

eclipse

FLEXING HIS MUSCLES

DJ DeMarko strong-arms his way off the runway, into the spinning scene. **p14**

**ALSO
IN THIS
ISSUE**

You might just find **Jose Leon**
at your favorite Houston restaurant.

Our Guy, p8



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peace of mind in 20 minutes.

Need Wood, p24

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PUBLISHER
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GENERAL MANAGER
Mike Kitchens

ADVERTISING SALES
Brian Martin • Brett Cullum
Tom Jones (Classifieds)

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR
Chris Crain

EDITOR
Penny Weaver

WEBMASTER
Aram Vartian

ART DIRECTOR
Rob Boeger

PRODUCTION MANAGER
John Nail

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS
Bonnie Naugle • Joey Carolino

PHOTOGRAPHER
Dalton Dehart

CONTRIBUTORS
Jim Buck, Raquel Chevallier, Michael Derry,
Greg Fox, Glenn Hanson, Woody Miller,
Allen Neuwirth, Christopher Seely,
Arjan Timmermans, Romeo San Vicente

**NATIONAL ADVERTISING
REPRESENTATIVE**
Rivendell Marketing Company, Inc.
212-242-6863

Web: www.eclipse-mag.com
E-mail: editor@eclipsemag.com

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EDITOR'S NOTE

July in Houston may be quiet enough to allow everyone to recover from Pride — not that there's anything wrong with that.

Now that the annual Houston Pride Parade has wound its way through Montrose for another year, the Pride Committee of Houston can safely call the festivities a success. The largest crowd in history participated in and viewed the parade. Check out the float winners in Gaydar (**Page 6**).

Gays across the country and particularly in Houston are still celebrating the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision booting out the Texas "homosexual conduct" law. Don't miss the details in Gaydar.

Clubs across the city provide cool havens for gays who want to escape Mother Nature's heat outdoors for their own kind of human heat indoors. Peruse this week's upcoming events in the Nightlife Calendar (**Page 12**), and don't miss the chance to cozy up with Houston's own Our Guy Jose (**Page 8**).

Summer means in Houston. Enjoy. If you have comments about *Eclipse*, let us hear from you via e-mail at editor@eclipse-mag.com.

DNA

Weekly Features

Tue - Movie Night

Wed - Karaoke with Michella

Thurs - Anything Goes

Fri - ShowTime & The Boys of DNA

Sat - ShowTime & The Boys of DNA

Sun - Gospel Brunch:

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EJ's
Houston

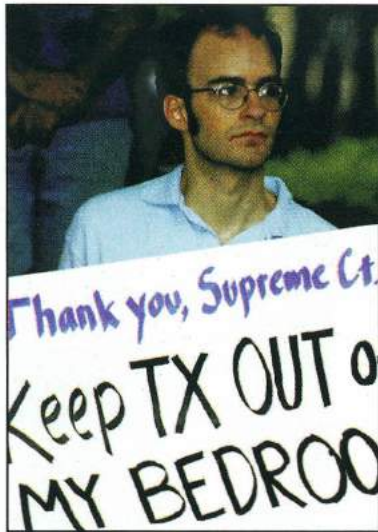
Every Thursday
& Sunday -
Live Singing
with Jody!



2517 Ralph @ Westheimer • HOUSTON • 713.527.9071

Gay Houstonians rejoice at sodomy case decision

A week after what some are calling the most important gay civil rights court decision of this generation, waves of reaction continue to flow across Houston and the nation. "The potential impact of the ruling is starting to be realized," said gay Houston attorney Mitchell Katine. "Each day, I read about something else happening in either a court or a city government in response to the Supreme Court ruling, and I am encouraged that this case will be the starting point for additional equalization of laws and societal acceptance for gay and lesbian people." When the U.S. Supreme Court handed down its decision June 26 in *Lawrence v. Texas* — and effectively struck down sodomy laws across the nation — celebrations across the country ensued. In Houston, where the case originated, Katine and the two men at the center of the case — John Lawrence and Tyron Garner — helped lead the rejoicing at the victory. All three, along with Lambda Legal's Lee Taft and other local gay activists, spoke



(Photos by Dalton DeHart)

at an afternoon press conference that same day at the Houston GLBT Community Center. That evening, they were the guests of honor at a rally on the steps of City Hall with more than 200 onlookers. "Every American deserves equal rights. This is about all people," said Clarence Burton Bagby, a longtime political activist and president of the community center.

Houston Pride draws record crowd

The silver anniversary Houston Pride drew the city's largest crowd in history, organizers said. The highlight of the annual June celebration was the Houston Pride Parade on Saturday, June 28. The Pride Committee of Houston powered the parade and the previous "25 Days of Pride" to mark the 25th anniversary. Jack Valinski, parade director this year for the committee, said the Houston Chronicle reported the parade crowd estimate at 150,000. Longtime Pride-goers in Houston agreed that this year's fest was the largest ever, Valinski said. It largely went off without a hitch, he added. "We were very pleased with the entire event," Valinski said. "Everything went pretty well."

The parade awards were handed out as follows:

- **RUBY SLIPPER** (best walking unit) — Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce
- **GYPSY ROSE** (best out-of-town unit) — Turtle Creek Chorale / The Strangerettes
- **EDISON** (best lighting on a non-professionally built unit) — Community



25th Pride draws biggest crowds ever.

Gospel Church

- **HOUSTON** (best non-professionally built motorized unit) – The Krewe of the Moons of Uranus
- **RAINBOW LIGHTS** (best lighting on a professionally built unit) – Diageo (Smirnoff Twist)
- **TEXAS** (best professionally built motorized unit) – JP Morgan Chase P.R.I.D.E. Team
- **STONEWALL** (best commemoration of Pride) – Donald R. Watkins Memorial Foundation
- **SILVER CELEBRATION** (best interpretation of theme) – Gulf Coast Archive &

Museum of GLBT History, Inc.

- **SPIRIT OF MONTROSE** (best overall entry) – Turtle Creek Chorale / The Strangerettes

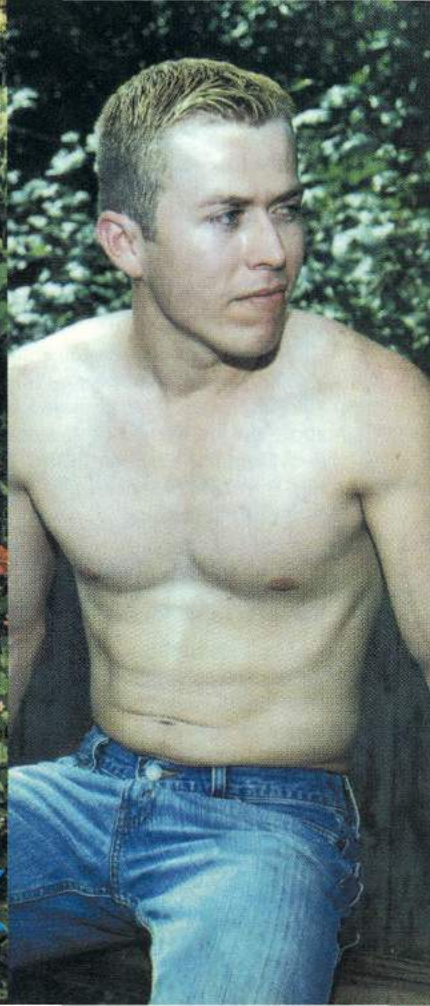
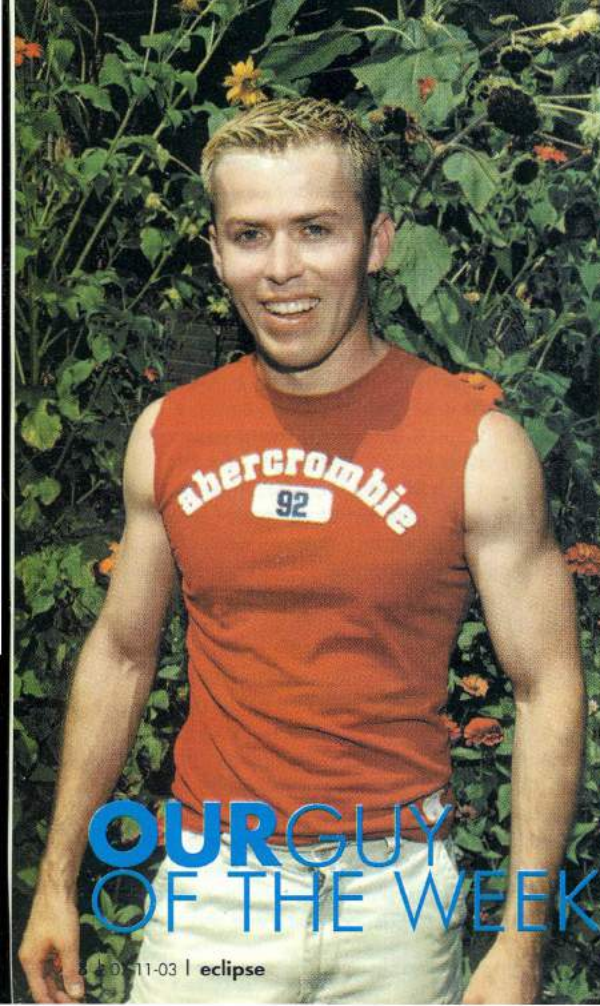
Parade judges were Carol Wyatt, community activist; Brenda Thomas, community activist; Jone Devlin, QueerVoices host; Pamela Zager of Red Bull; and Larry Bagneris, City of New Orleans Human Rights Commissioner.

The 25th annual Houston Pride included a 1,000-pound chandelier — dubbed the “world’s largest” — displayed in the air above the intersection of Westheimer Road and Montrose Boulevard. The chandelier was lit in rainbow colors with hundreds of lights for the occasion.

Montrose continues to thrive into 2003

Montrose at the dawn of the 1980s was surely unrecognizable to many people who grew up there. “Queer as Folk” devotees take note: Montrose had its own Babylon, the queen of 1978-1980 lower Westheimer clubs. Babylon became Numbers, and as the ‘80s took shape, Numbers became the epicenter of the burgeoning punk movement. The lower Westheimer strip, which runs from Montrose Boulevard east to Elgin, was only a few years earlier, spotted with Euro-influ-

enced nightspots and petit cafes. Now however, the quasi-fabulous Montrose scene had been reduced, nearly, to nudie clubs and strip joints. The one bright spot in that dingy Montrose area was the curve. Unfortunately, AIDS then reared its ugly head and was beginning its sweep through Houston, all too familiar to those losing friends in San Francisco, New York and Los Angeles. Fortunately, what would become the AIDS Foundation Houston and Montrose Clinic had been in place long before they were needed. The late 1990s saw the Montrose begin to return to its roots, with the return of influential straight singles and families moving back into the area: Instead of rushing away from Montrose, people began returning in droves. Preservationists and purists alike decried their return, especially the penchant to buy and tear down the bungalow houses that had become architectural staples of Montrose and its surrounding neighborhoods. Flash forward to 2003. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in our favor, decriminalizing gay sex. Westheimer from Shepherd to Elgin is full of fabulous shops that sell everything from leather to art supplies. Restaurants abound, and we even have the first Loft Tower going up on the curve. Montrose thrives because it is ever changing, always growing, always welcoming newcomers of every persuasion, shape and sexuality.



OUR GUY
OF THE WEEK

JOSE LEON

Location: Houston

Age: 26

Occupation: Student/waiter

Status: Single

What phrase is not in your vocabulary?

"Give up."

What is the weirdest place you have ever had sex?

Top of a downtown high-rise parking garage.

What inspires you?

My family.

Do you prefer hairy or smooth guys?

Older or younger?

Hairy and older.

What three things would you want with you if you were stranded on a deserted island?

A partner, a boom-box and a good memory.

SOUTH BEACH



RICH'S



EJ'S





Please submit calendar entries no later than 5p on Monday to make the following week's issue. Fax your calendar schedule to **eclipse magazine**, 713-529-9531, or e-mail editor@houstonvoice.com, or call 713-529-8490. The first listing in the week for each bar includes a phone number for further information. Call for drink specials and scheduled DJs.

FRIDAY, JULY 11

611. Free buffet, 5:30p. DJ Tom Warp and male dancers, 9p. 713-526-7070.

Cousins. Show featuring Raven, Sheena, Kara Dion and Victoria Nicole, 11p. 713-528-9204.

EJ's. Montrose Clinic HIV/STD free testing, 10p-1a. 713-527-9071.

Guava Lamp. Complimentary Buffet, 5p. 713-524-3359.

JR's. Hors d'oeuvres, 6p. 713-521-2519.

Keys West. Piano singalong with Roger Woest, 9:30p. 713-571-7870.

MeatRack. Bare as You Dare. Montrose Clinic HIV/STD testing, 10p-2a. 713-528-2028.

Michael's Outpost. Pool tournament with cash prizes, 8p. 713-520-8446.

Midtowne Spa. Pool Party. Montrose

WHERE YOUR NIGHT BEGINS

Clinic HIV/STD free testing, 10p-1a. 713-522-2379.

Montrose Mining Co. 713-529-7488.

Rich's. Frequency with DJ Chris Sill. Doors open at 9p. 713-759-9606.

SATURDAY, JULY 12

611. DJ and male dancers, 9p.

Club Inergy. Montrose Clinic HIV/STD free testing, 9p-12a.

Cousins. Drag show featuring Raven, Sheena, Kara Dion and Diane Jackson, 11p.

EJ's. Amateur Strip Night.

JR's. 800 Pacific Beach Party, 9-9:30p on Santa Fe side, and 10-10:30p on JR's side.

Keys West. Open dart tournament, 4p. Piano singalong with guest entertainer Gary Poe of Dallas, 9:30p.

MeatRack. Club Night.

Meteor. Open at 6p. 713-521-0123.

Midtowne Spa. Pool Party.

O. Courtyard and upstairs bar open at 3p. 18 and up welcome with \$5

cover and ID. 713-523-0213.

Rich's. DJ JD Arnold. Doors open at 9p. 21 and up.

Viviana's. Montrose Clinic HIV/STD free testing.

SUNDAY, JULY 13

1415 Bar & Grille. Brunch, 11a-3p. T-Dance with DJ Tucker Dawson, 2p. \$2 mimosas. 713-522-7066.

611. \$1 brunch, noon-2p.

Theatre New West presents additional and final performances of 'Jerker,' starring **Brett Cullum** and **Glen Fillmore**. 8p Friday and Saturday, July 11 and 12. Theatre New West, 1415 California St. 713-522-2204. (Photo by Joe Watts)

Cousins. Show featuring Gena, Sivi, Victoria Nicole and Dana, 11p.

Guava Lamp. Karaoke contest, 10p.

Keys West. Open dart tournament, 4p. Miss Keys West hosts "Red, White and Two," benefit

for PWA Holiday Charities.

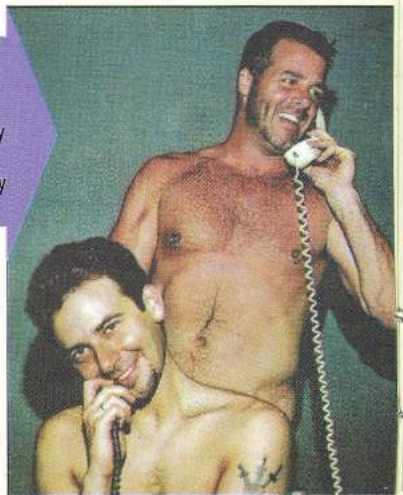
Mary's. Ladies' Night on the patio, 2-7p. 713-527-9669.

MeatRack. Cyber Night - 1/2 price with Web site password.

Meteor. Open at 3p. "Sex and the City," 8p.

Michael's Outpost. Pool tournament with cash prizes, 3p.

O. Tea dance. Courtyard and upstairs bar open at 1p.



South Beach. Christmas in July, 4p, by invitation only. 713-529-SOBE.

MONDAY, JULY 14

Brazos River Bottom (BRB). Open pool tournament with cash prizes, 8:30. 713-528-9192.

Bricks. Montrose Clinic HIV/STD free testing, 4-8p. 713-528-8102.

Guava Lamp. Service Industry Night (S.I.N.), with half off for service industry workers who show a recent paystub to qualify. 713-524-3359.

Meteor. Mucho Macho Mondays. Expert manicure and a professional massage.

Michael's Outpost. Dart tournament with cash prizes, 7p.

O. Bourbon Street Tea Party. Courtyard and upstairs bar open at 3p.

TUESDAY, JULY 15

611. Montrose Clinic HIV/STD free testing, 4-8p.

Brazos River Bottom (BRB). Free dance lessons with Rainbow Ranglers, no partner needed, 8:30p.

Club Houston. Youth Night, 4p-midnight. Half price for 18-24 y.o. Montrose Clinic HIV/STD free testing, 8p-12a. 713-659-4998.



The Menil Collection presents 'James Rosenquist: A Retrospective,' the first comprehensive survey of this artist's work in all media since 1972. Shows through Aug. 17, 11a to 7p, Wednesday through Sunday. Menil Collection, 1515 Sul Ross. 713-525-9435. www.menil.org.

Guava Lamp. "Queer As Folk," 10p.

MeatRack. 1/2 price all night.

Meteor. Drag Bingo hosted by Southern Comfort and Lillian Deveroux, with free prizes; benefits local charities.

O. Rewind '80s retro. Happy hour, 3-10p. Courtyard and upstairs bar open at 3p.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16

El's. Amateur Strip Night. Montrose Clinic HIV/STD free testing, 10p-1a.

Guava Lamp. Karaoke contest with cash prize.

JR's. Papi underwear strip contest, 11p. Hosted by Kofi and Kourtney Van Wales. Cash prizes.

Keys West. Piano singalong with Steve Wheaton, 9:30p.

Mary's. Montrose Clinic HIV/STD free testing, 4-8p.

Meteor. Professional Women's Happy Hour, 6p. Total Request Night, 9p.

O. The O Show. Courtyard and upstairs bar open at 3p. 18 and up welcome with \$5 cover and ID.

Ripcord. Montrose Clinic HIV/STD free testing, 9p-12a. 713-521-2792.

South Beach. Café Con Leche, 18 and up, \$5 cover.

THURSDAY, JULY 17

Brazos River Bottom (BRB). Live country singing and karaoke with Jody. Montrose Clinic HIV/STD free testing, 8p-12a.

El's. Roxanne Collins show with special guests, 11p.

Guava Lamp. Performance by Shaun and Kim, 10:30p.

Keys West. Piano singalong with Clay "Lovey" Howell, 9:30p.

MeatRack. Party Night: Anything Goes Fetish Party. Pre-registration is requested at www.meatrack.org.

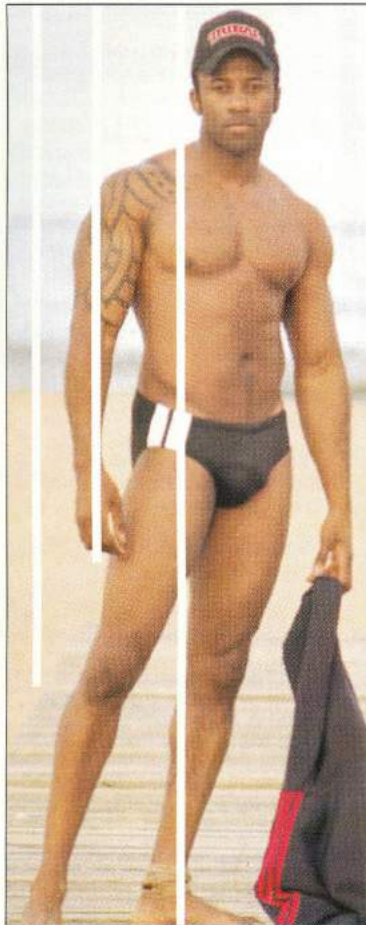
Meteor. Malebox Night for singles hosted by Lana Blake, 9p.

Michael's Outpost. Montrose Clinic HIV/STD free testing, 4-8p.

O. "O Boy!" calendar boy contest. Courtyard and upstairs bar open at 3p. 18 and up welcome with \$5 cover and ID. No cover for those over 21.

South Beach. Miss Southwest Continental USA Pageant, 10:30p. \$5 cover. 18 and up.

Toyz Disco. Montrose Clinic HIV/STD free testing, 10p-1a.



DI DEMARKO FLEXES HIS MUSCLES

Before DJ DeMarko became Manhattan's most flavorful lounge DJ, he had a successful career as a model and actor. He made the cover of Playgirl Magazine in 1997, and he did several commercials for Nike.

After an accident, DeMarko was paralyzed and had to go through extensive rehabilitation to regain his strength. His love for dance music gave him the willpower to completely recover.

With the help of friends Tony Moran and Manny Lehman, DeMarko started a promising career as a DJ. Now, he flexes his muscles every Friday night behind the turntable as the resident DJ at Chelsea's "G."

eclipse: When did you start spinning music?

DeMarko: I was 15 when I started to DJ at school. I borrowed records from a friend to do that actually. A few years later, I started to model and to travel. I did a lot of runways, commercials and I was even cast on a television show.

I moved to Los Angeles where I got into an acci-

dent that left me paralyzed. I had to go through a lengthy time of rehabilitation. I had so much extra time on my hands that my friend DJ Manny Lehman encouraged me to pick up music again and DJ.

eclipse: Have you completely recovered from your accident?

DeMarko: Yes, even though I have relapses now and then. Recently, Tony Moran had to take me to the hospital during a relapse. I was in so much pain. I work out all the time,

and I noticed that what has really helped me is to stretch a lot.

eclipse: How did you get your first gig?

DeMarko: I recovered 100 percent from my accident, and I started bartending in L.A. One day, the DJ did not show up. I got all my stuff from home, and I filled in for him that evening. I started to work with Manny a bit more to learn the ropes and to fill in for him.

eclipse: One of your first big performances was

by Arjan Timmermans



at Black & Blue's Leatherball in Montreal in 2000. How did you get involved?

DeMarko: One of the organizers saw me spin, and he called me up to see if I was interested in being part of their line-up. That was amazing. Such a big crowd. I am from Montreal originally, so it was a very special thing for me.

eclipse: What's going on with you right now?

DeMarko: I have a residency at Club "G" in New York every Friday, which goes really well. I have done that for three years. I also play a lot of parties overseas. I have been to Latin America, and I am spinning a few parties in Israel later this year.

eclipse: What dance music did you grow up with?

DeMarko: When I was younger, I listened to a lot of house music. Stuff from Todd Terry was huge back then. I am sure I have been influenced by that. I think Junior Vasquez and Manny Lehman have really inspired me as well. I really look up to them.

eclipse: What is your style like at "G"?

DeMarko: "G" is mostly a bar where people have drinks and talk. The atmosphere, however, is mostly club. I play big room music with loungey beats, diva vocals and tribal beats.

eclipse: Overall, how do you describe your style?

DeMarko: I prefer progressive beats. I love to throw vocals in it with a bit of a house feeling. Some of my DJ friends, such as Manny and Tony Moran, have told me I play with a lot of feeling. I guess it has a lot of soul. I feed off the people in the crowd. Whatever they give me, I will give them in return.

eclipse: Are there any current tracks that you like play?

DeMarko: There is so many. I like some of the stuff that Wildlife has been putting out.

eclipse: Are you producing any tracks?

DeMarko: Yes, actually. It is very exciting. There is a song called "7 Ways." It is a house track with a tribal vibe to it. It is me on vocals. People have listened to it, and they are impressed. I hope it will go somewhere and that I can release it sometime this summer.



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2 ☒ Free Drawing Watch * 11pm

TEXAS-SIZED

9oz



9oz

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3 ☒ Watch **MARCY RAE**

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Cotton"

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*See Bar for Details



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Come See Why Our
Friday Happy Hour is
Packed! All of your Old
Friends Party Here!

WARREN CHASE

9³⁰pm - 11³⁰pm



Special Performance! If you like
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STAR SILVA SATURDAYS



90c

All Single
Well Vodka Drinks
4pm-6pm

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With
Derrick Silva

9:30-1:30

COME SEE DERRICK SILVA LIVE

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So enjoy this talent now - while he is
in town. Bring your Flashlight, Hankies,
Toys, and Piano Gear!!!

SPECTACULAR SUNDAYS

Musical Movies
with Michael

Disco Music
from the '70s
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**LAURIE
GAGE LIVE
6:30PM**

LIVE MUSIC AFTER BRUNCH!
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sounding action! Bring all your friends
for this limited time performer.

Then the house really rocks with

KIM YETTE

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<http://www.houstongaybars.com> for more info



As long as I'm poz and I play safe, what does it matter if I don't say anything? I would think a lot of people would prefer I not tell them. You should assume that everybody is poz.

If you're so tired of your boyfriend getting cruised, then stop going to the club. You don't think he's cruising, too?

I was out this weekend and noticed a lot of older buff men with attitude. The muscles make them look hot, but the 'tude is such a turn off. When are they going wise up and lose the attitude?

You won't find bread in the produce aisle. If versatiles are turned off by tops and bottoms, rather than bitch, why not simply seek other versatiles? Believe it, a top isn't a turn-off to a bottom.

It's my fault I got crabs? What do you propose? I should break out my magnifying glass before sex?

It isn't the recipient's fault for getting crabs. Responsibility lies in

I thought individuality was a trait of out, gay men. Hard to tell from all the baseball-capped guys wearing A&F advertisements! Oh well, at least the goatees are disappearing.

not passing them on. Look fellas, it's either jock itch or lice. Either way, handle your business like an adult rather than ignoring it and sharing your cooties.

I'd rather maintain my physical fitness in a gym than become one of the typical lard-ass American couch potatoes with heart disease, diabetes, clogged arteries and three chins, who get winded moving from the TV to the refrigerator.

It's disgusting that some uncut men do not clean under their foreskin.

Why are things so separated in this city? It doesn't matter if you're black

or white. Let's all come together.

To all those bitching about different types, whether it be versatiles, femmes, butches, fats, etc.: I'm a Jew who only dates other Jews. I meet a lot of great men who would make someone else a perfectly decent mate, but since they're not Jewish, I don't bitch that they're defective. They're just not suitable for me. And even if I found The One, there's no assurance he'd be attracted to me.

Those of us with more diverse tastes, or who are simply less uptight, have a more difficult time narrowing our choices given such a broad range of physical, sexual and cultural differ-

ences to be found out there. Some might even say we're spoiled.

To the loser queen who said monogamy is outdated and is like eating a cheeseburger every day. Maybe you need to reconsider your diet. Monogamy takes discipline. People like you are a cancer in a struggling society.

OK so I guess blacks, Asians and Hispanics aren't gay? At least that what it looks like from the few gay shows on TV, like "Will & Grace" and "Queer as Folk." Why aren't we represented?

To you bar owners and managers: Why can't our gay bars provide a couple of decent draft beers? All we can get on tap is that nasty Bud, or some rotgut brew that I wouldn't clean my floors with, let alone drink.

You may think it's cute, but anyone over the age of 25 in a baseball cap just looks plain stupid.

Just because I'm tall and wear a T-shirt and baseball cap, don't assume I'm a top.

Get up each morning and thank God that the scarlet letter does not exist in today's world, whores.

To those who do not want "femme" boys: Good luck searching for the impossible dream. We all have feminine mannerisms, and you'll eventually see it in everyone you meet.



Got a bitch?
call
1-800-858-8088
or e-mail
editor@eclipse-mag.com

If you insist on bringing your hag to the bars, then do us all a couple of favors: (1) keep her on a leash, (2) get rid of her when she gets obnoxiously drunk and annoying, (3) you brought her with you, please take her when you go.

Yee haw! It's another Pride week-end! Rather than coming out of my closet, I think I'll just stay in, and clean the sucker out (literally). It'll be far less crowded, a lot less expensive, and probably more fun.

When I pay hard-earned money to see drag queens in a bar, they should be men dressed as women. I don't want to see men who have had boob jobs pretending to be a man pretending to be a woman.

Would someone please tell me where the 50 and 60-year-old gentlemen can meet the 20, 30 and 40-year-old guys at a bar or elsewhere?

To the fat bitch who slipped her "weight loss" ad in my bag at Pride: Look in the mirror! Your plus-sized Lane Bryant ass needs it more than my 32-inch waist.



Kyle's

Bed & Breakfast

By GREG FOX





E-mail:
KylesBnB@aol.com



GREG FOX © 2003

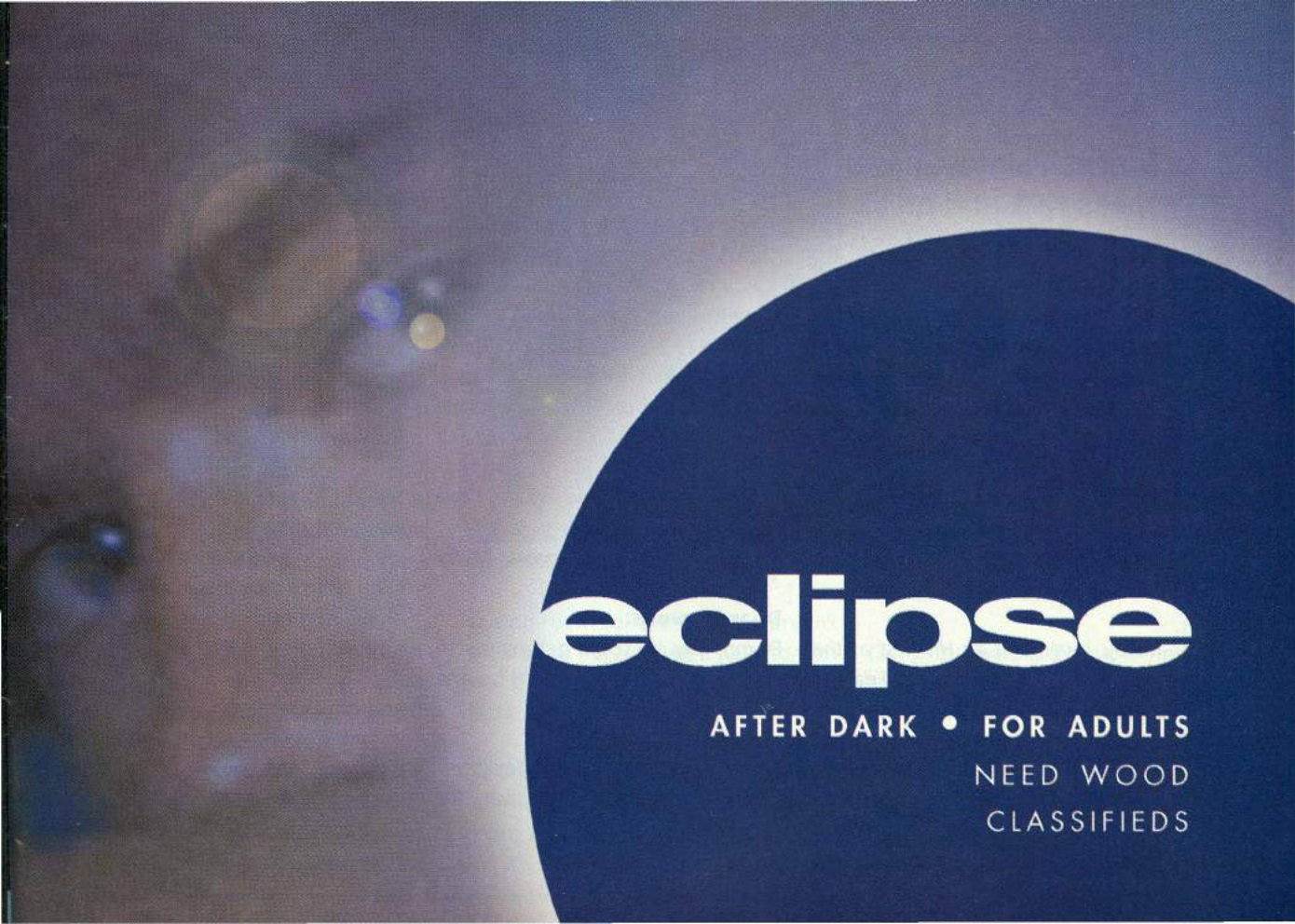
A photograph of a very muscular man, likely a bodybuilder, standing with his arms crossed. He is wearing a white towel around his waist. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

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Get a grip, boy

Oral sex almost never spells HIV, and quick test can prove it fast

Hey Woody!

Please help me. I've never had anal sex in any way. I am very conservative. I learned early on to be extra careful. Much more so than most my age (24).

I engaged in oral testicle sucking nine months ago. I've never had any other kind of oral sex. It's worried me a lot.

Today, I went for an HIV test at the local clinic. It's going to take 14 days to find out. Now, I almost wish I hadn't.

I've become so anxious I feel like a prisoner. The waiting is so hard on me. I can't concentrate on anything, and my imagination is going

by **Woody Miller**

pretty wild, thinking the worst. I don't have sex with anyone. This was a one-time event with a person I saw only three times. I know it's hard to believe, but you'd have to know me in order to understand why I'm careful to the point of nearly abstinence.

I'm worried sick. Please help calm me down during the waiting period.

— **Nervous Nelly**

Dear Nervous:

Damn, boy. If I could get my martini as shaken as you are I'd be one happy drunk.

First off, what's with the "oral testicle sucking?" Speak English. Try, "I licked his balls."

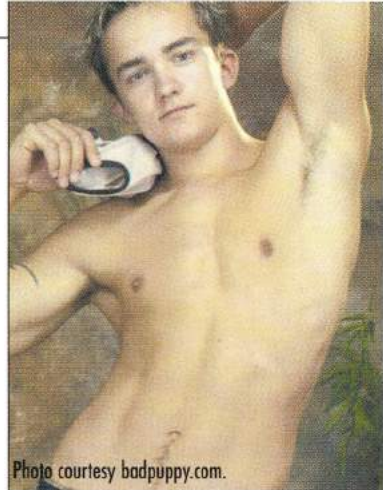


Photo courtesy badpuppy.com.

Second, please don't tell me that you've burned half your body weight in worry, and you didn't even have a dick in your mouth, let alone your ass.

If all you did was kiss "the boys" you have nothing to worry about. In fact, even if you had kissed, hell, drowned the pole, you'd have nothing to worry about.

Unless you have cuts or abrasions

in your mouth, giving head to an HIV-positive guy is about 99 percent safe. And there are scientists who think that figure is too low.

Remember, HIV can only be transmitted through blood. If there isn't a scratch, a nick, a something that opens up a pathway to blood, there is no chance whatsoever of you getting it.

Now, on the issue of the wait. Here's the best way of calming yourself: Breathe deeply and repeat out loud, "Woody, who knows all and sees all says my test will come out negative. Woody, who knows all and sees all says drop my drawers."

The best way to avoid that awful 14-day wait is to go to a clinic that uses a "rapid test" called OraQuick. They put a hole in your finger to draw a drop of blood and mix it into a solution. It takes just 20 minutes to get the results back. I took it a few months ago. It's a snap. Except the part about sitting in the

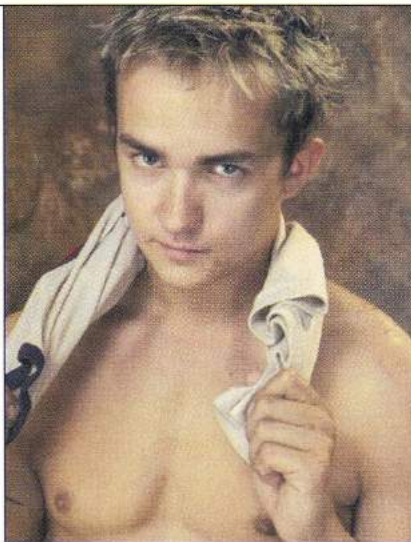


Photo courtesy badpuppy.com.

waiting room for the results. I predict you'll be so nervous we'll have to bolt your chair to the floor to keep it from clattering across the hall.

OraQuick is about as easy to use as a home pregnancy kit, which of course means absolutely nothing to us except that it's so idiot-proof even women can

work it.

Anyway, the nation's top public health officials — from the CDC to the Department of Health and Human Services — are glowing like circuit party nightsticks because OraQuick will undoubtedly slow the spread of AIDS.

About 30 percent of the people who take the standard 14-day test never come back for their results. Nationally, about 8,000 of these people are HIV positive, don't know it and are spreading it.

OraQuick's ease and convenience means more people will be willing to be tested, stay for the results and curb the spread of infection.

Call your local AIDS clinic to find out if they're offering OraQuick. And jeez, give somebody a good blowjob. It'll calm your nerves.

Need Wood? Ask Woody how to spice up your sex life. E-mail him at woody@menrpigs.cc.

Photography by James Franklin

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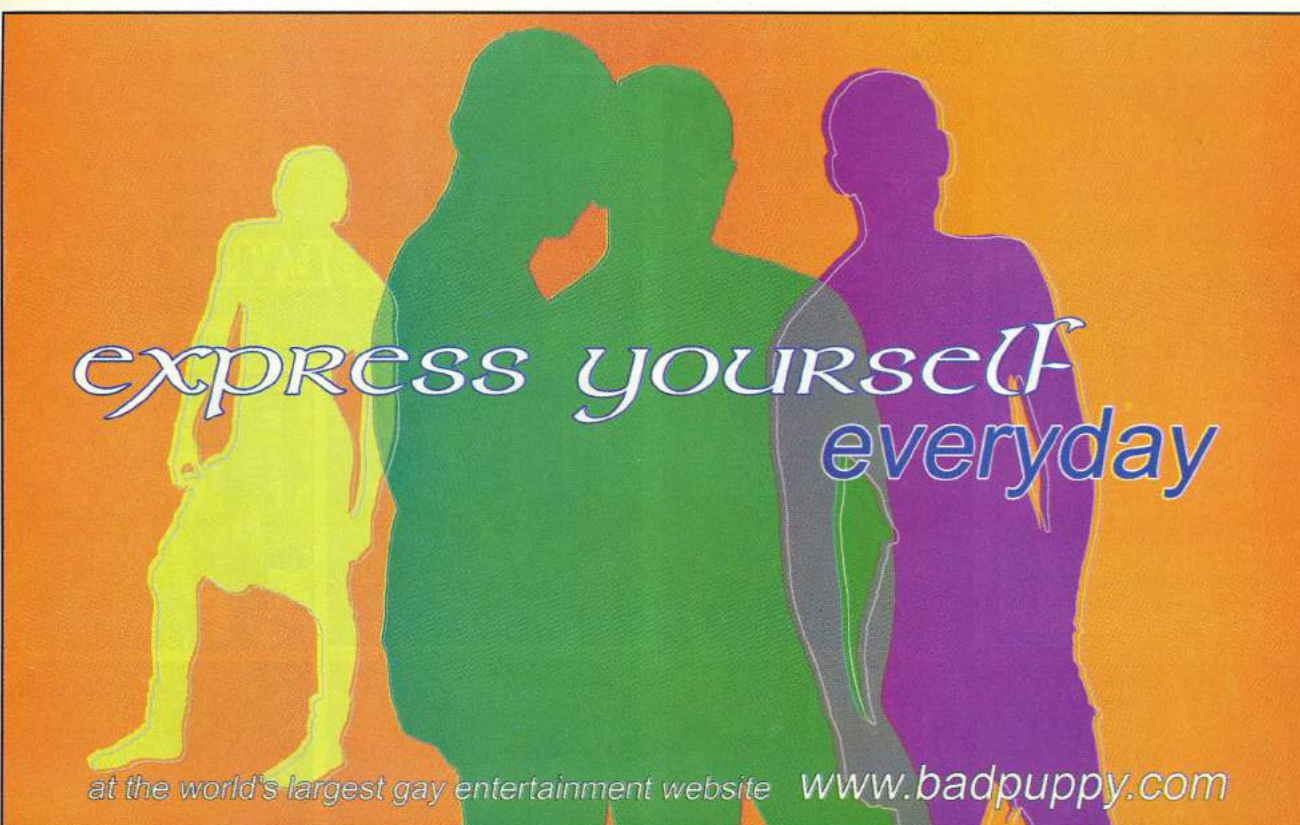
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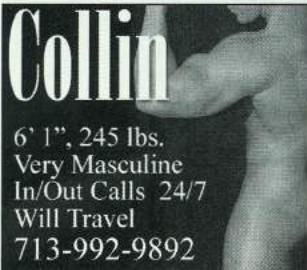
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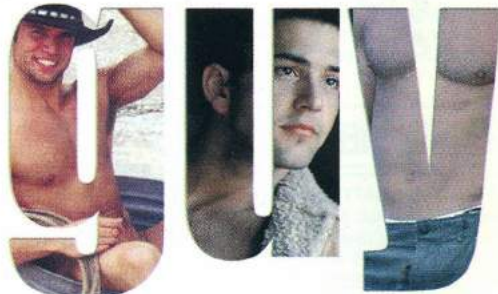
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SUMMER'S *Last* FLINGS

Before the season ends,
check out our guide to the
circuit's last hoorahs. **p14**

**ALSO
IN THIS
ISSUE**

Meteor's **Andy Pantos**
says Houston nightlife
is ever-evolving.

Behind the Scene, p8



Texas plans HIV funds cut,
Center appoints new E.D.,
Dogs on parade.

Gaydar, p6

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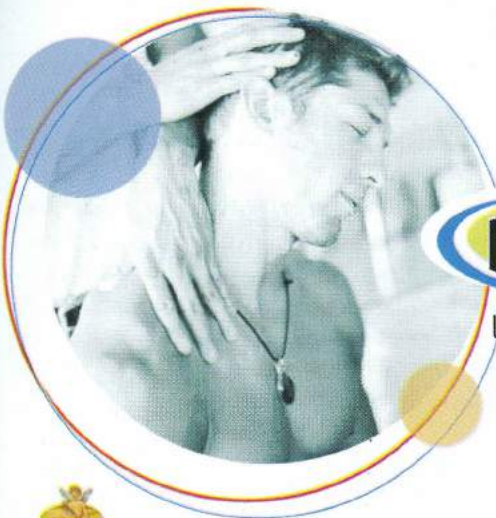
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PUBLISHER
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GENERAL MANAGER
Mike Kitchens

ADVERTISING SALES
Brian Martin • Brett Cullum
Tom Jones (Classifieds)

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR
Chris Crain

EDITOR
Penny Weaver

WEBMASTER
Aram Vartian

ART DIRECTOR
Rob Boeger

PRODUCTION MANAGER
John Nail

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS
Bonnie Naugle • Joey Carolino

PHOTOGRAPHER
Dalton Dehart

CONTRIBUTORS
Jim Buck, Raquel Chevallier, Michael Derry,
Greg Fox, Glenn Hanson, Woody Miller,
Allen Neuwirth, Christopher Seely,
Arjan Timmermans, Romeo San Vicente

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The heat outside is stifling, so it's high time for Houstonians to duck inside and cool off.

But it may be getting warmer and warmer inside some Houston clubs, too. Events this week feature "Papi Style" Friday at Rich's, including the CD release party for "Live at Club Papi." Hot dancers from LatinBoyz.com will heat up the place. Check out this and other events at bars across the Bayou City in the Nightlife Calendar (**Page 12**).

Also this week, go Behind the Scenes with Andy Pantos, co-owner of Meteor, who talks about his past, present and future in the Houston nightlife scene (**Page 8**).

In Gaydar (**Page 6**), don't miss the latest on Texas HIV/AIDS program funding, the introduction of the new Center for AIDS leader and details on an upcoming dog show in the Bayou City.

So pull up your Papi underwear and stay cool. Underwear or not, send your comments about *Eclipse* to us via e-mail at editor@eclipse-mag.com.

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Texas still plans to cut HIV/AIDS funding

Despite a record appropriation from state lawmakers for funding for Texas HIV/AIDS patients, health officials still are considering cutbacks to the program. But activists from across the state are mobilizing to steer any cuts in a "consumer-friendly" way, according to one gay Houstonian. Tracy Wilson, state coordinator of AIDS Coalition of Texas Now! (ACT Now!), said the Texas HIV Medication Program (THMP), also known as ADAP, was given additional funds of nearly \$27 million for the biennium during the Legislature's last session. "This is the largest single ADAP appropriation by a state," Wilson said. "ACT Now! and our 400 members from 15 cities across the state played an integral role in the appropriations process. We had our Capitol Day, extensive letter writing and phone call campaigns to achieve this important victory."

But even with the additional funding, Texas Department of Health officials said the HIV drug program faces a deficit of up to \$17 million in fiscal years 2004 and 2005. To offset the shortfall in funds, the department plans changes to medical eligibility criteria and other cost-cutting measures.



Tracy Wilson, state coordinator for AIDS Coalition of Texas Now!

So Wilson and activists across Texas are preparing to make their voices heard again to influence the proposed changes.

"Despite the largest appropriation in history, TDH and the Texas HIV Medication Program have come back with still a \$14 million to \$17 million dollar budget deficit," Wilson said.

"We're getting ready to hit the road again. We're going to be organizing 300 people across the state to go to the board of health meeting Aug. 7." Carolyn A. Parker, executive director of the Texas AIDS Network, said activists must still push for federal funding through the U.S. lawmakers. "Every effort must now be focused on securing additional appropriations from Congress to help make up the shortfall," Parker said.

Center for AIDS appoints new executive director

The Board of Directors of The Center for AIDS: Hope and Remembrance Project has named Thomas Gegeny as the agency's executive director. Gegeny has served as interim director at the center since February. He is the organization's first executive director, after Founding Director L. Joel Martinez stepped down in February from leading the organization since 1995. Gegeny joined the center in January 2000 as editor of its publications and Web site. Before joining the group, he was employed as publications specialist for

'Texas, Texas, anti-gay. Bush and Cheney go away.'

Gay rights protesters, picketing a GOP fund-raiser three days before the Supreme Court struck down the sodomy law in Texas, where President Bush was previously governor. (365Gay.com, June 24)

the Houston Academy of Medicine-Texas Medical Center Library. Gegeny earned a master's of science degree in Biomedical Sciences from the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston in 1997, and he is a certified Editor in the Life Sciences (ELS). Margaret O'Donnell, chair of the center's board of directors, noted, "The Board of Directors is delighted to have a well-qualified, committed, and knowledgeable candidate from within the organization — especially because any director must have a substantial programmatic role in an agency as small and focused as the Center for AIDS." The Center for AIDS: Hope and Remembrance Project is a nonprofit, community-based organization that provides the latest treatment and research information to persons

with HIV/AIDS and their caregivers with the goal of improving the healthcare of patients and the quality of their lives.

Houston hosts notable dog show

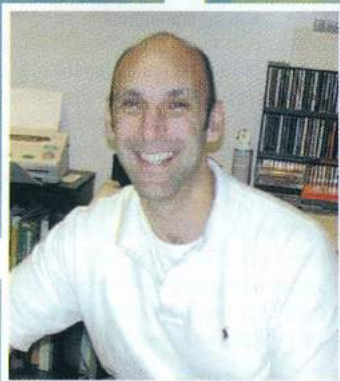
Reliant Park World Series of Dog Shows, the largest event of its kind, will be held July 17-20 and features 12,000 dogs entered in competition and 40,000 visitors and participants. This is the 26th annual event, and includes athletic competitions, health seminars, breed competition and hundreds of booths and vendors. Tickets: \$10 for adults, \$5 children 16 and under with adult; \$5 senior citizens. Parking: \$7 per day. 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, July 18-19. 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, July 20.

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Photos by Penny Weaver



**Andy
Pantos**

AGE: 43

OCCUPATION: Co-owner of Houston's Meteor

Where and when can people see you out and about in the Houston nightlife scene?

Pantos and his life partner, Frank Luccia, also are business partners as co-owners of Meteor. He largely works daytime hours at the club, but Pantos pops in once in a while during evening hours. "I surprise people," he says.

How long have you worked amid Houston nightlife?

Pantos has lived in Houston since 1977, when he came to town to attend Rice University. He

worked as an attorney and owned his own consulting business, which he sold in 2000. Pantos and Luccia, who have been a couple for five years, opened Meteor on May 18, 2001. "It was good timing to get this started," he recalls.

Interview by Penny Weaver

How do you rate the Houston gay scene?

It's "evolving," Pantos says. "There are more choices now, and I think that's great."

What's in your nightlife crystal ball?

Pantos and the entire Meteor

team work to come up with new ideas and more programs all the time, particularly during the workweek, he says. In years past, socializing was more popular all week long and not just on weekends, according to Pantos. "I think more people went out during the week than they do now," he says.

Where can you find the hottest men?

Well, Meteor, of course. But Pantos said all of Houston's nightlife scene is a must-see. "I love this city. I love Houston. I love the people," he says.



DNA

Weekly Features

Tue - Movie Night

Wed - Karaoke with Michella

Thurs - Anything Goes

Fri - ShowTime & The Boys of DNA

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Please submit calendar entries no later than 5p on Monday to make the following week's issue. Fax your calendar schedule to *eclipse magazine*, 713-529-9531, or e-mail editor@houstonvoice.com, or call 713-529-8490. The first listing in the week for each bar includes a phone number for further information. Call for drink specials and scheduled DJs.

FRIDAY, JULY 18

Briar Patch. Piano singalong with Warren Chase, 9:30-11:30p. 713-665-9678.

Cousins. Show featuring Raven, Sheena, Kara Dion and Victoria Nicole, 11p. 713-528-9204.

El's. Montrose Clinic HIV/STD free testing, 10p-1a. 713-527-9071.

Guava Lamp. Complimentary Buffet, 5p. 713-524-3359.

JR's. Hors d'oeuvres, 6p. 800 Pacific Block Party at Santa Fe Bar & Patio side, 9-9:30p, and 10-10:30p on JR's side. 713-521-2519.

Keys West. Piano singalong with Roger Woest, 9:30p. 713-571-7870.

MeatRack. Bare as You Dare. Montrose Clinic HIV/STD testing, 10p-2a. 713-528-2028.

Michael's Outpost. Pool tournament with cash prizes, 8p. 713-520-8446.

WHERE YOUR NIGHT BEGINS

Midtowne Spa. Pool Party. Montrose Clinic HIV/STD free testing, 10p-1a. 713-522-2379.

Montrose Mining Co. 800 Pacific Block Party, 9:30-10p. 713-529-7488.

South Beach. 800 Pacific Block Party with free cover, 10:30-11p. 713-529-SOBE.

SATURDAY, JULY 19

Briar Patch. Piano singalong with Derrick Silva, 9:30p-1:30a.

Club Inergy. Montrose Clinic HIV/STD free testing, 9p-12a.

Cousins. Drag show featuring Raven, Sheena, Kara Dion and Diane Jackson, 11p.

El's. Amateur Strip Night.

JR's. 800 Pacific Block Party at Santa Fe Bar & Patio side, 9-9:30p, and 10-10:30p on JR's side.

Keys West. Open dart tournament, 4p. Piano singalong with Wayne Gray, 9:30p.

MeatRack. Club Night.

Meteor. Open at 6p. 713-521-0123.

Midtowne Spa. Pool Party.

Montrose Mining Co. 800 Pacific Block Party, 9:30-10p.

O. Courtyard and upstairs bar open at 3p. 18 and up welcome with \$5 cover and ID. 713-523-0213.

South Beach. 800 Pacific Block Party with free cover, 10:30-11p.

Viviana's. Montrose Clinic HIV/STD free testing.

SUNDAY, JULY 20

1415 Bar & Grille. Brunch, 11a-3p. T-Dance with DJ Tucker Dawson, 2p. \$2 mimosas. 713-522-7066.

Briar Patch. Musical Movies with Michael, 4p. Laurie Gage LIVE, 6:30p. Kim Yvette, 9:30-11:30p.

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Houston presents 'Princess Ida' at 8p Fridays and Saturdays and 2:30 p.m. Sundays through 27. Wortham Center, 500 Texas St. 713-627-3570. www.gilbertandsullivan.net.

Cousins. Show featuring Gena, Sivi, Victoria Nicole and Dana, 11p.

Guava Lamp. Karaoke contest, 10p.

Keys West. Open dart tournament, 4p.

Mary's. Ladies' Night on the patio, 2-7p. 713-527-9669.

MeatRack. Cyber Night - 1/2 price with Web site password.

Meteor. Open at 3p. 'Sex and the City,' 8p.

O. Tea dance. Courtyard and upstairs bar open at 1p.

MONDAY, JULY 21

Brazos River Bottom (BRB). Open pool tournament with cash prizes, 8:30. 713-528-9192.

Briar Patch. Free pool. Karin McFarlin LIVE.

Bricks. Montrose Clinic HIV/STD free



testing, 4-8p. 713-528-8102.

Guava Lamp. Service Industry Night (S.I.N.), with half off for service industry workers who show a recent paystub to qualify. 713-524-3359.

JR's. 'Queer As Folk,' 8p. Professional dancer contest, 11p.

Keys West. Montrose Clinic HIV/STD free testing, 8p-12a.

Meteor. Mucho Macho Mondays. Expert manicure and a professional massage.

Michael's Outpost. Dart tournament with cash prizes, 7p.

Midtowne Spa. Half-off room price, 12p-12a.

O. Bourbon Street Tea Party. Courtyard and upstairs bar open at 3p.

TUESDAY, JULY 22

Brazos River Bottom (BRB). Free dance lessons with Rainbow Rangers, no partner needed, 8:30p.

Briar Patch. Foxxi Boxxi Contest, 11p, with \$25 cash prize. Kim Yvette with special guest Jerry Atwood, 9:30-11:30p.

Club Houston. Youth Night, 4p-midnight. Half price for 18-24 y.o. Montrose Clinic HIV/STD free testing, 8p-12a. 713-659-4998.

Guava Lamp. 'Queer As Folk,' 10p.



Roi James' 'Journey to Serenity' oils on canvas 11a-5p, Tuesday through Saturday at Post Gallery, 5103 San Felipe St. 713-622-4241. www.postgallery.com.

Keys West. Free pool.

MeatRack. 1/2 price all night.

Meteor. Drag Bingo hosted by Southern Comfort and Lillian Deveroux, with free prizes; benefits local charities.

Midtowne Spa. Latin Night and half-off locker price, 12p-12a.

O. Rewind '80s retro. Happy hour, 3-10p. Courtyard and upstairs bar open at 3p.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23

Briar Patch. Marcy Rae, 'Sweet Mama Cotton,' 9:30-11:30p.

Club Houston. Half-price lockers, 4p-midnight.

EJ's. Amateur Strip Night. Montrose Clinic HIV/STD free testing, 10p-1a.

Guava Lamp. Karaoke contest with cash prize.

JR's. Papi underwear strip contest, 11p. Hosted by Kofi and Kourtney Van Wales. Cash prizes.

Keys West. Piano singalong with Steve Wheaton, 9:30p.

Mary's. Montrose Clinic HIV/STD free testing, 4-8p.

MeatRack. 'Anything Goes Night.' Check Web site for schedule.

Meteor. Total Request Night, 9p.

Midtowne Spa. Half-price rooms, 12p-12a. Montrose Clinic HIV/STD free testing, 10p-1a.

O. The O Show. Courtyard and upstairs bar open at 3p. 18 and up welcome with \$5 cover and ID.

Ripcord. Montrose Clinic HIV/STD free testing, 9p-12a. 713-521-2792.

South Beach. Café Con Leche, 18 and up, \$5 cover.

THURSDAY, JULY 24

Brazos River Bottom (BRB). Live country singing and karaoke with Jody. Montrose Clinic HIV/STD free testing, 8p-12a.

Briar Patch. Free pool. Derrick Silvan

and Warren Chase, 9:30-11:30p.

Cousins. Show featuring Raven, Victoria Nicole, Kara Dion and Dana, 11p. Montrose Clinic HIV/STD free testing, 8p-12a.

EJ's. Roxanne Collins show with special guests, 11p.

Guava Lamp. Performance by Shaun and Kim, 10:30p.

JR's. Star Search Gold Karaoke, 9p.

Keys West. Piano singalong with Clay 'Lovey' Howell, 9:30p.

MeatRack. Party Night: Anything Goes Fetish Party. Pre-registration is requested at www.meatrack.org.

Meteor. Malebox Night for singles hosted by Lana Blake, 9p. Free giveaways.

Michael's Outpost. Montrose Clinic HIV/STD free testing, 4-8p.

Midtowne Spa. Half-off locker price, 12p-12a.

O. 'O Boy!' calendar boy contest. Courtyard and upstairs bar open at 3p. 18 and up welcome with \$5 cover and ID. No cover for those over 21.

South Beach. 18 and up. 20/60: The top 20 hits from the last 60 months.

Toyz Disco. Montrose Clinic HIV /STD free testing, 10p-1a.

Summer still has sizzle

The circuit provides plenty of events if you're willing to travel



Summer will too quickly be over, but party promoters across North America are trying to make it last. Amid a mixture of Gay Pride festivals in cities like San Diego, Montreal and others — as well as stops on the circuit like Hotlanta River Expo — there's still plenty to do for gay men with an itch to travel.

We hit the highlights here. But there are many more, including events overseas like London Pride (July 25-27), Gay Pride Amsterdam (July 31 - Aug. 4) and EuroPride 2003 in Manchester, England (Aug. 15-25).

Before it's too late, take advantage of a sizzling party scene.

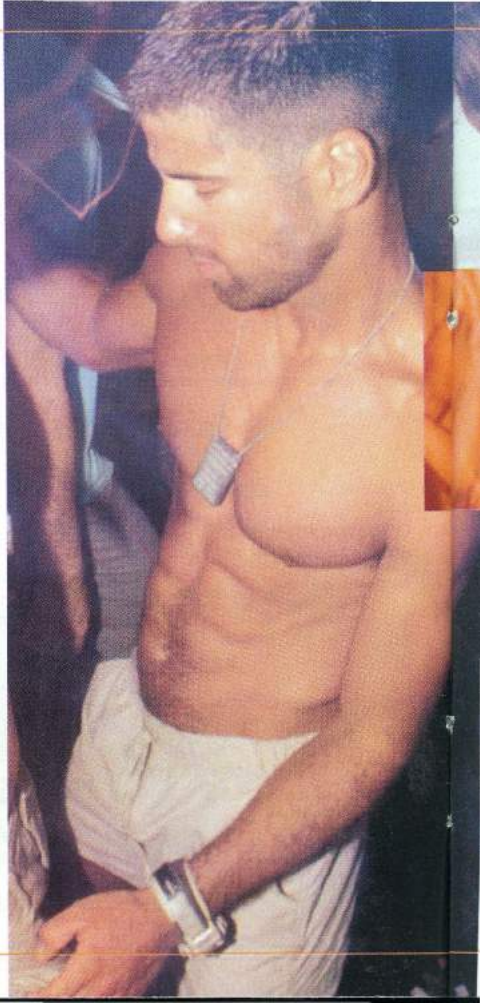
Tropical Fever

July 19-20

Dallas

www.fierceparty.com

Circuit boys in Texas can make a quick getaway to Dallas for a week-end of four parties, including the main event with Victor Calderone on July 19. Craig Spy takes to the DJ booth on Sunday.



Gay Pride San Diego

July 25-27

San Diego

www.sdpride.org

This mid-summer event includes the infamous Zoo Party on July 27 with DJ Brett Henrichsen. But the weekend includes other

Chattahoochee River in which about 250 men participated. But the true stars of the event are now the pageants and the parties, including the Mr. Hotlanta Contest. DJs this year include Chris Cox, Brian Beck and Rick Mitchell.

Party promoters
will make
summer last

nightlife events, like Circuit Daze on Saturday, and non-party events like the parade on Sunday.

Hotlanta River Expo

July 31 - Aug. 3

Atlanta

www.hotlanta.org

Thousands descend on Atlanta for this event, started by a group of gay men in 1979. It's the circuit party, as in the first one. The centerpiece of that first weekend was a lazy raft float down the

event's 10th anniversary by wearing white with a "twist."

Last Splash Day

Aug. 31

Austin, Texas

www.austintavernguild.com

Hundreds of gay men put on their bathing suits and flock to Lake Travis in Austin to kick up their heels one last time before Summer comes to an end. There's swimming, plenty of hunky men on their boats and fun trails that wind through the clothing optional Hippy Hollow.

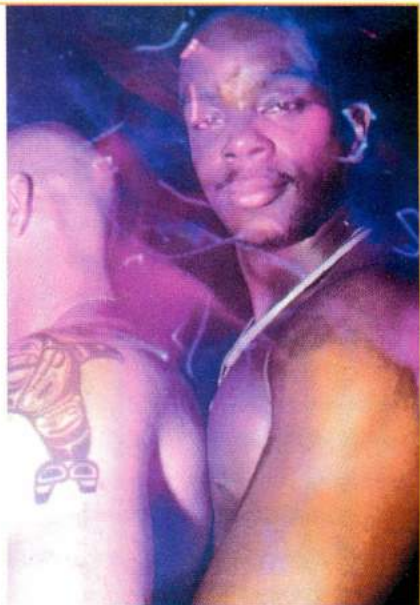
Twist Weekend

July 31 - Aug. 3

Montreal

www.bbcm.org

Held during Pride in Montreal, this event features popular New Orleans-based DJ Joe Gauthreaux, along with Serge Duchesne and James Andersen. Help celebrate the



ABOUT THE COVER



Publishing house Bruno Gmunder can really do no wrong. Kobi Israel's 'Views' is further evidence. The all-photo book is a recreation of Israeli fantasies exploring the homoerotic nature of the military. It's a tender — and erotic — journey. <http://info@brunogmunder.com>

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34
years

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All Day and All Night



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watch the show on one of 6 TV screens.

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Drinks - 4pm-6pm

Foxxi Boxxi



CONTEST 11pm

\$25 Cash to High Score Winner!
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9³⁰_{pm} - 11³⁰_{pm}

KIM YVETTE
w/Special Guest
Jerry Atwood



Kim and Jerry rock the house on
a Glass-top piano. Tuesday nights
are action-packed fun!

WATCH WEDNESDAYS

1 ✓ Special Guest Star
GEOFFREY CUELLAR
Live!

7⁰⁰_{pm} - 9³⁰_{pm}

Don't Miss This
Great Performance!

2 ✓ Free Drawing Watch * 11pm

TEXAS-SIZED

9oz



9oz

CHOCOLATE MARTINIS
JUST \$4⁵⁰ **WOW**

3 ✓ Watch **MARCY RAE**

"Sweet Mama
Cotton"

9³⁰_{pm} - 11³⁰_{pm}

Packed House!

*See Bar for Details

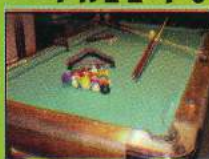


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it, Warren plays it and Derrick sings it!



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Packed! All of your Old
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9³⁰pm - 11³⁰pm



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KIM YETTE

9³⁰pm - 11³⁰pm

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http://www.houstongaybars.com for more info



What is it with the music they play at clubs? Isn't this one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the U.S.? Why do they always play all this house shit, and now this progressive house shit? I feel like I'm back in 1997. Hello? Ever heard of techno?

To the so-called straight guy who has sex with men because he can't find a woman for "no strings, no drama" sex: It was straights who first used the term "booty call." Please take your dick out of my trick pool and find a homely, fat, lonely bitch who will put out on a moment's notice.

Even if you're emotionally unavailable, if you can keep it up with another guy long enough to get your "rocks off," you ain't straight. I certainly couldn't get off with a woman, no matter how horny I was.

I am so tired of hearing guys talk about how much attitude other guys have, then watching them act like the less-than-hottie standing right in front of them doesn't exist.

Why does a bar advertise a 'black out night' but then not turn out the lights?

People with HIV or AIDS are at liberty to divulge their status, if they are asked or not. I asked, but you didn't tell. Thanks to you, you have claimed an innocent life! Beware there are gay terrorists!

Now that we have the Internet, bars that aren't regularly raided, restaurants, coffeehouses, cruisy grocery stores, sex clubs, nudist/naturist campgrounds, beaches, and even gay cruises, why is it some thrill-seeking gay men still insist on cruising and having sex in public restrooms, parks and rest areas?

When an Asian guy is threatened by skinny white bigots, there is an organization to assist him called Asians & Friends. But when skinny white guys are threatened, there is no organization to protect us. Double standards piss me off.

These fags who write or call into "Bitch Session" are so pathetic. Thank

God I have a partner and don't have to go to the bars and encounter these depressing fags just bitching at each other like little girls.

I live in a small city of 14,000 in rural South Carolina. When I read "Bitch Session," I think, "I'd give my left nut to 'suffer' through the 'problems' these guys are griping about!"

One thing that would make it easier for you guys socially is realizing that no matter what you wear, how you look and how much you make, if you are shallow and stuck up, you can easily be replaced by the thousands just like you.

Why do a lot of gay men choose to be discreet? Because they desperately want society's acceptance. But if someone really loves you, he has to love you for who you are, not for who they want you to be. So come out of the closet. Be who you are!

Why the hell do people refer to us gay people as "queer"? "Queer" in the dictionary means strange. We are as normal as everyone else.

I find it interesting that so many of the "Our Guys" have found educators as the profession they respected the most. I have encountered a lot of gay men who comment about money or lack of it when I tell them I am a teacher. My last boyfriend was concerned I might not be able to pay the bills if something happened to him. Just recently a guy told me he was "sorry" I was a teacher since he knew that meant I was never going to make a lot of money. Guess what guys? The only thing I can't afford is to have attitudes like yours ruining my 10 weeks of summer vacation.

We're all so impressed with your Lexus's and Beemers, but that doesn't make your turn signal optional or give you the right to pull out in front of people. Take your face out of the rear-view mirror, hang up the damn phone and drive, Mary.

I need truth in advertising. Why is it that the most effeminate queens will try to be a top (yechh!) and the butch boys

who cruise me can't wait to throw their legs in the air?

This is to all the hypocritical fat and ugly queens who go to the porno store and buy magazines with men who have nice chests and arms. Go out and buy the ones with fat boys in them.

Why do people in our community not know how to take a compliment? You say something to them minus any sexual reference and they get the stiff neck as if

they can't turn and say thank you or they pretend not to hear you when everyone else around you heard it.

Why hasn't there been any new dance music coming out lately? I was out at the clubs over the weekend and it's the same old stuff.

I will go out with you if you just ask me! I'm so tired of always having to make the first move.

It's bad enough that your smoking stains your teeth, stinks up your breath, blackens your lungs and makes those around you miserable. But if you burn me with the end of your cigarette one more time, you won't have to worry about lung cancer shortening the end of your life.

To the guy who is tired of circuit men whose lives revolve around working out and shopping at Universal Gear: I don't go to circuit parties, but I do like clothing. And they should leave Universal Gear out of it.

To those who think us bare-breasted dykes are not worth anything without a man: When we walk down the street with our breasts hanging out, men whoop and holler, including gay men.

Got a bitch?
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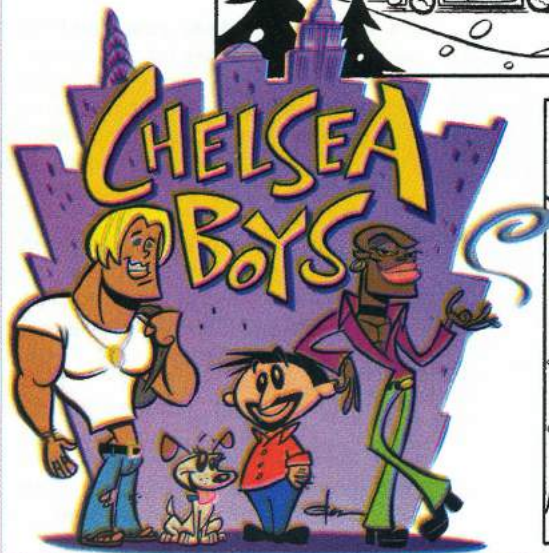
SOIRÉE AND CURTIS DRIVE
UPSTATE TOGETHER TO
SPEND A WEEKEND AT
CURTIS' COUNTRY HOUSE...

I KNOW IT'S REAL EARLY
BETWEEN US, BUT I'M SO GLAD
YOU AGREED TO COME WITH
ME, DELROY.



DAMN... AH JUS' REALIZED -- I LIVED IN NYC.
MY WHOLE LIFE AN' I'VE NEVER BEEN
UPSTATE... I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS MANY
TREES, OR THIS MUCH SKY BEFORE...

YEAH.
I REALLY LOVE IT UP HERE...
ESPECIALLY IN THE WINTER.
IT'S SO MAGICAL.



IF YOU SEE ME WALKIN' DOWN
THE STREET, AND I START TO
CRY EACH TIME WE MEET...

WALK ON BY...
WALK ON BY...

YOU
KNOW
DIONNE
WARWICK?!



I DIDN'T THINK ANYONE YOUR AGE
KNEW WHO SHE WAS... ASIDE FROM
THAT PSYCHIC CRAP SHE GOT
INVOLVED WITH...

OH, YEAH. I LOVE MISS DIONNE.
MY MOM LISTENED TO THAT
OLD SCHOOL
STUFF ALL
TH' TIME.



MAKE BELIEVE YOU DON'T SEE THE
TEARS, JUST LET ME BREATHE AND CRY...

"OLD SCHOOL," HUH?
YEAH, THIS WAS THE
FIRST SINGLE I EVER
BOUGHT TO PLAY ON
MY WIND-UP VICTROLA.
= CHUCKLE =



'CAUSE EACH TIME I
SEE YOU I BREAK
DOWN AND CRY

AN HOUR LATER ...

DO YOU KNOW THE WAY TO SAN JOSÉ,
♪ WOH WOH WOH WOH ♪
WO WOH WOH WOH



SHIT...THIS IS **REALLY** BEAUTIFUL!

ISN'T IT? HELP ME WITH THE
BAGS, AND I'LL GIVE YOU
THE GRAND TOUR.



YO, CURTIS--
HEADS UP!!
= GIGGLE =

SPLATT!!



ALRIGHT, YOU. YOU ASKED FOR IT!!

NO--
STOP!!!

WHUMP!

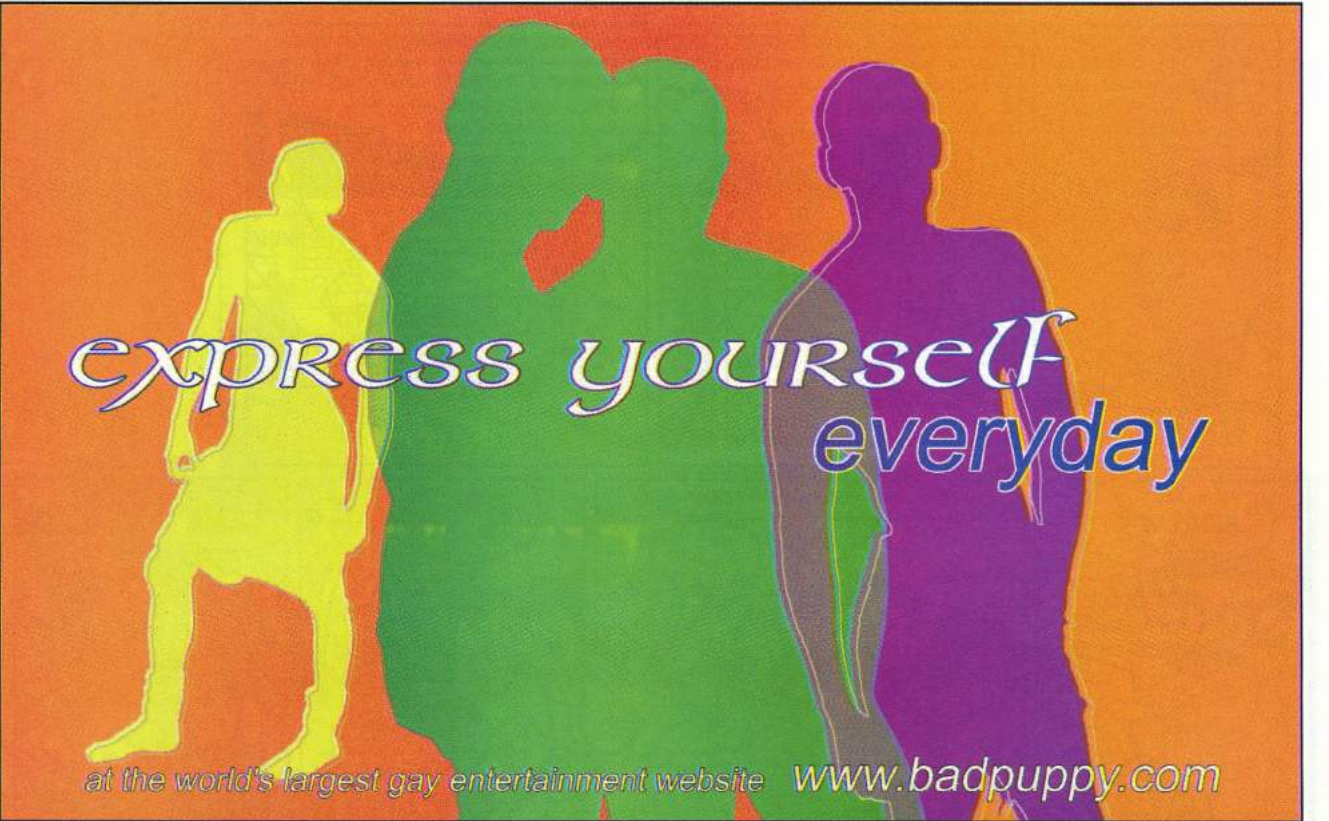


NEVAH MIND.
DON'T STOP...
M M M M N N N...



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INSIDE BEFORE WE MELT THIS
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Double standard for chicken hawks

Older guys who say that youth who won't date them are ageist should take a look in the mirror for chasing them

Hey, Woody!

Why do older guys always complain that younger guys don't pay any attention to them? I'm 25 and friends with a 45 year old who's always telling me how guys in their 20s and 30s don't want to date someone his age. He says he's being discriminated against.

When I make what I think is a logical suggestion — date guys your own age — he looks at me like I'm crazy.

"But I'm attracted to younger guys," he says.

"Well, aren't you discriminating against older guys, too, if you refuse to go out with them?" I ask him.

He just looks at me and says, "I don't understand." What's not to understand?

Why is it "age discrimination" if a 25 year old doesn't want to date a 45 year old, but "age preference" if a 45 year old doesn't want to date a 45 year old?

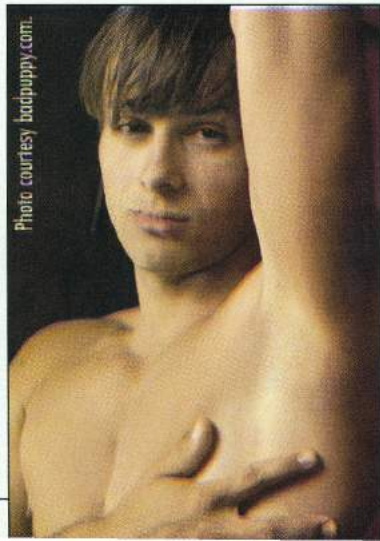
— Confused but not really

by **Woody Miller**

Dear Confused:

All my expert panelists over 40 want to know how you got so smart at such a young age. They also want to know if you have plans Saturday night. The perverts.

Anyway, I'm with you. I have a friend who's in his 60's and called me "ageist" because I'm not interested in dating men his age. When I asked him why he pays for "escorts" that are thirty years old but not sixty years old, he says what all males say when they're cornered by their own hypocrisy: "That's different."



Men are always trying to exempt themselves from the very rules they try to impose on others. That's what makes us swine.

I'm sorry — if you're 45 and you won't date 45 year olds you have no right to complain about 25 year olds who don't want to either.

Relationships between older and younger gay guys are complicated. In doing research for his upcoming book, "Reeling in the Years," my friend Timothy Bergling classified older/younger gay relationships into four types:

The type that are repulsed by each other, the type that fall in love with each other, the type that are best friends with each other, and the type that don't know enough about each other to even have an opinion.

Bergling's book is filled with great quotes from the age divide. Get a load of this



Photo courtesy badpuppy.com.

one, from a 21-year old: "Sugar daddies are something you should find on a stick in a candy store, not on your stick in bed."

Ouch.

My point is that your friend has every right to pursue any adult he wants. But there are consequences to any chase. In this case, being labeled a chicken hawk.

Three important things to remember about the age thing:

Don't assume that all older guys want

younger guys. They don't.

Don't assume that no younger guys want older guys. They do.

Don't assume that chicken hawks are a gay phenomenon. They're not.

Older straight guys are probably worse about dating younger prey than gay guys. Think about it: When was the last time you saw a bunch of straight men whistle when Sandra Day O'Connor walked by?

Seriously, underneath all the bitchy asides, the passionate relationships, the rock-solid friendships and the distrust between older and younger gay men, you should support your 45-year-old friend's romantic choices. What you shouldn't support is his insufferable double standard.

Need Wood? Ask Woody how to spice up your sex life. E-mail him at woody@menrpigs.cc.

Photography by James Franklin

for
all
your
pleasures...

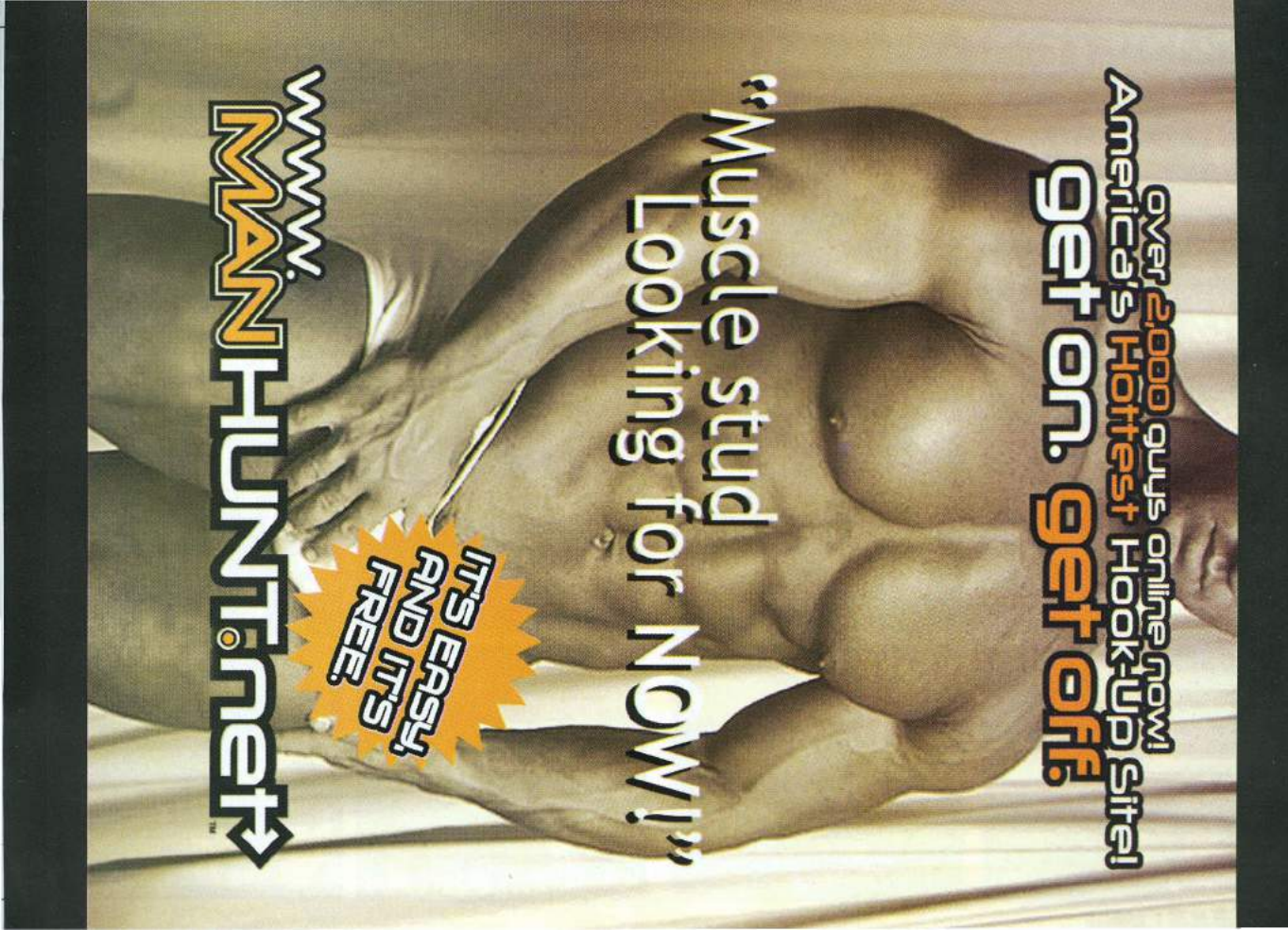
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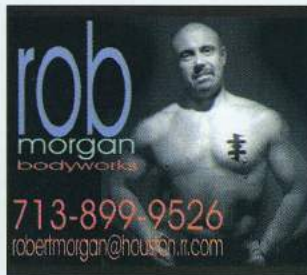


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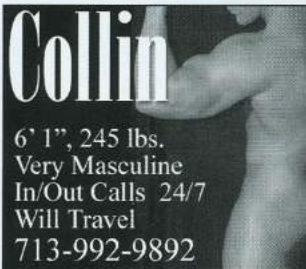
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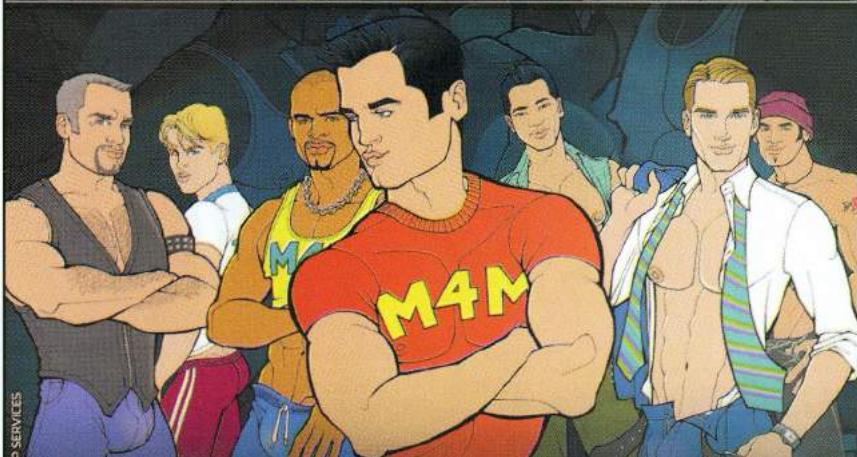
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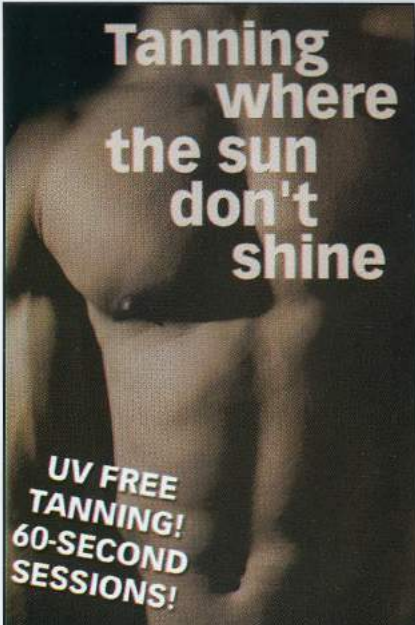


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