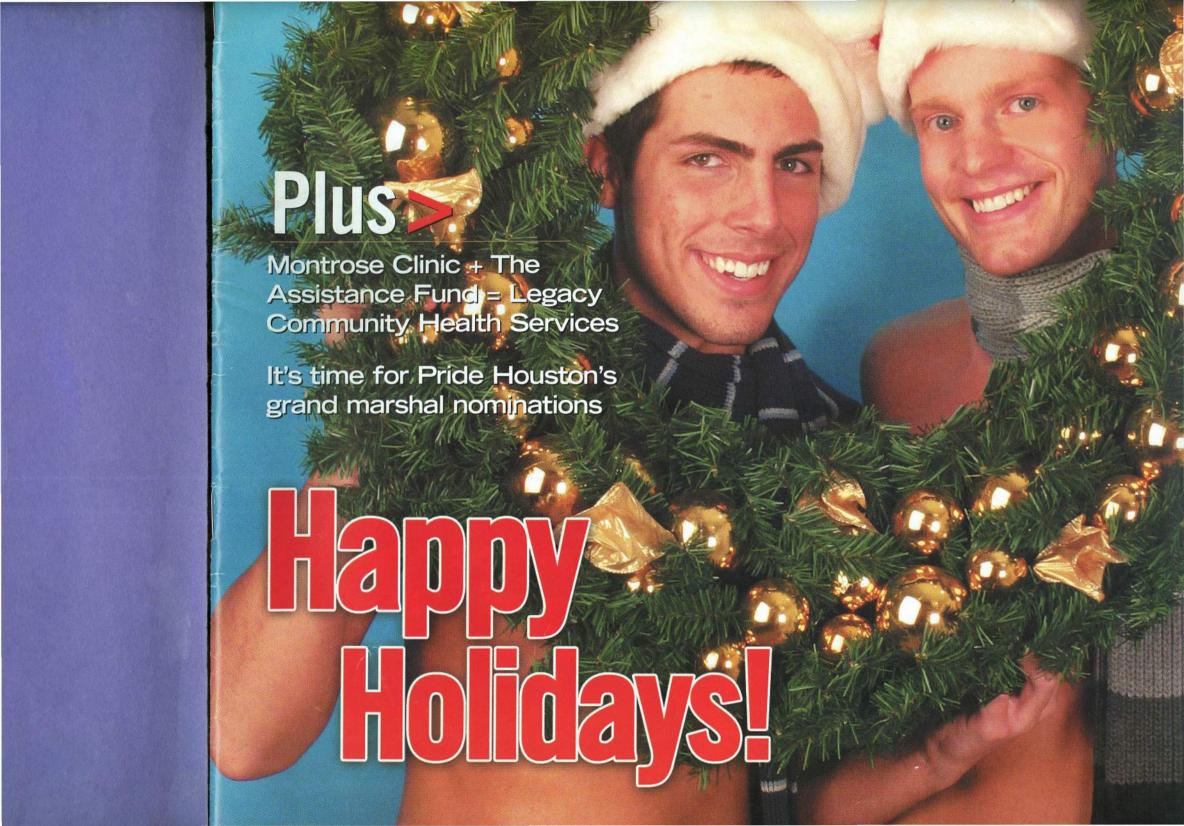
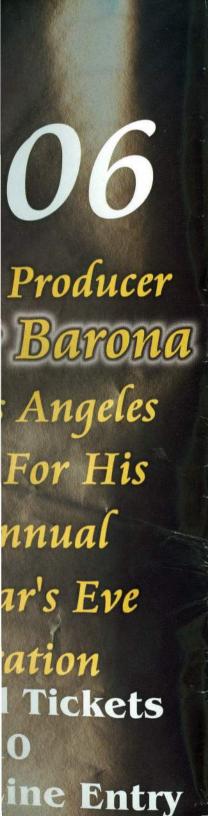
inside: Human Rights Campaign announces chairs for 2006 Houston dinner = A guide to holiday parties = The Producers, Breakfast on Pluto Issue 51 - December 23, 2005 newsmagazine Plus Montrose Clinic + The Assistance Fund = Legacy Community Health Services It's time for Pride Houston's grand marshal nominations





**Marriage Equality** 





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#### HOUSTON

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Mike Ferguson, Administrative Assistant, Houston
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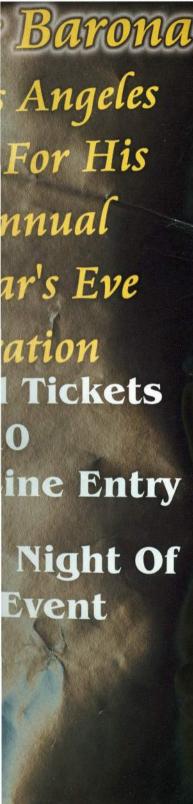
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Volume 1 Issue 51 December 23, 2005

### **5** Texas News

Name Game

Now that the merger of Houston's Montrose Clinic and The Assistance Fund is official, the two health agencies will enter the New Year with new moniker to reflect their new marriage.

### **11 National News**

**Marriage Equality** 

Yes, Virginia, there is an anti-discrimination clause. Gov. Mark D. Warner followed the example of the majority of his state's legislators who protect their employees from sexual bias.

# 14 Holiday Happenings Celebration

Grab your chestnuts out of that open fire and hit the streets.

Texas nightclubs and theaters have a sackload of parties and presentations sure to make your holidays jolly and gay.

### 18 Film

### **Gay Cinema**

Our critics take a closer look at Brokeback Mountain and The Family Stone, the two gay-themed films dominating movie screens, not to mention water cooler conversation.



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Persons coordinating a meeting of state, national or international organizations, a sports tournament or similar gathering who wish to distribute TXT Newsmagazine at the event, should contact the promotions director, Kris Martin at kris@bdnewsmag at least three weeks in advance of the event.

#### BUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSIONS

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

#### 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@bdnewsmag.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.

#### ADVERTISING CLAIMS

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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 Prkwy. 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,

# New name for clinic and assistance fund

### Groups to operate as Legacy Community Health Services

By Nancy Ford Staff Writer

After merging, two Houston HIVfocused organizations, the Montrose Clinic and The Assistance Fund, needed a new name that would reflect the outstanding legacy of

HOUSTON healthcare the two

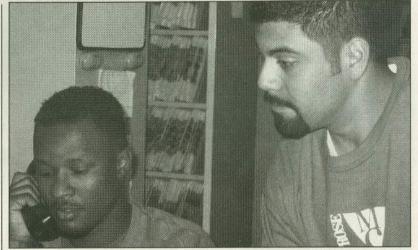
agencies have become renowned for throughout the Houston community. The name the directors settled on is a fitting one: Legacy Community Health Services.

"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, TXT 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.



IANCY FORD/TXT 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 health-care 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 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.



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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.

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

### **National president Joe** Solmonese to appear

By Nancy Ford

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 dinner, 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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### texas

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 night club, Charles Armstrong,

HOUSTON club, 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,

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

## Formal dinner ra

### Dallas Ft. Worth Black Tie Dinner distributes checks, names new co-chairs

The Dallas Ft. Worth Black Tie Dinner Committee dispersed funds from its Octob event to 20 local beneficiaries and the Hun Rights Campaign Foundation on Dec. 15.

The dinner committee distributed a tota \$1,240,000, the largest amount in its histor

The Human Rights Campaign Foundati the principle beneficiary of the North Texa fundraiser, received \$620,000. The dinner, held each October, is the largest of a series dinners held in major cities across the nation

The Resource Center of Dallas received the largest donation among the 20 local be

### DALLAS / FORT WORTH

a check for \$59,562. Lambda Legal Defensand Education Fund, which has its Southw Region headquarters in Dallas, was next on the list, receiving \$45,723.

In addition to distributing checks to the beneficiaries, dinner committee officials announced that Deiadra Burnes would repl Pam Clayton as female co-chair of the committee. She joins co-chair John Shore in he ing up the committee that will plan the 200

Continued, Nex



### A BIG SWEEPIN HOLLYWOOD LO

It could turn out to be the most revolute feels almost as if it were being with the potential to change hearts and the potential to change hearts are the po

### GRADE: A!

Acted, directed, written and photograwith heart-pounding beauty! Heath





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214-522-4692 www.daisypolkinn.com held each October, is the largest of a series dinners held in major cities across the nati

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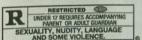
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### "GRADE: A!

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PHOLOP WEINTCH, THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

HEATH LEDG



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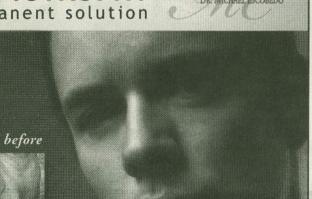
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## **HIV LIPODYSTROPHY**

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### texas

From Page 7 dinner.

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

#### RECEPIENTS

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 organi-

zation grand marshals can be found at

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

#### Albert Allen Montalvo

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

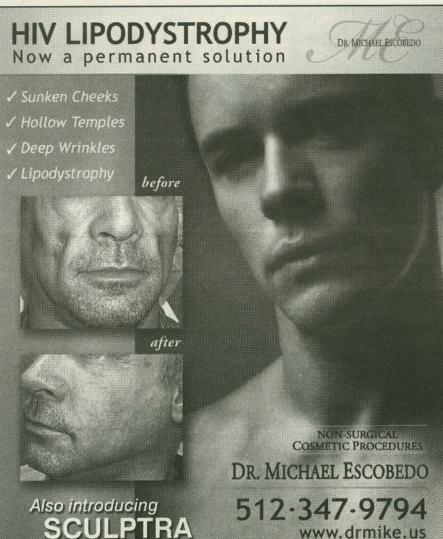
Al was preceded in death by his father. He is survived by

his mother, Lupe Reed and step-father,

SATURDA Hass Makers. Confetti and the trimmings

New Ye





- Dallas Legal Hospice, \$28,7
- Fort Worth Men's Chorus, \$26,800
- 8,716

- 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

HOUSTON

be found at

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 Alfonzo 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.



ne check distribution event was held at dams Mark Hotel in downtown Dallas, e of this year's dinner. - From staff

v. Lesbian, Straight Education Network of Dallas,

nbda Legal Defense and Education Fund, \$45,723

acy Counseling Center, \$30,891

bian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas (Equality Texas), kin Fund, \$28,874

AG/Dallas, \$29,319

source Center of Dallas, \$59,562

tle Creek Chorale, \$29,486 ite Rock Friends, \$25,725

nen's Communities Association, \$26.650

th First Texas, \$29,489

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White Party Miami Beach Crope SEVERAL PAGES OF 8 allow the state of the state FULL-PAGE Champagne Toast at Midnight \* Hits Nove Makers. Confetti and the trimmings \* ADS WERE OMITTED

One of the Top Ten Circuit DJs in South Florida and the #1 After Hours

Houston's Biggest New Year's Eve Celebration

Everyone 21+ will receive their own split of champagne.

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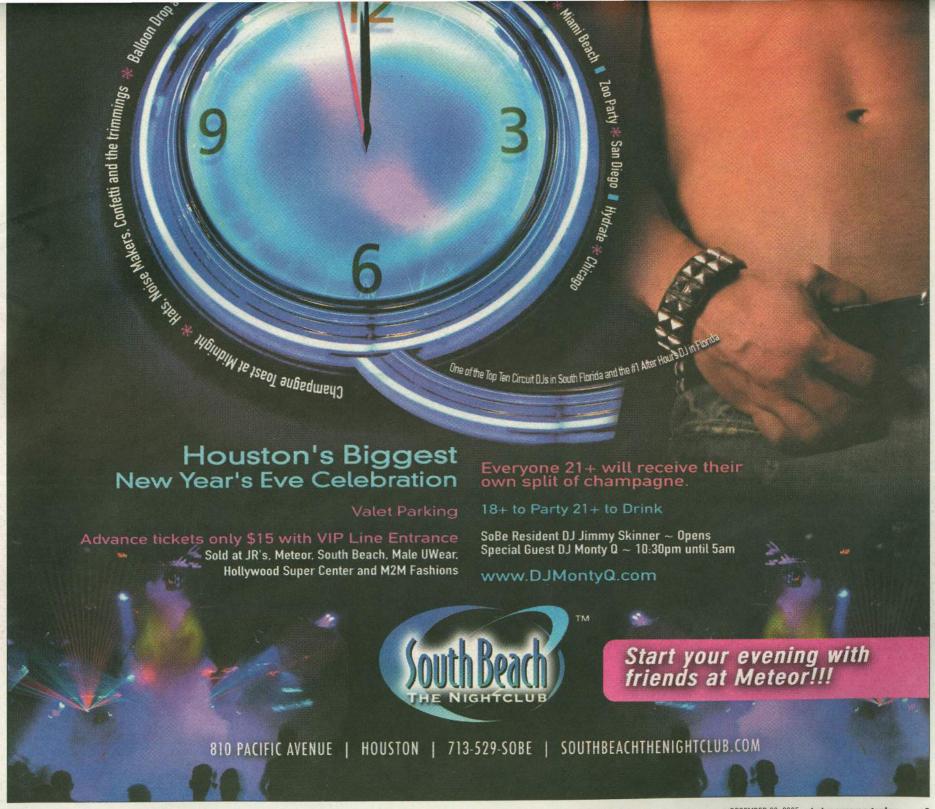
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By Ann Rostow

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

### Servicemembers Legal Defense Network angered by government watch list

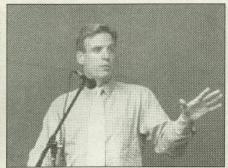
A Pentagon surveillance unit has been spying on gay rights groups at several American universities, *NBC News* revealed

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.

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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-



C. Dixon Osburn, executive director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, blasted the Pentagon's surveillance of gay kiss-ins on college campuses staged earlier this year in New York and New Jersey, calling it "absurd, homophobic, and irrational."

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.

# 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

VIRGINIA

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 antigay 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

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

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.

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 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



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.

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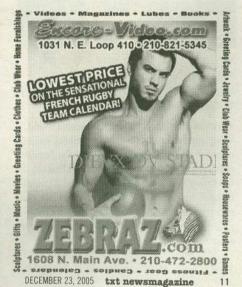
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### news with a view

# Polydevotion, Czech mates and conservative milk occupy the lighter news

### Three's company

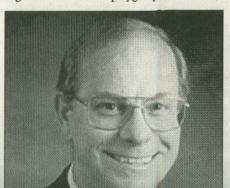
The far right's latest tactic in the marriage wars is to insist that the world is already halfway down the slippery slope from same-sex marriage to polygamy, as evidenced mainly by the notarized "cohabitation contract" signed in September by a man and two women in Holland.

The whole affair was a private deal, not a statesanctioned 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 fullfledged equal marriage rights, it's no wonder that this incident was hailed as a "polygamous marriage."

**Ann Rostow** 

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



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 roommates in Manhattan. I said *deluged*. Wait until we read story after story about men and woman who have spent 40 years with another couple and are barred from their dying part-

> ner'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

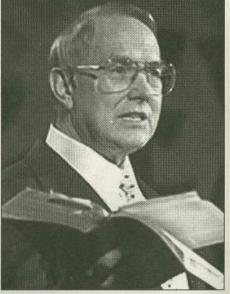
you *must* have one of each, any more than a man who is attracted to both blondes and brunettes must have two wives.

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





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design!) If I'm not mistaken, interferon is one

of the treatments for Hepatitis C, and the liver

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and tell you instead about James Leininger, a

injects vast sums of cash into the war chests

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of Texas conservatives. Leininger, who

is right next to the intestines, so we've come

complicated mechanism indeed. (And they

say there's no such thing as intelligent

Conservative columnist Stanley Kurtz, right, has intellectualized that the demand for polygamous marriage will begin 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.

full circle.

Got milk?

### 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 lat's not forget the butt

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

riage constitutional amendment that passed

Letters

### No cure, no show

In response to the letter in last week's TXT Newsi titled "Rejoice! AIDS is cured!": No Jay, There is no cu did not miss the memo. I've attended many of these i lucky you saw 50 people at the World AIDS Day cerem people don't attend.

No, Jay, there is no cure. But good for you for atte them for not!

Osl

### Brokenhearted by 'Brokeba

I could not sleep after seeing *Brokeback Mountai* that the movie had received seven Golden Globe nomhopes for a truly well written and executed gay love st with a sense of hope for the future and how mainstre the GLBT community. After seeing *Brokeback Mountai* dashed. I left the theatre depressed and outraged.

Based on my life experiences as a divorced gay ngrandfather of one, and having grown up in the 1960 pressures to conform "or else," I feel I am qualified to

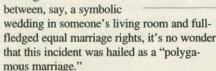
Brokeback Mountain had a wonderful opportunity the struggles faced by gay men during this period. The that. What it didn't do was take advantage of the charand a sense that gay men can overcome these strugg adversities. As a gay man who lived much of the move angry that the creators of this film did not feel it necees with the idea that two men can fall in love and life together.

Evangelical bigots do not need any new fuel for t I feel this movie gives them just that. We do not need flames by creating hype around a gay-themed movie nity will rush to see, only to find it is yet another film relationships end badly.

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

To submit a letter We welcome and read all letters. We resentative of the many. Additional letters are on the TXT w and those addressing a single subject are more likely to be ed for length and clarity. When submitting a letter, include address and day and evening telephone numbers for verific should be e-mailed to Nancy@txnewsmag.com, or they m 0327, or mailed to Letters from Readers, TXT Newsmagazin Suite C229, Houston, TX 77006. All letters become the proposed to the property of the pro

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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



Ann Rostow

to inherit the family property, after 25 years of polydevotion. Then we'll talk.

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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 begin 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.

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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 samesex 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@txtnewsmag.com

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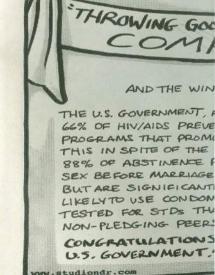
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### perspectives

# e lighter news



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### 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

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# 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 consesense 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



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lon me while I pause to spit out my Foods "365" milk in a sputtering f spatulence. I am only passing along but the ideology and political activiames Leininger, a Christian reconnist, are a matter of public record, as many business holdings, including Land. So, let's go check out our hole Food stores and see if the nefarik is on display. In an amusing little every bottle of Promise Land milk itly has a Bible verse inside the cap.

ct the writer: Ann@txtnewsmag.com

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COMPETITION

AND THE WINNER IS ...

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THIS IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT

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CONGRATULATIONS,

U.S. GOVERNMENT!

studiondr.com

66% OF HIV/AIDS PREVENTION FUNDS FOR

PROGRAMS THAT PROMOTE ABSTINENCE.

88% OF ABSTINENCE PLEDGERS HAVE

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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 presson 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

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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 he University of Minnesota, Some of his previous columns can be viewed at the Independent Gay Forum (Indiegayforum.org).

Contact the writer: Outright@aol.com

# Ringing in the New Year right

A rundown of parties and fun through the holiday season

rom 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



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 fourcourse dinner and bottle of champagne for

Continued, Page 16







Tracks = 17

Film = 18

Filth = 21

Weekly Review ≈ 23

ClubLand = 25

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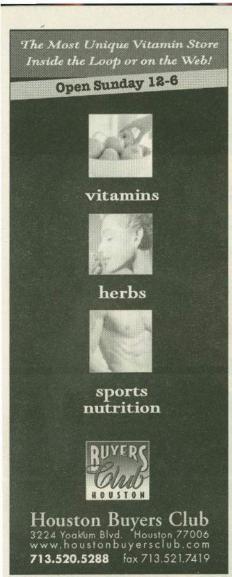
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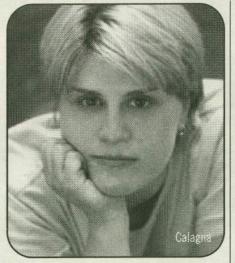
each couple for \$95 each (and get \$90 per person back in Ciudad Dollars). 214-219-3141.

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 resi-



D.J. and producer Jamie J. Sanchez will

that includes Christmas Eve and New Year's

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 give-aways, 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.

## tracks

## Salomé de Bahia

Tommy Boy

Just as one needn't speak French to savor the difference's finest wines, one needn't speak Portuguese sounds of Paris-based Brazilian chanteuse Salomé of 15-track North American debut album, is a recording vibrant melodies, infectious rhythms and effervescer percussive Brazilian remake of Stevie Wonder's "Anol jewel in this collection of glimmering gems, while a lof campy familiarity. Laid-back yet flavorful Braziliar demonstrate de Bahia's seemingly effortless vocal demood for an evening on the dance floor. Indeed, *Bras* 

# Carl Bean I Was Born This Way

West End Records

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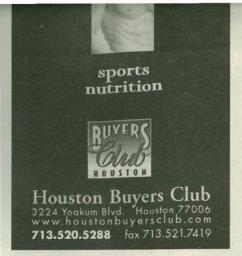
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Born This Way never meant to deal with such a dully-constructed bass lines and few clever beats. The but any academic or advocate for GLBT causes has

# Cyndi Lauper The Body Acoustic Epic/Daylight

Cyndi Lauper possesses an ideal instrument: on voices in pop music. Lauper's pipes have only gotten over the years, and the experience adds depth to new Changes Everything" and "Time After Time." The dimincludes stellar renditions of lesser-known (but equa "Sisters of Avalon," "Shine" and "Water's Edge." Laumusic," and indeed, the album has a rousing, organ

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From Page 14

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### HOUSTON

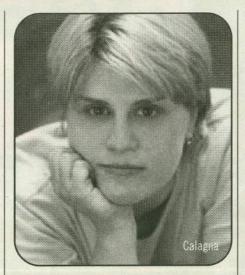
D.J. Tucker gets the Christmas weekend started on Friday with a set at South Beach. He'll be followed on Christmas Eve by resident spin doctor Jimmy Skinner and on Christmas Day by guest D.J. J.D. Arnold.

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.



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.

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# postscrip

### SCHOOL'S OUT

Totally Joe by James Howe (Atheneum, 189 pp., \$15.

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

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

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



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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.

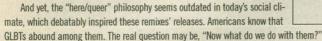
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To offer legitimate criticism of *I Was Born This Way* is to seem to dismiss the gay anthem's message. The lyrics exist so simply that a too-careful ear may build meaning on a song that should be taken at face value. Perhaps it is merely here and queer,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





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.

\_\_ Rvan Sho

### 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



4 BEST PICTURE

TIME MAGAZINE

# "A GOOD TIME IS HAD BY ALL".

Richard Schicke

**EBERT & ROEPER** 

"TWO THUMBS UP."

WCBS-TV/PEOPLE MAGAZINE

"Some Of The Biggest Laughs You'll Have In A Movie Theatre This Year."

Jess Cagle

MAXIM

"'THE PRODUCERS' DELIVERS HUGE BELLY LAUGHS AND LOTS OF FUN."

Pete Hammond

NATHAN LANE MATTHEW BRODERICK

**UMATHURMAN** 

THE DOUBLIPEDS



ludes Christmas Eve and New Year's

tham Exchange celebrates the glitz ter of Hollywood at its Black and lew Year's Eve bash, where guests are to dress to the nines and enjoy give-favors, a champagne toast and a buffet tion to the go-go boys. \$10 for 21 and 15 for 18 to 20.

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

Emily Morgan Hotel and gay-owned estaurant are offering holiday treats: a has Eve dinner, a Christmas Day agne breakfast, a New Year's Eve five-dinner party and a New Year's Day all with special room rates at the hotel. 0-244-0146 for dining and 800-824-or accommodations.



# 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.

# 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.



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## 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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THE PRODUCERS

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Some Material May Be Inappropriate for Children Under 13

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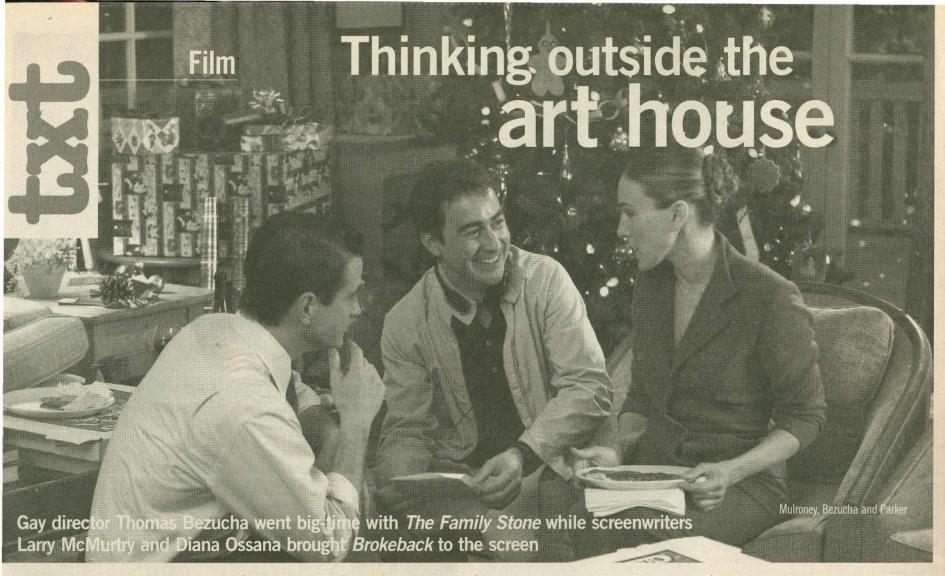
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homas Bezucha is still pinching himself. The openly gay director earned praise for his first film, Big Eden, about a gay New York artist who returns to his tiny Montana town to care for his àiling grandfather. It was an art-house hit in 2000, but hardly 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 T. Nelson) and their five adult children. Everett (Mulroney), 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 Harrist

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



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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.

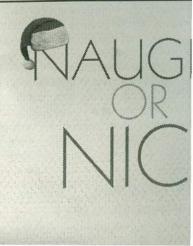
Q: Tell us about the years-long process of trying to get this movie made.

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.

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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 Mulroney and Luke Wilson.

"If I had set out to do this, I never would have been able to achieve it," Bexzucha 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 (Mulroney), 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."

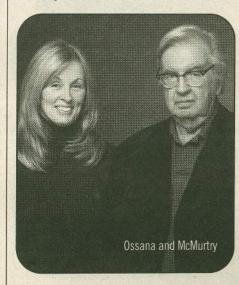
- Christopher Cappiello

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.

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



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.

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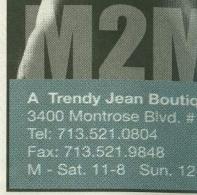
Ossana: We optioned it from Annie and wrote our script. I knew it would be difficult, but we believed in it so strongly, and the material was terrific. It was a struggle. There were moments when I felt some discouragement or frustration, but I never lost belief in the potential of this.

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





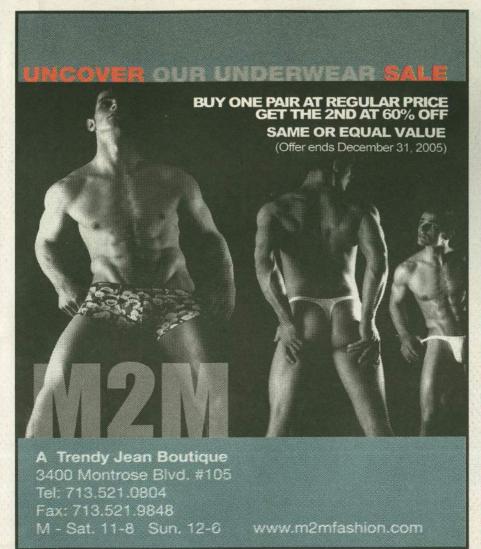


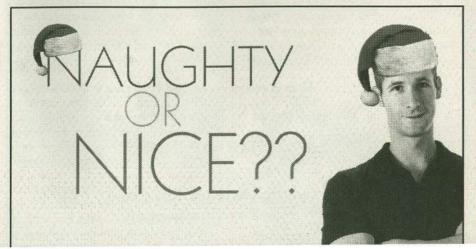
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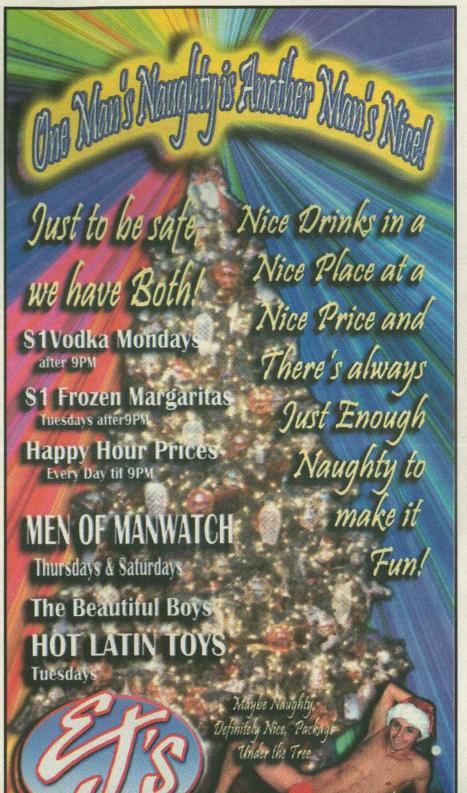
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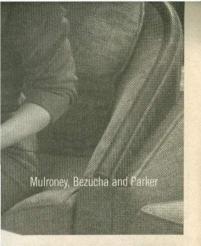
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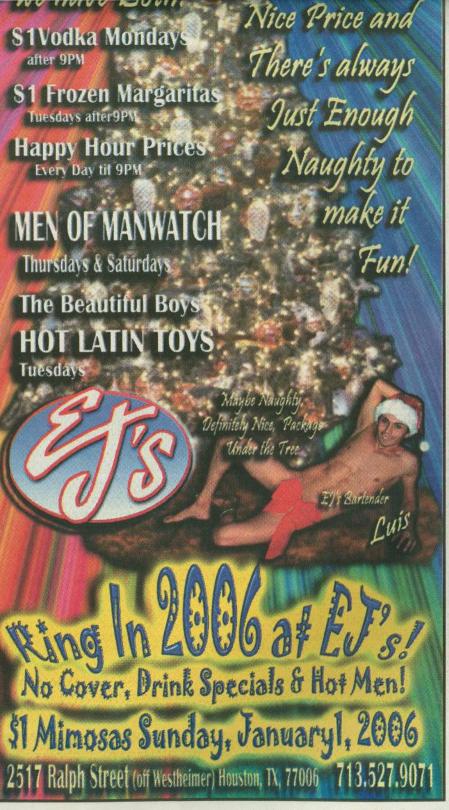
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## clips

#### 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



doesn't do justice to the originals.

Opens December 25 in wide release.

### Breakfast on Pluto



Those familiar with Cillian Murphy from his badguy 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

mother in London.

The film is delightfully surreal. Bird chirps

Kitten seizes the first

opportunity to run away

and search for his birth

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 lilt, 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.



By Billy Masters

### Judy, Judy, Jud Barbeau pla the leger

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

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



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Bart and Beach

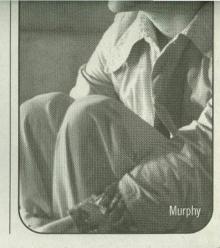
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If the show isn't extended, Garland won't be forgotten. The Postal Service will release a Judy Garland stamp during Gay Pride Month, June 2006. I'm told Liza Minnelli and Lorna Luft had say over the photo used. No one ever lets Joey do anything.

Our first "Ask Billy" does-

solid vision for his onscreen world.

ens today at the Angelika Film Centers in
Houston and Plano.



all year? ne to get a aughty!

s have come true illy open! **By Billy Masters** 

### Disgustingly offensive dirt; garbage; anything grossly indecent or obscene

### Judy, Judy, Judy: Barbeau plays the legend

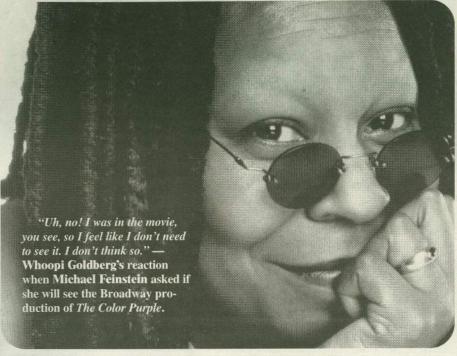
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talean place hashestone at Carland's last nor



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

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



film *Tristan & Isolde* and *Annapolis* from Disney. I just got a shirtless pic of him from

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.



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.



all year? me to get a aughty!

s have come true ally open!

1 Christmas Eve tmas Day

falking about...



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BAR. COM

(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.

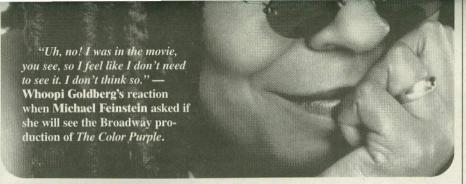


Adrienne Barbeau will star in a new play, *The Property Known as Garland*, playing queer icon **Judy Garland**. The play, written by Barbeau's hubby, **Billy Van Zandt**, takes place backstage at Garland's last performance and will be presented at the Actor's Playhouse in NYC (where *Making Porn* and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

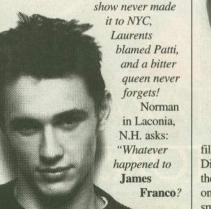
would be stupid if this show didn't continue through June and incorporate NYC Gay Pride, and I'm told an extension is almost a definite — assuming the play is any good.

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-



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



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



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.



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.







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 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

0-1-1- 0

**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.



Monday, December 26

Wednesday. December 28



Santaland Diaries, presented by Zachary Scott Theatr Center, Riverside Dr. @ S. Lamar St. 512-476-0541.

### DALLAS/FT. WORTH

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### Saturday, December 24

### HOUSTON

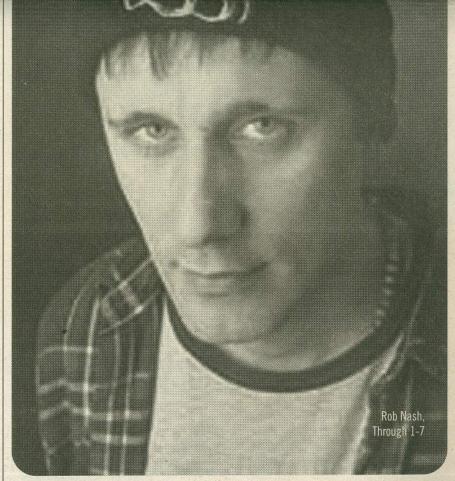
Crystal Meth Anonymous meets Saturdays and Mondays through Wednesdays at various locations. Cmahouston.earthlink.net.

**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. Mary's, Naturally, 1022 Westheimer Rd. 713-

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.



# 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-

### HOUSTON

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

# Toons

### IK By Kurt Erichsen



t a tradition by hanging their ver the fireplace

December 23-December 30, 2005







Capricorn

ether those notions are keys to

### September 23-October 22

nge goals seem like more trouble 're worth, and mixed messages can drive you crazy. In both ten to your friends for grounding

# ClubLand

# austin

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









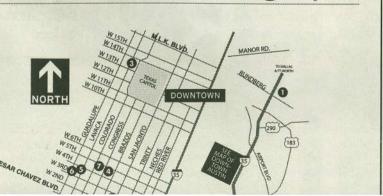








# **NightSpots**







t a tradition by hanging their iver the fireplace

December 23-December 30, 2005









Capricorn

nether those notions are keys to

### September 23-October 22

nge goals seem like more trouble y're worth, and mixed messages x can drive you crazy. In both sten to your friends for grounding rance — they could also give you oor-saving tips!

### - October 23-November 21

ork should be paying off right now, ering problems and arguments with tner can distract you from basking ow of your success. A serious talk you both make necessary adjust-

#### RIUS — November 22-December 20

ain is buzzing faster than usual, and gue - if you're not careful ter. That could be trouble. Keep nd focused on what's true and right, k about that before opening your

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Photos by Paul Stricklin

















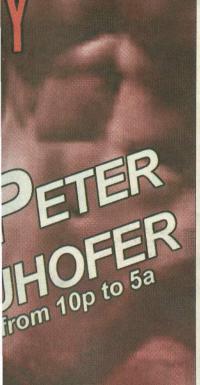
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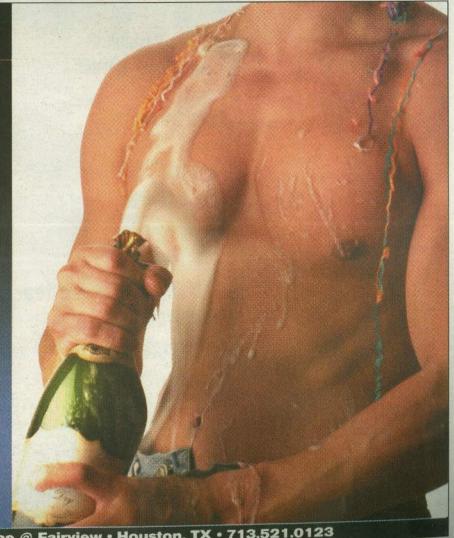
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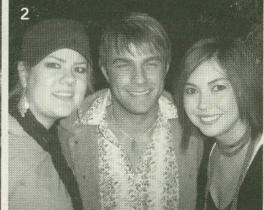
# ClubLand

# dallas

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.

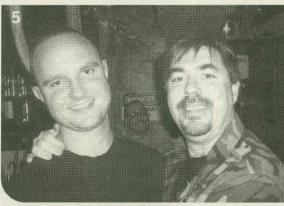
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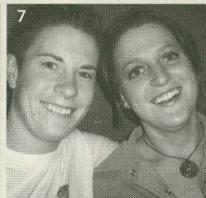


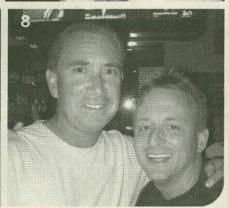










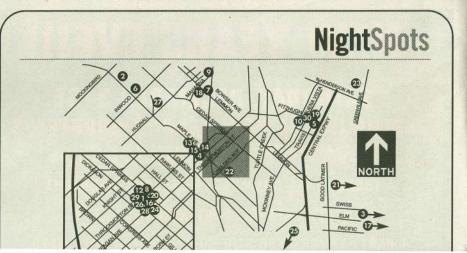




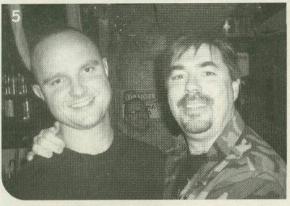
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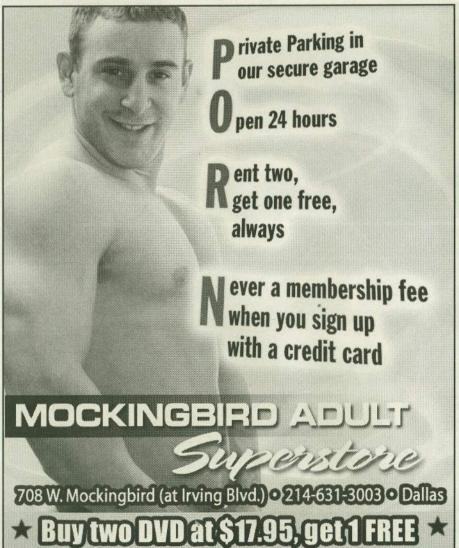




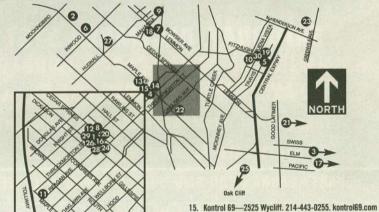








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- Dallas Eagle-2515 Inwood, #107. 214-357-4375. Dallaseagle.com
- 7. DeWayne's Oasis-5334 Lemmon. 214-528-6234. Dewaynesoasis.com
- 8. Havana-4006 Cedar Springs. 214-528-5766
- Hidden Door-5025 Bowser, 214-526-0620
- 10. Hideaway Clubs-4144 Buena Vista. 214-559-2966 Billshideaway.com
- 11. Illusions-4100 Maple, 214-252-0552
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- 13. Joe's Place-4117 Maple. 214-219-JOES
- 14. Kaliente-4350 Maple Ave. 214-520-6676. Kaliente.cc

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# 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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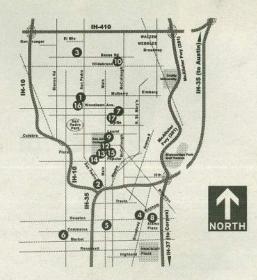


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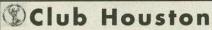
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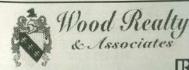
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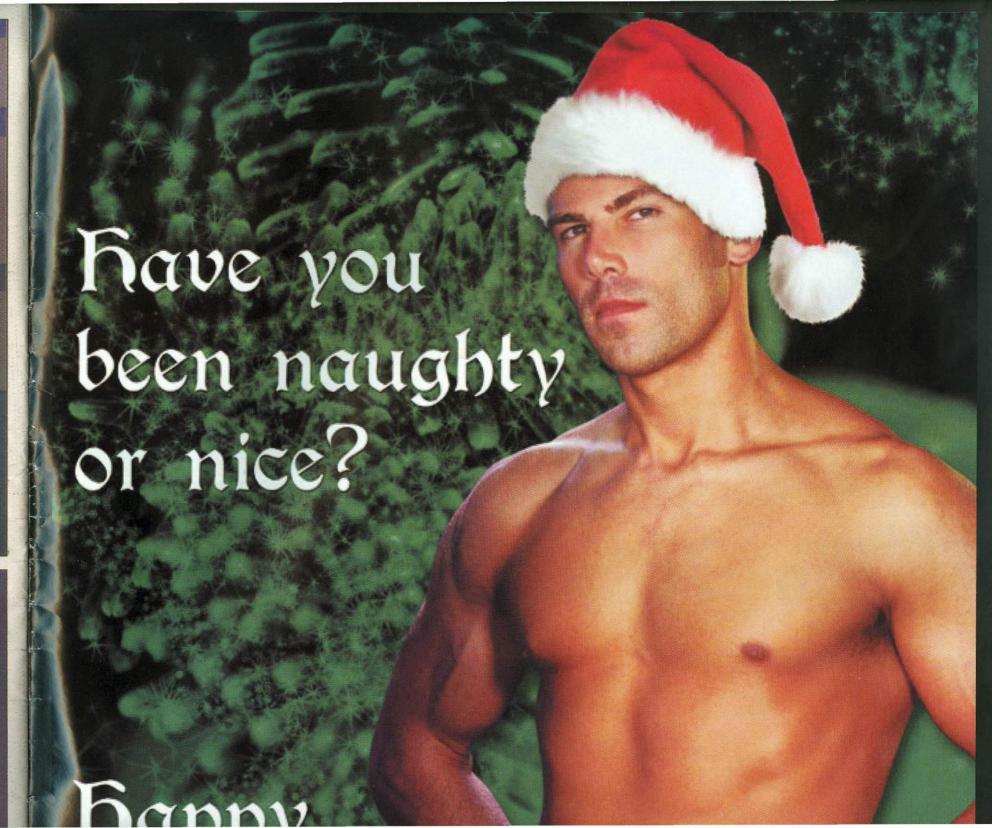
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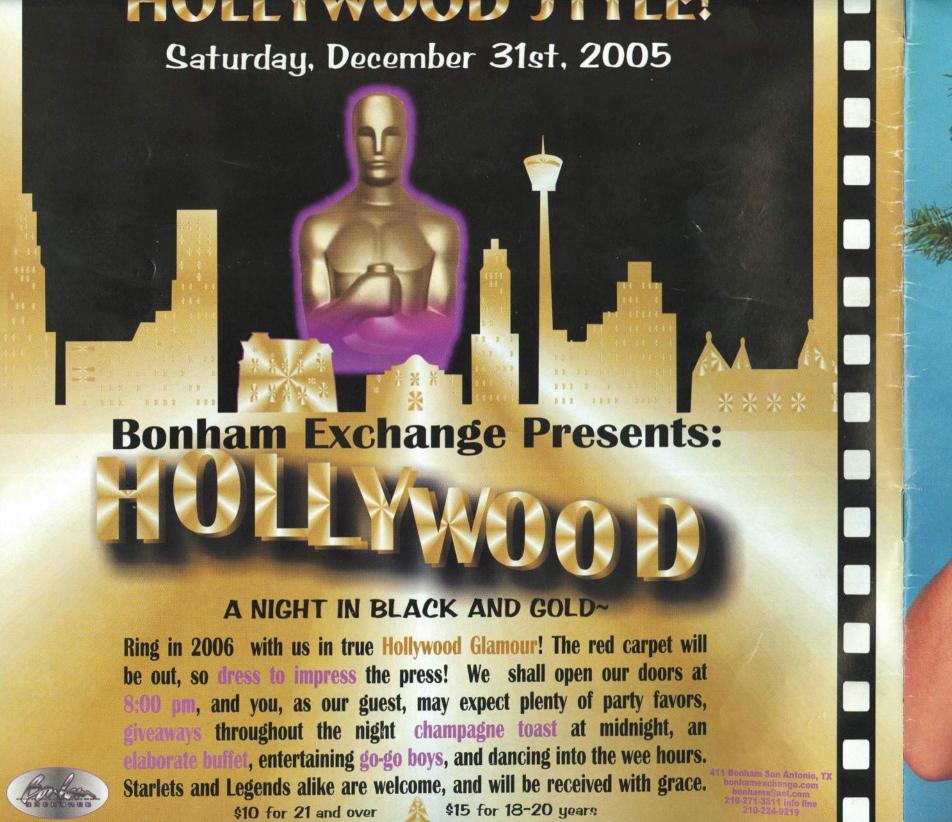
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