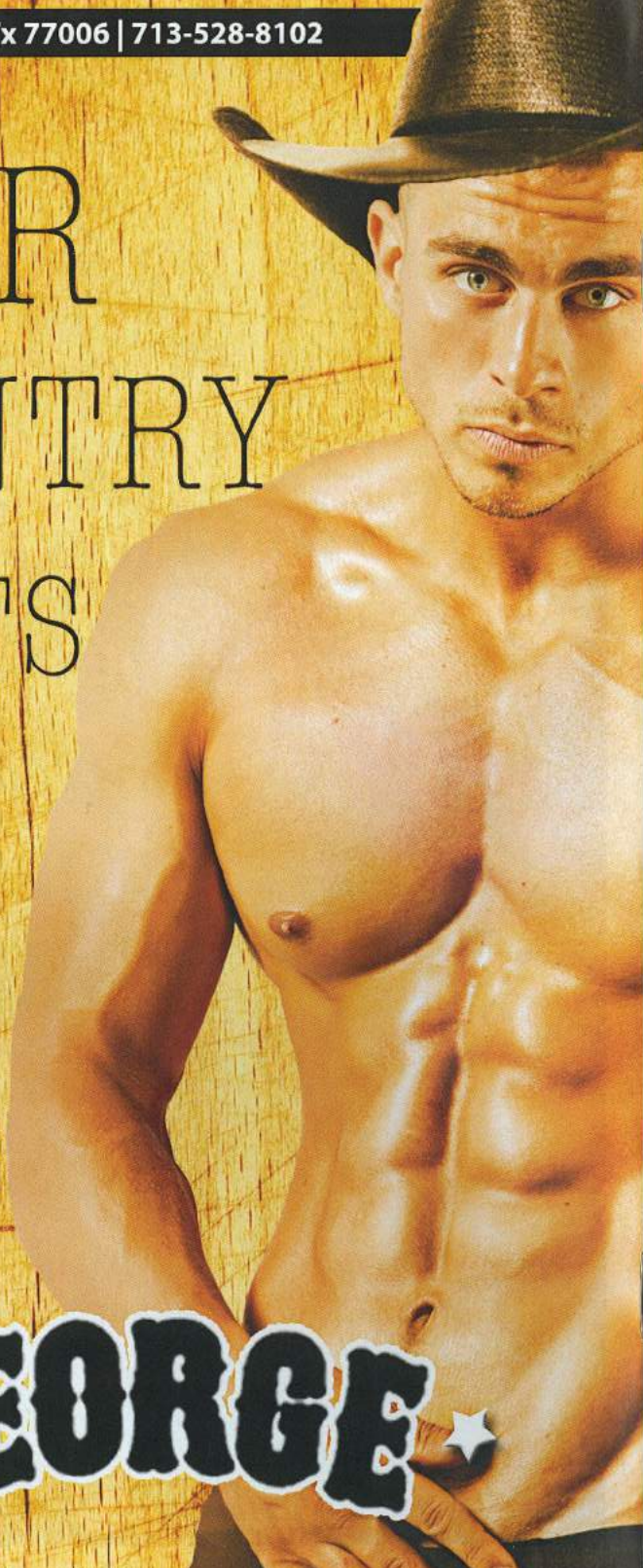


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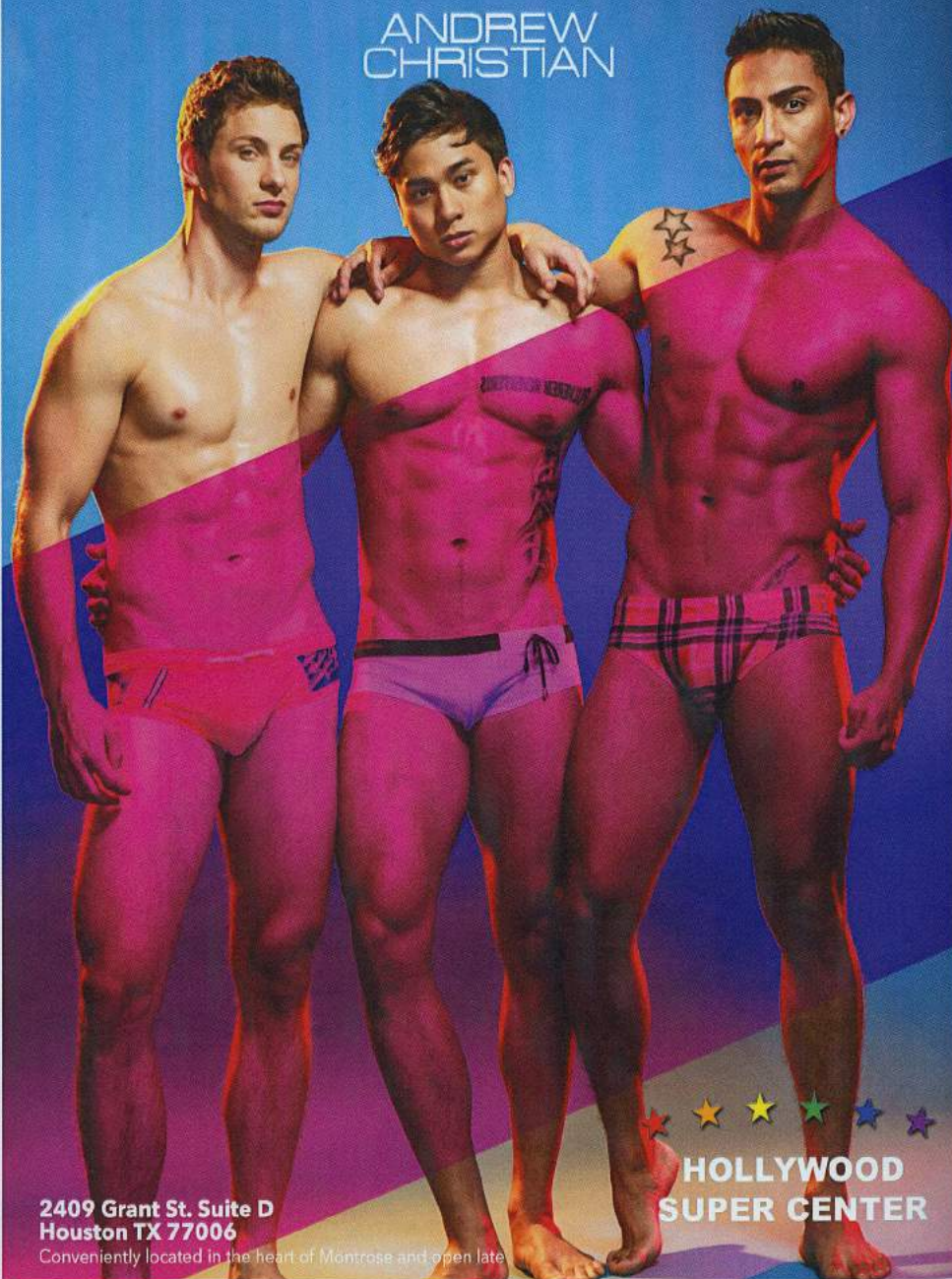


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ISSN Library of Congress 2163-8470 (Print) 2163-8446 (On-Line)

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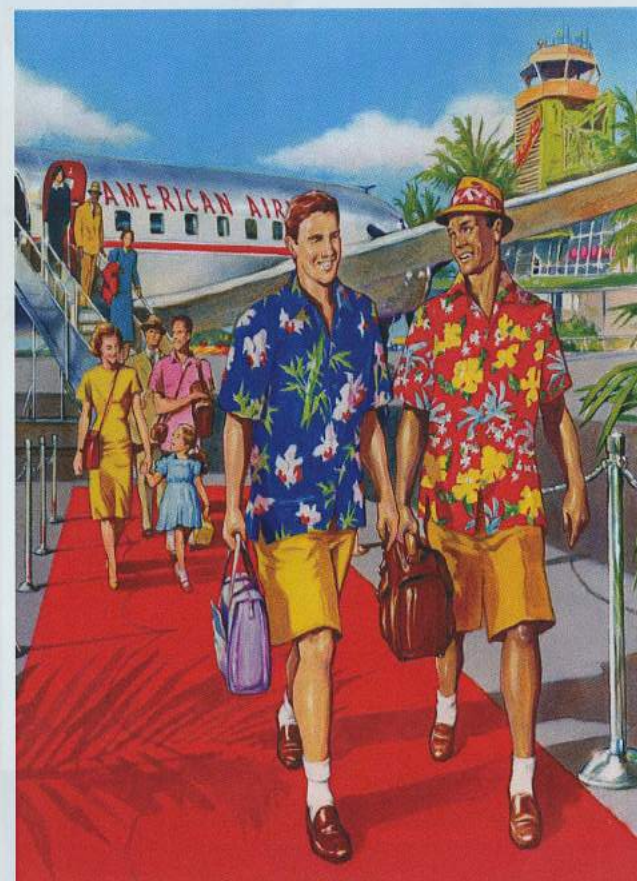
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TEXAS GETS READY FOR MORE BATHROOM DRAMA



"Our country is in crisis, and Texas must lead the way forward."

-Texas Governor, Greg Abbott

If the issue of transgender restroom use isn't on your radar, you haven't chatted with anybody, Snap chatted or read your tweets during the last week. Confrontations have popped up and soon the center of the explosive national argument could be Houston, again!

Texas Republicans seem to be anxious to bring this fight raging in North Carolina over transgender rights and public restrooms to America's largest conservative state, and to our city.

Our Governor, Greg Abbott suggested he'd like to see a similar in Texas soon. "Our country is in crisis, and Texas must lead the way forward."

"Texas will be the next battleground," said Jared Woodfill, a conservative activist who is calling the issue a priority for the next legislative session.

LGBT advocates say there is no evidence to suggest that Texas — or any other state — has seen transgender people attacking others in bathrooms and efforts like the ones ramping up in Texas serve to further stigmatize transgender people.

In Texas, the prospect of another HERO style battle is alarming the business community already weary of the perception that the Lone Star State is less than inclusive.

Among those sensing the anxiety from businesses is Texas Competes, a coalition of more than 850 companies that aims to ensure an LG-BT-friendly climate in the state.



WE DON'T CARE

The Obama Administration has told schools across the country that they must allow transgender students to use the bathroom that matches their gender identity. The state of Texas disagrees, and could lose about \$5 billion a year in federal money for public schools.

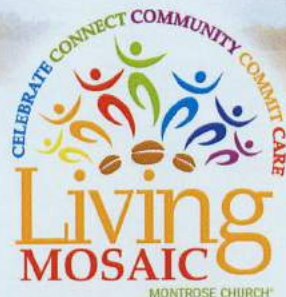
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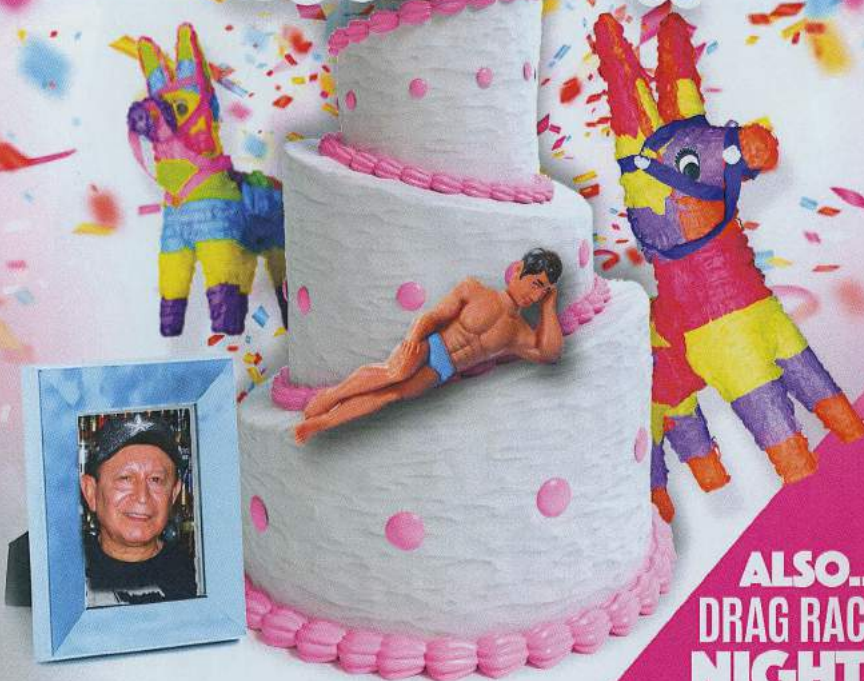
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