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newsmagazine

Plus >

Montrose Clinic + The Assistance Fund = Legacy Community Health Services

It's time for Pride Houston's grand marshal nominations

Happy Holidays!





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AUSTIN
906 E. 5th St.
Austin TX 78702
Phone 512-485-3126 Fax 512-485-3127

DALLAS
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Dallas TX 75204
Phone 214-754-8710 Fax 214-969-7271

HOUSTON
4617 Montrose Blvd., Suite C229
Houston TX 77006
Phone 713-529-0322 Fax 713-529-0327

NOTE: In the designations below, the city after each employee's name indicates the TXT Newsmagazine office the employee reports to. Use the appropriate telephone number, above, to reach the staff member. In Dallas, the ending number represents the employee's telephone extension.

MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATION

Robert Moore, Publisher, Dallas, 112
Terry Thompson, Administrative Assistant, Dallas, 110
Mike Ferguson, Administrative Assistant, Houston
Kris Martin, Promotions Director, Dallas, 116

NEWS OPINION

Dennis Vercher, Executive Editor, Dallas, 113
Nancy Ford, Managing Editor, Houston, 2
Arnold Wayne Jones, Arts&Leisure Editor, Dallas, 129
Ann Rostow, Senior Staff Writer, Austin, 2
Contributing Writers: Deborah Moncrief Bell, Dale Carpenter, Joey Guerra, Scott Huffman, Steven Lindsey, Howard Lewis Russell, Ryan Short
Photographers: Barbera Barker, Guillermo Garza, Gregory Hayes, Milton Hernandez, Paul Stricklin, Terry Thompson

ADVERTISING SALES

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Rivendell Media 908-232-5974
NATIONAL ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE

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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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Christmas worship

Gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender worshippers will observe Christmas Eve and Christmas at the following welcoming churches throughout Texas.

AUSTIN

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin. Christmas Eve services, Saturday, 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Christmas service, Sunday, 11:30 a.m. 4700 Grover Ave. 512-452-6168.

Metropolitan Community Church, Austin at Freedom Oaks. Families' and children's Christmas Eve service, Saturday, 6 p.m. Candlelight service, Saturday, 8 p.m. Christmas service, Sunday, 11 a.m. 8601 S. 1st St. 512-291-8601.

Trinity United Methodist Church. Christmas Eve services with Larry Greenwalt, Saturday, 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Christmas service, Sunday, 11 a.m. 600 E. 50th St. 512-459-5835.

DALLAS

Agape Metropolitan Community Church. Christmas Eve service, Saturday, 8 p.m. 4615 E. California Pkwy. Ft. Worth. 817-535-5002.

Bethany Presbyterian Church. Christmas Eve candlelight service, Saturday, 9 p.m. 4523 Cedar Springs Rd. 214-528-4084.

Cathedral of Hope. Children and family service, Saturday, 5 p.m. Christmas Eve service, Saturday, 9 and 11 p.m. Christmas worship, Sunday, 11 a.m. 5910 Cedar Springs Rd. 214-351-1901.

Celebration Community Church. Christmas Eve service, Saturday, 9 p.m. Christmas service, Sunday, 11 a.m. 908 Pennsylvania Ave. Ft. Worth. 817-335-3222.

Crossroads Community Church. Christmas Eve concert, Saturday, 7:30 p.m. 2800 Routh St. 214-520-9090.

Harvest Metropolitan Community Church. Christmas Eve service, Saturday, 7 p.m. Christmas service, 11 a.m. 525 S. Loop 288, Suite E, Denton. 940-320-6150.

Metropolitan Community Church of Greater Dallas. Christmas Eve service, Saturday, 7 p.m. Christmas service, 10 a.m. Radisson Hotel, 2330 W. Northwest Hwy. 972-243-0761.

Mychal Judge Liberal Catholic Church. Midnight mass, Saturday, 11:30 p.m. 972-346-6853.

New Hope Fellowship. Christmas service, Sunday, 10:45 a.m. 2438 Butler St. Suite 110. 214-905-8082.

Promise Metropolitan Community Church. Christmas Eve service, Saturday, 7 p.m. Christmas services, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. 2527 W. Colorado Blvd. 214-623-8400.

White Rock Community Church. Candlelight service, Saturday, 11 p.m. Christmas service, Sunday, 10:45 a.m. 9353 Garland Road. 214-320-0043.

HOUSTON

Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, Christmas Eve services, Saturday, 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. Christmas service, Sunday, 10:50 a.m. 1440 Harold St. 713-526-1017.

Community Gospel Church. Christmas Eve celebration at the pastor's house, Saturday, 7 p.m. Christmas service, 11 a.m. 4305 Lillian St. 713-880-9235.

First Unitarian Universalist Church. Christmas Eve services, Saturday, 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. Christmas service and potluck luncheon, Sunday, 10:30 p.m. 5200 Fannin St. 713-526-5200.

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church. Christmas Eve service, Saturday, 7 p.m. Christmas service, Sunday, 10:30 a.m. 2515 Waugh Dr. 713-528-3269.

New Covenant Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Fresh Start Church. Christmas Eve service, Saturday, 5 p.m. Christmas Day service and breakfast, Sunday, 10:30 a.m. First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1311 Holman St.

Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church. Christmas Eve services with Spanish service in the Chapel, Saturday, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Christmas Day Service, Sunday, 10 a.m. 2025 West 11th St. 713-861-914.

SAN ANTONIO

First Unitarian Universalist Church. Christmas Eve candlelight service with , Saturday, 7 p.m. Christmas service, Sunday, 10 a.m. 150 IH-10 West. 210-344-4695.

Metropolitan Community Church San Antonio. Christmas service, Sunday, 10:30 a.m. 611 E. Myrtle St. 210-472-3597.

New name for clinic and assistance fund

Groups to operate as Legacy Community Health Services

By Nancy Ford
Staff Writer

After merging, two Houston HIV-focused organizations, the Montrose Clinic and The Assistance Fund, needed a new name that would reflect the outstanding legacy of healthcare the two agencies have become renowned for throughout the Houston community. The name the directors settled on is a fitting one: Legacy Community Health Services.

HOUSTON

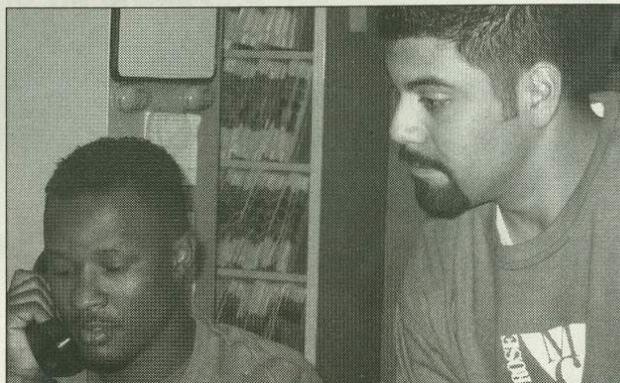
"We wanted to strengthen and expand our services," said Ken Malone, former executive director of The Assistance Fund. "Once our organizations began discussing a possible merger, we were able to see the vision for the new organization."

In September, *TXN Newsmagazine* reported the two agencies would merge, with Malone becoming vice president of the new organization, and Katy Caldwell, executive director of the Montrose Clinic, serving as executive director and president. At that time, Caldwell said operations would continue as usual, with no one receiving assistance from Montrose Clinic or The Assistance Fund losing any services.

Legacy will continue the groups' standard of services to the HIV-positive and GLBT communities while also expanding their other community healthcare initiatives, Caldwell said.

The boards voted for the merger July 27, hoping this structure will allow the new organization to quickly set up new programs for which traditional federal, state and local funding may not be available, they said.

"It's a good marriage because it



NANCY FORD/TXN Newsmagazine

Legacy Community Health Services' volunteer receptionist, John Dixon, left, and Eric Perez, a medical receptionist, pore over client files prior to the Montrose Clinic's merger with The Assistance Fund.

gives us the ability to streamline our services and makes it easier for our clients," Caldwell said. "As a Federally Qualified Health Center, we are able to continue our commitment to ensuring that everyone has access to high quality health care — regardless of their ability to pay."

Montrose Clinic, a United Way agency, has provided full-service healthcare including a wide range of services to the GLBT and HIV-positive communities for more than 20 years. The Assistance Fund was established in 1987 to provide financial assistance to HIV-positive patients, helping them pay for medication and insurance premiums.

In combining the two agencies, Legacy Community Health Services will consist of two separate entities: an operating arm, which will supply services and maintain standard fundraising, including obtaining grants. The endowment will handle long-term fundraising goals.

As did its predecessors, Legacy Community Health Services will offer primary health care, eye care, preven-

tion education, social services, and clinical research services.

In the next few months, the clinic's and The Assistance Fund's staffs will be reassigned among their three facilities operating in Houston to serve clients most efficiently, Caldwell said.

Legacy Community Health Services will also introduce a Walgreens pharmacy within its facilities, scheduled to open in early 2006, allowing clients to receive all of their healthcare services through one convenient provider.

INFO

Legacy Community Health Services offers free HIV testing with expanded hours on Wednesday. From 11 a.m. until 8 p.m., clients will be offered a free, rapid HIV test using either an oral swab or fingerstick with results available in 20 minutes.

Given the recent controversy with the rapid HIV tests, all HIV-positive results will be confirmed using a Western Blot test.

Legacy Community Health Services is located at 215 Westheimer Rd. For more information, call 713-830-3070.

Human Rights Campaign Houston schedules pre-gala party to recruit 2006 table captains

National president Joe Solmonese to appear

By Nancy Ford
Staff Writer

Preparing for the ninth annual gala, The Roaring 20's Ball, the Houston chapter of the Human Rights Campaign will hold a table captain event in the Basquiat Exhibit at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, on Jan. 18 at 6:30 p.m.

At that time, guests will have the opportunity to select tables for the din-

ner, scheduled April 29 at the Hilton Americas Hotel Houston. Organizers explained that table captains commit "to do their best" to sell seats at their chosen tables, but are not required to purchase those that they are unable to sell.

Remaining seats will be open to general public sale three weeks prior to the main event. Tickets for the HRC Gala begin at \$175 and can be purchased online at Boxofficetickets.com or by calling 1-800-494-TIXS.

HRC president, Joe Solmonese, is scheduled to appear at the January table captain gathering. Solmonese was elect-



Matthew Burrus, left, Fiona Dawson and Alton LaDay will chair the 2006 Houston Human Rights Campaign Gala. Dr. Carolyn Farb and Bob Devlin will serve as honorary co-chairs for the annual formal dinner.

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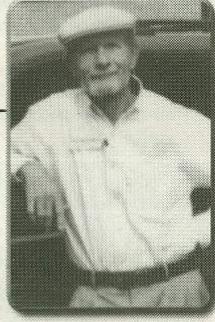
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ed the president of the equal rights group in March after serving as a member of the political activist group, Emily's List, for twelve years. Emily's List supports and assists lesbians who are running for city and state

offices.

For more information on The Roaring 20's Ball or the MFA table captain party, visit Hrchouston.org.

Contact the writer: Nancy@txtnewsmag.com

Service groups benefit from Charles Armstrong's 12 Days of Christmas tradition



PAUL STRICKLIN/TXT Newsmagazine
Chief executive officer of Charles Armstrong Investments, Charles Armstrong, on right, hands a giant check representing a donation of \$1,000 to support the programs of AVES, Amigos Volunteers in Education & Service to AVES chief executive officer, Terrence O'Neill.

\$12,000 dispersed among a dozen local organizations

By Nancy Ford
Staff Writer

At Charles Armstrong Investments' annual 12 Days of Christmas holiday party held the evening of Dec. 13 at South Beach nightclub, Charles Armstrong, president and chief executive officer, praised twelve organizations for working hard all year long to provide services to Houston's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community.

"I am pleased to announce that we are once again in a position to give back to our community during this holiday season," Armstrong said. "On behalf of our one hundred and twenty plus employees, management and thousands of valued patrons that support our Family of Clubs at 800 Pacific, we salute these organizations with a \$1000

donation."

Despite challenging local economy and high energy costs, Armstrong said he believes it is important "to support and recognize these twelve organizations."

Houston groups receiving donations of \$1000 included AIDS Foundation Houston, The Assistance Fund, Amigos Volunteers in Education & Service, Bering Omega Community Services, Center for AIDS, Gay & Lesbian Switchboard-Houston, HATCH youth group, Houston Transgender Unity Committee in memory of Joanne Roberts, Pride Houston, Houston Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Lesbian Health Initiative and the Spay-Neuter Assistance Program.

Charles Armstrong Investments is the parent company of Meteor, JR's Bar and Grill, South Beach and Montrose Mining Company.

Contact the writer: Nancy@txtnewsmag.com

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From Page 7

Committee co-chairs serve two-year terms, with the male and female co-chairs stepping down in alternate years to ensure

continuity.

The check distribution event was held at the Adams Mark Hotel in downtown Dallas, the site of this year's dinner. — *From staff reports*

RECEIPTS

The DFW Black Tie Dinner Committee distributed funds raised at its October event to the following groups:

- AIDS Arms Inc., \$36,968
- AIDS Interfaith Network, \$27,209
- AIDS Outreach Center, \$26,421
- AIDS Resources of Rural Texas, \$28,607
- AIDS Services of Dallas, \$33,679
- AIDS Services of North Texas, \$26,900
- Beth El Binah, \$26,582
- Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance, Don Baker Education Fund, \$26,570
- Dallas Legal Hospice, \$28,716
- Fort Worth Men's Chorus, \$26,800
- Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network of Dallas, \$25,825
- Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, \$45,723
- Legacy Counseling Center, \$30,891
- Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas (Equality Texas), Calkin Fund, \$28,874
- PFLAG/Dallas, \$29,319
- Resource Center of Dallas, \$59,562
- Turtle Creek Chorale, \$29,486
- White Rock Friends, \$25,725
- Women's Communities Association, \$26,650
- Youth First Texas, \$29,489
- Human Rights Campaign Foundation, \$620,000

Pride Houston accepting nominations for grand marshals to lead 2006 parade

Organizers with Pride Houston have announced the group is accepting nominations of outstanding community individuals and groups to lead its 2006 parade in June.

Nomination forms and instruction for male, female, honorary and honorary organization grand marshals can be found at **HOUSTON** pridehouston.org. To nominate an individual or an organization, download and complete the form and return it to Pride Houston by the

January 14, 2006, deadline.

The complete roster of grand marshal nominees will be announced Jan. 17; poll voting will take place on several dates in February.

The 2006 grand marshals will be announced on March 2.

For more information call Pride Houston at 713-529-6979 or e-mail Info@pridehouston.org.

— *From staff reports*

deaths

Jason Ansara Brooks

Jason Ansara Brooks, 50, director and choreographer of Pro Arts Collective's *Black Nativity*, died Dec. 13, 2005.

A native of Austin, Brooks trained with the Alvin Ailey Dance Theater in New York City and performed on four continents in a career that spanned more than 25 years. He was a dance soloist at the Berlin Deutsche Opera and a dancer and actor at the Stuttgart Opera House. His stage works included starring in the world premiere of *Darker Face of the Earth* at the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis, written by poet laureate and Pulitzer Prize winner, August Wilson's *Piano Lesson* and *Gospel at Colonus*. He was a featured performer in the United Kingdom tour of *Cotton Club*, and *Porgy and Bess* in Austria; he also earned a number of film and commercial credits.

Pro Arts Collective's executive director, Lisa Byrd praised Brooks's wisdom and artistic brilliance displayed in *Black Nativity*.

"*Black Nativity* was Jason's last artistic venture, and he loved this Gospel play. It was one of his favorite roles," she said. "We draw comfort from the fact that he died in the midst of doing what he loved."

Albert Allen Montalvo

Albert "Little Al" Montalvo, 40, died Dec. 8, 2005. He was born Aug. 13, 1965 in Houston, Texas to Alfonso Alfred and Guadalupe Lozano Montalvo.



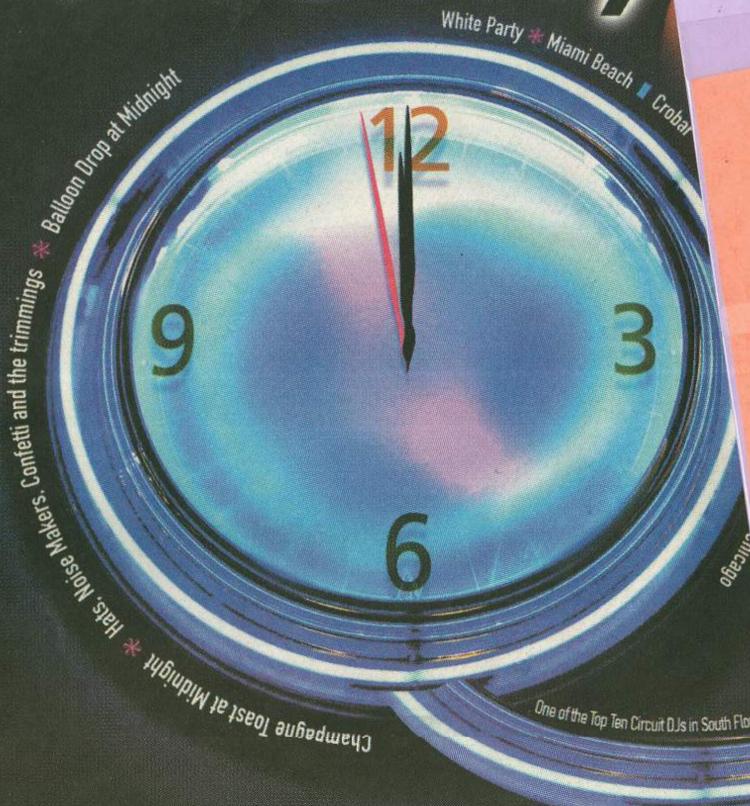
Al was preceded in death by his father. He is survived by his mother, Lupe Reed and step-father, Tom, of Houston; sisters, Edie Boran and husband, Steve, and Lynn Crabb and husband, Samuel, both of Houston; brother, Gil Robert Horton and wife, Pam, of College Station, Texas; numerous nieces and nephews; ex-life partner and roommate Gary Munson of Dallas; his Firedancers club brothers; a host of friends; and his cats, Mocha and Gizmo.

A member of Firedancers Dallas and a former member of the Texas Riders, Al enjoyed traveling, spending time with his family and friends. He spent countless hours supporting charitable events and organizations for HIV services. He was loved dearly by those who knew him and will never be forgotten.

The family wishes to express their gratitude to Legacy Founders Cottage and to American Hospice for their loving care.

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By Ann Rostow

Campus gay kiss-ins scrutinized as credible terrorism threat by Pentagon

Servicemembers Legal Defense Network angered by government watch list

A Pentagon surveillance unit has been spying on gay rights groups at several American universities, *NBC News* revealed last week. According to an outraged press release from the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, military investigators monitored Don't Ask Don't Tell protests at the State University of New York in Albany last April, as well as a similar demonstration at William Patterson College in New Jersey.

According to press reports and gay advocates, sections of a secret Pentagon database show the military considered these and other protests "suspicious," or "possibly violent." A gathering at the University of California in Santa Cruz was evaluated as a "credible threat" of terrorism. That event featured a gay kiss-in.

"Students have a first amendment right to protest, and Americans have a right to expect that their government will respect their consti-



tutional right to privacy," said C. Dixon Osburn, head of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network. "To suggest that a gay kiss-in is a 'credible threat' is absurd, homophobic, and irrational."

Osburn's organization announced plans to file a Freedom of Information Act request to determine if any other gay groups have been targeted by the Defense Department.

tutional right to privacy," said C. Dixon Osburn, head of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network. "To suggest that a gay kiss-in is a 'credible threat' is absurd, homophobic, and irrational."

Mark Warner protects employees in state workplace against gay bias

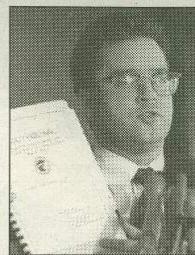
Next governor promises to uphold predecessor's policy of anti-discrimination

In a stealth move last Friday, Virginia governor Mark R. Warner issued an executive order banning state agencies from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation in hiring and promotions. According to the *Washington Post*, the order took effect immediately.

Warner codified his order by adding "sexual orientation" to discrimination clauses in the budget that he delivered to the legislature on the same day.

Warner is leaving office January 14, but Governor Elect Timothy M. Kaine said he supports the policy and will sign an identical order when he takes office. Both Warner and Kaine are Democrats.

Warner, who reportedly has 2008 presidential aspirations, was inspired by learning that 60 percent of Virginia's state lawmakers have instituted protections against discrimination on behalf of their gay and lesbian staff. According to his spokeswoman, Ellen Qualls,



Virginia governor Mark R. Warner, who may seek the Democratic Party's nomination for president in 2008, quietly signed employment protection for his state's gay workers into law last Friday.

that discovery sent "a powerful message" to the governor, signaling to him "that even what has been considered a traditionally conservative statehouse is ready for this change."

The Virginia General Assembly is indeed conservative, passing some of the most anti-gay legislation in the country. The "Marriage Affirmation Act," passed in the summer of 2004, voids legal rights between same-sex couples and may jeopardize private contracts, although it has yet to be tested in court. The Marriage Affirmation Act was meant to bolster Virginia's law against same-sex marriage with a specific ban on civil unions and other ties.

Same-sex partner benefits falling through the cracks despite favorable legislation

Without marriage rights, domestic partner registry is a faulty alternative

In New Jersey, where the legislature launched a statewide domestic partner registry last January, the cheers and congratulations from the gay community have quieted.

The registry provides benefits to the partners of state workers, as well as hospital visitation, the right to file joint taxes and a few other features. It also opened the door for local governments to set up their own partner benefit plans. But to date, only four out of 21 counties have done so, leaving the majority of

the state's gay and lesbian couples with little more than symbolism. Further, New Jersey partners lack many of the central legal elements of marriage, including the right to inherit without a will, the right to sue for wrongful death, automatic parental rights, and with the exception of state workers, the right to pension and death benefits.

The problem is personified by Lt. Laurel Hester, a 24-year veteran of the Ocean County prosecutor's office, who is dying of inoperable lung cancer. With under six months to live, Hester has asked the county to authorize benefits and a pension for her partner, Stacie Andree. But county authorities have repeatedly refused, citing the costs. Hester's situation has become a *cause celebre*

in the state, and received national press as well.

Over in Perth Amboy, Betty Price is suing the state of New Jersey after her registered domestic partner died suddenly without a will. Together for two decades, the couple had a house, two cars and a bank account with a balance of \$9,000. But the assets were all under the name of Rene Price, who dropped dead of a heart attack at 61 last summer. Jordan, 66, argued her case on October 17.

For all its faults, New Jersey is well ahead of the rest of the country, where only four other states recognize same-sex couples through a formal, statewide institution. In Massachusetts, that institution is marriage.

Vermont civil unions offer all the benefits of marriage under state authority, while California does the same through its domestic partner registry, and Hawaii's reciprocal benefits program offers a lower status.

With a statewide program in place, New Jersey lawmakers have a vessel that can be gradually filled with additional rights and responsibilities, much as California grew its own registry into what now resembles marriage in most respects. But activists hope that the state supreme court will render the issue moot by legalizing marriage equality in a year, maybe less. The justices have received written briefs in a lawsuit filed by Lambda Legal Defense on behalf of seven couples in June 2002.

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DECEMBER 23, 2005 **txt newsmagazine** 11

Polydevotion, Czech mates and conservative milk occupy the lighter news

Three's company

The far right's latest tactic in the marriage wars is to insist that the world is already halfway down the slippery slope from same-sex marriage to polygamy, as evidenced mainly by the notarized "cohabitation contract" signed in September by a man and two women in Holland.

The whole affair was a private deal, not a state-sanctioned three-way marriage. But the trio went on to conduct a ceremony, throw a party, and head off on a honeymoon, creating an international media storm that barely touched American shores — most likely due to our insular national news character more than any intrinsic lack of interest. Since the press seems incapable of making the distinction between, say, a symbolic wedding in someone's living room and full-fledged equal marriage rights, it's no wonder that this incident was hailed as a "polygamous marriage."

Now, our favorite intellectual on the other side of the marriage divide, Stanley Kurtz, has written a lengthy article in *The Weekly Standard*, arguing that the social and legal arguments in favor of polygamy will arise



Ann Rostow

polygamous families living their whole lives on the margin. We're not talking about a few pedophiles in Utah, a commune in the woods somewhere, or a trendy set of amorous room-mates in Manhattan. I said *deluded*. Wait until we read story after story about men and women who have spent 40 years with another couple and are barred from their dying partner's bedside. Let's see a thousand or so cases where only one member of a polygamous marriage gets to inherit the family property, after 25 years of polydevotion. Then we'll talk.

Same-sex marriage didn't drop out of the sky last year. This cause arose over decades from the plight of several million couples trying to make a life together in a hostile clime. As for the bisexual theory, just because you're attracted to both men and women doesn't mean you *must* have one of each, any more than a man who is attracted to both blondes and brunettes must have two wives.

Oh, I heard that. Keep your pants zipped down there in San Antonio. I heard you in Houston, too.

Around the world in 235 words

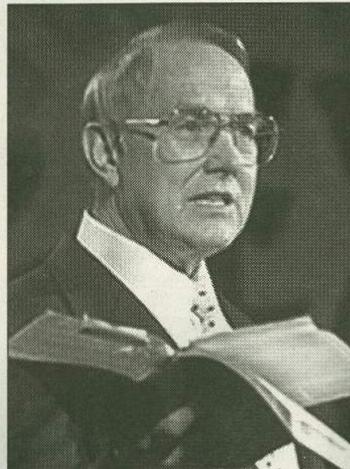
What else is going on? I didn't intend to wallow in polygamy for a third of my column inches, but you know the rule. What's written in *News With a View*, stays in *News With a View*. Speaking of imprecision in media accounts of same-sex union schemes, the United Kingdom's Civil Partnerships Act has gone into effect, offering "most" of the rights of marriage under another name to gay and lesbian couples. Call me a stickler for detail, but while it might be a nice deal, it's not marriage, and it should not be heralded as such. Elton John is not "getting married." He's signing up for a civil partnership.

We've also seen a weak domestic partner registration bill pass the lower house of the Czech parliament, on the heels of an anti-discrimination bill two weeks earlier. Those laws, the latter being a required ticket to admission in the European Union, must pass the senate and be signed. I don't know why I'm grousing about these advances, given my lowly legal status here in the Lone Star State, but I feel like it. So there.

What I don't feel like doing is reporting on marriage news in Spain (high court upholds marriage law on technicality), Latvia (President being urged not to sign anti-marriage constitutional amendment), New Zealand (bad marriage bill rejected), Austria (justice minister proposes national partnership plan), or Canada (too complicated for parenthetical synopsis).



Conservative columnist Stanley Kurtz, right, has intellectualized that the demand for polygamous marriage will bring in the bisexual community. Focus on the Family's James Dobson agrees and goes him one better: FoF is pushing for constitutional legislation in North Dakota to limit marriage partners to two people.



Do you know the way to New Rochelle?

So instead, we'll return to the Homeland, where Indianapolis has just added sexual orientation to the city Human Rights Ordinance, protecting gays and lesbians against the full range of discrimination. Too bad the Colts lost. Had I known this was coming, I would not have rooted for San Diego last weekend. In New Orleans, a state appellate judge has tossed a Christian conservative law group out of court, ruling that their meddling clients had no standing to stick their noses into the city's domestic partner program. And in the Bay Area, the *San Jose Mercury News* reports that a county judge has thrown out a San Jose ordinance recognizing legal same-sex marriages from Canada or elsewhere. I guess San Jose, like San Francisco, does not have the authority to violate state marriage policy. *Tant pis*, as we say in Topeka.

Oh, and let's not forget the buttinskis in New Rochelle, who are suing the New York City bedroom community in federal court to whine about "tax dollars" going to the same-sex partners of city employees under the town's six-month-old program. Presumably, these jokers have about as much standing as the fools in New Orleans, who also tried and failed to leverage their positions as "taxpayers" into intervenor status before the court.

Microsoft wants me to change the word "intervenor," which may or may not be a real term, into "interferon." Didn't the characters on the old *Dick Van Dyke Show* live in New Rochelle? The answer to that question, after a sizable amount of time just wasted in cyberspace, is yes! And while we're at it, "intervenor" is just fine by the *Oxford Illustrated Dictionary*, although it is not one of the nouns selected for an illustration. There is, however, a lovely depiction of the structure

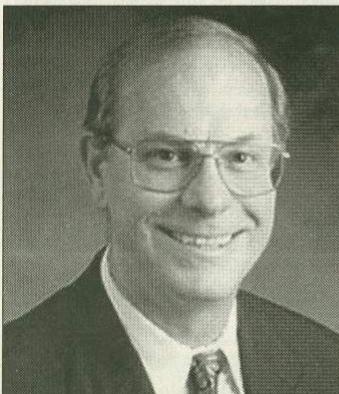
of the human intestine just down the page. A complicated mechanism indeed. (And they say there's no such thing as intelligent design!) If I'm not mistaken, interferon is one of the treatments for Hepatitis C, and the liver is right next to the intestines, so we've come full circle.

Got milk?

I think I'll junk the rest of the actual news, and tell you instead about James Leininger, a filthy rich San Antonio businessman who injects vast sums of cash into the war chests of Texas conservatives. Leininger, who helped bankroll the campaign for an anti-marriage constitutional amendment that passed last November, is apparently the owner of Promise Land Dairies, a high-end company that sells top of the line milk to a number of grocers, including our own home town favorite here in Austin, Whole Foods. The cream vine tells me that Whole Foods has stopped selling Promise Land at some stores under pressure from progressive activists, but apparently the stuff is still on the shelves at other outlets, and Whole Foods uses the product for its own milk brand.

Pardon me while I pause to spit out my Whole Foods "365" milk in a sputtering spray of spatulence. I am only passing along gossip, but the ideology and political activities of James Leininger, a Christian reconstructionist, are a matter of public record, as are his many business holdings, including Promise Land. So, let's go check out our local Whole Food stores and see if the nefarious milk is on display. In an amusing little detail, every bottle of Promise Land milk apparently has a Bible verse inside the cap.

Contact the writer: Ann@xtnews.com



San Antonio milk millionaire James R. Leininger helped fund the passage of Proposition 2 in November, which amends Texas's constitution to deny marriage rights to same sex partners.

naturally from the bisexual community, and will piggyback on growing respect for sexual orientation. Meanwhile, Focus on the Family is issuing dark warnings and South Dakota lawmakers have deliberately written a constitutional amendment to limit marriage not just to a man and a woman, but to no more than two people. That amendment is up for a vote next November.

You know what? Polygamy will become legal if, and only if, our society is deluged by

Letters

No cure, no show

In response to the letter in last week's *TXT Newsmagazine* from Jay Esby titled "Rejoice! AIDS is cured!": No Jay, There is no cure. And you certainly did not miss the memo. I've attended many of these in the past and you're lucky you saw 50 people at the World AIDS Day ceremony. I don't know why people don't attend.

No, Jay, there is no cure. But good for you for attending, and shame on them for not!

Oskar Hinojosa/Fort Worth

Brokenhearted by 'Brokeback'

I could not sleep after seeing *Brokeback Mountain*. Based on the fact that the movie had received seven Golden Globe nominations, I had high hopes for a truly well written and executed gay love story that would leave me with a sense of hope for the future and how mainstream America might view the GLBT community. After seeing *Brokeback Mountain*, my hopes were dashed. I left the theatre depressed and outraged.

Based on my life experiences as a divorced gay man, father of three and grandfather of one, and having grown up in the 1960s and '70s with the pressures to conform "or else," I feel I am qualified to comment.

Brokeback Mountain had a wonderful opportunity to provide a history of the struggles faced by gay men during this period. The movie accomplished that. What it didn't do was take advantage of the chance to provide hope and a sense that gay men can overcome these struggles and the social adversities. As a gay man who lived much of the movie's story line, I feel angry that the creators of this film did not feel it necessary to leave the audience with the idea that two men can fall in love and pursue a happy, healthy life together.

Evangelical bigots do not need any new fuel for their anti-gay fires, and I feel this movie gives them just that. We do not need Hollywood to add to the flames by creating hype around a gay-themed movie that the GLBT community will rush to see, only to find it is yet another film that shows loving gay relationships end badly.

If you are a member of the GLBT community and you were not outraged by this movie, you were not paying attention. The mood set by this movie is dangerous.

Mike Henley/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.

The other side of the mountain

A dissenting view on this year's acclaimed gay cowboy movie

In a 1980 essay entitled "The Boys on the Beach," conservative writer Midge Decter described the gay men who summered at Fire Island in the 1960s:

No households of wives and children requiring security; no entailments of school bills, doctor and dentist bills; no lifetime of acquiring the goods needed for family welfare and the goods desired for family entertainment, with a margin left over for that greatest of all heterosexual entailments, the Future; no such households burdened the overwhelmingly vast majority of homosexuals.

Homosexuality, argued Decter, is a flight from adult responsibility. Heterosexual men who accept their share of the burden to raise the next generation feel "mocked," especially by gay men, because male "homosexuality paints them with the color of sheer entrapment." Being gay, she concluded, means "taking oneself out of the tides of ordinary mortal existence."

From early on in *Brokeback Mountain*, the Oscar-contending film by director Ang Lee, I found myself thinking about Decter's essay.

The basic story is by now familiar: two young men, Ennis Del Mar (Heath Ledger) and Jack Twist (Jake

Gyllenhaal), meet and fall in love in 1963 while herding sheep in the mountains of Wyoming. Subsequently, they each get married and have kids but get together a couple of times a year to go "fishing," the euphemism they give their wives for the periodic renewal of their affair. The story ends in 1983.

There's much to admire in this film. Ennis and Jack bust stereotypes of gay men. They aren't effeminate. When they meet, they are modern "cowboys" who live on profanity, fighting, country music, beer, and hard work for low pay. Yet their masculinity is also not the posed hyper-masculinity of leather, Levi, and uniform fetish scenes.

There's no mention of Stonewall, Harvey Milk, or even San Francisco. It's a welcome corrective to the urban-centered

study of gay life in America.

For the most part we do not see sensationalized homophobia. That would be too easy. Instead, we see the everyday contempt for gays that still suffuses life in much of the country. Disdain for homosexuals mostly comes to Ennis and Jack in the sneers of others and in their own shame.

Still, the film offers some support for the notion that homosexuality is "taking oneself out of the tides of ordinary mortal existence." Critics have rushed to praise *Brokeback Mountain* as a universal love story. Perhaps that's true, but it's not the whole story.

It's almost never mentioned that their affair is juxtaposed to the consequences of neglecting life's obligations. The first time Ennis and Jack have sex they shirk their responsibility to watch the flock. That night, a sheep is killed by a wolf; the aftermath is graphically depicted. A large portion of the flock is ultimately lost while they frolic.

More importantly, in their occasional fishing retreats, Ennis and Jack leave behind families. They are adulterers. This doesn't seem so terrible in the case of Jack, whose cartoonish wife is obsessed with her career and her press-on nails. But in the case of Ennis the result is poignant. Rushing out of the house to meet Jack, Ennis bodily passes off his two daughters to his wife, who stoically bears the burden left by a homosexual fleeing his entrapment. Eventually they divorce.

The film speaks powerfully to the

sense of lost love and opportunity every closeted gay person must feel. But it's difficult to buy the idea that the love between Jack and Ennis is an unvarnished good thing made tragic only by a homophobic world.

Part of the reason is that the love story itself is a bit strained. Hollywood delights in acting of the stumbling-and-mumbling sort (think James Dean and Marlon Brando) because it is thought to convey authenticity. Ledger in particular nails this style. But the spare dialogue between Jack and Ennis puts a lot of interpretive pressure on the meaningful glances they exchange.

Their sexual intimacy seems contrived. The sex — full of wrestling and snorting — is the kind of sex that a person who's neither gay nor a cowboy imagines gay cowboys must have.

But the deeper reason their love doesn't completely register is that every time they go off together one is left wondering, what about the kids? What Ennis and Jack experience as an exhilarating liberation from the mundane and the stifling is for their families an abandonment. Ennis at least talks about living up to his familial obligations, but in truth he's checked out of them almost from the start.

For these reasons, I couldn't quite join in the symphony of sniffles I heard in the theater at the undeniably sad end of the film.

Yes, the world around Ennis and Jack channeled them into unhappy heterosexual lives. All concerned would have been better off if that hadn't happened.

But once families have been formed, do we think they have no obligation except to fulfill their own deepest desires? Do we really believe that the only tragedy in the film is the thwarted love of these two men? Why is nobody in the gay community even considering this moral complexity?

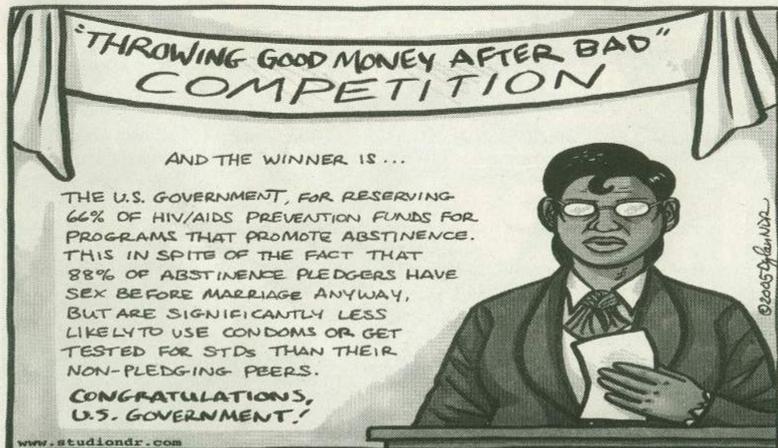
Which brings us back to Midge Decter. Much that's happened in the past quarter-century has discredited her view of homosexuality as escapism. But you would not know that from the sentimental and myopic reaction to this film, which sees in a multi-layered calamity only a beautiful but doomed gay romance.

Dale Carpenter, a former official of Log Cabin Republicans of Texas, is a law professor at the University of Minnesota. Some of his previous columns can be viewed at the Independent Gay Forum (Indiegayforum.org).

Contact the writer: Outright@aol.com



OUTRIGHT
Dale Carpenter



Ring in the New Year right

A rundown of parties and fun through the holiday season

From Christmas Week to New Year's Eve and beyond, there's something for everyone to do around Texas.

AUSTIN

The Zach Scott Theatre's holiday shows — **Rockin' Christmas Party** and **The Santaland Diaries** — continue their runs at least through Jan. 1. 510-476-0541.

Hedda Layne will be performing songs from her new Holiday CD at **Rain** starting at 10 p.m. on Christmas Day, then begins her divalicious dance set at 11 p.m.

A **Tuna Christmas** comes to the Paramount Theatre with original stars Jaston

Williams and Joe Sears beginning Jan. 3. 866-443-8849.

DALLAS

The Eisenmann Center in Richardson hosts the continuing Texas tour of **A Tuna Christmas** from Dec. 27 through New Year's Day. 972-744-4650.

Caven Enterprises rocks the block on New Year's Eve with a Cedar Springs Road blowout party that covers **Sue Ellen's**, **Throckmorton Mining Company, JR.'s Bar & Grill** and **Station 4**, each with its own disc jockey.

Dallas restaurateur extraordinaire **Monica**



Hedda Layne

Greene has some New Year's Eve specials at three of her Dallas-area eateries. At Oak Lawn's **Ciudad**, enjoy live music from Vince Martinez and Johnny Gonzalez, plus a four-course dinner and bottle of champagne for

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Rockin' Christmas Party

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A Tuna Christmas



From Page 14

each couple for \$95 each (and get \$90 per person back in Ciudad Dollars). 214-219-3141.

At **Monica's Aca y Alla** (both the Deep Ellum and Addison locations), there's live music, a three-course dinner and party favors for just \$65 per person. Seatings at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. 214-748-7140 (Deep Ellum) and 972-239-7700 (Addison).

D.J. **Alyson Calagna** welcomes in 2006 at **Purgatory** with a tea dance on New Year's Day.

HOUSTON

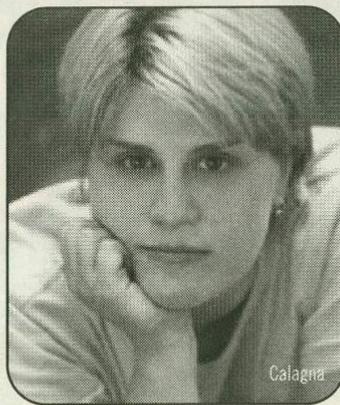
D.J. **Tucker** gets the Christmas weekend started on Friday with a set at **South Beach**. He'll be followed on Christmas Eve by resident spin doctor **Jimmy Skinner** and on Christmas Day by guest D.J. **J.D. Arnold**.

Dallas's **Michael Bloemer** heads to Houston for a Christmas Eve set at **Rich's**.

JR.'s Bar & Grill will be open all this weekend, and will even host a **No-Cover Party** on New Year's Eve.

Confessions of a New Year is the name of D.J. **Michael Tank's** rollicking New Year's Eve celebration at **Rich's**. Come dressed as a devil or an angel and the first drink is courtesy of the house. There will be giveaways (including passes to the Red Party with Peter Rauhofer), complimentary bubbly and more. Presale tickets are \$15.

The Progressive Women's Network is holding its **Le Femme Masquerade Soiree** on Dec. 31 at **713 Restaurant and Lounge**. D.J. Miller House is the featured entertainment, and tickets range from \$35 to \$50. 832-969-2082.



Calagna

D.J. and producer **Jamie J. Sanchez** will helm the New Year's Eve after hours party **Mezzanine** at **M Bar**. Tickets are \$25 in advance.

Legendary circuit D.J. **Monty Q** rings in the New Year at **South Beach** with a set that lasts until 5 p.m. Tickets are \$15 in advance.

SAN ANTONIO

Just because it's the holidays doesn't mean **College Night** stops at **The Saint**. On Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, fraternity and sorority members get in for all the fun, including an amateur strip contest. On Dec. 31, there'll also be party favors.

Heat brings what it's calling "a very special Christmas production" to the floor beginning at midnight on Christmas Sunday.

If it's a Friday or Saturday, you can usually find **Leather Night** at **The Annex**, and

that includes Christmas Eve and New Year's weekend.

Bonham Exchange celebrates the glitz and glitter of Hollywood at its **Black and Gold** New Year's Eve bash, where guests are invited to dress to the nines and enjoy giveaways, favors, a champagne toast and a buffet in addition to the go-go boys. \$10 for 21 and over; \$15 for 18 to 20.

On Dec. 31, Los Angeles D.J. **Peter Barona** spins at **Heat** to get the new year started off right.

The **Emily Morgan Hotel** and gay-owned **Oro Restaurant** are offering holiday treats: a Christmas Eve dinner, a Christmas Day champagne breakfast, a New Year's Eve five-course dinner party and a New Year's Day buffet, all with special room rates at the hotel. Call 210-244-0146 for dining and 800-824-6674 for accommodations.



Monty Q

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tracks

Salomé de Bahia

Brasil

Tommy Boy

Just as one needn't speak French to savor the delicate bouquet of France's finest wines, one needn't speak Portuguese to appreciate the joyous sounds of Paris-based Brazilian chanteuse Salomé de Bahia. *Brasil*, the diva's 15-track North American debut album, is a recording generously filled with vibrant melodies, infectious rhythms and effervescent vocals. "Outra Lugar," a percussive Brazilian remake of Stevie Wonder's "Another Star," is the crown jewel in this collection of glimmering gems, while a Portuguese cover of Barry Manilow's "Copacabana" offers a touch of campy familiarity. Laid-back yet flavorful Brazilian classics like "Lanca Perfume," "Voce Abuse" and "Pais Tropical" demonstrate de Bahia's seemingly effortless vocal delivery, and livelier tracks like "Taj Mahal" and "Cada Vez" set the mood for an evening on the dance floor. Indeed, *Brasil* is the South American mini-vacation you've been longing for.

—Scott Huffman



Carl Bean

I Was Born This Way

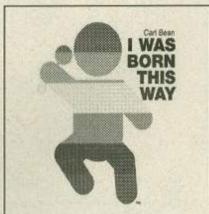
West End Records

To offer legitimate criticism of *I Was Born This Way* is to seem to dismiss the gay anthem's message. The lyrics exist so simply that a too-careful ear may build meaning on a song that should be taken at face value. Perhaps it is merely here and queer, a statement of what is now, natural and necessary.

And yet, the "here/queer" philosophy seems outdated in today's social climate, which debatably inspired these remixes' releases. Americans know that GLBTs abound among them. The real question may be, "Now what do we do with them?"

Born This Way never meant to deal with such a quicksand question. Even more, the remixes feel unoriginal, with dully-constructed bass lines and few clever beats. The club kiddos may squeal at the first notes of these dance ditties, but any academic or advocate for GLBT causes has surely moved past these messages to debate more modern themes.

—Ryan Short



Cyndi Lauper

The Body Acoustic

Epic/Daylight

Cyndi Lauper possesses an ideal instrument: one of the most emotional voices in pop music. Lauper's pipes have only gotten stronger and sharper over the years, and the experience adds depth to new takes on "Money Changes Everything" and "Time After Time." The diminutive diva even includes stellar renditions of lesser-known (but equally tremendous) tracks "Sisters of Avalon," "Shine" and "Water's Edge." Lauper call this "back-porch music," and indeed, the album has a rousing, organic feel.

An assortment of stars — Sarah McLachlan, Jeff Beck, Vivian Green, Ani DiFranco and more — provide solid support, but Lauper is clearly in charge. Only Japanese duo Puffy Ami Yumi manage to make a mark on a raucous rendition of "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun." New tracks "Above the Clouds" and "I'll Be Your River" are gorgeous interludes, but (*sigh*) they add anguish to the wait for that long-delayed album of new Lauper music.

Joey Guerra



postscript

SCHOOL'S OUT

Totally Joe by James Howe (Atheneum, 189 pp., \$15.95)

In case you don't remember, being a kid stinks. No matter what the adults in your life told you, your teenage years were probably definitely not the best years of your life. It's no fun dealing with raging hormones, bad skin and a body that suddenly seems foreign to you.

And then there's the popularity issue — who's in and who's... out? In *Totally Joe*, Joe Bunch knows where he fits in. Now he just needs to come out.

Joe's English teacher assigns his seventh graders to do "alphabiographies" — journals about themselves from A to Z. For Joe, A is for Addie, his oldest friend. C is for Colin, the boy Joe has liked since fifth grade. But this year is different: Colin is now Joe's boyfriend. It's a secret,

though, because neither boy can bear Kevin Hennessey — the bully who calls Joe "faggot" — finding out.

Colin and Joe are eventually seen holding hands, which triggers their break-up. This leads to Q is for Questions — why, Joe wonders, is dating a boy such a big deal? Why is popularity so important? The answers, as any grown-up will tell you, are not as easy as A-B-C.

Totally Joe is aimed at the 10-and-older crowd, but it's not totally for them. These are the kinds of kids you never hear about on the six o'clock news because they're not troublemakers or juvenile delinquents. Instead, they're typical teens, learning their place in the world.

If you're looking for a diversion for yourself, or a good book for a questioning adolescent, look for this book. *Totally Joe* is totally wonderful.

—Terri Schlichenmeyer



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Thinking outside the art house



Mulrone, Bezucha and Parker

Gay director Thomas Bezucha went big-time with *The Family Stone* while screenwriters Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana brought *Brokeback to the screen*

Thomas Bezucha is still pinching himself. The openly gay director earned praise for his first film, *Big Eden*, about a gay New York artist who returns to his tiny Montana town to care for his ailing grandfather. It was an art-house hit in 2000, but hardly a Hollywood blockbuster.

"My favorite scene in *Big Eden* is the Thanksgiving dinner table, so I thought, 'I'll do another ensemble film and put them at a table! Yeah, that's it!'" he explains. "I was thinking of it as another tiny thing."

The result, though, wasn't a small film festival piece but a major mainstream comedy. *The Family Stone* opened last week to better-than-expected box office, a Golden Globe nomination and an ensemble cast that includes Diane Keaton, Claire Danes, Sarah Jessica Parker, Dermot Mulrone and Luke Wilson.

"If I had set out to do this, I never would have been able to achieve it," Bezucha says.

A couple of false starts in the last few years left Bezucha wondering if the film was ever going to get made. Producer Michael London was in pre-production for *Sideways* when he came across Bezucha's script. The men met with Keaton, who also read the script and expressed an interest.

"It was like the clouds part and there she is, bowler hat and all," Bezucha says. "I couldn't even believe she'd read something I'd written, let alone was willing to talk about it."

The film focuses on one Christmas weekend in the life of a close-knit New England family — Sybil and Kelly (Keaton and Craig

T. Nelson) and their five adult children. Everett (Mulrone), the oldest son, is bringing home his uptight girlfriend Meredith (Parker). Meredith rubs the entire family the wrong way, making for a tension-filled Christmas where relationships are turned upside down.

The youngest son, Thad, is gay and in a longtime relationship with Brian. Thad, who is also deaf, is played by Ty Giordano, a deaf actor who was nominated for a Tony Award for his performance as Huck in the recent Broadway transfer of Deaf West Theatre Company's *Big River*. In a family of confused relationships, Thad and Brian are a quiet example of healthy communication and loving attention.

"To me, they were the Ozzie and Harriet of the family," Bezucha says. "Thad is the one member of the family that tries to directly intervene with Everett. Thad is somehow the authority on what a good relationship is."

Bezucha hasn't settled on another project yet, but he's anxious to direct a script he didn't write.

"I hate writing — directing is my reward for the pain of having written," he says. "I haven't read anything that has moved me that much, so I'm about to start writing again. But I still hold the fantasy."

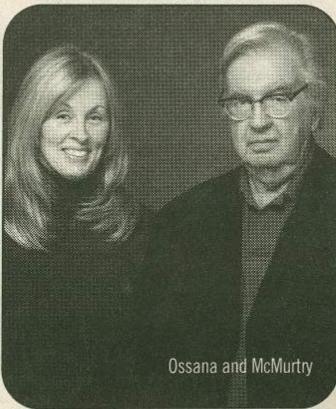
— Christopher Cappiello

Love works in mysterious — and marvelous — ways. The epic romance between two humble ranchers at the heart of *Brokeback Mountain* is already striking potent emotional chords with critics. It has earned a slew of prestigious nominations and awards, and managed enviably high per-

screen averages in limited theatrical release.

"It's encouraging," says co-screenwriter Larry McMurtry, on the phone a few hours after he and his collaborator Diana Ossana received one of seven Golden Globes nominations for the film.

The Texas-born McMurtry's screen credits include *Hud*, *The Last Picture Show* and *Terms of Endearment*. He earned a Pulitzer



Ossana and McMurtry

Prize in 1986 for his novel *Lonesome Dove*, which was also made into an acclaimed, wildly popular TV miniseries. Ossana began writing with McMurtry in 1992. She is the one who discovered Annie Proulx's short story in *The New Yorker* a few years ago.

Question: What initially attracted you to Proulx's short story?

Ossana: It was the writing and the feelings it gave me. I think Larry felt the same

way.

McMurtry: It was a great story of the West that hadn't been written. We wanted to be part of bringing it to a wide audience.

Q: Tell us about the years-long process of trying to get this movie made.

Ossana: When I first read that story back in '97, it was instantaneous, pretty much, my sense of how powerful it was — that this is a great story that should be out in the world in a major, major way. You know how when you read a great piece of literature or see a film that really moves you? That's pretty much what I felt. I had to just demand that [Larry] read it. He doesn't read short fiction.

McMurtry: I can't write it, so I never have learned to read it, either.

Ossana: We optioned it from Annie and wrote our script. I knew it would be difficult, but we believed in it so strongly, and the material was terrific. It was a struggle. There were moments when I felt some discouragement or frustration, but I never lost belief in the potential of this.

Q: What do you make of the debate over possible resistance from middle America and the "gay cowboy" label?

McMurtry: It's not fair at all. It's not accurate at all. We never thought of it as just a gay film or an art-house film. We thought of it as a major, major American story.

Ossana: It is what it is. It's clear that it's two men who have fallen in love. That's something so obvious that it almost doesn't need to be stated. It's like having a gay sister and introducing her, "This is my gay sister." It's so much more than that. It's like saying *Lonesome Dove* is a story about a cattle drive.

— Joey Guerra

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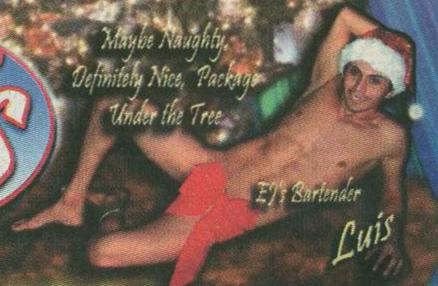
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The Producers



Getting a Broadway director to helm the movie version of a hit musical (based on a hit movie) may seem like a perfect fit, but in the case of *The Producers* it just doesn't work.

Where *Rent* and *Chicago* were liberated from the confines of the stage with spectacular results, director Susan Stroman takes the Nathan Lane-Matthew Broderick smash and films it as if it were playing to the balcony. This translates to the kind of broad, gestural overacting that works great on Broadway but is completely unnecessary in the medium of film — unless you're Buster Keaton (and Matthew Broderick is no Buster Keaton).

The flaws are most noticeable during the first 30 minutes, but once the big gay number begins, the film hits its stride. Roger Bart as Carmen Ghia and Gary Beach as his partner Roger DeBris bring down the house with their fabulous, limp-wristed flamboyance. Here, overacting is forgivable.

In fact, it's the supporting actors who soak up the spotlight. Even notorious scene-chewer Will Ferrell is perfect in his overzealousness. Broderick is the only disappointment — unless he's singing. Then he's just fine.

Despite its problems, *The Producers* offers abundantly brazen humor that could be offensive if it weren't so good-natured. And even though dancing Hitlers and old ladies doing cartwheels with their walkers are hilarious in their absurdity, this movie



Bart and Beach

doesn't do justice to the originals.

Opens December 25 in wide release.

Breakfast on Pluto



Those familiar with Cillian Murphy from his bad-guy roles in *Red Eye* and *Batman Begins* know that the actor has a unique look. Depending on the angle, he can be extremely attractive or downright homely.

But put him in a little lipstick and makeup and he's absolutely stunning.

In *Breakfast on Pluto*, the latest from director Neil

Jordan (*The Crying Game*), Murphy stars as Patrick "Kitten" Braden, an outcast who begins life in a small Irish hamlet, abandoned in a basket outside a church. Placed with a family who can't understand his predilection for sewing and wearing women's clothes, the teenaged Kitten seizes the first opportunity to run away and search for his birth mother in London.

The film is delightfully surreal. Bird chirps are translated in subtitles (the actors with the thick Irish brogues could use them, too) and Kitten often loses herself in elaborate daydreams based on the short stories she's constantly writing.

In his soft-spoken, effeminate liit, Murphy is mesmerizing and thoroughly inhabits the liberating role. Stephen Rea makes a brief but excellent appearance as a magician who sees a place for Kitten in his act. And Liam Neeson, as a sexy priest with a secret, commands attention every time he enters a scene.

Breakfast on Pluto is overly long and some of the IRA subplots could be a bit confusing for anyone not familiar with the history of that movement, but overall,

the film is a fantastical escape to the 1970s through the eyes of a fascinating character — and a director with a solid vision for his onscreen world.

Opens today at the Angelika Film Centers in Dallas, Houston and Plano.



Murphy



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By Billy Masters

Disgustingly offensive dirt; garbage; anything grossly indecent or obscene

Judy, Judy, Judy: Barbeau plays the legend

I should move to London. I'm not saying so just because I'm here this week. And I'm not saying it because I've fallen in love (I haven't). I'm not even saying it because I've had sex (wait a minute — I guess we were in British airspace). I'm saying it because the people here are just so civilized. They say things are "brilliant" and "ghastly" — how can you hate that? They use the Queen's English, and this queen simply adores a talented tongue.

Any country that casts **Boy George** and **Anna Nicole Smith** on *Celebrity Big Brother* is my kinda country. The bloated, bald former singer and the formerly bloated, blonde model will be sequestered in a London-area house in January for about three weeks or until the public gets tired of them.

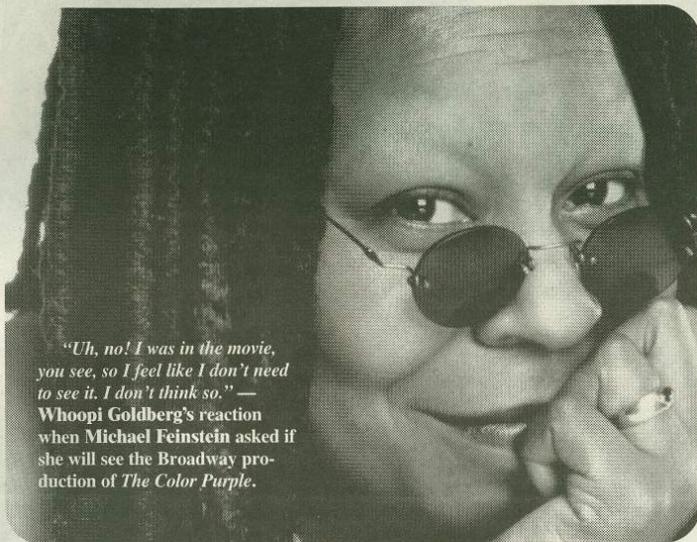


Boy George

Adrienne Barbeau will star in a new play, *The Property Known as Garland*, playing queer icon **Judy Garland**. The play, written by Barbeau's hubby, **Billy Van Zandt**, takes place backstage at Garland's last performance and will be presented at the Actor's Playhouse in NYC (where *Making Porn* and *Naked Boys Singing* ran) from March 13 through June 4. It would be stupid if this show didn't continue through June and incorporate NYC Gay Pride, and I'm told an extension is almost a definite — assuming the play is any good.

If the show isn't extended, Garland won't be forgotten. The Postal Service will release a Judy Garland stamp during Gay Pride Month, June 2006. I'm told **Liza Minnelli** and **Lorna Luft** had say over the photo used. No one ever lets **Joey** do anything.

Our first "Ask Billy" does-



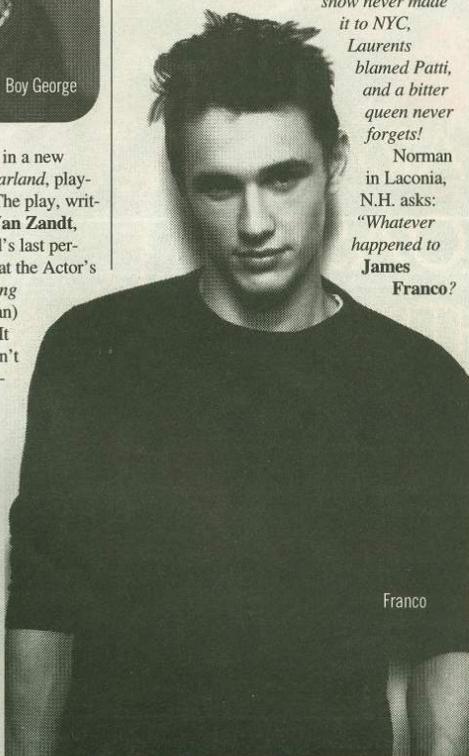
"Uh, no! I was in the movie, you see, so I feel like I don't need to see it. I don't think so." — **Whoopi Goldberg's** reaction when **Michael Feinstein** asked if she will see the Broadway production of *The Color Purple*.

n't ask, it informs. The lovely **Jeremy Spencer** of Adonis Pictures writes: *The feud started when Arthur Laurents cast Patti LuPone in his play Jolson Sings Again for its initial run in Seattle. Patti agreed to do this regional production only if she could be guaranteed in writing that the show was headed for Broadway and that she would be in it. Laurents wouldn't (or couldn't) give her that assurance, so LuPone bowed out. The*

show never made it to NYC, Laurents blamed Patti, and a bitter queen never forgets!

Norman in Laconia, N.H. asks: *"Whatever happened to James*

Franco?



Franco

I thought he was so good — and gorgeous — when he played James Dean. There seemed to be a lot of buzz about him. Then he disappeared. Is he still acting?"

You know, perception is funny. **James Franco** is probably working more than ever, but he's not one of those actors who are constantly hyped. He'll soon be seen in the art



West

film *Tristan & Isolde* and *Annapolis* from Disney. I just got a shirtless pic of him from the latter, and he looks quite buff. I'll post it on Filth2go.com. (Oh, and he did make a small series of art films with **Tobey Maguire** — *Spider-Man*, I think they called it.)

This leads to our last round of Filth2Go Gift Giving Suggestions. You may want to grab a DVD of *Whatever It Takes*, because aside from the scantily clad Franco, you also get sexy **Shane West** and **Kip Pardue** — it's like a cute boy festival.

Speaking of cute boys, I think **Bradley Cooper** is cute. The cute part is evident in *Wet Hot American Summer*, but you should buy this vintage DVD because it also stars **Janeane Garofalo**, **David Hyde Pierce**, **Molly Shannon**, **Paul Rudd**, **Christopher Meloni** and **Amy Poehler**. To top it off, **Bradley** plays gay and has a hot little encounter with **Michael Ian Black**.

This comes out too late, but maybe you can give someone an IOU for the January 10 release of *The Flash* on DVD. Has **John Wesley Shipp** ever looked better? Has *anyone* ever looked better? He was on that *NYPD Blue* episode where he showed his ass, but man is he hot — and fast!

Didya know that the **Catherine Zeta** has a tragic secret? She's too damn beautiful! **Andrew Lloyd Webber** revealed that Mrs.



Garland

Michael Douglas was a frontrunner for the role of **Rose** in the 1990 West End production of *Aspects of Love*. As much as he liked **Cat**, director **Trevor Nunn** felt she was so gorgeous that no man would ever reject her or cheat on her. Tell that to **Halle Berry**.

Could it be that a certain diet guru (not the one you're thinking of) is not even interested in following his own regime? So say sources close to the meat lover who tell me that the hungry man routinely requests products from the Atkins line of diet foods — in between telling nasty little racist jokes. All the easier to slip into his Calvins.

When I can use the term "meat lover" and actually be referring to beef, it's definitely time to end another column. Before we close, I must thank various flight attendants on American Airlines. They've tended to my needs as if I were royalty (which they keep insisting I am).

But not only is this the end of the column — it's the end of another year. Next week we'll revisit 2005 with our Year in Review. And then — oh, I'm just quivering with anticipation. We have a big announcement and I just can't stand waiting.

Keep checking Filth2go.com, but for your specific needs, write to me at Billy@filth2go.com and I promise to get back to you before **Patti** and **Artie** kiss and make up.

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

WEEKLY REVIEW



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

Friday, December 23

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.

Armadillo Christmas Bazaar, through Dec. 24. 11 a.m.-11 p.m. \$3-\$5. Austin Music Hall, 3rd St. @ Nueces St. 512-447-1605. Armadillobazaar.com.

When Pigs Fly, by Howard Crabtree, presented by Naught Austin through Jan. 14. Arts on Real Theater. 512-472-2787. Artsonreal.com.

Rockin' Christmas Party, Shear Madness and The Santaland Diaries, presented by Zachary Scott Theatre Center. Riverside Dr. @ S. Lamar St. 512-476-0541. Zachscott.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.

HOUSTON

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

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

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

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

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

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

SAN ANTONIO

A Tuna Christmas, 8 p.m. \$25-\$47.50. Majestic Theatre, 224 E. Houston St. 210-224-9600.

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

Saturday, December 24

HOUSTON

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

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

Sunday, December 25

HOUSTON

Community Christmas Dinner, 3-6 p.m. Bring a favorite dish to share. Many's, Naturally, 1022 Westheimer Rd. 713-527-9669.

Rene Michaels discusses "Can a feminist really be comfortable wearing a Bible Belt?" Presented by The Women's Group. 10:45 a.m. First Unitarian Universalist Church Sojourner Truth Room, 3rd floor. 5200 Fannin St. 713-529-8571. Houstonwomensgroup.com.



Rob Nash, Through 1-7

Monday, December 26

DALLAS/FT. WORTH

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

HOUSTON

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

Tuesday, December 27

DALLAS/FT. WORTH

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

HOUSTON

Houston Outdoor Group newsletter mailout 7:30- p.m. Don and Ray's house. 713-522-7809.

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

Wednesday, December 28

AUSTIN

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

Thursday, December 29

DALLAS/FT. WORTH

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

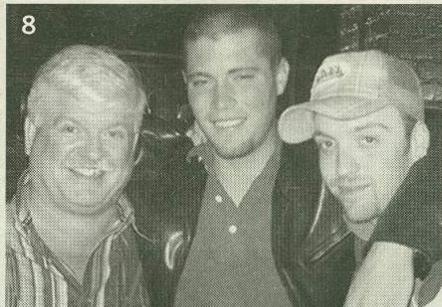
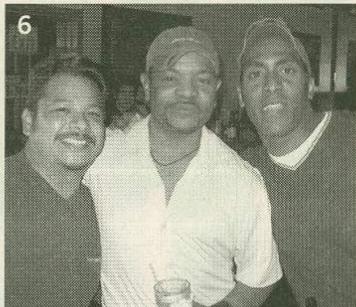
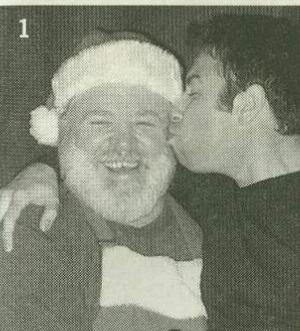
HOUSTON

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

ClubLand

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1. Santa and Casey at Chain Drive. 2. Red and Jaime at Rainbow Cattle Company. 3. Russell and Greg at Oilcan Harry's. 4. Alex, Samuel and Pedro at Charlie's. 5. Hal and Allen at Rain. 6. Julio, Morris and Patrick at Charlie's. 7. Steve at Chain Drive. 8. Tim, Cory and A.J. at Oilcan Harry's. **Guillermo Garza**



NightSpots



1. 'Bout Time—9601 N. I-35. 512-832-5339
2. Chain Drive—504 Willow St. 512-480-9017
3. Charlie's—1301 Lavaca. 512-474-6481. Charliesaustin.com
4. Fabric—101 W. 5th St. 512-322-9333.
5. Oilcan Harry's—211 W. 4th St. 512-320-8823
6. Rain on 4th—217 W. 4th St. 512-494-1150
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1. Billy at South Beach. 2. James, Rene and Jesse at Rich's. 3. Alberto, Caesar and Bello at South Beach. 4. Clemente, Gary and Sean at Montrose Mining Company. 5. Sean, Jared, Blake and Bo at Meteor. 6. Jeremy and Franc at Guava Lamp. 7. Martinez at Viviana's. 8. Eric, John and Greg at Ripcord.
Photos by Paul Stricklin



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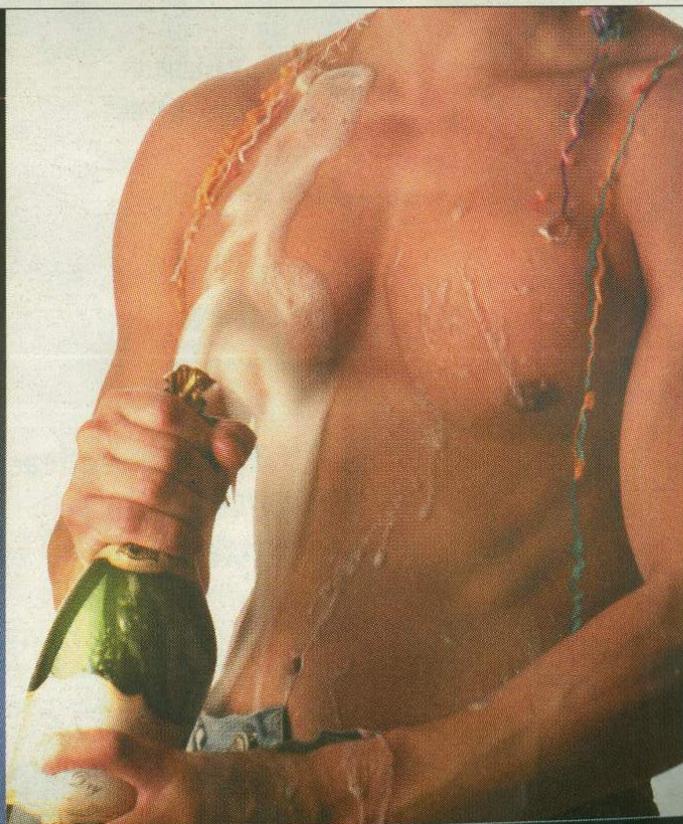
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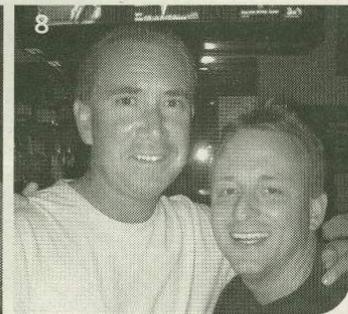
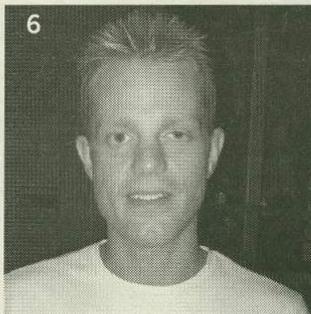
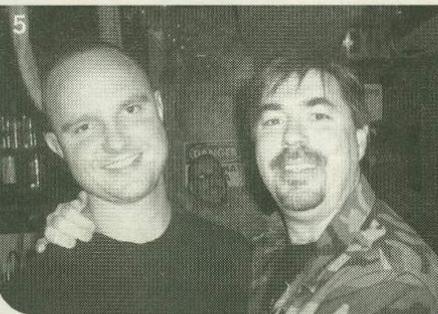
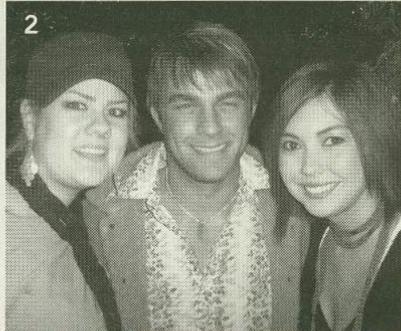
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1. Richard at Best Friends Club. 2. Ann, Josh and Michelle at Crews Inn. 3. Tamecca and Nanette at Buddies II. 4. Billy at Alexandre's. 5. Cliff and Ryan at the Dallas Eagle. 6. Ryan at Station 4. 7. Ragan and Meg at Sue Ellen's. 8. Randy and David at Woody's Sports and Video Bar.
Photos by Barbera Barker and Gregory Hayes



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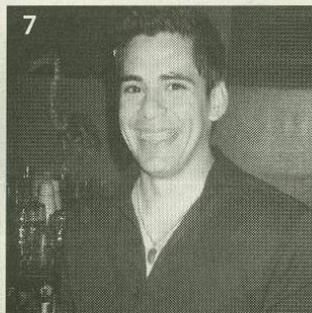
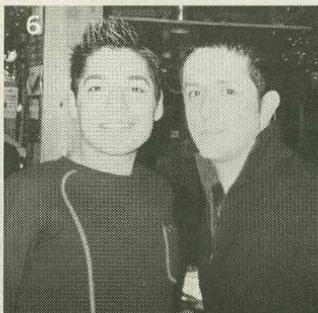
NightSpots

- Alexandre's—4026 Cedar Springs. 214-559-0720. Alexandresdallas.com
- Bamboleos—6102 Maple Ave. 214-358-2515. Bamboleos.com
- Blue—1933 Elm St. 214-880-0888. Bluevip.com
- Buddies II—4025 Maple Ave. 214-526-0887. Buddiesii.com
- Crews Inn—3215 N. Fitzhugh. 214-526-9510
- Dallas Eagle—2515 Inwood, #107. 214-357-4375. DallasEagle.com
- DeWayne's Oasis—5334 Lemmon. 214-528-6234. DeWaynesoasis.com
- Havana—4006 Cedar Springs. 214-528-5766
- Hidden Door—5025 Bowser. 214-526-0620
- Hideaway Clubs—4144 Buena Vista. 214-559-2966. Billshideaway.com
- Illusions—4100 Maple. 214-252-0552
- JR.'s—3923 Cedar Springs. 214-559-0650. Caven.com
- Joe's Place—4117 Maple. 214-219-JOES
- Kaliente—4350 Maple Ave. 214-520-6676. Kaliente.cc
- Kontrol 69—2525 Wycliff. 214-443-0255. kontrol69.com
- Mickey's—3851-A Cedar Springs. 214-219-6425. Mickeysdallas.com
- Minc—813 Exposition. 214-370-4077
- Malebox—5006 Lemmon Ave. 214-219-880X
- Pub Pegasus—3326 N. Fitzhugh. 214-559-4663
- Round-Up—3912 Cedar Springs. 214-522-9611. Roundupsaloon.com
- Seven—2505 Pacific. 214-887-8787. Sevendallas.com
- Side 2 Bar—2615 Oak Lawn. 214-528-2026. Side2bar.com
- Soul II Soul—5628 Sears St. 214-828-1800
- Sue Ellen's—3903 Cedar Springs. 214-559-0650. Caven.com
- The Pavilion—325 Centre St. 214-941-2145
- Throckmorton Mining Co.—3014 Throckmorton. 214-559-0650
- Tin Room—2514 Hudnall. 214-526-6365
- Station 4—3911 Cedar Springs. 214-559-0650. Caven.com
- Woody's—4011 Cedar Springs. 214-520-6629. Dallaswoodys.com
- Zippers—3333 N. Fitzhugh. 214-526-9519

ClubLand

san antonio

1. Kelly at The Saint. 2. Anthony, Johnny and Fernando at SA Eagle. 3. Norman and Lyn-Z at Heat. 4. D.J. Petey at Heat. 5. Joe, Tony and Priscilla at The Annex. 6. Rudy and Xavier at The Annex. 7. John at Bonham Exchange. 8. Greg and Erica at Pegasus. **Photos by Junior Hernandez**



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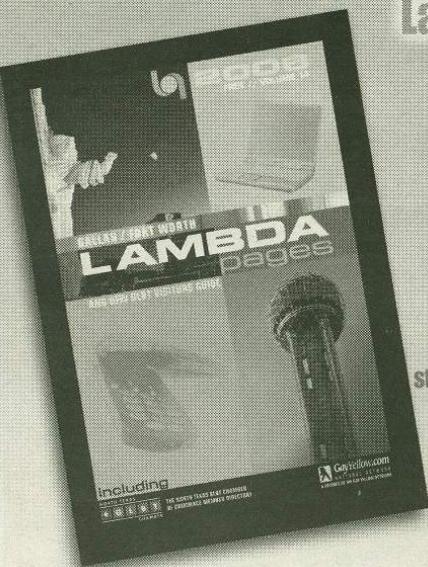
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DFW GLBT Visitors Guide

The North Texas GLBT
Chamber of Commerce
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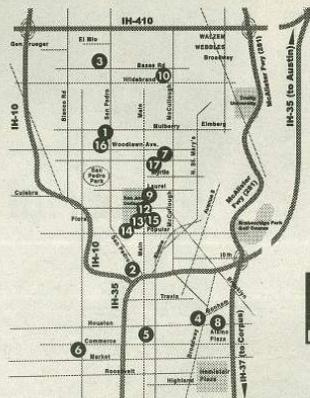
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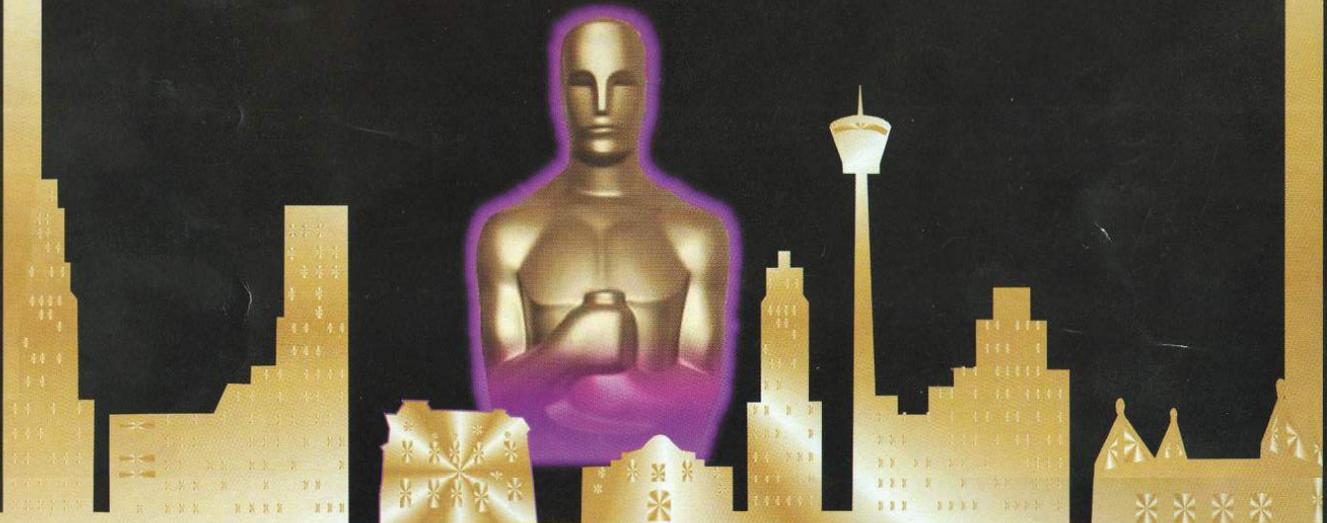
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