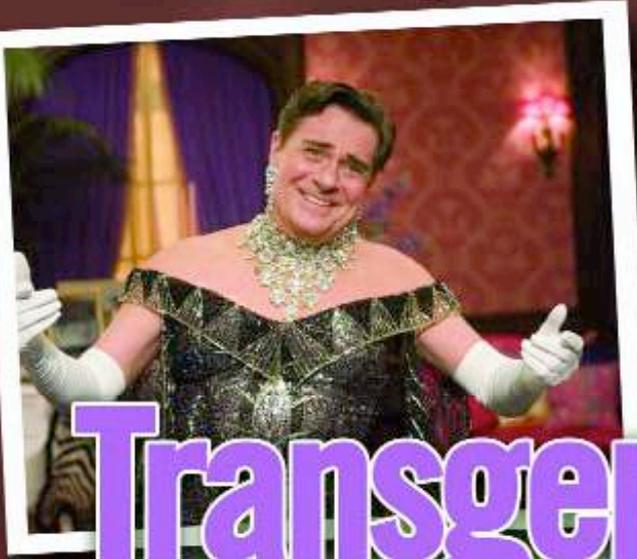
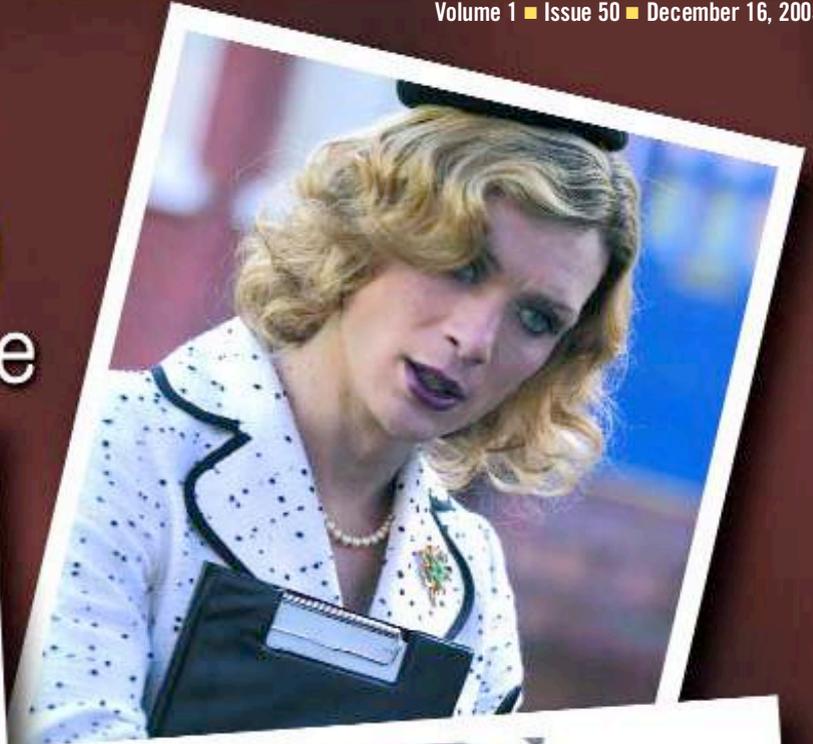


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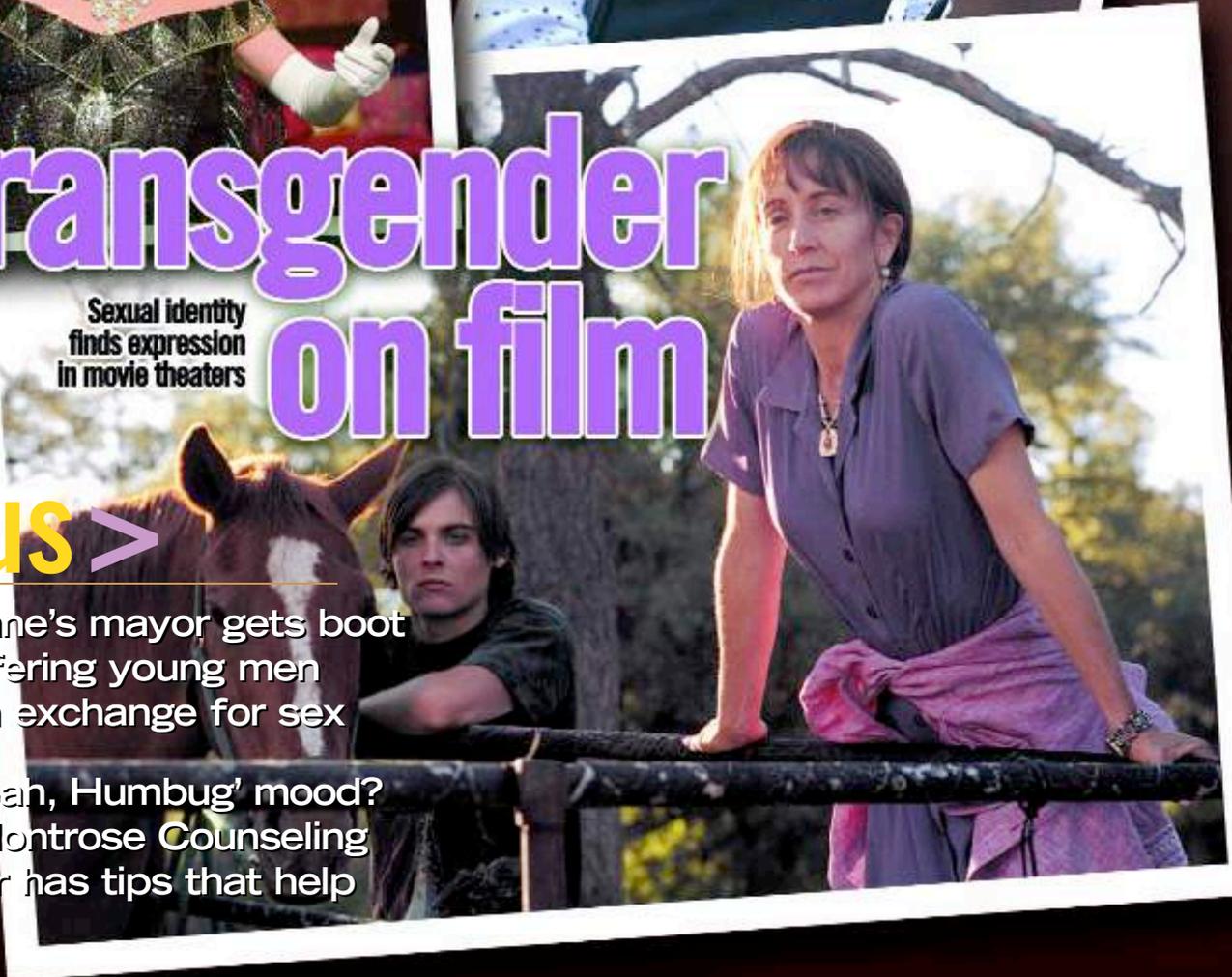
Transgender on film

Sexual identity finds expression in movie theaters

Plus >

Spokane's mayor gets boot for offering young men jobs in exchange for sex

In a 'Bah, Humbug' mood? The Montrose Counseling Center has tips that help





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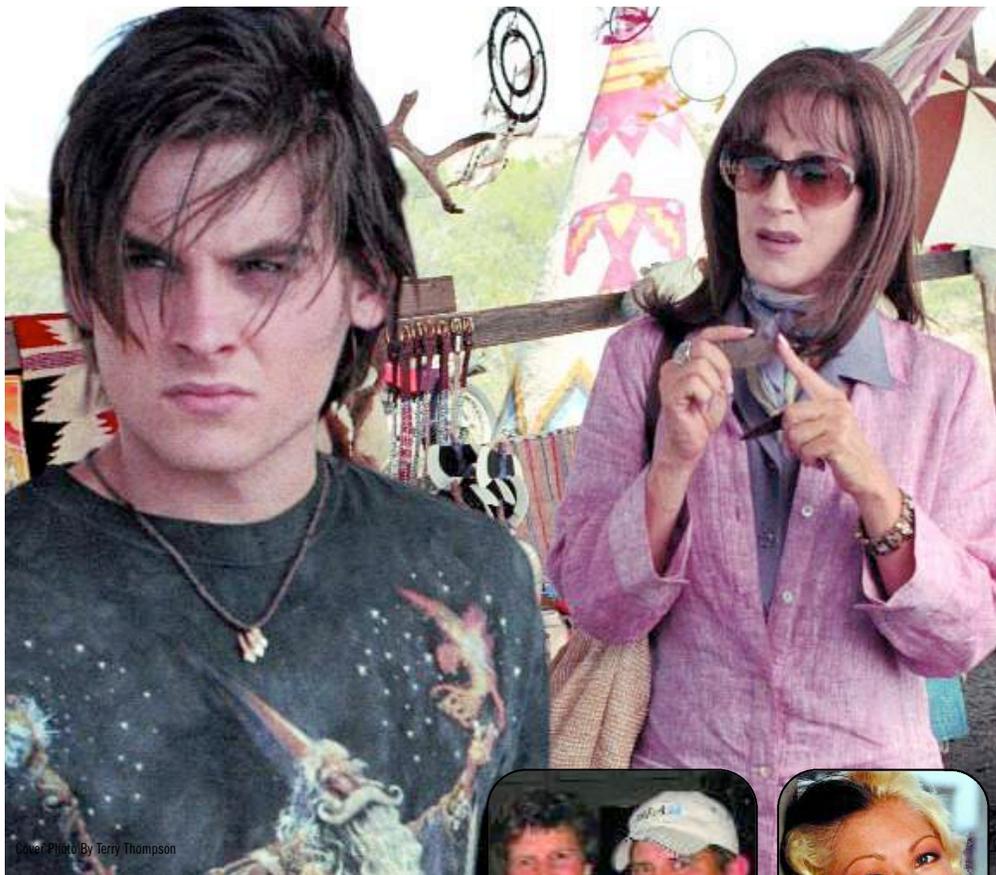
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inside

Volume 1 ■ Issue 47 ■ December 16, 2005

5 Texas News

Endorsement victories

Out lesbian Sue Lovell squeaked to victory in a runoff election held Saturday and takes the oath of office for the at-large Place 2 seat on the Houston City Council on Jan. 2.

7 National News

Supreme Court

Five GLBT rights advocacy groups this week announced their opposition to the confirmation of federal appeals court Judge Samuel Alito Jr., saying he is too conservative for the job.

12 Interview

Queer Film

Gay audiences loved director and screenwriter Neil Jordan's *The Crying Game* and *Interview with the Vampire*. He hopes they'll be just as fond of his new film, *Breakfast on Pluto*.

14 Filth

Disgustingly offensive

Billy Masters dishes up a pre-holiday helping of show biz triumphs and semi-tragedies, and points the way to new Web site photos sure to warm up the most frigid of winters.



departments

News With a View	10
Perspectives	11
Zodiac	15
Weekly Review	16
Clubland	19
Directory	24
Classified Ads	25

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

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TXT Newsmagazine accepts submissions of news articles, feature articles, opinion pieces, interviews and reviews with 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 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

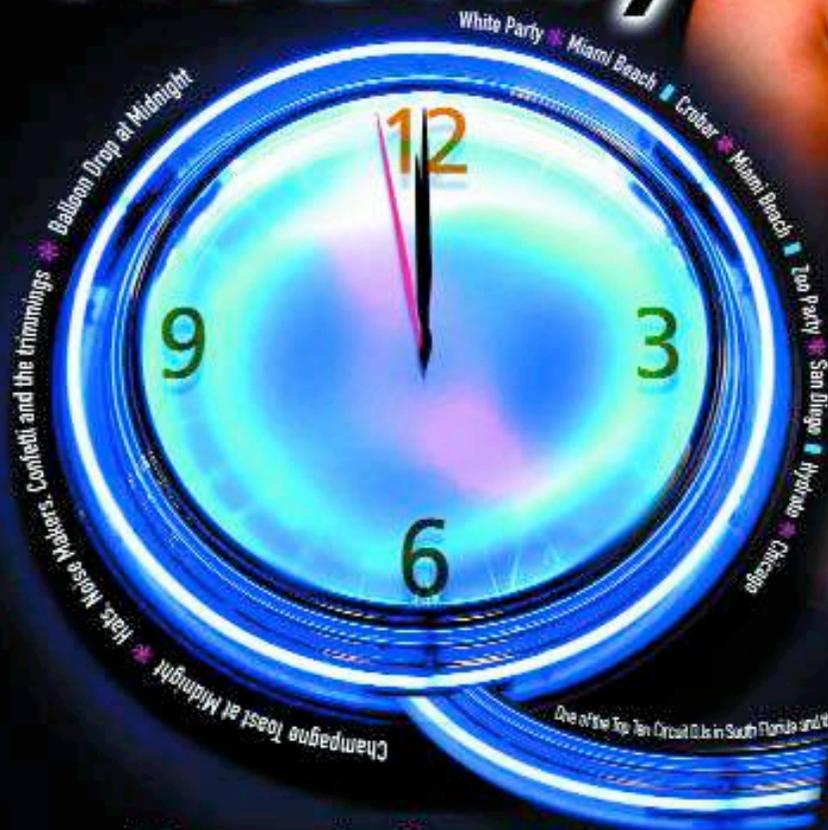
Keep letters brief and address only a single issue. For more details, see the details on this week's Perspectives page.

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Newsbriefs

HOUSTON

Center for AIDS lifts its 2-year boycott of Ritonavir maker Abbott Laboratories

The Center for AIDS Information & Advocacy announced it is lifting its two-year-old boycott of Abbott Laboratories and is resuming normal relations. The boycott began in December 2003 in the wake of Abbott's more than 400 percent price increase for its AIDS drug ritonavir, also known as Norvir.

In a letter addressed to Abbott, Thomas Gegeny, the executive director of the center, said that his organization is lifting its boycott because of recent good-faith efforts by the company toward the AIDS community, including Abbott's donations of funds and pharmaceutical products to victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and relief organizations in the affected areas.

"The time has come to put the past behind us; what's done is done," Gegeny said. "As a community, we must now engage Abbott and other pharmaceutical companies in a broader dialogue about how to reasonably control HIV medication pricing and to improve treatment access in the United States."

Unidentified woman found dead early Sunday in vacant lot in Montrose

The Houston Police Department is investigating the death of a woman found in a vacant lot in the 4300 block of Garrott Street in Montrose early Sunday morning.

Sergeant M.W. McStravick and Officer P.T. Yochum reported that a homeless person found the female victim in a vacant lot at 1:25 a.m. The woman was dressed in a white T-shirt bearing the word "AIF" and a picture of the television character. She was wearing blue jeans, black boots and a black leather jacket.

The victim's identity and the cause of death is unknown. An autopsy was scheduled by the Harris County medical examiner's office.

Anyone with information about the case is asked to call the Houston Police Department's homicide division at 713-308-3600 or CrimeStoppers at 713-222-TIPS.

deaths

Tracy Karl Silverberg 1966-2005

Tracy Karl Silverberg, 39, died of AIDS complications at Park Plaza Hospital in Houston on Dec. 7, 2005.

Silverberg graduated from Lee High School in Baytown, Texas, in 1983. He attended the University of Houston and received a Bachelor of Science degree in communications from Lamar University in Beaumont, and a degree in Cosmetology from Lee College in Baytown.

An accomplished photographer, Silverberg contributed to numerous organizations, including the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Houston Center for Photography, Classic Chassis Car Club, Baytown Little Theatre, Gay Men's Chorus of Houston, The Four Seasons Club, Houston Buyers Club, Montrose Clinic, The Assistance Fund, AIDS Foundation Houston, Glassell School of Art, Krewe of Olympus Houston, Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation's Race for the Cure, Bunnies on the Bayou, Spay Neuter Assistance Program, Houston Ballet Nutcracker Market and Bayou City Boys Club.

Silverberg was employed as an administrative assistant at TXT



Newsmagazine and was a sales and event planner for Stone Kitchen Catering and Special Events in Houston.

Survivors include his partner, John Painter of Houston; mother, Lee Ann Silverberg of Baytown; brothers and sisters-in-law, Joel and Patricia Silverberg of Logansville, Ga., and Von and Deborah Silverberg, of Baytown; nieces, Austin and Sylvia Silverberg of Logansville, Ga.; niece, Joanna Silverberg of Baytown; his cat, Priscilla Painter Silverberg and his dog, Molly Painter Silverberg.

Silverberg's family wishes to thank the multitude of family, extended family and friends who offered support and prayer, and also thanks Dr. Joseph Gathe Jr., Dr. John Clemmons, Dr. Ho and the staff of Park Plaza Hospital.

A celebration of Silverberg's life is scheduled Dec. 17 at 1 p.m. at The Dunstan, 2415-D Dunstan St. in Houston's Rice Village. A reception is scheduled afterward.

Memorial contributions may be made in Silverberg's name to the Body Positive Wellness Center or to The Assistance Fund. Contributions to either may be mailed to 215 Westheimer Rd., Houston, TX 77006.

Lovell wins runoff for council seat

10 of 13 candidates endorsed by political caucus to assume offices

By Nancy Ford
Staff Writer

An out lesbian eked out a victory for a seat on the Houston City Council in an election marked by record low voter turnout.

Business consultant Sue Lovell captured 18,404 votes to defeat immigration lawyer Jay Aiyyer, who won 17,737 votes. Their at-large Position 2 race was the tightest of three council runoffs. Barely four percent of Houston's registered voters cast ballots Saturday.

At a victory party attended by dozens of friends, family and supporters, Lovell spent the early evening monitoring election returns online and on her cell phone.

Between calls, Lovell praised volunteers and lauded her campaign staff for putting together a coalition "that ran a grassroots campaign."

Though she was outspent by her opponent, Indian-American lawyer Jay Aiyyer, Lovell won the race by fewer than 600 votes.

"Don't be afraid to run against someone who can raise more money," Lovell said.

Maria Gonzalez, of the Houston GLBT Political Caucus, said she was excited that 10 candidates out of the 13 who were endorsed by the caucus's political action committee won their races.

The caucus mailed more than 29,000 endorsement cards for the general election and 14,000 for the runoff election,



NANCY FORD/TXT Newsmagazine

Sue Lovell won the race for at-large Position 2 race for Houston City Council in a runoff election that set a record for low voter turnout.

she said. In addition, thousands of cards were distributed by volunteers at community events and key polling locations.

"It's clear that our endorsements were a key part of these victories," Gonzalez said.

"It wasn't just us," the caucus's vice president, Jack Valinski, said. "The Victory Fund gave us the money to do phone banking and Houston Equal Rights Alliance helped us enhance our data base."

Caucus board member Christina Gomez said the entire city will benefit when Lovell takes her seat on the council.

"Sue will bring great representation not just to the gay community, but also to the entire city," Gomez said.

Gomez said that 2005 has been a disappointing year for GLBT Texans because of the passage of Proposition 2, which will amend the state constitution to define marriage as a union between one man and one woman.

"But Houston's GLBT community has shown that they are not done fighting," she said.

Valinski was also upbeat about the 2005 election cycle.

"Through Prop 2, and through the work of HERA and the No Nonsense in November campaign, we were able to enhance our mailing list, which helped get Sue elected," Valinski said, "and will help us in 2006."

Annise D. Parker, also an out lesbian, occupied the same council seat before she was elected as Houston's city controller in a 2003 special election. Parker was unopposed in Houston's general election on Nov. 8.

Contact the writer: Nancy@txtnewsmag.com

WINNERS

The following candidates endorsed by the political action committee of the Houston Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Political Caucus will take the oath of office in Houston on Jan. 2.

- Bill White, Mayor
- Annise Parker, City Controller
- Peter Brown, City Council At Large, Position 1
- Sue Lovell, City Council At Large, Position 2
- Ron Green, City Council At Large, Position 4
- Anne Clutterbuck, City Council District C
- Ada Edwards, City Council District D
- Adrian Garcia, City Council District H
- Carol Alvarado, City Council District I
- Natasha Kamrani, Houston Independent School District Board of Education District 1

That most stressful time of the year

Yule be glad you saw these tips for tanking the holiday blahs

For many gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people, the holidays are even more stressful than they are for harried pops and bemused moms.

Images of what a happy holiday is supposed to look like appear everywhere — in advertising, media storylines, greeting cards, company holiday parties.

This time of year may be especially difficult for those who are not accepted by their families, those who are not out

of the closet, or those who may be accepted by their loved ones — who blithely exclude the gay member's partner from family gatherings.

"Most of our holidays don't look like a Norman Rockwell painting," said Marilyn Barnes, a staff therapist at Montrose Counseling Center. "In fact, it's a standard that few can live up to."

The holidays may trigger sadness, especially for anyone who has experienced a loss in the last year. Some may have memories of holidays gone by and feel sad or lonely if some of the people or traditions are no longer a part of your life.

"This is especially true for our neighbors here in the Gulf Coast, many of whom have lost their homes, loved ones, pets, and everything else they left behind when forced to evacuate after hurricanes Katrina and Rita," Barnes said.

"It's hard to imagine what it must be like for someone who doesn't know where the rest of his or her family is, or having a family scattered all over the country and unable to come together for the holidays," Barnes said, "not to mention the financial impact and the anxiety over when their government assistance will run out, or even to a lesser degree,

Continued, Next Page



The popular 20th century American painter, Norman Rockwell, was famous for representations of the perfect family Christmas in the Saturday Evening Post. Rockwell's images were as tranquil as they were unrealistic.

From Page 5

how does one plan a big family meal and get together while living in a hotel room?"

Barnes suggested the following tips to help people cope better with the stress the holidays can inflict.

- **Make new traditions.** Barnes said during the holidays, those who can't celebrate

with the traditions of their past can always shift the focus to making new traditions. Celebrating with a "family of choice" instead of the family of origin. Go to a holiday concert. Organize your own GLBT potluck celebration through the Houston GLBT Community Center and inviting others to join you are excellent choices.

- **Volunteer.** Barnes also suggested this would be a great time to volunteer to help others. Giving oneself is nurturing and empowering to the giver and is a welcome gift to beleaguered agencies and their clients.

- **Don't isolate yourself.** Barnes is careful to point out that reaching out to connect with others may take effort. Many people harbor a natural inclination to hole up in their own space and deny that the holidays matter.

"Dwelling on how you think things should be instead of how they are is a recipe for depression, especially given the all-too-recent memory of the election and the overwhelming disapproval our GLBT community felt with the passing of the so-called 'Gay Marriage Ban' amendment."

- **Don't overdo it.** Barnes also warned that the holidays are a time of excess, and that a conscious eye cast toward moderation is a healthy way to approach a season fraught with overspending, overeating, overindulging, overimbiting and overestimating expectations.

- **Know thyself.** Barnes said people who know they have a tendency to struggle through the holidays should anticipate the triggers and plan how they'll negotiate the hurdles before they arise. If spending a few days in a family member's home causes stress, decide to stay in a hotel instead of under the same roof.

- **Plan ahead to avoid loneliness.** If you

get lonely during the holidays, take out a calendar and find out when your favorite chorus is performing. Or volunteer at a soup kitchen or similar charity. And structure your weekends so that you are busy instead of home by yourself.

- **Don't hesitate to reach out.** For those who just need someone to talk to about what they're going through, Barnes recommended keeping the phone number handy to Houston's Gay & Lesbian Switchboard.

"Volunteers are there to lend a friendly ear or provide referrals," she said. "They also may get in touch with an anti-violence advocate if you find yourself in a domestic violence situation and need to get somewhere safe."

The switchboard's number is 713-529-3211.

— From staff reports

SUPPORT

WHAT: A GLBT support group on coping with the holidays.

WHEN: Tuesday, 5:30–7 p.m.

WHERE: Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond Ave., IOP Room.

ADMISSION: No charge, but participants will be asked for a donation.

INFO: For more information, call Elizabeth Dodd at 713-529-0037, ext. 312.

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THE NEW BARN

Ford issues statement of strong support

Gay leaders praise No. 2 automaker for repudiating claims by AFA's Wildmon

By **Tammye Nash**
Staff Correspondent

Two days after meeting with leaders of several GLBT groups, Ford Motor Company on Wednesday released a statement affirming its support for corporate policies and charitable giving directed to gay groups, and promising to continue advertising in the gay media.

"We have decided to run corporate ads in these targeted publications that will include not only Jaguar/Land Rover but all eight of Ford's vehicle brands," said a statement signed by Joe W.

WASHINGTON Laymon, vice president for Ford's human resources department. The statement, asked that gays "judge our intent by what you see" in the upcoming advertisements.

Laymon's letter came two weeks after the Tupelo, Miss.-based American Family Association canceled its Ford boycott, which was announced in May amid criticism that the automaker was too accommodating of gays.

Ford's upcoming ads apparently will specifically target GLBT consumers, contrary to claims by Donald Wildmon, president of the conservative family association, that Ford had agreed to avoid creating advertisements geared to gay car-buyers and would drop its financial support of gay events and organizations.

Laymon's statement said that the automaker "expects our brands to create advertising that supports their brand image and is appropriate and effective in connecting to the intended audience."

A coalition of 24 GLBT advocacy groups issued a joint statement on Wednesday commending Ford's "firm stance for inclusion." The statement called Laymon's letter an "unequivocal reaffirmation" of the company's longtime support.

"It is conclusive proof of what Ford leaders have repeatedly assured us, that there was

never any deal with anti-LGBT organization concerning Ford's support for our community," said the statement from the gay groups.

Days after the boycott was announced in May, it was put on hold when a group of Ford dealers arranged a meeting between the family association's leaders and Ford.

Wildmon said Dec. 1 that Ford had agreed to stop advertising its premium brands in the gay media, stop developing ads specifically targeting gay consumers, and cut back its financial support of gay events and groups.

The announcement provoked strong criticism of the automaker from GLBT leaders, who called on Ford to disavow any agreement with the conservative association and asked for a meeting with Ford executives.

At the time, Ford said it did not make the decision because of pressure from conservative Christian groups. It said the cutbacks were due to difficult marketing conditions.

Premier Automatic Group posted a pretax loss of \$108 million in the third quarter.

Ford met with gay leaders on Monday, and it appeared that the automaker would stand firm.

One participant, Neil Giuliani, executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, said the meeting "shows that they do not have an understanding of our positions."

But concern turned to joy on Wednesday as the groups buzzed the Internet issuing statements praising Ford.

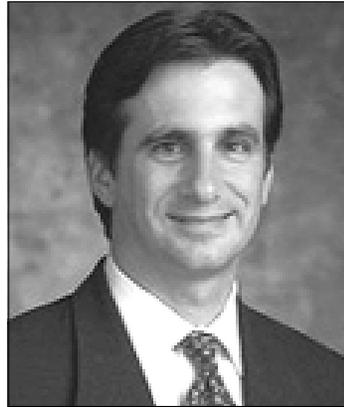
"We applaud Ford Motor for taking such a firm stand on behalf of our community," said Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

Giuliani said Ford "did the right thing here, both for its brands and for its bottom line."

Laymon said the automaker meets regularly with groups that have an interest in its policies, but did not mention the American Family Association by name.

"That said, we expect to be measured not by the meetings we conduct but by our conduct itself. Our record on tolerance and inclusion speaks for itself," Laymon said.

The American Family Association had



Neil Giuliani, executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, expressed disappointment after Monday's meeting with Ford, but had high praise for the automaker after Ford released a statement Wednesday repudiating claims by the American Family Association.

issued no statement on this latest development as of Wednesday afternoon.

The joint statement from the gay groups concluded: "We are proud to be back in gear with Ford and look forward to working with them in the years ahead."

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Gays' gloves come off in Alito nomination fight

Five groups announce they oppose appeals judge's ascension to Supreme Court

By Ann Rostow
Senior Staff Writer

Five GLBT rights organizations this week announced their opposition to the nomination of Samuel Alito Jr. to the United States Supreme Court.

In a joint statement released Monday, the Human Rights Campaign, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, and Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays charged that the nominee lacks the political independence to sit on the court. The same four groups banded together last summer to oppose the nomination of Chief Justice John Roberts.

In a separate statement, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund also turned thumbs down, charging that the federal appellate judge "has a political agenda different from that required of members of the judiciary."

In a statement, Lambda's executive director, Kevin Cathcart, said Alito's political agenda "leads him to write judicial decisions

to make the law conform to his politics. He then applies legal craftsmanship and precedent to justify the law he is making."

In a separate analysis, Lambda conceded that Alito "is a fine legal craftsman who knows how to read and respond to precedent." But the compliment was a left-handed one. Lambda went on to warn, essentially, that legal talent in service to a political ideology is particularly dangerous.

The bulk of the evidence arrayed against Alito's candidacy involves his 1985 job application to a deputy post in the Attorney General's office, his previous work in the 1980s as assistant to the solicitor general, and his narrow reading of federal employment law and case law on abortion rights while serving on the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

In the application, Alito, then 35, described himself as a staunch conservative. He said he believed that the Constitution does not protect the right to an abortion and that racial quotas were constitutionally flawed. In a previous memo, he had laid out a 17-page strategy to undercut *Roe v. Wade*. And most famously, he wrote a dissent in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, arguing that Pennsylvania had the right to require a woman who is having an abortion to inform



In a file photo, Judge Samuel Alito is seen in Washington on Nov. 15. Five gay groups announced opposition this week to Alito's confirmation as a Supreme Court justice.

ful use of "procedural hair-splitting that disadvantages employee plaintiffs." Although Title VII does not mention sexual orientation, its broad ban on discrimination "because of ... sex" has been used to the advantage of some gay and lesbian plaintiffs.

Judge Alito's hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee have been scheduled for Jan. 9. According to an article in the *Legal Times*, Alito appears to have the votes for confirmation on the floor of the Senate, where 55 Republicans are countered by 44 Democrats and one Independent. One Democrat, Ben Nelson of Nebraska, is expected to vote in favor of Alito, and a handful of others might break ranks as well. On the other side of the aisle, only three Republicans might be likely to vote against the nominee.

The possibility of a filibuster also seems remote. Although the stalling tactic has not been expressly ruled out by the Democratic leadership, Jim Manley, the spokesman for Senator Harry Reid, the minority leader, said the "only person talking about a filibuster is Senator Frist and some of the far-right fringe groups," speaking of the Senate Majority Leader, Bill Frist.

her spouse if he is the father of the child.

Lambda noted that Alito, also in 1985, helped author a justice department opinion stating that people with AIDS do not require protection under the Rehabilitation Act — the law against disability bias in the federal workplace — because fear of contagion outweighed the civil rights of the individuals in question. The Supreme Court disagreed two years later.

Alito has never ruled or commented on a clear-cut matter of gay equality, but his interpretation of Title VII, the federal law prohibiting discrimination in the workplace, was characterized in Lambda's analysis as a skill-

Contact the writer: Ann@txtnewsmag.com

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Rancor in a red state and Christmas witches dance in our heads

Hawkeye marriage challenge

Lambda Legal filed a marriage suit in Iowa this week, something of a departure from the usual venue for such cases. Isn't Iowa a red state? (I checked and the answer is yes.) Nonetheless, the Corn State is not one of the 19 with anti-marriage constitutional amendments, nor does it have a standard DOMA, although it does define a "valid" marriage by statute as one between a male and a female.

Iowa also has a hate crime statute covering sexual orientation, but so does Texas, so what does that tell you? At any rate, one assumes that Lambda has excellent reasons for moving the legal fight for marriage into the heartland.

A couple of other observations: It takes two years for Iowa to amend its constitution, which requires two successive legislative sessions to vote in favor, followed by a referendum vote by citizens. The state Senate is evenly divided between Democrats and Republicans, and they managed to block an amendment last spring. Second, the high court recently told conservative lawmakers to take a hike when they wanted to intervene in the matter of two women trying to dissolve their Vermont civil union. A lower judge granted the court order in a decision that conservatives felt created a state precedent for recognizing same-sex unions. But the justices ruled that the busybodies lacked standing to intervene. I guess that's a positive sign, right?



Ann Rostow

New justice for California

Whatever. I'm just waiting for the Washington supreme court. What the hell is taking those justices so long to rule? They could have conceived and delivered a baby in the time they've spent deliberating over the state's marriage law.

Speaking of supreme courts, Arnold Schwarzenegger has named state appellate judge Carol Corrigan, 57, to replace Janice Rogers Brown on the California Supreme Court. I notice I have written a note to myself that says "check out," suggesting that at one point I apparently intended to make a phone call or two in order to find out Ms. Corrigan's secret view on gay rights.

Since it's too early to call California, I had to rely on Google, where to my horror one of the "Carol Corrigan" entries began: "Carol is in her mid-to late thirties, an attractive and cheerful born-again Christian. She became a disciple of the Church of God and Light after a series of unlucky life events — she lost her job, her first husband ran off with someone, and unable to meet house repayments, she defaulted on her mortgage."

Fortunately, that Carol Corrigan was a character on the New Zealand soap opera "Shortland Street," so we don't have to worry about her judicial temperament. The real Corrigan appears to be a solid if conservative judge with a quick wit. Well, we don't need further research to know that she tilts the court to the left by replacing Brownie, one of the most disturbing individuals ever to don a black robe in this country. Brown, of course, is now installed on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, where at least she won't participate in California's equal marriage cases now pending before the state appellate court in San Francisco.

Cheers!

For some reason I just received a press release from an anti-smoking group, announcing that three state attorneys general have written a sharp letter to RJ Reynolds complaining about a new promotion for Camel. I gather that the tobacco company somehow discovers people's birthdays, and sends them a set of six drink coasters with potent cocktail recipes and amusing captions. One calls for five shots of rum and a can of frozen lemonade poured into a tall glass, and announces: "Kiss your worries goodbye!" Another suggests: "Mix three shots together over ice, then make sure you're sittin'!"

New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer called the coasters "a complete abomination." He was joined in his Old Testament style condemnation of the entertaining advertising program by California's Bill Lockyer and Maryland's J. Joseph Curran. Apparently, the combination of smoking and excessive drinking does more damage to your health than either vice indulged separately. Who knew? I don't know about you, but I'm awfully thirsty right now. I'm also a little miffed that RJ Reynolds missed my birthday last month, although if I were making the drinks, I'd substitute a vintage Champagne for the frozen lemonade, and I'd leave out the rum.

The doctor is in

So, our gay cowboy flick is getting rave reviews, but you wouldn't know it from the Focus on the Family newsletter, where associate editor Pete Winn warns that *Brokeback Mountain* "carries a high ick factor." Winn also quotes Focus on the Family "analyst" Caleb H. Price, who says youth can be led astray into thinking gay sexuality is perfectly normal, "a message that homosexual activist groups have been harping about for years."

Harping? I beg your pardon! As a card carrying homosexual activist, I have never

"harped" in my life, and nor have my esteemed cohorts in our vocal community. We advocate. We challenge the status quo. We articulate the case for equal rights. We do not "harp."

Your mother harps

Oh. And here's someone called Ted Baehr, excuse me, Dr. Ted Baehr, from MovieGuide. "If you're not looking at this through the eyes of someone caught up in the 'love affair' between these two men, then the movie appears to be twisted, laughable, frustrating and boring Neo-Marxist homosexual propaganda."

Hmmmm.
MovieGuide appears to be a section of

Sleep in heavenly peace

Finally, I have to say a word on behalf of the Fight for Christmas. An elementary school in Dodgeville, Wis., has gratuitously created new lyrics to "Silent Night," which is now titled "Cold in the Night."

According to Focus on the Family, the song goes: "Cold in the night, no one in sight, winter winds, whirl and bite. How I wish I were happy and warm. Safe with my family, out of the storm." These self-styled Lorenz Harts of Dodgeville should go back to school administration, in my view.

The school also plans to decorate classrooms with images Santa, Kwanzaa things, Menorahs and "Labafana," which Mat Staver of the Liberty Counsel (who admits he's never heard of her) explains is "apparently a



Brokeback Mountain, starring Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal, was declared best film by critics film associations in New York and Los Angeles and got seven nominations for Golden Globe Awards, but the best Focus on the Family can say about it? The film has a high "ick" factor.

Christian Living Magazine, offering "a ministry dedicated to redeeming the values of the mass media according to biblical principles." *Brokeback Mountain* was ranked in the "abhorrent" category, along with *Rent*, *Syriana*, *The Ice Harvest* and most of the other current releases with the notable exception of *The Chronicles of Namia* ("absolutely thrilling!").

As for Harry Potter, Dr. Baehr believes that "it's time for all Americans, especially all Christians and Jews, to take a stand against the witchcraft promoted by Harry Potter."

The Potter books and movies, he continues, "promote a very dangerous occult worldview that clouds the minds of children, teenagers and even adults by making witchcraft and spiritualism seem attractive and innocent."

Note to self: Obtain fingernail clippings from Ted Baehr. Ask NCLR about Carol Corrigan. Marinate bat wings. Coffee!!!

Christmas witch."

La Befana is actually not a witch, but a character in an Italian Christmas story. According to the tale, the three wise men stopped at the house of an old woman, seeking directions. They asked her to come searching for the king who had just been born, but she was too busy.

She subsequently changed her mind and went after them but it was too late, so she gave gifts to every small child she met in hopes that he was the one the Magi had described.

In Italy, and elsewhere, La Befana gives small presents to children on 12th Night of Christmas, Jan. 6.

But you know what? This ain't Italy, honey. It's America and we don't need no friggin' Christmas witches in our schools, now do we?

Contact the writer: Ann@txtnewsmag.com

Letters

Attention, Dale Carpenter

Why are you a Republican?

As a woman who is a strong supporter of equal rights for everyone, I am insulted by your allegiance to a political party that wants to deny me rights to birth control, abortion and the right to marry the adult of my choice. Of course, I'm also upset over this illegal war, the mind-boggling theft of billions of dollars to support it, and every other mind-numbingly stupid and evil action taken by the Republican Party — especially in the last six years.

However, I am even more frustrated by the fact that you are gay. I support you, but not your political party because they hate you. But they will take your vote.

Jennifer Lyn Beegle / Houston

Dale Carpenter responds: If you're really interested in finding out more about my views and the views of other gay moderates and conservatives, visit IndeGayforum.com.

Brokeback Mountain

I really don't understand why there would be a problem with the believability and accuracy of *Brokeback Mountain*. Are Texans, or anyone else, naive enough to believe that there were no gay cowboys? There are gay NFL players, gay politicians, gay people in every walk of life. Why not cowboys?

Maybe they didn't have a word for it, but intimate contact, even sex, would not have been unfamiliar to men on those long trail nights away from women. How much different even from prison or the military? "If you can't be with the one you love..." as the old saying goes.

Then they would return to their wives and girlfriends and resume their "other" lives. But some of those "other lives" no doubt, still included men. Married men do it often when they are out of town traveling on business.

Bill Lee / Euless, Texas

Rejoice! AIDS is cured!

Christmas is the season to rejoice and we all have reason to rejoice. AIDS has been cured! Certainly everyone has heard this great news.

I'm sorry I missed it. I'm sure there's a simple explanation. I don't read the paper on a regular basis or watch TV news much. Yeah, that's it.

But if that's not the answer, then what is? You see, I attended my first World AIDS Day service at the Cathedral of Hope and there were only about 50 people there. Apparently they didn't get the memo, either.

A cure must be the explanation. What other reason could there be?

If that isn't it, then I'm really confused — confused as to how there could be such a small turnout for such an important event, an event that only takes one hour of our time on just one day of the year.

If these aren't the reasons, then could anyone kindly explain it to me? Every person has been affected in a very personal way by this disease. We all know someone who is either living with this (I expect there are more than 50 of us) or has died from AIDS.

I ask you not to forget, to keep it always on the forefront of your mind and actions. Perhaps this holiday season, you could tie a red ribbon to each of the packages or gift bags that you give and ask those friends and family not to forget either.

Jay Esby / Dallas

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

Wanna shag? Put on a bag

There is no safer alternative for sexually active people than condoms

Every so often a really stupid idea infiltrates the GLBT community and takes on a lethal life of its own. For example, I don't quite understand how crystal methamphetamine, or "Tina," became the club drug of choice. When did staying up for a week without sleep and listening to droning music without lyrics become fun?

Another really dumb idea someone ginned up — probably while tweaking on Tina — is "barebacking," a term that glamorizes sex without condoms.

"Hey, let's make HIV infection sound like a night at the rodeo!"

The latest harebrained notion to toxically slither into the gay vernacular is "condom fatigue." This is the theory that the rules for safer sex have to be reinvented because people are fed up with using prophylactics. Proponents say that a "Just Say No" approach to unprotected sex is impractical.

People are tired of using condoms. Oh, my.

Well, I don't particularly like stopping for red lights, either, because it tends to slow me down. Nor do I enjoy pausing at crosswalks for rumbling trucks. Let's not forget seat belts — they totally suck. And riding a motorcycle with a helmet keeps the wind from blowing freely through my hair. I'm also over the gym and would prefer that the government declare TV-watching an aerobic sport and cheese fries a food group.

Unfortunately, there are laws of nature and common sense that can't be defied no matter how annoying or cumbersome. However, this hasn't stopped some well-intentioned prevention experts from trying.

One AIDS prevention worker recently said if someone has unprotected anal sex five times a week and then chooses to replace one sexual encounter each week with oral sex, AIDS educators regard that as a success story.

Huh?

I'm sure this worker is trying to do the right thing and should be commended for working to find innovative solu-

tions from a place of care and compassion. I'm not convinced, however, that playing Russian roulette with one bullet instead of two will lower the HIV infection rate. This idea that we can run every other red light will weaken the overall prevention message and allow people to justify potentially deadly transgressions.

There are those who would argue that my approach isn't realistic because the HIV rate is not significantly going down, even though we've known how the virus is transmitted for more than two decades. I respond by pointing out that the glass isn't half empty. The condom message has reached tens of millions of people who do practice safe sex. Instead of promoting irresponsible

strategies that will compound the epidemic, here are a few practical steps that will reduce HIV:

Repetition — People need to be constantly reminded that wearing condoms is the norm and the expectation of sex partners and society in general. This message should be ubiquitous: "No Bag, No Shag." Positive reinforcement is crucial to limiting new infections.

Availability — It isn't the '70s anymore, and most people go to the bar to meet up with friends, not hook up with strangers. So, when connections are made they are often spontaneous and neither partner has emergency gear. This is why bars and clubs — gay and straight — should make condoms and lubrication widely available. Easy access

helps people make the correct decisions and protect themselves.

Stop Lying — Sex *does* feel better without a condom. One-night stands can be really pleasurable and emotionally satisfying. Drugs do enhance sexual pleasure. Telling people that they didn't have as much fun as they know they did is remarkably counterproductive. When we lie about these simple truths, we undermine our credibility and become part of the problem. The message should be: Yes, these activities are fun, but they can also be fatal. Is it really worth your life or the aggravation of drug cocktails? If we talk to people like adults, they often act like adults.

Have A Plan — Take a moment to create a sex strategy that vastly reduces the risk of HIV transmission. Think about sexual boundaries. For example, if you can't handle your alcohol, make a rule that you won't go home with someone if boozing. Having such boundaries is key, because negotiating them during the heat of passion often leads to bad decisions.

Trust — Don't trust the guy you just met on the Internet. If he lied about his penis size, what makes you think he's telling the truth about his HIV status?

People are human and will make mistakes. None of us are immune to letting our guard down. Instead of complaining about condom fatigue, we should put on fatigues and declare war on unsafe sex. Where the rubber meets the road, there is still no safer alternative for sexually active people than condoms.

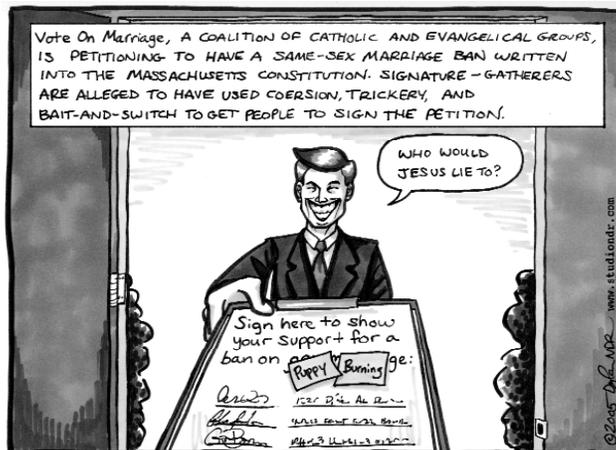
Wayne Besen is a watchdog of "ex-gay" groups and author of *Anything But Straight: Unmasking the Scandals and Lies Behind the Ex-Gay Myth*.

Contact the writer: Wbesen@aol.com



Anything but Straight

By Wayne Besen



- Awards ■ 21
- Film ■ 25
- Booknotes ■ 26
- Performance ■ 27
- Profile ■ 33

With a song in their hearts

Gay Texas artists led by Christian Andreason help Katrina relief with the release of new benefit CD

By Joey Guerra

This year's record-breaking hurricane season has reached its official, bitter end, but the wounds remain fresh for its victims, many of whom relocated in Texas. The ongoing need is what drives the local and national artists featured on *The Katrina CD, Vol. 1*.

The project was spearheaded by Houston-based inspirational singer Christian Andreason. The openly gay performer started compiling tracks just a few weeks after Hurricane Katrina decimated New Orleans.

"There are so many calling out for help right now. So many feel forgotten," Andreason says.

But the Texas recording industry stepped up to the plate. Essential Sound Mastering in Houston donated time and materials to master the disc. Every artist donated his or her song free of charge.

Andreason says he postponed promotion of his own solo album, *The Rhythm of Life*, because he felt compelled to do something more than donate clothes and food to help survivors. He used his own savings to get the disc started, and found songs and contributors. All proceeds raised from CD sales beyond production costs will be distributed to charity.

"The moment I made up my mind to do this CD, I grabbed the phone and rarely removed it from my ear for six weeks," Andreason says. "I sat down and made a list of songs I wanted to listen to during a time like this. I wanted music that included powerful lyrical content, strong melodic lines as well as moving vocals."

What makes the disc an ultimately affecting gift is the variety in sounds, the diversity in singers and the package's overall professionalism. *The Katrina CD* features original songs from several gay artists, including Houstonian Alan Lett, photogenic couple Jason & deMarco, gospel crooner Jeanie Cunningham, Grammy-winning producer Joe Hogue, Broadway star Billy Porter and sexy soul singer Ari Gold.

"When it came to choosing the artists, I guess I subliminally figured that folks who are actually from the Gulf Coast area would be more apt to donate their music. I didn't necessarily plan on using so many artists originating from Texas; it just happened to turn out that way," Andreason says. "Not to brag about my home state or anything, but artists from Texas just seem to be more generous with their music."

"When the Katrina disaster happened, and I saw how the people who were affected were



Recording Artists for Hope

The Katrina CD, Vol. 1

Wonderboy Records

Messages of hope and understanding come in wildly diverse sonic packages. Just take a listen to *The Katrina CD, Vol. 1*. The eclectic, electric disc features pop, dance, country and Latin rhythms united for similar goals: relief, recovery and redemption.

Good intentions are one thing, but any disc should deliver on the ears as well, and this one does.

Houston's former KHOU-TV 11 consumer reporter (turned quirky diva) Eileen Faxas snaps and crackles on the salsa ditty "Vivelo," and singer Jez rides a swirl of complex guitar riffs and soaring vocals on "Prodigal." Even better is the haunting simplicity of Glenna Bell's "Tumbling Down," a duet with country-rocker John Evans. Jason & deMarco preview their upcoming album with the sultry dance track "Just in Time," a song written and produced by 21-year-old Houston native Alan Lett. Lett's own "From Now On (Second Chance)" is accessible and adventurous.

Ballads from Katrina Parker and Cameren Dezen provide moments of grace, but the disc's most resonant track comes from Kim Carson, who lived for 15 years in New Orleans and still had a home there when Katrina laid its path of destruction. "I'm going back to Louisiana/I gotta get there just as fast as I can," Carson sings on her gumbo-flavored country romp. It's a sentiment survivors can likely relate to all too well.

— Joey Guerra

being treated, I wanted so badly to find a way to help in any way that I could," says Gold, an emerging gay icon whose angelic face and toned physique have graced countless magazine covers and fashion spreads. His song "Space Under Sun" is a highlight of the CD.

"Space Under Sun" is a song about the journey we go through to find out how we fit into this world and allowing the universe to guide us," Gold says. "I thought that this journey would resonate with the victims of Hurricane Katrina, as they have been displaced and many lost their homes."



Andreason

Plenty of friendly straight folks have also rallied for the cause. The kitschy Kitten K. Sera (formerly Houston-based performer Pinque) twinkles and shines on "All That I'm Looking For," a campy gem that features backing vocals from Destiny's Child divas Beyonce and Kelly Rowland. Dance-floor favorite Jenna Drey also kicks up the energy on the insanely catchy "Why Should I Believe You," which is already poised for a big splash on *Billboard*'s dance club play chart.

Music, it seems, does indeed make the people come together. It can also make a difference in the lives of people who so desperately need a ray of hope, as several contributing artists have indicated.

"When it comes to humanity, we are all the same; we are all equal. In times of hardship, if I can help anyone, I will," says Hogue, whose inspirational song "Dreamer" closes the album. "God teaches us to love one another. That's it — it's that simple. And when you love, you heal. That's what I believe. I hope that many more people reach out. Gay, straight, whatever! We are all human and deserve respect and love."

The Katrina CD can be purchased online at Katrinacd.com or at Cactus Music & Video. More outlets will be added in the coming months, and Andreason plans to produce additional volumes — "as long as there is a need," he says.



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tracks

Depeche Mode *Playing the Angel*

Sire Records

Thank the techno heavens that Depeche Mode became uncool for a decade. Without a period of wallowing in mediocrity, capped by the blasé CD *Exciter* in 2001, Mode's invigorating comeback album, *Playing the Angel*, might have been lost among current synth heavies from alterna-geeks like The Killers or Franz Ferdinand.

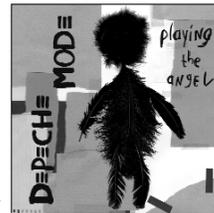
But fear not: the Mode is back. *Angel* brims with an earnest, hip glee and a natural, rolling pulse.

The album works as a single unit — a compliment considering the current saturation of single-single wonders. Even so, each track satisfies individually, especially the first single, "Precious," which swells and ebbs discretely, even hypnotically, until you find you're tapping your feet.

But "Precious" is no fluke. The whole album delivers Moments of schmalz rear up, as in the obvious "Lilian," yet without them, the CD could collapse. That's a testament to Mode's talent and longevity.

Depeche Mode was the original stadium-filling techno band, as parents remember well. With *Angel*, their kids are about to realize why.

—Ryan Short



The East Village Opera Company *The East Village Opera Company*

Decca Records

No doubt some purists will be horrified by this collection of classical operatic arias and overtures arranged for a rock audience. (I don't seem to recall Puccini using a steel guitar in the original orchestrations for *Turandot*.) But for those who think *La Bohème* benefited — or at least didn't suffer — from being reimaged as *Rent*, this could be a dream come true.

The redux versions of Delibes's "Flower Duet" from *Lakmé* (ripe with its lesbian subtext), Bizet's "Au font du temple saint" (with a woozy alt-rock vibe, and "Habanera" with additional lyrics by its queer singer, AnnMarie Milazzo) and Puccini's "Un bel di" from *Madama Butterfly* offer intoxicatingly groovy variations on the staid world of opera.

The irony is, you probably have to be an opera fan to fully enjoy the disc, and fans are likely the ones most easily scared away from its unconventionality. But the musically is solid and for those interested in the classic sound without the patience for its stiffness, this is an ideal primer.

—Arnold Wayne Jones



Madonna *Confessions on a Dance Floor*

Warner Bros. Records

La M's latest disc is being hailed as her glorious return to glitterball heaven, but any good gay boy know she never went away in the first place. Madonna's last album, 2003's *American Life*, was labeled a mainstream flop, but its torrent of singles — "Hollywood," "Love Profusion," "Nobody Knows Me," the title track — all topped the club-play charts.

Confessions on a Dance Floor cuts a straight path from disco to disco heaven, and it's even being offered in a 12-track continuous mix. Choice cuts "Hung Up," "Get Together," "Sorry" and "Future Lovers" bleed effortlessly into each other, and the beats come fast and hard. There are shades of Donna Summer here, sprinkles of Kylie there, but in the end, *Confessions* is pure, essential Madonna. She offers a defiant tribute in "I Love New York," and contemplates the price of celebrity during "Let It Will Be" and "How High."

Vocally, she's never sounded so seductive, particularly during the intoxicating strains of "Forbidden Love" and the electric vibe of "Jump." Madonna closes with the tribal thrust of "Push," a love letter to those who have made her a better person; and "Like It or Not," a rousing declaration of self-acceptance. Dance divas are a dime a dozen, but Madonna's rousing *Confessions* proves why she's still worth her weight in gold, sequins and glitter.

—Joey Guerra



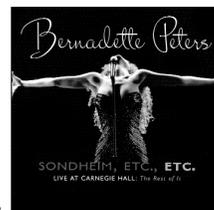
Bernadette Peters *Sondheim Etc. Etc.*

Angel

Though some may be reluctant to admit it, we all love a collection of Broadway show tunes. And we especially love show tunes performed by legendary Tony-winning vocal dynamos like Bernadette Peters. *Sondheim Etc. Etc.* (a follow up to *Sondheim Etc.*), recorded live in December 1996 during a solo performance by Peters at Carnegie Hall, is nothing short of a mesmerizing journey.

The 12-track disc kicks off (after an obligatory overture) with a bubbly and entertaining medley of "We're in the Money" and "Pennies from Heaven," shifts into torch song territory with "If You Were the Only Boy," and manages to strike deeply emotional chords with Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Unexpected Song" and a haunting rendition of John David Souther's "Faithless Love." As the album's title suggests, there are also a number of Sondheim favorites, including "Later" and "Children Will Listen." The disc concludes with a cheery "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" sing-along, a fact that makes it the perfect holiday gift for the closeted show tune lovers on your holiday list. And don't forget an extra copy for yourself.

—Scott Huffman



Frame: Face à Face



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Best Athletic Apparel:	Rooster Andrews
Best Cellular Service:	Sprint
Best Auto Dealership:	First TX Honda
Best Eyewear/Optical:	Santa Fe Optical
Best Music Store:	Choapo Discs
Best Hotel:	Four Seasons
Best Bathhouse:	Midtown Spa
Best Hair Salon:	Jackson Ruiz
Best Hair Stylist:	Ryan Carrell
Best Massage:	Tony Howard
Best Gym:	Golds Gym Downtown
Best Personal Trainer:	Golds Gym
Best Dentist:	Michael Lessner
Best Chiropractor:	Mary Beth Maier
Best Veterinarian:	Susan Culp
Best Mechanic:	Richmond Automotive
Best Home Repair:	Aries Remodeling
Best Mortgage Company:	ZK Mortgage

Best Bank:	Wells Fargo
Best Insurance Agency:	Allstate - Maurice Kholmman
Best Real Estate Agency:	Presidio Group Realtors
Best Real Estate Agent:	Julie Nelson
Best Travel Agency:	Travel Masters
Best Airline:	American Airlines
Best Florist:	Enchanted Florist
Best Cosmetic Surgeon:	Sergio P. Maggi
Best Apartment Locator:	A+ Apts.
Best Attorney:	John Butler
Best Photographer:	Mark Lynch

Community

Best Fundraiser:	Austin Bobrist Women Christmas Show
Best GLBT Activist:	Bettie Naylor
Best GLBT Organization:	Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby (Equality Texas)
Best Thing To Happen GLBT:	Defeat of foster care ban
Worst Thing To Happen GLBT:	Proposition 2
Best Local Official:	Browster McCracken, City Council Place 5 Rep. Senfronia Thompson
Best State Official:	MCC Austin
Best Place Of Worship:	KGSR
Best Radio (General):	KOOP
Best GLBT Friendly Radio:	KXAN
Best TV General:	KXAN
Best GLBT Friendly TV:	KXAN

Places

Best Bed and Breakfast:	Adam's House B & B
Best Weekend Getaway:	New Braunfels
Best Neighborhood:	Hyde Park
Best Park:	Zilker Park
Best Bike/Walk Trail:	Town Lake
Best Tourist Destination:	Hippie Hollow
Best Place To Meet Somebody:	Little City

Arts & Entertainment

Best Indie Film Theater:	Alamo Draft House
Best Local Stage Production:	Keeping Austin Weird (Zach Scott)
Best Touring Stage Production:	Stomp
Best Entertainer (Drag):	Samona Riviera
Best Entertainer (Other):	Hedda Lane
Best Museum:	Austin Museum Of Art
Best Live Music Venue:	The Backyard
Best Festival:	Austin City Limits
Best Local Sports Team:	University of Texas Longhorns
Best Tourist Destination:	Hippie Hollow
Best GLBT Family Web Site:	Out In Austin
Best GLBT Adult Web Site:	Gay.Com



ROUND UP AWARDS 2006 BEST OF DALLAS-FORT WORTH

Restaurants

Best Breakfast Spot:	Market Diner
Best 24 Hour Restaurant:	Café Brazil
Best Brunch:	Monica's Aca y Alla
Best Vegetarian:	Cosmic Cup Cafe
Best Greek:	Fadi's
Best Asian:	Steel
Best Italian:	Vitto Italian
Best Mexican:	Gloria's
Best Thai:	Thai Noodle
Best Sushi:	Deep Sushi
Best Pizza:	Campisi's
Best Seafood:	Pappadeaux
Best Steakhouse:	Bob's Steak and Chop House
Best Margarita:	Monica's Aca y Alla
Best Burger:	Hunky's
Best Patio:	Hunky's
Best For People Watching:	JR's balcony
Most Romantic Restaurant:	The Grape
Best To Take Family:	Black-Eyed Pea
Best Barbeque:	Sonny Bryan
Best Buffet:	Thai Nipa
Best Take Out:	Eatzi's
Best Caesar Salad:	La Madeline
Best Fast Food:	Café Express
Best Coffee House:	Buli's
Best New Restaurant:	Buli's
Best Wait Staff:	Riviera

Bars and Clubs

Best All-Around Bar:	JR's
Best Leather:	Dallas Eagle
Best Lesbian:	Sue Ellen's
Best Dance:	Throckmorton Mining Company
Best Cabaret/Piano:	Bill's Hideaway
Best Country Western:	Round-Up Saloon
Sexiest Staff:	Mickey's
Friendliest Staff:	(Tie) JR's, Round-Up Saloon
Best Off The Beaten Path:	Grapevine Bar
Best Happy Hour:	JR's
Best Martini:	Alexander's
Best Theme Night:	Throckmorton Mining Company

Best Drag Show:	The Rose Room
Best Club D.J.:	Toto: Tot at Throckmorton Mining Company
Best Karaoke:	Round-Up Saloon
Best After Hours:	Throckmorton Mining Company
Best Place To Shoot Pool:	Round-Up Saloon
Best Weekday Hangout:	Hidden Door
Best Straight Bar:	Grapevine Bar

Services

Best Pet Supply:	Petsmart
Best Pet Adoption:	SPCA of Texas
Best Video Rental:	Tapolenders
Best Adult Video Rental:	Alternatives at New Fine Arts
Best Bookstore:	Crossroads Market
Best Furniture:	IKEA
Best Art Gallery:	Goss Gallery
Best Apparel:	Outlines
Best Piercing/Tattoo:	Obscurities
Best Gift/Boutique:	Off The Street
Best Toy Store (Adult):	Condom Sense
Best Second-hand Consignment:	Upscale Resale
Best Grocery:	Kroger
Best Antiques Shop:	Lula B's
Best Computer/High Tech:	Apple Store
Best Jewelry Store:	ICE House
Best Health Food Nutrition:	Whole Foods
Best Leather Shop:	Shades Of Grey
Best Liquor Store:	Goody Goody
Best Lux Rental:	Ascot Tuxedo
Best Athletic Apparel:	Luka's Locker
Best Cellular Service:	(Tie) Sprint, Cingular
Best Auto Dealership:	John Eagle Honda
Best Eyewear/Optical:	Image Eye Wear
Best Music Store:	Tower Records
Best Hotel:	Hotel Zaza
Best Bathroom:	Club Dallas
Best Hair Salon:	(Tie) Supercuts, Zen Clipz
Best Hair Stylist:	Gary Walden at State-Thomas Salon
Best Massage:	Paul Walker, Relaxation By Design
Best Gym:	Performance Playground
Best Personal Trainer:	Brian Hall
Best Tanning Salon:	Beaches
Best Medical Practitioner:	Jaime Vasquez
Best Dentist:	Allan Moodgen
Best Chiropractor:	Doug Kirkpatrick
Best Veterinarian:	Chip Cannon, City Vet
Best Mechanic:	TJ Smith at Christian Bros. Automotive
Best Home Repair:	Don Beeler
Best Mortgage Company:	Shelter Mortgage

Best Bank:	Wells Fargo
Best Insurance Agency:	Steve Graves Insurance Agency
Best Real Estate Agency:	Master Realtors
Best Real Estate Agent:	Lory Masters
Best Travel Agency:	Pride Travel
Best Airline:	American Airlines
Best Florist:	Bishop Arts Floral
Best Cosmetic Surgeon:	David Martin
Best Apartment Locator:	Promove
Best Attorney:	Cynthia Asensio
Best Photographer:	Shawn Northcutt

Community

Best Fundraiser:	Black Tie Dinner
Best GLBT Activist:	Steve Atkinson
Best GLBT Organization:	HRC
Best Thing To Happen GLBT:	North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce
Worst Thing To Happen GLBT:	Proposition 2
Best Local Official:	Ed Oakley
Best State Official:	Rafeal Anchia
Best Place Of Worship:	Cathedral Of Hope
Best Radio (General):	KERA 90.1
Best GLBT Friendly Radio:	KDGE 102.1
Best TV General :	WFAA ABC 8
Best GLBT Friendly TV:	Logo

Places

Best Bed and Breakfast :	(Tie) Daisy Polk Inn, Lockhart Gables
Best Weekend Getaway:	Austin
Best Neighborhood:	Kessler Park
Best Park:	White Rock Lake
Best Bike Walk Trail:	Katy Trail
Best Tourist Destination:	Nasher Sculpture Center
Best Place To Meet Somebody:	JR's

Arts & Entertainment

Best Indie Film Theatre:	Angelika Film Center
Best Local Stage Production:	Southern Baptist Sissies (Uptown Players)
Best Touring Stage Production:	Wicked
Best Entertainer (Drag):	Cassie Nova
Best Entertainer (Other):	Doniso Lee
Best Museum:	Nasher Sculpture Center
Best Live Music Venue:	Smirnoff Music Centre
Best Festival:	Halloween On Cedar Springs
Best Local Sports Team:	Mavericks
Best GLBT Family Web Site:	Dallas Voice
Best GLBT Adult Web Site:	Manhunt.Net



ROUND UP AWARDS 2006 BEST OF HOUSTON

Restaurants

Best Breakfast Spot:	Baby Barnaby's
Best 24 Hour Restaurant:	House Of Pies
Best Brunch:	Baba Yega
Best Vegetarian:	Baba Yega
Best Greek:	Niko Niko's
Best Chinese:	Hollywood
Best Italian:	Corrabba's
Best Mexican:	Cafe Adobe
Best Thai:	Nit Noi
Best Sushi:	Cafe Japon
Best Pizza:	Star Pizza
Best Seafood:	Pappadoux
Best Steakhouse:	Vic & Anthony's
Best Margarita:	Cafe Adobe
Best Burger:	Barnaby's
Best Patio:	Baba Yega
Best For People Watching:	Galleria
Most Romantic Restaurant:	Mark's
Best To Take Family:	Little Pappasito's
Best Barbeque:	Goode & Company
Best Buffet:	Aladdin Mediterranean Cuisine
Best Take Out:	Barnaby's
Best Caesar Salad:	La Madeleine
Best Fast Food:	Whataburger
Best Coffee House:	Starbucks
Best Wait Staff:	Barnaby's

Bars and Clubs

Best All-Around Bar:	JR's - Houston
Best Leather:	Ripcord
Best Lesbian:	Chances
Best Dance:	South Beach
Best Country Western:	Brazos River Bottom
Sexiest Staff:	South Beach
Friendliest Staff:	JR's
Best Off The Beaten Path:	EJ's
Best Happy Hour:	JR's - Houston

Best Martini:	Meteor
Best Theme Night:	JR's Wednesday
Best Drag Show:	JR's
Best Club Dj:	J.D. Arnold
Best Karaoke:	JR's
Best After Hours:	South Beach
Best Place To Shoot Pool:	Slick Willie's
Best Weekday Hangout:	JR's
Best Straight Bar:	Doco

Services

Best Pet Supply:	Petsmart
Best Pet Adoption:	SPCA of Texas
Best Video Rental:	Hollywood Supercenter
Best Adult Video Rental:	QVideo
Best Bookstore:	Hollywood Supercenter
Best Furniture:	Gallery Furniture
Best Art Gallery:	Bering & James
Best Apparel:	Male Uwear
Best Piercing/Tattoo:	Shaw's Tattoo Studio
Best Gift/Boutique:	Crossover Gifts
Best Toy Store (Adult):	Cindy's
Best Second-hand Consignment:	Buffalo Exchange
Best Grocery:	Kroger
Best Antique Shop:	Antiques On Nineteenth
Best Computer/High Tech:	Best Buy
Best Jewelry Store:	I. W. Marks
Best Health Food/Nutrition:	Houston Buyers Club
Best Leather Shop:	Block Hawk Leather
Best Liquor Store:	Spec's
Best Tax Rental:	Al's Formal Wear
Best Athletic Apparel:	Academy
Best Cellular Service:	Cingular
Best Auto Dealership:	De Mantrond
Best Eyewear Optical:	Spectacles
Best Music Store:	Soundwaves
Best Hotel:	Hotel Dorek
Best Bathhouse:	Club Houston
Best Hair Salon:	Etheria Salon & Day Spa
Best Hair Stylist:	Alyson Bass-White
Best Massage:	Brad Brandt, Sunsat Bodyworks
Best Gym:	Fitness Exchange
Best Personal Trainer:	Coach Kimmie
Best Tanning Salon:	Eclipse
Best Medical Practitioner:	Patrick McNamara
Best Dentist:	Bruce Smith
Best Chiropractor:	William Lester
Best Veterinarian:	Montrose Vet Clinic

Best Mechanic:	Harvey Jenkins, Sooner Auto
Best Mortgage Company:	Lighthouse Mortgage Consultants
Best Bank:	Washington Mutual
Best Insurance Agency:	State Farm Insurance
Best Real Estate Agency:	Suzanne Anderson Properties
Best Real Estate Agent:	Danny Pleason, Karpas Properties
Best Travel Agency:	Concierge Travel
Best Airline:	Continental Airlines
Best Florist:	Lexis Florist
Best Cosmetic Surgeon:	Dr. David Luetcke
Best Apartment Locator:	Tirey Counts
Best Attorney:	Jerry Simoneaux
Best Photographer:	David Lewis

Community

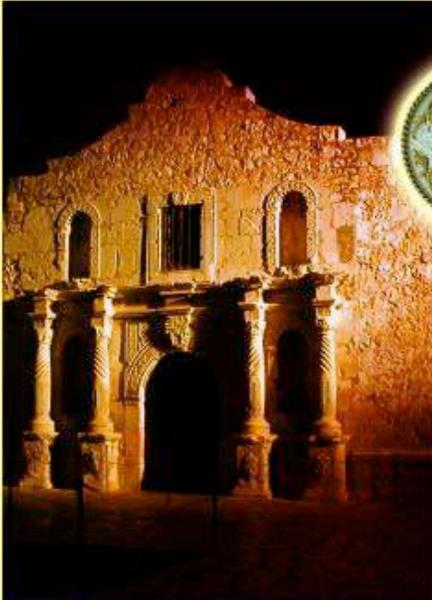
Best Fundraiser:	Bayou City Boys Club Jungle Party
Best GLBT Activist:	Chris Bown
Best GLBT Organization:	Bayou City Boys Club
Best Thing To Happen GLBT:	Pride Parade
Worst Thing To Happen GLBT:	Proposition 2
Best Local Official:	Annie Parker
Best State Official:	Sanfronia Thompson
Best Place Of Worship:	Resurrection MCC
Best Radio (General):	104.1 KRBE
Best GLBT Friendly Radio:	KPRT 90.1
Best TV General:	KPRC Channel 2
Best GLBT Friendly TV:	KPRC Channel 2

Places

Best Bed and Breakfast:	The Lovett Inn
Best Weekend Getaway:	Austin
Best Neighborhood:	Montrose
Best Park:	Memorial Park
Best Bike Walk Trail:	Memorial Park
Best Tourist Destination:	Galleria
Best Place To Meet Somebody:	Starbucks

Arts & Entertainment

Best Indie Film Theater:	River Oaks
Best Local Stage Production:	Hanky Tank Angels (Stages Repertory)
Best Touring Stage Production:	Medea
Best Entertainer (Drag):	Kofi
Best Entertainer (Other.):	Christina Ross
Best Museum:	Museum Of Natural Science
Best Festival:	Pride Houston
Best Local Sports Team:	Houston Astros
Best GLBT Family Web Site:	Out.Com
Best GLBT Adult Web Site:	Manhunt.Net



ROUND UP AWARDS 2006 BEST OF SAN ANTONIO

Sexiest Staff:	Heat	Best Massage:	Edward Rodriguez
Friendliest Staff:	Saint	Best Gym:	Golds
Best Off-The-Beaten-Path Bar:	2015	Best Personal Trainer:	Tom Pasemante
Best Happy Hour:	Annex	Best Medical Practitioner:	James Bromley
Best Martini:	Swigs	Best Dentist:	Spencer Wyrick DDS
Best Theme Night:	Saint	Best Chiropractor:	Courtney Owen
Best Drag Show:	Saint	Best Veterinarian:	Gary Sartor DVM
Best DJ:	DJ Gonzo/Heat	Best Mechanic:	Rhine West
Best Karaoke:	Pogagus	Best Home Repair:	Ms. Fix It
Best After Hours:	Heat	Best Mortgage Company:	Walls Fargo
Best Place To Shoot Pool:	Pogagus	Best Bank:	Walls Fargo
Best Weekday Hangout:	Annex	Best Insurance Agency:	Farmers
Best Straight Bar:	Planet Bar-Rio	Best Real Estate Agency:	Keller Williams

Restaurants

Best Breakfast Spot:	Lulu's
Best 24 Hour Restaurant:	Mi Terra
Best Brunch:	Madhatters
Best Vegetarian:	Gini's
Best Greek:	John The Greek
Best Chinese:	Asia West
Best Italian:	Caparelli's
Best Mexican:	Los Barrios
Best Thai:	Thai Kitchen
Best Sushi:	Samurai Sushi
Best Pizza:	California Pizza
Best Scafood:	Sea Island
Best Steakhouse:	Little Red Barn
Best Margarita:	Chacho's
Best Burger:	Chris Madrid's
Best Patio:	La Fonda
Best For People Watching:	Riverwalk
Most Romantic Restaurant:	Piatti's
Best To Take Family:	Riverwalk
Best Barbeque:	Rudy's
Best Buffet:	China Sea
Best Take Out:	Lucky Burger
Best Caesar Salad:	Timo's
Best Fast Food:	El Pollo Loco
Best Coffee House:	Candlelight
Best New Restaurant:	Timo's
Best Wait Staff:	Jim's

Bars and Clubs

Best All-Around Bar:	The Saint
Best Leather:	Eagle
Best Lesbian:	Bermuda Triangle
Best Dance:	Heat
Best Cabaret/Piano:	2015
Best Country Western:	Silver Dollar

Services

Best Pet Supply:	Fintique
Best Pet Adoption:	Bexar Co. Humane Society
Best Video Rental:	Blockbuster
Best Adult Video Rental:	Encore Video
Best Bookstore:	Borders Books, Music, Tapes
Best Furniture:	John William Interiors
Best Art Gallery:	Blue Star
Best Apparel:	Jive
Best Piercing/Tattoo:	Honest Charlie
Best Gift Boutique:	On Main/Off Main
Best Toy Store (Adult):	G Spot
Best Second Hand Consignment:	The Green Door
Best Grocery:	Central Market
Best Computer High Tech:	Apple Store
Best Jewelry Store:	Pat Gavin
Best Health Food/Nutrition:	Sun Harvest
Best Leather Shop:	Leathermasters
Best Liquor Store:	Northridge
Best Tax Rental:	Al's Formal Wear
Best Athletic Apparel:	Academy
Best Cellular Service:	T-Mobile
Best Auto Dealership:	Covendor Cadillac
Best Eyewear/Optical:	Today's Vision
Best Music Store:	Hog Wild
Best Bed Breakfast:	Painted Lady Inn
Best Weekend Getaway:	Austin
Best Neighborhood:	Monte Vista
Best Park:	McAllister Park
Best Bike Walk Trail:	McAllister Park
Best Hotel:	St. Anthony Hotel
Best Bathhouse:	Alternative Clubs
Best Hair Salon:	Americano Canales
Best Hair Stylist:	John Zamarripa

Community

Best Fundraiser:	Sizzle/ACMC
Best GLBT Activist:	Daniel Gaine
Best GLBT Organization:	Alamo City Men's Chorale
Best Thing To Happen GLBT:	Wedding Cake Liberation Front
Worst Thing To Happen GLBT:	Proposition 2
Best Local Official:	Elena Guajardo
Best State Official:	Mike Villarreal
Best Place Of Worship:	Madison Square Presbyterian
Best Radio General:	JAM 94.1
Best GLBT Friendly Radio:	Jam 94.1
Best TV (General):	KSAT
Best GLBT Friendly TV:	Bravo

Arts & Entertainment

Best Indie Film Theater:	Bijou
Best Local Stage Production:	Gypsy
Best Touring Stage Production:	Mamma Mia
Best Entertainer (Drag):	Janny McCall
Best Entertainer (Other):	Michael R.
Best Museum:	San Antonio Museum Of Art
Best Live Music Venue:	Jazz Festival
Best Festival:	Gay Fiesta
Best Local Sports Team:	Spurs
Best Tourist Destination:	Riverwalk
Best GLBT Family Web Site:	Out In San Antonio
Best GLBT Adult Web Site:	Manhunt.Net
Best Place To Meet Somebody:	Candlelight Coffeehouse

Film

By Steven Lindsey

Coming out of their shells

Loggerheads uses turtles as metaphor

Major dilemma: You find a hot, young homeless man living on the beach, protecting the eggs of sea turtles. Do you have sex with him there or take him home with you instead?

Alas, this isn't one of those movies. Despite the pornographic potential and utter dreaminess of star Kip Pardue, the film doesn't fulfill any fantasies, but rather portrays a love triangle of sorts between a son, his birth mother and the mother who raised him. (And of course, it's not that kind of triangle, either.)

Pardue stars as Mark, the turtle-saving drifter taken in by local motel owner George (Michael Kelly), who finds him attractive. Across the state, Grace (Bonnie Hunt) decides to search for her son after years of



Kelly and Pardue

speculation and regret. Meanwhile, his adoptive parents — a conservative minister (Chris Sarandon) and his wife (Tess Harper) — cope with the estrangement from Mark, who ran away after they disapproved of his homosexuality.

As these stories unfold and the people grow closer to intersecting, the sorrow that inevitably accompanies unconditional love becomes overwhelming.

Pardue gives a good performance in one of his meatier film roles, but it's the mothers who shine. Hunt, as always, is brilliant. Equally skilled at drama and comedy, the actress never gets the recognition she deserves. Harper also makes the most of her role and brings depth to a character who could be a one-dimensional religious fanatic. If there's one thing writer Tim Kirkman does extraordinarily well, it's creating complex, layered characters capable of often unexpected compassion.

Loggerheads is slow and methodical, which may translate to boredom for some moviegoers, but its message is more than worthwhile — and the scenery's not bad, either.

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ON SCREEN

Brokeback Mountain ●●●●●
Written by Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana.
Directed by Ang Lee. With Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal.
Rated R. Running Time: 134 min
Opens wide Dec. 16.

Loggerheads ●●●●○
Written and directed by Tim Kirkman. With Tess Harper, Bonnie Hunt, Michael Kelly, Kip Pardue and Chris Sarandon
Not rated. Running Time: 95 minutes.
Opens today at the Angelika Film Center in Dallas.

shorts

Homo on the range

I've never been much of a camper, but then again, Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal weren't my tentmates. In *Brokeback Mountain*, the two young actors take on the challenging and vulnerable roles of cowboys who become lovers among the desolate and picturesque vistas of Wyoming during 1963. Despite the obvious obstacles, the men conduct a clandestine relationship through periodic "hunting trips" away from their families.



Gyllenhaal and Ledger

Director Ang Lee, working from an adaptation of a short story from Annie Proulx, has created an epic motion picture about the power of love and the tragedy of separation. The chemistry between the stars is intense and tender. The relationship is so believable and relatable for any gay person who's ever kept his or her sexuality a secret that the film's underlying sadness resonates loudly.

But while the kissing and brief nudity may be getting everyone's attention, the performances of Ledger and Gyllenhaal, as well as terrific turns from Anne Hathaway and Michelle Williams as their well-aware wives, are the compelling reason to rush to see this monumental achievement.

Brokeback Mountain isn't likely to enlighten conservatives, but it is guaranteed to make gay viewers appreciate how far we've come — and how much we have to lose.

— S.L.

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Clean sweep

Soapsuds by Finola Hughes and Digby Diehl (Ballantine, 384 pages, \$23.95)

It is too easy to get involved in watching soaps. The first day, you figure you're only going to watch for a minute. The second day, you just want to check in to see if that nasty character got her comeuppance. The third day, you need to find out if those two cuties ever hooked up. By the fourth day, you're hooked.

Reading *Soapsuds* is just like that — three or four pages in, and you're a fan.

London stage actress Kate McPhee has just landed a job on daytime's *Live for Tomorrow*. Kate left a broken heart, a cheating boyfriend and a lying best friend back home, and she has no intention of returning.

Kate's TV character, Detective Devon Merrick, is a car-accident survivor who narrowly missed being murdered and is now pursued by several men and a cult of blood-thirsty, vicious vampires. Because Devon is gay, everyone thinks that Kate is, too, which



further complicates her life. In fact, Kate's life is getting more and more like a — well, a soap opera.

Hope Canyon, the fictional setting for *Live for Tomorrow*, is populated by a strange group of characters, but they're nothing compared to the real people

who work on the show. Meredith Contini is the grand diva who joined the show 30-plus years ago and whose character is still thirty-something, although Daphne del Valle, the show's producer, wants to change that. The town's resident doctor is always drunk, so he uses sticky notes to remind him of his lines. There are several Barbie-doll look-a-likes on the set, too, each one more clueless than the last.

Everyone gossips about everyone else. Eavesdropping is an everyday occurrence. And now Kate has a handsome new co-star

on the set, and she's smitten but he's married. Will Kate ever find true love? Tune in tomorrow.

Emmy-winning actress Finola Hughes used to be on *General Hospital* and *All My Children*, and fans of either of those shows are going to have a great time trying to figure out who the thinly-disguised characters are in *Soapsuds*. You'll no doubt wonder how much is real and how much is fiction. Either way, *Soapsuds* will make you laugh out loud.

Chore Whore: Adventures of a Celebrity Personal Assistant by Heather H. Howard (HarperCollins, 304 pages, \$23.95)

You think you have a bad job — the hours are awful, the tasks are boring, the boss is an idiot, customers have no clue and the pay is low.

Well, things could be worse. You could have a spoiled Hollywood star as an employer. Read *Chore Whore* and you'll never complain about your boss again.

It's Christmastime, and Cornelia "Corki" Brown is trying to find a perfect gift for Steven Spielberg's birthday. While nothing *has* to be expensive, gifts to Steven usually are. More important, they need to be memorable. Corki's clients, some of the biggest in Hollywood, want her to really *surprise* Spielberg for them, so they send her to L.A.'s most exclusive stores. Such is the life of a chore whore.

Jock Straupman, one of Corki's clients, is a major star. Women come and go through Jock's house almost weekly, and Jock pays



Corki to break up with them. He also pays her to arrange his mail pick-up, clean his guns and buy his food.

Lucy Bennett, a two-time Academy Award-winning actress, thinks of Corki as part of the family — that part that cooks for Lucy's dinner parties

and schedules vehicle maintenance for her, that is. But Corki doesn't mind. Lucy pays her well to do these things, and with Lucy around, it's easy to get a table in some of the better restaurants.

By working nearly around the clock, Corki makes just enough money to pay the mortgage and raise her son. Then the new year arrives, and with it, a wedding, a scandal, a blackmail scheme and one celebrity assistant who's tired of it all.

True story or just a novel? Author Heather H. Howard was a real-life celebrity assistant for many years, which leaves you wondering how much of Corki's tale really happened and how much is fiction. This book is filled with juicy, gossipy insider-type stories that seemed rather thinly-disguised, and more fact than fiction. Most of Hollywood is probably busy trying to figure out who's who.

If you've ever been tempted to browse through a tabloid magazine in the check-out line at the grocery store, you must read this book. *Chore Whore* is scandalous, fun and definitely not a chore to read.

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Bellina's beauty bar

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Performance

By Arnold Wayne Jones

Austin city limits

The state capital gets into the spirit of the holidays with music and camp appeal

Everyone knows Austin is a weird city — it could officially change its name to Funkytown and barely raise an eyebrow outside the Capitol. And hip places tend to do hip things for the holidays. After all, what could be campier than a time of year when fat men wear red velvet, adults don reindeer antlers and jingle bells are attached to everything as far as the eye can see?

Gay Austin gets into the spirit of the holidays with a number of entertainment events that aren't just weird — they're queer.

Although the 17th annual holiday concert from the **Capital City Men's Chorus** takes place at a Christian church, it combines songs



La Cage

from different seasonal traditions, including Hannukah and non-denominational Yule-tide standards.

Many Austinites are familiar with the monthly **La Cage: Vegas in Austin** fundraising drag show, but for December the delightful divas have conjured up a whole new spectacle. The slate of female impersonators — including illusions of Liza, Diana, Dionne and Whitney — will be joined by Flaming Desire, a male *a cappella* quartet based in Austin. Proceeds benefit Project Transitions.

For 20 years, the Austin Baptist Women haven't been about illusion — they've been about camp. For their landmark anniversary, the gals present the **Very Pink Christmas** variety show.

Garry Holley, the only one of the original four members still performing, says it all started



Austin Baptist Women

as a lark. "We dressed up like old ladies for fun — don't ask me why — and we've been doing it ever since," he says. A few times, Holley thought about retiring the show, but the needs of charity groups around town have kept it going — ABW have helped raise "just shy of \$6 million for charity," Holley says.

This year's show is a benefit for the Breast Cancer Resource Center of Austin. There's no cover, but donations are accepted, and there will be a live auction in addition to

ON STAGE

Capital City Men's Chorus Holiday Concert, Central Christian Church, 1110 Guadalupe St., Austin. Sat. at 8 p.m. and Sun. at 4 p.m. \$15-\$18. 512-477-SING.

La Cage: Vegas in Austin, The Cockpit Club, 113 San Jacinto St., Austin. Sun. at 8:30 p.m. \$5 donation requested. 214-457-8010.

A Very Pink Christmas: Austin Baptist Women's 20th Holiday Spectacular Show, Rainbow Cattle Company, 305 W. 5th St., Austin. Dec. 18 at 7:45 p.m. Free. Babbistwomen.com.

The Santaland Diaries and Rockin' Christmas Party, Zach Scott Theatre Center, 1510 Toomey Road, Austin. *Santaland* through Jan. 8; *Party* through Jan. 1. \$28-\$38. 512-476-0541, ext. 1.

the live entertainment.

For more careful scripted fun, the Zach Scott Theatre dusts off two beloved shows. **The Santaland Diaries** is the stage adaptation of gay writer David Sedaris's humiliating stint playing an elf at Macy's one lean year. And Dave Steakley, Zach's artistic guru, revives his **Rockin' Christmas Party** musical revue.

E-mail: Amold@btnewsomag.com



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Weekly Review



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

Friday, December 9

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.

High Tech Happy Hour. 5:30-7:30 p.m. Havana Lounge, 4006 Cedar Springs Rd. 214-526-9494.

Jingle Belles & Jingle Balls, presented by united Court of Austin. 10:30 p.m. 'Bout Time, 9601 N. IH-35. Benefits Breast Cancer Resource Center. Cesavells1976@yahoo.com.

DALLAS/FT. WORTH

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

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

HOUSTON

2nd annual Heights Holiday Market, 5-9 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Bring a new unwrapped toy for AIDS Foundation Houston's Red Ribbon Toy Program. The Artful Corner, 3423 White Oak Dr. 713-426-4ART

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.

Cats, presented by Theatre Under The Stars, through Dec. 18. 8 p.m. Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, 800 Bagby St. 713-558-TUTS. Tuts.com.

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

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

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

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.

Saturday, December 10

AUSTIN

17th annual Holiday concert, presented by Capital City Men's Chorus. 8 p.m. Dec. 11, 4 p.m. \$15-\$18. Central Christian Church, 1110 Guadalupe St. 512-477-SING. Cmcaustin.org.

Armadillo Christmas Bazaar, with various artists, through Dec. 24. \$3-\$5. Austin Music Hall, 208 Nueces St. 512-447-1605. Armadillobazaar.com.

DALLAS/FT. WORTH

9th Annual Blue Yule Holiday Party and Ornament Sale, presented by McKinney Avenue Contemporary. 5-7:30 p.m. 214-953-1212. The-mac.org.

Dallas Ft. Worth Primitimers Christmas dinner, 5 p.m. \$15. 972-504-8866. Rsvp@primitimers-dfw.org.

HOUSTON

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

Face of the Month, presented by COPA Productions. 7 p.m. Keys West, 817 W. Dallas St. 713-571-7870.

Gay Games VII Registration with Gay Games VII Key Cities Manager and Coach for CheerSF, Sanford Smith. Presented by Team Houston. 4-8 p.m. JR's Bar & Grill's Santa Fe, 808 Pacific St. GayGamesTeamHouston@yahoo.com.

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

Rosas Para La Virgen, presented by Gay and Lesbian Latin Organization and Noche Espiritual. 7 p.m. Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, 2025 W 11th St. HoustonGallo@yahoo.com.

SAN ANTONIO

An Evening with the Stars, the 13th Annual Holiday Gala with ShadyLady, Erica Andrews, Kourtney Deveraux, Amber Nix, Sweet Savage and Jessica Maxx. Presented by People Who Care. 6 p.m.-1 a.m. \$7.50-\$25. St. George Maronite Banquet Center, 6070 Babcock Rd. 210-699-0313. Dcorrea3@Satx.rr.com.

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

Sunday, December 11

DALLAS/FT. WORTH

Angels Sing! Presented by Dallas Symphony Orchestra and Chorus. 8 p.m. for all performances. More performance Dec. 13, 15 through 18, with 2 p.m. matinees on Dec. 11, 17 and 18. Meyerson Symphony Center, 2301 Flora St.

HOUSTON

Gay Games VII Registration with Gay Games VII Key Cities Manager and Coach for CheerSF, Sanford Smith. Presented by Team Houston. 12-6 p.m. Decades, 1205 Richmond Ave. GayGamesTeamHouston@yahoo.com.

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

Snowbunnies 2, with DJ Ted Elison and FlyBoys of Flag Troupe Houston. 5-10 p.m. \$10. Benefits Bunnies on the Bayou. Hue, 202 Tuam St. Bunnies.org.

Tamale Dinner, presented by Gay and Lesbian Latin Organization. 1-4 p.m. \$6. Benefits GALLO. E.J.'s, 2517 Ralph St. HoustonGallo@yahoo.com.

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 12

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 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 13

DALLAS/FT. WORTH

Dallas Ft. Worth Primitimers Prime Diner. 6:30 p.m. Spring Creek Barbeque, 12835 Preston Rd. 972-504-8866. Rsvp@primitimers-dfw.org.

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

HOUSTON

GLBT Night, presented by Houston GLBT Community Center. 6:30 p.m. Hollywood Vietnamese & Chinese, 2409 Grant St. Houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org.

Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce holiday dinner. 6-9 p.m. Lovett Inn, 501 Lovett Blvd. \$20-\$25. Bring a Christmas tree ornament. 713-523-7576. Thechamberhouston.org.

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

Wednesday, December 14

AUSTIN

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

DALLAS/FT. WORTH

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

HOUSTON

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

SAN ANTONIO

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

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

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

Thursday, December 15

AUSTIN

Holiday party, presented by Austin Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. 6:30 p.m. \$30. Zachary Scott Theatre Center, 1510 Toomey Rd. 512-419-9696. Aglcc.org.

HOUSTON

Holiday Vacation Spots concert with tour guide, Coy Tow. Presented by Houston Pride Band. 7 p.m. Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, 2025 W 11th St. 832-265-3346. Houstonprideband.org.

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

SAN ANTONIO

Luminarias, a holiday concert presented by Alamo City Men's Chorus. 8 p.m. San Fernando Cathedral, 231 W Commerce St. Dec. 18, 6 p.m. at Mother House Chapel at the University of the Incarnate Word, 4301 Broadway St. \$12-\$15. 210-495-SING. Acmc-texas.org.

San Antonio Gender Association, 6-8 p.m. Diversity Center, 531 San Pedro Ave. 210-223-6106. Pammartin.pam@gmail.com.

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.

Thank you!

To the TXT readers and voters.

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- Best Lesbian Bar - Sue Ellens
- Best Drag Show - The Rose Room
- Best After Hours - Throckmorton Mining Company
- Best Place for People Watching - JR's Dallas balcony
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Meet the Wawies: The First What a World Awards

Given that this week's issue of *TXT Newsmagazine* is devoted to lauding the best and the brightest that GLBT Texas has to offer, it is appropriate that we present some awards of our own: The What a World Awards, or Wawies.

Winners are based not on reader acclamation, but on my own whim and desire in categories that somehow didn't appear in the original balloting.

The She's Here, She's Queer, Let's Have Another \$7 Beer Award goes to the Houston Comets' Sheryl Swoopes for coming out publicly as lesbian. In one fell swoop, she neutralized the sting of the Houston Astros' World Series shut-down-and-out, followed by a sorrysorrysorry ass performance this season by the Houston Texans. Most valuable, to say the least.

The Rosie O'Donnell "You Call That 'News'?" Coming Out Award also goes to Swoopes. No elaboration necessary.

The Is That an Eclipse or Did You Just Step in Front of the Sun? Award goes to *Fat Actress*. We loved Showtime's limited series hysterically chronicling Kirstie Alley's weighty ups and downs, giving hope and dignity (well, *hope*) to fat girls

everywhere that there truly is life after 3x.

The Dionne Warwick "Knowing When to Leave May Be the Smartest Thing That Anyone Can Learn. Go" Award goes to the gang at *Queer As Folk* (another fine Showtime product) who had the presence of mind to end the series before all of its previously party-centric cast turned in their amy, married off and replicated.

The Singing Soothsayer Award goes to Melissa Etheridge. Now that she's back on stage, fully re-coiffed and recovered from her bout with breast cancer, Mel has displayed undeniable prescient gifts. Revisit the lyrics of her 1994 Grammy Award winner, "Come to My Window," and then try to tell me this woman can't predict the future: *I would stand inside my hell and hold the hand of death/You don't know how far I'd go to ease this precious ache/You don't know how much I'd give or how much I can take.../Nothing fills the blackness that has seeped into my chest. Spooky, huh?*

The Wonka This Willie Award goes to *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Johnny Depp turned in his finest drag performance since he minced his way across the high seas in *Pirates of the Caribbean*.

The Maybe These Really Are the End

Times Award goes to *citizen provocateur* Ray Hill, who announced his retirement from GLBT activism in June following a decades-long career of fighting injustice aimed at queers, convicts, people of color and other minorities.

The Who You Gonna Call, Regardless Award goes to Hill, too. He is still the first person most of us would call from jail despite said "retirement." Two words of advice, Ray: Unlisted number.

The Pinkies, You're Doing a Heck of a Job Award goes to AIDS Foundation Houston, Montrose Clinic, Montrose Counseling Center and Pride Houston for the agencies' humanitarian response to hundreds of GLBT and HIV-positive evacuees displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The international acclaim these groups received during the emergencies left Michael Brown and FEMA looking even more lame-a.

The Gays Gone Wild/We Will Survive Award goes to the handful of stalwart partiers who slogged through the French Quarter in a mini-version of Southern Decadence, the city's annual queered-up answer to Mardi Gras, mere moments after God (as some said) tried to wipe New Orleans off the map. Blow *this*, Katrina.



Illustration By Chris Edwards

The Look Ma, I'm Channeling Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Award goes to State Representative Senfronia Thompson from Houston, who earlier this year explained why her colleagues in the Texas Legislature should reject a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage. In part, she said:

"I have served in this body a lot of years, and I have seen a lot of promises broken... Now that blacks and women have equal rights, you turn your hatred to homosexuals, and you still use your misguided reading of the Bible to justify your hatred. You want to pass this ridiculous amendment so you can go home and brag — brag about what? Declare that you saved the people of Texas from what?"

"From what," indeed. Thanks for trying.

E-mail: Nancy@txtnewsmag.com

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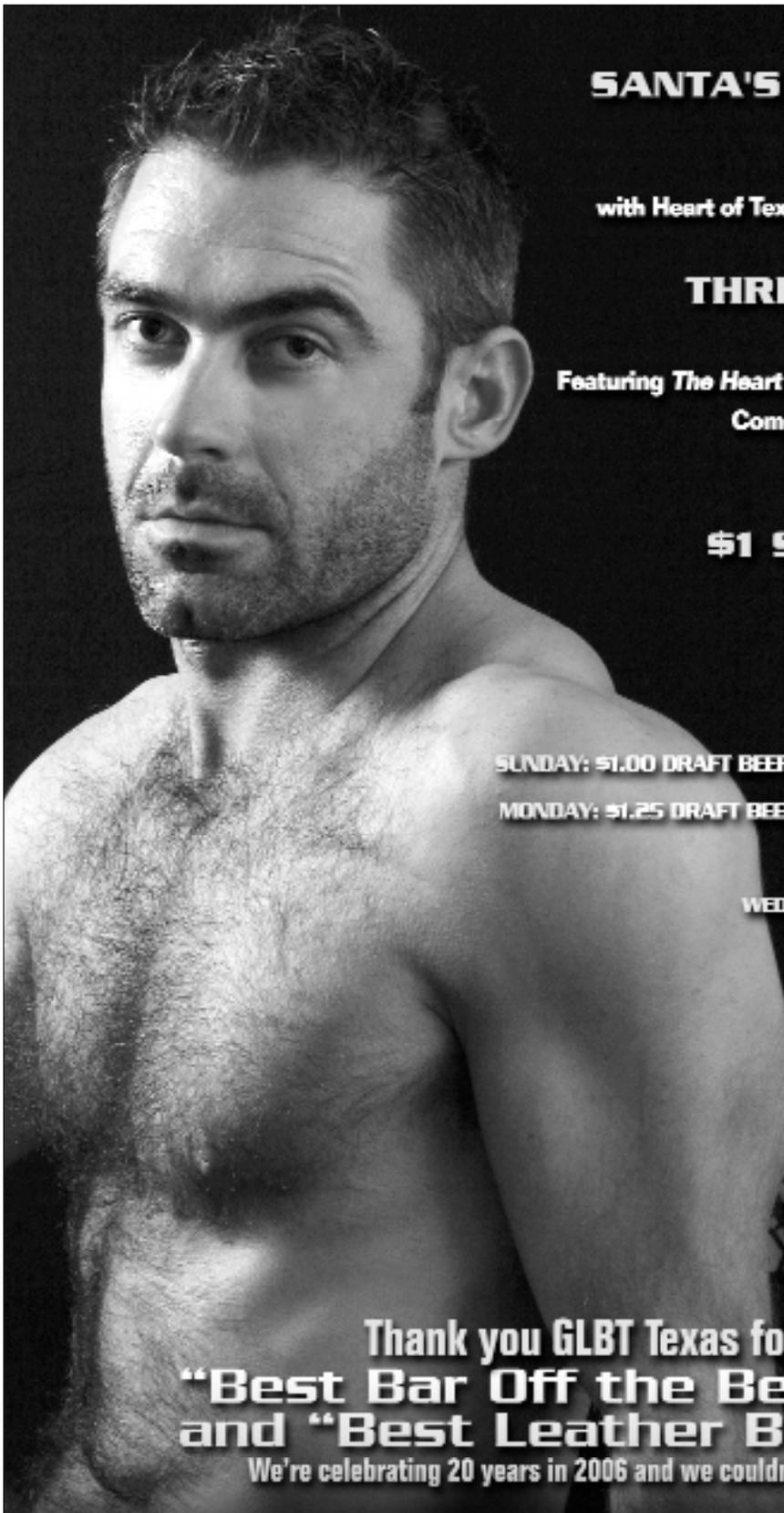
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By Billy Masters

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Gay Brits say they'll tie the knot

On Dec. 21, **Elton John** will tie the knot — legally — with longtime companion **David Furnish**. The ceremony itself will be very low key, witnessed by only the parents of the happy couple. The reception afterwards will be attended by several notables, including **George Michael** and his mate, Dallas gallery owner **Kenny Goss**. (They plan to follow Elton and David's example; their marriage is planned for January.)

Elton has turned down an \$11 million donation to his AIDS foundation to televise the event and has used this moment to give **Madonna** a rare compliment: "Madonna got it right when she married. Nobody has seen one photo. Our relationship isn't up for grabs. Our love is sacred to us — it doesn't come with a price tag."

Clearly, nothing is sacred to **David Hasselhoff**. He's going into the studio to record one of Madonna's hits: "La Isla Bonita." Hasselhoff explains that his fans are eagerly awaiting this release: "It's the one track that gets talked about by my fans, so why not?" Those must be three mighty happy people!

Blender magazine features an interview with **Ricky Martin** that is raising some eyebrows. In it, Ricky discusses his sex life and shares some tantalizing items like this: "I love giving the golden shower. I've done it before in the shower. It's like so sexy, you know, the temperature of your body and the shower water is very different." When asked about his last one-night stand, Ricky states, "We met, we did it, we left. I don't know if we're going to meet again." Note the undefined gender of said sexual partner.

This is a strange week for rockers. **Billy Joel** spoke to a group at the 92nd Street Y in New York and revealed that he has a Sirius satellite radio in his car. What does he listen to? OutQ — the gay channel! This prompted Sirius star **Lynn Samuels** to quip, "Put that together with the fact that when he's driving, he's drunk all the time!"

Stranger yet, **Jerry Hall** is fronting a British campaign for erectile dysfunction — which speaks volumes to *moi*.

As previously reported, big ol' **Chastity Bono** will be featured on the next *Celebrity Fit Club*. Reportedly, Chas confronted fellow fatty **Jeff Conaway** about his erratic behavior. Conaway exclaimed, "I did a show called *Taxi* — one of the biggest shows ever!"

Since this had nothing to do with anything, Chastity accused Conaway of being on drugs, saying, "You are acting like you're loaded." Conaway's defense was, "I supported a fucking family from the time I was 10 years old. I went through a pedophile at seven. At three years old, I slit my fucking wrists, so keep your fucking mouth shut." Chastity should have said, "**Sonny and Cher** are my parents — top that, asshole!"

Kathy Griffin never misses an opportunity to stand up for her loyal gay fans, and Hollywood's Christmas Parade was no different. There was Kathy, proudly wearing a T-shirt that said "We All Have AIDS" in honor of World AIDS Day. If you are wondering, her on-again/off-again hubby, **Matt Moline**, was by her side.

My friends and I often spend endless hours trying to come up with the perfect person to play a role. One such discussion involved casting **Fran Drescher**'s mother (often mentioned but never seen) on *Living With Fran*.

Renee Taylor played Fran's mom to perfection on *The Nanny* — who could fill those shoes? **Barbra** comes to mind, but this is *The WB*. I suggested **Lola Mason**, but none of

my friends ever heard of her.

We all agreed that the ideal person for the part is **Lainie Kazan**. Lainie previously played Fran's Aunt Frieda on *The Nanny*, but so what? Lainie just taped an episode playing Fran's mother that will air once the show comes back from hiatus.

For this week's Filth2Go gift-giving suggestions, I'm recommending four CDs that you have to get from England: **Will Young's** *Keep On* (the dual CD/DVD disk), **Anastacia's** *Pieces of a Dream* (the special edition with the extra remix CD), **Robbie Williams's** *Intensive Care* (the CD/DVD combo) and **Rick Astley's** *Portrait* (sorry, just a normal CD). All of these will make any music lover on your list wanna put out, and isn't that what the holidays are all about?

This week's first "Ask Billy" letter comes from Gil in Cyberspace, who has turned the tables on me: *I just love you, Billy! I saw Antonio Sabato Jr. in a hot gay sex scene from his new movie, Deadly Skies, and I thought you'd like to see it. You can share this clip with your Filth fans.*

Thanks, Gil. *Deadly Skies* aired a few months ago on Here TV and stars Antonio as a military scientist trying to stop an asteroid from hitting the Earth. During his off time, he's having gay sex with **Michael Boisvert**. The scene in question features Antonio topping Boisvert, and Gil is right — it's *hot*, with lots of Sabato butt action! As Gil suggested, it's on Filth2go.com. Enjoy.

Larry in Salt Lake City brings up someone I don't normally consider a hunk: *A friend of mine told me that Adrien Brody has turned himself into a muscle god. Is this true? I thought he was great in The Pianist, but isn't he just a scrawny guy? When did he become a hunk?*

The talented Mr. Brody reportedly lost about 30 pounds to play the Jewish pianist in Nazi Germany. Since then, he has not only gained back that weight, but gone on a very

serious protein diet and weight-training program to transform his body into its current ripped look. He is still fairly skinny, but far more defined. He talks about his workout routine in the December issue of *Men's Health*. We'll run some very revealing photos for you at Filth2go.com. In fact, I think I have a penis shot or two...

Could it be that **George Clooney** is an ass man? So says **Matt Damon**, who appears with Georgie in the current *Syriana*. "George grabs my ass every day — at least once a day. That's why I've done three movies with him." Who'da thunk Clooney was a top?

When Antonio and George could tag-team Matt, it's time to end yet another column.

You people had me really worried — 12 days after the publication of my last blind item, an AOL member finally figured it out! Phew! If you want to grab me, just send an e-mail to Billy@filth2go.com and I promise to get back to you before Chastity plays Fran's lesbian sister.

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



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profile

Silver and gold

New GLBT record label hopes to put gay artists into the mainstream



Earlier this year, Tommy Boy Records launched Silver Label, the world's first GLBT lifestyle and culture imprint. Conceived and co-founded by Victor Lee and Rosie Lopez, Silver Label's goal is to develop artists and products that give voice to the gay aesthetic.

In its first few months, Silver Label has acquired the rights to soundtracks for the TV shows and movies *The L Word*, *Queer as Folk*, *Goldfish Memory* and *The Heights*, as well as *American Pride*, which will highlight the final contestants in a reality-show search for America's first out country singer.

Lee and Lopez share their journey to help bring gay entertainment into the mainstream.

Question: Why do you think the gay community was in need of a specific label?

Lee: Tommy Boy has always looked for artists who go against the grain. We also strive to be the first in proclaiming and exposing new music genres. We focus on artists that are original and different — De La Soul, Afrika Bambaataa, RuPaul, Fannypack and Information Society were all ahead of their time. Silver Label is an outlet for creativity. We've started with music, but we intend to get involved in all aspects of entertainment.

Q: Why is it important to you to develop gay artists?

Lee: For the same reasons we want to develop straight artists: because we are passionate about their music, who they are and what they represent. We want the rest of the world to see how brilliant and talented they are. We are proud of who we are and passionate about what we do.

Q: Do you feel that gay people lack a voice in the entertainment community?

Lee: Gay voices are certainly getting louder. Look at where we were 12 years ago, before Tommy Boy launched RuPaul to the mainstream. Who would have

thought that a 6-foot-3 drag queen would be all over MTV, sponsored by cosmetic companies and eventually have her own show on VH1? We need more role models like Melissa Etheridge, Ellen DeGeneres, Rosie O'Donnell and George Michael. We need more straight artists who will support equal rights, like Kayne West, who spoke up on MTV about the hip-hop community's tolerance and encouragement of homophobia. We need more representation not just in the mainstream entertainment community, but in all communities.

Q: Is the rest of the world is ready for a flood of gay entertainment?

Lopez: We don't think it's a question of the world being ready — this is something we want to do. It's just like anything else, the more people become desensitized to differences, the more they accept and see beyond those differences. Eventually it won't matter if we're gay or straight. We have to be ourselves.

Q: It seems that actively searching for gay hip-hop and country artists might yield people who base their careers more on their sexuality than their musical ability. How can gay artists make their sexuality second to their talent?

Lee: Why should they have to? For some artists, their sexuality is intertwined with their music. For many of our artists, this is not the case at all. In the world of music, sexuality is more like character or personality. An artist who is an entertainer is very much like an actor — he or she can use their sexuality if they choose to, or they can be funny and witty and not sexual at all.

Q: Is it possible that a lot of gay artists' successes are directly related to them being gay? In other words, do you think the gay community would support the artist and their art if they weren't gay?

Lee: We would hope so! We encourage people to support our community. We think we should shop in gay-owned businesses, wear gay designers, travel to gay and gay-friendly destinations, bank and invest in gay and lesbian businesses. If we intend to rise within society as a whole, financial power and responsibility is essential.

Q: What is one thing you would you change about the music industry?

Lopez: We need more outlets for new music, we need a true video music channel that supports indie artists and plays videos based on how creative they are or on how great the song is.

Q: What projects do you have coming up that you're completely stoked about?

Lopez: Chavela Vargas, La Chavela as she's known in Mexico. At 87, she's the oldest openly gay recording artist in the world. I see her as the *Buena Vista Social Club* of our community. We're releasing her CD *Chavela Vargas En Carnegie Hall*.

Q: Perhaps you can answer this age-old question: Who's easier to work with, gay men or lesbians?

Lopez: I find that they are equally difficult! The more brilliant the artist, the more difficult they can be at times. It's frustrating when things don't happen immediately. Artists are accustomed to applause at the end of the song. In our business, the applause sometimes comes years later, so I try to be understanding.

— Michael A. Knipp

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Sagittarius

Just before leaving Scorpio, Mercury is sextile Venus in Capricorn, offering a few days of shrewd, calculated charm (think Dorothy Parker and the Algonquin Round Table). Then when Merc blows into Sagittarius, it shifts from sharp wit to boisterous cheeriness.

SAGITTARIUS — November 22–December 20

Party monster though you are, you're better advised to stick to quiet, intimate gatherings right now. Meaningful talks with close and trusted friends will offer great insight on all sides, and prove you a helpful, dedicated friend.

CAPRICORN — December 21–January 19

Get into helping others to plan all those holiday parties coming up. The networking and the chance to show your effectiveness will prove you to be a valuable social asset and provide you with many terrific opportunities.

AQUARIUS — January 20–February 18

Showing trust in the boss (or as the boss) will help to inspire confidence, but there are different kinds of trust. Secrets will get out, and everyone will be better for that! This is also a good time to reorganize with an eye toward efficiency.

PISCES — February 19–March 19

Discuss new ideas freely, open-endedly and without committing to a particular perspective. You can learn a lot from friends who adopt stronger positions than you. And your questions and feedback can help them learn, too!

ARIES — March 20–April 19

Your now-sharpened tongue can get you into any bed and/or up a few steps on the ladder of success. Scope out your opportunities and make your commitments quickly. Subtlety only lasts so long — soon your maneuverings will be clear to all.

TAURUS — April 20–May 20

Don't be shy or too set in your ways. The one you love — or someone sweet on you — wants to offer you something new and different. At least be open to discussing the possibilities. Remember, nothing ventured, nothing gained!

GEMINI — May 21–June 20

Work will lighten up soon. In the meantime, asking for assistance can help build stronger cooperative relationships. Workplace flirtation is generally a bad idea, but right now some innocent, playful banter would be fine.

CANCER — June 21–July 22

Opening up and telling your partner (or any prospective partner) things you want, but have never admitted to, will create delightful opportunities. You may not get exactly what you asked for, but the discussion will lead somewhere really good!

LEO — July 23–August 22

It's a great time to fix up your home, even if your impulses run to recreating historic bordellos. You could also get involved in any kind of community work to bring latent skills to the surface and make some great new friends.

VIRGO — August 23–September 22

Shy, reticent Virgo? Not this week! You have a famously sharp wit and know how to use it. You may want to be gentle or not quite as naughty as your impulses would lead you. Or just go where you can let loose for a change!

LIBRA — September 23–October 22

This is a lovely time to air domestic issues, perhaps even to resolve them. At least you can count on saying and hearing important concerns in a constructive manner. A mature, practical approach to money problems will also bring progress.

SCORPIO — October 23–November 21

Your cool reserve is breaking down, making you more accessible and bringing out your seductive charm. Enjoy it while you may! It's harder now to keep your secrets private. Keeping your private parts secret is up to you.

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

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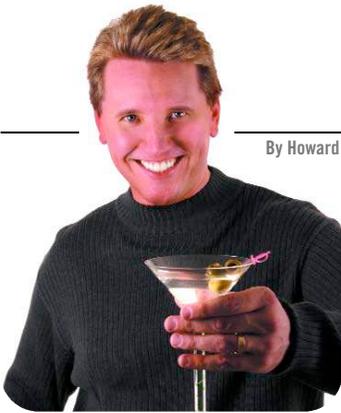
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AskHoward

How to do the wrong thing right



By Howard Lewis Russell

Discrimination is still with us

Dear Howard,

I have a hard time relating to my fellow queers who complain about discrimination. I'm 26. I've never hid being gay, and I have never been discriminated against either — never been called names, bullied, anything (at least not to my face). Am I just wearing rose-colored glasses, or has gay acceptance come into its own?

Rose of Sharon

It still depends on where you live (urban or rural) and your degree of education. Rural Vermont, for example, is every bit as tolerant as, oh, San Francisco, but rural Alabama is not (trust me — I'm from Alabama).

Nonetheless, I'm older than you and I likewise can't say that I've ever been discriminated against... to my face.

However, most of my adult life I've lived in urban, gay-friendly areas like Atlanta and Dallas. Discrimination still flourishes everywhere, I assure you. But strides have been great in recent years, and I do believe that one day in the near future people will view homosexuality in the same light as, say, wavy hair, left-handedness and brown eyes — a characteristic of the person as a whole, as opposed to a whole person's character.

Dear Howard,

I adore my boyfriend to the very marrow of my bones, but I don't think it's reciprocal to the same degree. I think he likes me and respects me, but I just don't think he's *passionate* with ardor. I don't think it's love undying. We've been together nine months now, and I do so many little things for him that he never notices. I keep all his favorite foods stocked in the fridge. I pick all his clothes up off the floor, wash them and stack them neatly in the closet. I rent the movies *he's* interested in — little things, you know? All he's ever done for me is say, "I picked up a new bottle of Wet today." How very

thoughtful! Am I being spurned?

How Do I Make Him Love Me?

Somebody has been renting too many Lana Turner movies. *Passionate ardor? Love undying? Spurned?* The dude bought you lube — hello? He's not interested in having you fluff his pillows or alphabetize his hair products. Either enjoy the relationship for what it's obviously about (steady sex) or take a chill pill and head to your local Laundromat. I'm sure you'll find plenty of grateful men there more than willing to exchange *undying ardor* for having their unspurned Calvins regularly washed and primly stacked.

Dear Howard,

I got into a knock-down, drag-out fight with my lover the other night. I mean, major-league drama — Tony Award Edward Albee style drama. He stormed out, so I decided to stand in the driveway. Bad idea. He backed out anyhow. By the time we returned from the hospital it was daylight and both of us were sober. I have to wear the cast on my foot for at least two months. Our public story is that I was rearranging the furniture and dropped a lamp on my ankle. I think we both may need to start considering AA. This may

have been a wake-up call. What do you think?

Midnight Blue

You think? If ever something elevated you to Alcoholics' Anonymous Platinum Membership status, this is it.

Dear Howard,

I picked up *TXT* for the first time recently at Tower Records and flipped through it. Ask Howard and Filth instantly made me a convert to gay weeklies. Filth made me go, "Oh, no you didn't say that!" and Ask Howard made me go, "Oh, yes you said it!" You and Billy Masters should team up.

Abracadabra

Your enthusiasm is noted, Abra, but I'm afraid Ask Howard's Filth Masters might be even too much for *TXT*, unless it came shrink-wrapped.

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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GLIB TALK

BY KURT ERICHSEN



Justice Scout Leader Thingleddle leads his troop of Justice Scouts on a camping trip to the Supreme Court

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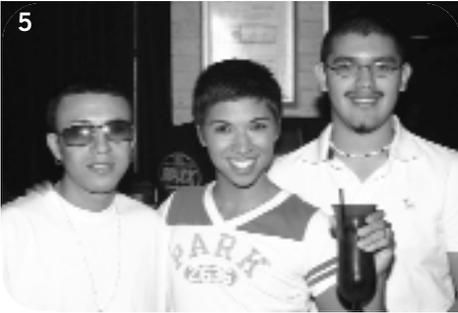
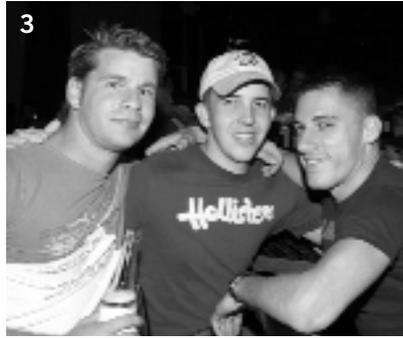
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1. Martin and Mario at Viviana's. 2. Casey, Tim and Roger at Ripcord. 3. Jeremy, Casey and James at Guava Lamp. 4. Edgar, Freddie and Bagriel at Rich's. 5. Omar, Ralph and Sam at Club 1415. 6. Randy and Paul at South Beach. 7. Brian, Ron and B.J. at Brazos River Bottom. 8. Aaron and Michael at Meteor. Photos by Paul Stricklin



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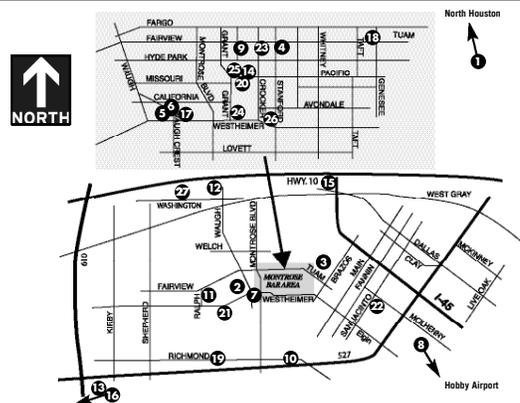


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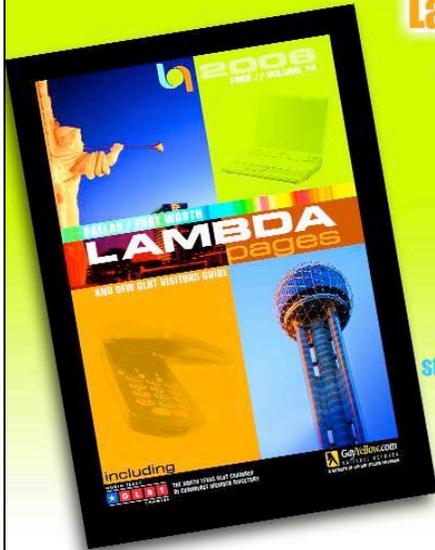
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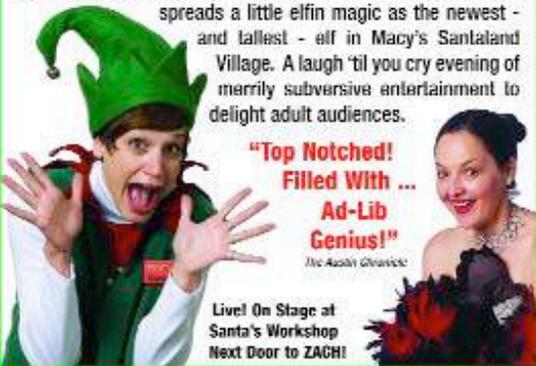
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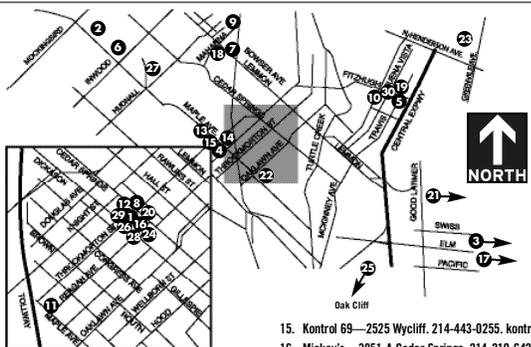
ClubLand

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1. Arthur and Spanke at the Dallas Eagle. 2. Jennifer and William at Sue Ellen's. 3. Janet and Thomas at the Round-Up Saloon. 4. Jeanine, Lee and Tammie at Buddies II. 5. Brandon at JR.'s Bar & Grill. 6. Andrew, Chris and Angelo at Mickey's. Photos by Barbera Barker and Gregory Hayes



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10. Hideaway Clubs—4144 Buena Vista. 214-559-2966. Bilshideaway.com
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12. JR.'s—3923 Cedar Springs. 214-559-0650. Caven.com
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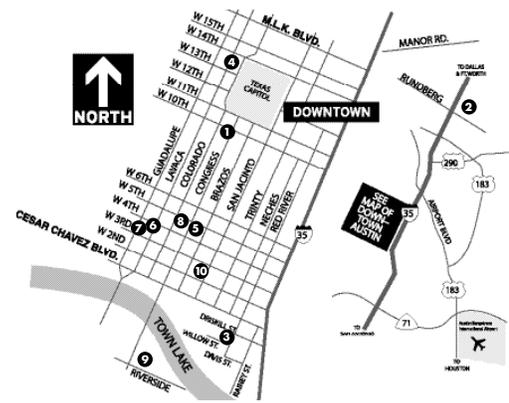
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ANNOUNCEMENTS 47
 EMPLOYMENT 47
 REAL ESTATE 47
 PRODUCTS 47
 RENTALS 47
 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES 48
 LICENSED MASSAGE 48
 TRAVEL 48
 ADULT CLASSIFIEDS
 ADULT PRODUCTS 49
 COMPANIONS 49

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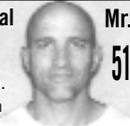


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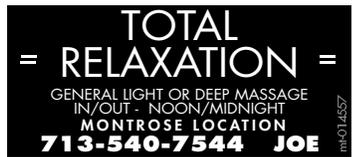


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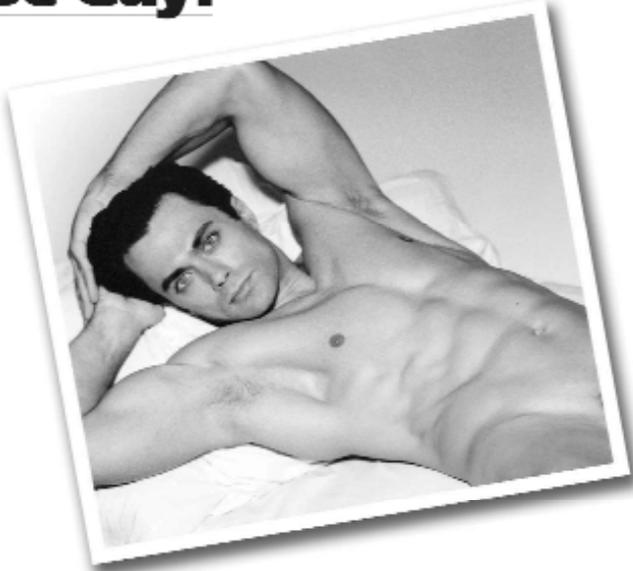
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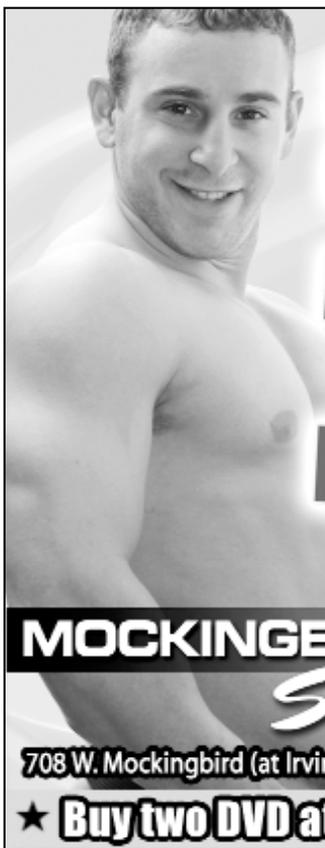
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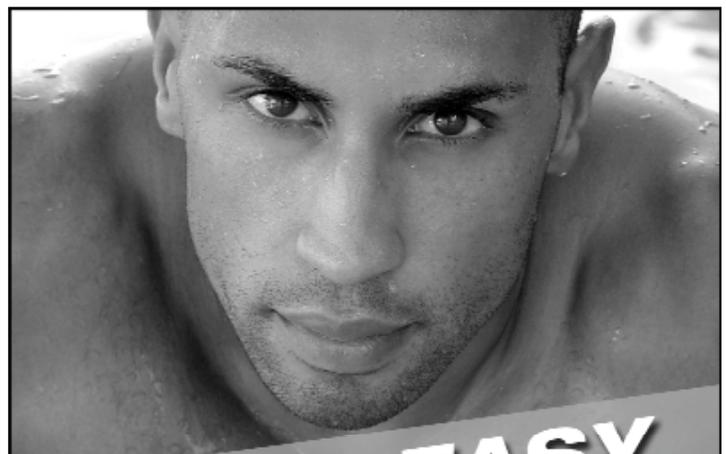
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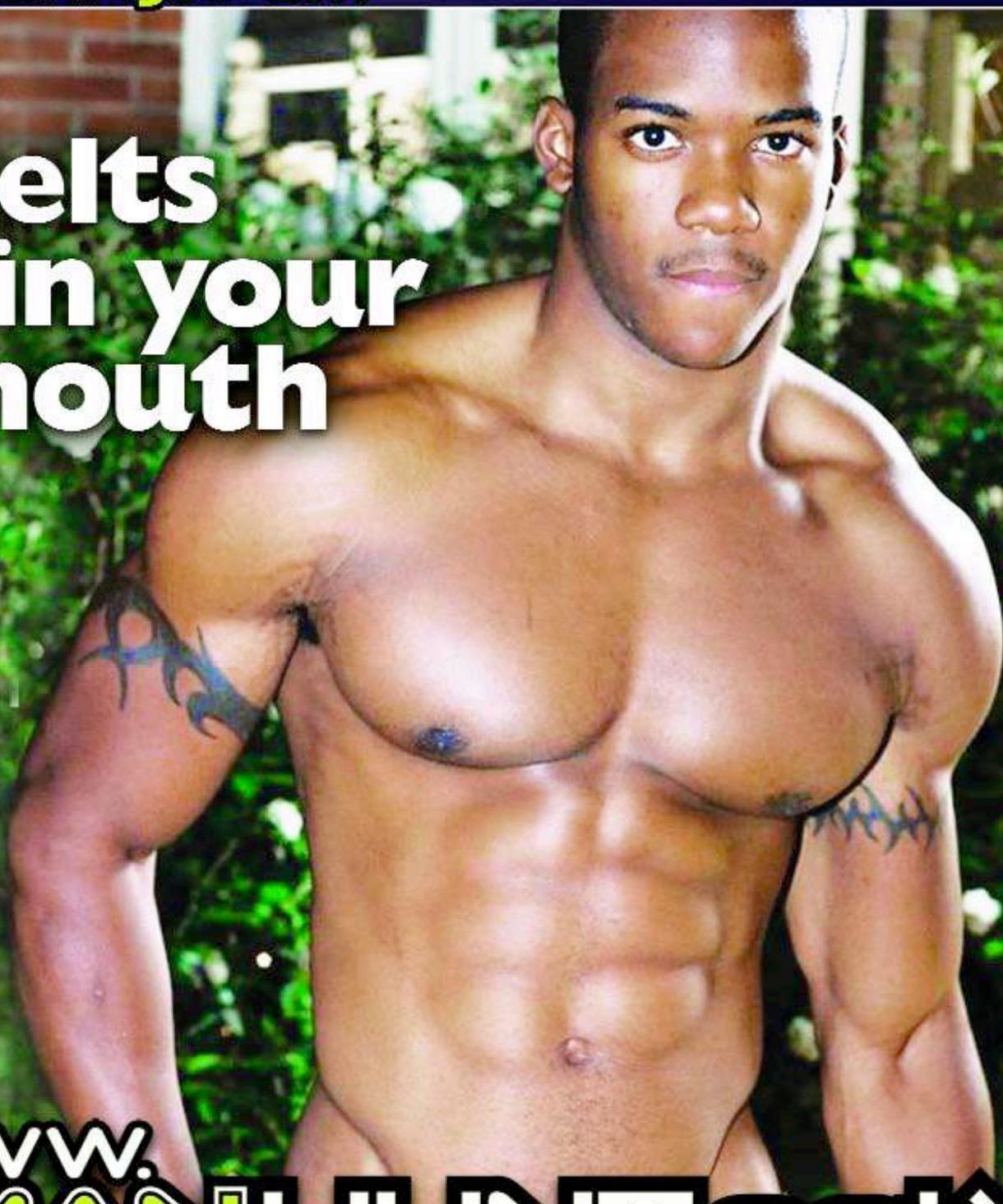
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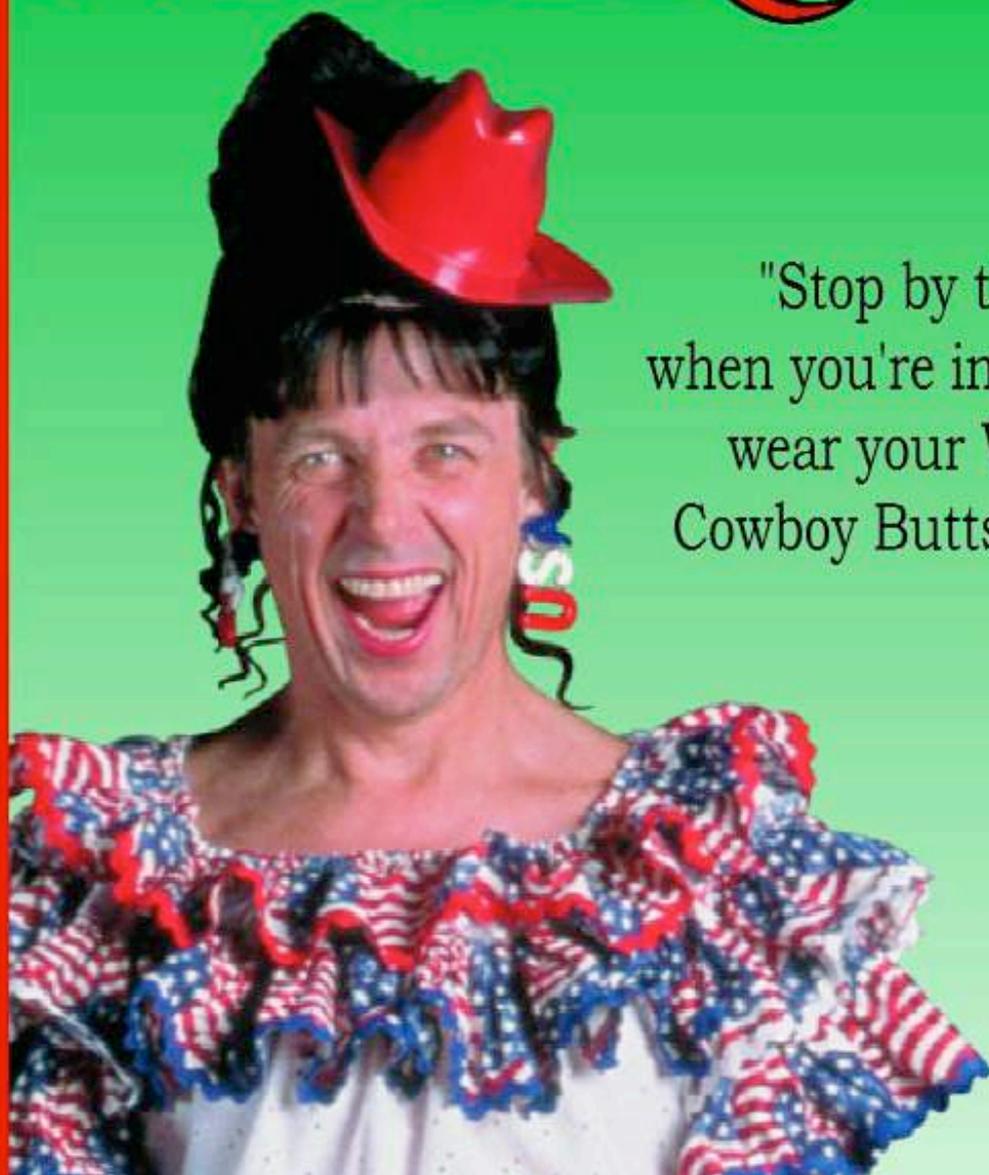
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