

inside: The year in Texas and National News and News with a View ■ Billy Masters looks back at gossip ■ *Indelible Images* ■ Ask Howard

Volume 1 ■ Issue 52 ■ December 30, 2005

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The Year in Review

2005

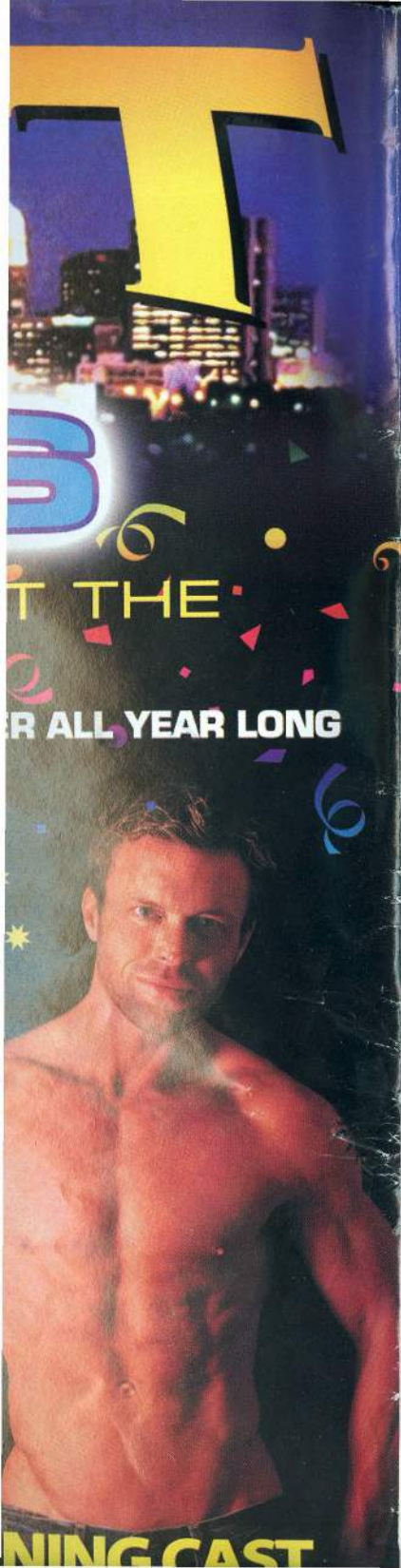




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4 Texas News

Looking Back

Despite devastating hurricanes and a demoralizing constitutional amendment, GLBT Texans will recall 2005 as a year of some triumphs, thanks to the lesbians.

7 National News

U.S. Highlights

Ann Rostow focuses on the stories that grabbed the nation's attention in 2005. The subject occupying the top spot was



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Billy Masters takes a look back at 2005, the year of dishing divas, queer cowboys and more celebrity breakups than you



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LETTERS

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

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'It was the best of times, it was the worst of times'*

*Best Stolen Line, TXT Newsmagazine Round-Up Award

By Nancy Ford and Dennis Vercher
TXT Newsmagazine Editors

Steers and queers are as big a part of Texas as Baptists and amens. And in 2005, we had plenty of challenges to face. While the leaders of Equality Texas are crowing about size of the coalition put together to fight Proposition 2, the fact is that the measure passed 3-to-1. (It's not the size, it's can they git to a voting booth, guys.) If that weren't bad enough, Mother Nature served up the biggest, baddest hurricane to ever hit the Gulf Coast, and Dubya's disaster relief people, something of a disaster themselves, are still counting the costs.

In the middle of tragedy, though, Texans have always stood tall. This year, it was Texas women making the best of our bad situation. Two lesbians were elected to city councils in Houston and San Antonio, and Houston Comets three-time MVP Sheryl Swoopes came out to broad accolates.

So give us your lesbians!

Eats queers, too!

In a red state that produced George W. Bush and corny dogs, whose streetcorners breed Southern Baptist churches and whose GLBT denizens (outside of Dallas, Austin and Houston, anyway) are a generally docile lot, the main question at this point is: What took so long?

So long, that is, to produce an amendment to the state constitution forbidding gay marriage and most other forms of gay unions.

Nebraska got the procession of states started in 2000, five years before Texans took action, seventeen states beat us to the punch. But true to their frontier roots, the slow-to-action Texans moved decisively when they did move — as when shooting a rabid dog — and voters duly rubber-stamped the amendment at the ballot box on Nov. 8 by 3 votes to



These two young men weather Hurricane Katrina on the streets of the French Quarter, which suffered less damage from flooding after the storm than most of the rest of New Orleans.

Palestine Republican, picked it up and the amendment swept through the Senate like a blue norther in November.

The best efforts of gay Texans through the densely named No Nonsense in November campaign amounted to little. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force even tossed in seven television commercials and paid for air-time in Houston, but voters were unmoved.

No Nonsense was never the slick, well-oiled machine its organizers promised, but workers plugged along. The campaign veered wildly off-course in October, however, just two weeks before the election. Leaders suggested that the language of the amendment was so precarious that the measure would have the effect of invalidating *all* marriages in Texas, not stopping gay ones. The error grew compound when worker bees were put to the phone banks, calling Aunt Hilda in Hillsborough with the news — and winning just condemnation from many of the newspa-

Texas has its own constitutional amendment, one that prohibits same-sex marriage, civil unions and, with its vaguely worded prohibition on arrangements "similar or identical to marriage" — who knows what else? Lordy!

Bad blow

Believed to be the largest Category 5 storm in history, Hurricane Katrina, downgraded to Category 4 just before landfall, slammed into New Orleans and the Mississippi coast on Aug. 29. By Aug. 31, it was apparent that a full-scale catastrophe was



and serious questions are being raised about whether New Orleans will ever regain its character or status.

Evacuees poured into Texas, obtaining temporary shelter at Houston's George R. Brown Convention Center and Astrodome and Dallas' Reunion Arena. Before the month was over Hurricane Rita hit the upper Texas Coast, spawning another, albeit less serious, evacuation and delaying the Dallas-Fort Worth North Texas Ride Fighting AIDS.

Texas AIDS and GLBT agencies and organizations sprang into action as the first wave of refugees from Katrina hit. Since New Orleans-area residents with HIV didn't exactly have on their minds the medical documentation they'd need during the evacuation — saving their butts took priority — they needed HIV tests to confirm their continuing eligibility for government assistance. Texas AIDS agencies were at the forefront, providing HIV tests and lining up medical care and medications for those who needed them. AIDS Foundation Houston assisted with finding local housing for evacuees, and in Dallas, the Resource Center of Dallas did the same. The Montrose Counseling Center established the Safe Homes project, which matched GLBT evacuees with suitable homes throughout the country. Metropolitan Community Churches established "New Orleans in Exile" groups that still meet regularly in Dallas, Austin and Houston.*

With help from Larry Bagneris, the displaced executive director of the New Orleans Human Relations Commission, Pride Houston and the Montrose Counseling Center acted quickly to set up a fund for evacuees, resulting in contributions totaling more than \$40,000. Untold amounts flowed to the Rainbow World Fund and similar charities along with thousands more, undoubtedly given through traditional agencies such as the Red Cross.

The number of dead is incomplete because 4,000 people remain unaccounted for, but the government estimates that 1,300 of those are probably dead, since they were in particularly hard-hit areas or were disabled.

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Nebraska got the procession of states started in 2000, five years before Texans took action, seventeen states beat us to the punch. But true to their frontier roots, the slow-to-action Texans moved decisively when they did move — as when shooting a rabid dog — and voters duly rubber-stamped the amendment at the ballot box on Nov. 8 by 3 votes to 1.

State Representative Warren Chisum, a Republican of Pampa, got the ball rolling last fall when he prefled his version of the amendment two months before Austinites rounded up their daughters and small change and the Legislature came to town for its 79th session. (Representative Robert Talton, the Pasadena loonybin, filed his own Draconian measure banning gay marriage, gay unions, gay foster parents, gay adoptive parents, gay household toys — we jest — but as was the case with previous Talton-sponsored legislation, it was passed over.) Chisum's language sailed through the House of Representatives and was shunted to the Senate, where it languished. For a time some thought it would die in the state's more deliberative body (a relative designation). But Senator Todd Staples, a



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An interesting question, though: Just how do you stop a train wreck that's already happened? And in the minds of straight citizens, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court in November 2003 pulled the switch that caused the wreck when it ruled that the Bay State could no longer deny marriage licenses to gay couples.

Eyeing the Texas bench warily, voters didn't take the chance that our own judges wouldn't suddenly get infected with a dose of liberal activism and legalize gay marriage on the spot, and maybe even bigamy, bestiality and a host of other other cardinal sins. So although Texas has had a law for several years upholding marriage as an institution limited to one man and one woman, now

Texas has its own constitutional amendment, one that prohibits same-sex marriage, civil unions and, with its vaguely worded prohibition on arrangements “similar or identical to marriage” — who knows what else? Lordy!

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At a rally held near City Hall in Austin, forces opposed to Proposition 2 confront the Ku Klux Klan, which supported the measure.

in progress as the Crescent City's ancient levees failed. Only the Great Depression has resulted in a larger migration of Americans,

organizations sprang into action as the first wave of refugees from Katrina hit. Since New Orleans-area residents with HIV didn't exactly have on their minds the medical documentation they'd need during the evacuation — saving their butts took priority — they needed HIV tests to confirm their continuing eligibility for government assistance. Texas AIDS agencies were at the forefront, providing HIV tests and lining up medical care and medications for those who needed them. AIDS Foundation Houston assisted with finding local housing for evacuees, and in Dallas, the Resource Center of Dallas did the same. The Montrose Counseling Center established the Safe Homes project, which matched GLBT evacuees with suitable homes throughout the country. Metropolitan Community Churches established “New Orleans in Exile” groups that still meet regularly in Dallas, Austin and Houston.*

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The number of dead is incomplete because 4,000 people remain unaccounted for, but the government estimates that 1,300 of those are probably dead, since they were in particularly hard-hit areas or were disabled. That's in addition to the official body count of 1,383. The official damage estimate is \$75 billion.

Swoopes scoop

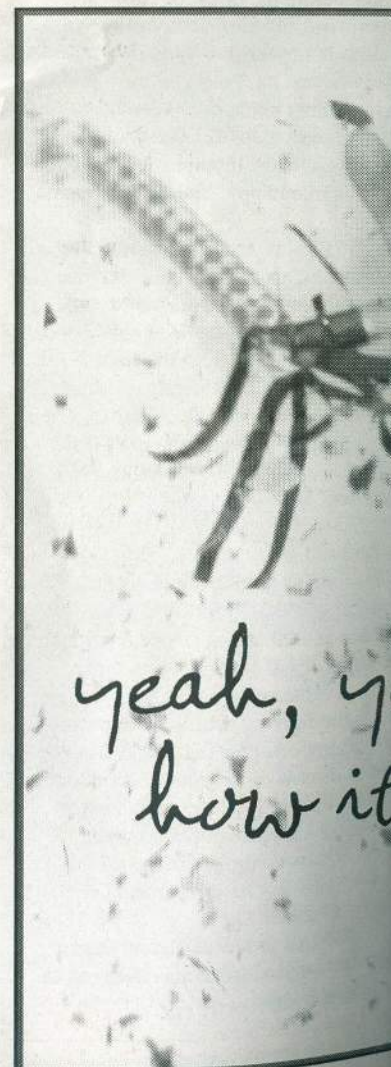
In 2000, 2002 and 2005, the WNBA named her the league's Most Valuable Player. But for gays, the Houston Comets' Sheryl Swoopes became a Most Valuable Person in October, when she came out to *ESPN* magazine. Confirming the heavy lesbian presence among athletes in the professional league, Swoopes identified Alissa Scott, the Comets' former assistant coach, as her longtime lover. At the same time, Olivia Cruises, hoping for net profits, announced that Swoopes would become the all-woman cruise line's spokeswoman. Only one question left: why didn't

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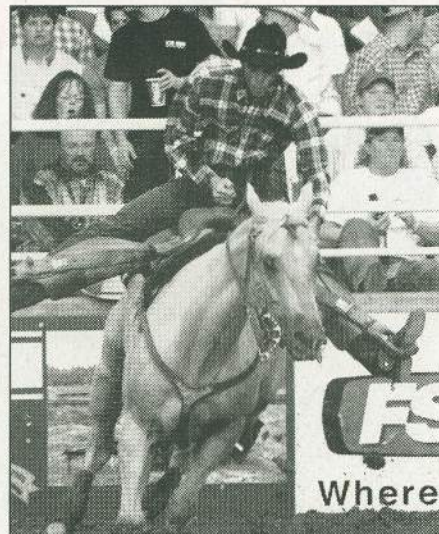
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A competitor from Dallas flies around a barrel at the Resistol Arena in Mesquite during the 2005 Finals Rodeo of the International Gay Rodeo Association.

From page 4

Swoopes come out in *TXT Newsmagazine*?
(Do you read *ESPN* every week? We thought not.)

Giving council

Two lesbians won office this year in Texas, boosting to — what, four? — the number of out gay elected officials in the state. Though we jest about the number, there's no joking about how hard-fought both women's victories were.

In San Antonio, Elena Guajardo was elected to the City Council in a runoff election held June 7. The girl who was born and raised in the Alamo City worked in the family store and served on the boards of the Human Rights Campaign and Stonewall Democrats before winning office, according to the official City Council website.

In Houston, neighborhood activist and diversity officer Sue Lovell kicked and fought her way to the top against an Indian-American (that's not the same as American Indian) in a campaign in which former State Representative Debra Danburg, who was considered a champion of gays during her 20 years in the Legislature, endorsed Lovell's opponent, saying she was striking a blow for "honesty," among other things. The fun part will be seeing how Lovell gets even — and

The Gay Agenda — of 75 people

Empower, the Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce's annual business expo, was flagshipped in June by the Conference for the Futures of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersexed, Questioning and Allies Residents of the Houston Metropolitan Area. After six months of planning, the final product of the conference was "The Gay Agenda," a lengthy document outlining GLBT Houston's hopes and goals for the future. Included were senior healthcare, outreach to homeless youth, choosing and grooming gay-friendly political candidates and more.

The conference, by the way, didn't exactly live up to its billing. Said to be the meeting to shape GLBT Houston's future for the next few decades, six months of planning and a noticeable surge in Phyllis Randolph Frye's computer bill, yielded just 75 attendees.

The conference was co-chaired by Frye, Jack Valinski and Ray Hill. Leading the conference would be Hill's last official act of GLBT activism, he said.

Hill, 62, was feted in a June roast as part of Houston's 2005 Pride festivities. And in December, his retirement was spirited by the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Houston chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Love Won, We're Out

Months before the threat of Hurricane Rita, hot air was blowing in Houston and points south in the form of billboards advertising Love Won Out, Focus on the Family's reparative therapy conference promoting groups which aim to, with God's love, a little fear and a fee, change diseased, self-loathing homosexuals into happy, healthy heterosexuals.

PFLAG Houston and the Foundation for Family Equality, a new gay family rights group spearheaded by Houston activists Jerry Simoneaux and Christopher Bown, responded with a demonstration in front of Grace Community Church in southeast Houston, where the conference was held Feb. 18. Later that day, 60 people attended the pro-GLBT counter-seminar, entitled Love Won, We're Out! Nice line, guys!

Gay marriage, con

Gay rights continued to advance in 2005 during the bumpy ride to equality

On balance, 2005 was a good year for the gay rights movement, as the country continued its long-term shift from widespread disdain and moved further along towards acceptance and equality. But progress is never smooth, and this year was no exception.

Marriage

Same-sex couples were well into their weddings in Massachusetts as the year began although an obscure Bay State law limited ceremonies to state residents. The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court is

reviewing that law as the year ends, providing hope that perhaps the rest of the country can soon take advantage of the one state in the nation that embraces gay and lesbian couples.

If not in Massachusetts, there's every chance a second or third state will open its arms to same-sex marriage in 2006. A ruling from the Washington Supreme Court is now overdue, while oral arguments will soon take

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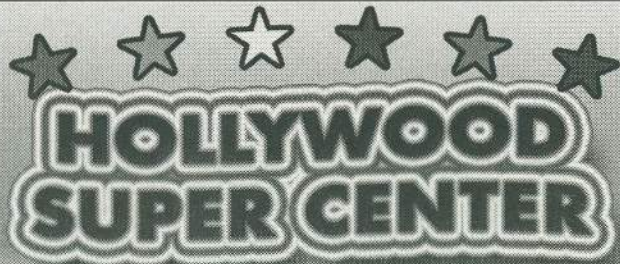


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Daddy, what is that man doing?

"Ride 'em, cowboy!" That was actually a wild-west expression long before it became popularized in the bedrooms of the gay ghettos. And in November, gay and conventional idioms came together in Mesquite's Resistol Arena for the annual Finals Rodeo of the International Gay Rodeo Association. Dallas cowpokes of the gay variety were so proud that the Resistol, the crowning glory of the rodeo circuit, would book a gay rodeo in the first place, but word was out that Tom Hicks was moved by the potential for beer sales. At any rate, the rodeo brought hundreds to Dallas and produced many images of triumph and tragedy, sadness and knee-slapping comedy for those with a ringside seat.

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Son of Pride Fest

After a long absence from Houston's annual roster of Pride events, the Pride Festival was re-introduced this year beginning in the afternoon and continuing until the beginning of Houston's nighttime Pride Parade. At the festival, nearly 3,000 people spent the afternoon shopping and picking up literature at dozens of vendors, and entertainers included Sophie B. Hawkins, Pansy Division and Jade Esteban Estrada. The parade that followed broke the record for attendance, with spectators estimated at 200,000 by Channel 13.

The group that produces Texas' largest Pride celebration each June also changed its name to Pride Houston.

Contact the writer: Nancy@txtnewsmag.com

Marriage

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Ann Rostow

available in the Nutmeg State. A dispatch about a same-sex marriage task force in Rhode Island, when in fact the task force was in New Hampshire. (Or was it the other way around?) I'm directing to check a story about a school where officials allegedly rewrote the lyrics to *Silent Night*. Actually, the song was part of a play and was changed by a Christmas tree.

Contact the writer: Ann@txtnewsmag.com

TS: Mr. Enright kept 300 pigeons, many of them dead, including one named Twister who used to accompany him to Starbucks every morning. But the gorilla story is also true. Koko's requests were denied by the supervisor, Francine "Penny" Patterson, who was sued for sexual harassment. The petal explained that she didn't realize the "petrol" would ignite. Mindless un-American little bastards. The Ohio court upheld the domestic violence statute. I'm waiting patiently for the others. Good judge! Good thing perusing cyber porn isn't grounds for dismissal in the gay press. (I'm right about aren't I?) Number from one to four. But you should know that I denies it. What? That was Melinda Denton, author of a 1994 "probe" into religious expression among teenagers. During Schiavo-fest, Tom Delay's mother told the Los Angeles Times about how the family pulled the plug on her husband, Tom's brain-dead dad. Insurance agent Walter Harders was complaining to a reporter about

Letters

Carpenter on Brokeback

Reading Dale Carpenter's take on *Brokeback Mountain* provides some insight into his psyche. He quotes a "discredited" essayist and concurs with her opinion that gay men, because they rarely have responsibilities as parents, make no substantial contribution to society. We are selfish hedonists who deserve our second-class citizenship. This viewpoint is the infrastructure of "the closet!"

There are hundreds of ways to be a productive member of society other than raising children.

Carpenter holds the gay community in contempt. ("Ennis and Jack bust stereotypes of gay men. They aren't effeminate... 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..."). He is a loyalist to the GOP, which is bursting at the seams with closeted, self-loathing homosexual men, several of whom hold positions of power in the White House and Congress.

Carpenter points out the *Brokeback Mountain* cowboys shirk their responsibility as guardians, as a predator kills a sheep while they are sleeping together for the first time. He doesn't mention that Jack was freezing before Ennis invited him to share the pup tent. That mutilated sheep is a metaphor for the brutality the men might encounter should their love affair become known; and for the mutilated corpse of a coupled gay man Ennis witnesses as a child, which had the effect of shutting down his emotions.

Carpenter is unmoved. Those cowboys are guilty of adultery; yes, the same heinous, impeachable crime committed by Bill Clinton!

Kennedy C. Kennedy / Austin

From the editor: To suggest that the Republican Party is "bursting at the seams with closeted, self-loathing homosexual men, several of whom hold positions of power at the White House and Congress" is to overstate the case.

Brokeback and Black Tie

I never thought I'd find myself agreeing with a Log Cabin Republican on anything, but I have to confess that Dale Carpenter's remarks about *Brokeback Mountain* ring true to some degree. Many gay men came out after they married and started families. They continue to have obligations to their families. Hopefully, they fulfill that obligation. This is no different than average straight men who divorce their first or second wives, only to remarry and start second or third families full of half brothers and half-sisters, all with different names, not to mention the angry former wives who are left behind. It seems to be more of a straight fact of life than a gay one.

As for *Brokeback Mountain*, it is one movie. No single movie can hit every subject, every angle, every sad or happy life. I hope there will be more, and maybe one or more of those will tell a true story of happiness and longevity in gay relationships.

But this is a start — don't beat it to death with what it is not, or what it should have been. It is a sad, tragic love story no different from *Romeo and*

perspectives

'Brokeback Mountain' — an 'issues' film for everyone

But if you haven't seen it yet, don't read this column

If it weren't for gay-bashers, would anyone know about Wyoming?

Sure, it is a beautiful state with some fine folks. But the attack on Matthew Shepard and now the movie *Brokeback Mountain* are the only reasons it makes news.

Wymong, by the way, has no theaters so far that are scheduled to screen *Brokeback Mountain*. Aren't Wyoming's residents the slightest bit curious why the rest of the nation can suddenly find their state on the map?

Wyoming isn't alone in miscalculating America's readiness to embrace this cinematic masterpiece. I've been getting e-mails from people who are furious that they are being treated like children and denied the opportunity to share in the *Brokeback* experience.

"It would be sad that I would have to get on a plane and travel to larger, distant cities to see this wonderful movie that's long overdue," a man wrote me from South Carolina. "I wonder if it will be on sale when it comes out on DVD or will I have to special order it, especially when there are more lewd and sexually graphic straight movies on display for all to see?"

Theaters that won't show this movie will ignorantly cite "community standards." This reminds me of efforts to close strip joints in small towns, conveniently overlooking that people who live in the community pack these places.

This is not to draw an equivalent between stripping and *Brokeback*, but to make the point that the complexion and complexity of communities is far different than often presented. Having traveled throughout America, I can say that the whole blue state-red state conventional wisdom is misleading. In all cor-

theater experience. The movie will also be available on digital cable's multitudinous channels. And now, people will be able to literally watch the gay cowboys from the closet on their easily concealed video iPods.

While the Hollywood media machine's unveiling of *Brokeback Mountain* has been as dramatic as Wyoming's Grand Teton mountains, the long-term effect on American culture will have more in common with the rolling hills of the Great Plains.

Mainstream Americans will watch this movie in the coming years in the privacy of their own homes. Attitudes about gay people will be transformed and greater acceptance will follow. People will learn how destructive the closet is, not only on gays, but also on the people caught up in the sham families created to protect these closets. It will also help undermine the right wing's promotion of ex-gay ministries. The dramatization of shattered families in *Brokeback Mountain* exposes these groups for the divorce mills they truly are.

Indeed, "ex-gay" leader Stephen Bennett in *USA Today* talks about how his program is so feckless that merely seeing *Brokeback Mountain* caused one of these arranged marriages to nearly shatter.

"I just spoke with a married man on the telephone who is contemplating leaving his wife and children," said Bennett. "He says he's gay, and *Brokeback Mountain* has influenced his decision."

What has not been talked about is

on the already out gay community. It has caused many people I know to re-evaluate their lives and ponder the meaning of life, love and relationships. Watching the struggle of the two main

characters, Jack Twist and Ennis del Mar, makes today's gay people stop and think, "I really have it easy. Given this freedom, have I lived true to myself and opened myself to the possibility of love?"

The main reason that *Brokeback Mountain* will be a crossover hit is because of its universal message. Its success comes down to the ending scene where Ennis del Mar is alone in his bare-bones trailer overlooking the haunting

prairie. He opens a closet and wistfully touches the hanging clothes of Jack Twist, who has been murdered.

It is a gut-wrenching moment for the character, but also for moviegoers. They are forced to confront fears of loneliness and to ask themselves if they have lived life to the fullest and expressed their love to the people who matter most.

Gay or straight, the answer to this question is all too often *no*. In essence, we all have our own secret *Brokeback Mountain*. The movie asks people, on a subconscious level, to find their purpose and embrace their passion, because life is short and fragile. It is this searing, powerful message more than the fact the messengers are gay that will ultimately help people understand the struggles of gay people, and more importantly, themselves.

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



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During Schiavo-fest, Tom Delay's mother told the Los Angeles Times about how the family pulled the plug on her husband, Tom's brain-dead dad. Insurance agent Walter Harders was complaining about a safe-sex video shown in Maryland schools. What? Did you ever tell your kids about the birds and the bees?

As for the mystery of sex. Has Focus on the Family staffer Dale Klepacki discovered the secret, one wonders? That was the ruling of a judge in Sicily, where a man's driving license was suspended because he was gay. A German police officer was describing what he initially thought was a murder. The slave, a 39-year-old man in nothing but a leather collar, was ordered to ride in the passenger seat for the remainder of the trip. Kids these days! (b and d.) I made blunder (c) in a different column. Ask question!

yourself!

Did you come up with any answers whatsoever? You're a wizard.

Did you fail miserably? You're a slouch. Have a drink and get your head in shape.

Did you get them all right? You liar!

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Alan Pierce/Dallas

P.S. I am truly impressed by the Dallas-Fort Worth Black Tie Dinner's success and recently announced contributions totalling nearly \$620,000 to local charities. These donations will likely mean the difference between surviving or not for some of the charities. Hats off to the board of directors and all the volunteers who made this event such a smash success.

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

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This is not to draw an equivalent between stripping and Brokeback, but to make the point that the complexion and complexity of communities is far different than often presented. Having traveled throughout America, I can say that the whole blue state-red state conventional wisdom is misleading. In all corners of this nation you find substantial numbers of gay people and thoughtful, progressive straight people. So, to deny a substantial minority enriching cultural opportunities, such as Brokeback Mountain, does not reflect community standards, but rather tyranny of the slight majority.

Try as some might to suppress the movie, Brokeback Mountain is an unstoppable force. The acting is superb, the cinematography magnificent and the message piercingly honest. But most important, it was released in a diffuse media age where the real impact won't be felt until the movie goes from the big to little screen.

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Anything but Straight

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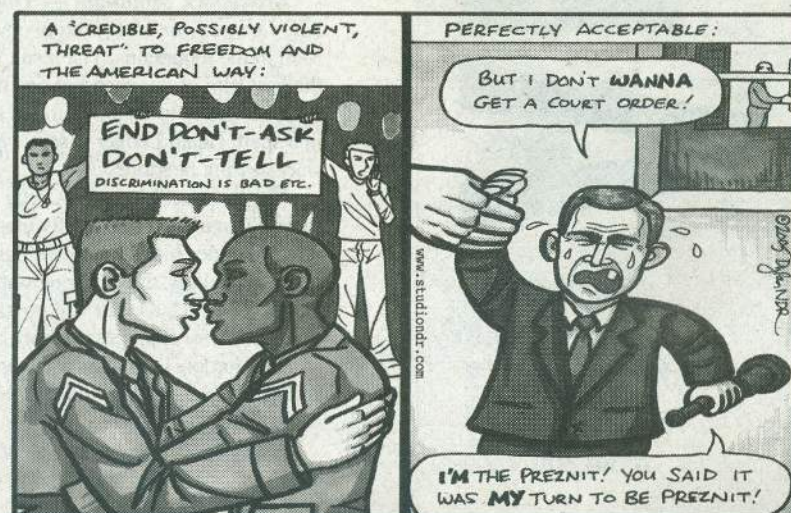
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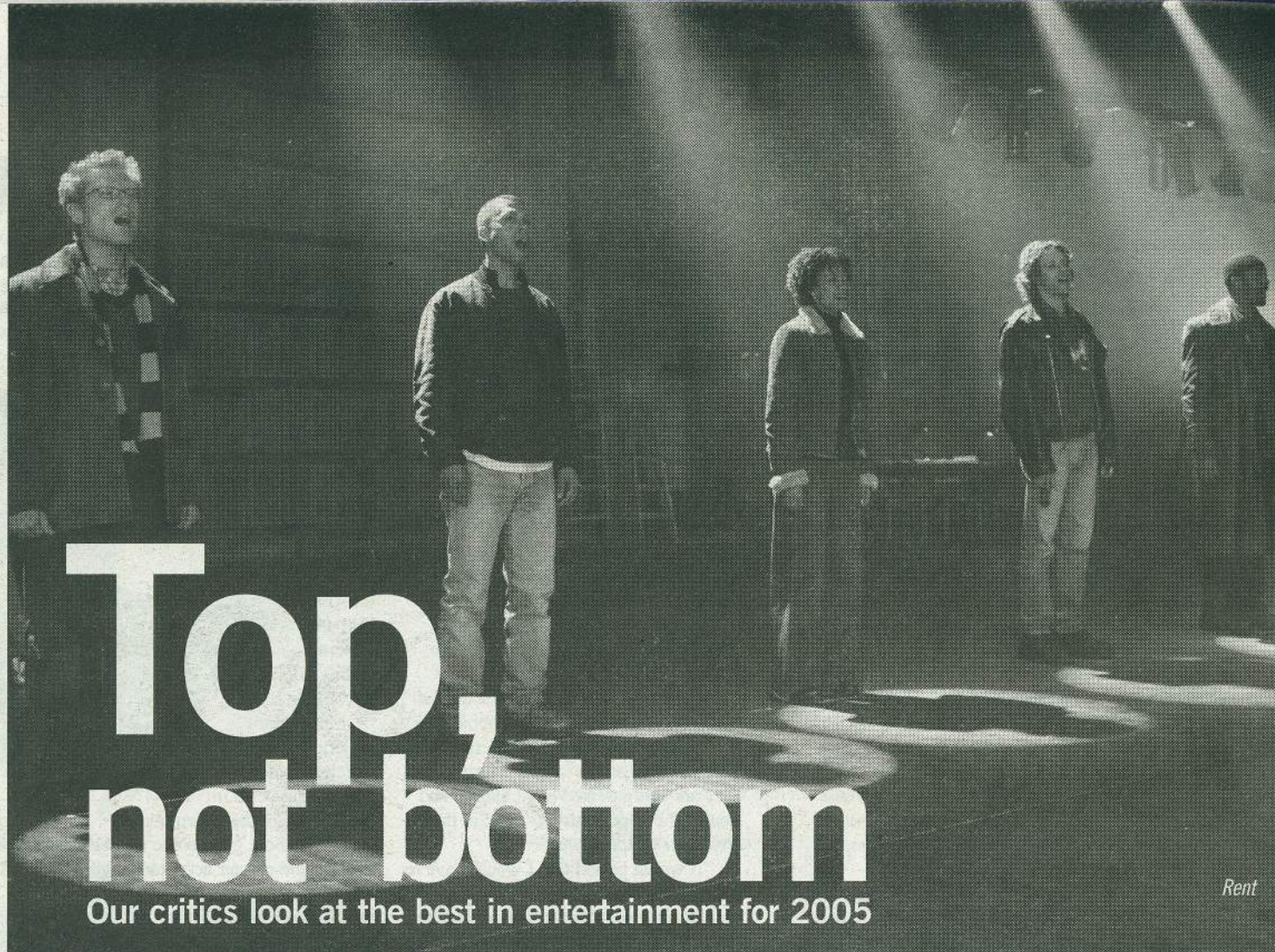
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Despite plenty of setbacks, 2005 turned out to be an exceptional year for gays in American culture. Sure, mainstream movies went out-and-proud, but so did television and music and most other aspects of life. Our critics looked at all of them and came up with this rundown of the year in queer — in film, television, music, books, culture and DVDs.

FILM

By Steven Lindsey

2005 was a great year for gay film — so good that it was hard limiting the tops to 10 (and filling out the bottom five). So this year, we'll focus only on the positive, and leave

crook and Val Kilmer as a gay detective. With deliciously witty dialogue and pop culture references galore, the film is smart, funny and sexy — a lethal combination.

The Dying Gaul — Married men are so cute when they sleep with guys. Well, Campbell Scott is, anyway. With a stellar performance from Patricia Clarkson as a far-too-in-the-know wife, typing on a laptop has rarely seemed so suspenseful. And the cine-



Roos put together the best two hours you can spend thinking about a massage without the words "Swedish" or "deep-tissue" coming up.

Heights — Glenn Close looks *so* good as a brunette — who knew? In this little-seen film, James Marsden officially joins the big league of hot male leads. The gay-on-the-sly deception tale is tragic and triumphant, with layered performances and realistic dialogue resulting in a superb film that deserves to be a hit (or at least find an audience) on video.

Harry and Max — Brotherly love goes to a whole new level in this controversial flick that makes this list mostly for its taboo-busting spirit. The film is in a constant state of foreplay, teasing the audience with titillation that is oh-so-wrong. Rooting for incest certainly makes for an interesting dilemma.

Rent — Singing about being broke, hun-

TELEVISION

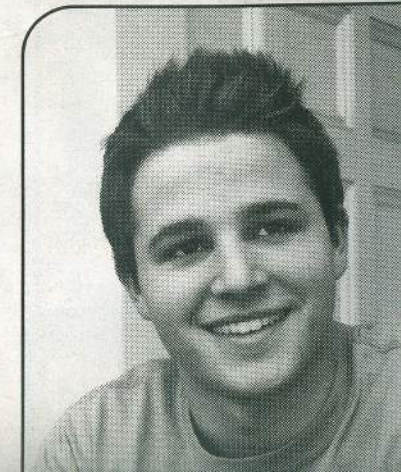
By Arnold Wayne Jones

Television was once called a vast wasteland, but while criticism of the medium remains omnipresent — everything from News to reality game shows to Jerry Springer still elicit outrage — there's never been so much variety. With the continued growth of cable, edgy programming of all kinds can be found up and down the dial. Wasted space? Of course. But a wasteland? Not from this side of the potato's seat. Here's just a sampling of some of the best 2005 had to offer.

The Staircase — The Sundance Channel scored a silent coup by airing the best mystery series ever. This documentary mystery, which goes behind the scenes of a murder trial involving gay street hustlers, transatlantic investigations and a missing blowpoke, is structured like the best of Agatha Christie. The fact that the story was true made it that much more chilling.

Arrested Development — Why did anyone watch this cheeky single-camera sitcom about a dysfunctional family? Fox gave it a shot, airing two-and-a-half seasons, but it will have to remain our little secret. Even Portia De Rossi coming out couldn't boost ratings. Here's hoping Showtime will finally talk to pick up production on the series.

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 Filth ■ 18
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Top, not bottom

Our critics look at the best in entertainment for 2005

Rent

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2005 was a great year for gay film — so good that it was hard limiting the tops to 10 (and filling out the bottom five). So this year, we'll focus only on the positive, and leave being bitchy to the other 364 days of the year.

Brokeback Mountain — Yippee-ki-gay! Ang Lee puts the Mary into two Marlboro Men in the mountains. The result is not only the best film of the year, but one of the greatest love stories to gallop onto the silver screen in a spell. Heath Ledger is sexy *and* he makes shirt sniffing heartbreaking.

Mysterious Skin — In Gregg Araki's most poignant and beautifully made film, the director trades his often unintelligible style for a compelling story of molestation and the lengths to which a child will go to bury the truth. Look for first-class performances from Joseph Gordon-Levitt and a disturbingly realistic turn from Bill Sage as the pedophile. Exceptional from start to finish.

Kiss Kiss Bang Bang — A brilliantly clever update on the classic *film noir* genre starring a still-hot Robert Downey Jr. as a

crook and Val Kilmer as a gay detective. With deliciously witty dialogue and pop culture references galore, the film is smart, funny and sexy — a lethal combination.

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matography, which brings out the mysterious beauty of Los Angeles, is as impressive as the perfectly calculated plot.

Happy Endings — The best part of a massage can now be associated with an equally enjoyable film. Lisa Kudrow gives a wonderful turn as a very, very sad woman, but it's Jason Ritter as a young man struggling with his homosexuality and Maggie Gyllenhaal as the cruelest lounge singer ever that make this film. Writer and director Don

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Rent — Singing about being broke, hungry and sick has never been so toe-tappingly catchy. The transition from stage to screen actually improved this update on *La Bohème*, with show-stopping performances from Rosario Dawson and Wilson Jermaine Heredia.

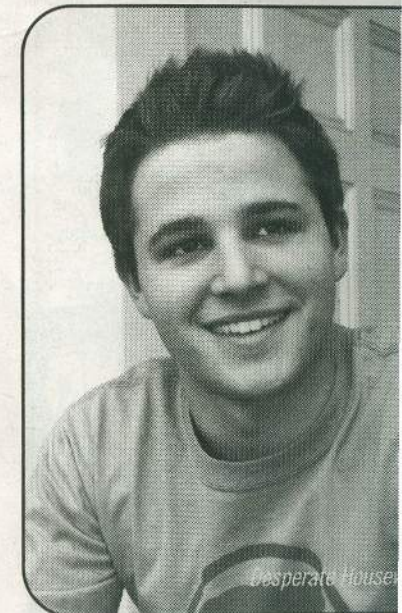
Saving Face — Another wonderful film that almost nobody saw, this culture-clash comedy starring Joan Chen brings to light the Chinese take on homosexuality and how desperately one mother tries to cover up her daughter's dirty little secret — even though mom is hiding a doozy of her own.

Capote — Philip Seymour Hoffman doesn't act in *Capote*; he *becomes* the author. His portrayal is mesmerizing, but the story is also deeply compelling. It's the only biopic this season that can make you forget you're sitting in a theater — and make you want to run to the bookstore and buy *In Cold Blood*.

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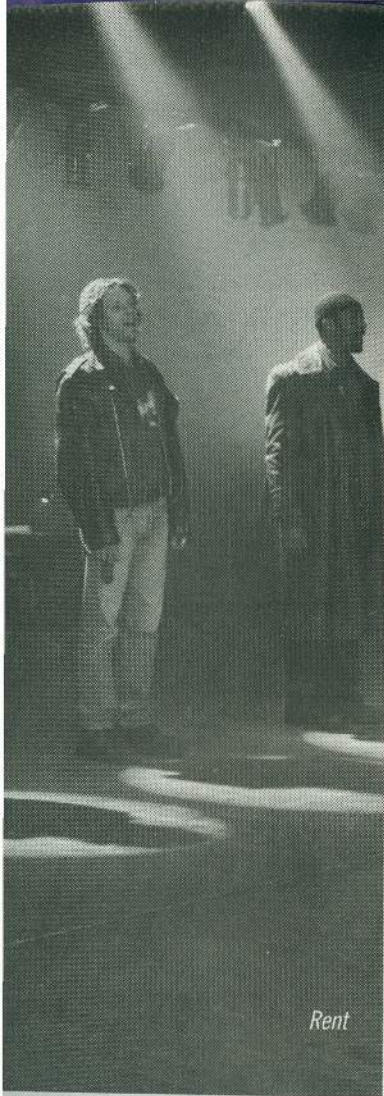
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The Education of Shelby Knox — PBS's *POV* series aired this Lubbock-f... documentary about a straight Christian... journey to reconcile her religion with h... sense of social justice. She found room... both where her teachers, preachers and... tors couldn't — which should tell you a... about the disturbing state of the culture.

My Name Is Earl — NBC's first b... out sitcom of the new millennium is thi... queer-friendly little charmer about a wa... his slow-witted brother and the people... (including a gay copy center clerk) he's... mined to help out.



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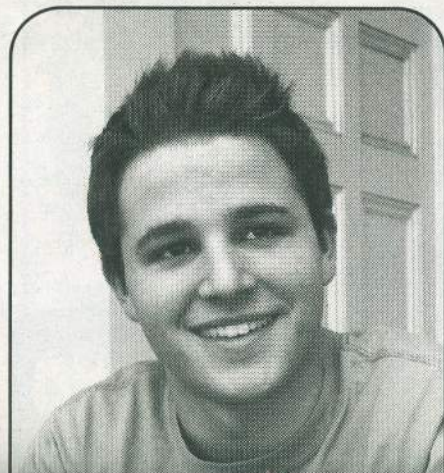
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Noah's Arc

Entourage — Jeremy Piven's abrasive, queer-bashing and altogether riotous performance as a go-go-go Hollywood agent electrified the second season of this HBO dramedy just when it looked as if the network would

lose its best bet for a devoted gay audience: The (exquisite) end of *Six Feet Under*.

There's More Where That Came From, Lee Ann Womack — The Texas native earned her spot among country music's queens with this stunning collection of lyin',

"It was kind of like a turning point when I was like, 'Yo, this is my cousin. I love him and I've been discriminating against gays. Not just hip-hop, but America just discriminates. And I wanna just, to come on TV and just tell my rappers, just tell my friends, 'Yo, stop it.'" —Kanye West, to MTV

Desperate Housewives — The big newcomer of 2004 really came into its own in 2005, with lots of gay storylines and even more gay sensibilities. ABC's bid for suburban outrageousness is the kookiest, most flesh-filled hour of network primetime ever.

The Daily Show — If one good thing came out of the 2004 election, it's that Comedy Central's fake newscast could stop being so rabid about is politics and rediscover its funny bone. (I said "if.") President Bush may be scary, but he's also a better target for withering barbs than Candidate Bush — and John Kerry could never have provided enough grist to keep this laugh mill in business.

Nip/Tuck — A bisexual partner in the

of the year's best discs.

Confessions on a Dance Floor, Madonna — *Confessions* finds Madonna flirtier and more seductive than she's been in years. "Hung Up" is already a hit, and tracks "Jump," "Sorry" and "Get Together" will likely have dance floors pumping for much of 2006.

lovin' and leavin' tunes, anchored by standout tracks "I May Hate Myself in the Morning," "Twenty Years and Two Husbands Ago" and haunting album closer "Stubborn (Psalm 151)." Classic stuff.

Metropolitan Hotel, Chely Wright — One of music's most under appreciated vocalists hits a career high with this mature, ultimately unforgettable collection of modern country tunes. The album's emotional center is "The River," an electric jolt of gothic storytelling, but the rest of the disc strikes equally vibrant emotional chords.

Chain Letter, Brooke Valentine — The Houston-born diva combines R&B, crunk, hip-hop, pop and club beats on this surprisingly eclectic disc, which was buoyed by the catty revenge anthem "Girlfight." Valentine's vocals are confident and



Your Mind," "Talk to Me Lonesome Heart" and the mournful standout ballad "I Threw Your Pictures Away." The group tours Texas constantly and is even better onstage.

Arular, M.I.A. — Sri Lankan-born Maya Arul — known on disc as M.I.A. — doesn't easily fit into categories or invite obvious comparisons. Maybe that's why her electric *Arular* disc eluded commercial success. It's a shame, because *Arular* is one of the most innovative pieces of work in recent memory. M.I.A. combines techno, hip-hop and tribal beats with aggressive socio-political messages. Give it a listen, then try to find something more original.

Modern Day Drifter, Dierks Bentley — The impossibly sexy country crooner rose from the ranks with a mature, focused sophomore effort. Bentley's striking baritone is showcased beautifully on "Come a Little Closer," "Settle for a Slowdown" and "Good Things Happen," and he rips things up on the clever "So So Long." A star is born.

Kerosene, Miranda Lambert — The Texas native was a *Nashville Star* finalist during its inaugural season and has proven to be

investigations and a missing blowpope, was structured like the best of Agatha Christie. The fact that the story was true made it that much more chilling.

Arrested Development — Why didn't anyone watch this cheeky single-camera sitcom about a dysfunctional family? Fox gave it a shot, airing two-and-a-half seasons, but it will have to remain our little secret. Even star Portia De Rossi coming out couldn't boost ratings. Here's hoping Showtime will finalize talks to pick up production on the series:

The Simpsons — After 14 seasons it's easily the best sitcom ever on TV. But in 2005, the residents of Springfield went even gayer than the gay-friendly show already has gone, with a celebrated coming-out episode — just one of the reasons to continue watching the best satiric writing since Aristophanes took pen to parchment.

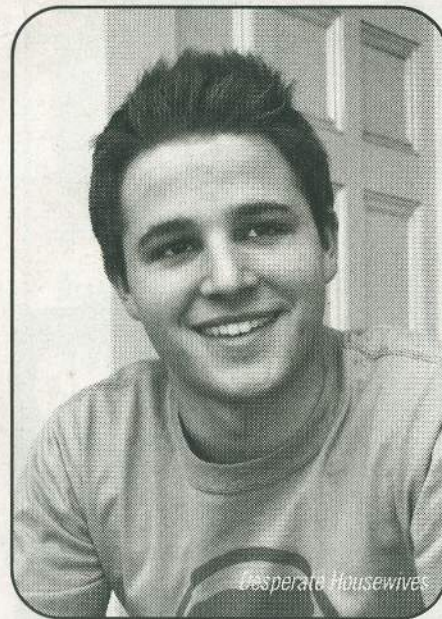
Rent

put together the best two hours you can think about a massage without the "Swedish" or "deep-tissue" coming up. **Eight** — Glenn Close looks so good as Hette — who knew? In this little-seen James Marsden officially joins the big of hot male leads. The gay-on-the-sly tale is tragic and triumphant, with ed performances and realistic dialogue in a superb film that deserves to be a at least find an audience) on video.

Harry and Max — Brotherly love goes whole new level in this controversial that makes this list mostly for its tabooing spirit. The film is in a constant state replay, teasing the audience with titillat that is oh-so-wrong. Rooting for incest only makes for an interesting dilemma. **ent** — Singing about being broke, hun and sick has never been so toe-tappingly y. The transition from stage to screen ly improved this update on *La Bohème*, show-stopping performances from io Dawson and Wilson Jermaine lia.

iving Face — Another wonderful film almost nobody saw, this culture-clash dy starring Joan Chen brings to light the se take on homosexuality and how desely one mother tries to cover up her iter's dirty little secret — even though is hiding a doozy of her own.

apote — Philip Seymour Hoffman t act in *Capote*; he becomes the author. ortrayal is mesmerizing, but the story is eeply compelling. It's the only biopic eason that can make you forget you're g in a theater — and make you want to the bookstore and buy *In Cold Blood*.



Desperate Housewives

The Education of Shelby Knox — PBS's *POV* series aired this Lubbock-filmed documentary about a straight Christian teen's journey to reconcile her religion with her sense of social justice. She found room for both where her teachers, preachers and mentors couldn't — which should tell you a lot about the disturbing state of the culture wars.

My Name Is Earl — NBC's first break-out sitcom of the new millennium is this queer-friendly little charmer about a wastrel, his slow-witted brother and the people (including a gay copy center clerk) he's determined to help out.

Entourage — Jeremy Piven's abrasive, queer-bashing and altogether riotous performance as a go-go-go Hollywood agent electrified the second season of this HBO dramedy just when it looked as if the network would

"It was kind of like a turning point when I was like, 'Yo, this is my cousin. I love him and I've been discriminating against gays. Not just hip-hop, but America just discriminates. And I wanna just, to come on TV and just tell my rappers, just tell my friends, 'Yo, stop it.'" — Kanye West, to MTV

lose its best bet for a devoted gay audience: The (exquisite) end of *Six Feet Under*.

Entourage is dishy, hip and casually sexy.

Desperate Housewives — The big newcomer of 2004 really came into its own in 2005, with lots of gay storylines and even more gay sensibilities. ABC's bid for suburban outrageousness is the kookiest, most flesh-filled hour of network primetime ever.

The Daily Show — If one good thing came out of the 2004 election, it's that Comedy Central's fake newscast could stop being so rabid about is politics and rediscover its funny bone. (I said "if.") President Bush may be scary, but he's also a better target for withering barbs than Candidate Bush — and John Kerry could never have provided enough grist to keep this laugh mill in business.

Nip/Tuck — A bisexual partner in the surgical practice (humpy Bruno Campos), brink-of-bad-taste plots and the best whodunit mystery since the shooting of J.R. have kept *Nip/Tuck* at the top of every informed TiVo subscriber's season pass list.

Noah's Arc — So the stories are hokey and the dialogue can be painful. Still, there's something about *Noah's Arc* than makes it must-see TV — a sweet and gentle sexiness that is less concerned with shocking audience members than it is with showing African-American gay men comfortable in their own lives.

MUSIC

By Joey Guerra

Great music came in various shapes, sounds and styles throughout 2005 — all you had to do was listen. Here's a sampling of 10

of the year's best discs.

There's More Where That Came From, Lee Ann Womack — The Texas native earned her spot among country music's queens with this stunning collection of lyin',

lovin' and leavin' tunes, anchored by standout tracks "I May Hate Myself in the Morning," "Twenty Years and Two Husbands Ago" and haunting album closer "Stubborn (Psalm 151)." Classic stuff.

Metropolitan Hotel, Chely Wright — One of music's most under appreciated vocalists hits a career high with this mature, ultimately unforgettable collection of modern country tunes. The album's emotional center is "The River," an electric jolt of gothic storytelling, but the rest of the disc strikes equally vibrant emotional chords.

Confessions on a Dance Floor, Madonna — *Confessions* finds Madonna flirtier and more seductive than she's been in years. "Hung Up" is already a hit, and tracks "Jump," "Sorry" and "Get Together" will likely have dance floors pumping for much of 2006.

The Emancipation of Mimi, Mariah Carey — Groan if you must, but Carey proved even butterflies have nine lives via one of pop music's most surprising comebacks. Hip-pop delights "It's Like That," "Shake It Off" and the inescapable "We Belong Together" seem tailor-made for radio play — and ring tones. But old-school soul ballads "Mine Again," "Stay the Night," "Circles" and "I Wish You Knew" give *Mimi* much of its glitter. And I mean that in a good way.

Honky-Tonk Revival, Miss Leslie & Her Juke-Jointers — This Houston-based combo plays honky-tonk music that will put a tear in your beer and a kick in your two-step. Miss Leslie's full-throated vocals draw from Connie Smith, Loretta Lynn and Patsy Cline on tracks "I'll Be Gone Tonight," "Stranger in

more about... Kenny's striking baritone is showcased beautifully on "Come a Little Closer," "Settle for a Slowdown" and "Good Things Happen," and he rips things up on the clever "So So Long." A star is born.

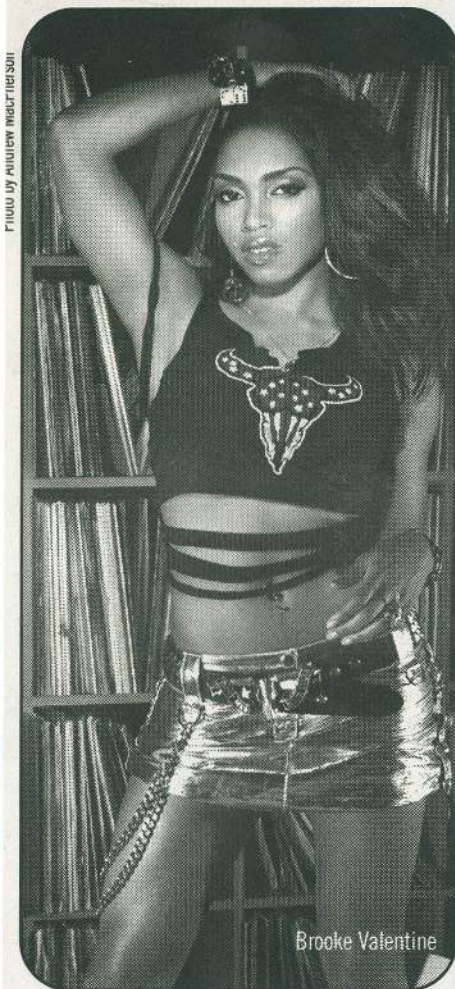
Kerosene, Miranda Lambert — The Texas native was a *Nashville Star* finalist during its inaugural season and has proven to be

the series' only successful female artist. Kerosene establishes Lambert as a genuine musical force, thanks to her solid songwriting and vocal skills. The title track rocks with the rage of a jilted lover and is one of the year's most sizzling country anthems.

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Lee Ann Womack



Brooke Valentine

And so it is, that time of the year to reflect on the bold and the beautiful, the crazy and courageous. For a year dominated with hyper-tragic realities of Mother Nature, the headlines peppering the rumor mill were as bold as they were sometimes unbelievable.

Cruise (out of) control. Most famously, Tom Cruise proclaimed his love for Scientology and that *Dawson's Creek* chick by bouncing on Oprah's couches, becoming an instant laughing stock in the media before his feet hit the chintz. The world's most famous Hobbit then managed to dis on Brooke Shields, nearly donkey-punch Matt Lauer on the *Today* show, and travel to Uranus and back, all while marketing his stupid alien movie and sucking face in Paris with *That Girl*.

Jacko beats the rap. After weeks of courtroom dramatics and facial peels, a jury of non-peers found Michael Jackson not guilty on charges of conspiracy and molestation, though they're still deliberating that Jackson may actually be a cartoon. Upon his exoneration, Jackson packed his bags, kissed Elizabeth Taylor goodbye, and reportedly moved to Bahrain. The King of Schlock apparently has relocated to the Middle East for some well-deserved peace and quiet.

Wedding bells. Mega-stars Elton John and George Michael each announced plans to exchange vows with their respective partners in response to Britain's new civil partnership legislation. Both music icons' union plans made instant headlines, not unlike Jessica Simpson and Nick Lachey. The sugar-celeb couple filed for divorce around Thanksgiving, giving American families one more reason to be thankful.

Russell rage. In a move that surprised no one, Australia's favorite care bear, Russell Crowe, was arrested on felony assault charges after launching a telephone at a concierge. Crowe eventually pleaded guilty to reduced misdemeanors and promised never to make movies with Meg Ryan again.

Stepping out, part one. A variety of

est of questions to Señor Bush during the only nine days in 2005 the President spent at the White House.

Of course, Gannon's story is no more surprising than West's chats, Crowes' throws, or Cruises' couches. For all its natural misery and larger-than-life production, 2005 was all about the outrageous and the unbelievable.

DVD

By Joey Guerra

Dysfunctional families, desperate housewives and classic film stars made this year's onslaught of DVD releases worth skipping the multiplex and staying home. Plus, everyone loves bloopers! And deleted scenes! Well, some of them.

Arrested Development, Season 2 — Shame on you, every one of you, who ignored the funniest show to hit TV in years. Years, I say! *A.D.* follows the travails of Michael Bluth (a hilariously understated Jason Bateman) and his impossibly screwed-up family, which includes conflicted son

George Michael, failed magician and brother Gob, materialistic sister Lindsey (Portia de Rossi) and her obviously/obliviously gay husband Tobias (David Cross). Jessica Walter steals scenes with effortless ease as matriarch Lucille, and Liza Minnelli — Liza! — makes a dizzying guest turn as Lucille Two. It doesn't get better than this.

Sex and the City, The Complete Series (collector's gift set) — Even if you have each of this show's six scintillating seasons, this lush set is hard to resist. It includes games, dating advice and classic quips. There's also a guide to the places frequented by Carrie, Samantha, Miranda and Charlotte; and an EnSEXlopedia that looks back at defining *Sex* moments.

Frank Miller's Sin City: Recut, Extended, Unrated — One of 2005's best films was this feverish comic-book dream from Texas



sharp writing, genuinely funny moments and a cohesive cast, highlighted by Sara Gilbert's acerbic Darlene and Laurie Metcalf's goofy Jackie.

My Own Private Idaho (Criterion Collection) — Gus Van Sant's affecting, gay-themed update of *Henry V* looks spectacular in this new DVD edition, which features commentary from Van Sant, Todd Haynes (*Velvet Goldmine*) and Houston-born Jonathan Caouette (*Tarnation*). The film features startling performances from Keanu Reeves and River Phoenix.

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The Joan Crawford Collection: Humoresque, Possessed, The Damned Don't Cry, The Women, Mildred Pierce — A slew of the diva's films in one lush package,



including the classic *Mildred Pierce* and delicious romp *The Women*. Check out campy dialogue in *The Damned Don't Cry* — it's too, too much.

Margaret Cho: Assassin — Every boy's favorite Asian diva kicks it up in absorbing concert film, captured in Washington, D.C. Cho lets loose on gayriage, Terry Schiavo, the pope and other seemingly taboo topics with her trademark

"I completely support [gay] that are married. Close marriage a couple for over 20 years, baby girl who is now 3 years

— Vanessa Williams, to Planet

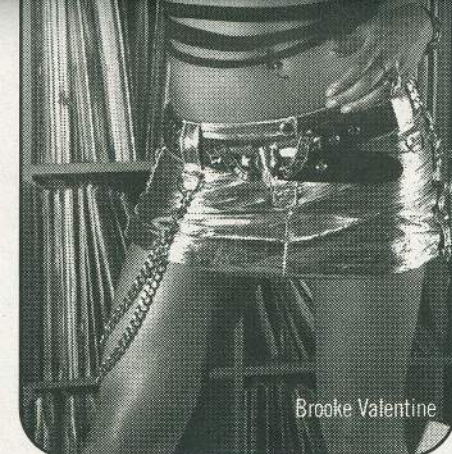
mix of passion and hilarity. Includes sharp films and an opening segment from gay comic Bruce Daniels.

The Doris Day Show, Seasons 1 and 2 and **The Doris Day Collection: Jumbo Calamity Jane, The Glass Bottom Boat, Love Me Or Leave Me, Lullaby of Broadway, The Pajama Game, Please Don't Eat the Daisies, Young Man With a Horn** — The original girl next door shines in every one of these discs. The films — particularly *Calamity*, *Pajama* and *Love Me Or Leave Me* — are lush and enchanting. I



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Brooke Valentine

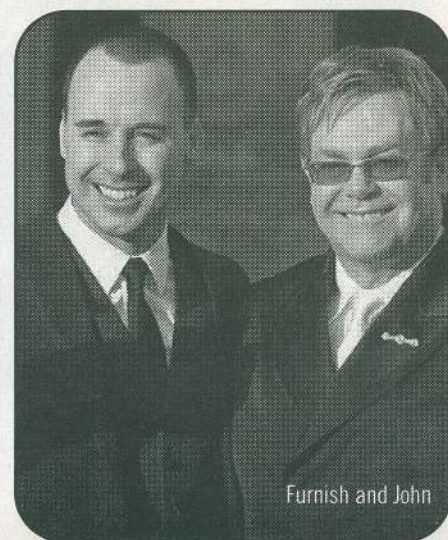
aggressive, a nice change from urban music's flood of flirty songbirds.

Rent, original motion picture soundtrack — the movie may have failed to ignite audiences, but the music remains uplifting and wondrous. Key tracks "Seasons of Love," "La Vie Boheme" and "Tango: Maureen" still sparkle, and newbie singer Rosario Dawson brings a sexy edge to "Out Tonight" and "Light My Candle."

Honorable mentions go to Kelly Clarkson (*Breakaway*) and Gwen Stefani (*Love, Angel, Music, Baby*) whose discs were released in late 2004 but whose singles provided a delightful pop soundtrack for all of 2005.

CULTURE

By Ryan Short



Furnish and John

Jacko beats the rap. After weeks of courtroom dramatics and facial peels, a jury of non-peers found Michael Jackson not guilty on charges of conspiracy and molestation, though they're still deliberating that Jackson may actually be a cartoon. Upon his exoneration, Jackson packed his bags, kissed Elizabeth Taylor goodbye, and reportedly moved to Bahrain. The King of Schlock apparently has relocated to the Middle East for some well-deserved peace and quiet.

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Russell rage. In a move that surprised no one, Australia's favorite care bear, Russell Crowe, was arrested on felony assault charges after launching a telephone at a concierge. Crowe eventually pleaded guilty to reduced misdemeanors and promised never to make movies with Meg Ryan again.

Stepping out, part one. A variety of brave celebrities burst through the closet this year. Queer Trekkies found their hero after George Takei, who played Lt. Hikaru Sulu on the *Star Trek* series, announced he was gay. WBNA all-star Sheryl Swoopes also revealed she was lesbian, and Hollywood '50s heart-throb Tab Hunter disclosed his homosexuality in a dishy memoirs.

Stepping out, part two. Not all outings came peacefully. Jim West, anti-gay zealot and mayor of Spokane, was caught limp handed using chat rooms to meet boys and download unmentionables, prompting the ridiculed hypocrite to be investigated by the FBI and recalled by his constituents. And most bizarrely, conservative hack Jeff Gannon was unmasked as a porn connoisseur and escort. Despite his, um, credentials, Gannon managed to receive prime access to the hottest house in town, only to lob the soft-

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"We said that we would get married the day that gays and lesbians can get married — when that right is given to them, so the day that law gets passed, we'll get married."

— Charlize Theron, to *Extra*

George Michael, failed magician and brother Gob, materialistic sister Lindsey (Portia de Rossi) and her obviously/obliviously gay husband Tobias (David Cross). Jessica Walter steals scenes with effortless ease as matriarch Lucille, and Liza Minnelli — Liza! — makes a dizzying guest turn as Lucille Two. It doesn't get better than this.

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Frank Miller's Sin City: Recut, Extended, Unrated — One of 2005's best films was this feverish comic-book dream from Texas director Robert Rodriguez, now repackaged in this lush DVD set. Deleted scenes, interesting docs and interviews abound, but the real gem in the film itself, which is alternately sexy, violent, funny and romantic.

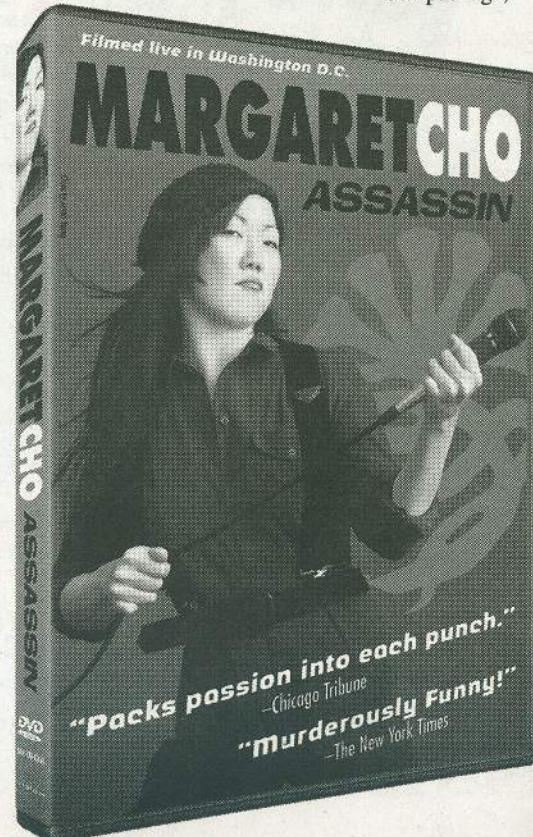
The Golden Girls, Seasons 2 and 3 — Admit it, you still watch those endless Lifetime reruns. Now, you can have Dorothy, Blanche, Rose and Sophia on call anytime you like. Bea Arthur's droll reactions are still priceless, even with repeated viewings. Let's hope subsequent seasons have more extra footage.

Roseanne, Seasons 1 and 2 — *Roseanne* was a landmark sitcom, thanks to its realistic depiction of a working-class family. It also boasted

DVD Season 2 4 Disc Set sharp writing, genuinely funny moments and a cohesive cast, highlighted by Sara Gilbert's acerbic Darlene and Laurie Metcalf's goofy Jackie. **My Own Private Idaho** (Criterion Collection) — Gus Van Sant's affecting, gay-themed update of *Henry V* looks spectacular in this new DVD edition, which features commentary from Van Sant, Todd Haynes (*Velvet Goldmine*) and Houston-born Jonathan Caouette (*Tarnation*). The film features startling performances from Keanu Reeves and River Phoenix.

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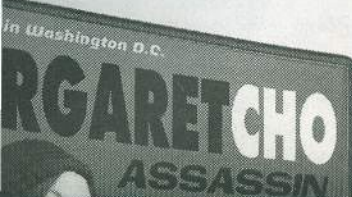
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Leave Me — are lush and enchanting. Day's

TV show sets are also fluffy and entertaining,
and they come packaged with bloopers,
rehearsals and other TV appearances.

BOOKS

By Richard LaBonte

I read about 200 books this year, and there
are dozens of potentially good reads I haven't
gotten to yet. This offering of 10 fiction titles
is pared down from an initial list of almost

50. Those cited here are decidedly personal
picks — although some of my favorites of the
year aren't included at all, including
Specimen Days by Michael Cunningham and
The City of Falling Angels by John Berendt.

Any smart reader could probably come up
with a list that barely overlaps with this one
— and that truth surely bodes well for the
past year of queer literature. Here, then, is my
list of the best fiction books.

Above the Thunder by Renee Manfredi
— The real charm of Manfredi's first novel
is how its textured characters — old and

young, male and female, straight and gay —
come to love each other deeply.

The Beautifully Worthless by Ali
Liebegott — A hybrid work (half prose, half
verse) about a queer girl who, with her cranky
Dalmatian, flees her home in search of exis-
tential release.

Choir Boy by Charlie Anders — This
multi-layered coming-of-age story takes a
savvy consideration of gender exploration, a
smart critique of wrong-headed religious fer-
vor and a sly commentary on how crazy
adults can be.

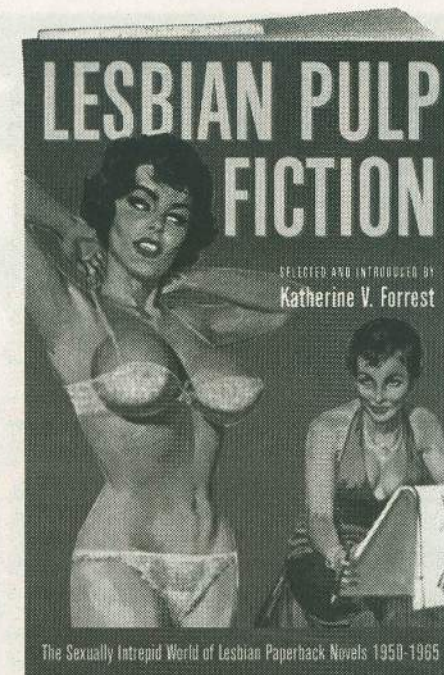
Clearcut by Nina Shengold — This grand
and tragic debut is about two men who love a
woman, a woman who loves both men, and
the two men who come to love each other, all
with reckless, lusty passion.

Lesbian Pulp Fiction edited by Katherine
V. Forrest — This compilation proves that
lesbian pulp fiction matters as literature, his-
tory and erotica.

Mother of Sorrows by Richard McCann
— The elegant stories in this spare collection,
written over 18 years, flit across the narrator's
adolescent and adult years, from a 1950s boy-
hood to living with HIV today.

The Sluts by Dennis Cooper — Not for
the squeamish, this sick, hilarious excursion
into the depths of hustler fantasy is for read-
ers who appreciate Cooper's brilliant ability
to dig truthfully into depravity.

They Change the Subject by Douglas A.
Martin — This loosely linked cycle of lean
and luscious tales charts a young man's quest



for emotional identity and sexual fulfillment.

You Are Not the One by Vestal
McIntyre — The eight stories in this breath-
taking debut collection invoke emotional need
in all its quirky forms.

You Can Say You Knew Me When by
K.M. Soehnlein — In his textured and sexy
second novel, the author invokes both queer
slacker life in San Francisco as the dot-com
bubble bursts, and a homophobic father's flir-
tation four decades earlier with the homosex-
uality he so despises in his son



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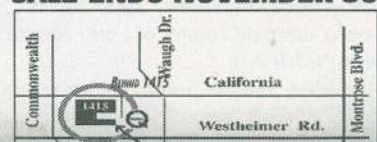
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NORTH TEXAS



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The Sexually Intrepid World of Lesbian Paperback Novels 1950-1965


for emotional identity and sexual fulfillment. **You Are Not the One** by Vestal McIntyre — The eight stories in this breath-taking debut collection invoke emotional need in all its quirky forms.

You Can Say You Knew Me When by K.M. Soehnlein — In his textured and sexy second novel, the author invokes both queer slacker life in San Francisco as the dot-com bubble bursts, and a homophobic father's flirtation four decades earlier with the homosexuality he so despises in his son



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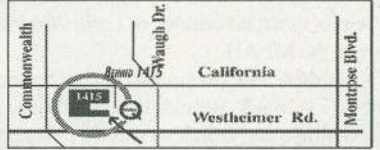
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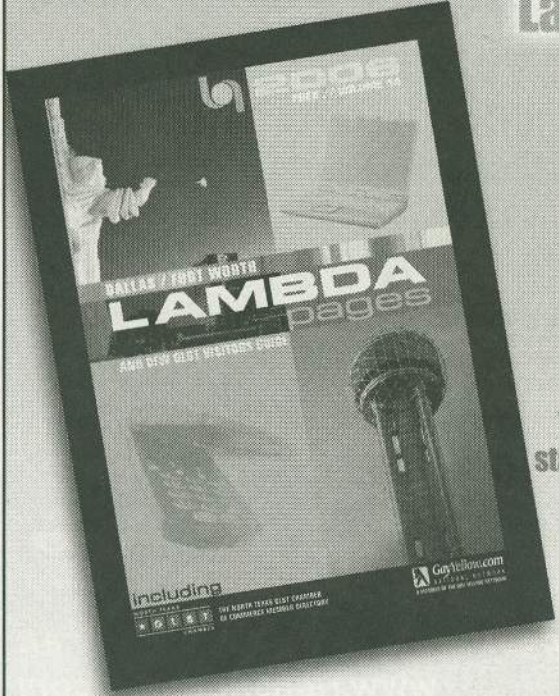


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DFW GLBT Visitors Guide

The North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce Member Directory

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A MEMBER OF THE GAY YELLOW NETWORK

GayYellow.com

NATIONAL NETWORK



Filth

g grossly indecent or obscene

Blind items always fascinate people, so are my two favorites:
Could it be that a certain television two- is kaput? So say sources on the set with close-cropped cutie, who point out the ordinary steps one will take to avoid g killed off — including booting a live-in. Egads, I'd probably feel buried alive or all of those hair care products.
Could it be that a certain ambitious (and iguous) boy is making an unholy alliance rther his thespianistic career? So say ces close to that sexual predator, who tell hat he's had the sexy siren in his sights nd perhaps in his bed. One thing leads to her, so don't be surprised to see mentor apt pupil joined at the hip and making titful music. Who's in front and who's in has not been revealed.

When I can mix gay porn stars with nude stream stars and add a pinch of question- paternity, it's time to end yet another f you'd like to be the first "Ask Billy" tion of the year, just drop a note to y@filth2go.com.
Until next time, remember: One man's is another man's bible.

ANA'S
NEW YEAR'S
ANA'S

Join Us As We
The New Year
mpagne Toast At Midnight
Food & Party Favors

ar's Day Show

Weekly Preview



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 30

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.

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.

New Year's Eve Winter Wonderland, presented by Women Of Distinction. 8:30-11:30 p.m. \$45-\$85. Westin Park Central Hotel, 12720 Merit Rd. 214-228-9240.

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.



Diversity Center's domestic violence program and mental health counseling services available at Hill Country Psychology, 11120 Wurzbach Rd. 210-223-6106. Info@diversitycentersa.org.

Eve's Eve with Easy Marie, presented by San Antonio Lesbians Improving Relations. 7:30 p.m. \$20. Benefits WomanSpace. Big Tex Grain Mills, 357 Blue Star Rd. Salir.org.

Saturday, December 31

AUSTIN

4th Annual Gag Reflex New Year's Eve bash, with The Caucasian Comedy Explosion. 7 and 10 p.m. \$20-\$75. Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd St. 512-731-3945.

DALLAS/FT. WORTH

New Year's Eve Winter Wonderland Dinner and Dance, presented by Women Of Distinction. 7 p.m. \$45-\$85. Westin Park Central Hotel, 12720 Merit Rd. 214-228-9240.

Once in a Blue Moon, women's New Year's Eve dance. 8 p.m.-1 a.m. \$20. DanceMasters Ballroom, 10675 E. Northwest Hwy, Ste. 2600B. 972-479-0774.

HOUSTON

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

Family New Year's Eve Party, presented by Houston Gay & Lesbian Parents. 8 p.m. Bring food, beverages, music and games. Gibbs Media Group, 3400 Montrose Blvd., Suite 312. 713-816-4557.

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

Le Femme Masquerade Soiree New Year's Eve Bash with DJ Miller House. Presented by Progressive Women's Network. 9 p.m. \$35+. 713 Restaurant and Lounge, 10001 Westheimer Rd. 832-969-2082. Houstonpwn.org.

Rockin' Red Ribbon New Year's Eve Gala, with Liviya Compean, DJ Mike D, Marsha Carlton and more. Presented by Imperial Court of Houston. 8 p.m. \$55+. Benefits AIDS Foundation Houston, Bering Omega Community Services, Colt 45's, Lazarus House and Legacy Community Health Services. Crowne Plaza Hotel Downtown, 1700 Smith St. 713-204-3161. Redribbon@spacecityempire.org.

Sunday, January 1

DALLAS/FT. WORTH

New Year's Winter Wonderland Worship Service, presented by Women Of Distinction. 2:45 p.m. Westin Park Central Hotel, 12720 Merit Rd.



Liviya Compean,
12/31

Tuesday, January 3

AUSTIN

Stonewall Democrats of Austin. 7:30 p.m. Magnolia Cafe-South, 1920 South Congress Ave. Stonewallaustin.org.

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

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

Wednesday, January 4

AUSTIN

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

HOUSTON

Houston GLBT Political Caucus. 7 p.m. Houston GLBT Community Center, 3400 Montrose Blvd., 2nd floor. 713-521-1000. Hglbtpc.org.

...his thespianistic career? So say
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...and perhaps in his bed. One thing leads to
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If you'd like to be the first "Ask Billy"
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@filth2go.com.

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

ANA'S
NEW YEAR'S
ANA'S

Join Us As We
The New Year
pagne Toast At Midnight
Food & Party Favors

ar's Day Show
day, January 1
Show Begins at 1:00 AM
Emcee: Ashley Houston

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Weekly Review

DALLAS/FT. WORTH

Free syphilis and oral HIV testing. 5-9 p.m. Nelson-
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Dr. 713-639-4629. Hmns.org.



*Diana, A Celebration
through 2/5/06*

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

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

DALLAS/FT. WORTH

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Central Hotel, 12720 Merit Rd. 214-228-9240.

HOUSTON

New Year's Day Brunch, presented by Progressive
Women's Network. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. La Strada's, 322
Westheimer Rd. 832-969-2082. Houstonpwn.org.

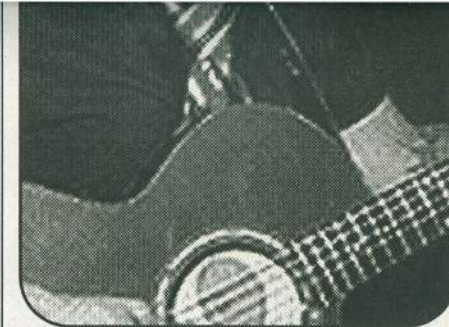
Monday, January 2

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, January 3

AUSTIN

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Community Center, 3400 Montrose Blvd., 2nd floor. 713-
521-1000. Hglbtpc.org.

Thursday, January 5

DALLAS/FT. WORTH

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

HOUSTON

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

Gay and Lesbian Latin Organization general assembly
meeting. 7 p.m. Resurrection Metropolitan Community
Church, 2025 W. 11th St. 713-710-0045. Houstongallo.org.

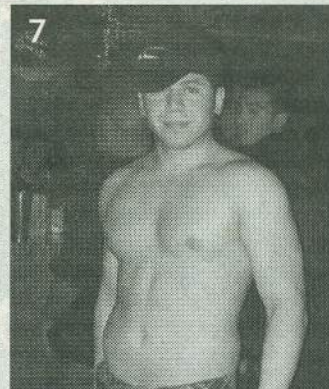
SAN ANTONIO

PFLAG San Antonio. 7 p.m. 121 W. Woodlawn St.
Geocities.com/pflagsanantonio/chapter.htm.

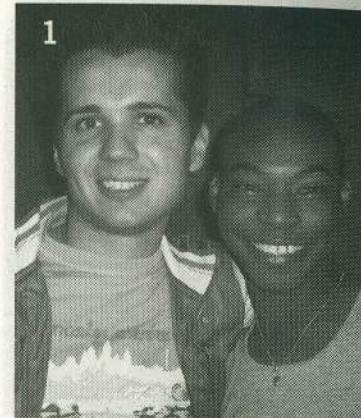
ClubLand

austin

1. Kip at Chain Drive. 2. Cookie and Diana at Charlie's. 3. Lance at Chain Drive. 4. Nadine, Justin and Rachel at Rain. 5. Alex at Chain Drive. 6. Jason at Oilcan Harry's. 7. Eric at Rainbow Cattle Company. 8. Carl and Anna at Rainbow Cattle Company. Photos by Guillermo Garza



dallas



RAIN
ON 4TH
WEEKLY WEEKLY WEEKLY WEEKLY WEEKLY WEEKLY WEEK

Fresh faces,
fresh sound.
Rain.

TUESDAYS
\$5.50
Giant
Martinis

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Karaoke
Be a star!
Starts at 10:00 pm
\$2.75 Cosmos.

AUSTIN'S FAVORITE COMEDY OPENS TUESDAY!

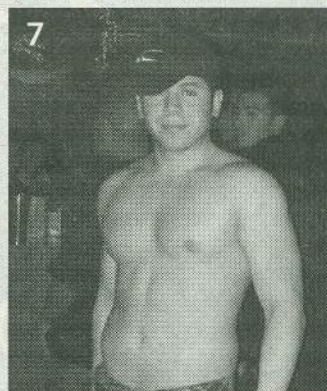
"If you like someone, bring 'em by the Tastee Kreme and I'll cook up something special. If you **LOVE** someone, give 'em the gift of laughter with tickets to see **A TUNA CHRISTMAS!**"

INITA GOODWIN
TUNA, TEXAS



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RAIN

Fresh faces,
fresh sound.
Rain.

ON 4TH

WEEKLY WEEKLY WEEKLY WEEKLY WEEKLY WEEKLY WEEK

TUESDAYS

\$5.50
Giant
Martinis
S.I.N. NIGHT

THURSDAYS

\$2.50 Domestic, Wells
& Johnnie Love Vodka
DJ Chris Allen
ALL NIGHT!

WEEKENDS

Hot Sounds, Hot Guys!
Friday DJ Dallas,
Saturday DJ Filthy Rich

WEDNESDAYS

Karaoke
Be a star!
Starts at 10:00 pm

\$2.75 Cosmos,
Appletinis and
\$2.00 ANY Beer

FRIDAYS

Happy Hour
\$2.50 Domestic
and Wells. \$3.50 Calls.

ALL DAY LONG

Saturday - All request
Video Happy Hour with Jonathan!

SUNDAY TEA

HEDDARHINE
Performs at 5:30!

\$2.75 Bloody Mary's,
Screwdrivers and
Domestics. Free Fajitas!

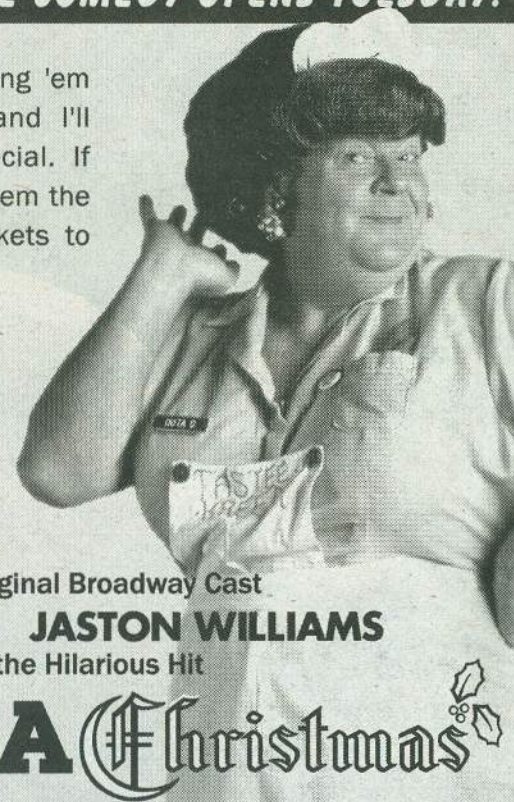
Dirty Grits by DJ Bang!

217B W. 4th St, Austin 512.494.1150

AUSTIN'S FAVORITE COMEDY OPENS TUESDAY!

"If you like someone, bring 'em
by the Tastee Kreme and I'll
cook up something special. If
you **LOVE** someone, give 'em the
gift of laughter with tickets to
see **A TUNA CHRISTMAS!**"

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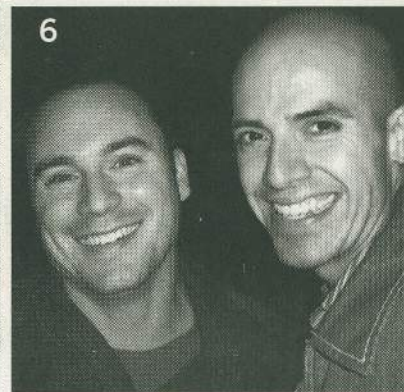
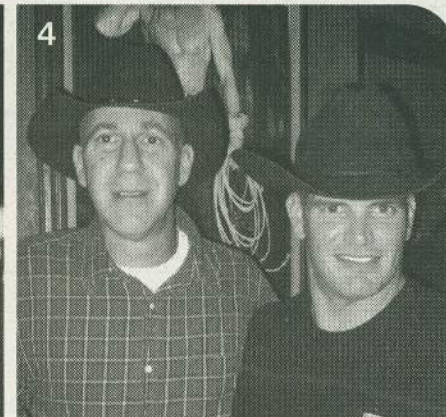
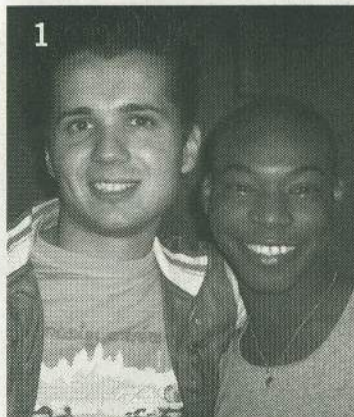
Land

1. Alex at Chain Drive. 6. Jason at Oilcan
za



dallas

1. Andre and Donald at Throckmorton Mining Company. 2. Gina, Linda Genie and Brie at Buddies II. 3. Scott and Heath at Woody's Sports and Video Bar. 4. Brad and Jeff at the Round-Up Saloon. 5. Stephanie and Sasha at Sue Ellen's. 6. Tom and Marcus at Zipper's. 7. Paolo, David and Carlos at Hay K Rico. 8. Brook, Steven and Bryson at Alexandre's. **Photos by Barbera Barker and Gregory Hayes**

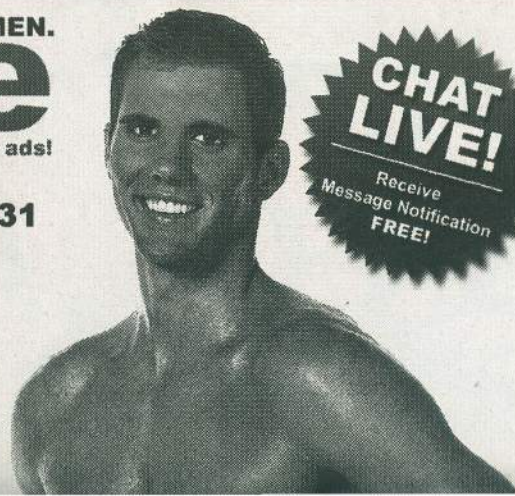


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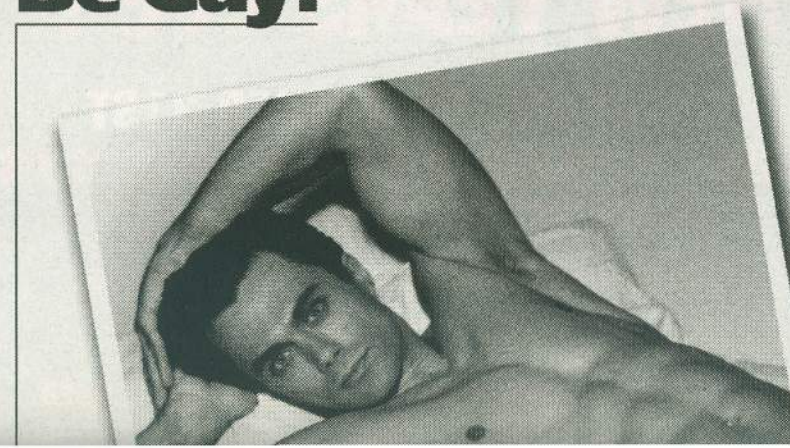
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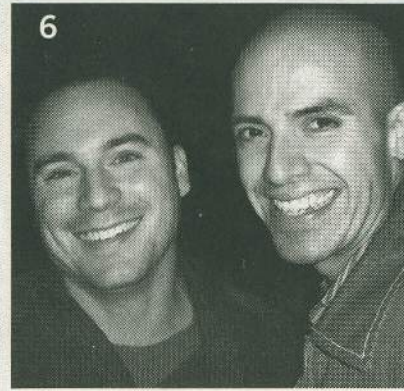
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Christmas

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Receive Message Notification FREE!

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(817) 282 2500 (972) 705 9500

El Paso (915) 541 8888 **Austin** (512) 480 8400

San Antonio (210) 375 1155 **Houston** (713) 225 5500

Corpus Christi (361) 884 0884

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24/7 Friendly Customer Care (888) MegaMates / 1-888-634 2628 / 18+

Be Gay!

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\$1.79/min. 18+ Discreetly billed to Visa/MasterCard

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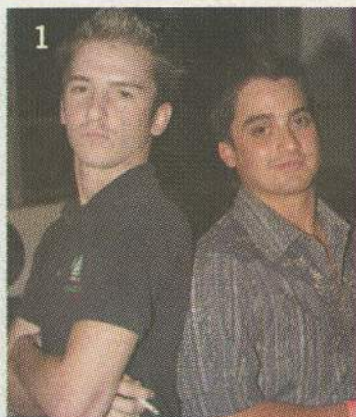
\$1/min. + \$2 connect fee 18+ Discreetly billed to your telephone

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houston

ClubLand

1. David and Troy at Michael's. 2. Mike, Eric and Colt at South Beach. 3. Patty, Todd, Brian and Tyler at Meteor. 4. Matt and Josh at Rich's. 5. Daniel, James, Mikey and Mike at South Beach. 6. Alex and Tom at JR.'s Bar & Grill. 7. Joel and Gilbert at Brazos River Bottom. 8. Max, Fo and Daniel at Rich's.
Photos by Paul Stricklin



NEW YEARS EVE!!!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31ST
BRING IN THE NEW YEAR AT HOUSTON'S
FAVORITE MARTINI LOUNGE.

TRADITIONAL CHAMPAGNE TOAST AT MIDNIGHT
PARTY HATS, SERPENTINE AND ALL THE
PARTY FAVORS YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS WILL NEED



san anto



att and Josh at Rich's. 5. Daniel, James,
ax, Fo and Daniel at Rich's.

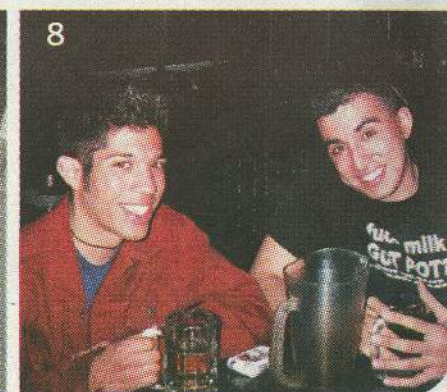
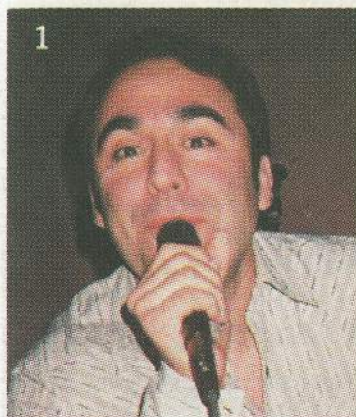


san antonio

ClubLand

1. Mauro at Pegasus. 2. Jaime, Sasha and Richard at Heat. 3. Eric and Omar at Heat. 4. Gina and Jay at The Annex. 5. Natalie, Lyn-Z, Sasha and Laurie at The Saint. 6. Michelle and Eloisa at The Saint. 7. Mark and Blake at Bonham Exchange. 8. Gabe and Jason at 2015 Place.

Photos by Junior Hernandez



LOVE THE 80'S ?



HEAT

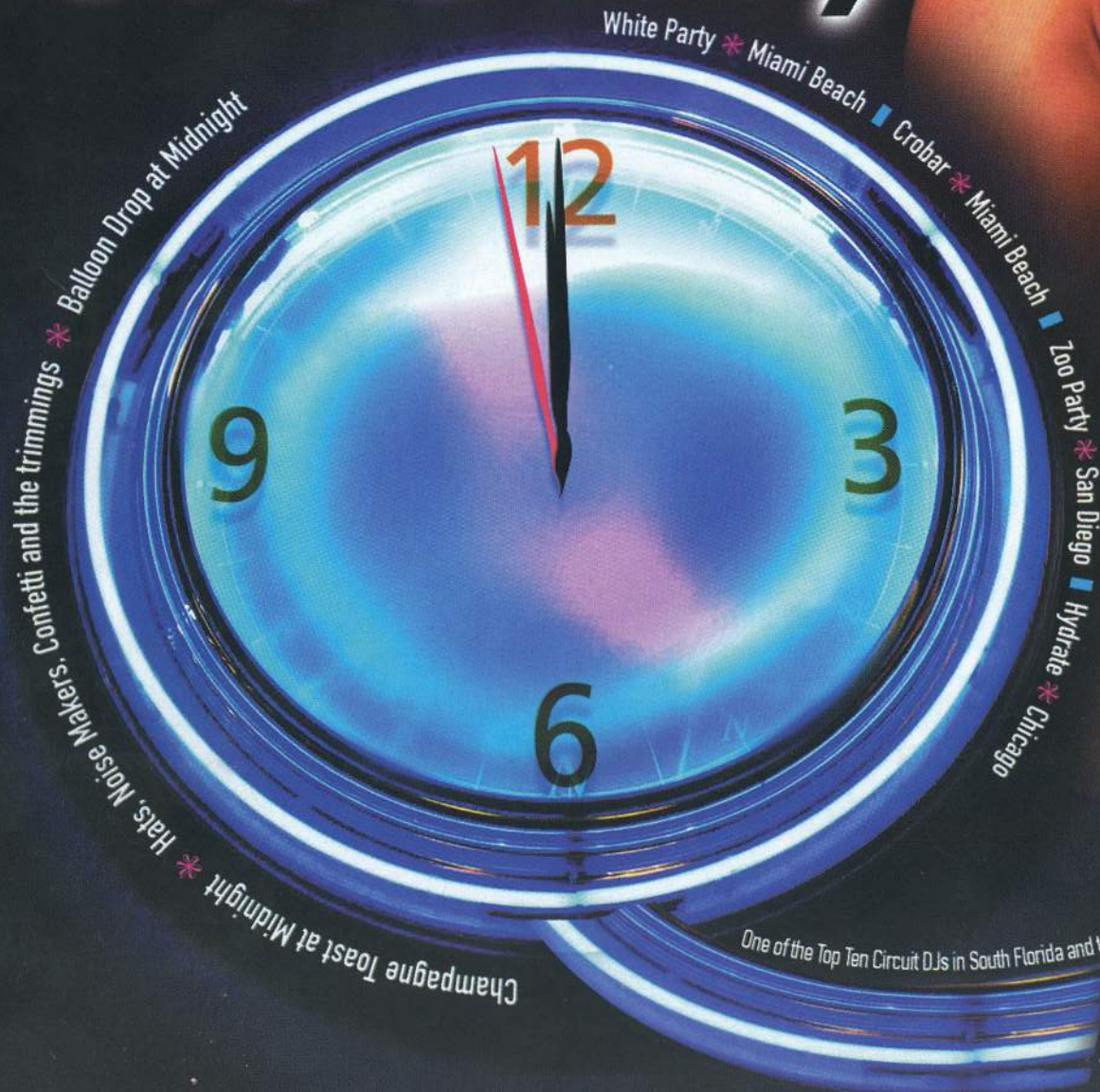
Fridays



SATURDAY ❖ DECEMBER 31ST ❖ NEW YEAR'S EVE

inside: The year in Texas a

CIRCUIT DJ
Monty Q



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

Houston's Biggest
New Year's Eve Celebration

Everyone 21+ will receive their
free admission

tz
news

The Year
2



Houston's Biggest New Year's Eve Celebration

Valet Parking

Advance tickets only \$15 with VIP Line Entrance

Sold at JR's, Meteor, South Beach, Male UWear,
Hollywood Super Center and M2M Fashions

Everyone 21+ will receive their
own split of champagne.

18+ to Party 21+ to Drink

SoBe Resident DJ Jimmy Skinner ~ Opens
Special Guest DJ Monty Q ~ 10:30pm until 5am

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The Year

