

inside: Rainbow Health Fair for Houston women ■ Citing confidentiality of White House documents, Miers withdraws nomination to court

Volume 1 ■ Issue 44 ■ November 4, 2005

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Fate of Proposition 2

Will conservative Texas buck trend and boot gay marriage constitutional amendment?

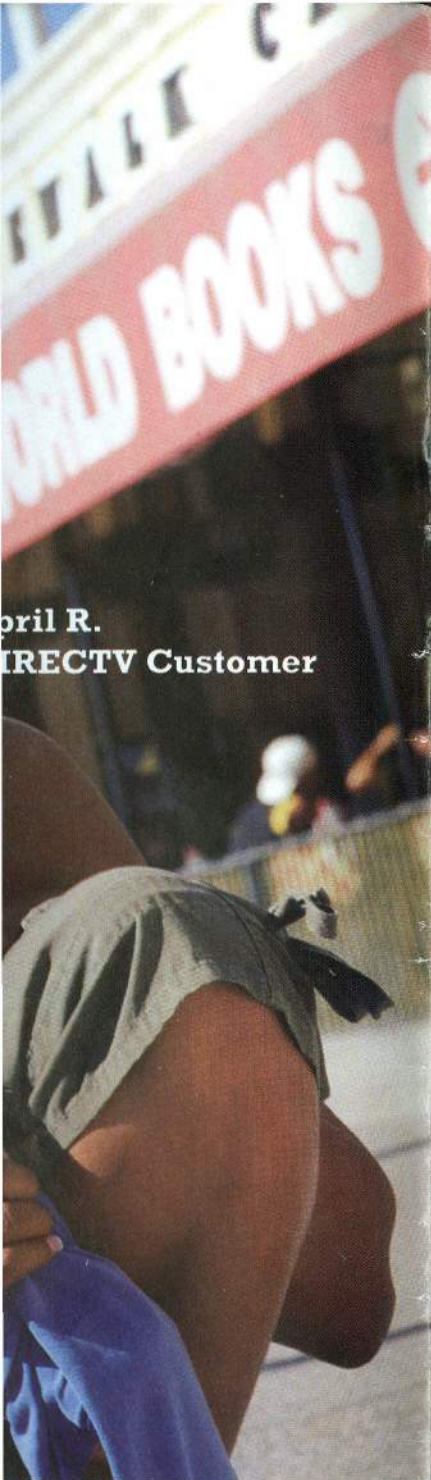
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Will conservative Texas buck trend and boot gay marriage constitutional amendment?

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8 National News Supreme Court

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8 National News

Supreme Court

Now that Harriet Miers is out and Samuel Alito is in, activists are scurrying for insight about President Bush's newest nominee to the Supreme Court. Keep your fingers crossed.

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It's been a full November already. This Week, Billy Masters dishes on Janet Jackson's (not-so) new baby and perhaps sister, Madonna's *Confessions* and Daniel Craig's penis.

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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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Newsbriefs

AUSTIN

Proposition 2 foes will counterprotest Klan's 'anti-homosexual-marriage' rally

Opponents of a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage said they will stage a counter-protest near an "anti-homosexual marriage rally" sponsored by the Ku Klux Klan.

The American White Knights division of the Klan says the rally is to promote "pro-family values" by encouraging people to vote against Proposition 2, the ballot measure containing the amendment. They have asked Austin city officials for permission to use the plaza at City Hall.

The group promised that speakers would not be inflammatory.

The No Nonsense in November campaign plans to have a vigil in the middle of a bridge over Town Lake. Participants will be asked to sign a pledge of nonviolence, coordinators said.

Opponents of the proposal have also scheduled a Sunday event at the state Capitol. Rep. Senfronia Thompson, a Houston Democrat, will speak.

HOUSTON

Health fair set Saturday at clinic, followed by Lucie Blue Tremblay at Resurrection MCC

The Lesbian Health Initiative will present its twice-yearly Rainbow Health Fair on Saturday. The event is from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Montrose Clinic, 215 Westheimer Rd.

A wide range of health services will be provided at no cost, including mammograms, Pap tests and blood screenings. Most exams are available without appointment. New to the fair are osteoporosis and oral cancer screening, being offered onsite.

Information regarding durable power of attorney for medical care will be available at the health fair, with notaries available. Participants can also learn how to gain access to Harris County's gold card system for health care. For more information, call 713-830-3075.

On Saturday evening, the Breast Exam Project will offer a concert featuring groundbreaking lesbian musician Lucie Blue Tremblay. Tickets are \$20 to \$25 for the concert, which starts at 6 p.m. at Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, 2025 W. 11th St. For more information call 713-869-1482.

Political caucus seeks volunteers to work at polls on Election Day

The Houston GLBT Political Caucus needs volunteers for Election Day activities at key polling locations. There, volunteers will be asked to distribute campaign materials including the endorsement cards asking voters to vote against Proposition 2.

Distributing the cards offers "critical support for candidates that support the



Tremblay

texas news

The personal is the political

A Houston and a Dallas couple talk about effects of Proposition 2

By Dennis Vercher
and Nancy Ford

and written by Mr. Vercher

"I think it's going to have a very negative effect. For the very first time, we would be altering the state Constitution in order to discriminate," said Susan Melnick, a Dallas real estate agent.

Melnick is speaking, of course, about Proposition 2, the ballot measure to be decided Nov. 8. If it passes — and few doubt that it will — it will ban gay marriages and anything "identical or similar to marriage."

A law already exists doing the same thing. Melnick says the message from the constitutional amendment's supporters is clear: "We're going to take away rights you don't even have yet," she laughed.

But that's the way things work sometimes in the topsy-turvy world of Texas politics.

Laura Overton, 50, is a retail manager, and her partner, Donise Whited, 40, works in operations in an architectural firm. They live in the Houston Heights neighborhood with their cat and three dogs. On Tuesday the women said they planned to vote early — and vote against Proposition 2.

"We've been together for over 15 years. We own our own home, pay our taxes," Whited said. "We don't believe that we need a piece of paper to validate our commitment, so we haven't had a commitment ceremony, and we don't plan to."

Last year, doctors told Overton she had breast cancer.



Susan Melnick and Olga Salinas, a Dallas couple who have been together 12 years, voted early against Proposition 2.

encountered were supportive.

"But that was just luck," Whited said. "It doesn't always go that way. People have enough to worry about in that situation without that extra pressure."

Over the years, the couple have had all the possible legal papers drawn up to reinforce their relationship. But it cost a lot of money.

"What about couples who can't afford that kind of thing?" Whited asked. "And why do we have to have that extra expense, just because we're two women?"

Melnick and her partner of 12 years, Olga Salinas, have spent nearly \$1,000 having legal papers drawn up to secure some of the rights that married couples automatically receive just by saying "I do." And Melnick pointed out that couples should have a lawyer review the documents every five years and update them if necessary.

Melnick and Salinas are Texas natives. They've been unmarried by the

said there's not much hope. She expects Proposition 2 supporters to carry the day on Nov. 8. Every constitutional amendment banning gay marriage in other states has passed, almost all by wide margins.

"It all just reaffirms that they can spend a lot of time and money doing something negative, but on something that could really make a difference — like educating our young people — they don't seem to have it together," Melnick said.

But as she runs through the list of arguments against Proposition 2, another point becomes clear to Melnick.

"Basically it says, 'You guys aren't welcome in Texas,'" she said. "We've worked so hard to make inroads in this state, and for every one step forward, it seems there are two steps back."

Whited pointed out that even if she and Overton were straight, Proposition 2 would threaten their common-law marriage rights.

"It's not right. And it sure isn't ene-

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The Houston GLBT Political Caucus needs volunteers for Election Day activities at key polling locations. There, volunteers will be asked to distribute campaign materials including the endorsement cards asking voters to vote against Proposition 2.

Distributing the cards offers "critical support for candidates that support the GLBT community," said Maria Gonzalez, president of the caucus. "We want to make sure we get these in the hands of every voter in key polling locations."

Volunteers are needed for full day shifts, as well as the shorter 7-10 a.m., 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and 4-7 p.m. shifts, Gonzalez said.

For more information about the Houston GLBT Political Caucus, call 713-521-1000.

HATCH invites students ages 13-20 to attend financial aid for college workshop

Students between the ages of 13 and 20 are invited to attend a planning and financial aid workshop, offered Saturday by HATCH, a support group for GLBT and questioning youth. The workshop is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at University of St. Thomas's Malloy Room 019, located at the corner of West Alabama and Graustark streets.

The workshop is free, but attendees must RSVP by calling Bill Alexander at 713-529-3590.

For more information, log on to Hatchyouth.org.

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But that's the way things work sometimes in the topsy-turvy world of Texas politics.

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Last year, doctors told Overton she had breast cancer.

"We had to worry every time she went into surgery or into the hospital. It was hell wondering if I would be able to stay in the room with her," Whited said.

Luckily, the hospital staff the women



Susan Melnick and Olga Salinas, a Dallas couple who have been together 12 years, voted early against Proposition 2.

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Melnick and Salinas are Texas natives. They've been unnerved by the Proposition 2 debate. The couple voted early, and are doing all they can to talk up opposition to the amendment among their friends and relatives, but Melnick

said there's not much hope. She expects Proposition 2 supporters to carry the day on Nov. 8. Every constitutional amendment banning gay marriage in other states has passed, almost all by wide margins.

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Whited pointed out that even if she and Overton were straight, Proposition 2 would threaten their common-law marriage rights.

"It's not right. And it sure isn't special rights."

Contact the writer: Vercher@txtnewsmag.com

Report offers details about Latin gay couples

By Tammye Nash
Staff Correspondent

There are more than 100,000 United States households containing Latin same-sex couples, and about 8,000 are in the three largest metropolitan areas of Texas, according to a report based on data from the 2000 Census.

The report, released Tuesday by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, was a product of its think tank, the

Policy Institute. Its author is Jason Cianciotto, the institute's research director.

Cianciotto said in a telephone interview on Tuesday that the report indicates anti-gay public policies have a harsher impact on Latin than Anglo gay and lesbian couples.

Gay Latin couples are similar to straight Latin couples, Cianciotto said.

"They have similar rates of home ownership. They speak Spanish at home at about the same rate," he said.

But strong differences arose between Latin and white same-sex couples, he added.

"Hispanic same-sex families earn significantly less than white same-sex families. They parent at higher rates. They serve in the military at higher

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rates, and they own their own homes at lower rates," Cianciotto said.

Certain public policies aggravate the difference, including a policy to prohibit same-sex marriages, he said.

"Many of the federal benefits and protections of marriage are designed to help families save money, buy their own home and provide for their children," Cianciotto explained. "So you have these families that are already economically disadvantaged, and these policies hurt them even more."

Among Latinos, 54 percent of lesbian couples and 41 percent of gay couples are raising at least one child. In addition, 33 percent of men and 26 percent of women said they were not U.S. citizens.

Cianciotto pointed out that since they are unable to marry, they are unable to sponsor a non-citizen same-sex partner for immigration purposes. He claimed this threatened the stability of gay Latin families since about half include at least one child.

But Cianciotto said the report is "not just about marriage. There are a number of issues we looked at, like the rate these couples use public assistance, the military and implications for gay and lesbian elders on a variety of issues including Social Security privatization and Medicare/Medicaid reform."

Among the report's other findings:

- Same-sex couples in which both partners are Latino earn about \$25,000 less than white same-sex couples.
- Latino same-sex couples are about three times more likely to be raising children than their white counterparts. Latina same-sex couples are twice as likely to be raising children as their white counterparts.
- Latinas in same-sex couples serve in the



Jason Cianciotto, the Policy Institute's research director wrote the report

military at a higher rate, despite risking the loss of their income and benefits because of the ban on out GLBT service members. Latinas in same-sex couples report military service at six times the rate of Latina women married to men, and at six times the rate of all women nationwide.

• About 43 percent of same-sex families in which both partners are Latin report owning their own homes, compared to 72 percent of white same-sex couples.

Cianciotto said he hopes the information in the report will help empower GLBT Latinos community to "stand up, to come out and say, 'We exist. We deserve equality and our families deserve respect from our government and from our own communities.'"

Cianciotto said he hopes non-Latin gay men and lesbians will use the report to learn more about GLBT Latino people, "so that we can work together to become a more cohesive movement and combat the divide-and-conquer tactics of the right wing."

The report, titled "Hispanic and Latino Same-Sex Couple Households in the United States: A Report from the 2000 Census," can be found at TheTaskforce.org/reslibrary/list.cfm?pubTypeID=2#pub291.

Contact the writer: Nash@dallasvoice.com

Progressive faith traditions condemn Proposition 2

By Nancy Ford

Staff Writer

More than 30 clergy and lay leaders representing various theological backgrounds explained their opposition to Proposition 2 at a press conference Nov. 1.

"We see this as a clear issue of simple justice. Proposition 2 denies basic civil rights

our church supports," said the Rev. Glynden Bode, chairperson of the Texas Conference United Methodist Board of Church and Society.



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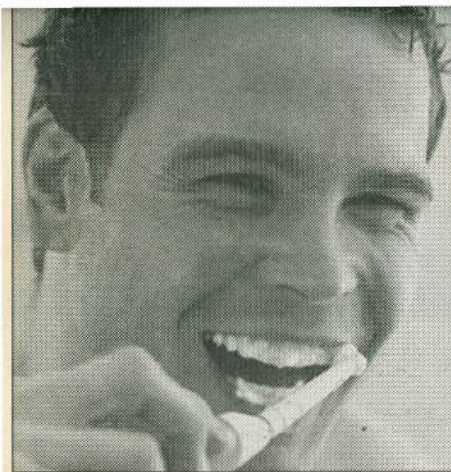
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- Customer Program Education Initiatives
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"We see this as a clear issue of simple justice. Proposition 2 denies basic civil rights our church supports," said the Rev. Glynden Bode, chairperson of the Texas Conference United Methodist Board of Church and Society.

Despite doctrinal differences between various representatives, they agreed that Proposition 2 is over-broad and unnecessary.

Rabbi Shaul Osadchey of Congregation Or Ami called himself "a Jew against 2," because he believes that sexual intimacy "is not God's exclusive gift to heterosexuals."

The Rev. Dr. Belinda C. Windham, interim associate pastor at St. Philip's Presbyterian Church, agreed.

"Jesus Christ did not utter a single syllable about sexual orientation," she said. "All he preached was unconditional love."

Speculating on why opponents to same-sex marriage who cloak themselves in God's love have pushed Proposition 2, Emerson Unitarian Church's Rev. Mark Edmiston-Lange said he believes that "fear has led us to this day."



NANCY FORD/TXT Newsmagazine

A contingent of Houston's faith community spoke out against Proposition 2 at a press conference on Tuesday.

"We all say we like love, but the practice seems to be quite at variance from which we claim," he said. "It's fear that drives them to do this."

Congregations and religious groups that have endorsed No Nonsense in November's campaign include Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Church; Friends at a Uniting Church; Unitarian Fellowship of Houston; First Unitarian Church Community Involvement Committee; Plymouth United Church; Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Galveston County and the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists.

Contact the writer: Nancy@txtnewsmag.com

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national news

By Ann Rostow
Senior Staff Writer

Gay rights groups weigh in on Alito's nomination

Gay leaders state opposition to conservative replacement for retiring Justice O'Connor

The nomination of Judge Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court was greeted with a now-familiar chorus of concerned rhetoric and calls from the GLBT community for tough confirmation hearings. But there was a deeper sense of outrage and frustration in the tone of the community's response.

WASHINGTON "President Bush chose to placate the far right instead of appealing to the fair-minded values of the American people," said Joe Solmonese at the Human Rights Campaign. Over at Lambda Legal, legal director Jon Davidson said Alito's "track record on reproductive freedom, enforcement of civil rights and federalism ... raises red flags." Stonewall Democrats charged President Bush with appealing "the socially conservative political activists who control the Republican party and this White House." And National Gay and Lesbian Task Force executive director Matt Foreman characteristically declined to mince words:

"President Bush capitulated to the howling from the extreme, evangelical right and threw them red meat in the form of U.S. Circuit Court Judge Samuel Alito," he wrote. "The country will now be put through a wrenching, divisive and damaging confirmation process, one more travesty inflicted on this nation by the president and his right-wing allies."

On Wednesday, the *New York Times* reviewed 15 of Alito's abortion decisions, noting that a strong concept of marriage



Judge Samuel Alito of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit, was nominated to the Supreme Court by President Bush this week.

informed his legal thinking. "People on both sides of the gay marriage debate will be reading many of Judge Alito's abortion opinions with intense interest," wrote the *Times'* Adam Liptak, who also said that Judge Alito has not been involved in any significant gay rights cases in his 15 years on the appellate bench.

In one widely-reported case, however, Alito struck a New Jersey school district's anti-harassment policy on free speech grounds. However, the *Times* took note of another case in which Alito joined the majority on the side of a high school student who had been gay baited and bullied.

Finally, to add to the early confusion, the *Boston Globe* reports that Alito chaired a student task force on privacy rights during his senior year at Princeton that recommended an end to hiring discrimination based on sexual orientation, and the repeal of sodomy laws.

Alaska's top court mandates state

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- best breakfast spot
- best 24-hour restaurant
- best brunch
- best vegetarian
- best Greek
- best Asian
- best Italian
- best Mexican
- best Sushi
- best Pizza
- best Seafood
- best Steakhouse
- best Margarita
- best burger
- best patio
- best place for people watching
- most romantic restaurant
- best restaurant to take family
- best bar-be-que
- best buffet
- best take-out food
- best Caesar salad
- best fast food
- best coffee house
- best new restaurant
- best Waitstaff

Favorite Bars &

- best all-around bar
- best leather
- best lesbian
- best dance
- best cabaret/piano
- best c&w
- sexiest staff
- friendliest staff
- best off the beaten path
- best happy hour
- best martini
- best theme night
- best drag show
- best club dj

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Alaska's top court mandates state equalize benefits for gay workers

The Alaska Supreme Court issued a unanimous ruling ordering the state to institute equal benefits for gay and straight employees. The decision states that the denial of domestic

ALASKA partner insurance and other job perks to partnered gay state workers violates the state constitution's equal protection clause.

'Denying benefits to the same-sex domestic partners who are absolutely ineligible to become spouses has no demonstrated relationship to the interest of promoting marriage,' wrote the court.

Filed by the American Civil Liberties Union in 1999, the suit sought to mitigate the damage done by the passage of a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage in



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November 1998. Alaska was one of two states to pave the way for the current spate of anti-marriage amendments. Hawaii also amended its constitution in response to court rulings in favor of same-sex couples.

Alaska Governor Frank Murkowski said he was outraged by the decision and pledged to help pass yet another constitutional amendment that would ban domestic partner benefits.

The ruling reversed a lower court decision against the plaintiffs, nine gay and lesbian couples with state jobs. Both sides will now submit briefs advising the court on how best to eradicate the discrimination.

Contact the writer: Ann@txtnewsmag.com

Favorite Restaurants

- best breakfast spot
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- best Mexican
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- best theme night
- best drag show
- best club dj
- best karaoke
- best after hours
- best place to shoot pool
- best weekday hangout
- best straight bar

Favorite Retail

- best pet adoption
- best video rental
- best adult video rental
- best bookstore
- best furniture
- best art gallery
- best apparel
- best piercing/tattoo studio
- best gift store/boutique

Bush's latest pick sure to get Senate's seal of approval

So, it appears on first examination that we are stuck with Sam Alito on the Supreme Court for the next few decades, doesn't it? He's charming and unassuming. He has a Roberts-esque grasp of constitutional law. He has a paper trail the size of an interstate highway, and he has picture perfect credentials, from Princeton on down the line. He even has the photogenic family.

Unless he tells the judiciary committee that the Constitution should be redrafted from scratch, he'll slide through the Senate like a seal in syrup. Normally I try to avoid bizarre and distracting metaphors, but I like that image so I'm keeping it. I envision a baby seal, golden colored with whiskers and small flippers. He's at a water park. It's like a dream sequence because it doesn't make sense. The chute is filled with maple syrup, but it's the runny kind, not the sticky kind. The seal is poised at the top in a giddy moment of trepidation. Then, in one brief moment of



Ann Rostow

piece of information about our newest justice-to-be. It seems that Alito chaired a task force at Princeton that recommended ending sodomy laws and banning sexual orientation discrimination in hiring. The 17-member panel was assigned to study "the boundaries of privacy in American society."

"We all believe that privacy is too often sacrificed to other values," wrote the 21-year-old Alito in the introduction. "We all believe that the threat to privacy is steadily and rapidly mounting; we all believe that action must be taken on many fronts now to preserve privacy."

Let's get sealious

Yes, he was just a kid. But so far, I'm not too discouraged about this guy. Like Roberts, he has no anti-gay record that we've seen

so far. He doesn't seem to be a Crazy Kristian. His abortion rulings are based on law, not created out of thin air. Wednesday's *New York Times* had an article describing his commitment to the institution of marriage as a gateway to rights and responsibilities, and implied to some degree that this attitude would not serve the cause of same-sex marriage advocates in the future.

TXL legal analysts disagree. All the arguments in favor of same-sex marriage are grounded in the idea that marriage is a unique and irreplaceable institution, and that the right to marry the person of your choice is fundamental. A justice who takes the status of marriage that seriously, who harbors no animus against gays and lesbians, and who respects the constitution, is probably going to vote our way.

But it's essential that the Court avoid the question of marriage equality for another few years at least. Every year that passes brings the American center closer to understanding and respecting same-sex families, and makes



The Rev. Nancy Wilson was installed as presiding bishop of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches on Sunday. She unveiled a 10-year ministry plan which church leaders are calling "Focus on the Human Family."

I must jam into my rapidly diminishing column inches.

In Michigan, the state appellate court put a stay on last month's state court ruling in favor of domestic partner rights. I'm sure you remember the details of that: The ACLU challenged the Attorney General's interpretation of the newly passed constitutional amendment. Am I right? No? Well, the bottom line is that no one knows whether the anti-marriage amendment prevents state authorities from authorizing domestic partner rights. The court of appeals will review the question. Whatever that court decides will be appealed to the state supreme court. And in the meantime, domestic partner programs will continue in some places and be stalled in others, depending on the whim of whoever



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Lights, camera, action

The other legacy of Rosa Parks

Civil rights pioneer inspire remember the movement

By Malcolm Lazin
Guest Columnist

Almost 50 years ago on a Montgomery street, Rosa Parks, then a middle-aged seamstress, gave up her seat to a white man. Her non-compliance fueled the African-American civil rights movement and serves as a model for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender activism.

In 1955, there were few who paid attention to African-American history. When Parks defied authority, she became a civil rights role model. At a time when Negroes were beaten, best and brutalized or killed at worst, Rosa Parks defied racial pride, social justice and the need for African-American history.

The GLBT community should take a lesson by highlighting our pioneers, heroes and heroines. African-Americans take rightful pride in Parks, Martin Luther King, Jr., Barbara J. Rustin, Jackie Robinson and other trailblazers who demanded that their history be respected.

They understood the importance of history for the people who preceded us builds self-esteem and provides role models. It celebrates those significant national contributions. It helps us understand our place in history as a civil rights movement. It places important events and progress within context and teaches valued lessons from collective experience. It speaks to communal goals.

As a national organization, Equality Forum has a priority on the teaching of GLBT history. Equality Forum and PBS cop-operated to produce *Gay Pioneers*, a documentary about the start of the gay and lesbian movement by gay pioneers Frank Kameny, Jack Nichols and Barbara Gittings, our heroes.

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But it's essential that the Court avoid the question of marriage equality for another few years at least. Every year that passes brings the American center closer to understanding and respecting same-sex families, and makes a Supreme Court victory immeasurably more likely. To jump the gun and lose would be disastrous.

It would be as if the seal I was mentioning before went down the chute before the maple syrup was in there. Let's say the chute was filled with a heavy black tar and the seal didn't realize it. He was so eager to reach the Pool of Equal Marriage Rights below that he threw himself down the chute before the tar had been cleaned out. In an instant his little body was stuck to the side, his struggles useless, his dreams dashed. I see him slumped against the tar in resignation, crying softly.

News crunch

That was such a sad image. My heart is heavy as I turn to the rest of the news, which



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That wasn't so hard. Learning about the fits and starts of our vibrant civil rights movement can be fun. Let's continue!

Lambda Legal convinced an administrative law judge in Arizona that the state Medicaid program must pay for a liver transplant for an HIV-positive woman. ... Mr. Sulu from Star Trek has come out of the closet at the age of 68. ... And the bad guys in Florida are behind in their anti-marriage petition gathering, having certified only 101,800 of the 611,009 names they need by February 1.

Moving on, the ACLU filed written briefs before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit in their case against the Nebraska marriage amendment. ... Troy Perry has passed the helm of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches over to



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Lights, camera, action

There's some other stuff, but those last three paragraphs tired me out. Oh. Speaking of Focus on the Family, did you know that "Pornography Awareness Week" began on Oct. 30? Focus on the Family gave me the scoop in their newsletter, and I, for one, plan to mark the occasion with diligence. "By increasing awareness," writes Focus, "people have the chance to impact their own families, their churches and their communities."

Checking my calendar, I see that I have already allowed three and a half precious days to elapse without doing my part to increase awareness of pornography among my friends, family and community. If I'm going to make an impact, I must get, um, rolling.

Contact the writer: Ann@txtnewsmag.com

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In 1955, there were few who paid attention to African-American history. When I defied authority, she became a civil rights role model. At a time when Negroes were best and brutalized or killed at worst, Rosa Parks defied racial pride, social justice and the new African-American history.

The GLBT community should take a lesson by highlighting our pioneers, her history. African-Americans take rightful Parks, Martin Luther King, Jr., Barbara J. Rustin, Jackie Robinson and other trailblazers. They demanded that their history be respected.

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Sadly, there are virtually no public schools or colleges that teach our history. Because of our parents or churches, we have a responsibility to share our impressive history.

Rosa Parks should be an inspiration to us. For GLBT Americans, she should remind us that important it is to know and respect our roots.

Malcolm Lazin is executive director of the GLBT Historical Society in Philadelphia.



George Takei, who played Hikaru Sulu in the original *Star Trek* series, came out this week.

courage, he flops backward and lets go, carried smoothly down the slick tube into a clear pool, its surface marred only by the oily residue of the syrup. Back in his element, he barks and splashes with delight. He dives, and cavorts away, seeking playmates and cooler waters.

The metaphor descends with him, into complete irrelevance.

Sam's silver lining

Breaking news! Here's an e-mail from the Human Right Campaign telling us that the *Boston Globe* has unearthed an encouraging

Gay rights makes good business sense

Economic component has been largely ignored in Proposition 2 campaigns

By Gary J. Gates
Guest Columnist

The framework of the current debate in Texas regarding Proposition 2, the amendment to ban same-sex marriage and all other forms of gay unions, most often draws on perspectives rooted in civil rights, morality and religion. Discussion focuses only rarely on the economic consequences of such legislation.

That needs to change. As America's businesses are increasingly acknowledging, policies that promote equality and

staff members and their families.

Consider a firm with operations in several states. What happens if the marriages of employees in Massachusetts are not recognized in the Texas office while employees in Virginia are denied the domestic partner health benefits that staff members in other states receive? In addition to creating complex corporate benefit issues, gay and lesbian employees may avoid or refuse promotions and reassignments that require transfers to places where they and their families lack critical legal protections.

Recognition of the rights of gay men and lesbians not only has an impact on private business, but on the economic growth of local communities — particularly in struggling urban neighborhoods. Findings from my book, *The Gay and*

investments pay off, both for gay couples and their neighbors. Houses in gay male couples' neighborhoods are worth 20 percent more than houses in the typical neighborhoods of married couples.

States and communities that fail to protect the equal rights of its gay and lesbian citizens put these economic advantages at risk, since the gay and lesbian community appears more willing than others to move, perhaps in search of friendlier environments. More than 55 percent of individuals in same-sex couples moved in the five years prior to Census 2000 compared to only 42 percent of those in different-sex couples.

Put simply, equality for gay men and lesbians represents an economic win for companies and communities. It enhances urban revitalization efforts,

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diversity are good for the corporate bottom line. Tolerant policies help attract and retain top employees. That's why 96 Fortune 100 companies, including Texas companies like ConocoPhillips, Valero Energy, Marathon Oil, and SYSCO, ban discrimination based on sexual orientation in their organizations. Nearly two-thirds offer health benefits to same-sex partners.

In his best-selling book, *Rise of the Creative Class*, Richard Florida argues that respect for diversity enables companies to draw from the widest possible mix of creative and innovative employees critical to economic success. Companies often cite competition for workers as a primary motivation behind their decisions. No surprise then that, in

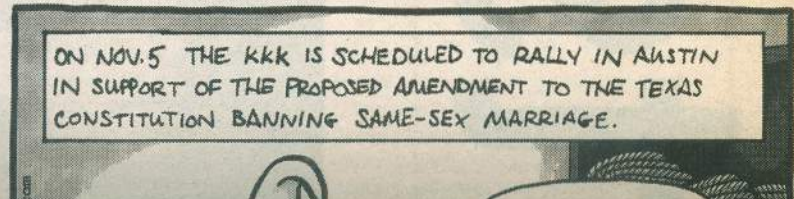
Lesbian Atlas, reveal that gay and lesbian couples live in neighborhoods that are more urban, have older and smaller homes and are more racially and ethnically diverse.

Popular culture and anecdotal evidence suggest that same-sex couples are helping to revitalize their neighborhoods with investments of money and elbow grease in home renovations. These

promotes creative and innovative workforces and provides corporations with the tools for making employees happy and productive.

Gary J. Gates is a senior research fellow at the Charles R. Williams Project on Sexual Orientation Law and Public Policy at the UCLA School of Law.

Contact the writer: Gjgates@gmail.com



The other legacy of Rosa Parks

Civil rights pioneer inspires gays to remember the movement's history

By Malcolm Lazin
Guest Columnist

Almost 50 years ago on a Montgomery, Ala., bus, Rosa Parks, then a middle-aged seamstress, refused to give up her seat to a white man. Her non-violent defiance fueled the African-American civil rights movement and serves as a model for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender activism.

In 1955, there were few who paid even nominal attention to African-American history. When Rosa Parks defied authority, she became a civil rights pioneer and a role model. At a time when Negroes were marginalized at best and brutalized or killed at worst, Rosa Parks symbolized racial pride, social justice and the need to teach African-American history.

The GLBT community should take a page from that lesson by highlighting our pioneers, heroes and civil rights history. African-Americans take rightful pride in Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Jr., Barbara Jordan, Bayard Rustin, Jackie Robinson and other trailblazers. And they demanded that their history be respected and taught.

They understood the importance of history. A respect for the people who preceded us builds self-esteem and provides role models. It celebrates those who have made significant national contributions. It helps define the aspiration for equality as a civil rights movement. History places important events and progress within a context. It teaches valued lessons from collective experience and speaks to communal goals.

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In his best-selling book, *Rise of the Creative Class*, Richard Florida argues that respect for diversity enables companies to draw from the widest possible mix of creative and innovative employees critical to economic success. Companies often cite competition for workers as a primary motivation behind their decisions. No surprise then that, in addition to banning discrimination based on sexual orientation, Texas companies such as Dell, J.C. Penney, and EDS offer such benefits.

The most divisive policy debate affecting gay and lesbian couples concerns the subject of Proposition 2, marriage rights. Currently, same-sex couples can marry in Massachusetts, conduct civil unions in Vermont and Connecticut, and can register partnerships in California and New Jersey.

Many other states explicitly ban recognition of same-sex marriages or partnerships. These increasingly divergent laws create financial and logistical liabilities for business leaders, adversely affect employee morale, complicate employment and benefit policies and make it harder for companies to relocate

places where they and their families lack critical legal protections.

Recognition of the rights of gay men and lesbians not only has an impact on private business, but on the economic growth of local communities — particularly in struggling urban neighborhoods. Findings from my book, *The Gay and*

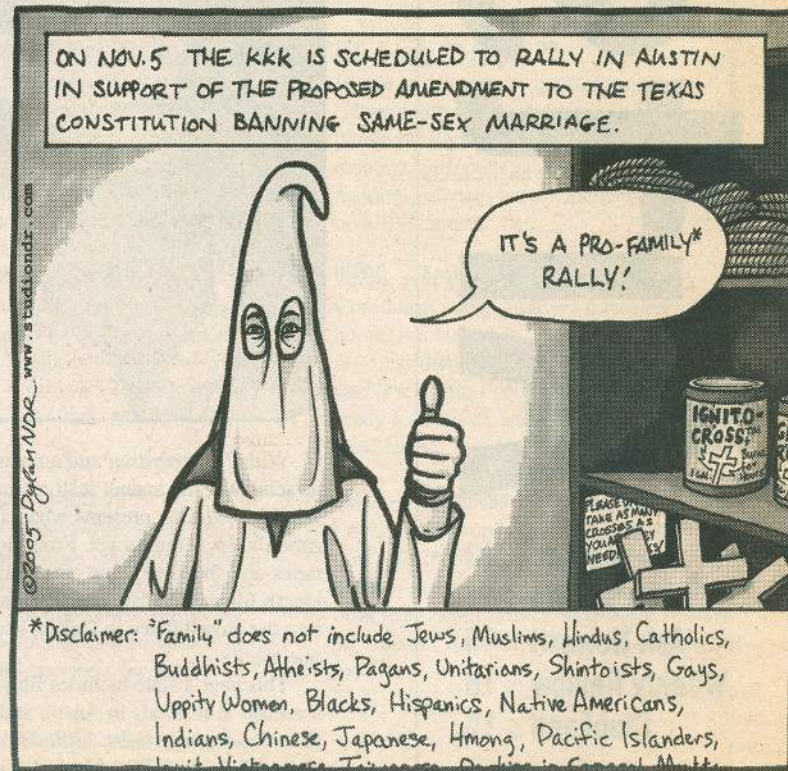
55 percent of individuals in same-sex couples moved in the five years prior to Census 2000 compared to only 42 percent of those in different-sex couples.

Put simply, equality for gay men and lesbians represents an economic win for companies and communities. It enhances urban revitalization efforts,

promotes creative and innovative work forces and provides corporations with the tools for making employees happy and productive.

Gary J. Gates is a senior research fellow at the Charles R. Williams Project on Sexual Orientation Law and Public Policy at the UCLA School of Law.

Contact the writer: Ggates@gmail.com

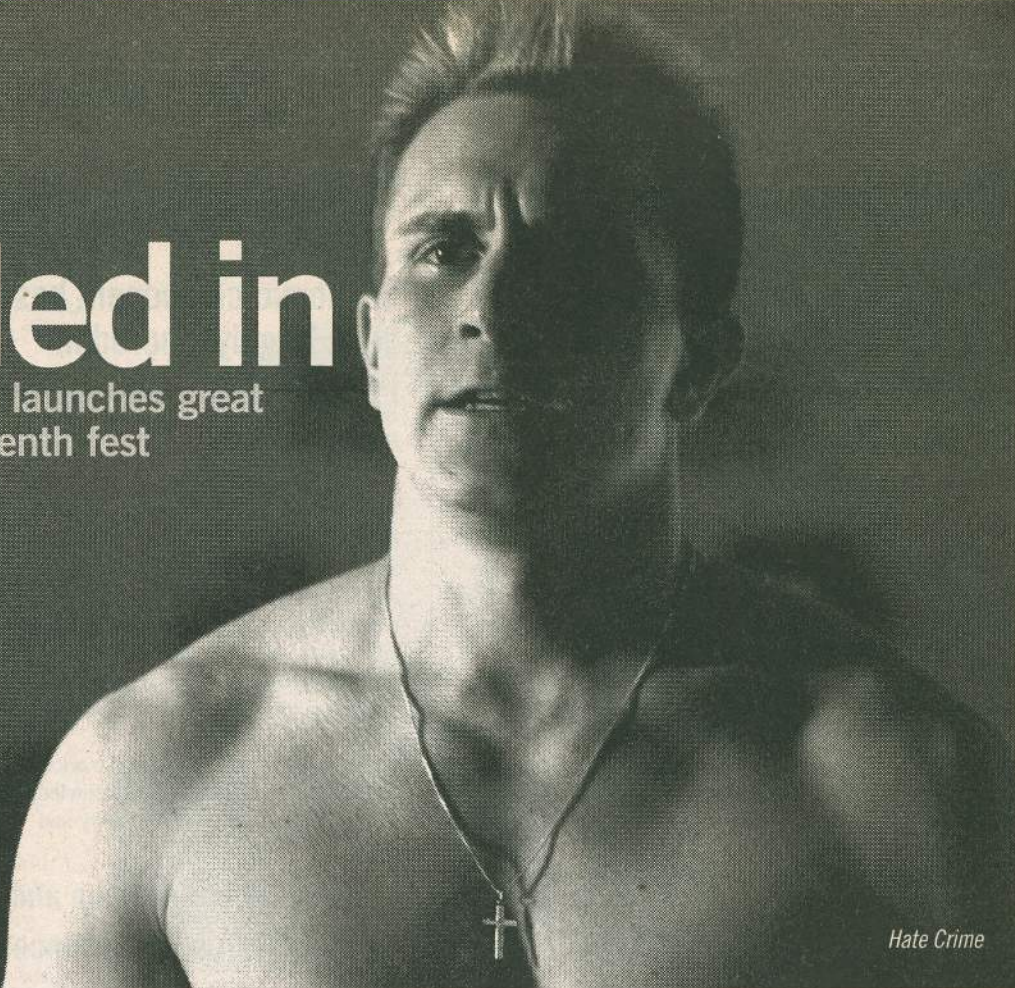


*Disclaimer: "Family" does not include Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Catholics, Buddhists, Atheists, Pagans, Unitarians, Shintoists, Gays, Uppity Women, Blacks, Hispanics, Native Americans, Indians, Chinese, Japanese, Hmong, Pacific Islanders, Limit Vietnamese, Taiwanese, Dalits in Central India.

Reeled in

Out Takes Dallas launches great lineup for its seventh fest

By Steven Lindsey



Hate Crime

At just seven years, Out Takes Dallas is the youngest of the GLBT film festivals in Texas — the Austin Gay and Lesbian International Film Festival, by comparison, is inching up on 20 seasons — but the younger event seems to have hit its stride.



but also a good sense for packaging the programs in interesting combinations.

Here's a rundown of some of the highlights of the festival, divided into categories and listed chronologically. (All reviews by Steven Lindsey unless indicated.)

Feature dramas

Hate Crime. Religion and revenge collide in this thriller filmed on location in Dallas by writer-director Tommy Stovall. When a gay couple become involved in a brutal crime, help comes from the unlikelyst of sources. *Nov. 5, 8:40 p.m.*

Hard Pill. If you could take a drug and become straight, would you do it? This question is at the center of this thought-provoking drama that's also notable for getting Jan Brady (Jennifer Elise Cox from *The Brady Bunch Movie*) naked. *Eek!* *Nov. 7, 9 p.m.*

Wilby Wonderful. Oh, those quirky Canucks! The delightful Sandra Oh leads this ensemble about a tiny island where gavs are



Gay Sex In The '70s

so-so opening night feature. (Arnold Wayne Jones). *Nov. 4, 7 p.m.*

Shorts

Boy Meets Boy. This set of seven dating-related shorts begins with *Dinner Conversation* about a new couple and the amusing, awkward slip-of-the-tongue that ties them up but gets immediately more serious. It toggles back and forth — fish-out-of-water-comedy, coming-of-age romance — without much consistency, but a lot of hot near-miss encounters. (A.W.J.) *Nov. 5, 4:25 p.m.; encore Nov. 9, 5 p.m.*



z o d i

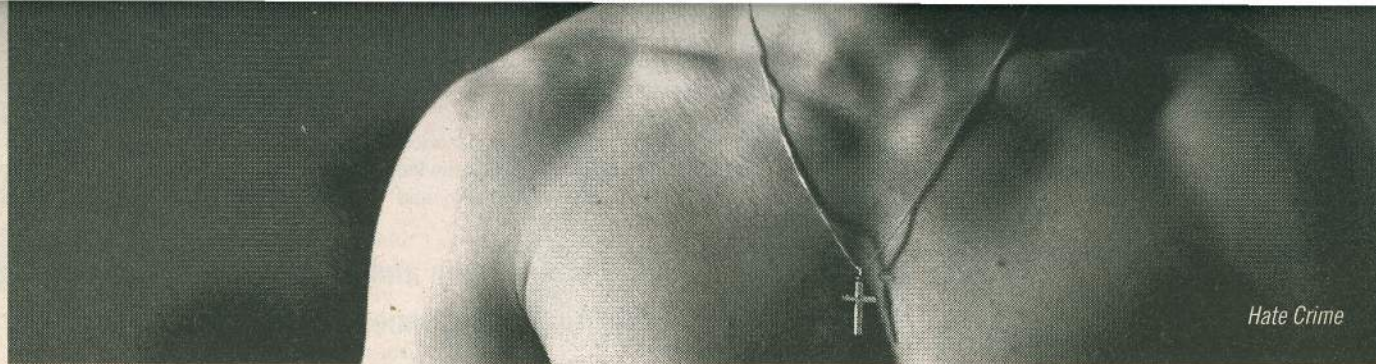
Three very difficult squares dominate Neptune (overindulgence and reckless)

SCORPIO — October 23-November 21

Stand up for credit when it's due, and it with your mentors. Exaggerated pride and false modesty both lead to disaster in doubt, lean toward modesty. Advice from friends on investments should be

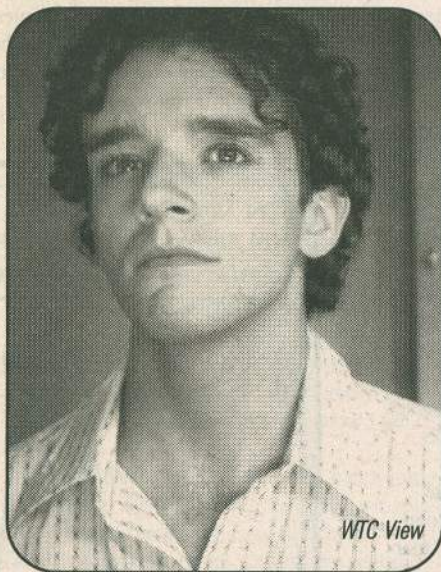
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WTC View

With 71 interesting and amazing films on its schedule, the annual festival, named *Reel World: Real Life*, presents what is the organization's finest outing yet. From documentaries and shorts to some remarkable feature-length films, the Magnolia Theatre transforms into the gayest place in Dallas, even if just for one week.

This year's slate includes films already screened at festivals in Austin and Fort Worth (like *Producing Adults*, *Little Man*, *Hate Crime*, *Dare* and *That Man: Peter Berlin*),

but also a good sense for packaging the programs in interesting combinations.

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Wilby Wonderful. Oh, those quirky Canucks! The delightful Sandra Oh leads this ensemble about a tiny island where gays are the new enemy, hypocrisy runs wild and suicide is a complicated mission. Touching, funny and wonderfully acted, this is perhaps the best surprise of the festival. *Nov. 12, 4:15 p.m.*

WTC View. This film offers an unusual perspective on the days after Sept. 11, 2001, and the quest to find a roommate in a newly upside-down world. *Nov. 13, 8 p.m.*

Feature comedies

29th and Gay. A schlubby, queer Angeleno, surrounded by quirky friends, mopes about getting older and not having a boyfriend while talking directly to the camera. That could describe half of all gay romantic comedies, and while this one is nothing special it's not terrible, either. But that's hardly enough. Stale jokes, banal plotting and wooden performances make at best a



Gay Sex In The '70s

so-so opening night feature. (Arnold Wayne Jones). *Nov. 4, 7 p.m.*

Almost Normal. In the tradition of *Big*, a gay man wakes up one day 20 years younger and must relive his high-school days. There is one twist — gays and lesbians are suddenly the norm in society and straights are the persecuted minority. The concept tires by the end, but it's worth an amusing chuckle. *Nov. 6, 12:30 p.m.*

ON SCREEN

Out Takes Dallas Lesbian & Gay Film Festival. Nov. 4-13. \$4-\$10; festival passes for \$100. All screenings at The Magnolia Theatre, 3699 McKinney Ave. in the West Village, Dallas. Visit Outtakesdallas.org for a complete schedule.

Chicken Tikka Masala. Cultures collide in this arranged-marriage comedy that proves that true love knows no boundaries — or sexual orientation. *Nov. 6, 5:10 p.m.*



z o d i a c

Three very difficult squares dominate Neptune (overindulgence and reckless)

SCORPIO — October 23-November 21

Stand up for credit when it's due, and sit with your mentors. Exaggerated pride and false modesty both lead to disaster. In doubt, lean toward modesty. Advice from friends on investments should be politely ignored.

SAGITTARIUS — November 22-December 21

Accidents are jumping out at everybody and you're a favorite target for those gossips. At home, be careful to keep electricity and water far apart. Any retreat, even quiet meditation, will help you stay out of trouble.

CAPRICORN — December 21-January 19

Your sexual expertise is a well-kept secret — until now! Admit nothing, deny nothing. If rumors get out of hand, just laugh and shake your head like it's all news to you. Then invite whomever you like to find the truth.

Jack Fertig, a founding member of the Association

Shorts

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enduring symbol of gay culture (humorously titled *Packed Lunch*) and a profile of a Christian

Packed Lunch

Mixed Grill. A serious look at some of the most pressing GLBT issues comes in four short films. *Positively Naked* is the standout with its bare-it-all attitude and triumphant stories of people living with HIV. Nov. 8, 6:40 p.m.

Boys Laughing. This delightful collection of short films has some side-splitting moments — but what else would you expect from a group of comedies featuring *Taco Chick and Salsa Girl* and *Billy's Dad Is a Fudge-Packer?* Priceless. Nov. 11, 6:55 p.m.; encore Nov. 12, 2:00 p.m.

Speedos and Puppies and Fetish, Oh My. This eclectic collection of shorts includes some amusing cartoons, a documentary on the Speedo and its roles as an



29th & Gay

minister by day, S&M puppy by night — in other words, something for the whole family. (A.W.J.) Nov. 11, 11:15 p.m.

Boys Life. This program contains six dramatic narratives about the complexities of relationships of young gay men — with their

mothers, brothers, sugar daddies and tricks. They each suffer somewhat from the curse of excessive sincerity and the desire to be “meaningful.” But even if there are many pretentious moments, the program is also sexy and treats feelings of gay love with respect. (A.W.J.) Nov. 13, noon.

Documentaries

Gay Sex in the '70s. Bell-bottoms, the Carter administration, disco — ah, those were the days. That's according to this documentary with plenty of sexy men and a free-love feeling that many believe will never happen again — at least to the same extent it did then. Nov. 5, 11 p.m.

The Lady in Question is Charles Busch. Brilliant leading lady Charles Busch is highlighted in a candid look at his life and his most famous creations, including *Psycho Beach Party* and *Die Mommie, Die!* Nov. 11, 9 p.m.



Wilby Wonderful

November 4-10, 2005

z o d i a c



Scorpio

Three very difficult squares dominate this week: Saturn square sun (dissatisfaction and frail egos); Mercury square Uranus (loose lips and provocation); and Mars square Neptune (overindulgence and recklessness). If you want to turn this terrible trio to your advantage, work hard, think ahead and be sensitive to others.

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AQUARIUS — January 20-February 18
Keep your finances to yourself. Either side of a loan can get you into trouble. You have enough confusion already, especially at home. Avoid domestic arguments, but pay close attention so you know what

TAURUS — April 20-May 20
Communicate! Your efforts at work are misunderstood, so stay in close contact with your boss to keep your work on track. If you think your work at home is unappreciated, tell your partner you feel taken for

LEO — July 23-August 22
Home is where your control issues are. (How much of that did you get from your parents?) Be very careful to keep communication with colleagues clear. Sex play restores balance, but accidents are likely

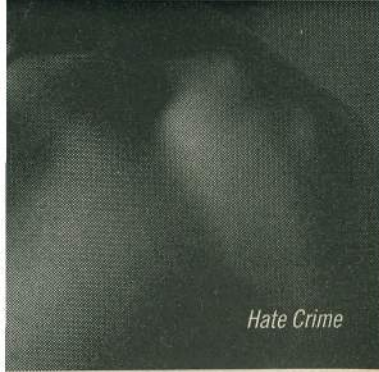


Hate Crime



Gay Sex In The '70s

opening night feature. (Arnold Wayne Nov. 4, 7 p.m.)



Hate Crime

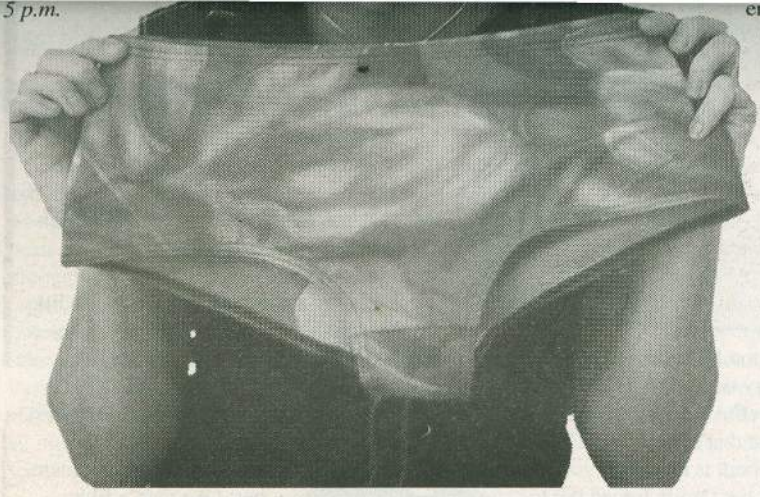


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Your sexual expertise is a well-kept secret — until now! Admit nothing, deny nothing. If rumors get out of hand, just laugh and shake your head like it's all news to you. Then invite whomever you like to find out the truth.

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Keep your finances to yourself. Either side of a loan can get you into trouble. You have enough confusion already, especially at home. Avoid domestic arguments, but pay close attention so you know what you're agreeing to!

PISCES — February 19-March 19
There are no secrets to be kept now — your own business is out where everyone can see it. Grace and humor can keep you above the whiff of scandal. A proper response — "Who said what? My goodness!" — will defuse rumors.

ARIES — March 20-April 19
Think carefully about your priorities, but if you expect others to share them, arguments will surely ensue. Feel free to play with a few new erotic kinks, but if you act like you have something to prove, someone could get hurt!

TAURUS — April 20-May 20
Communicate! Your efforts at work are misunderstood, so stay in close contact with your boss to keep your work on track. If you think your work at home is unappreciated, tell your partner you feel taken for granted. The apology could be very sexy!

GEMINI — May 21-June 20
Arguments at work come way too easily. A meditative time-out can help. And remember that, yes, the boss is the boss! Switch those gears — instead of running your mouth, keep your ears (and your brain) busy.

CANCER — June 21-July 22
Our world is riddled with sexual peer pressure, which is always stupid and is especially dangerous. Ditto booze and drugs. Remember: "To thine own self be true." Stay close to your own core values — do what's healthy and right for you!

LEO — July 23-August 22
Home is where your control issues are. (How much of that did you get from your parents?) Be very careful to keep communication with colleagues clear. Sex play restores balance, but accidents are likely now. Be careful.

VIRGO — August 23-September 22
Communications go awry this week. At home, it's especially easy to get locked into needless disputes. If you dig in your heels, you'll soon find yourself in quicksand. Be ready to reiterate and clarify ideas to save trouble.

LIBRA — September 23-October 22
Friends and money don't mix at all right now. Dutch treat is a term you should get used to saying. Curb your erotic impulses, or at least be careful. You're wide open for all kinds of accidents. Think ahead, but not too far.

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.



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 4

DALLAS/FT. WORTH

2nd Annual Diverse Women's Seminar: Developing Multicultural Leaders: Women who are Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and their Allies with Lupe Valdez, Patricia Nell Warren, Sharon Bridgforth, Alison Bechdel and Magdalen Hsu-Li. Presented in conjunction with the Out Texas Collegiate Conference, through Nov. 5. University of North Texas, Denton campus. unt.edu/edo. 940-565-2456.

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

HOUSTON

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

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

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

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

Phone bank and block walk to help defeat Proposition 2, presented by Houston Equal Rights Alliance and No Nonsense in November, though Nov. 8. 6-9:30 p.m. Houston GLBT Community Center, 3400 Montrose Blvd. Suite 207. Hera.org.

Transition: Lilly Roddy and Phyllis Frye in concert. 8 p.m. \$5-\$10. BYOB. GLBT Community Center, 3400 Montrose Blvd., Suite 207. 713-529-5842.

SAN ANTONIO

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

Saturday, November 5

AUSTIN

Nonviolent vigil opposing Proposition 2 and the Ku Klux Klan rally. 1-3 p.m. Auditorium Shores, S. 1st St. and Riverside Dr. NonnonsenseinNovember.com.

Threads: The Red Cross Fashion Show, with Robert Earl Keen and Mavor Will Wynn. 6:30 p.m. \$75-\$125.

Houston Equal Rights Alliance. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Houston GLBT Community Center, 3400 Montrose Blvd., Suite 207. Hera.org.

College planning and financial aid workshop for GLBT youth, ages 13-20. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. University of St. Thomas, W. Alabama at Graustark St., Malloy Room 019. RSVP: Bill Alexander, 713-529-3590, ext. 3. Hatchyouth.org.

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

Lucie Blue Tremblay in concert. 6 p.m. \$20-\$25. Benefits The Breast Exam Project. Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, 2025 W. 11th St. 713-869-1482. Aeca87@houston.rr.com.

Rainbow Health Fair, presented by Lesbian Health Initiative. Free health screenings. 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Montrose Clinic, 215 Westheimer Rd. To schedule Pap tests and mammograms, call 713-830-3075. 713-426-3356.

SAN ANTONIO

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

Sunday, November 6

AUSTIN

Rally at the Capitol opposing Proposition 2 with Texas State Rep. Senfronia Thompson. 1:30 p.m. South steps of the Capitol. NonnonsenseinNovember.com.

DALLAS/FT. WORTH

AIDS Memorial Quilt exhibit. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Lee Park. 214-540-4490.

HOUSTON

3rd Annual Gospel Brunch with Miss Dianna Greenleaf and the Petra Baptist Church Women's Gospel Choir, presented by Bayou City Boys Club. 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. \$50-\$60. Rice Lofts' Crystal Ballroom. Benefits People With Aids Coalition. Bcbc.info.

Authors Christopher Tebbetts and Lisa Papademetriou discuss Gay Teens Go Mainstream, presented by PFLAG Houston. 2-4:30 p.m. St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 5501 S. Main St. 713-46P-FLAG.

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

SAN ANTONIO

SAN ANTONIO

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

Tuesday, November 8

DALLAS/FT. WORTH

Dallas Fort Worth Primetimers Prime Diner. 6:30 p.m. Romano's Macaroni Grill, 5858 W. NW Hwy. 972-504-8866. Rsvp@primetimers-dfw.org.

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

HOUSTON

Election Watch Party, presented by No Nonsense in November campaign, Houston Equal Rights Alliance and Houston GLBT Political Caucus. 7 p.m. Guava Lamp, 570 Waugh Dr.

Wednesday, November 9

AUSTIN

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

DALLAS/FT. WORTH

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

HOUSTON

GLOBO. 7 p.m. Resurrection M.C.C. 2025 W. 11th St. 713-710-0268. Globo.org.

Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce annual dinner and board member election. 6 p.m. \$25+. Hotel Derek, 2525 West Loop South. 713-523-7576. Ctow@ghlcc.org.

Masquerade Ball, inspired by The Legend of Zorro, presented by DMC Worldwide and UV Vodka. 7 p.m. InterContinental Hotel, 2222 W. Loop South. \$75-\$125. Benefits AIDS Foundation Houston. 713-623-6796, ext. 278.

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

One of the
New Socio-Cultural

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BILL HALLQUIST (M
CHRIS W
CRAIG DEMO (C
GEORGE VALDEZ
IVANO BELLINI (M
MACAVITI (Tampa
NINETEEN69 (C
PETER RAUHO
ROSABEL: RALPH
SEAN ENSIGN (A

Weekly Review

WEEKLY REVIEW

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DALLAS/FT. WORTH

Dallas Fort Worth Primetimers Coffee. 10 a.m. Crossroad's Market, 3930 Cedar Springs Rd. Rsvp@primetimers-dfw.org.

Lone Star Ride Fighting AIDS 5 a.m.-10 p.m. Leave from Resource Center of Dallas, 2701 Reagan St., traveling by bus to Fort Worth-Tarrant County College, South Campus. Bike from there to Dinosaur Valley State Park. 214-521-2412.

HOUSTON

A Night at Club Eve, presented by The Austin Dragsters (drag kings). 9:30 p.m. \$5-10. Benefits the 8th Annual International Drag King Extravaganza. Club Eve, 2205 Richmond Ave. 713-523-EVES. Evesfirst.com. Drag101@riseup.net.

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869-1482. Aeca87@houston.rr.com.

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HATCH youth group. 6-9 p.m. Call for location, 713-529-3590. Hatchyouth.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, November 7

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.

Same-sex marriage public debate with Glenn T. Stanton and John Corvino, presented by Kingwood College Student Activities Department. 6 p.m. Kingwood College Student and Fine Arts Building, 281-312-1795.

Cedar Spring Rd.

HOUSTON

Election Watch Party, presented by No Nonsense in November campaign, Houston Equal Rights Alliance and Houston GLBT Political Caucus. 7 p.m. Guava Lamp, 570 Waugh Dr.

Wednesday, November 9

AUSTIN

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

DALLAS/FT. WORTH

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

HOUSTON

GLOBO. 7 p.m. Resurrection M.C.C. 2025 W. 11th St. 713-710-0268. Globo.org.

Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce annual dinner and board member election. 6 p.m. \$25+. Hotel Derek, 2525 West Loop South. 713-523-7576. Ctow@ghlcc.org.

Masquerade Ball, inspired by The Legend of Zorro, presented by DMC Worldwide and UV Vodka. 7 p.m. InterContinental Hotel, 2222 W. Loop South. \$75-\$125. Benefits AIDS Foundation Houston. 713-623-6796, ext. 278.

SAN ANTONIO

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

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

Thursday, November 10

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.

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16 Marquée

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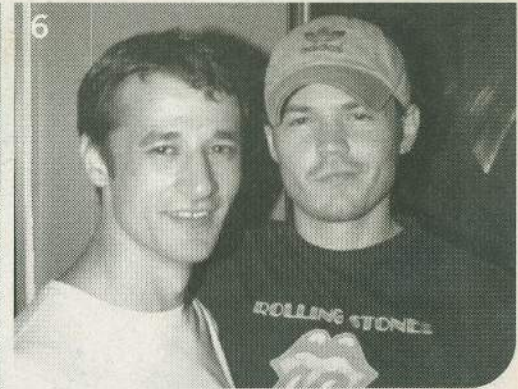
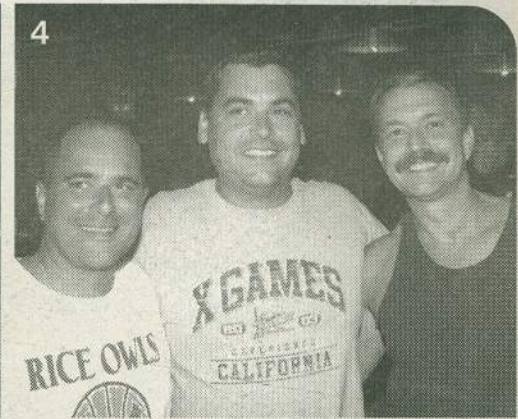
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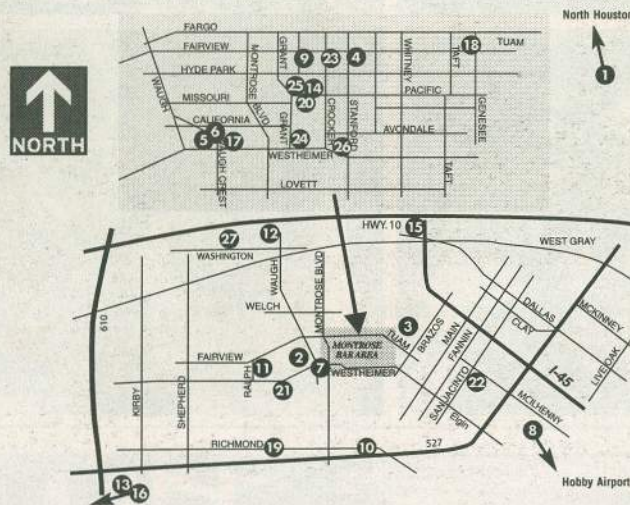
ClubLand

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1. Alana, Thomas and Samir at Club 1415. 2. Ben, Victor and Vince at South Beach. 3. Milton and Brandon at Rich's. 4. Chip, Pete and Kelly at Mary's. 5. Christopher and Danny at EJ's. 6. David and David at Meteor. Photos by Paul Stricklin



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| 3. Brazos River Bottom—2400 Brazos. 713-528-9192 | 17. Mary's—1022 Westheimer. 713-527-9669 |
| 4. Brick's II—617 Fairview. 713-528-8102 | 18. Meteor—2306 Genesee @ Fairview. 713-521-0123. Meteorhouston.com |
| 5. Chances/G-Spot—1100 Westheimer. 713-523-7217. Chancesbar.com | 19. Michael's—1419 Richmond. 713-520-8446 |
| 6. Club 1415—1415 California. 713-522-7066 | 20. Montrose Mining Co.—805 Pacific. 713-529-7488 |
| 7. Club Rainbow—1417 Westheimer. 713-522-5166 | 21. Rainbow Room—527 Barren Springs. |
| 8. Club Xcape—8101 Airport Blvd. 713-454-0775 | 22. Rich's—2401 San Jacinto. 713.759.9606. richs-houston.com |
| 9. Cousins—817 Fairview. 713-528-9204 | 23. Ripcord—715 Fairview. 713-521-2792. Ripcordjournal.com |
| 10. Decades—1205 Richmond. 713-521-2224 | 24. Santa Fe Bar & Patio—804 Pacific. 713-521-2519 |
| 11. EJ's—2517 Ralph. 713-527-9071 | 25. South Beach—810 Pacific. 713-529-SOBE. Southbeachthenightclub.com |
| 12. Guava Lamp—570 Waugh. 713-524-3359 | 26. 611 Club—611 Hyde Park. 713-526-7070 |
| 13. Inergy—5750 Chimney Rock. 713-666-7310. Clubinergy.com | 27. Viviana's Nite Club—5219 Washington. 713-862-0203 |
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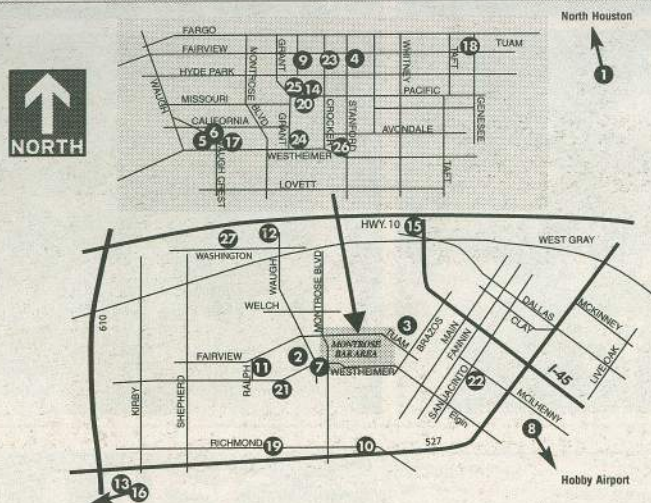
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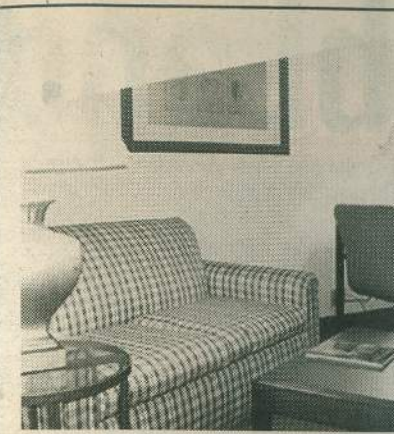
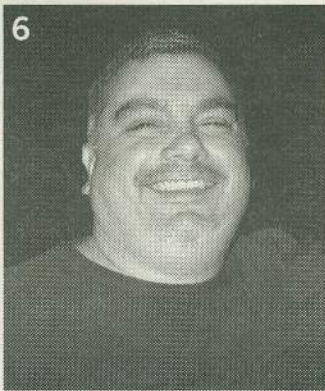
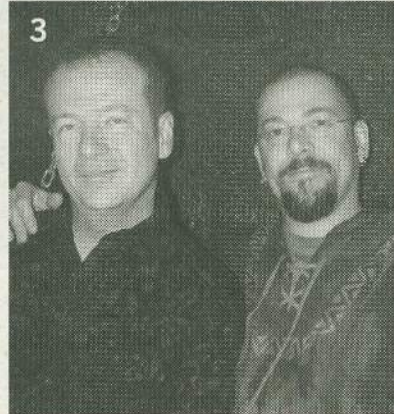
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1. Beyonce and Raul at Charlie's. 2. Kevin and Chris at 'Bout Time. 3. Kevin and Scott at Chain Drive. 4. Josh, Aaron, Andrew and Scott at Oilcan Harry's. 5. Matt, Richard, Lyle, Daniel, Huy and Mike at Fabric. 6. D.J. Jorge at Chain Drive. 7. Mel and Aaron at Barcelona. 8. Keith and Miguel at Rainbow Cattle Company. Photos by Guillermo Garza



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Halloween on Cedar Springs Road

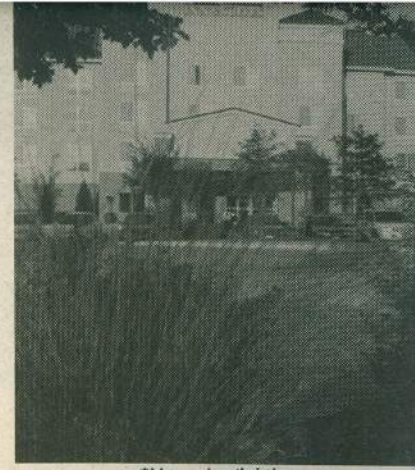
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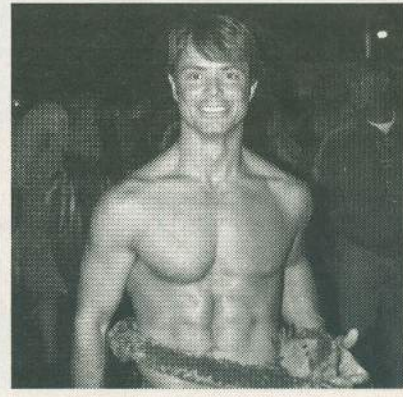
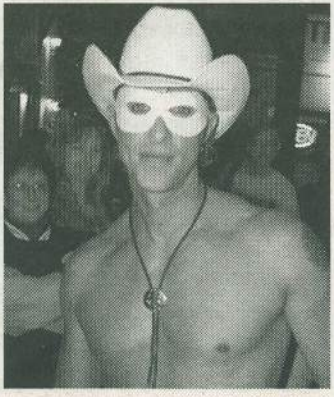


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Halloween on Cedar Springs Road

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1. Ryan at The Saint. 2. Chad and Gabe at Pegasus. 3. Odysea and Stephanie at The Saint. 4. Leandra and Randy at Bonham Exchange. 5. Louie and Amber at Heat. 6. Willie at The Annex. 7. Lyn-Z and Fabian at Heat. 8. Lady D and Desiree Brooks at The Saint.
Photos by Junior Hernandez



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Say "No" to this Nonsense.

Stand with us to defeat this attack on Texas families!

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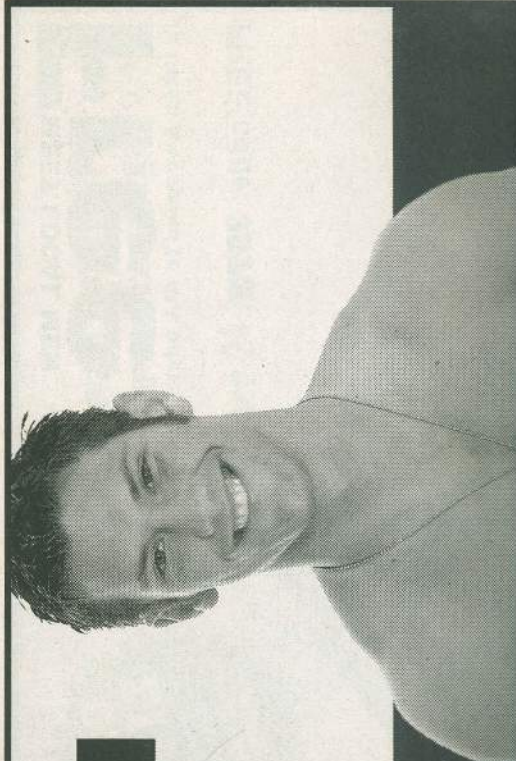
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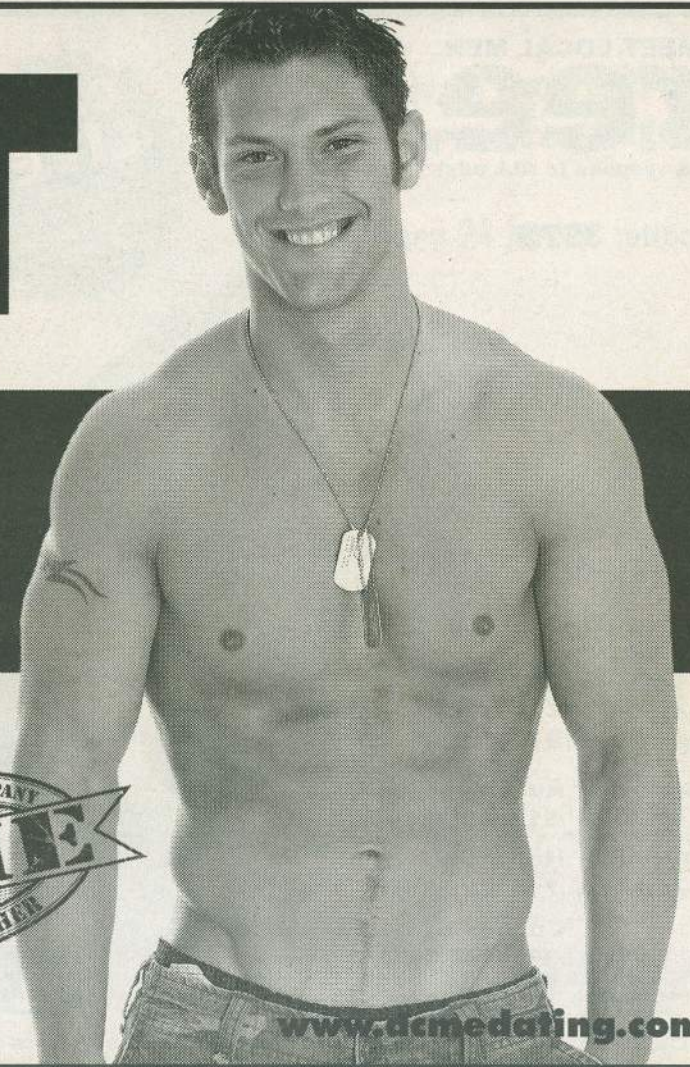
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