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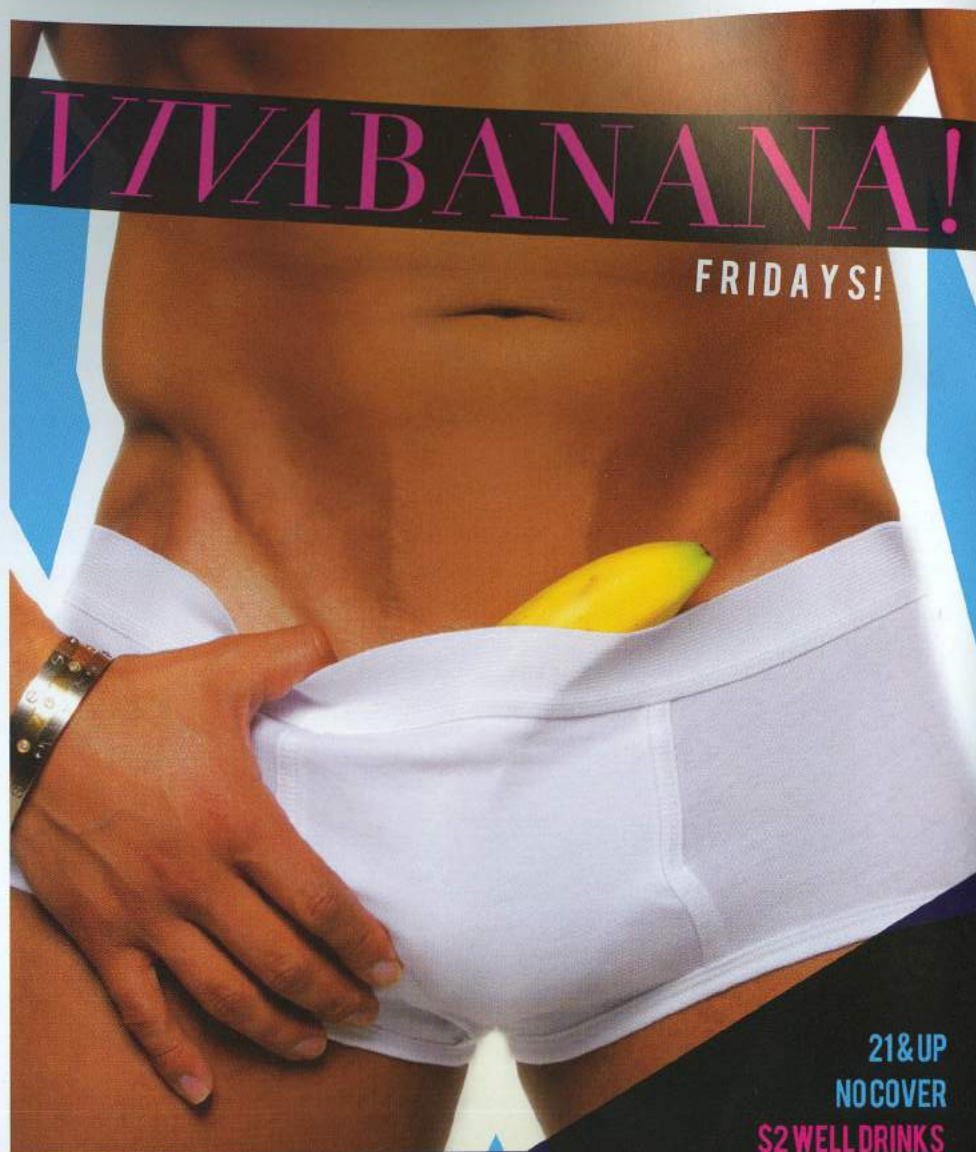


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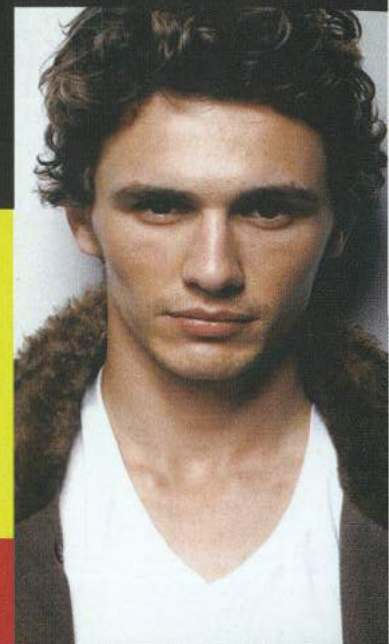


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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Dear abOUT Readers,

Well folks, so much for happy endings. Go ahead and get your mind outta the gutter; I was speaking of our last issue's coverstory Jennifer Lopez. Soon after her interview, her and Marc announced they plan to divorce. HMMMMM!

We launched our much anticipated and one of a kind PHP website. If you have not had an opportunity please visit us RIGHT NOW at www.abOUT-Online.com

The community was hit with the tragic news of the sudden death of Rod Castle, the founder and CEO of the Osito Foundation - a massive loss for our community. To read more on Rod, I have wrote an article in this issue.

BTW: If you think you have a creative style of writing, and you would like to be involved with abOUT, I would like to hear from you. Please send me an e-mail.

Hope you enjoy Mr. James Franco, our cover boy and as always- Thank you to the community for supporting abOUT Magazine.

Cade Michals

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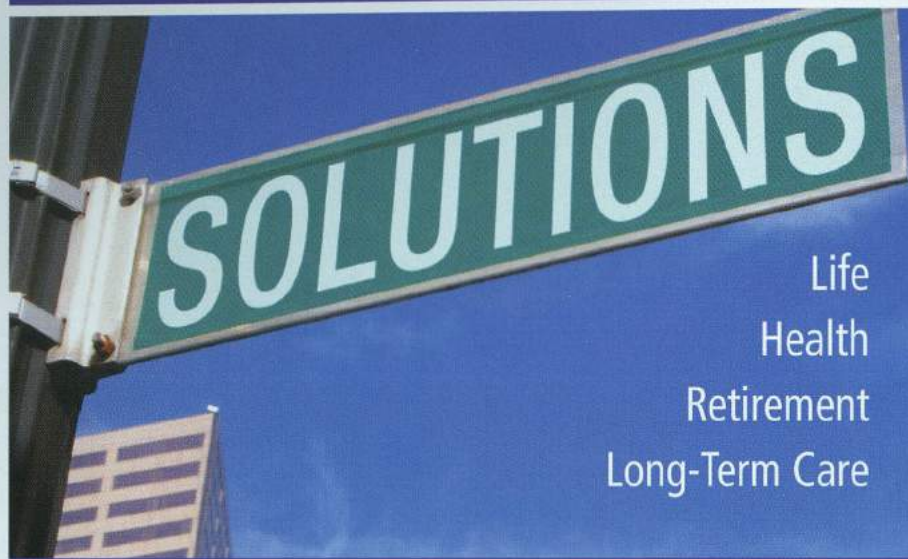
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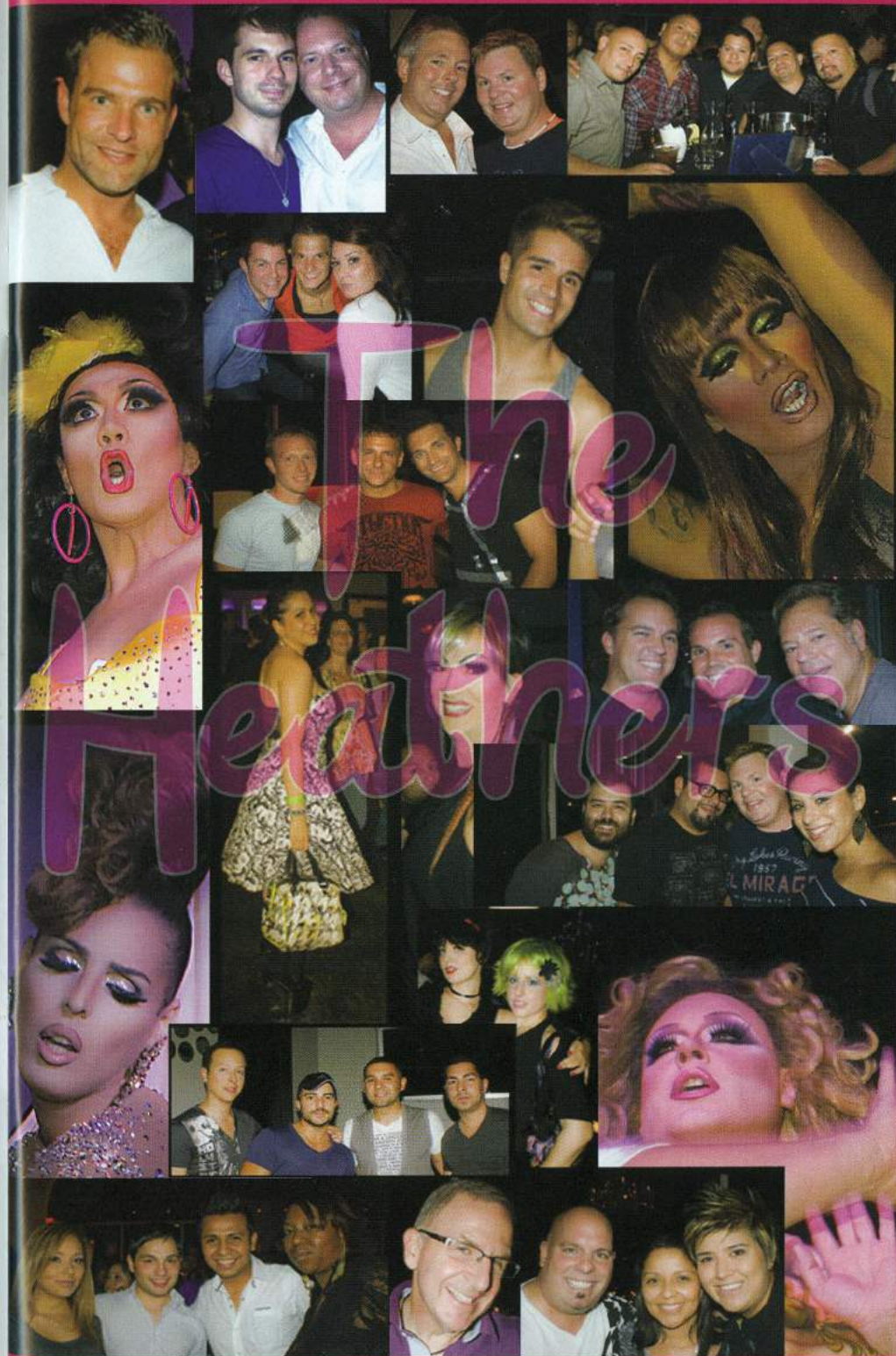
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Remembering a HERO

"I wanna leave my footprints on the sands of time" Beyonce, Rod Castle did just this. He died on July 7, 2011 he was 44 years of age.

Rodney T. Castle was known to Houston and across the nation as the founder and CEO of The Osito Foundation. He had moved to Houston several years prior from Arkansas, when he met his life partner Oscar. It was then they took on a journey together, launching what would become one of Houston's most unique foundations. It was also then they fell madly in love and if you knew Rod any bit at all he would tell you this; "Oscar is my world.". Rod was a graduate from University of Arkansas

Several years ago around Christmas time, I was invited with The Osito Foundation and their dedicated volunteers to one of their missions at Texas Children's Hospital. I watched Rod transform into a child, as he got down on his knees and would hold these children, then surprise them with a teddybear out of his Santa Clause style bag. This is what he loved to do.

I wish I could put in writing to explain the personality and presence Rod had. I wish I could make you all feel the pleasure I feel of knowing such a great community HERO!

In 2010 The Osito Foundation launched a new program to create the first ever "Children's Aids Day", this was the first time ever an event of this type was done, and it was held with great success. Governor Rick Perry would send his support, and Mayor Parker proclaimed it Children's Aids Day. This was the only time in history this was ever done.

abOUT Magazine spoke with the Osito Foundation and was assured Rod's legacy would help lead them and continue to provide community services.

You lived, and You loved,
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As Rod would always say: "Big Teddy Bear Hugs"



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A SLICE OF SNOB

by:
Adam
Castaneda



Having trouble managing your social circle amidst the glut of summer cocktail parties, bar hopping Saturday nights, and weekend trips? There's no better barometer of friendship and social interaction than Bravo's *Real Housewives* franchise. There's hardly a member of the gay world that isn't covered by these over-the-top ladies. To help you weed out your friends list, we've matched five gay "types" with their *Housewives* counterparts and the final verdict of whether they're keepers or creepers.

The Drama Queen: He's not just in drama. He starts drama. At the slightest provocation, he'll fly off the handle and start talking trash to friends and enemies alike. This guy is definitely not afraid to flip a table. **Real Housewives Counterpart:** Teresa Giudice, New Jersey **Verdict:** While he claims to have his peeps' back, the fact remains that he could cut you at any moment. Literally. Take him or leave him, but we say leave him.

The Drag Queen: He's the JRs junkie and he always shows up in heels. He wears more make-up than your sister and makes sure everyone knows that he's loud and proud. To say that he thinks he's a diva is an understatement. He thinks his fabulousness is off the chart, but he's really only second-rate. **Real Housewives Counterpart:** Kim Zolciak, Atlanta **Verdict:** On one hand, he's fun and loyal. On the other, do you really want a guy with a collection of bad wigs in your inner circle? The drag queen is a high maintenance friend, so proceed with caution.

The Party Crasher: He's the friend who always manages to show up at every house party in Montrose even though he's less popular than you are. He masks his social climbing aspirations under the guise of being a professional networker. **Real Housewives Counterpart:** Michaela Salahi, Washington D.C. **Verdict:** Ultimately, this guy is harmless. After all, gays just want to have fun. But expect plenty of backlash when the rest of your crew realizes he's only using them for their connections.

The Likeable Snob: He's smart, has good taste, and knows it. At the bar, he looks down on anybody who doesn't have a cocktail or a glass of red wine. He thinks Ross and Marshall's are cute boys' names, and Neiman Marcus is his second home. **Real Housewives Counterpart:** LuAnn de Lesseps, New York City **Verdict:** You don't want to get rid of someone who always has an extra ticket to the Houston Grand Opera.

The Megalomaniac: He thinks he's god's gift to the gay world. Cute? Yes. Intelligent? No more than the average gay. Bank? He has a mid-tier professional job. He'd be a great guy if he didn't think he was amazing. Oh, and he happens to go berserk on anyone who thinks otherwise. **Real Housewives Counterpart:** Camille Grammer, Beverly Hills **Verdict:** Turn and run in the opposite direction before he goes bat-shit crazy.



Well I hope my dirty little story about my friends' fetish was not too graphic, but I just felt the need to share that with my dearest wife-beater wearers. A little dignity-less action never hurt anyone---except for the occasional mouth herpes and pink eye every now and then. Well as I was shopping at the Home Depot, my Birkenstocks really started hurting me and I was hyped up with anticipation for my participation in the Houston Pride Parade later that evening. So after I made it home with my stack of 2x4's and cement for the gazebo I was going build, I prepared myself for a fun filled night in the good ole Montrose area.

I loaded up my Airstream with the essentials: my finest wine that comes in a box, jello shots, hooch, a 50 piece of Popeye's chicken and for the ladies that I will invite to ride with me: roofee-coladas. Just for this event I had a special confederate rainbow flag made back in 1981 and I will be flying it high in the sky! Every year around this time I make sure I get myself some of that Botox in my armpits to help with the excessive sweat problem

I have in those areas. I just can't take that heat that accompanies the parade---it seems to get hotter and hotter every year.

One year I had me an "affair to remember" with one of the members of the organization that puts on this shin-dig. Let's just say those port-o-potties will accommodate a voluptuous woman like me and a skinny, 140lb, 5'8 man. Just when you think you know somebody, they decide to take advantage of you when you are passed out drunk and forget to wear panties that day. Just because my kitty is showing doesn't mean it's a free for all---I HAVE NEVA! From what I can remember, the little fu*% was little. Let's just say he ended up giving me the gift that keeps on giving, but not to worry because I gave him something back too---I hope it still burns!

By: Les B. Anne

ALL ABOUT SPORTS

BY CHRIS MUNOZ



Women's World Cup: Victory for Japan, but sad day for USA

The Women's World Cup, held in Frankfurt, Germany this year, was an intense game on July 17, 2011. USA versus Japan was the opponent schedule to showcase who would be the next champion. Unfortunately our women of the USA were defeated by Japan 3-1. The last time the USA Team won the world cup was in 1999 against China.

MONTROSE SOFTBALL LEAGUE: HELLCATS ADVANCE TO GSWS

The Hellcats brought the season to a close with a 9-1 progress in their record to secure a place in the GSWS (Gay Softball World Series) being hosted in Chicago on August 29-September 3, 2011. There is an awards banquet being held at Pete's Dueling Piano Bar on July 30, 2011 from noon to 3pm to announce the following awards: Most Valuable Player, Rookie of the Year, Golden Glove, Most Improved and Mr. Hustle.



LOCKOUT IN THE NFL?

We all know that the NFL has been at a stand-still with its greed issues on the collective bargaining agreement the owners opted out of back in 2009. It states that the players get an almost 60% of revenues generated by the NFL through a revenue sharing program. Basically the owners are saying that the players make too much money and the new stadiums being built are sucking generous profits right from their pockets. It does sound true when you read the CBA itself. If an agreement is not reached soon, the NFL will come to a halt just like in 1987 when this issue surfaced last.





JAMES FRANCO

by: Cade Michals

Academy Award-nominee, James Franco's academic career just got more confusing or better.

We all know how much James Franco loves his higher education and University of Houston just got higher (better), a whole lot better- well *El-lay* better that is. James Franco has won a spot in the creative writing program. Not just any program, but The "Eat Pray Love" star, who is a Ph.D. student in English at Yale University and alumnus of UCLA, New York University, Brooklyn College, and Columbia University, will enroll in the the University of Houston's doctoral program. J. Kastely, director of the program says 20 students are chosen from about 400 applicants each year. Kastely said UH accepts graduate students based on a writing sample, letters of recommendation and a personal statement. Doctoral students also must submit "a strong piece of critical writing," to demonstrate scholarly abilities, he said.

The 33-year-old actor co-hosted the 83rd Academy Awards with actress Anne Hathaway in February. Reviews of that performance were mixed, but he was nominated for an Oscar for his portrayal of hiker Aron Ralston in the 2010 film *127 Hours*. But you will probably know him for his role as Harry Osborn in the *Spiderman* trilogy. But last fall, he published *Palo Alto: Stories*, a book of short stories named for the California city where he was raised.

So there you have it, Franco-philes. Prepare to start calling your favorite actor Dr. Franco. We really hope some of the students at UH will follow in Columbia's footsteps and snap pictures of the actor when he falls asleep in class.

Lovett Inn Morphs into a Hostel

Hostelling International USA (HI-USA) will open a 50-bed hostel in late summer 2011 in the former Lovett Inn Bed and Breakfast at 501 Lovett. The two-story, 5,400-ft main house with a finished attic also includes a two-story, 720-foot carriage house on a 17,000-square foot lot in the heart of Montrose.



HI-USA took possession of the historic property on June 15, 2011. The gracious structure that became the Lovett Inn was originally built in 1917 as the home to former Houston Mayor Joseph C. Hutcheson, JR. HI-USA is eager to add The Bayou City to its nationwide network of quality hostel facilities, meaning that Houston joins other large cities across America that attract domestic and international travelers with the globally recognized Hostelling International brand.

Dedication to Paul Broussard

This month, we prepare to honor the memory of Paul Broussard, a gay man whose stabbing death on July 4, 1991, opened our collective eyes to the hate-related violence in our own backyard. **Montrose Counseling Center** joins **Charles Armstrong Investments** along with the **Aaron Scheerhoorn Foundation for Change** in dedicating the northwest corner of California and Grant to the memory of Broussard, as well as all GLBT victims of violence. The observance is open to the public and will begin at 8 p.m. on **Thursday, July 28.**



www.abOUT-Online.com

Man Dies in Richmond Bookstore Fire



On the morning of July 1, 2011, the lesser known of Houston's private bookstores, Talk of the Town II located at 1201 Richmond, burned down. According to the HFD, a body was found crushed to death by rubble from the fire. HFD has opened up an arson investigation and are suspicious there may be foul play involved in the initiation of the fire.



Tony Mandola's Opens in Montrose

In 1982, Tony Mandola's Blue Oyster Bar opened on the Gulf Freeway, which was operated for 22 successful years. The famous Tony Mandola's Gulf Coast Kitchen on West Gray was open from 1988 through 2010 which closed to make way for the new standalone restaurant located at 1212 Waugh Dr.



Top Ranking Gay Bars in Texas

The race to be number one is always apparent in the mind of any bar owner. Drink specials, events and overall awesomeness of an establishment plays into the factor of surviving and reaching the top. According to the TABC (Texas Alcohol Beverage Commission) report released on June 21, 2011, the top 10 grossing bars in Texas are: 1. Roundup Saloon-Dallas, 2. Station 4-Dallas, 3. JR's Bar-Dallas, 4. F Bar-Houston, 5. Rain on 4th-Austin, 6. Sparky's Pub-San Antonio, 7. Pegasus-San Antonio, 8. JR's Bar & Grill-Houston, 9. Oilcan Harry's-Austin, 10. Charlie's-Austin. We are proud to have two bars located right here in Houston that fall into this category. Congratulations F Bar & JR's.

abOUT NEWS

Newsroom

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- Chelsea Grill under goes major facelift
- Bunnies on the Bayou announces "Bunnies in Heat II"

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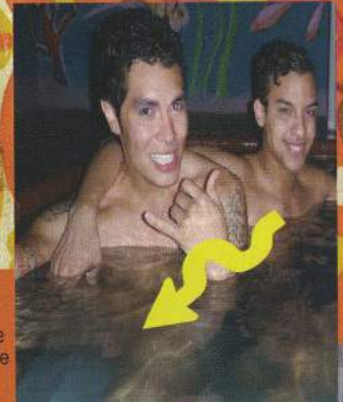
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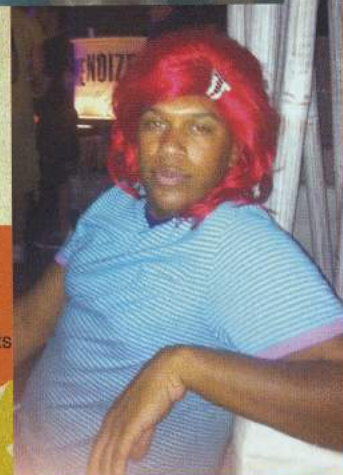
Dear Terrified Bud Man,
When approaching a queen in her natural environment "usually a bar" you must do so with caution. There for not to scare her sober. Which we hope she wasn't due to her fruity outfit!

Ok now HOTTUB Bandit YOU should know better than to have your noodle out in a hottub when there is a camera around.



Oh girl! Someone was recently spotted out with her boa letting her hair down. We can't figure out if this picture is of you or the chick behind you. Either way, SLURP it down honey!

We do give you props for your Fourth of July attire! GO big Red! But we do have to get you in touch with a real hair dresser! And at least there is no spill spots on your shirt!



XOXO
--The Gals

IN THE END
WE WILL
REMEMBER
NOT
THE
WORDS OF OUR
ENEMIES
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OF OUR
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LADIES
have a need for fun too



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BY: chris munoz

Philaroscopes

March 21 - April 20

Aries

Just like James Franco (born April 19, 1978), you too share the same birth sign and that means exactly nothing. On the upside, you will have an epiphany about how and why you rely on the fortune from a fortune cookie to get you through life.

Your good luck number is: 1—don't be so lonely

April 21 - May 21

Taurus

Just like James Franco's small film debut in 1999's *Never Been Kissed*, you too will realize that you've never been kissed on your brown eyed octi-poussua (pronounced: auk-tee-poo-swa). On the upside, your French will improve drastically when you do venture into getting your first kiss.

Your good luck number is: 17—keep wishing you were 17 again

May 22 - June 21

Gemini

Just like James Franco's first major film *Whatever It Takes*, you too will realize that you do have what it takes to reach out and go purchase that new hair-piece you had your eye on at the thrift store. On the upside, saved monies from your purchase will enable you to treat yourself to a nice, lonely, ensure free cocktail at the bar.

Your good luck number is: 40—drink that 40 ounces with pride

June 22 - July 22

Cancer

Just like James Franco's cancelled *Freaks & Geeks* TV show, you too will find yourself cancelled by that Hottie McHottie you met in the Dairy Queen parking lot. On the upside, this will leave you available for *Steamy McSteamy* that is lurking the surrounding areas (check issue #1 of *Yes Ma'am No Ma'am*).

Your good luck number is: 69—enough said

July 23 - August 21

Leo

Just like James Franco's TV biopic debut in *James Dean*, you too will find yourself bi-picking whether you should have the organic veggie burger or the meatless lasagna. On the upside, your careless love for no-meat will come to a halt when you indulge in a chimichanga full of cow.

Your good luck number is: 0—don't be a zero be a hero

August 22 - September 23

Virgo

Just like James Franco's defeated role as Spider-Man to Tobey McGuire, you too will land that interview for an exotic pole dancer; but, to your dismay the plus size hussy you saw shopping at Wal-Mart for her "dancer wear" gets the gig. On the upside, you will gain first-hand knowledge of how to smell like cocoa butter and cash.

Your good luck number is: 54—disco it down like Studio 54

September 24 - October 23

Libra

Just like James Franco's cameo in *Knocked Up* as himself, you too will be yourself when you decide to enter that hot dog eating contest while you are on that first date. On the upside, your date is vastly impressed know they know you like to shove wieners in your mouth greedily.

Your good luck number is: 100—be ready to make it rain

October 24 - November 22

Scorpio

Just like James Franco's starring role in *Pineapple Express*, you too will channel your inner stoner and smoke until your last spark of sense burns out. On the upside, your new found cravings for meat stuffed doughnuts will start a trend.

Your good luck number is: 99—enjoy your red balloons

November 23 - December 22

Sagittarius

Just like James Franco's starring role in *Milk*, you too will star in your own German not-for-TV movie named *Milk Moustache: Drink Until They're Done*. On the upside, your astronomical protein intake will help you gain the muscle mass you have been looking for.

Your good luck number is: 13—use that bakers' dozen wisely

December 23 - January 20

Capricorn

Just like James Franco's role in famed soap opera *General Hospital*, you too will be featured in a real life soap opera where you find out that your left foot has been involved in a "gratuitous" film that was never authorized by you. On the upside, your new nickname "Lefty" will play a vital role in being approved for that new "as seen on TV" fanny bank you had your heart set on.

Your good luck number is: 82—it's just a number

January 21 - February 19

Aquarius

Just like James Franco's starring role in *127 Hours*, you too will fall victim to the Golden Girls TV marathon on Lifetime that lasted 127 hours. On the upside, you found that you mirror *Blanche Devereaux's* personality and style in every way possible; right down to the everlasting shoulder pads.

Your good luck number is: 25—think insurance rates

February 20 - March 20

Pisces

Just like James Franco's appearance in *Eat, Pray, Love*, you too will *Eat your way* into a coma, then *Pray your way* out of that one-night stand, and then *Love your way* into the doctor's office for that shot of penicillin for giving too much love. On the upside, you will have fulfilled your life's dream and now you can continue trying all 31 of Baskin Robbin's flavors.

Your good luck number is: 60—it's the new 40



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The Montrose Mining Company

Blur Nightclub
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Crocker Bar
2312 Crocker, Houston TX 77006

TC's Bar & Club
817 Fairview, Houston TX 77006

The Ripcord
715 Fairview, Houston TX 77006

Meteor Lounge
2306 Genesee, Houston TX 77006

Montrose Entertainment District

THE BAR/CLUB GUIDE



by: Daniel Jack

THE BARTENDER HATES YOU

So being a bartender definitely has its advantages and disadvantages no matter what city you live in. I've been bartending for about ten years now and I have seen a lot of different "things" during my reign; from people drinking until they puke or even the occasional creeper that orders a pina colada and turns it into a Roofee-Colada. There are so many stories that I can tell you that will blow your mind, but as an intro to this new column I want to start off with a few annoyances that I hate personally:

The Birthday Shot:

So people often come out to get sh*t faced to celebrate their turn of the wheel. Well, while with their friends, they order shots and keep repeating the phrase "it's my birthday!" In the back of my mind I am thinking "what the hell does that mean for me that it's your birthday?" But of course I always smile and nod with acknowledgment of their statement. So I always serve their shots with style and look them in the eye and charge them no more or no less for the drinks. I always get the response, "but it's my birthday!" And again I only charge them no more or no less for the drinks. Don't EXPECT free drinks just because it's your freaking birthday.

Tipping:

So it is a well-known fact that you MUST tip your bartender or else your next drink won't be to your satisfactory. As a rule of thumb, make sure to tip based of the following formulas: 20% of your total tab or according to how stiff your drinks are poured. Please refrain from leaving a STD (standard two dollar tip) for the whole tab. Oh, and keep your loose change for the carwash. Keeping your bartender happy is what it's all about in order for you, as the patron, to continuously get adequately tanked night after night. Don't under estimate your bartender; we truly don't want to hate you, but the select few (and you know who you are) always have to ruin it for everyone else.

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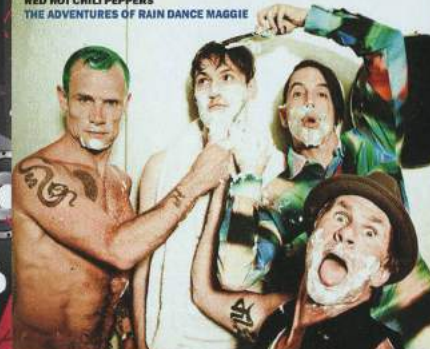
by Chris Munoz

MUSIC

RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS BACK FROM BREAK

After disbanding in 2008, the Red Hot Chili Peppers decided to take a year off and just live. The release of Stadium Arcadium in 2006, which sold 2.3 million copies according to Nielsen Soundscan, and the constant touring, left all the members of the band just mentally exhausted and physically drained. Returning with a new guitarist for their new single "The Adventure of Rain Dance Maggie," and with the new album to drop on August 30, 2011 they are back with full force.

RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS
THE ADVENTURES OF RAIN DANCE MAGGIE



ADELE CROSSES FIVE RADIO CHART GENRES

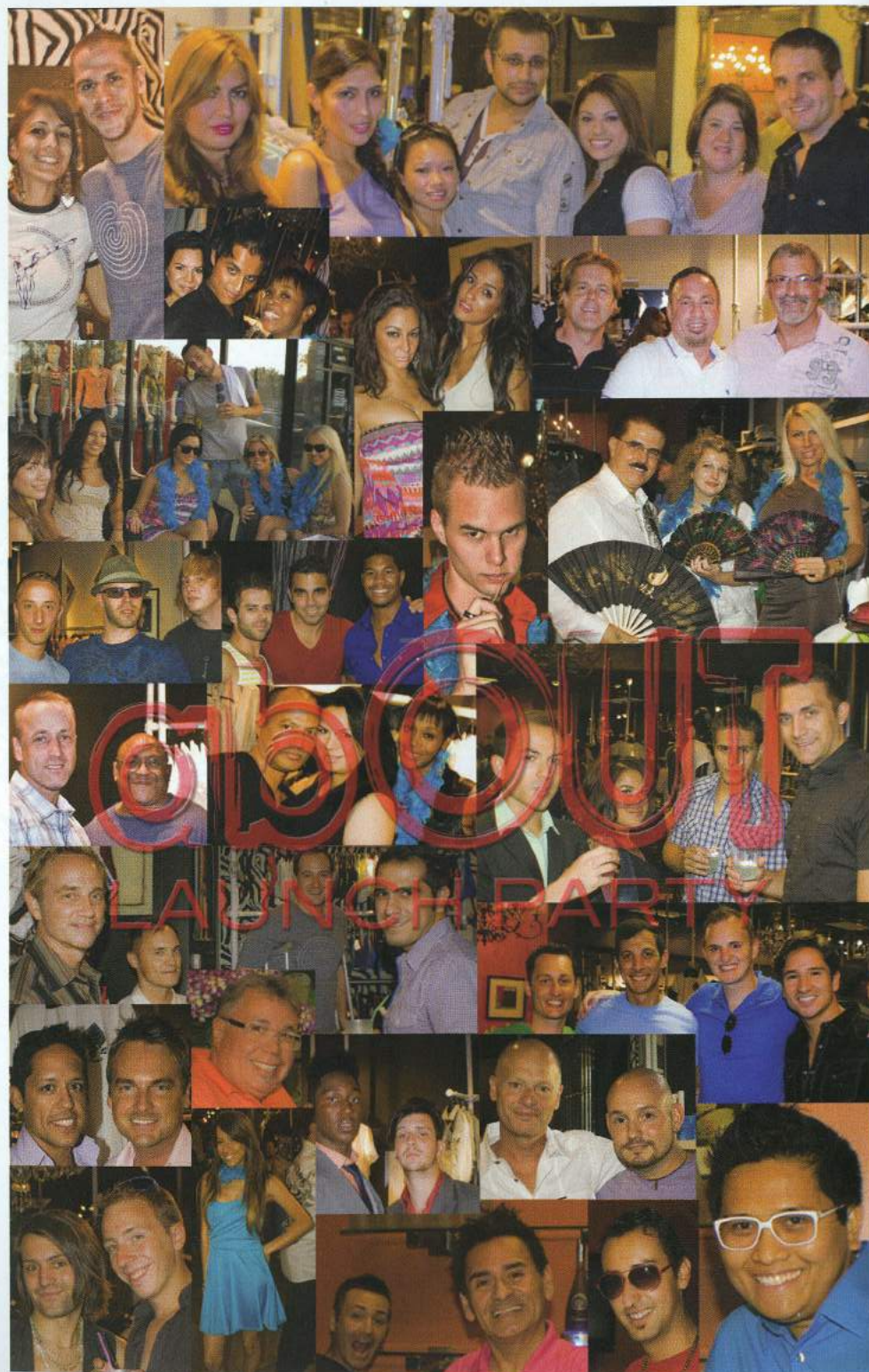
With the release of "Rolling in the Deep" in December of 2010, at age 23, Adele has successfully been able to add to the genres of: Dance, Rock, R&B/Hip Hop, Pop/Adult, and the recent Latin to her airplay. This has only been done by five other artists: Michael Jackson, Katy Perry, Phil Collins, Suzanne Vega and Eminem. With her uniqueness, she has been able to cross over with only her single despite the other five had to do it with multiple songs. Adele is from West Norwood, South London, England and has musical talents for, obviously singing, as well as guitar, piano, bass, percussion and keyboard.

ADELE
ROLLING IN THE DEEP

Paramore Returns with Full Force

Formed in 2004 from Franklin, Tennessee, Paramore's newest single "Monster" has undertones saying they will continue forward without two of the founding members, brothers Josh and Zac Farro. The brothers were apparently not happy with the front singer Hayley Williams to be the only one signed to a label and the rest of the band just riding her coat-tail. The song is the first single off of the "Transformers: Dark of the Moon" soundtrack.

PARAMORE



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The World According to O.T.

A huge obstacle in interpersonal communication is understanding timing, especially post argument. Not just the arguments about who's hotter: Bradley Cooper, Anderson Cooper, or me (of course); the serious ones. If you want to maintain healthier relationships with those that matter most to you realize that you being ready to clear the air doesn't mean that the other person is ready.

Are you so self-important that you truly believe that all things occur when you will it? Pull the page closer because I need you to properly receive what I am giving: **GET OVER YOURSELF DOT COM!** You are not Master and Commander Far Side of the World. Wait...you just may be. Because that movie was **TERRIBLE BOOTS** and so is your attitude if this is how you handle yourself.

Here's what you do: calm down, grab an adult beverage (unless drinking is the issue being communicated – then you may want set a meeting with another friend, Betty Ford) and just **WAIT!** Sure, you're the sun in your universe; and you know who cares about that? **JUST YOU!** So while you're shining brightly, being righteous; that other person is slapping on SPF 5000 and blocking you out.

Listen, you don't have the ability or responsibility to decide when someone else is ready to talk things out. What takes you just a moment, may take someone else a day, a week, or hell even a month. And regardless of how well you know someone, you don't know their private thoughts. Or do you, Professor X? Your responsibility as friend, lover, etc. is to understand due process and personal timing...wait.

Don't be that person who says, "When I wanted to talk (s)he wasn't ready. So now I am not interested/don't want to discuss it", or anything remotely similar. Remember, communication is not always about you, You, YOU! Get over yourself! Cut the crap! And give that other person the same opportunity to process and respond that you gave yourself before or during the entire situation.

It's okay to
shout-it-out,
just be sure
to hug-it-out later

By:
O.T. Porter

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