be respected.

Fortunately, I am not alone in this assessment. In Matt Foreman's keynote address at this month's Creating Change conference in Oakland, Calif., the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's executive director wisely underscored the need to welcome religious viewpoints.

"The secular part of the movement has distanced itself from people of faith, and that's got to end," Foreman said. The annual conference also featured a seminar by the Empire State Pride Agenda called "Pride In The Pulpit."

The Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest GLBT organization, has also jumped on the faith bandwagon. In June, they hired respected gay advocate Harry Knox, a 1989 graduate of Lancaster Theological Seminary, to run their newly created religious and faith program.

"A vocal minority is falsely promoting the notion that religious people stand in opposition to equal rights," Knox said. "Our job is to promote the truth that a majority of people of faith believes strongly in fairness and justice."

Knox may be a bit optimistic, but he is correct to suggest that the religious right is not God's mouthpiece. Unfortunately, the media has all too often presented religion as monolithic and uniformly opposed to gay rights. Bloated buffoons like the Rev. Jerry Falwell are chosen to represent the "religious viewpoint" while mainstream religious leaders are frozen out of the debate.

This creates a huge problem: the public has been conditioned to cable tel-

evision shouting matches dangerously billed as Gays vs. God. Even for the most talented and trenchant debaters, defeating God is a tall order.

Changing this dynamic will be difficult because news directors love conflict, and who better to churn the waters — and turn up the ratings — than fire and brimstone preachers? Let's face it, people love (or love to hate) the Rev. Pat Robertson's messianic meteorology. The more he behaves like an airhead, the more air-time the networks give him.

One of the major challenges is finding dynamic, TV-friendly religious leaders who will champion gay rights. One such leader is Rev. Al Sharpton, who endorsed the concept of extending marriage to gay couples during his presidential campaign and who continues to be a strong advocate. His voice is key, especially in African-American churches, where much work needs to be done to break through a wall of entrenched anti-gay sentiment.

Another strong voice is that of Rabbi Eric Yoffie, president of the Union for Reform Judaism, representing about 900 temples in North America. In a memorable speech last week in Houston, Yoffie blasted the religious right and offered his support for gay rights, according to an Associated Press account.

Yoffie said religious right leaders

believe "unless you attend my church, accept my God and study my sacred text you cannot be a moral person. What could be more bigoted than to claim that you have a monopoly on God? We cannot forget that when Hitler came to power in 1933, one of the first things

that he did was ban gay organizations. Yes, we can disagree about gay marriage. But there is no excuse for hateful rhetoric that fuels the hell fires of anti-gay bigotry."

It is imperative that spiritual leaders like Sharpton and Yoffie take on the religious right — because it makes it easier for other people of faith who believe in gay rights, but need to be able to theologically justify their position.

Religion fulfills a deep need in millions of people. I will never understand how a rational person can be a person of faith. But maybe I don't have to understand. What matters is that there is mutual respect and a strong desire live in a free society where the government does not mandate a particular religion.

If a person with my secular beliefs can enthusiastically embrace our religious friends and allies, I think anybody can. If the GLBT movement has a prayer at winning full acceptance, it had better find religion. Fast.

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

Contact the writer: Wbesen@aol.com



**Anything but Straight**  
By Wayne Besen



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- Weekly Review ■ 12
- Filth ■ 13
- Clips ■ 15
- Ask Howard ■ 16
- ClubLand ■ 19

**H**ere's something you probably didn't know about Matthew Rush: The six-foot, 210 lbs. gay-adult-film star behemoth freely admits he can be something of a wimp.

"I'm deathly afraid of heights," he says from his home in Fort Lauderdale. But he also has the resolve to face his fears head-on. Which is one of the reasons he took a 600-foot-plus jump while in New Zealand filming *Cross Country* earlier this year.

"It was one of the scariest things I've ever done in my life," he says. "You're connected to cables, but you free fall for like 13 seconds. But I'll do anything to conquer my fear. I wasn't gonna back down."

That tenacity has made Rush one of the biggest stars in the gay model market, a celebrity whose life is followed like that of a mainstream movie star. After Rush found a boyfriend late last year — a Dallasite who goes by the name Ethan Kage — word spread like wildfire on the Internet: The openly gay porn king was taken.

"I try to keep my private life out of my work, but I was aware when word got out," Rush says. "I was getting all these e-mails and I wouldn't deny it."

Just how does someone who represents an idealized sexual being find Mr. Right? As it turns out, in a way that could be the plot for one of his films.

It began more than a year ago when Rush was performing at a club in Dallas. From his vantage point on stage, he caught a glimpse of a patron: a shirtless hunk with a Spider-Man tattoo.

"I'm such a superhero freak that the tattoo caught my eye first," Rush says. "I wanted to talk to him but I couldn't get away. After I was through dancing, they whisked me away and I didn't have a chance to talk to him."

Kage could have been the one that got away — until Rush bumped into him at Southern Decadence in New Orleans. They learned they had a mutual friend and began chatting online. When Rush came to Dallas to perform in the play *Making Porn*, he and Kage started to spend serious time together. Now, they live as a couple in Florida.

At the time, Kage was just the boyfriend of a porn star, but is now coming into his own as an adult film performer. After one actor dropped out suddenly, Kage was recruited at the last minute to play Rush's scene partner in Falcon Studios' *Cross Country*.

"He was already going to New Zealand with me, so he stepped up to the plate and said, 'If you really want me to do this, I'll do it,'" Rush says.

It may have taken some cajoling and an emergency to get Kage in front of the camera the first time, but he's gotten the hang of it. Not only is Kage starring in his own soon-to-be released film, *Up All Night*, he and Rush are currently on a personal appearance tour promoting the film. Next week, the tour brings them to The Club in Dallas and South Beach in Houston.

The tour has just started — a quick stop in London and one at The Roxy in New York — but the first leg was perhaps the most

## Men on a mission

### How Matthew Rush and boyfriend Ethan Kage queered up Salt Lake City and New Zealand

By Arnold Wayne Jones

memorable of Rush's career: A club in Salt Lake City. It was reportedly the first appearance by a gay adult star in five years, and the first joint performance by two gay dancers in the state ever.

The laws there are very strict — "stripping" is prohibited in Salt Lake City, Rush says, "and what they consider stripping is having your clothes touch the floor, so you had to take them off and set them on a table. There could be no thongs or T-backs, and you can't show your backside at all. You just work around it."

But what surprised him the most was the turnout. "I didn't think there were that many people in Utah who were gay," Rush laughs. But he's only slightly kidding: He doesn't know the numbers but claims never to have seen more people in one club before.

That might be a result of the improvement in the image of gay porn over the years. In the six years Rush has been acting in films, he's noticed a marked increase in the emphasis on exotic locales and increasing interest in developing plot. "We're not seeing as much — I hate to say it — cheap porn," Rush says.

Life even seems to imitate art. *Cross Country* was being filmed in a small town in New Zealand, and the producers used the

#### IN PERSON

**Matthew Rush and Ethan Kage — The Cross Country Tour**

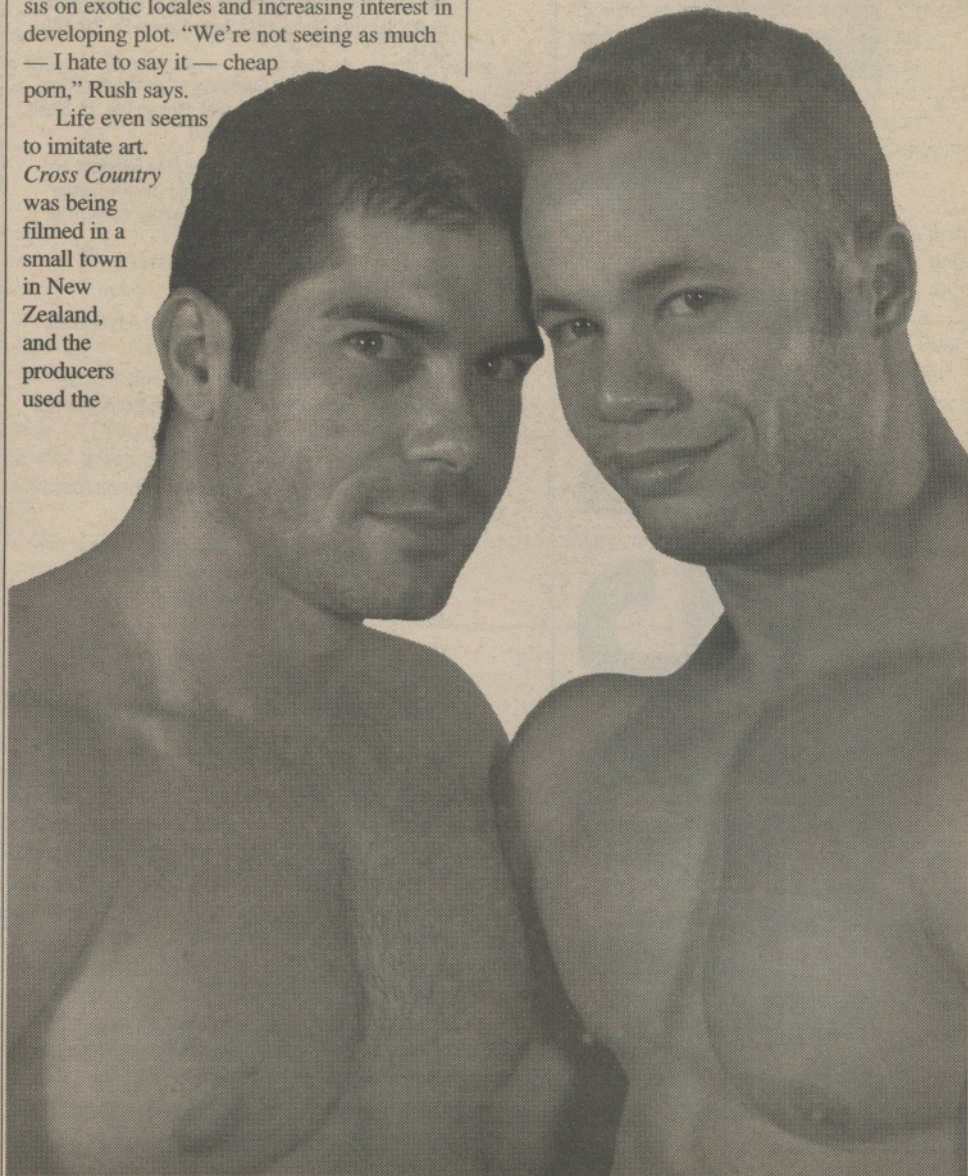
**The Club Dallas**, 2616 Swiss Ave., Dallas. Dec. 9. 214-821-1990.  
**South Beach**, 810 Pacific Ave., Houston. Dec. 10. 713-529-7623.

cover story that they were making a "travel video" to keep from spooking the locals. But some cast members let it slip that this was gay porn, everyone on the film got antsy.

"We didn't know what they would think and whether they would run us out of town," Rush says.

But that wasn't the case at all.

"We were eating breakfast and woman came up and asked me if we were shooting adult films. My jaw dropped," Rush says. "But they were cool with it — the owners of the hotel actually threw a big barbecue for us on our last night there. It was like [the film] *To Wong Foo* — we went in, gayed up the town and left everyone happy."



# 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 713-529-0327, or mailed to TXT Newsmagazine, 4617 Montrose Blvd., Suite C229, Houston TX 77006.

## Friday, December 2

### AUSTIN

**A Christmas Carol Roasting on an Open Fire**, written and performed by Rob Nash. Thursdays through Sundays, through Jan. 7. 8 p.m. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd. \$10-\$30. 512-478-5282.

**Black Nativity**, by Langston Hughes. Presented by Pro Arts Collective through Dec. 18. Thursdays through Saturdays, 7:30 p.m. Sundays, 3 p.m. Austin Playhouse at Penn Field, 3601 S. Congress Ave. 512-474-TIXS.

### DALLAS/FT. WORTH

**ArtRageUs** art show and sale. Benefits AIDS Resource Center. Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 2701 Reagan St. 214-528-0144. Rcdallas.org.

**DFW Bi Net meeting**, 7:30 p.m. Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 2701 Reagan St. 214-521-5342, ext. 1761.

**Dallas Independent Volleyball Association**, 7:30 p.m. Advantage Sports Complex, 2881 114th St., Grand Prairie.

**Day of outreach**, prevention, education and testing for Latinos and Latinas. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Presented by AIDS Interfaith Network and the Mexican Consulate. 8855 North Stemmons Freeway.

**A Dysfunctional Divas Christmas**: Don We Now Our Gay Apparel, with Steven Jay Crabtree. Through Dec. 3. 11:15 p.m. \$8-\$16. Pocket Sandwich Theatre, 5400 E. Mockingbird Ln. Suite 119. 214-821-1860.

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

**La Morenita**, a Virgen de Guadalupe art exhibit co-curated by Viola Delgado and Jesús Chaírez, through Dec. 17. Studio 2225, 2225 Kelly Ave. 214-293-1790.

**The Mike and Duane Show**, featuring Mike Ferbrache and Duane Freeman, presented by West End Comedy Theatre through Dec. 3. 8 p.m. \$15. 603 Munger Ave. Suite 100B. 214-880-9990. Westendcomedy.com.

### HOUSTON

**Basquiat**, through Feb. 12. Museum of Fine Arts Houston, 1001 Bissonnet St. 713-639-7300. Mfah.org.

**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.

**Photography in Houston Galleries**, presented by FotoFest, through Dec. 17 at various galleries. Fotofest.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, December 3

### AUSTIN

**2005 Holiday Swing**, presented by Project Transitions. 8 p.m. \$55-\$65. Dell Jewish Community Campus, 7300 Hart Ln. Projecttransitions.org.

**Austin Singers: A (Mostly) English Christmas**. 7:30 p.m. \$12-\$15. University Presbyterian Church, 2203 San Antonio St. 512-314-5532.

### DALLAS/FT. WORTH

**Cathedral Couples** potluck dinner. 972-252-7124.

**Dallas Gay Roleplayers Club**, 3-6 p.m. Half Price Books Community Room, 5803 E. Northwest Highway. 214-360-0833, ext. 222.

**Dragonflies**, gay Asians and Pacific Islanders meeting and social. 6 p.m. Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 2701 Reagan St. 214-521-5342 ext. 1752.

**Friends Associating and Relating**. Helen, 469-233-1305.

### HOUSTON

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

**Houston Outdoor Group Breakfast**. 10 a.m. Shade, 250 W. 19th St. RSVP: Dan, 1-713-992-5010.

**Houston Gay & Lesbian Parents Family 10-Mile Bike Ride**, 11 a.m. Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, 2025 W. 11th St. Ian, 713-529-1973.

**Houston Gay & Lesbian Parents Gingerbread House Decorating**, 2-4 p.m. Bring sweet materials. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1805 W. Alabama St. 713-816-4557. L.Gibbs@att.net.

**It's Only Rock 'n' Roll**, through Jan. 22. Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, 5216 Montrose Blvd. 713-284-8250.

### SAN ANTONIO

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

## Sunday, December 4

### DALLAS/FT. WORTH

**Gaymsters bridge club**, 2 p.m. Cathedral of Hope's Congregational Life Center, 5910 Cedar Springs Rd.

**Interweave lunch**. Noon. Community Unitarian Universalist Church, 2875 E. Parker Rd., Plano. 972-248-9343.

**Lutherans Concerned**, 7 p.m. King of Glory Lutheran Church, 6411 LBJ Frwy. 214-855-4998.

**National Leather Association-Dallas holiday party**. Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 2701 Reagan St. 2-5 p.m.

**Turtle Creek Chorale holiday concert**. 2:30 and 8 p.m. Dec. 19-21, 8 p.m. \$20-\$53. Meyerson Symphony Center, 2301 Flora St. 214-526-3214 ext. 102.

### HOUSTON

**A Christmas Songfest**, 5:30-9:30 p.m. \$50-\$800. Benefits Bering Omega Community Services and Lazarus House. Edwin Hornberger Conference Center, 2151 W. Holcombe Blvd. Info@achristmassongfest.org

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

**Maintaining the Magic**, presented by ICOH-The Space City Empire and Apollo Emperor II Keith Vyvial. 7 p.m. Benefits Gulf Coast Archives & Museum. Key's West, 817 W. Dallas St.

**PFLAG Houston Holiday Party**, 2-4 p.m. Bring friends and finger foods. 1st Unitarian Universalist Church, 5200 Fannin St. 713-46P-FLAG. Pflaghouston.org.

### SAN ANTONIO

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

## Monday, December 5

### DALLAS/FT. WORTH

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

### HOUSTON

**Book signing party for Healing the Heart of the World**, co-authored by Alan Davidson, with music by Rita Porfirus, vio-

list for the Houston Symphony and comments by Davidson and Dr. Joe Lindley. 7-9 p.m. Baba Yega Restaurant, 2607 Grant St. Healingtheheartoftheworld.com/. 713-522-0042.

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

**Latinos Apoyando Latinos**, a Spanish-speaking HIV support group, presented by Bering Support Network. 6 p.m. Bering United Memorial Methodist Church, 1440 Harold St., Room 201. 713-526-1017, ext. 211.

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

### SAN ANTONIO

**San Antonio Chapter of AVER-SA**. 7 p.m. Metropolitan Community Church, 611 E. Myrtle St. PMembership@aver-sanantonio.org.

## Tuesday, December 6

### AUSTIN

**Austin Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce luncheon and business networking**. 12:30-1:30 p.m. \$15-\$18. Mirabelle Restaurant, 8127 Mesa Dr. Aglcc.org.

**Stonewall Democrats of Austin**. 7:30 p.m. Magnolia Cafe South, 1920 S. Congress Ave. Stonewallaustin.org.

### DALLAS/FT. WORTH

**World AIDS Day service**. 6 p.m. Lovers Lane United Methodist Church, 9200 Inwood Rd. 214.691.4721. Llumc.org.

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

### HOUSTON

**Zumba Fitness** with Jerry Maese. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7 p.m. Fitness Exchange, 4040 Milam St. 713-524-9924.

## Wednesday, December 7

### AUSTIN

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

### HOUSTON

**GLOBO**. 7 p.m. Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, 2025 W. 11th St. 713-710-0268. Globo.org.

**Cats**, with Out at TUTS. Runs through Dec. 18. 8 p.m. Hobbs Center for the Performing Arts, 800 Bagby St. 713-558-TUTS. Tut.com.

### SAN ANTONIO

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

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

## Thursday, December 8

### 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.

### HOUSTON

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

By Billy Masters

Disgustingly offensive dirt; garbage; anything grossly indecent or obscene

## Will Bette find a home in Vegas?

Like many of you, I went to the movies on Thanksgiving night. I saw *Yours, Mine and Ours*. But maybe I should have stayed home and rented that **Kim Cattrall** classic, *Mannequin*, which sprang to mind after I read about **Michael Plentyhorse** (a name that titillates me more than the following story). This 18-year-old from Sioux Falls, S.D., was charged with indecent exposure after he allegedly tried to have sex with a female mannequin!

But there's more: If convicted, Plentyhorse may have to register as a *sex offender*! Come on, who's really at risk here? The neighborhood scarecrow? The Indian in front of the local cigar shop? Just buy Michael a blow-up doll for Christmas and be done with it.

I recently attended the opening of *The Drowsy Chaperone*, a new musical playing at the Ahmanson Theater in Los Angeles, and the audience was littered with celebs big and small. My evening got off to a rocky start when **Camryn Mannheim** and her son, **Milo**, ended up behind me (so much for that idea of keeping her kid out of public view). **Barbara Eden** looked amazing (even if she can't open her eyes). **Mark Feuerstein** was easily the hottest guy in the place. **Harriett Sansom Harris** was positively radiant, and **Blythe Danner** told me she was a singer with her own jazz combo in college — who knew?

The **Divine Miss M** has long been asked to take up residence on the Vegas Strip, an idea she's always eschewed. However, with little **Sophie** in college, she wants to keep busy. Problem is, Midler's not eager to hit the road. So why not let us come to her?

I hear that **Steve Wynn** has made quite a tempting offer for Bette to appear at the

Wynn Las Vegas with a schedule of her choosing. How fortuitous that Bette's old friend **Barry Manilow** is at the neighboring Hilton. What? I interrupt this item with news that even if Bette and Barry are within spitting distance, there will be little contact between them (although I suppose there's always the possibility of some spitting).

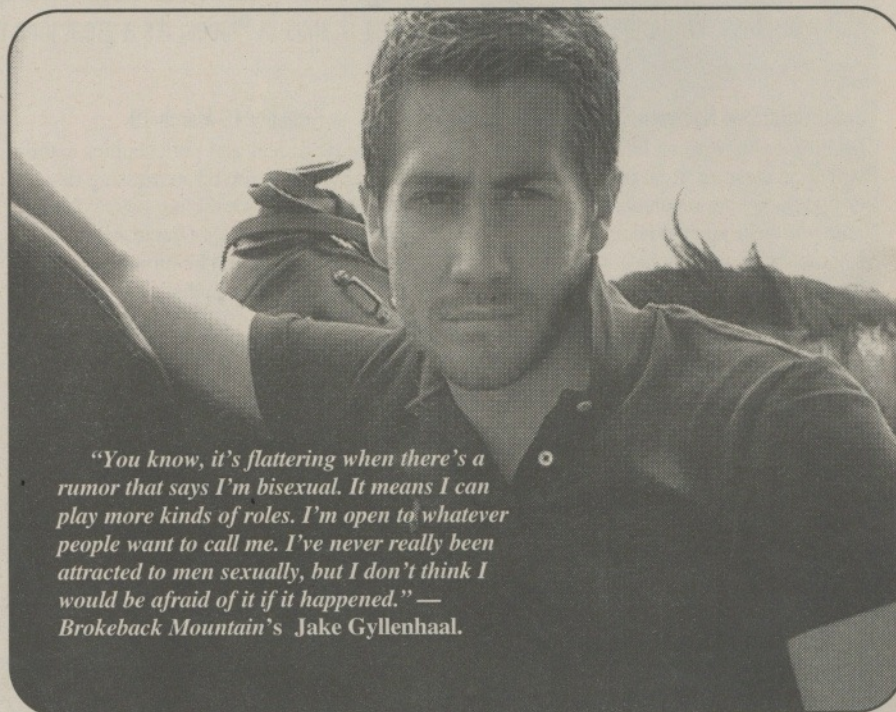
No matter how much gossip I deliver from films, television and stage, it's the porn world that so many fans are interested in. John in Boston writes: *I saw the photo of Billy Brandt bottoming in the Filth2Go Scrapbook. I'm a huge fan, but I don't ever remember him getting fucked on film. Could you tell me what movie he bottomed in?*

This was one of those things that caused quite a scandal at the time but, upon reflection, seems much ado about nothing. When Brandt was in his prime (read: thinner, younger, less a mess) and a Falcon exclusive, he bottomed for **Jeremy Jordan**. The scene was never completed, but Falcon included it on the 2002 director's cut DVD of *No Way Out*.

I've always felt that Brandt was an unconvincing top, and this clip shows his true calling. Shortly after this release, Billy declared he wanted to bottom for **Ken Ryker** (on film, presumably) and get gangbanged by a group of hot men. Practice makes perfect — and methinks he's spent the last three years getting in oodles of it.

Thomas in Las Vegas has an obsession: *I was doing some research online and came across some photos of a hot model named David Rich. Do you know anything about him? Has he ever posed nude? He sure looks like a porn star, but everything I found out about him seems to be legit.*

What is "legit"? And exactly what kinda "research" were you doing? Hmm. To answer your question, David is a fitness model who has appeared in *Playgirl* and the Australian fitness magazine *DNA*. That means Filth2Go has nude photos of him. He was described by



*"You know, it's flattering when there's a rumor that says I'm bisexual. It means I can play more kinds of roles. I'm open to whatever people want to call me. I've never really been attracted to men sexually, but I don't think I would be afraid of it if it happened." — Brokeback Mountain's Jake Gyllenhaal.*

one reviewer as possessing "the body of an Olympic athlete and the striking good looks of a Bel Ami model."

To the best of my knowledge, he hasn't done porn — yet. You can check him out on his own website of [Davidrichfitness.com](http://Davidrichfitness.com). By the way, I hear that David will soon be offering a new service: David Rich Fitness Naked. This website will feature David's fitness tips and instruction without those cumbersome gym shorts. I guess it's less a "new service" and more a "nude service" (there's our cheap joke of the week).

Could it be that **Stuart Townsend** is looking forward to a gay wedding? We did look mighty cute together at the Emmys. Stuart and **Charlize Theron** have announced that they will marry when gays and lesbians get the same legal right. "The day that law gets passed then we'll get married" he said. Of course, no one's saying they'll marry each other.

Could it be that **Britney Spears** is headed to Broadway? I don't believe this rumor, but it comes in from a reliable source. When Brit heard that plans for **Melanie Griffith** to replace **Christina Applegate** in *Sweet Charity* fell through, she contacted the producers and begged them for a chance. Allegedly, several meetings and auditions later, the deal is all but signed.

When there's even a slight chance that Britney will end up on Broadway, it's definitely time to end yet another column. You should always check out [Filth2go.com](http://Filth2go.com), the site that keeps on giving. If you have questions for me, or perhaps need any of my measurements for a gift, feel free to write to [Billy@filth2go.com](mailto:Billy@filth2go.com) and I promise to get back to you before David Rich and I finish our first nude workout.

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

**GET BACK IN BLACK**

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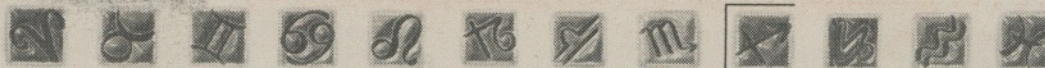
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# z o d i a c



Sagittarius

Mars is in Taurus, which is good for getting things done — but he's inflexible. Now opposing Jupiter in Scorpio, he is open to seeing the deeper effects of his efforts, but is still relentless. While these planets are aspecting Uranus in Pisces, it's a great time to consider options and improvements in both methods and purpose.

**SAGITTARIUS — November 22-December 20**  
Problems you've been having with work will soon clear up. Real progress is a week or two away, but revelations and insights now will help you get back on track. Imagine what your wackiest old relative would suggest.

**PISCES — February 19-March 19**  
Explore new ideas and philosophies enthusiastically, but if you try expressing those new ideas, you'll sound like you're channeling Edward Said via Gracie Allen. If you can let having fun be more important than being convincing, that's not so bad.

**GEMINI — May 21-June 20**  
You can get an awful lot accomplished now, just remember that when staying on track, you have to consider that the track has some twists. Be adaptable and solicit input from anyone with more authority, whether by position or experience.

**VIRGO — August 23-September 22**  
Never mind the "tall, dark stranger" — a stocky, ruddy stranger is more likely to enter your life now. If you meet such a hottie, offer verbal challenges (dares, riddles, mysteries) to start what could become a very intriguing affair.

**CAPRICORN — December 21-January 19**  
Sensual explorations open up new sexual horizons in the coming weeks. A discussion with a confidant should lead you through some confusion and surprises. If you are to find any real clarity, you have to be open to ideas.

**ARIES — March 20-April 19**  
There's no end to sexual opportunities now. Although you're the sign that most wants instant gratification (and there's lots to be had), you also want something deeper. Stop, think and hold out for what you really want.

**CANCER — June 21-July 22**  
You're being a bit of a control queen these days — well, a bit more than usual. Be open to giving and getting suggestions — especially getting. Don't be too fixed on your goals, as there are better possibilities for the open-minded.

**LIBRA — September 23-October 22**  
You're sexual dynamite right now. You could do what you want with almost anyone. Don't let enthusiasm make you forget what's important in life — sexually and otherwise. Keep your head clear and your sex safe!

**AQUARIUS — January 20-February 18**  
Money troubles can point to bigger problems (and solutions!) regarding how engrained family patterns may be holding you back from your career goals. Answers don't come easily now, but at least questions are getting clearer.

**TAURUS — April 20-May 20**  
You've been feeling stuck lately. With a little courage and willingness to confront your partner, you can release that blockage productively. Advice from friends will prove helpful, even if it only provokes you to think of different ideas.

**LEO — July 23-August 22**  
Be confident, and wherever you find opposition to your goals, consider what your opponents have to say — they have some good ideas that will prove helpful to you. If you can find common ground to work together, all the better.

**SCORPIO — October 23-November 21**  
You have a clear advantage over partners and opponents. You could take ruthless advantage or engage them playfully, finding creative solutions to conflict and new opportunities for brilliant teamwork. Take the high road.

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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# An unholy trinity



**The Dying Gaul**



For anyone tainted by Sandra Bullock in *The Net*, don't fret — not all films that use the Internet as a plot device are created the same. *The Dying Gaul* rewrites the coding for both the psychological drama and cyber thriller genres in amazingly inventive ways.

Robert (Peter Sarsgaard) is a struggling gay screenwriter who gets the offer of a lifetime: A studio exec, Jeffrey (Campbell Scott), wants to option his screenplay (called *The Dying Gaul*). The story is extremely personal because it chronicles the death of Robert's lover, but in order to cash in on the million-dollar offer, he must change the script by making the lover a woman.

Seduced by the money and the attentions from an attractive man, the still-grieving Robert begins spending time with Jeffrey's family, forming a particularly close bond with his wife Elaine (Patricia Clarkson), herself and a former screenwriter. After learning about Robert's fondness for chat rooms, Elaine begins anonymously corresponding with the writer. When he reveals a shocking secret, however, she takes unexpected measures to resolve the situation.

Visually striking, *The Dying Gaul* is intricately layered and intelligently written. There are no car chases or exploding buildings and no national monuments are destroyed, but this quiet thriller is as nerve-racking and suspenseful as any Hollywood blockbuster. Writer/director Craig Lucas (*Longtime Companion*) has woven the perfect web of seduction, corruption and the high price of selling out.

Clarkson delivers one of her finest performances as a woman who left her own career behind in exchange for the "perfect" life. Sarsgaard is undeniably sexy and surprisingly comfortable (and convincing) playing gay.

*The Dying Gaul* is one of the best films of the year, resonating with gay and straight audiences: It'll make you think twice next time you chat online with someone you think you know. Deception is only a mouse click away.

Now playing at the Landmark River Oaks in Houston, the Angelika Film Center in Dallas and the Landmark Dobie in Austin.

— Steven Lindsey

## Garçon Stupide



The title of *Garçon Stupide* — it translates as "stupid boy" — should tell you most of what you need to know about the film. A young French hustler (the fresh-faced Pierre Chatagny) meets older men online, sleeps with them, then moves on to the next anonymous encounter. He's perfectly happy playing the vain, amoral stud, but his casual disregard for himself and others reeks of impending self-destruction.

Director Lionel Baier's lopey, raw film riffs on the old-school *cinema verite*, with many scenes structured like the sexually liberating movies of the 1960s — *Midnight Cowboy*, *Blow-Up* and the like. Ultimately the style smacks of a conceit more than a genuine artistic theme, but that's hardly the point: With its jumpy camera, meandering plot and seemingly improvised dialogue, *Garçon Stupide* is more concerned with establishing the moods — and boredom — of a naive but canny young gay man than telling a linear story. Like the boy himself, it enjoys the fun it's having, even if it probably knows better.

Opens today at the Landmark Magnolia in Dallas and at Regal Arbor at Great Hills in Austin.

— Arnold Wayne Jones



## Sarah Silverman: Jesus is Magic



Comedian and equal-opportunity offender Sarah Silverman shines in her concert film *Jesus is Magic*, which could be subtitled *The Holocaust, AIDS and other Punch Lines*. Seven-year-old lesbians and fart jokes about Martin Luther King Jr. are unusual and controversial topics for humor, especially from a female comic. Yet Silverman, with a twinkle in her eye and a devilish grin on her beautiful-yet-horsy face, makes racism and political incorrectness a laugh riot of Rodney King-verdict proportions. Those offended by the "F" word for gay men, and the "N" word for African-Americans need read no further.

A combination of standup, scripted segments and musical numbers, *Jesus Is Magic* is far from perfect, but the raucous highs make up for the occasional lulls. And if you can't laugh at rape, Hitler or 9/11, then you just don't know what funny is.

Opens today at the Angelika Film Center in Dallas and Dec. 9 at the Landmark Dobie and Alamo Drafthouse in Austin.

— Steven Lindsey



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# Ask Howard

How to do the wrong thing right

By Howard Lewis Russell



Howard gets away from gay questions for a while

Dear Howard,

Is it necessarily requisite that I ask you a "gay" question? What if I have a question that's not at all gay and not about sex, even.

I hate the tap water in Texas. I don't trust it. The cold comes out only lukewarm nine months of the year. But even in the winter it's hardly what you'd call chilled. It never quite tastes right, no matter what the month. I try to

buy only bottled spring water when I can. Fiji is my favorite (it tastes like flowers) but it's expensive. What kind do you drink?

*Jodi from Corpus Christi*

I can't tell you how refreshing it is to be asked a nonsexual, non-gay question, Jodi, despite your choice in subject matter being something I'm utterly ambivalent about.

Taste, unfortunately, is my least sensitive sense. However, in light of my not being straightjacketed by any bottled water endorsement at the moment, I feel perfectly at ease in answering you truthfully: I drink unfiltered tap water, exclusively. Oh, yes, I've tried Fiji and all the others, but aside from Perrier, which tastes like something out of a sewer (take away my gay card if you must!), I can't tell the Brita difference between any of them. As long as it's clear, and relatively taste-free, I say bottom's up.

Dear Howard,

I live in an apartment complex that doesn't allow pets, but I'd like to get one anyway. My health isn't good and I live by myself and I've heard that pets can be a real comfort. I can't afford to move and I don't have the strength to walk a dog twice a day, even if the manager saw it in his heart to bend the rules,

which is highly doubtful since I think he hates gays. (All the more reason to defy him, in my opinion.) Turtles and snakes and iguanas are out — although quiet, I just don't think a reptile would be very comforting. Ditto for fish. Birds are expensive. So that about narrows my options to a cat. I can get a cat free from the shelter, right? Do you know if they're easy to take care of?

*Andrew in Abilene*

Very, very easy. Any shelter would be more than happy to have you adopt, although the free part I'm not sure of. What's more, the cat will be fixed and caught up on its inoculations. You can't go wrong with adopting a cat. They're clean, and automatically house trained — just show them the litter box and they're set. As for food, the dry variety is better for keeping their teeth clean, since some breeds are prone to tooth decay. Just make sure there is always a bowl of clean water next to the food — cats tend to become dehydrated easily. Enjoy your new companion! What the super doesn't know won't hurt him.

Dear Howard,

Do you ever get love notes from guys?

*Shy Guy*

Love notes? What grade are you in —

fourth? No, I can't say that I've ever gotten a love note. Lust notes, yes (and several expressing sentiments of hate), but not love. Not yet. It gives me something to look forward to.

Dear Howard,

How many Texans would you guess read your column each week? I admire your pluck, buddy, but is the effort worth the return? Gay as I am, I just can't see myself ever asking a stranger for advice.

*Oklahoma Cowboy*

Butcha just did, Blanche, ya just did ask a stranger for advice. None of my "pluck" is in vain, Oklahoma. I haven't the slightest idea how many Texans read my column each week, but the effort is always worth the return, if for no other reason than people north of the Red River are now writing in as well.

## 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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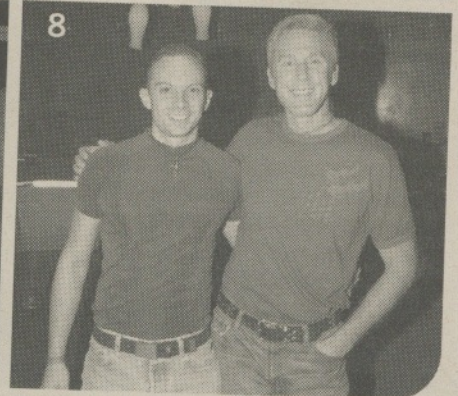
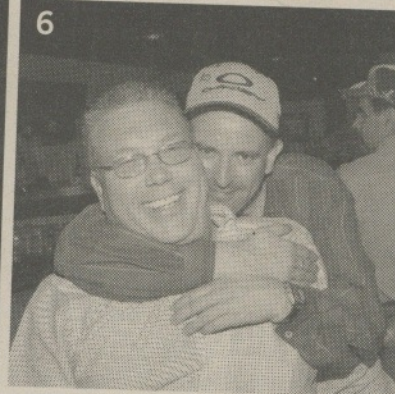
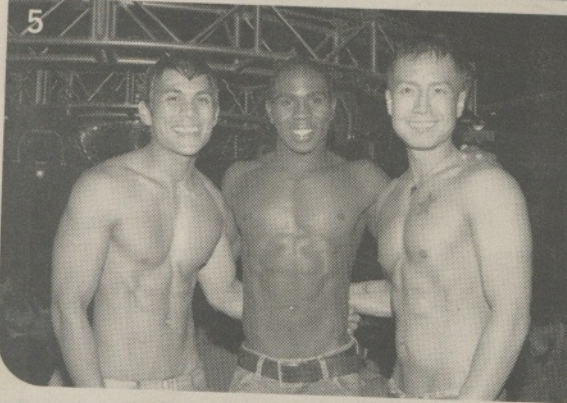
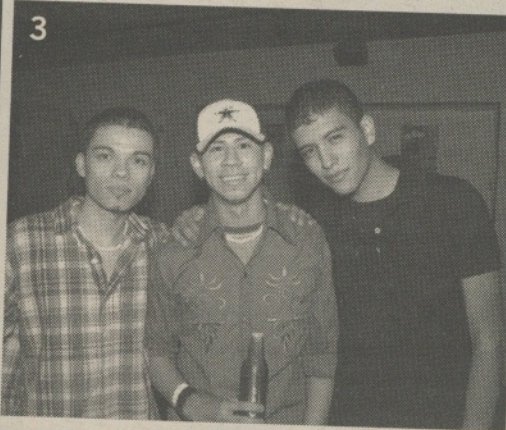
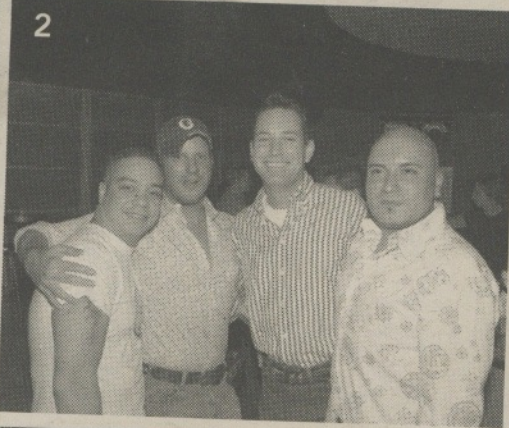
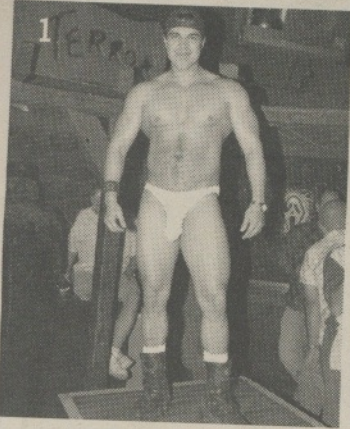
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# ClubLand

## houston

1. George at Montrose Mining Company. 2. Edgar, Charlie, Scott and Tony at Meteor. 3. Jose, Napoleon and Sergio at Club 1415. 4. Mike and Douglas at EJ's. 5. Cole, Benny and Tony at South Beach. 6. Mickey and Ron at Brazos River Bottom. 7. Clint and Marc at Guava Lamp. 8. Brian and Randy at Rich's.



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DAVID ANSEN, NEWSWEEK

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ANN HORNADAY, THE WASHINGTON POST

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STEPHEN HOLT, THE NEW YORK BLADE



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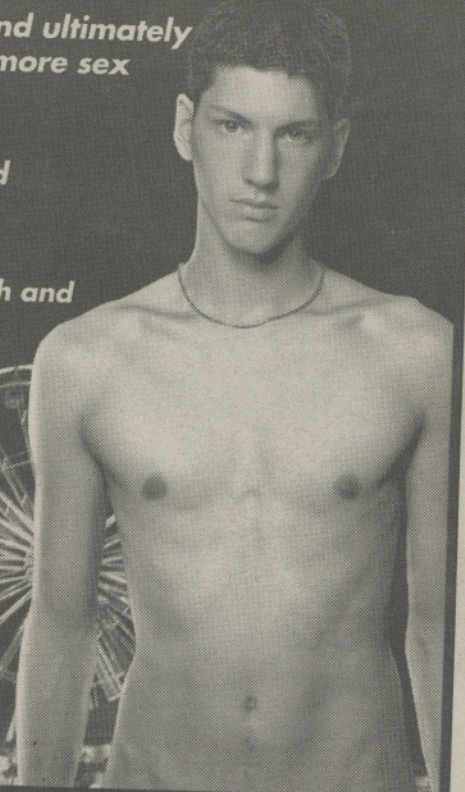
Kevin Thomas, LOS ANGELES TIMES

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Jan Stuart, NY NEWSDAY

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Dennis Dermody, PAPER MAGAZINE



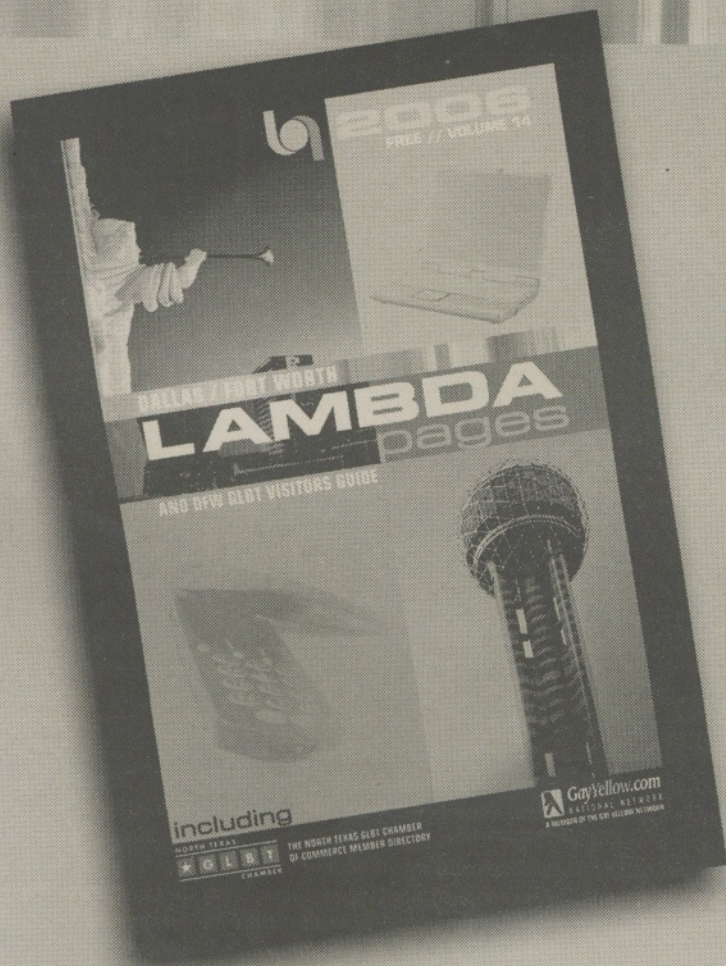
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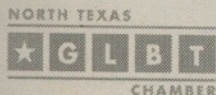
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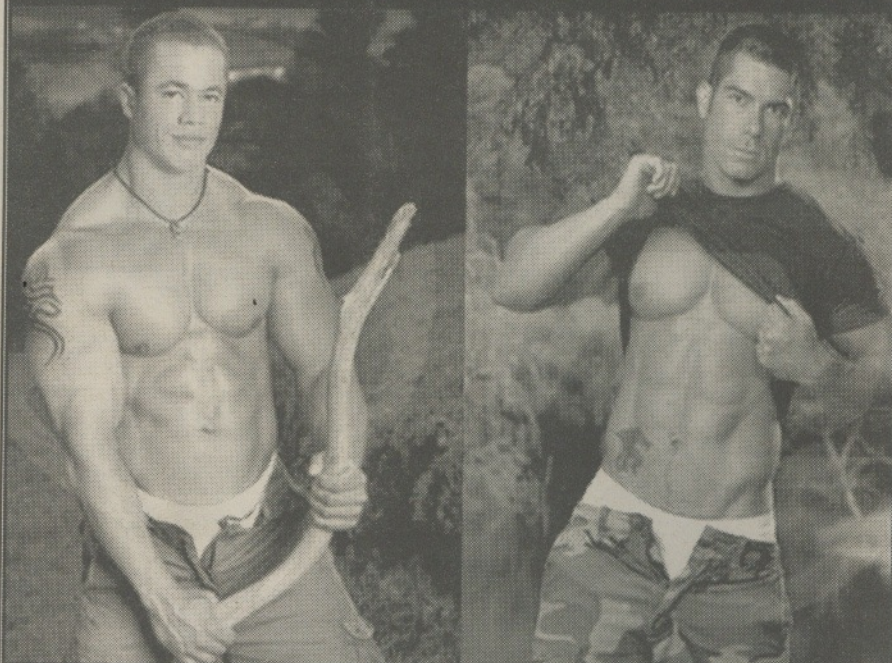
  
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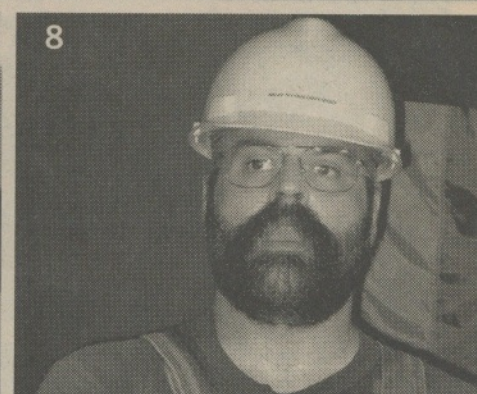
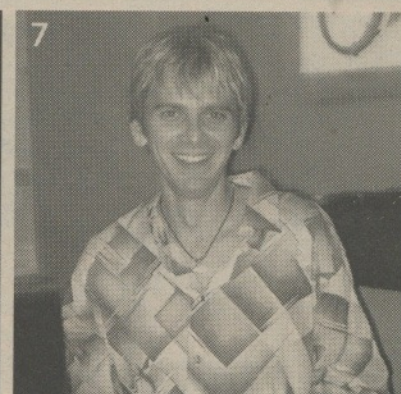
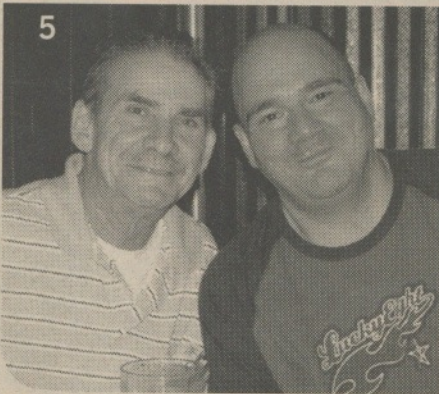
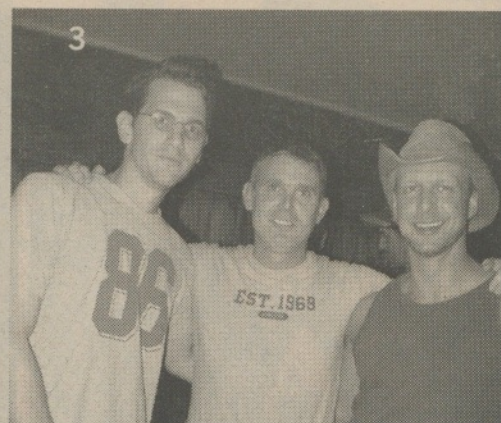
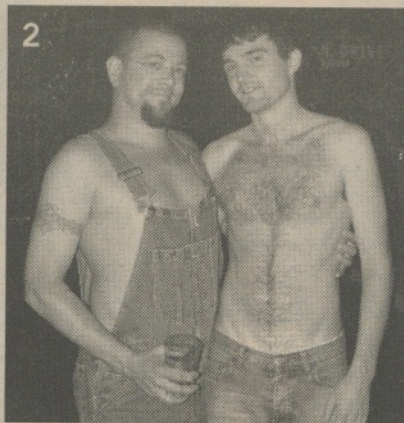
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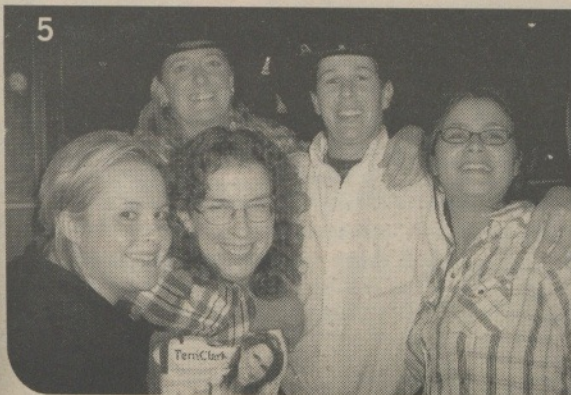
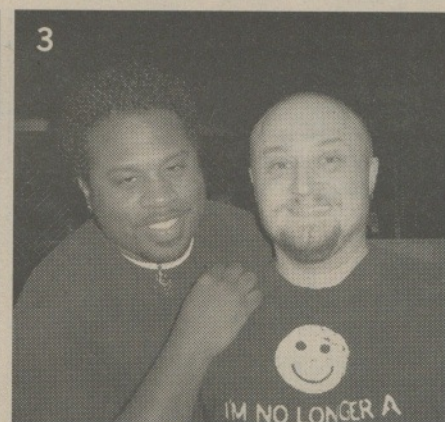
1. Angela and Omar at Rainbow Cattle Company. 2. Scott and Jeb at Chain Drive. 3. Todd, Kevin and Francis at Oilcan Harry's. 4. Brad, Joleen and Russell at Rain. 5. Warren and Kevin at The Cockpit. 6. Nokia and Aaron at Chain Drive. 7. Timmy at Rain. 8. Jack at Chain Drive. Photos by Guillermo Garza



# ClubLand

## dallas

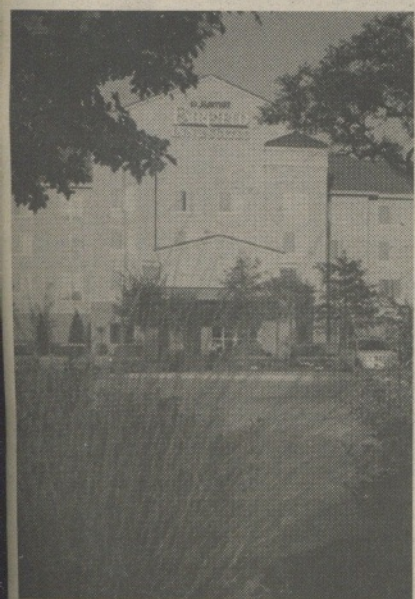
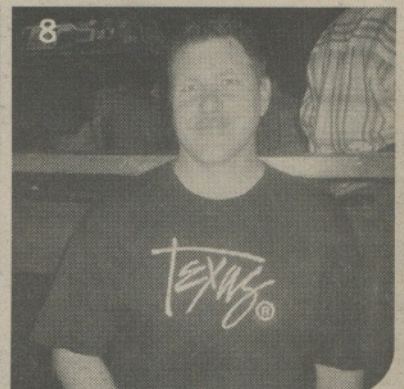
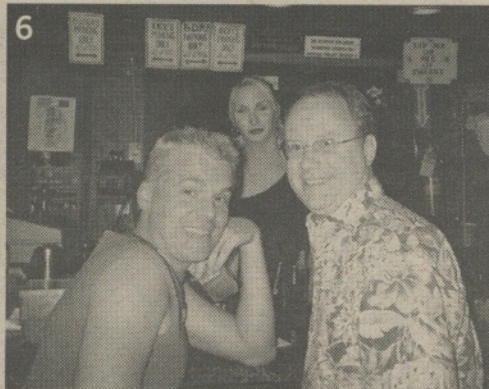
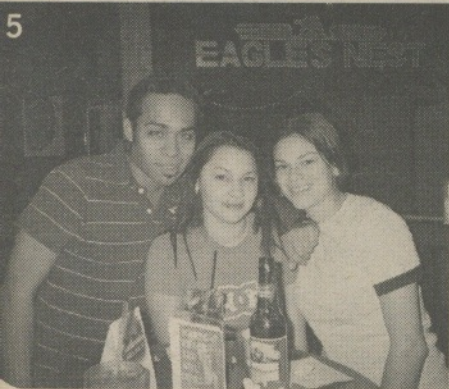
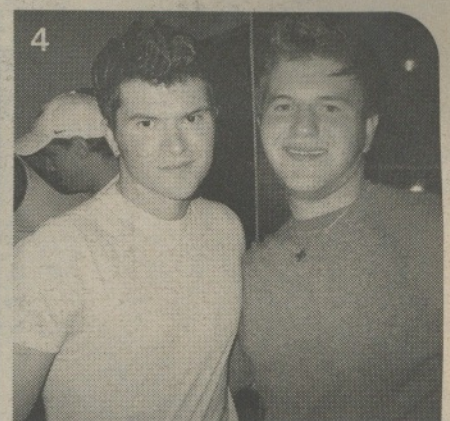
1. Daria and Jeff at Cross Bar. 2. Alice and Heather at Buddies II. 3. Bryan and Eric at Throckmorton Mining Company. 4. Cory and Rebecca at Bill's Hideaway. 5. Cassie, Dana, Caroline, Kelly and Mani at Sue Ellen's. 6. Christie at The Rocket Bar. 7. David at Woody's Sports and Video Bar. 8. Edie and Tricia at Mickey's. Photos by Barbera Barker and Gregory Hayes



# ClubLand

## san antonio

1. James, Joe and Jonathan at Bonham Exchange. 2. Jacob and Ruben at Pegasus. 3. Rose at The Saint. 4. Tim and Tanner at Heat. 5. Stac, Vanessa and Melissa at SA Eagle. 6. Ray, Makayla and Travis at The Annex. 7. Tino and Tony at The Annex. 8. Kelly at Silver Dollar Saloon.



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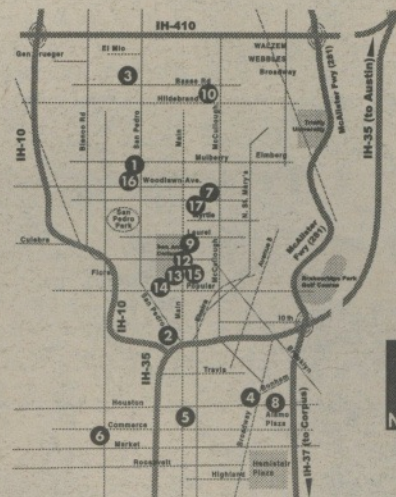
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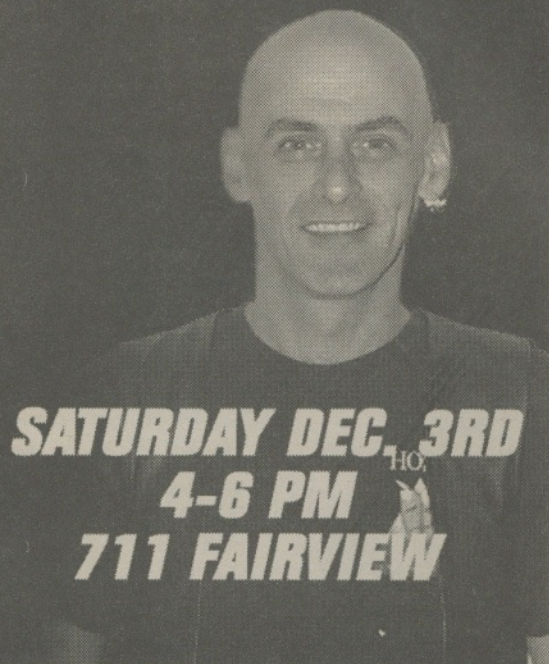


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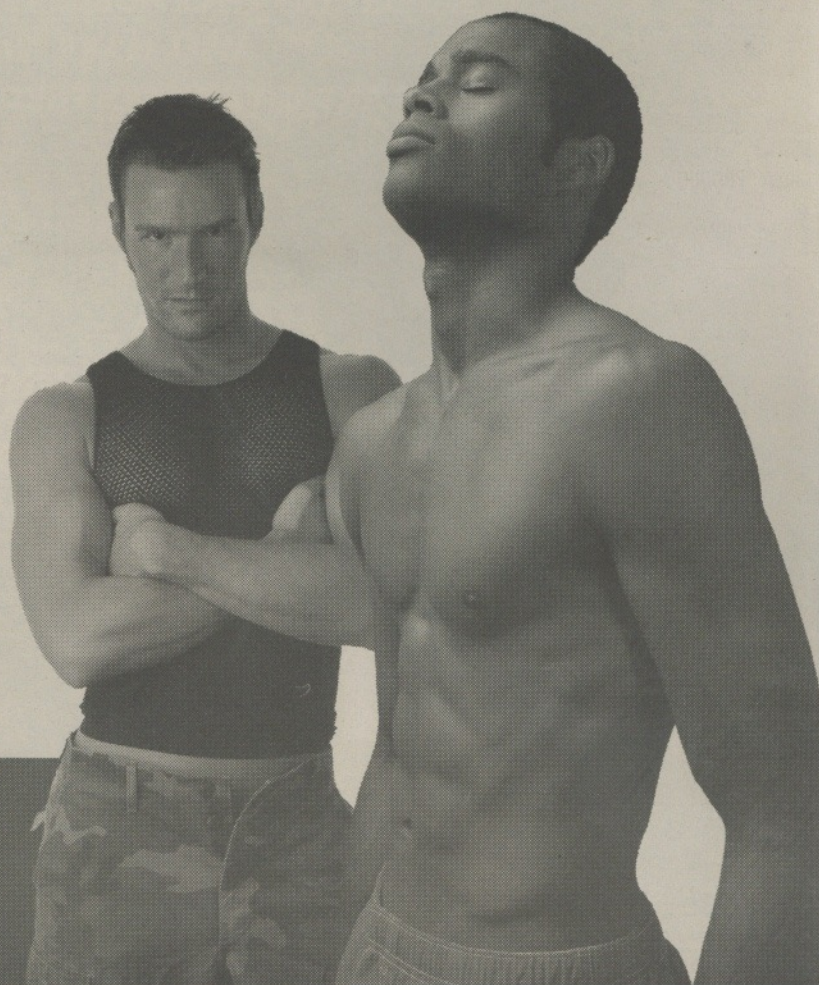
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ANNOUNCEMENTS .....	23
EMPLOYMENT .....	23
REAL ESTATE .....	23
PRODUCTS .....	23
RENTALS .....	23
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ...	24
LICENSED MASSAGE .....	24
TRAVEL .....	24
ADULT CLASSIFIEDS	
ADULT PRODUCTS .....	25
COMPANIONS .....	25

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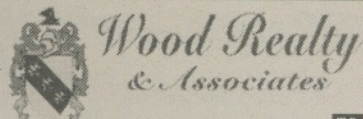
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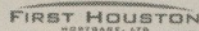


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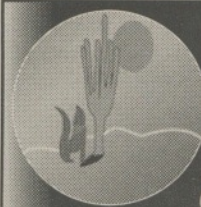
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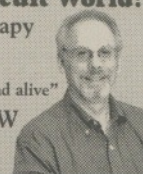
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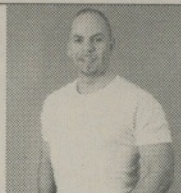
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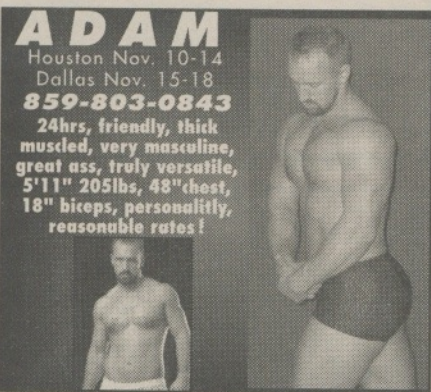


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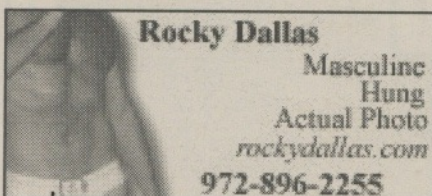


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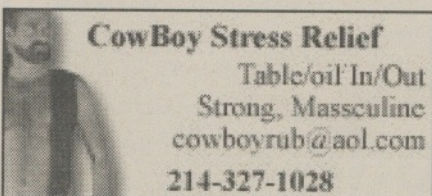
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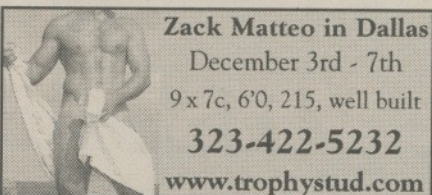
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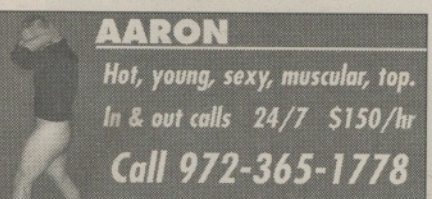
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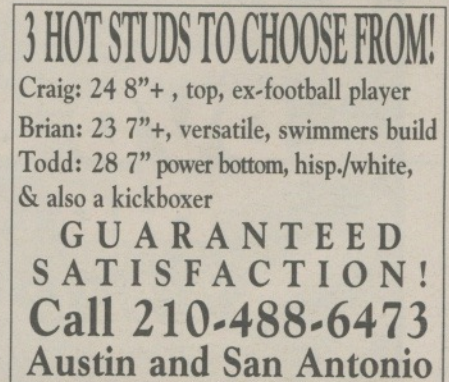
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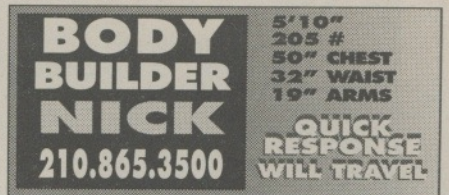
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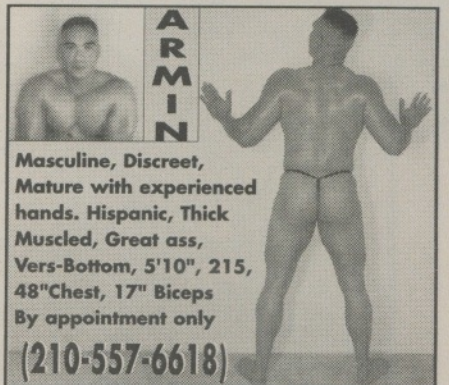


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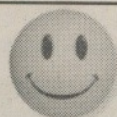
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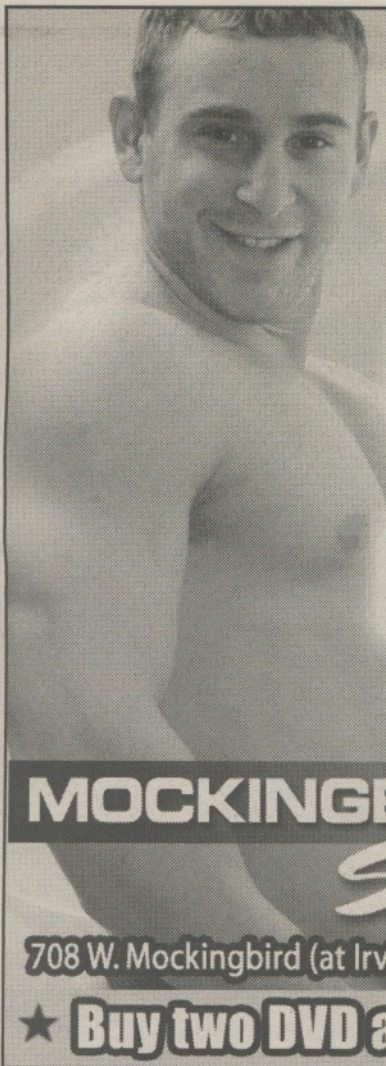
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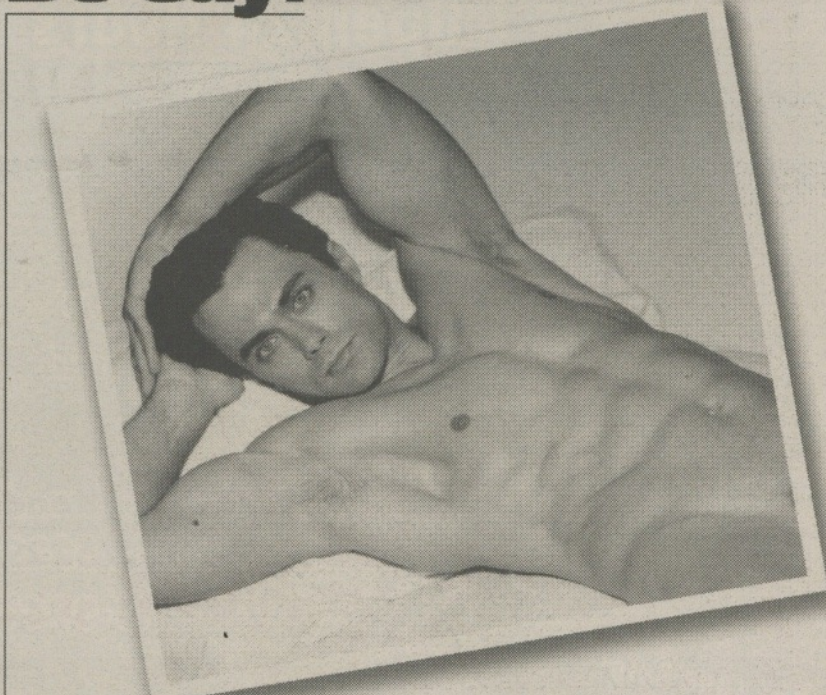
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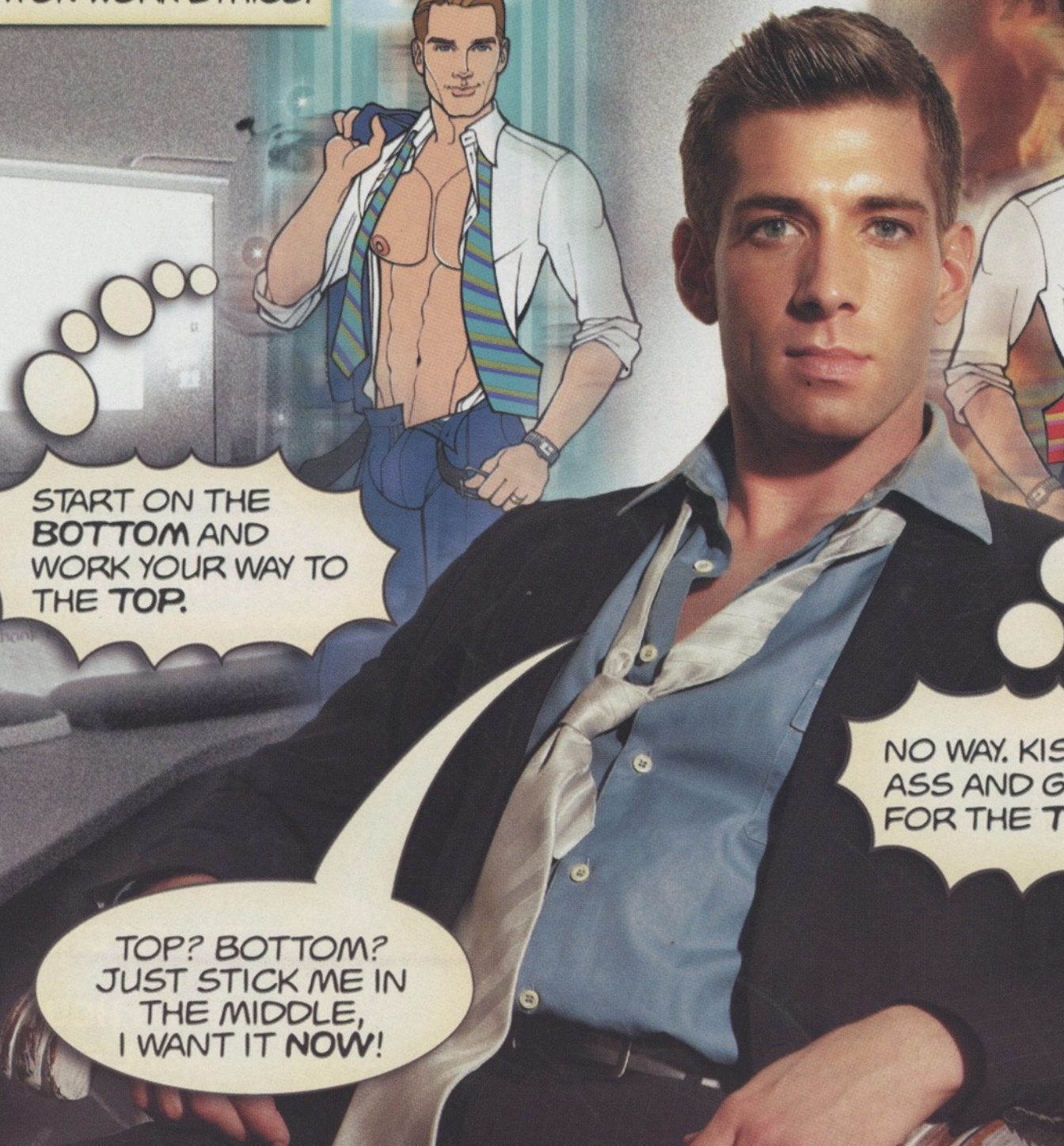
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